

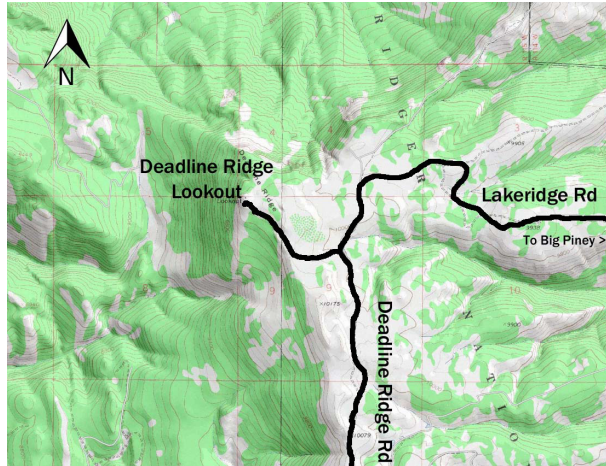
The Deadline Ridge Lookout used to be known as the Castle Fire lookout. Records indicate it was built in 1941 with \$483 in Forest Service funds. It may have been built by CCC crews, however that was not documented. The lookout structure was moved sometime before 1955 from the Red Castles site on Bare Pass.

Sometime before 1968 the lookout was painted light green with Nile Green trim and roof. The south roof exposure was red and had a big yellow "8" painted on the shingles for identification from aircraft.

Interior furnishings included a heavy wooden table bolted to the floor for the fire finder; a chair, a bench, low cupboards under the windows for maps and forms, a wood or oil stove, a bed, and a table. Light was by oil lamp. Communication with the Big Piney Ranger District was by telephone.

All fire lookouts on the Bridger-Teton National Forest were abandoned by the early 1970s in favor of aircraft patrols.

Visit the Green River Valley Museum in Big Piney to see an interpretive display about the Deadline Ridge Fire Lookout and an original U.S. Forest Service Osborne firefinder.



The lookout is located on Deadline Ridge in the Wyoming Range, NW of NW of NW of Section 9 T28N R115W.

**Directions:** From Big Piney, travel south on US 189, turn west on County Road 134 eleven miles to BLM 5328, Pine Grove Ridge Road. Turn right and stay on better roads about 15 miles climbing in elevation. Bear right on Lake Ridge road past Exxon drill site. Look for hard-to-find 4WD two-track road on left hand side. Follow road to the end about 1/2 mile to ridgetop. The lookout will be to the right, next to radio shack building. Please sign guest book inside and securely close door when you leave. Please report any vandalism to Big Piney Ranger District. Note: No restroom or water services are available at this site. Please Pack in/ Pack out any litter.

GPS: 42.4380 -110.5045  
UTM Zone 12 0540747E; 4698518N

# Deadline Ridge Fire Lookout

Bridger-Teton National Forest  
Big Piney Ranger District



11 ft x 11 ft Plan 80 single story cabin  
located on Deadline Ridge in the Wyoming  
Range, used circa 1941-1964

Restoration project from 2016-2019  
by the Sublette County  
Historic Preservation Board  
Certified Local Government (CLG)  
[www.sublette.com/preservation/deadline/](http://www.sublette.com/preservation/deadline/)

See interpretive display at the Green River  
Valley Museum in Big Piney for more info.

## On the look out for wildfires

A fire lookout tower provides housing and protection for a person known as a “fire lookout” whose duty it is to search for wild fires on public lands. The lookout tower is placed on a high vantage point with maximum viewing distance and range of the surrounding area. This lookout is situated at 10,080 feet elevation.

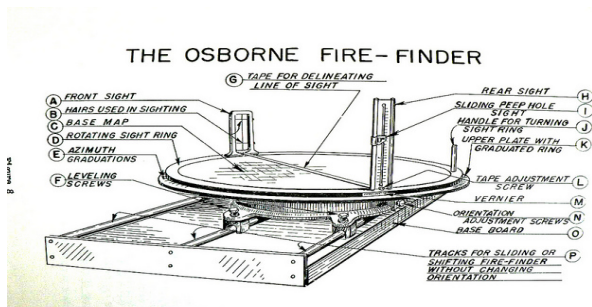
The lookout might be a volunteer or paid employee of the Forest Service. Typically they work alone and spend a tour of duty lasting days or weeks, packing in what water, food and supplies they might need for their stay duration.

The means of communication from lookout towers to headquarters in the 1940s was by telephone. Later, radios were also used.

Once airplanes came into more use, many ground lookout towers were closed, including this one. The structure was later used to support an adjacent radio facility and a solar panel was placed on the lookout tower. The non-functional solar panel was removed during the 2016 lookout restoration project, but the radio equipment shack remains on the site. Due to alterations on this lookout tower structure and the fact that it was moved, it is not considered eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Elise Mountain lookout station (British Columbia, Canada) showing open canvas lookout shelter of frame construction and a telephone for communication. 1928. Photo used with permission from the Forest History Society, Durham, North Carolina, [www.foresthistory.org](http://www.foresthistory.org).



## The Alidade Osborn Fire Finder

In 1911, William B. (“Bush”) Osborne Jr., a young Yale graduate U.S. Forest Service forester in in Portland Oregon, came up with a concept called a Fire Finder.

At first it was a circular map mounted on a portable iron plate that could sit on a stump or rock, oriented precisely N, S, E and West. On it, horizontal angles, also called azimuths, the direction of a smoke plume could be pinpointed, measured from the north in a clockwise direction, from 0 to 360 degrees, similar to a compass.

To estimate distance to the smoke plume, a vertical angle could also be read by looking at the fire through the slot in the rear upright sight and measuring it from the cross hairs locked in the front sight.

Vertical angle readings to measure the distance are helpful when only one lookout can see the fire. When two or more lookouts can spot the fire, triangulating the fire location using horizontal azimuths is the more accurate and common practice.

## ‘Clean it, Fix It, Paint It’



From 2016-2019, members of the Sublette County Historic Preservation Board - Certified Local Government, took on the volunteer project of cleaning and fixing up the Deadline Ridge Fire Lookout. Forest Service personnel inspected the foundation, provided paint and support. Debris was removed and the interior was cleaned. The windows and door were removed and taken offsite to be repaired. Exterior walls were given a fresh coat of paint to replicate the original brown. Shingles were replaced on the roof and repairs made to the chimney stack. The original faded number 8 on the roof was traced to make a pattern and then the roof was primed and repainted from red back to the original green color. Once paint was dry, the white 8 was repainted back on the roof. The site is available for visitors to enjoy.