

2025 Colorado/Utah Report

Quite a few things happened in CO toward the end of the 2025 Fire Season.

Routt County outside of Steamboat Springs, CO partnered with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and for a project repairing and maintaining the historic Hahn's Peak Lookout. The county reached out to me and provided photos this winter and I am going to write something up for the magazine, maybe the spring issue.

Devil's Head Lookout on the Pike National Forest was not staffed in 2025 and will not be staffed in 2026. After Billy Ellis retired they considered taking it out of service and it hung on for a few more years. And the seasonal staffing cuts in the Fall of 2024 appeared to be the final nail in the coffin. The Lookout is in good condition and has been well maintained over the years, I helped close it up in the Fall of 2024, but I worry about vandalism and theft.

With the busy Fall and late summer 2025 Fire Season, Park Point Lookout in Mesa Verde National Park was intermittently staffed and had some smoke reports. This Lookout hasn't been staffed in a few years so it was nice to see it back in service for peak season.

Benchmark Lookout had a busy year with multiple first reports and is gearing up for a busy season with record low snowpack in the surrounding area. Rick and Linda Freimuth will remain at that Lookout.

The two Dinosaur National Monument Lookouts were staffed in 2025. But their fire management organization seems disconnected and they're hard to get in contact with.

Total staffed full time Lookouts is therefore down to 3 (Benchmark/USFS and Roundtop and Zenobia/DOI). With Park Point/DOI staffed as needed and Deadman staffed by volunteers but not with fire detection as their main objective, it is mostly an interpretive site.

I visited Devil's Head, Hahn's Peak, Leon Peak, Shadow Mountain and Deadman Lookout last year and have updated my reports.

Kathryn Lindquist