



Forest Fire Lookout Association Western States Conference 2026 Cle Elum, WA - Sept 25th and 26th, 2026

Approx 80 miles east of Seattle—Sea-Tac International Airport is about 90 minutes away.

Where: a BUNCH of Fire Lookouts and at Dru Bru Taproom, 1015 E 2nd St, Cle Elum, WA 98922

When And What:

Thursday, Sept 24th, 6 pm—no host get acquainted at the Dru Bru Taproom, Cle Elum

Friday, Sept 25th, Dru Bru Taproom, Cle Elum

Registration/check in opens at 7:30 am. We will have items for sale, and also be displaying items for a Silent Auction with proceeds to benefit FFLA.

Continental breakfast with Coffee, pastries, and fruit.

- 8:00-11:00 am: our official welcome, introductions, and outline of agenda, followed by a series of guest speakers talking about fire lookouts, preservation, and operations,
- 11:00 am: lunch
- Afternoon we will divide up: for the “High Road” we’ll be hiking to Red Top and Alpine Lookouts. The “Low Road” team will visit Sugarloaf and the lookouts at the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center. Both groups will be returning to Cle Elum for dinner on your own. There will be a Board of Directors meeting in the evening.

Saturday, 26th

Continental breakfast with Coffee, pastries, and fruit.

- 8:00-11:00 am: Speakers including the Supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (invited), as well as other guest speakers talking about fire issues today.
- Afternoon: lunch on your own, then more lookouts tours: “High Road” will be hiking to Thorp Mountain lookout. The “Low Road” team will visit Goat Pk (in Teanaway) and Red Top lookouts.
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- 6:00-9:00 pm: Catered dinner, including guest speaker and results of Silent Auction

Sunday, Sept 27th: we will have a lineup of towers for you to choose from to visit on your own, including visiting some private towers.

How Much: \$55.00 per person (\$60 after September 1st)

For questions or additional information, please contact John Hearing at hearingjd@msn.com

Register: <https://firelookout.org/events/2026-w-conference-register/>

Area Lodging and Camping (some may offer discounts)

Hotels: There are a number of hotels in Cle Elum, and even more in Ellensburg, 20 minutes away

- Best Western Snowcap Lodge, https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.48161.html?iata=00171880&ssob=BLBW10004G&cid=BLBW10004G:google:gmb:48161
- Stewart Lodge <http://www.stewartlodge.com/>
- Quality Inn Cle Elum, <https://www.choicehotels.com/washington/cle-elum/quality-inn-hotels/wa242?mc=llgoxpx>
- Aster Inn <http://www.asterinn.com/>
- Hotel Roslyn (in Roslyn, 15 min away) <http://www.hotelroslyn.com/>
- Iron Horse Inn Bed & Breakfast <http://www.ironhorseinnbb.com/>

Camping

- Whispering Pines RV Park (in town) (10% discount) <https://www.whisperingpinescleelum.com/>
- Teanaway Forest Campground (WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife)