



Custer Peak Fire Lookout Tower

Custer Peak is located in Lawrence County and has an elevation of 6,804 ft. MSL
44°-14'40"N 103°-44'07"W

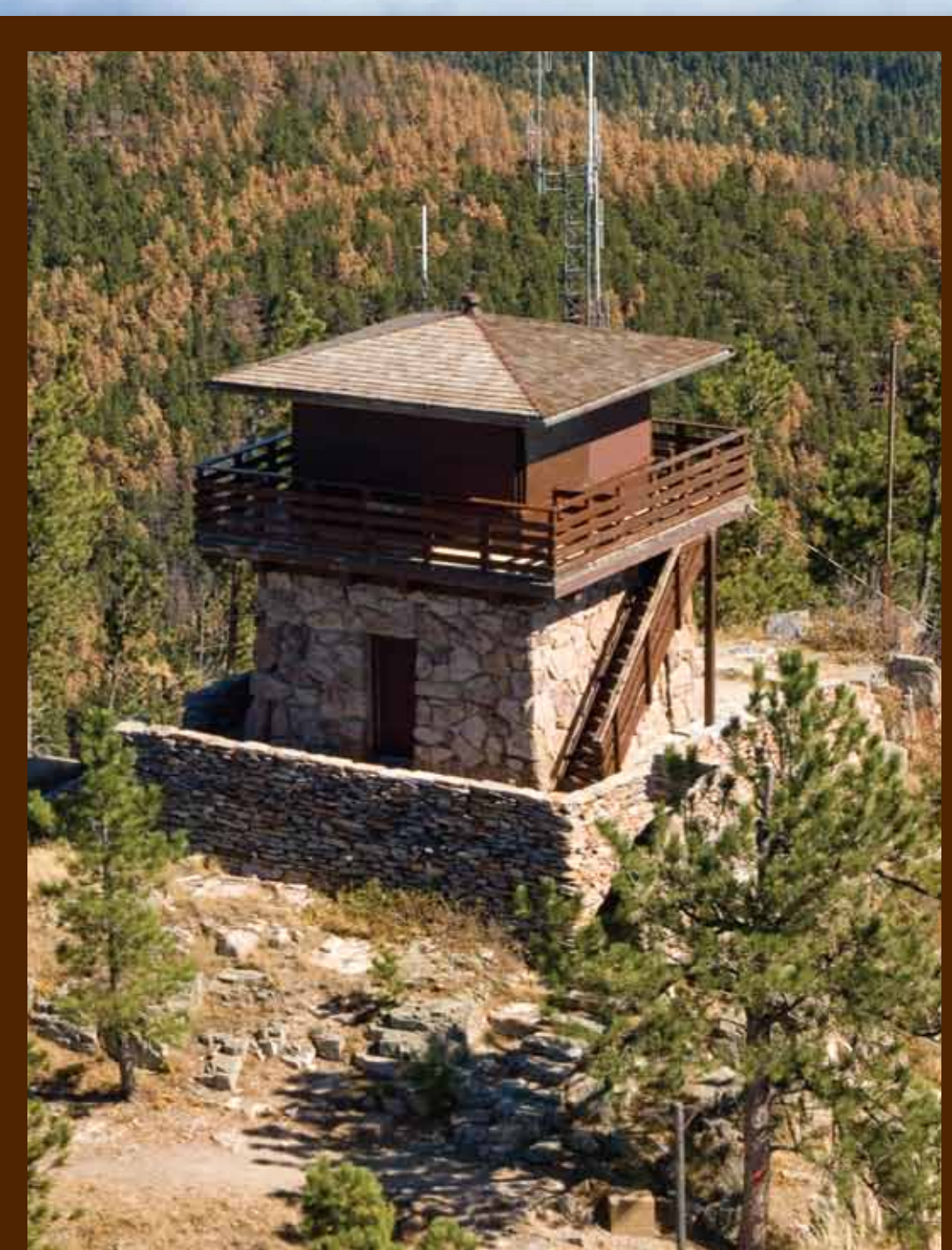
Civilian Conservation Corps constructed in 1941

Fire Lookouts

Fire towers were constructed across the nation after the devastating fires in 1910. The use of fire towers for detecting forest fires originated with the United States Forest Service. Many have been modified and maintained for use since 1905.



