Condition Assessments and Recommendations

Historic Structures in Oregon Wilderness

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region (6)

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 Submitted to
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Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction
   ● Background 2
   ● Objectives 3
   ● Methods 4
   ● Map: USFS Historic Structures in Oregon Wilderness 5
   ● Maps: Sites Assessed 6
   ● Schedule 7
   ● Assessment Format 8
   ● Limitations 8

Chapter 2. Fire Lookouts 9

Chapter 3. Timberline Trail System 13

Chapter 4. Log Buildings 17

Chapter 5. Recommendations
   ● Priority Heritage Resources 21
   ● Table: Priority Heritage Resources 23
   ● Further Assessment 24
   ● Environmental Conditions 24
   ● Documentation 25
   ● Partnerships 25
   ● Works Cited 26

Appendix A: Mount Hood National Forest
   Recommendations and assessments of Bull of the Woods Lookout, Devil’s Peak Lookout, Timberline Trail System, Upper Sandy Guard Station, and Kinzel Cabin.

Appendix B: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
   Recommendations and assessments of Mule Peak Lookout, Millard Guard Station, and Red’s Horse Ranch.

Appendix C: Willamette National Forest
   Recommendations and assessments of Olallie Mountain Lookout, Waldo Mountain Lookout, and Rebel Rock Lookout.
Chapter 1. Introduction

Background

HistoriCorps was contacted by Jeff Walker, Heritage Program Manager of USDA Forest Service Region 6, to assess and document the existing conditions of multiple historic structures in designated wilderness areas administered by several Forests in the state of Oregon. This project emerged from two previous endeavors: a proposed Environmental Assessment of historic structures in Wilderness areas on the Mount Hood National Forest and Charlotte Helmer’s master’s thesis which studies the preservation of historic resources in wilderness areas. The goal of these condition assessments is to provide a baseline for determination of the prioritization of the preservation of the resources and to approximate the scale and scope of the work involved at each site. Priority has been given to locations where it was possible to assess multiple sites on a single trip and where sites appear to be in particular need of assessment.

In developing the methodology for the conditions assessments, including the selection of tools and modes of travel, the report author worked with Becky Blanchard, the Heritage Program Manager and Wilderness Program Manager for the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, using the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) workbook as a framework to develop alternatives and identify potential effects to wilderness character. The methods used in wilderness involved no motorized equipment, mechanical transport, or other uses prohibited by Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act.

Assessing these sites is consistent with Forest Service policy and will help resource managers determine and implement appropriate protective measures for historic structures in wilderness. The MRDG framework indicates that assessing these sites may offer a positive effect on the fifth quality of wilderness character which includes cultural resources. Before carrying out any future protective measures, site-specific Minimum Requirements Analyses (MRA) would be needed to determine what is necessary to meet the minimum requirement to administer each wilderness.
Objectives

There is a common misperception that the 1964 Wilderness Act has priority over the National Historic Preservation Act, and that cultural resources cannot be maintained in federal wilderness areas. This perceived conflict does a disservice to both heritage and wilderness resources. This document offers current data and field-based reporting in order to counter such misperceptions and empower a future in which historic preservation plays an integral role in the management of Forest Service wilderness areas in Oregon.

The following addresses these research questions have not previously been addressed at a statewide scale: Which wilderness areas contain historic sites? How rare or frequent are these resources? How have these been maintained or removed? What historic structures, districts, landscapes, and linear features are typically found in Oregon’s wilderness areas? Given limited financial resources, what priorities should inform management decisions among federal agencies that are responsible for these heritage sites?

The broad-scale, thematic survey provides a crucial data set to inform a discussion of the current state of Forest Service heritage resources located in wilderness areas throughout Oregon, and the appendices of condition assessment reports further reveal how each site’s management history has impacted its physical condition and integrity. Each condition assessment report accomplishes the following goals:

1. Systematically document, evaluate, and explain the resource’s existing conditions
2. Provide a brief field-based assessment of physical integrity and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, as per the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
3. Provide treatment recommendations in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation of Historic Properties
4. Summarize and prioritize discrete work items
5. Record logistical information about proposed preservation activity that might be relevant within a Minimum Requirements Analysis, as per the Wilderness Act of 1964.
6. Inform a broader set of recommendations for prioritizing historic sites in wilderness areas throughout Oregon for preservation based on their physical condition, physical integrity, historic significance, and other factors
Methods

An inventory of historic sites in Oregon wilderness was formed by cross-referencing the Oregon Historic Sites Database and the Forest Service’s INFRA database with geographic data maintained at Wilderness.Net. This initial inventory was confirmed and prioritized by wilderness and heritage program staff who work in each wilderness area. From that list, it became evident that the Mount Hood, Willamette, Rouge-River Siskyou, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests manage the majority of these resources in Oregon, and many of the inventoried sites merit further investigation.

