Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Quarry #1:** This quarry is located just uphill from the upper switchback on the Summit Road, and was likely developed during the CCC era to provide stone for projects within the park. It is significant as a landscape feature that illustrates the construction methods employed at the time, revealing blasting holes and other debris associated with this type of historic site. Initially recorded by archaeologist Charles Luttrell in 2000, the only apparent change is the removal of an ore car from the bottom of the quarry site at an unknown date. The relatively recent placement of a pole related to the ski operation on the mountain is the only other noteworthy change to the site, however the pole is located outside the apparent quarry area.

*Character-Defining Features:* Broken rock with apparent blasting holes, shallow depression near base of quarry, and associated debris.

*Historic Photographs:* None located.

*Plans:* None located.

*Current Use:* None other than its use as part of the ski area.

*CAMP Classification:* **Recreation**

*Treatment:* **Preservation,** monitor for signs of deterioration.

*Priority:* **Supplemental**
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Quarry #1

Quarry location.

2009 view of quarry base to north.

Representative drill hole remaining in quarry area.
Cultural Resources Management Plan

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Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Vista House:** The Vista House was designed by H. C. Bertelsen after Park Superintendent Weigle was apparently unhappy with an earlier design prepared by state park architect Charles Saunders. The building was erected in 1933 by E.O. Fieldstad, a contractor from nearby Opportunity, WA who submitted the low bid of $4693. Its existence near the site of the Mount Spokane CCC camp may have contributed to the present impression held by many that the Vista House was constructed by the CCC. The fire lookout was not a part of Bertelsen’s original design, although it was clearly a requirement; he sketched in the lookout on the gable end as an after-thought since the building displaced the existing fire lookout on the north side of the Vista House. The lookout was a change to accommodate the Regional Forester, and was constructed for an additional $570.

The Vista House is the most widely recognized historic building at Mount Spokane, and it is an excellent example of the naturalistic design principles developed by the National Park Service. Built of material from the surrounding field of shattered granite, it emerges from its environment as a natural accretion; the stones are roughly shaped, and lend an enduring quality to the construction.

**Character-Defining Features:** Rubble construction with worked stones around openings, large unstruck joints with heavy aggregate, operable steel sash windows with small lights, round window opening in entry gable, entry portico with heavy milled wood entry door, separate but engaged rest room with proprietary septic system, original fire lookout engaged in gable end, roof dormers, shake roof, exposed interior timber trusses with metal attachments, milled wood ceiling.

**Historic Photographs:** Several early photographs illustrate articles in the Mount Spokane clipping file, Spokane Public Library. See also photo nos. 22 and 43, CCC photo collection, Mount Spokane series, maintained by Interpretive Services, for partial views. Multiple views also present in the Oestreicher Collection.

**Plans:** H. C. Bertelsen Collection, Eastern Washington State Historical Society; copy at WSPRC HQ.

**Current use:** The building is open for informal use during summer months, and as a special event location. During the winter the concessionaire at Mt. Spokane uses a portion of the building as a small hospitality room.

**CAMP Classification:** Heritage

**Treatment:** Preservation; maintain existing condition as a major project rehabilitated the building. Activities to include repointing, painting, repair and reglazing sash as required, repair or replacement of damaged wood siding, roof maintenance and minor repair as required.

**Priority:** Primary
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Vista House

Vista House location.

Vista House, 2008 view.


Vista House, 2008 view.

Vista House interior, 2008 view.
Boy Scout Monument: The Boy Scouts figured prominently in Mount Spokane events and their involvement on the mountain extends well beyond the few words allotted to the organization in this document. The 1928 stone monument and elevation marker located on the approach road to the antenna farm is an effective reminder that Mount Spokane was a destination of choice.

The monument is a simple cairn of mortared stones. A panel with bronze devices carries a brief inscription (the panel is missing on the north side) and the top is surmounted by a mortar casting with the elevation. The elevation marks itself is partially broken. Some repairs have been carried out between 2001 and 2009, mostly consisting of minor repointing.

