

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000462

Date Listed: 12/29/2000

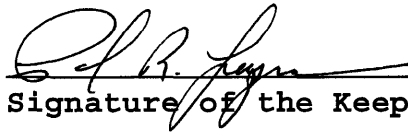
Big Elk Guard Station
Property Name

Jackson
County

OR
State

U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures
on the Rogue River National Forest, MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic
Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation
subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments,
notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included
in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

12/29/2000
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

Architecture is added as an area of significance under Criterion C.

These revisions were confirmed with the Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Big Elk Guard Station

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number FS Road 3706 approx. 5 mi n. of Dead Indian ☒ not for publication

Memorial Road

city or town Ashland Rogue River National Forest ☒ vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Jackson code 029 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title /Deputy SHPO _____

March 10, 2000
Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Rafael J. Jaramila

12/27/00

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 3 Page 1

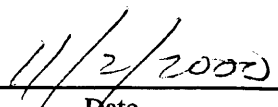
U. S. Forest Service
Historic Structures on the
Rogue River National Forest
MPS

SECTION 3: FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that the nominations listed below meet the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meet the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the properties meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that these properties be considered significant locally.



Signature of certifying official/FPO



Date

Federal Agency and bureau: *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region*

Administrative

Star Ranger Station Building/"Tack Room" (1911)
Willow Prairie Cabin (1924)
Big Elk Guard Station (1929)

Fire Lookouts

Hershberger Mountain Lookout (1924)
Dutchman Peak Lookout (1927)
Mt. Stella Lookout (1933)
Squaw Peak Lookout (1943)

Snow Survey Cabins

Whaleback Snow-Survey Cabin (1937)
Honeymoon Creek Snow Cabin (1943)

CCC/FERA Recreation Facilities

McKee Bridge Campground (1935-1936)
Wrangle Shelter (1935-36)
Dead Indian Soda Springs Shelter (1936)
Fish Lake Shelter (1936)
Parker Meadows Shelter (1936)

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures on the
 Rogue River National Forest

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Seasonal Use

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

OTHER: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE (Basalt)

walls WOOD: Log

roof WOOD: Shingle

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please See Continuation Sheets

Big Elk Guard Station

Name of Property

Jackson Oregon

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

CONSERVATION

Period of Significance

1929

1929-1932

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Rogue River National Forest

Big Elk Guard Station

Jackson Oregon

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property One acre (more or less)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 10 552980 4689620
Zone Easting Northing

2

3
Zone Easting Northing

4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine C. Atwood
(for USDA Forest Service)
organization date November 5, 1999
street & number 365 Holly Street telephone 541-482-8714
city or town Ashland state Oregon zip code 97520

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name USDA Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest
street & number P.O. Box 520 telephone 541-858-2200
city or town Medford state Oregon zip code 97501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number 7 Page 1**Description**Setting

The Big Elk Guard Station is located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 16, Township 37 South, Range 4 East, W.M., on the Ashland Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest. The site, at about 4,700 feet in elevation above sea level, is situated on the southwestern margin of Big Elk Prairie and is reached by an access spur from FS Road #3706 (Big Elk Road), which passes a short distance west of the compound in a north-to-south direction. Big Elk Prairie, a former lake basin that still supports a shallow depth of water each year from March to June, is located at the western edge of the Brown Mountain Lava Flow, a relatively recent (approximately 20,000 to 30,000 years old) geologic feature. The administrative site is underlain by the Plio-Pleistocene basalt flows of the High Cascades. The vegetation is characteristic of a true fir forest community, with old-growth Shasta red fir, white fir, and Douglas-fir, and a fairly dense growth of lodgepole pine adjacent to the meadow. The meadow supports grassy perennials, scattered scrub-form serviceberry, and blue camas.

Structural Description:

Constructed in 1929, the Big Elk Guard Station Cabin, the major component of the complex, is a rectangular, one and one-half story building that measures 18'4" wide by 22' long and rests on a mortared basalt rubble foundation with a grout coating and several ventilation openings. The cabin has a steeply pitched gable roof with wood shingles and exposed pole-rafter ends and measures approximately 11'6" from the top of the corner of the cabin at the eaves to the top of foundation. The exterior walls (to the eave line of the roof) are composed of peeled lodgepole logs that are square-notched at the corners and chinked with mortar. Gable ends are covered with wood shingles. Fenestration is composed of six-light, single and double casement windows. There are two entrances: one near the northwest corner in the west wall, and another with a gable-roofed, portico porch, near the southeast corner in south wall. The structure is painted a dark red-brown.