In the summer of 2017 each of these forests was effected by closures related to wildfire, a solar eclipse, and poor air quality so it was not possible to visit and assess all of most interesting sites. Ultimately, HistoriCorps assessed more than a dozen sites that Forest Service staff identified as needing assessment and which could feasibly be reached within the allocated timeline and budget. Within the course of this study, historic sites were assessed in three forests and seven wilderness areas: Mount Hood, Bull of the Woods, Badger Creek, Salmon-Huckleberry, Three Sisters, Waldo Lake, and Eagle Cap.

Charlotte Helmer, HistoriCorps Principal Investigator evaluated each site through visual inspection, measurements, photographs, and other non-invasive means. All images featured in this report were taken by Charlotte Helmer during these assessment trips, unless otherwise stated. Eight volunteers, who each have specialized experience in preservation and/or wilderness management were recruited by Restore Oregon and HistoriCorps and participated in assessment trips. Collectively, they contributed a total of 150 hours to the project. Forest Service staff participated in assessments of Olallie Mountain Lookout and Mule Peak Lookout. Jonas Landes participated in assessment of several structures on the Mount Hood National Forest. Restore Oregon assigned three staff members to help with assessment of the Upper Sandy Guard Station on the Mount Hood National Forest.

The recommendations and assessments included in this report were compiled by Charlotte Helmer and edited by Jonas Landes, HistoriCorps Director of Operations. Jeff Walker, Allie Wenzl, and Becky Blanchard of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office provided oversight and additional revisions.
### Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Wilderness</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Rock Lookout</td>
<td>Three Sisters</td>
<td>Willamette</td>
<td>09 July ‘17</td>
<td>Hayli Reff (HistoriCorps volunteer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olallie Mountain Lookout</td>
<td>Three Sisters</td>
<td>Willamette</td>
<td>11 July ‘17</td>
<td>Dylan McCoy (USFS Wilderness Ranger)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waldo Mountain Lookout</td>
<td>Three Sisters</td>
<td>Willamette</td>
<td>18 July ‘17</td>
<td>John Milliken (HistoriCorps volunteer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairn Basin Shelter</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>25 July ‘17</td>
<td>Jonas Landes (HistoriCorps staff), John Milliken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McNeil Point Shelter</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>26 July ‘17</td>
<td>Jonas Landes &amp; John Milliken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Sandy Guard Station</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>27 July ‘17</td>
<td>Jonas Landes; Dan Everhart, Lydia Ness, &amp; Victoria Hensley (Restore Oregon staff)</td>
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<td>Cooper Spur Shelter</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>13 Aug ‘17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devil’s Peak Lookout</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>14 Aug ‘17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bull of the Woods Lookout</td>
<td>Salmon-Huckleberry</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>15 Aug ‘17</td>
<td>Gina Drew (HistoriCorps volunteer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elk Meadows Shelter</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>23 Aug ‘17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gnarl Ridge Shelter</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>24 Aug ‘17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinzel Mining Cabin</td>
<td>Badger Creek</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>24 Aug ‘17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mule Peak Lookout</td>
<td>Eagle Cap</td>
<td>Wallowa-Whitman</td>
<td>29 Aug ‘17</td>
<td>Brian Sather (USFS Lookout) &amp; John F. Helmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millard Ranger Station</td>
<td>Eagle Cap</td>
<td>Wallowa-Whitman</td>
<td>01 Sept ‘17</td>
<td>John F. Helmer (HistoriCorps volunteer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red’s Horse Ranch</td>
<td>Eagle Cap</td>
<td>Wallowa-Whitman</td>
<td>01 Sept ‘17</td>
<td>John F. Helmer</td>
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</table>
Assessment Format

Condition Assessment reports are included in three Appendices, collected by forest so that they can easily be distributed to resource managers and partner organizations at the local level.

Each assessment is organized by architectural systems beginning with the site, then exterior from foundation to roof, interior from floor to attic, and additional topics such as security and on-site materials. Each system’s existing condition is described using a combination of narrative, measurements, and photographs concluding with a categorical rating of poor, fair, or good condition. The existing conditions are followed by treatment recommendations, meaning actions that can be taken to improve the condition.

At the end of each assessment items that need to be addressed are then summarized and prioritized based on an urgency rating of critical, urgent, or minor. These urgency ratings are defined as follows:

- **Critical** items should be resolved immediately to prevent further damage to the structure or loss of original architectural features and materials. Items listed as critical should be addressed as soon as the site is accessible or within one year.

- **Urgent** items should be addressed in the near future in order to repair or to prevent damage to elements that contribute to the historic character of the building. Items listed as urgent should be addressed between 0-3 years from this assessment.

- **Minor** items need maintenance or repair but are less important to the preservation of the resource. Items listed as minor should be addressed between 0-5 years from this assessment.

Limitations

Forest Service records provided a baseline of historical information pertaining to each site, but a comprehensive study of architectural and historical significance was beyond the scope of this assignment. No part of the report constitutes a formal Determination of Eligibility, but merely agrees or counters previous determinations based on existing conditions and physical integrity.

None of the treatment recommendations in this document presume a determination of positive or negative impact on wilderness that would be made through a Minimum Requirements Analysis or an MRDG. Instead, this report offers guidance and logistical information that may be relevant if, and when, the Forest Service considers undertaking preservation activities in wilderness, which would necessitate Minimum Requirements Analysis or MRDG.
Chapter 2. Fire Lookouts

This report provides a complete study of all historic fire lookouts sited within Forest Service wilderness areas throughout Oregon. Each of the lookouts represents a different architectural design and they are all significant within the contexts of their respective Forests. It is plausible that Region 6 contains enough examples of the fire lookout types that the lookouts sited within wilderness are not unique historic assets; however, further broad scale research is needed in order to better understand how these historic lookouts compare with others that are located outside wilderness areas.

All five lookouts have been previously assessed and are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (broad patterns in history) and Criterion C (architecture), but none have been listed. Furthermore, none of these sites have been included in the Historic American Building Survey.

The Mount Hood National Forest has retained roughly 10% of the fire lookouts that were originally constructed within its boundaries, and two of the eight extant lookouts are sited within wilderness: Devil’s Peak and Bull of the Woods Lookouts. More than 80 lookouts of various styles were constructed on the Mt. Hood National Forest, according to a Determination of Eligibility completed by Jill Bassett in 1993. By the date of Bassett's comprehensive assessment only eight remained, and they all still stand today. L-4 lookouts stand at Bull of the Woods, Devil's Peak, SiSi Butte, and Hickman Point and flat-roofed R6 lookouts stood at Flag Point, Five Mile, Post Point, and Clear Lake.

Bassett found that both Devil’s Peak and Bull of the Woods Lookouts are eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (broad patterns in history) and Criterion C (architecture). Devil’s Peak Lookout was built in 1933 and is the oldest extant lookout on the Mount Hood National Forest and exemplifies an early hipped roof version of the L-4 design which had shutters held open on wood struts. It was classified as a “secondary” resource within a study of Depression-Era administrative sites, although it is not clear if this finding impacted management decisions concerning the lookout’s physical condition. Bull of the Woods Lookout is a Standard 36 version of the L-4 type, and was constructed in 1942. Both have been documented periodically and are recognized as historic resources. They are both sited within wilderness areas and the Forest has no other L-4 lookouts of any variation.