Charter-Defining Features: Rubble masonry and vernacular composition.

Historic Photographs: One photograph located in the Oestreicher Collection that shows the back (east) side of the monument in detail, catalogued as photo 78.2003.1.P616A.O2. The monument also appears in some overall photos of the summit area, but without any useful level of detail.

Plans: None located. Given its simplicity, it is likely that no plans were ever made for the monument.

Current Use: The monument is in passive use, as is appropriate for its intended purpose as an elevation marker.

CAMP Classification: Recreation

Treatment: Preservation – The park should clarify if an agreement exists with the Boy Scouts for ongoing maintenance of the monument.

Priority: Supplemental
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Mount Spokane State Park

Boy Scout Monument

Boy Scout Monument Location

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Mount Spokane State Park  

Identification of Cultural Resources – Building and Structures  

**Sun Ball Site:** The Sun Ball and its supporting stone pillar base were removed in 1950, and their disposition is unknown. No physical evidence of the site was found during the preparation of this document, and there was no effort made to locate the plaque carried on the spire or the contents of the Sun Ball itself. The concrete base and plaque were reported present as late as 1974. The ball was formerly located in the area of the existing flagpole just east of the War Dead Memorial.

Of the several commemorations at Mount Spokane, the dedication of the Sun Ball was the most dramatic. Given the expectation that the Sun Ball could be visible to the entire visual basin of Mount Spokane, it was also the best presentation of the mountain as a pilgrimage destination.

**Character-Defining Features:** Resource not extant.

**Historic Photographs:** A sketch of the Sun Ball and its base is included in the Mount Spokane clipping file of the Spokane Public Library. Photo #65 in the Mount Spokane CCC collection maintained by Interpretive Services also depicts the Sun Ball as it appeared in 1934. There are also at least two photos of the Sun Ball in the Oestreicher Collection (P617A.O2 and P219A.A5).

**Plans:** None located.

**Current Use:** Not applicable.

**CAMP Classification:** Recreation

**Treatment:** Preservation – If further examination of the area reveals the base of the pillar.

**Priority:** Supplemental
Sun Ball Site location

Sun Ball, view tubes, and fire lookout, 1933.
WSPRC Photo SP10-65

Sun Ball in January of 1939.
Cultural Resources Management Plan

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Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

Memorial to Spokane County War Dead: A large polygonal concrete base for a flagpole is located adjacent to the fire lookout. Within the base is a small casket containing the names of those Spokane County resident killed during WW I, materials associated with the Service Star Legion (the sponsoring organization), and several flowers dropped by army aviators during the dedication ceremony in honor of a local aviator who lost his life in the war. A plaque with the date of June 27, 1925 memorizes the dedication of the monument itself. The memorial is another example of Mount Spokane as a pilgrimage destination.

Character-Defining Features: An angular concrete mass, mounting a bronze plaque. Given the purpose of the resource, its most significant feature is its location.

Historic Photographs: None of this specific resource, although it appears in general views of the area as in the photo on the preceding page (SP10-65).

Plans: None located.

Current Use: The memorial is in passive use, as is appropriate for its intended purpose.

CAMP Classification: Heritage

Treatment: Preservation – monitor each biennium for evidence of deterioration and report findings to Region and the Historic Preservation Officer.

Priority: Supplemental
Memorial to Spokane County War Dead location.

2008 view of Memorial to Spokane County War Dead.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

View tubes: The viewing tubes are located at the southwest end of the summit area, adjacent to the turn around encircling the flagpole. These provide directed views of nearby natural features and towns, including Lake Pend Oreille, Spirit Lake, Twin Lakes, Coeur d’Alene, Hauser Lake, Newman Lake, Liberty Lake, and Eloika Lake. The tubes appear in historic photographs of the summit area, but there are currently more tubes than exist in the historic photos. The construction also differs slightly, and it is likely that these are replacements of the original view tubes. They continue to serve an important interpretive function at the summit, directing views toward prominent features surrounding the mountain. A rough stone walkway leads around the inner edge of the view tubes, providing connectivity.

