

Items to Bring

Castle Butte is a rustic cabin in a remote location. You'll need to bring several things with you.

- Camera, binoculars
- Ice chest
- Drinking water, container for spring water
- Food, cooking and eating utensils
- Toilet articles
- Warm clothing
- Matches
- Lantern (white gas, propane, battery)
- Bedding for double bed, or sleeping bags
- First aid kit, insect repellent

Provided for You

- Two chairs, two cots
- Double bed
- Firefinder
- Propane cook stove, oven and fuel
- Lookout instruction manual
- Mop and bucket
- Propane heating stove

For Information

Lochsa Ranger District
 Kooskia Ranger Station
 502 Lowry Street
 Kooskia, Idaho 83539
 PH: 208-926-4274
 FAX: 208-926-6450

North Fork Ranger District
 12730 Highway 12
 Orofino, Idaho 83544
 PH: 208-476-4541

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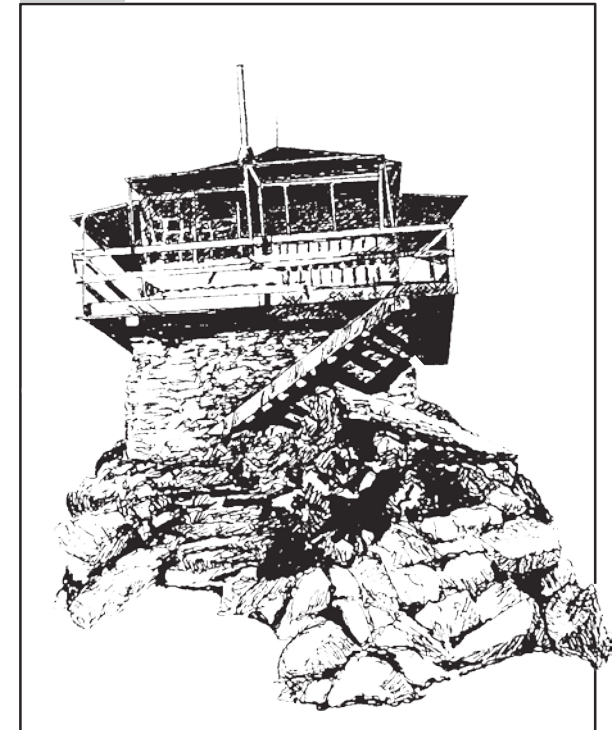
Forest
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Lochsa Ranger District
 Nez Perce-Clearwater
 National Forests

United States
Department
of Agriculture

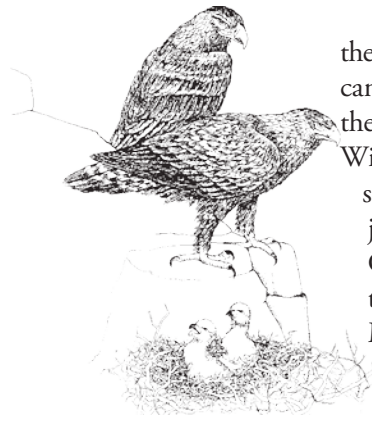
FOR RENT: CASTLE BUTTE LOOKOUT



The present Castle Butte Lookout was built in 1950. It served as a fire detection lookout until 1970 when it was retired.

A View for the Birds

High atop a mountain in north central Idaho, you can experience the rugged grandeur of untamed country. Castle Butte Lookout offers a bird's eye view from its perch 6,659 feet above sea level.



What you see is the Lochsa River canyon, below you; the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness farther south, with the jagged peaks of The Craggs dominating; the Seven Devils Mountains to the southwest, presiding over North America's deepest canyon;

the Bitterroot Mountains to the east, forming the boundary between north Idaho and Montana; to the north, the Great Burn area and mountains and deep canyons of the North Fork Clearwater River's upper drainages; and to the west, mountains marching toward the small Idaho communities of Kooskia, Kamiah and Orofino.

The lookout is one room and sits atop a native stone foundation. A stairway leads to a catwalk that surrounds the lookout room. It's wide enough to pull up a chair while you enjoy the view. You may see mountain goats, deer, elk, bear, moose and the majestic eagle.

Castle Butte is located along the Lolo Trail, the route used for thousands of years by the Nez Perce Indians. Lewis and Clark followed the

route in 1805-1806 and called the remote country "a deep forbidding wilderness from which there appears no way out." The lookout was first staffed in 1916.

To Get There from Here

Driving time to Castle Butte is 2-1/2 to 3 hours from Kooskia, which is 74 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho. Stop at the Lochsa Ranger District office in Kooskia to meet your hosts then continue your journey along U.S. Highway 12, a two-lane, paved highway that follows the wild-and-scenic corridor of the Middle Fork Clearwater and Lochsa rivers.

The turnoff to the lookout is 65 miles east of Kooskia. Or from Missoula, Montana, travel 79 miles west on Highway 12 to the turnoff at milepost 139.

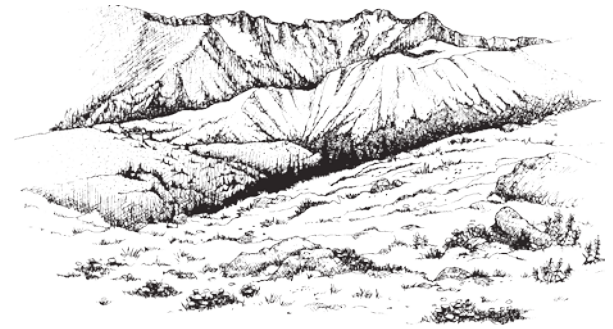
Turn north on Saddle Camp Road 107 and drive another 10 miles to the junction with Road 500, the Lolo Motorway. This is a primitive, one-lane road constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1930s. It is not recommended for large RVs or vehicles with long trailers or low ground clearance. From the junction, travel another 10 miles to the lookout, which is about a mile and a half off the Lolo Motorway.

Conventional autos can travel the road at low speed, with a cautious driver at the wheel.



It's a good idea to drive with your headlights on for safety. Another safety note: The road can be slippery during wet, rainy periods.

Once you reach your destination, you park and walk about 100 feet over steep, rocky terrain to reach the lookout. You need to bring water or pack it from a spring about 1/2 mile from the lookout. If you use the spring water, boil it five minutes before consumption.



Reservations and Reminders

You can reserve the lookout through <http://www.recreation.gov>.

Stay as many as seven nights. As of December 1, 2014, the rental fee is \$45.00 per night.

A maximum of four persons will be allowed on the lookout at one time. We discourage bringing children to the lookout because of the inherent danger of such a facility.