The Willamette National Forest has retained roughly 11% of the fire lookouts that were originally constructed within its boundaries, and two of these 11 extant lookouts are sited within wilderness: Olallie Mountain and Waldo Mountain Lookouts. Approximately 100 lookouts of various styles were constructed in the Willamette National Forest between 1905 and 1988, according to a Determination of Eligibility completed by James Cox in 1991. Roughly 40 of these used a variation of the L-4 style. By the date of Cox’s comprehensive assessment there were 13 extant lookouts throughout the forest and 11 remain today. An aerometer lookout and a
copula lookout stand at Saddleblanket Mountain and Warner Ridge (respectively); L-4 lookouts
stand at Olallie Mountain, Gold Butte, Carpenter Mountain, Huckleberry Mountain, and Sand
Mountain; and flat-roofed R6 lookouts stand at Waldo Mountain, Indian Ridge, Little Cowhorn
Mountain, Coffin Mountain

Olallie Mountain Lookout, which was built in 1932, is one of forest’s oldest lookouts and the
only one that represents a front-gable L-4 lookout type. When the Determination of Eligibility
was prepared in 1991, Olallie was considered to have retained the best integrity of all historic
lookouts on the forest. The shutters had been replaced in kind but all other materials were
original. Cox recommend the lookout for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, this lookout is in critical condition, which jeopardizes its integrity and eligibility. It
should be noted that the Sand Mountain Lookout, also located in the Willamette National Forest,
was a similar front-gable lookout reconstructed in 1988. Reconstruction is an acceptable form of
preservation and, in this case, it may mean that Olallie Mountain Lookout is not the only historic
lookout of this type within the Forest.

The Willamette National Forest retains three lookouts that resemble the design of Devil’s Peak
Lookout (outside of wilderness) and recently lost its last remaining example of the Standard 36
type, Rebel Rock Lookout, which was built ca. 1955 and would have been eligible for the
National Register had it not been consumed by wildfire in 2017. Waldo Mountain Lookout was
built in 1957 and surpassed the age of 50 in 2007. It is the oldest of four R-6 lookouts within the
Willamette National Forest and is eligible for the National Register. It retains its administrative
use.

The Wallowa Whitman National Forest has just one lookout inside its wilderness boundaries:
Mule Peak Lookout. Cultural resource surveys in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest were
unavailable for this report and Mule Peak does not appear in the National Register of Historic
Places, the Oregon Historic Sites Database, or the National Historic Lookout Register;
Therefore, its origins and history are substantially unknown. However, it’s age and unusual
design make it almost certainly eligible for the National Register. According to Kresek, the
current lookout was built in the 1940s and replaced a copula cabin of the D-6 type that had been
constructed in 1924.

The building has a 14’ x 14’ plan, hipped roof, awning shutters, and offset front door which all
indicate that it resembles the L-4 type. Remarkably, Mule Peak Lookout has single-light
casement and sliding sash windows that are not associated with any standardized lookout type.
Further archival research will be required in order to determine how the lookout was originally
designed and built. In the meantime, it could be called an atypical L-4 lookout. The lookout
likely retains all seven aspects of historical integrity: location, design, setting, materials,
workmanship, feeling, and association with some small alteration that impact the design and
workmanship.
Olallie Mountain Lookout. USFS.

Rebel Rock Lookout. USFS.

Devil's Peak Lookout. USFS.

Bull of the Woods Lookout. USFS.
### Table: Fire Lookouts of the Mount Hood and Willamette National Forests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lookout</th>
<th>Built</th>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Wilderness</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saddleblanket Mountain</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Aerometer LX-24</td>
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<td>Willamette</td>
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<td>Olallie Mountain</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>L-4, side gable</td>
<td>Three Sisters</td>
<td>Willamette</td>
<td>extant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devil’s Peak</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>L-4 hipped, w/ struts</td>
<td>Salmon-Huckleberry</td>
<td>Mount Hood</td>
<td>extant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Butte</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>L-4 hipped, w/ struts</td>
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<td>extant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carpenter Mountain</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>L-4 hipped, w/ struts</td>
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<td>Huckleberry Mountain</td>
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<td>Bull of the Woods</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>L-4, hipped w/ outriggers</td>
<td>Bull of the Woods</td>
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<td>Hickman Butte</td>
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<td>L-4, hipped w/ outriggers</td>
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<td>Waldo Mountain</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>R-6 flat</td>
<td>Waldo Lake</td>
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<td>Indian Ridge</td>
<td>1958</td>
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<td>Five Mile</td>
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<td>Flag Point</td>
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<td>Little Cowhorn Mountain</td>
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<td>Post Point</td>
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<td>Clear Lake</td>
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<td>SiSi Butte</td>
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<td>Coffin Mountain</td>
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<td>Warner Ridge</td>
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<td>Cupola</td>
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<td>Sand Mountain</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>L-4, side gable replica</td>
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<td>reconstruction</td>
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<td>Rebel Rock</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>L-4, hipped w/ outriggers</td>
<td>Three Sisters</td>
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<td>Iron Mountain</td>
<td>1976</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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Chapter 3. Timberline Trail System

