

MONTE VISTA FIRE LOOKOUT

The Monte Vista Fire Lookout is located in the Coronado National Forest in the southern portion of the Chiricahua Mountains. It is an active lookout and is generally manned during the high fire danger season. The route that the Green Valley Hiking Club uses to hike to the lookout is from one of two trailheads in the Turkey Creek area (Morse Canyon Trail #43 or Pole Bridge Trail #264). The lookout may also be reached from two trailheads in the Rucker Canyon area. One of these access routes is via Bear Canyon and Strawberry Ridge and the other is from a trailhead at the end of Forest Road 628 (a side road off of FR-74E).

The Monte Vista Fire Lookout has gone through three different iterations during its' life. It was originally constructed in 1916 as a "Crow's Nest" tower. This configuration was replaced in 1922 by a 30 foot Aermotor tower. Aermotor lookout towers were manufactured by the Aermotor Company of Chicago Illinois and since they were based on the design of Aermotor windmill towers, they had relatively small cabs (usually 7 ft. by 7 ft. with a fire locating device mounted in the center). This lookout was replaced in 1966 with a 14 ft. by 14 ft. USDA CL-100 metal cabin mounted on a forty-foot tall steel tower. The site also includes a support cabin and several outbuildings.



Monte Vista Fire Lookout & Support Cabin
Photo by Wayne Moshier

The Horseshoe II fire of 2011 ravaged a large portion of the Chiricahua Mountains and destroyed the Barfoot Lookout, another historic lookout, but fortunately did not affect the Monte Vista Lookout. The fire came close to the lookout site but bypassed it.



Monte Vista Fire Lookout & Support Cabin
Photo by Tom Johnson - 2012



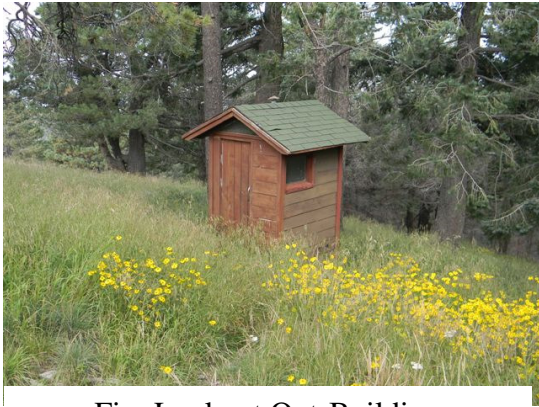
Ranger & Lookout Interior
Photo by Jim Chisholm - 2013



Ranger & Fire Finder
Photo by Jim Chisholm - 2013



Fire Lookout Support Cabin
Photo by Tom Johnson - 2012



Fire Lookout Out-Building
Photo by Tom Johnson - 2012

Summary prepared by Tom Johnson in June 2013 from the Wikipedia, Fire Tower, Fire Lookout and National Historic Lookout Register web sites.