Custer Peak Lookout on the Northern Hills Ranger District, helps Forest Lookouts keep a watchful eye on the Black Hills.



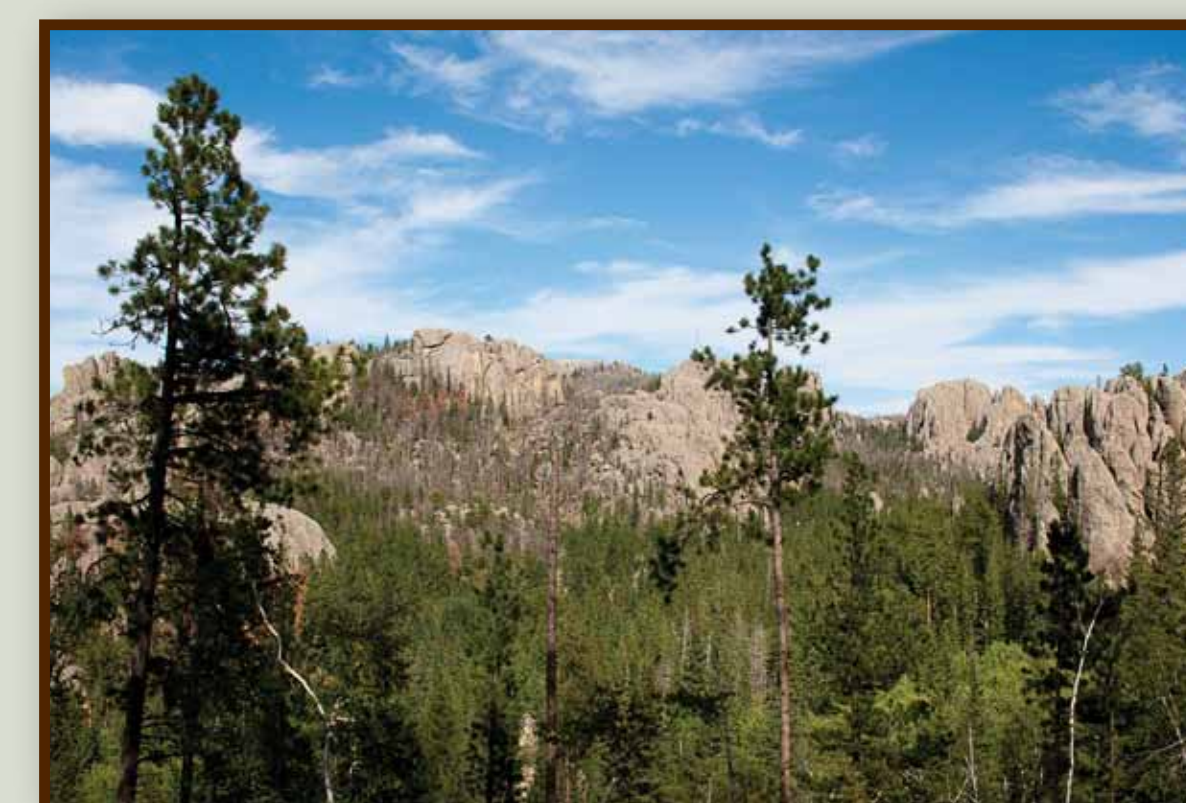
Custer Peak Lookout, Black Hills National Forest, September 26, 2010, mountain pine beetle affected trees in background.

Photo by Kari Greer.

Prominent Places Along the Skyline

Many of these high points are important places for Native American tribes who have lived and practiced traditional ceremonies in the Black Hills for centuries.

