

NEWS Release



Forest Service United
States Department of
Agriculture

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Soldier Mountain Lookout Will Provide Protection This Summer

Recently, State budget cuts threatened to close Soldier Mt. Fire lookout, leaving the Intermountain Community without a very important resource for quick fire spotting in our backyard. However the Lassen National Forest was successful in stepping up and supplying personnel to staff the lookout.

When the Lassen learned that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) was not able to staff their lookouts this year due to State budget cuts, it was identified as a great opportunity to work together to form a cooperative partnership. The Lassen and the Shasta -Trinity Unit of CDF met to discuss the possibility of staffing Soldier Mt. lookout near Lake Britton with Lassen personnel. The two agencies worked together to write a memorandum of understanding that will allow Forest Service personnel to staff the CDF lookout up to five years, and the MOU can be extended if the need still exists.

“Not only do our agencies benefit from this great partnership, but the people who live in Intermountain Area benefit as well, this is a win-win situation!” commented John Stauffer, Fire Management Officer for the Lassen’s Hat Creek Ranger District.

Soldier Mt. opened in June staffed with Lassen personnel, the lookout provides an excellent view of the Burney Basin, Hat Creek Valley and the Fall River Valley. Burney Mt. And West Prospect Fire Lookouts opened as usual this season, staffed by Lassen personnel. Also an important resource they provide views/lookout coverage for the Hat Creek Valley, Hat Creek Rim, Burney and the Lassen Volcanic National Park.