Scope of Work:

Project participants worked with HistoriCorps’ staff on tasks including:

- Reroofing building with composition asphalt shingles;
- Installing windows;
• Installing siding;
• Fabricating onsite stairs and railing;
• Finishing construction of catwalk deck and railing;
• Painting interior and exterior of cab.

History:

Grouse Ridge Lookout, located at 7711 feet in the central part of the Tahoe Nation Forest, is one of the oldest lookouts. It was built in 1923 and was last used in the 1970’s. Unusual characteristics of the 14 ft. x 14 ft. cab include a steep 12/12 pitch roof and five windows per wall. This design was a forerunner of the popular L-4 model. However, since the lookout was last used, winter storms, summer sun and vandals have taken their toll on the structure. On the exterior, the siding, foundation and roof are all in need of substantial repair work. Volunteers started restoring the beloved site in 2009 and HistoriCorps was excited to continue with the work!

Since the early 1900’s lookouts have been a part of the western landscape – serving as a platform for early forest observers – watching for tell-tale wisps of smoke of possible wildfires. In the Tahoe National Forest, more than 20 lookouts were constructed over the years. As communication systems improved, the number of staffed lookouts has decreased. Once restored, the lookout will be added to the facilities available as a rental by the Forest Service.

Click here to read more about the lookout tower.

Project Location:

Grouse Ridge Fire Lookout Tower is located within the Tahoe National Forest in Nevada County, California. It is situated at the top of Grouse Ridge, at the end of the hike along Grouse Ridge Trail.

HistoriCorps is a service learning partner of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture committed to the preservation and stewardship of significant resources on public lands.