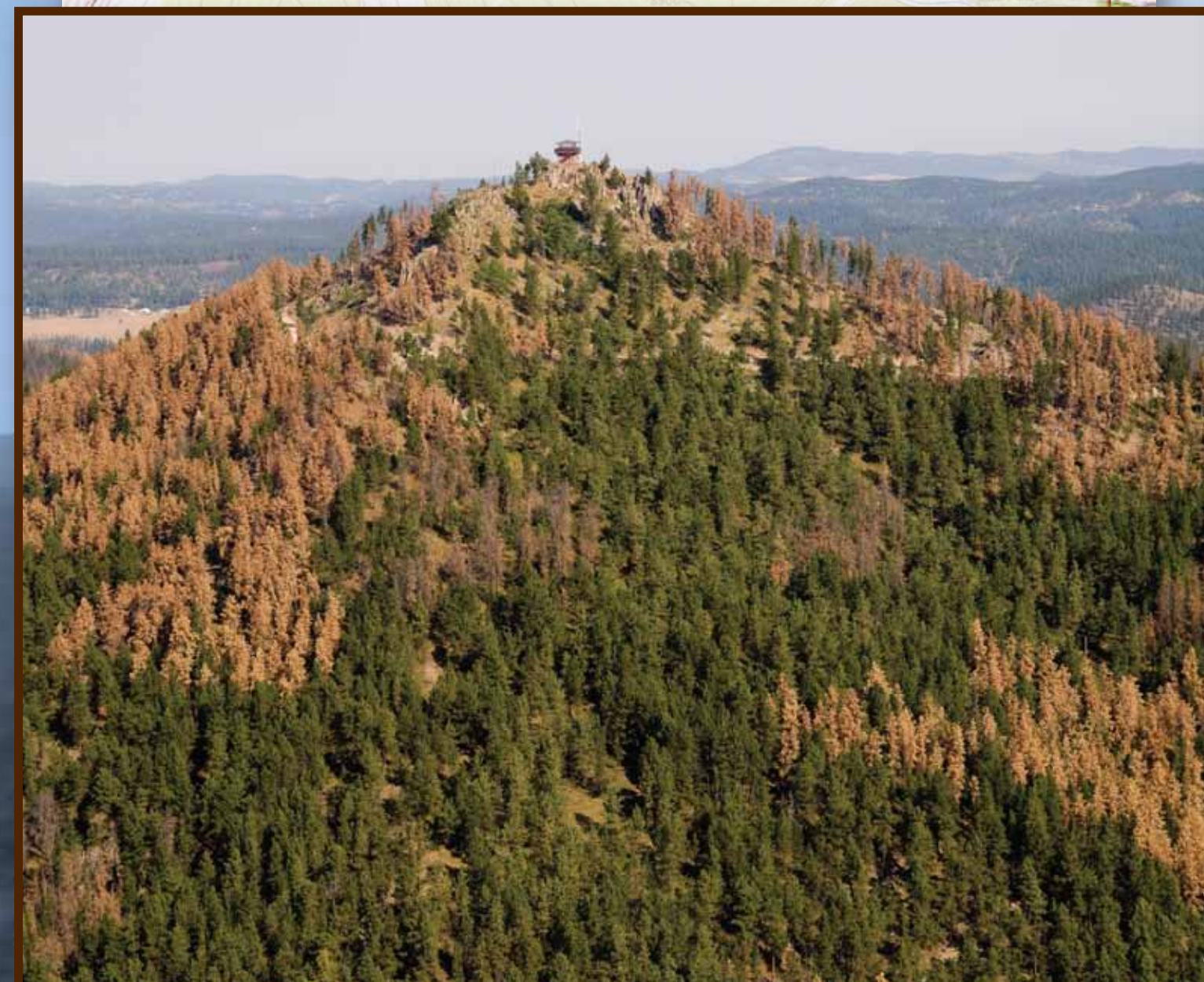
These high points such as Harney Peak (*below left*) and Terry Peak (*below right*) are very noticeable along the Black Hills skyline.