The interior of the Big Elk cabin contains a main room/office and a kitchen on the ground floor, and two upper-story bunkrooms that are reached by a double landing stairway. Horizontal boards cover the interior walls and are painted white in order to maximize interior light. Original fir flooring remains intact. Five-panel doors are mounted throughout; window and door trim is plain. Light and cooking/refrigerating

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number 7 Page 2

fixtures are propane-powered. In the main room, a mortared-rock fireplace with a grout-covered chimney against the exterior of the north wall provides heat.

A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-built Garage/Storage Shed, erected ca. 1938, lies about 50' east of the cabin. This rectangular, single-story building measures approximately 18' x 16' feet in plan and approximately 8' 6" feet from the top of the corner boards at the eaves to the ground. The building has a medium-pitch gable roof with wood shingles and exposed rafter ends. The exterior walls are composed of horizontal "double-run molding" shiplap siding that covers horizontal boards over a milled lumber frame. A vehicle entrance with double leaf swinging doors and a four-light window are located in the north elevation. The structure has no foundation; the western two-thirds of the structure has an earth floor and the east third, separated by an interior partition and accessible by two swinging doors in the west wall, has a wooden floor. The building is used for miscellaneous storage.

A gas-and-oil storage shed (constructed ca. 1935 and probably moved to the Big Elk site at a later date) is located approximately 100 feet north of the Big Elk Guard Station Cabin. The small, wood-frame structure measures 8'4" x 5'4" in plan and rests on a raised wooden platform about two feet high. A small deck, measuring 5'6" x 5', extends in front of the double-leaf plank doors at the south elevation. The shed's gable roof is wood-shingled; the walls are sheathed in horizontal wood siding. A standard vault privy, approximately 4' x 4' in plan, and constructed of 2"x 4" and 4"x 4" dimensional lumber, is located about 150 south of the cabin, out of sight of the primary structures.

The Big Elk Guard Station Cabin retains substantial integrity. Modifications have been few. The chimney has been mortared over, and the roof, probably covered originally with sugar pine shakes, now has cedar shingle roof. The structure has benefited from appropriate rehabilitation in recent years. On the west façade, decayed logs have been replaced to a height of three logs high. The sill log on the south side between the door and the southwest corner has been replaced, as have a few selected decayed logs (or portions of them) in various other locations. The original gabled portico over the entrance on the south side has been replaced within the last ten years. The shed-roofed overhang on the west elevation has replaced a smaller projection. The increase in size of the overhang was accomplished to more effectively shed snow from the porch (LaLande, August 2, 1999). The associated garage also retains substantial integrity.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number 8 Page 1**Significance**

The Big Elk Guard Station, with its central building erected in 1929 as a seasonal administrative headquarters on the Ashland Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, has previously been determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. The Guard Station is significant for its association with the agency's administrative development, particularly in the area of the Forest south of Fish Lake. Submitted as part of a multiple property submission, "U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures on the Rogue River National Forest, Oregon," the Big Elk Guard Station represents its associated historic context, "Early Forest Service Administrative and Natural Resource Management on the Rogue River National Forest, 1907 to 1932." The cabin meets the registration requirements outlined for "rustic"-style agency structures in the registration document. With its major component constructed in 1929, it was established during the historic period. The Guard Station retains its integrity of setting, design, and materials, and it evokes direct historic associations with its historic context. The building is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an important, tangible representative of early Forest administrative activities in southwest Oregon. The oldest administrative site built within the Rogue River National Forest, the Big Elk Guard Station is now the oldest one in continuous use (LaLande, August 2, 1999).

Additionally eligible to the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent representative of early "rustic"-style Rogue River National Forest administrative buildings, the Big Elk Guard Station cabin employs native materials and was constructed by Forest Service personnel before the agency developed standardized plans for its buildings. The Guard Station exemplifies projects undertaken by the Forest prior to 1933 and the arrival of the CCC in the area. As historian Gail Throop explains:

Prior to the Depression, the Forest Service building program was limited. Buildings were erected when and where they were needed, with little advance planning and minimal consideration of future needs or expansion of facilities (Throop 1979: 28-29)

The Big Elk Cabin represents one of three remaining examples of Forest Service log construction within the Rogue River National Forest. Willow Prairie Cabin, located a relatively short distance north of the Big Elk Guard Station is in good condition. The other, Fir Glade Guard Station, is totally collapsed and deteriorated. The Big Elk Guard

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number 8 Page 2

Station cabin is among the five oldest Forest Service structures on the National Forest. The Big Elk site as a whole, has local significance due to its early and continuous association with Forest Service activities in the southern Cascade Range.