Neither the Timberline Trail nor its shelter system are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other associated structures such as the Upper Sandy Guard Station and Timberline Lodge have been listed. In 1988, Region 6 Historian Gail Throop prepared a nomination for the Timberline Trail which includes the shelter system and the Upper Sandy Guard Station as contributing resources. This nomination did not proceed to the State Advisory Council or the Keeper of the National Register in National Park Service but it is on file at the State Historic Preservation Office. This report agrees with Throop’s finding that the shelters are eligible under Criterion A for their association with early USDA Forest Service recreation planning and development, Criterion B for their significance as early recreational developments designed by Francis E. Williamson Jr. and Fred W. Cleator, and C for their representation of Rustic architecture particular to the Forest Service during the Depression-era.

The Timberline Trail System consists of a trail tread extending around Mt. Hood approximately at the timberline, in association with four standing trail shelters, four ruined trail shelters, sites of two removed trail shelters, and the Upper Sandy Guard Station. The entire system was planned and built as a comprehensive entity. According to a National Register nomination written by Gail Throop, stone shelters were built at Paradise Park, McNeil Point, Cairn Basin, Elk Cove, Cooper Spur, Gnarl Ridge (a.k.a. Lamberson Butte), and Mitchell Creek (a.k.a. Mount Hood Meadows) and wood shelters were built at Ramona Falls, Elk Meadows, and Bald Mountain. All were intended to provide relief for small parties during severe storms. As a general pattern, wood shelters were built below the timberline. Stone shelters were sited above the timberline where a scarcity of firewood necessitated an “indestructible” design that hikers would not dismantle. None of these shelters exactly follow the Forest Service’s standardized design; each is a variation on the original specifications. The Upper Sandy Guard Station is further discussed in the next chapter of this report.

Among the ten shelters that were originally built along the Timber Trail, six have been erased or are in ruins to the extent that they are certainly beyond repair. Two Adirondacks-style saltbox structures built of peeled poles and shakes originally offered shelter at Ramona Falls and Bald Mountain on the west side of Mount Hood. These log shelters were removed in the 1960s to alleviate a focused impact at their sites. If any ruins remain at Ramona Falls and Bald Mountain they were not visited as part of this assessment. Four rough-coursed rubble structures roofed with logs and corrugated steel were established at Mitchell Creek, Paradise Park, Elk Cove, and Gnarl Ridge but are now gone. Mitchell Creek Shelter was located on the southeast side of Mount Hood and is now gone. No information about the cause or date of demolition is available, but it may have been disused shortly after it was built. Elk Cove Shelter on the north side of Mount Hood was destroyed by an avalanche in 1948, yet its stone walls remained standing for several years. At an unknown date, the shelter ruins were removed and scattered to alleviate a focused impact at the site within the Mount Hood Wilderness. The shelter that was sited at Paradise Park
on the west side of Mount Hood was the only one built to the designed specifications for stone shelters. In 1988, Throop reported that this shelter was “little altered and in very good condition,” but it has since been demolished under unknown circumstances.

Of all the collapsed stone shelters on the Timberline Trail, Gnarl Ridge Shelter is the most substantial ruin. The shelter collapsed at an unknown date, presumably under snow loads and does not appear to have been repaired or stabilized at any point. Gnarl Ridge Shelter is the only shelter ruin assessed within the scope of this study, and it was studied in order to establish whether or not the ruined parts of this trail system effectively and accurately convey original features that characterize the historic resource.

HistoriCorps further recommends that the Mount Hood National Forest concentrate preservation efforts on the extant shelters at Cairn Basin, McNeil Point, Cooper Spur, and Elk Meadows. The shelter system’s remote location, overall condition, and lack of regular use indicate that it will continue to be a vulnerable resource. It might be worthwhile to document the trail and its associated structures in accordance with the Historic American Building Survey (HABS). HABS documentation is a substantial one-time investment that simultaneously promotes the heritage resource in question and mitigates future physical damage that may reduce the resource’s physical integrity and/or eligibility.

