

WEBB PEAK FIRE LOOKOUT

The Webb Peak Fire Lookout is an inactive U.S. Forest Service Fire Lookout located on Webb Peak in the Pinaleno Mountains of southern Arizona at an elevation of 10,029 feet. It was built in 1933 and consists of a 7-foot by 7-foot metal cab mounted on a 46-foot tall Aermotor CL 100-106 metal tower (See Figure 1). Access to the cab is via five sections of relatively steep ladder separated by four platforms and through a trapdoor in the floor of the cab (See Figure 2). Space within the cab is very limited with virtually standing room only. The only equipment within the cab is a fire-finder (See Figure 3). The condition of the cab has deteriorated since the lookout was deactivated and there are several broken windows. A support cabin (See Figure 4) and latrine (See Figure 5) were constructed a short distance from the lookout for use by the ranger when he was not on duty. The support cabin has not been secured for some time and the interior has essentially been trashed (See Figures 6 and 7). It is too bad that visitors couldn't have been more respectful of the heritage of the facilities. The Webb Peak Fire Lookout had been added to the National Historic Lookout Register in 1988.



[Figure 1. Webb Peak Fire Lookout in 2014

The supporting structures for the lookout are no longer in existence. The lightning caused Frye Fire of June 2017 destroyed them. The metal tower and cab were still standing during a visit to the area after the fire but no attempt was made to determine if the cab was still accessible. The fire finder had been removed prior to the fire. That makes three fire lookouts that were visited during hiking club hikes that have been destroyed or severely damaged since 2011: the Atascosa Fire Lookout in the Atascosa Mountains during the Murphy Complex Fire of June 2011, the Barfoot Fire Lookout in the Chiricahua Mountains during the Horseshoe II Fire of June 2011 and then the Webb Peak Lookout in 2017.



Figure 2. Ladder/Platform Access



Figure 3. Fire-Finder



Figure 4. Ranger Support Cabin



Figure 5. Latrine



Figure 6. Condition of Kitchen Area



Figure 7. Condition of Sleeping Area

Summary prepared by T. Johnson in June 2014 and updated in 2019 from data contained in the Fire Lookout and Fire Tower web sites. The photo in Figure 2 was taken by Valerie Robinson in 2013. All other pictures were by T. Johnson in 2014

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