History

The Big Elk Prairie was included in the original Cascade Forest Reserve of 1893. The area (reorganized as Crater [now Rogue River] National Forest) came under Forest Service jurisdiction in 1906, and in the following year a 95-acre administrative site was withdrawn from mineral and homestead entry (Rogue River National Forest: Item L-9).

In October 1907, Forest Service employees Delbert Myers (foreman), Fred Stanley, Samuel Dorran, and John D. Holst erected a log cabin composed of two peeled-lodgepole log "pens, separated by a central open breezeway, under a single gable roof, at Big Elk Prairie. This "Ranger Station" was the first Forest Service structure to be built within the National Forest (Holst 1951:1).

During the 1920s, a pole barn was added to the site in order to store hay and tack gear for Forest Service horses and pack-string mules. In 1929, the Forest Service abandoned (and later destroyed) the original Big Elk cabin that had proved inadequate for the Ranger District's needs, and built the present Big Elk Guard Station cabin. The CCC built the present garage building about 1938. The barn, which suffered serious damage from a windfall tree, was removed from the site about 1950. A small gas-and-oil shed (probably of CCC construction), and a wooden privy comprise the remaining features within the rectangular, fenced enclosure of the Big Elk compound.

Big Elk Guard Station served for several decades as a summer-use guard station. Although the Cabin has not been "permanently" occupied for about five years, the site remains a seasonal-use administrative/residential compound. Big Elk Guard Station is the oldest continuously used administrative site within the Rogue River National Forest. Although the construction of major new highways and forest roads had lessened the Forest Service's dependence on the site, it continued to serve an important function in housing Ashland Ranger District seasonal fire crews.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Holst, John D.

1951 "Letter to Janie V. Smith, RRNF Administrative Assistant" April 3, 1951.)
Butte Falls, Oregon (Rogue River National Forest Historic Records Collection,
Item #L-10)

LaLande, Jeff

1979 Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation Big Elk Guard Station CR Job RR-30
Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest.

Rogue River National Forest

n.d. Item #I-9 in Historic Records collection, List of administrative withdrawals
and dates), Medford, Oregon

Rogue River National Forest

n.d. Items in File #W-4, Historic Photograph Collection, Medford, Oregon.

Throop, Elizabeth Gail

1979 "Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to the Depression: An
Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest
System Lands in the Pacific Northwest," Master of Arts Thesis, Portland State
University, Portland, Oregon.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number 10 Page 1

A USGS map of the Brown Mountain Quadrangle is included with this nomination. A photocopied section of this map with the site location indicated by an arrow, is also contained within the nomination document.

Boundary Description:

The Big Elk Guard Station is situated on National Forest land in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, Township 37 South, Range 4 East, WM, in Jackson County, Oregon. The property is identified on USGS map Brown Mountain Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, included with this nomination. The nominated parcel is more particularly described as beginning at a point 58 feet due west of the southwest corner of the cabin; then proceeding 150 feet to the southeast along the fence line; thence northeast along the fence line 170 feet more or less; thence 270 feet northwest; thence 150 feet southwest; thence 120 feet south east to the place of beginning, encompassing one acre, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated area of one acre, more or less, includes the Big Elk Guard Station cabin, garage, and gas-and-oil house. This boundary encompasses the primary discrete and identifiable location where the guard station administrative activities took place.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number _____ Photographs 1
Page _____

Photographs

Photograph No. 1

- 1) Big Elk Guard Station
- 2) NW1/4 Section 16, T 37 South, Range 4 East W.M., Jackson County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Katherine Atwood
- 4) Date of Photograph: August 1999
- 5) Negative Holder: Rogue River National Forest
P.O. Box 520
Medford, Oregon 97501
- 6) View of west elevation of guard station office/residence
- 7) Photograph Number: 1 of 6

With the exception of photograph #6 the information for items one through five is identical.