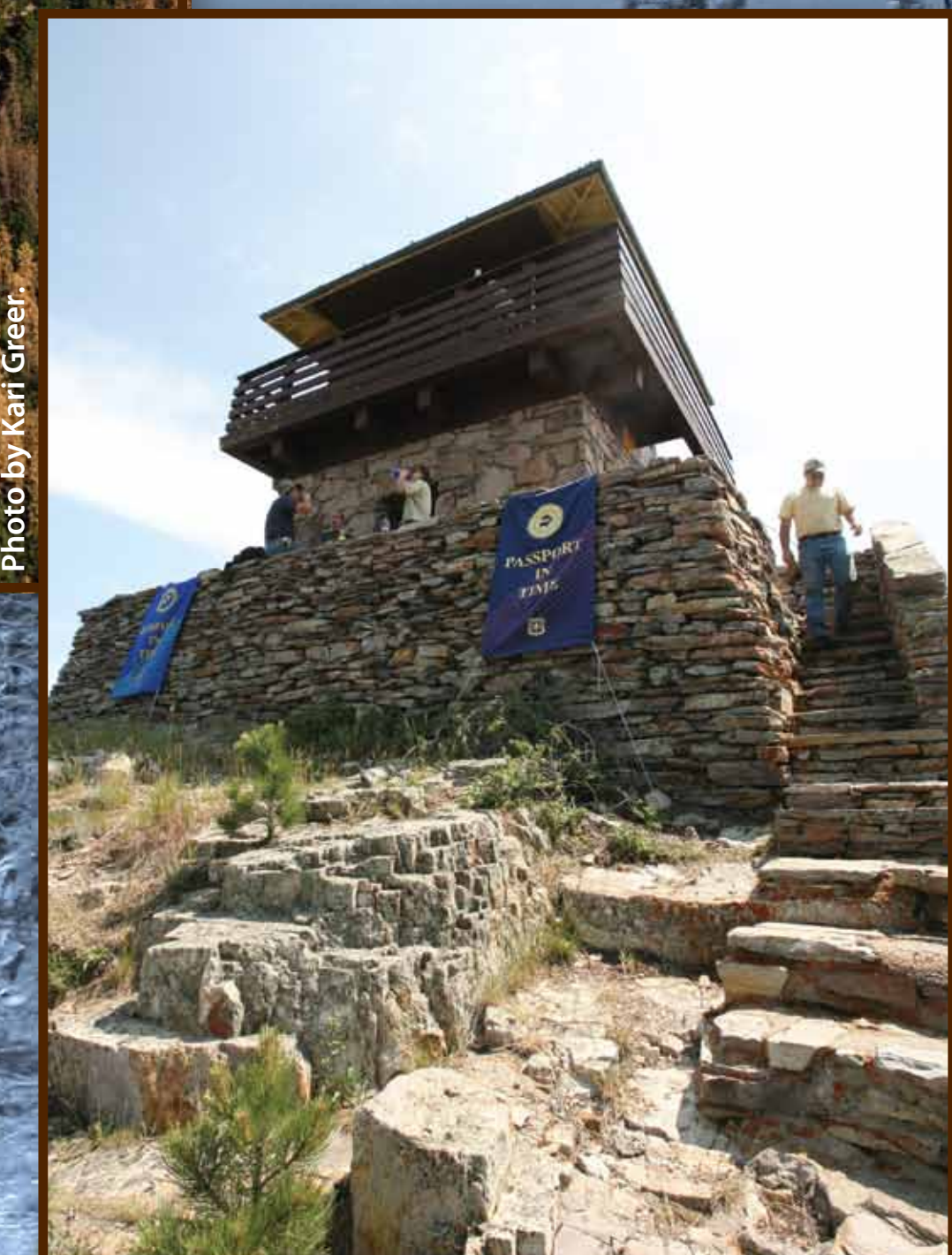
Harney Peak



Terry Peak Ski Area



Custer Peak and Lookout, Black Hills National Forest.