Elk Meadows Shelter is the last wooden shelter on the Timberline Trail, which could imply that it should take priority over the stone shelters at McNeil Point and Cairn Basin. However, it represents a standard Forest Service design that was prolific throughout the Pacific Northwest Region, whereas the stone shelters are unique to the Timberline Trail. Taking their conditions and integrity into account, HistoriCorps recommends that the shelters should be addressed in this order: McNeil Point, Cairn Basin, Elk Meadows, and Cooper Spur.
Elk Cove Shelter, ca. 1960. WyEastBlog.com

Elk Cove Shelter, 2015. WyEastBlog.com

Paradise Park Shelter, no date. OregonHikers.org.

Cooper Spur Shelter, no date. Courtesy of USFS.

Elk Meadows Shelter, 1978. Courtesy of USFS.

Cooper Spur Shelter, 2017.

Chapter 4. Log Structures

This report includes several log buildings located in the Mount Hood and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests; however, further broad scale research is essential in order to better understand how these sites compare with others that are located both within, and outside wilderness areas. Four resources are here gathered into the thematic category of ‘log structures’: the ruins of Kinzel Cabin, the Upper Sandy Guard Station, the Millard Ranger Station, and Red’s Horse Ranch. This incomplete data set nevertheless demonstrates that the Forest Service is responsible for a diverse collection of heritage resources in Oregon wilderness. Each of these log-built sites is remarkably different, and several offer interesting opportunities for preservation.

The Upper Sandy Guard Station, located in the Mount Hood Wilderness of the Mount Hood National Forest, was built by the Forest Service in 1935 and exhibits a unique design. Funded by the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935 and the City of Portland, the cabin established an administrative site along the Timberline Trail to protect the city’s water source, the Bull Run Watershed. Of all the wilderness sites surveyed in the broad-scale report, Upper Sandy Guard Station is the only one that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with early USDA Forest Service recreation management and protection of the Bull Run watershed; Criterion A for its direct association with depression-era New Deal programs; and Criterion C based on a design from the Pacific Northwest Regional Office's. Restore Oregon, a nonprofit preservation advocacy organization, named it one of Oregon’s Most Endangered Places in 2017 and 2018. The forest’s records related to the Upper Sandy Guard Station were unavailable for this report; Therefore, its management history is substantially unknown.

Kinzel Cabin, located in the Badger Creek Wilderness of the Mount Hood National Forest, was constructed in association with a private mining operation sometime before 1960. According to a “Draft an Environmental Statement” (1976) regarding the ‘Badger-Jordan Planning Unit’ of the Mount Hood National Forest, Fred Kinzel established a mine on Little Badger Creek and was then replaced by different claimants who renamed the site “Partnership Mine” in the 1970s. In the Draft Environmental Statement, the Partnership Mine appears on an inventory of historic resources, but the Kinzel Cabin is not specifically mentioned. If it were in good condition, Kinzel Cabin might merit further research but in its current state it would only be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. It has not been managed as a historic resource and has gradually collapsed ever since a tree stuck the roof in the late 1970s.

Heritage assessments by Jon Horn (1980) and Grady H. Caulk (1997) later reported that Forest Service staff, dates carved in the cabin, and district records indicated that both the mine and cabin were established around 1960. Both reports concluded that the site was not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because it was not yet 50 years old and, more importantly, it did not exhibit any exceptional qualities that would have made it eligible.
By any measure, the ruin of Kinzel Cabin is now more than 50 years old and retains integrity of setting and location. However, all other characteristics are severely compromised. If the Kinzel Mine were considered to be a historically significant resource, the cabin ruins might be a contributing feature of the site but the mine has no known significance beyond a vague association with the history of resource extraction in this region of the Mount Hood National Forest. If heritage resource managers were adamant about preserving the remains of this mining site the south wall of Kinzel Cabin could be stabilized from the inside to retain some construction details such as the log joinery, window opening, and gable end-- but reconstruction is not recommended under any circumstances.

Millard Ranger Station, located in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, was built prior to 1917 and is associated with the nearby Red’s Horse Ranch. According to documentation prepared by Sally Donovan and Kimberly Lakin for the Historic American Building Survey in 1996, the ranger station was named after Edwin and Minnie Millard who owned the Horse Ranch from 1901 to 1911. It is unclear whether this cabin was built by the Millards or simply acquired the name because it was near their property. It has always been owned and operated by the Forest Service, and demonstrates an architectural style that was typical for ranger stations built during this time period. According to a Determination of Eligibility for the National Register, the Millard Ranger Station is representative of the Forest Service’s administrative history.