Character-Defining Features: Plain steel tubes set in earth, with stone walkway between.

Historic Photographs: The view tubes appear in general photos of the summit, including SP10-65.

Plans: None located.

Current Use: The site currently used as it was historically.

CAMP Classification: Heritage

Treatment: Preservation; monitor for signs of deterioration.

Priority: Supplemental
View Tubes

2009 view of View Tubes and stone walkway.

Historic photo of summit area showing tubes. WSPRC Photo H78SP10-65.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**CCC Camp or Camp Francis Cook:** Constructed in 1934, the CCC camp housed up to 200 young men for an annual six-month term. The camp consisted of a series of terraces for tent platforms; log or frame buildings were limited to service structures. The camp site is little changed from its original appearance, although the temporary structures and all but one building have been removed. Vegetation has also naturally grown in the camp area, which was historically much more open than it is today.

Dry-laid rock walls form the entry to the camp and mark the separation of the terraces. The walls are largely intact, although some have collapsed and others are impacted by tree growth; the CCC as part of camp landscaping intentionally left some of the trees now threatening the walls in place. A central flagstone walk, marked at intervals by low steps, leads up from the automobile turn-around and forms the central street of the camp. It culminates at the flagpole plaza in front of the reconstructed headquarters building. The sites of some service buildings have been heavily impacted by construction, and a vault toilet has also impacted a wall location. In its entirety, the site conveys a strong impression.

**Character-Defining Features:** Low, dry-laid rock walls, flagstone path with steps, earth terraces and roadways and selected trees.

**Historic Photographs:** Numerous historic photographs are in the Mount Spokane CCC photo collection and the Oestreicher Collection maintained by Interpretive Services. Additional views are contained in newspaper articles in the clipping files of the Northwest Room, Spokane City Library. Originals of these photos may be with the Spokane Spokesman-Review newspaper, which maintains its own library.

**Plans:** No complete plans of the camp have been located, but an aerial photo in the Oestreicher collection gives a good sense of the overall layout of the camp.

**Current Use:** Picnicking, hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling.

**CAMP Classification:** Heritage

**Treatment:** **Preservation** - survey and document site, evaluate hazard trees, repair existing rock walls and pathways using appropriate methods. Remove trees damaging intact features.

**Priority:** Secondary
CCCamp or Camp Francis Cook

CCC Camp Francis Cook location.

Camp construction, July 1934. Photo SP10-143.

Completed camp segment, July 1934. Photo SP10-7.


2009 view of “Main Street”. 
CCC Camp Headquarters: The camp headquarters was constructed rapidly over a period of a few days in 1934 to be ready for the camp dedication ceremony. Its original purpose was to house materials presented during the ceremony that honored Francis Cook, but it served as camp headquarters and was also referred to as the community building. In 1974, it was converted for use as a warming hut for snowmobile users, but by the early 1990s, it had deteriorated significantly. The original building was rehabilitated in 1998, using both new materials and selected logs from the original around the original fireplace and chimney.

The rehabilitated building is of the same size and proportions as the original. It is a single room log building fitted with a gable roof and shakes. A single leaf entry door with original hardware is located centrally in the long wall facing the flag pole plaza of the CCC camp; it opens onto the fireplace in the opposite wall. Large window openings fitted with double and triple sash with single lights appear regularly on all four elevations.

Character-Defining Features: The present building has a great deal of new fabric, however, it is faithful to the original design and construction. The building retains its original entry door and hardware, and the features that characterize the building are its construction type, spatial arrangement, log detailing, entry door, door hardware, and fireplace.

Historic Photographs: Several construction views are part of the Mount Spokane CCC photo collection maintained by Interpretive Services. A partial view of the completed structure is in photo no. 28 of the same series.