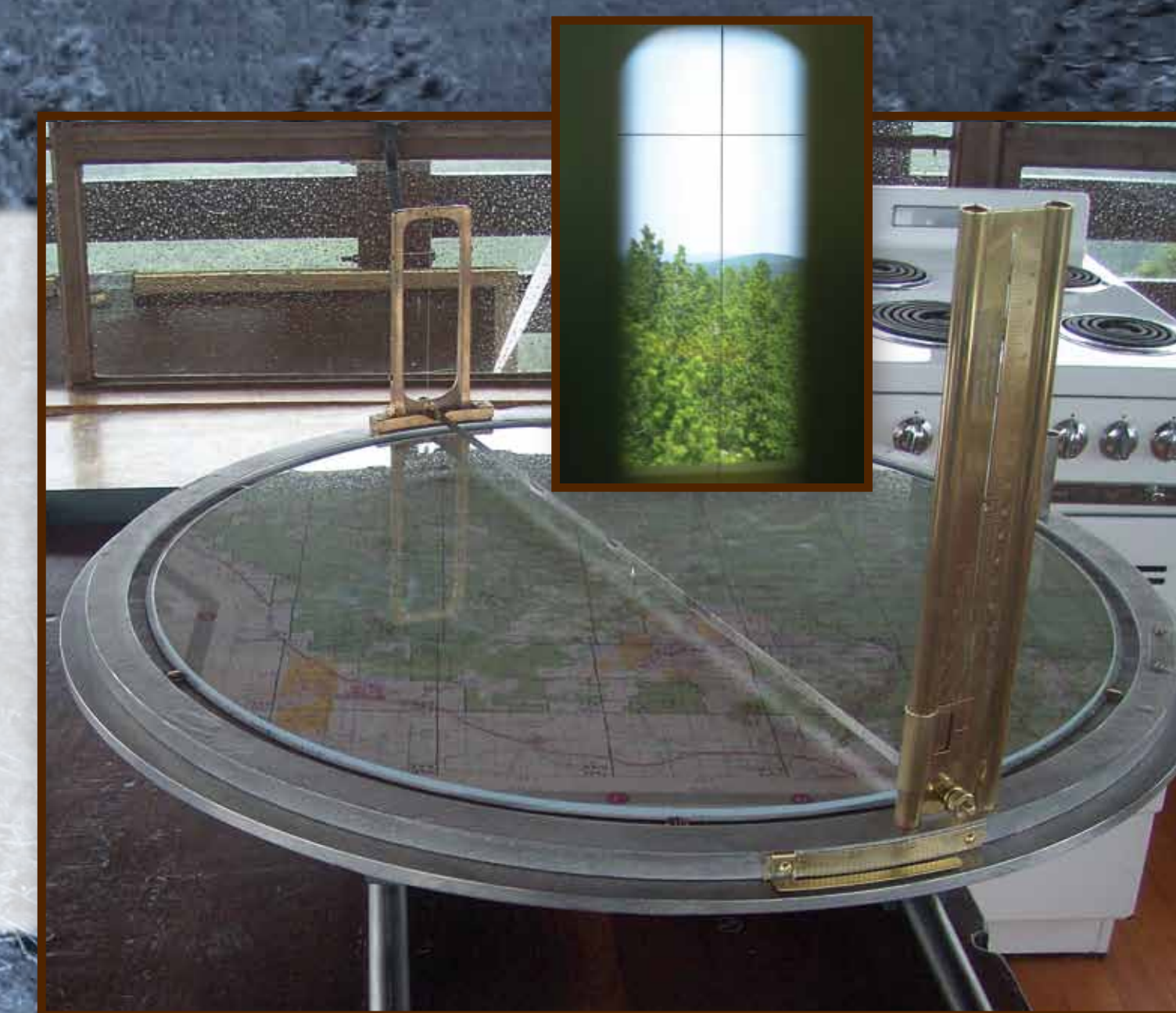
Volunteers with the Passport in Time program worked with Black Hills National Forest employees to repair portions of the Custer Peak Fire Tower during a stabilization project in 2008.

Protect and Reuse

These places are significant not only because of their history, but because of the role they still play in detecting fires. Vandalism of these structures is not only against the law, but can impede emergency personnel from responding to incidents for public safety.

Tools of the Trade

Many of the original tools used to search out fires along a vast landscape are still used today. The Osborne Fire Finder (*right*) is one of the original devices used traditionally in detecting fires. The fire finder was invented by William "W.B." Osborne and has been used since 1915.



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