

MOUNT BIGELOW FIRE LOOKOUT

The Mount Bigelow Fire Lookout is an inactive U.S. Forest Service Fire Lookout located atop Mount Bigelow in the Catalina Mountains at an elevation of 8434 feet. It was built in 1958 and consisted of a 14' by 14' R-6 wood cabin mounted on a 53-foot tall Army CL 100-106 metal tower with catwalk. Instead of a corrugated flat roof with overhang, it has a hip roof with no overhang for shade. The lookout was converted to inactive status after several antennas (two of the antennas are the KOLD Television antenna and the KVOA Analog TV Antenna) were constructed adjacent to it and the resultant radiation from the antennas was considered to be hazardous to rangers occupying the lookout. Since the Forest Service had no intention of ever using the lookout again, a decision was made to remove the wood cabin and just leave the metal platform. Removal of the cabin commenced on the morning of 23 April 2013 and was soon completed. Before and after pictures of the lookout tower are shown below.



Mt Bigelow Fire Lookout Configuration in 2012 (Before Removal of Cabin)
Photo by Tom Johnson



Mount Bigelow Fire Lookout Cabin as it looked in 2012. Photo by T. Johnson

Mount Bigelow Fire Lookout Platform as it looked in 2014. Photo by T. Johnson

Mount Bigelow Fire Lookout Cabin Demolition 23 April 2013.



Lookout Cabin Demolition
in Progress
Photo by T. Johnson



Workman on Roof
demolishing the Wood Cabin
Photo by Jim Chisholm

Summary by T. Johnson in 2013 from the National Historic Lookout Register