Photograph No. 2

- 6) View of west elevation of guard station office/residence
- 7) Photograph Number 2 of 6

Photograph No. 3

- 6) View of south elevation of guard station office/residence
- 7) Photograph Number 3 of 6

Photograph No. 4

- 6) View of north and west elevations of garage
- 7) Photograph Number 4 of 6

Photograph No. 5

- 6) View of east and south elevations of oil shed
- 7) Photograph Number 5 of 6

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Big Elk Guard Station

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 2

Photograph No. 6

- 1) Big Elk Guard Station
- 2) NW1/4 Section 16, T 37 South, Range 4 East W.M., Jackson County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Unknown
- 4) Date of Photograph: 1968
- 5) Negative holder: Rogue River National Forest
P.O. Box 520
Medford, Oregon 97501
- 6) View of west elevation of guard station office/residence
- 7) Photograph number 6 of 6

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

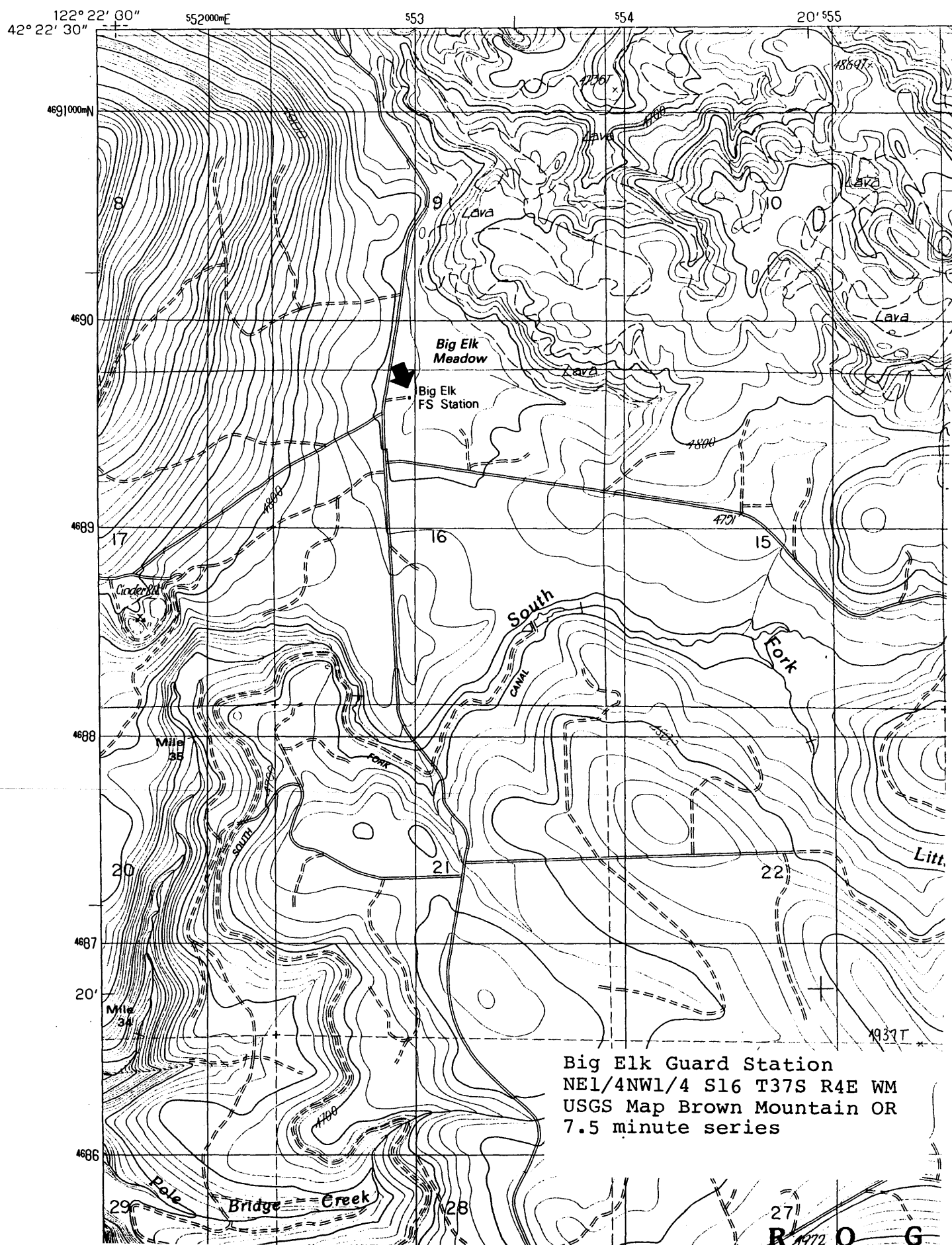
Big Elk Guard Station

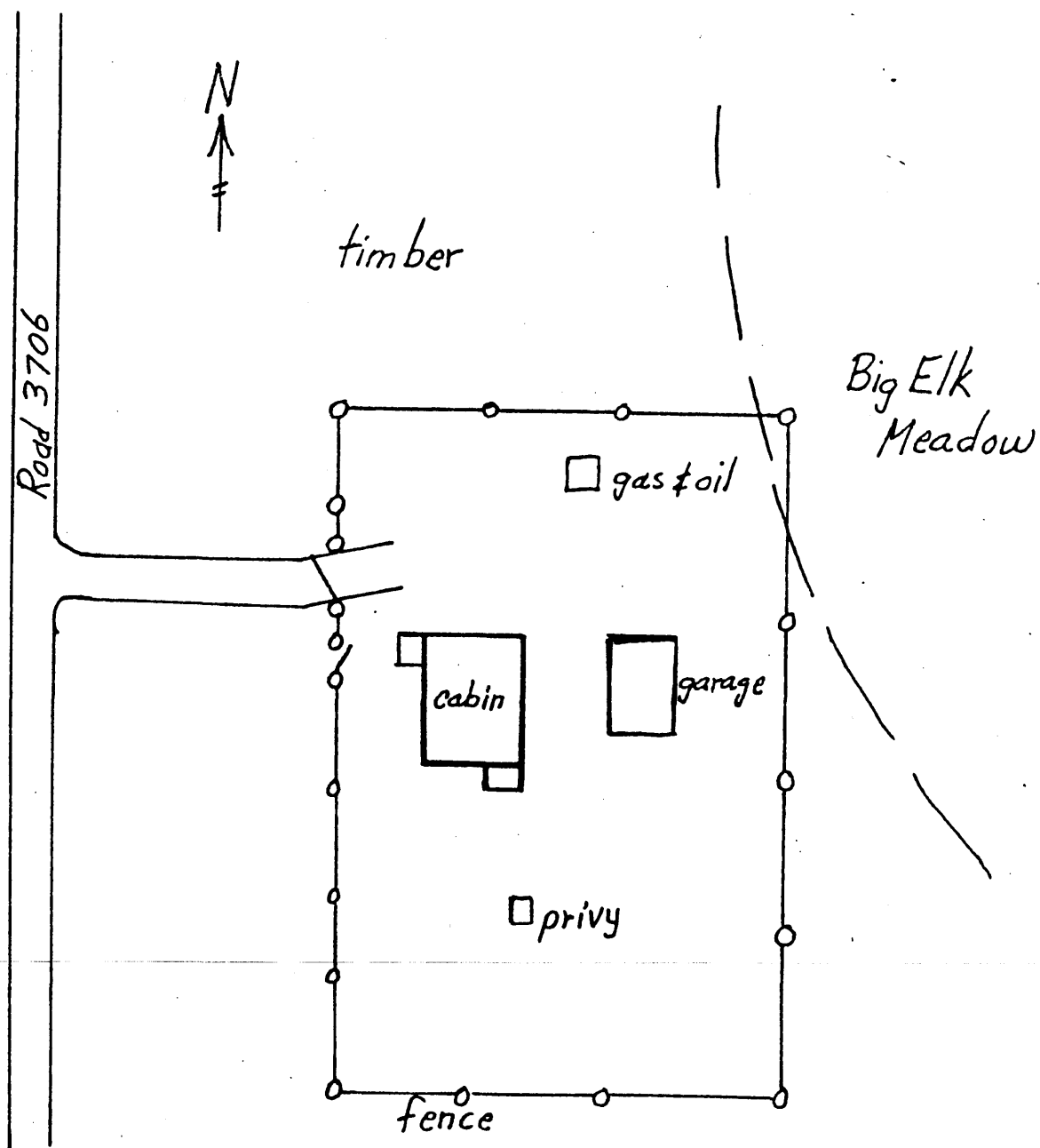
Section number 11 Page 1

Property Owner Notification

U.S. Forest Service
Rogue River National Forest
J. Michael Lunn, Forest Supervisor
Jeff LaLande, Forest Archaeologist
P.O. Box 520
Medford, Oregon 97501

