

Facilities

The lookout is equipped with 2 bunk beds, a propane stove top and a dry sink (no running water). Propane lights are located throughout the building. There is an outdoor bar-b-que pit, picnic table, and outdoor toilet available for use.

Check in is 2:00 pm. Check out is 1:00 pm.

Safety

Please observe all safety precautions included with your rental permit. Be sure to turn off the lights, heater and stove, and remove all trash when you leave.

Cell phone reception at the tower is generally good.

For safety reasons, no smoking is allowed in the tower.

You'll Need to Bring:

- ☐ Water: 1 gallon per person, per day.
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Sleeping bag or bedding
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Extra clothing and rain gear
- ☐ Garbage bags
- ☐ Cooking utensils
- ☐ Copy of permit and rental agreement
- ☐ Map and compass
- ☐ Suntan lotion
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ First aid supplies
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Binoculars

Please Note:

We strongly suggest you bring water from home. If water is taken from a spring or creek, treatment by boiling or filtration is required. All open water sources should be considered contaminated.

Please take all your unused food and garbage with you when you leave. Food and garbage will attract animals, especially mice.

The lookout may be staffed by Forest Service personnel during and after lightning storms, depending on need.

Reservations



Make your reservation through the
National Reservation Service

1-877-444-6777

www.reserveusa.com



Tahoe National Forest

631 Coyote St.

Nevada City CA 95959

530-265-4531

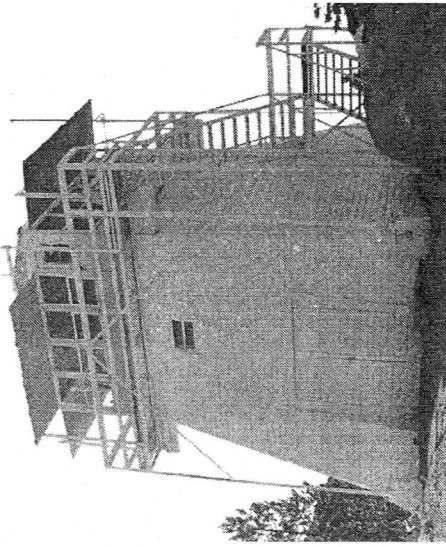
All Are Welcome

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Rental Information

Calpine Lookout



Sierraville Ranger District

317 South Lincoln St./ P.O. Box 95

Sierraville CA 96126

530-994-3401

530-994-3521 (tdd)

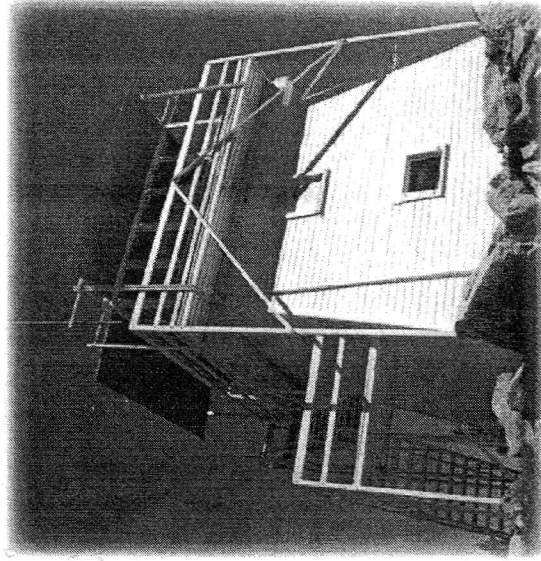
www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe/



USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Tahoe National Forest
Sierraville Ranger District

Calpine Lookout

Sierraville Ranger District
Tahoe National Forest



Calpine lookout is now available for rent!

Thanks to funding from the Sierra County Resource Advisory Council, the lookout has been restored, with a refurbished cab and new toilet building. The lookout, located just outside the small community of Calpine in Sierra County offers majestic views of the eastern Sierra Nevada. You can rent the lookout through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 877-444-6777 or online at www.reserveusa.com/.

History

Towers such as Calpine lookout have been used for many years to spot forest fires. The lookout was built in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and was an active lookout every summer until 1975. The structure consists of a ground floor room, a middle storeroom and the observation cab/sleeping area on top.

Calpine lookout is an "L-7" or windmill style enclosed tower with a "BC-3" cab and has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The windmill style of lookout was very popular throughout California, used by the Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and some counties. Calpine lookout is one of 3 windmill style lookouts that remain in the state. Information about the history of fire lookouts is available at www.firelookout.com/links/.

Historically, active lookouts were staffed during fire season by one person trained to spot fires. Searching for fires is an all-day and sometimes all night, seven day per week job. Since 1975, Calpine lookout has had limited use, mostly during summer lightning storms.

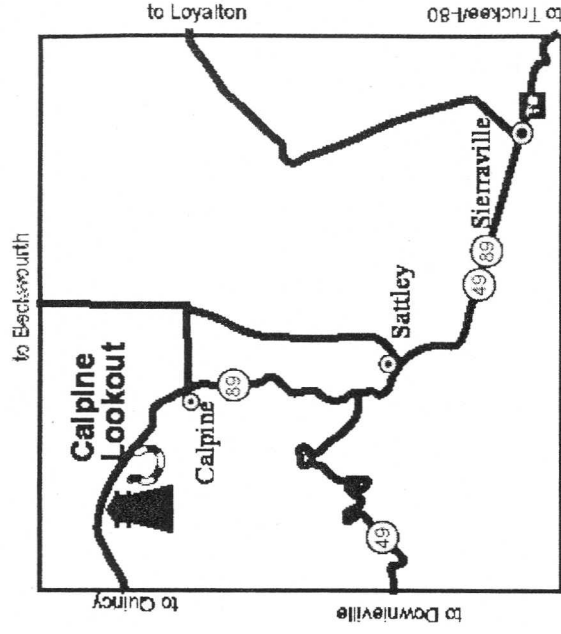
A Basecamp for Outdoor Fun

Since Calpine is no longer actively used as a fire lookout, the Forest Service is renting the cab for year-round recreation use. Mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and stargazing are very popular activities for visitors to the lookout.

Location and Directions

Calpine lookout is located north of the small Sierra County town of Calpine California at 5,970 feet. Drive north on Highway 89 approximately 35 miles from Truckee California. Two miles north of the town of Calpine is the turn off to the lookout. Turn west and travel 1.5 miles to the lookout. The lookout road is steep and unpaved, so low clearance cars are not recommended. During winter and spring, access is via

Map



skis, snowmobile or snowshoes. A locked gate is located one mile from the lookout, which has a combination lock. There is also a combination on the lookout. These combinations will be given to you when you make reservations.

Reservations and Fees

Reservations for the lookout can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service. www.reserveusa.com/ or 877-444-6777. Reservations for the lookout will be accepted starting in October 2004.

Reservations can be made a minimum of two, and a maximum of 360 days in advance. The fee is \$45.00 per night for 1-4 persons. These fees are used to maintain the lookout. After making reservations, you will receive written confirmation, rental permit, and lock combinations.