Plans: No plans of the building have been located, and due to the circumstances of its construction it is unlikely that any were prepared.

Current Use: Seasonal shelter, actively used by snowmobile groups during winter.

CAMP Classification: Heritage

Treatment: Preservation; routine maintenance is required.

Priority: Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park
CCC Camp Headquarters

 CCC Camp Headquarters location.

Under construction, 1934. WSPRC Photo SP10-60.

As completed, August, 1934. WSPRC Photo SP10-63.

2008 view of CCC Camp Headquarters.

2008 view of Headquarters with “Main Street”.

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Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Beauty Mountain Latrine:** The latrine appears to be the one built in 1937 as part of the development of a campground and picnic area sited on the opposite side of Beauty Mountain from the CCC camp. A kitchen shelter was also to be part of the facilities, but apparently work on the structure was not begun. It also may be that the latrine was never finished and the stonework was all that was completed.

The latrine is a low stone platform, formed from large blocks. The appearance of the masonry is unlike that of other buildings in the park, and conveys an impression of higher skill on the part of the builders. It is probable that unemployed area stonemasons were hired for this work, since the CCC was heavily engaged in road development and mapping at this same time.

**Character-Defining Features:** Rectangular plan, large shaped stones, narrow joints, fine aggregate mortar.

**Historic Photographs:** None located.

**Plans:** None located.

**Current Use:** The site is not in current use with the exception of general recreation activities.

**CAMP Classification:** Heritage

**Treatment:** Preservation; monitor for signs of deterioration.

**Priority:** Primary
Beauty Mountain Latrine

Beauty Mountain Latrine location.

2008 view of Beauty Mountain Latrine.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

Spokane Ski Club: The Spokane Ski Club acquired the property in 1931, but the date of construction of the clubhouse or overnight cabin is not certain. Clyde Stricker, author of Purchasing a Mountain, the best available source of information about the ski club, suggests that the building was located originally on Bald Knob and moved to its present site after World War II, perhaps in 1947. The 1940 Master Plan for the park shows a “Lodge” in the vicinity of Bald Knob, which could have been the Ski Club building.

Character-Defining Features: The Ski Club building is a ruin in the immediate vicinity of Camp Fosseen, and only the masonry fireplace stack survives intact. Some floor system and log wall remains are also located in the area.

Historic Photographs: An aerial view of the Ski Club and nearby ski jump is located in the Oestreicher Collection, but does not show the building in any detail.

Plans: No plans have been located.

Current Use: Not in use.

CAMP Classification: Recreation.

Treatment: Preservation; retain the fireplace stack for interpretive purposes since it appears to be the single extant feature that can be connected with early ski clubs at Mount Spokane within the park.

Priority: Supplemental.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Spokane Ski Club

Spokane Ski Club location.

2008 view of Ski Club chimney and floor.

2008 view of Ski Club log remains.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Camp Fosseen:** Camp Fosseen is named for Neal Fosseen, former mayor of Spokane and active supporter of the Boy Scouts. He donated the land (which is still owned privately) to the Boy Scouts at an unknown date, but newspaper articles suggest sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s. It is an assumption of this CRMP that the building associated with Camp Fosseen is located on private property.

The camp building or bunkhouse is a large single-story wood-frame building with a gable roof. The siding is board and batten, and multi-pane windows illuminate the interior; the windows appear to be reused salvage. The foundation is unidentified, but appears to be informal because of the amount of movement notable in the building. The interior was not examined because of extensive deterioration.

Two small outbuildings are behind the main structure, and are apparently outhouses.

**Character-Defining Features:** Board and batten siding, gable roof, multi-pane sash.

**Historic Photographs:** None located.

**Plans:** None located.

**Current Use:** Not in use.

**CAMP Classification:** Resource Recreation, land not owned by WSPRC but included in long-term boundary.

**Treatment:** Demolition; although the Boy Scouts had an early and important association with Mount Spokane, the building at Camp Fosseen is late and is not associated with the period of greatest significance. The site should be marked and interpreted. The building is also in a severely deteriorated condition.

