BARFOOT FIRE LOOKOUT

The Barfoot Fire Lookout was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1935. It was a ground mounted, standard L-4 structure. The L-4 is a 14-foot by 14-foot frame pre-cut lookout house. It had a peaked roof and wooden panels that were mounted over the windows to provide shade. The panels could be lowered when the lookout was not in use. When the lookout was still operational, it contained a work area, kitchen, sleeping area and a fire finder. The roof of the lookout had gutters that collected rainfall that was stored for use in a cistern. The Barfoot Lookout was accessed by the Chiricahua Crest Trail (Trail # 270) just north of Rustler Park and was sited at an elevation of 8823 feet. The lookout was listed in the National Historic Lookout Register.

Unfortunately, the lookout structure is no longer there. It was destroyed on 3 June 2011 when the Horseshoe II Fire ravaged the Rustler Park area. According to the Incident Commander, a dead oak tree burning within the main fire area threw an ember over containment lines which landed into a live oak tree with a dead branch, Over the course of the night, the ember came to life and by the time firefighting resources were able to detect it early the next morning the fire had reached unsafe conditions. The lookout had been wrapped in fire retardant materials but the strong winds had opened a slight gap in the material and allowed embers to get inside. At present, there are no plans to rebuild the lookout. However, the site still affords a fantastic view of the area.

Early View of Barfoot Lookout
Photo from National Historic Lookout Register

Lookout Interior with Fire Finder
Photo by Robert S. Wilson

Lookout at Sunset
Photo by
Robert S Wilson

Lookout Site After Fire
Photo by T. Johnson

Barfoot Lookout Residue
Photo by T. Johnson

Remains of Toilet and Water Cistern
Photo by T. Johnson

Destroyed Communications Equipment
Were Replaced
Photo by T. Johnson

Summary prepared by T. Johnson in June 2012 from various web sites.