Today, the Millard Ranger Station is more than a century old. It is in excellent condition and retains an administrative use. Previous preservation projects have sustained the building’s physical integrity. The ranger station’s present condition represents a success story, and demonstrates that the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has skillfully preserved a historic resource that was incorporated within wilderness. The cabin could be independently nominated for the National Register or included in a Multiple Properties Nomination of administrative sites in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Furthermore, Millard Ranger Station could be added to the Oregon Historic Sites Database. Neither listing will affect the building’s legal status but they do empower research and monitoring efforts, public engagement, and collaborative management strategies which may be essential to future restoration efforts.

Red’s Horse Ranch is unlike any other site included in this broad scale assessment of heritage resources across the state of Oregon because it is a district comprised of multiple buildings and landscape features, and it was developed by private owners for a commercial use rather than as a Forest Service administrative site. It is comprised of roughly 30 buildings, structures, and landscape features including an airstrip. A Determination of Eligibility for the National Register (1996) identified that some of these features have primary significance within the ranch district, and they contribute to the ranch’s physical integrity, while others were considered to be non-contributing. HistoriCorps recommends that Red’s Horse Ranch be independently nominated for the National Register or included in a Multiple Properties Nomination of ranching sites in the
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The listing would not impact the property’s legal status but does empower research and monitoring efforts, public engagement, and collaborative management strategies which may be essential to future restoration efforts.

The Wallowa Whitman National Forest manages additional historic ranching sites in the Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon Wilderness and could conduct further studies to better understand the scope of these resources. Red’s has a dedicated following among the public who serve as caretakers and visitors, and it features an operable air strip that can accommodate small planes. For these reasons, it may be a priority above and beyond the other ranching districts in this forest but that conclusion could be verified.
Upper Sandy Guard Station, 2013. USFS.

Kinzel Cabin, 1980. USFS


Section 5: Recommendations

Priority Heritage Resources

The following chart summarizes five important characteristics that defined each assessed site and inform which sites HistoriCorps recommends be prioritized for future preservation efforts. This analysis is intended to illustrate the big picture in loose terms that emphasize opportunities for the Forest Service to effectively preserve its heritage resources. The chart does not impose a strict, quantitative hierarchy; nor does it claim to be objective. It is a guide. Resource managers are encouraged to think about these historic places in complex, nuanced terms and pursue creative preservation strategies. HistoriCorps recommends that all these resources be preserved, monitored, and/or documented as specified below, with priority given to those that offer the greatest potential with minimal investment of the Forest Service staff’s time and financial resources.

Each characteristic is described using red, yellow, or green such that green describes the greatest opportunity to take action. Green = Go. The historic resources gain +1 point for each green category, 0 for each yellow category, and -1 for each red category. All characteristics are weighted equally, so sites with very different characteristics may achieve similar scores. The five characteristics are defined as follows:

**Physical Condition** - Good condition is preferred because it requires less expense. In this case, good condition describes a building that can be preserved through continued cyclic maintenance and may not require more substantial restoration.

**Urgency** - High urgency is preferred because it indicates that there is an opportunity to intervene by tackling critical work items before the structure’s condition gets worse. For instance, Waldo Mountain Lookout is in good condition but its roof needs urgent repairs to sustain that condition.

**Physical Integrity** - High integrity is preferred, because original features can be maintained rather than reconstructed. For instance, Cooper Spur Shelter has an altered roof which makes it slightly less of a priority when compared to its sibling shelters at McNeil Point and Cairn Basin.

**Rarity** - High rarity is preferred because it indicates that the building is unique. Rarity is similar to historical significance in that it refers to the structure’s age, architectural features, and association with broad patterns in history. For instance, Olallie Mountain Lookout is rarer than Rebel Rock or Bull of the Woods Lookouts because it is an older, less common version of the L4 lookout type.

**Access** - Easy access is preferred because it requires less expense and has a lesser impact on the wilderness. In this case, access refers to the length and condition of roads and
trails, availability of camping sites and water sources, and potential for using helicopters (or planes in the case of Red’s Horse Ranch and Millard Ranger Station).

Please consult the appendices for detailed treatment recommendations pertaining to each assessed site. Those recommended actions are here summarized as follows:

*Maintain* - These sites are in good condition and can be preserved through continued maintenance that may not require specialized skills related to historic construction techniques. Maintenance tasks should nonetheless be compliant with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation.

*Preserve* - These sites may be preserved in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation and might require further preservation plans and specialized skills related to historic construction techniques.

*Document* - These sites may be recorded to some degree that could range from correspondence with the State Historic Preservation Office, to updating a resource management plan, or contributing to the Historic American Building Survey.

*Monitor* - These sites are in ruins and serve no administrative use that would justify reconstruction.
## Table: Priority Heritage Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Physical Condition</th>
<th>Urgency</th>
<th>Physical Integrity</th>
<th>Rarity</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Waldo Mountain Lookout</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Preserve</td>
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<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Maintain</td>
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<td>Easy</td>
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<td>Document</td>
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Further Assessment

HistoriCorps recommends that the Pacific Northwest Regional Office repeat this form of comprehensive, thematic research to include additional heritage resources that are sited within wilderness areas and are similarly overdue for assessment. The Regional Office is uniquely able to conduct this kind of broad-scale planning effort that provides a useful context for heritage and wilderness managers at each forest.

This report covers roughly one half of all relevant sites in Oregon; A second study of similar cost and scope could provide a complete image of known heritage resources located in wilderness throughout the state. Some of these wilderness areas surveyed in this report are known to contain additional heritage resources that also merit assessment such as the Skyline Trail shelters and ruin of Muskrat Cabin in the Three Sisters Wilderness, multiple guard stations and cabins in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, and numerous ranching sites in the Hells Canyon Wilderness (a subset of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest). Additional resources are managed by forests that were not included in this report, such as two heritage sites in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest that would have been included in this report if not for fire conditions in the late summer.

Furthermore, HistoriCorps recommends that this study be replicated in Washington State where the Forest Service manages many additional wilderness areas and heritage resources. In the meantime, the table of Priority Heritage Resources is incomplete. Extending this project throughout the rest of the Pacific Northwest Region would result in a more complete and fairly prioritized set of goals for the region’s heritage programs.

Environmental Conditions

HistoriCorps recommends that the Regional Office develop guidance on fire risk for vulnerable heritage sites, and work on documenting the sites that are most likely to be consumed by fire in coming years. Fire risk could be incorporated in the table of Priority Heritage Resources as an additional characteristic that identifies preservation opportunities.

As our climate changes, the Pacific Northwest forests may be responsible for managing more extreme fire seasons in the future, and fires will inevitably consume historic resources without warning. Traditional preservation and heritage resource management strategies have assumed that environmental conditions would stay approximately the same. Going forward, it will become yet more difficult to sustain remote, unused historic structures. In 2017, Rebel Rock Lookout and Olallie Mountain Lookout were each imperiled by fires which eventually destroyed one and left the other standing. The loss of Rebel Rock Lookout, which was consumed by the Rebel Creek Fire shortly after it was assessed, serves as a reminder that all of the heritage resources included in this report are subject to similar environmental risks which were not taken into account during this study, and which may ultimately determine when and how the buildings are removed.
**Documentation**

HistoriCorps recommends that all of these heritage resources be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and, in some cases, be documented in accordance with the Historic American Building Survey.

Most can be listed to the National Register via a multiple property nomination that will expedite the process. A National Register listing will empower further preservation activity and public engagement without restricting how the Forest Service manages these structures.

Some administrative structures that use repeated designs, such as lookouts and shelters, have nearly identical architectural and structural details that might not need to be documented in great detail. However, each site has a unique site, setting, and history that can be explored through oral history interviews, archival research, and large-format photography. The Historic American Building Survey is an effective strategy for preserving nuanced, individual aspects of each site.

Documents that are produced for either program are then made available by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service, and Library of Congress.

**Partnerships**

Such projects do not necessarily have to be undertaken by Forest Service staff; They could be conducted through partnerships with students, nonprofit organizations, or private contractors. HistoriCorps recommends that heritage and wilderness staff continue to take an advocative role in seeking out new partnerships with public volunteers and organizations such as HistoriCorps, the Sand Mountain Society, and other friends’ groups.
Works Cited