**Priority:** Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Camp Fosseen

Camp Fosseen location. Building indicated by symbol; entire property indicated by hatched area.

2009 view of main building, entry at west side.

2009 view of south side.
Cultural Resources Management Plan  
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Bald Knob Kitchen Shelter:** The Bald Knob shelter is located just south of the campground. Designed by D.M. Sibold, an Olympia architect in 1953, the kitchen features a central stove and a commanding view to the south. The design echoes the improvements constructed by the CCC, but with a modern design. It is an angular building with a shallow gable roof, grounded by a series of stone piers on the south side. The south wall was formerly glazed to protect users from wind and weather, but this has been removed. The building has been altered through the removal of the glazing and a change in the support structure on the south side. Additionally, the roof line has been changed as it no longer has the same “V” shape and roof members do not extend to the north side over a small fire ring. Due to the extent of alterations, the building is considered to have lost its historic integrity.

Donn Mueller Sibold received his architecture degree from the University of Washington in 1947, and worked in a number of State Parks during the 1950s. Designs in other parks by Sibold found at the time of this writing include the 1954 Superintendent’s Residence at Camano Island State Park and the 1954 Bath House at Wenberg State Park. Additional designs in other parks may exist, but have not been located at this time.

**Character-Defining Features:** Shallow gable roof form, exposed structure, stone fireplace, integral seating, concrete floor.

**Historic Photographs:** None located.

**Plans:** The original drawings are on file at WSPRC HQ (S650-33-1 and 2).

**Current Use:** The building continues its historic use as a kitchen shelter.

**CAMP Classification:** **Recreation**

**Treatment:** **Preservation;** monitor for signs of deterioration.

**Priority:** **Supplemental**
Bald Knob Kitchen Shelter

2009 view of Kitchen Shelter.

2009 view to south.

2009 view of fireplace.

2009 view of interior to west.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Bald Knob Comfort Station:** The Bald Knob Comfort Station is located between the existing parking area and the campground. An undated and unsigned drawing indicates the designer as Carver Lowell Baker, but it is unknown at the time of this writing if this person was a State Parks employee or an employee of D.M. Sibold, as the initials “CLB” appear on his designs as the draftsman. The precise date of construction is also unknown, but it is assumed that the building is a contemporary of the nearby kitchen shelter due to its design and materials. The building was inaccessible during the preparation of this plan, as it is open only seasonally. While it does appear to retain design integrity at the exterior, it is of a modest type and has not been formally evaluated for historic significance. However, this type of building is ubiquitous within the State Parks system, and it is unlikely that the building is historically or architecturally significant. Until a formal determination is conducted for this building, the appropriate treatment is preservation.

**Character-Defining Features:** Shallow gable roof form, plan type, louvered openings, board and batten siding. Internal components and finishes may also be defining features, but these are currently unevaluated.

**Historic Photographs:** None located.

**Plans:** The original drawings are on file at WSPRC HQ (S650-35).

**Current Use:** The building continues its historic use as a comfort station.

**CAMP Classification:** Recreation

**Treatment:** Preservation; monitor for signs of deterioration.

**Priority:** Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Bald Knob Comfort Station

Comfort Station location.

2009 view to southwest.

2009 view to north.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

Lodge #1 (East Slope): The eastern ski lodge was designed by noted Spokane architect Kenneth Brooks in July of 1955. Constructed shortly thereafter, the lodge is an example of the Modern style with the typical ribbon windows, shed roof, and exposed structure. Shortly after completion, the building was expanded to the west using drawings produced in 1957 and to the east using drawings by J.L. Chambers in 1962. The essential form was carried through in these additions, but features of the original building were changed or obscured such as the glazing pattern and the surface finishes. In addition to these expansions, the building siding has been completely replaced with a horizontal drop siding where historically a vertical siding was used. The building no longer retains its historic integrity due to these additions and alterations.

