



Grouse Ridge Lookout Restoration Tahoe National Forest 2011 Report

2009/2010 – Discussions for the Grouse Ridge Restoration project began in the fall of 2009. Due to late snows in 2010, work on the lookout was restricted until August. Hanta virus and lead paint remediation was completed by volunteer contractors, Element 26 and Wagner Construction. The lookout was winterized early due to snow.

2011 Summary – Heavy snow throughout the year and into the spring eliminated any work on site. The siding for the lookout was purchased and painted by volunteers and Forest Service employees. The fundraising group continued to generate funding. Plans were made to relocate the radio equipment in a vault north of the lookout.

Communication – A variety of email updates and news releases were sent to members of the GRR Team and news media on planned activities. Presentations were given to community organizations. The lookout display (see photo) was staffed at community events and donations requested. The website was updated.

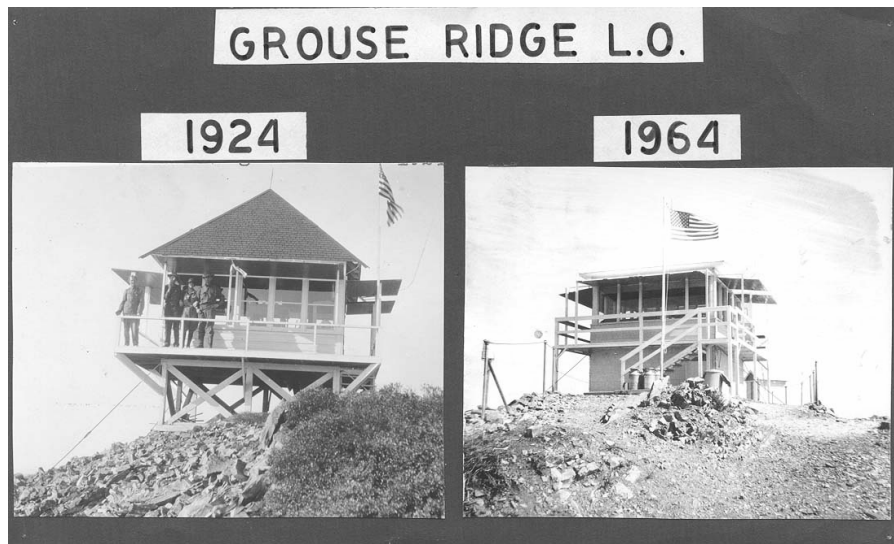


Fund Raising and Financial Update – A benefit dinner at Cirino's at Main Street was held and which netted roughly \$4,000 in donations bringing the total bank account to \$5,958.44. An impressive list of prizes was obtained from the community as part of the dinner including a sailing trip on San Francisco Bay, 10 oz silver bar, bench made from a chair lift, and many other prizes. In addition to the bank account, available funding from the Nevada/Placer Resource Advisory Committee grant is \$7,645 for supplies/equipment.

Work Projects – Due to the amount of snow, the lookout was not accessible until September, 2011. Busy volunteer schedules did not allow any work to be completed in the fall, however specific plans were refined outlining the individual projects to be done, supplies still needed, and work schedule. The

Forest Service telecommunications shop identified a location for the new radio vault so that the radio equipment, tower and solar panel can be removed from the lookout. The vault was ordered and will be installed north of the lookout as soon as the snow melts.

Historical Protection –Discussions confirmed that with the removal of the radio equipment, the lookout would be restored to the 1924 version rather than the 1964 version. (see photo)



Plans for 2012 – Specific work plans have been identified as well as list of supplies needed. Interest in the lookout is still strong and is expected to increase as work progresses on the site.

Volunteers:

Project Coordinator – Larry Gruver

Treasurer – Joyce Canon

Website Donation and Development –Susan Prince

Fund Raising Committee – Chris Hersey (Co Chair), Rich Veal (Co Chair), Michael Biolchini, Wes Schultz, Gina Torvinen, Heather Newell, Ann Westling

Photographers – Craig Rohrsen, Wes Schultz

Volunteer Contractors – Wagner Construction Group – Brian Wagner; Element 26 – Patrick Marcom

FS Support

Genice Froehlich – Yuba River District Ranger

Terry Brennan – Public Service Officer

Temoc Rios – Facilities Engineer

Brad Mitchel – Telecommunications Specialist

Monique Bluvas – Safety

Carrie Smith – Acting Forest Archeologist

Bill Slater – District Archeologist

Terry Adams – Construction and Maintenance

Joe Chavez – District Public Services Officer

Heather Newell – Asst Recreation Officer

Ann Westling – Public Affairs Officer