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



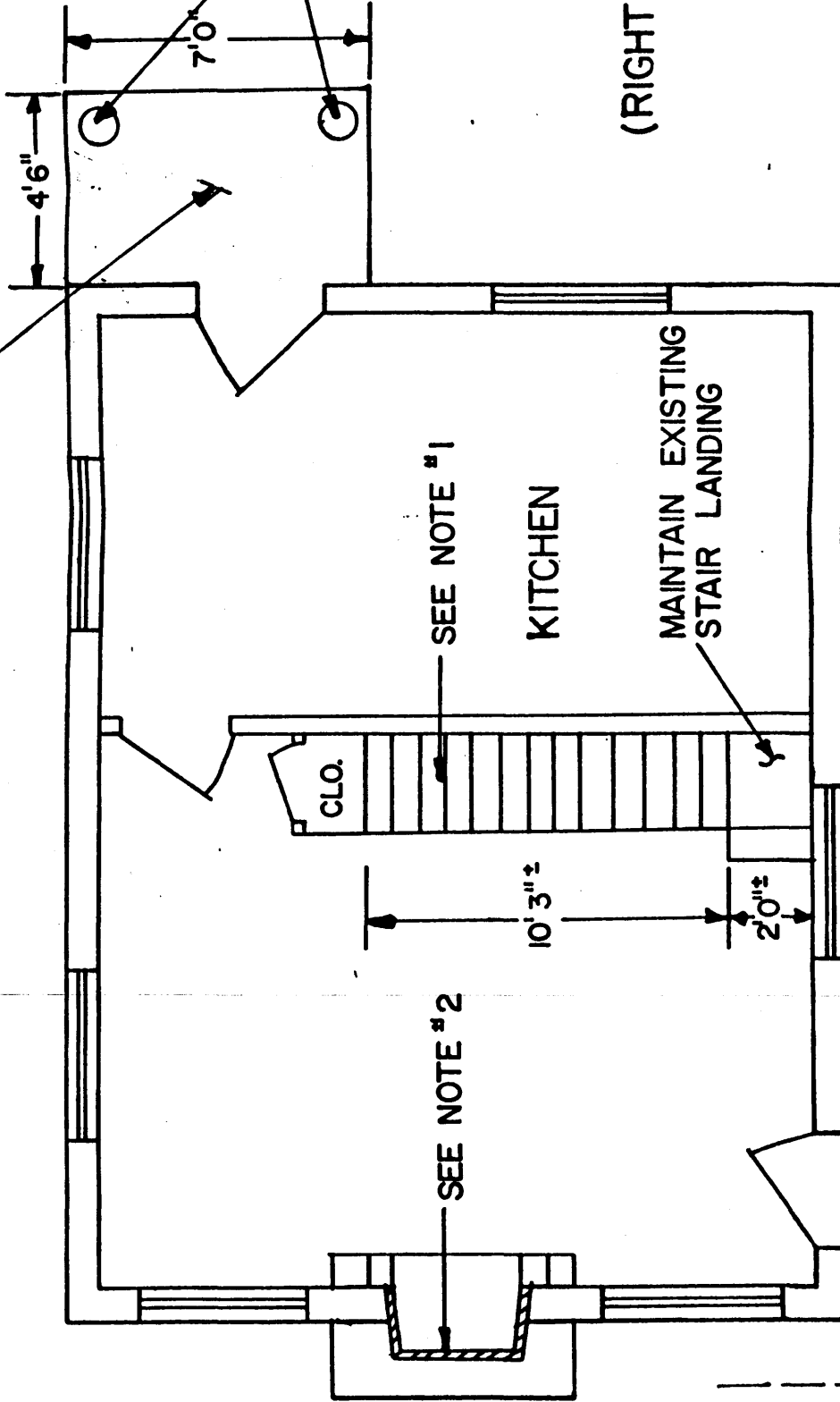


Big Elk Guard Station
Rogue River National Forest
Jackson County, Oregon

Big Elk Guard Station
Not to scale

not to scale

SEE NOTE #4



(RIGHT SIDE)

(FRONT)

Big Elk Guard Station

1/4" = 1'-0"

FIRST LEVEL FLOOR PLAN CABIN 1/4" = 1'



Fig Elizbeth's house
Jackson County Oregon
1 ab le



Big Elk Guard Station
Jackson County Oregon
2 of 6



Big Elk Land station
Jackson County, Oregon

346



Big E L. Gould Station
Jackson County Oregon
4064



Big Elk Guard Station

Jackson County Oregon

546



Big Elk board station

Jackson County, Oregon

leafe