Character-Defining Features: Shed roof form, exposed structure, ribbon windows on southern side, glass wall on northern side, wood finishes and trim.

Historic Photographs: Multiple views exist in the Oestreicher collection, none have been located of only the original construction.

Plans: Three sets of plans representing the original construction (S650-36), western addition (S650-37), and eastern addition (S650-38) present at WSPRC HQ, plus re-glazing drawings.

Current Use: The building continues its use as a day lodge for the ski area.

CAMP Classification: Recreation

Treatment: Preservation; monitor for signs of deterioration.

Priority: Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Lodge #1


Historic view of Lodge 1, prior to additions.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Superintendent’s Residence**: This residence is located at the park entry adjacent to Burping Brook. Designed by D.M. Sibold, an Olympia architect, the residence is an example of the Northwest Regional style with a combination gable on hip roof, a “T” shaped plan, and is two stories high. The building is clad with board and batten siding, and features prominent exposed structural members at both the eaves and cantilevers. The interior was not accessible to the author as it is still used as Ranger housing. The house retains a high level of integrity at the exterior, with the only modifications being the change in roof material (steel instead of the original shake) and the replacement of the original balcony railing using the original design but a new material (pressure treated wood). The house is significant as an architect designed residence in the park, and further study on the significance of Sibold is necessary but beyond the scope of this plan. The form, massing, details, and materials of the house should be retained.

Donn Mueller Sibold received his architecture degree from the University of Washington in 1947, and worked in a number of State Parks during the 1950s. Designs in other parks by Sibold found at the time of this writing include the 1954 Superintendent’s Residence at Camano Island State Park and the 1954 Bath House at Wenberg State Park. Additional designs in other parks may exist, but have not been located at this time.

**Character-Defining Features**: Prominent roof, large window groupings, board and batten siding, field stone cladding at lower level, exposed structural elements at eaves and cantilevers, and possibly interior details (verification needed).

**Historic Photographs**: None located.

**Plans**: The original drawings are on file at WSPRC HQ (S650-34, 5 sheets).

**Current Use**: The building continues its historic use as a residence.

**CAMP Classification**: Recreation

**Treatment**: **Preservation**, monitor for signs of deterioration and provide appropriate repairs as necessary.

**Priority**: Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Superintendent’s Residence

Superintendent’s Residence location.

2009 view to north.

2009 view to northwest.

2009 view to southeast.

2009 view of lower entry, northwest side.
Cultural Resources Management Plan
Mount Spokane State Park

Identification of Cultural Resources – Buildings and Structures

**Quartz Mountain Fire Lookout:** This lookout was the last of a series of lookouts constructed atop Mount Spokane. A DNR design constructed in 1979, the cab was removed from the summit area in 2001 and reconstructed at Quartz Mountain in 2004. It follows the standard smaller plan for a live-in tower constructed by the DNR in this era, with four walls of glass with operable shutters. The tower is not at the same height as the original; the current tower is only ten feet while the original tower under the cab was 40 feet. The building is significant as a representative example of its type, but lacks the age and integrity required to be considered a historic property within State Parks.

This is at least the sixth lookout established on the mountain, including the first sited adjacent to and replaced by the Vista House (see cover photo) and a series of four set on towers to the southwest of the Vista House in the open summit area.

**Character-Defining Features:** Shallow gable roof, glass walls with shutters, walkway at exterior, cab on elevated platform.

**Historic Photographs:** None located.

**Plans:** None located.

**Current Use:** The building functions as a rental during the summer months.

**CAMP Classification:** Resource Recreation

**Treatment:** Preservation; monitor for signs of deterioration and provide appropriate repairs as necessary.

**Priority:** Supplemental
Cultural Resources Management Plan
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Quartz Mountain Fire Lookout

Fire Lookout location.

2009 view of lookout.

2009 view.