



Tobias Peak Lookout

Sequoia National Forest

Giant Sequoia National Monument

Western Divide Ranger District



About:

Tobias was built as a working fire tower in 1935, by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's). All materials and equipment used were packed in by Mule Train. Tobias still operates with all the original fixtures. It was first manned by "Harold" from June 1 to October 18, 1936.

Basic Information:

Tobias Peak Lookout is located on the Western Divide Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. Today, easy access makes Tobias an ideal point of interest for the young and the "young at heart".

Roads to the base of the look are typically open between the months of June and October depending on weather.

A high clearance vehicle is recommended, but 4 wheel drive is not necessary.

Roads are narrow and steep in some areas.

Elevation is 8,284 feet, with a sheer 200 feet drop-off on the west side.

Just a short hike up a dirt and gravel walkway, climb a short distance on slabs of granite placed like haphazard steps, and you are there!

This is a 50' moderate climb, including the walkway. There are three or four short wooden steps up to the catwalk surrounding the Lookout structure which is 14 by 14 feet.

While at the Lookout:

Upon reaching the lookout, a gate with a sign may be posted that will inform you if the lookout is open for public visitation. A Forest Service employee resides at the Tobias Peak Lookout tower. It is utilized as an office as well as the home for the summer months while the lookout is on duty.

This person is responsible for detecting fires and relaying radio messages to a dispatcher, who in turn sends firefighters and support equipment to extinguish the reported fire. The employee is usually on duty from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday through Wednesday, but may have the lookout closed due to fires or repair work. If the gate is open, you are welcome to visit the lookout, talk with the Forest Service employee, and enjoy the view, which is spectacular.

Rules to Follow:

- Please sign the daily log so we know you have been there.
- No more than 4 –5 people are recommended on the lookout at a time, as there is very little space.
- Do not sit on the catwalk railing or lean against any part of the building
- Do not lean on or smudge the windows. The lookout needs a clean, unobstructed view at all times.
- The windows are very fragile and break easily.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Western Divide Ranger District
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
[559-539-2607](tel:559-539-2607)

Forest Supervisor's Office
220 E Morton Ave
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)

