



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific  
Northwest  
Region

# Miner's Ridge Lookout

## Naches Ranger District



One of the most outstanding views on the Naches District is from the top of Miner's Ridge. This mountain peak offers an outstanding view of Bumping Lake, William O. Douglas Wilderness, and the historic Bumping mining district. Miner's Ridge was once the site of a Forest Service fire lookout station and the old road beyond Granite Lake was constructed to service the old lookout. This trip requires a high centered vehicle with multiple ply tires and some fortitude, but don't plan on this trip until mid July.

The old Miner's Ridge lookout station is now gone, but a remarkable view remains as tribute to those lookout guards who once lived there during an era before air patrols. This station was occupied by a number of Yakima residents. Allen New was a lookout in the late 1930's, Dave Wright in 1938, and Betty Gallant during World War II. Douglas Jones, the 1942 lookout, gave his life in the Battle of the Bulge, and is fondly remembered by his high school chums of that time.

To get to Miner's Ridge, turn off State Route 410 on to Bumping Lake Road #1800. This road is 7 miles west of Whistlin' Jack Lodge. Stay on Bumping Road through Goose Prairie. As you drive by Camp Fife you will see Tom Fife's old cabin and his final resting place on your right.

Before you pass Bumping Lake Dam, four miles beyond Goose Prairie, make a short side trip over the impoundment toward Bumping Lake Marina. Stop near the outlet pumphouse and look directly up the lake and you will see Miner's Ridge towering over the lake. American Ridge is the long ridge ahead of you and Nelson's Ridge is the jagged ridge directly behind you.

Miner's Ridge is a well named point. Tom Fife, one of the most famous local miners who homesteaded Goose Prairie, found interesting mineral deposits on Miner's Ridge and staked claims there by 1890. Fueled by rumors of a possible railroad route through this area in 1892, miners scoured the surrounding ridges and streams for signs of mineral wealth. Eventually, Ruben Root, Cap Simmons, John McAllister, and others all staked additional claims. The old Clara Mine, Blue Bird, Deep Creek, Keystone and Iron Door were just a few of these mineral claims. Once Copper City had been established as the primary point for processing ore, it became one of the most famous spots in the area.

From Bumping Lake head west along Road #2000 to Swamp Lake turnoff. Turn right and head toward Granite Lake, Road #2009. Turn left and climb steadily toward Granite Lake. This is one of the highest dispersed camping sites on the Naches District. This site offers cool evenings,

starry night skies, but is often crowded with fellow campers trying to "get away". From here the ridge top road is more challenging, but if you drive slowly in four wheel drive the trip is safe and easy. After several switchbacks you arrive at the 6,072 foot peak. Parking is somewhat restricted, but you will find a place if you park carefully. Think of the next fellow, and don't block access or parking. Set your parking brake and place a stone under a back tire to make you feel more secure about leaving your vehicle.

You will immediately notice remnants of the old lookout station and garage. Miner's Ridge station was constructed in 1933-34 and was removed in the late 1970's. A short climb takes you to the actual peak. Looking to the west you are graced with a remarkable view into Redrock Creek and Cougar Lake area. To the east is Bumping Lake, bordered by American Ridge (on the left) and Nelson's Ridge (on the right). The little lake directly below the peak is Root Lake, named for Ruben Root, a well known mining speculator and prospector who lived here at the turn of the century.

As you return to Granite Lake stop at the second switchback you come to. This will be a sweeping turn to the left. From this point you will find a faint hiking trail around the hillside south to the Clara Mines. Old dilapidated cabins still remain for your curiosity. Near here, Tommy Amato, the Japanese camp cook, was killed when the kitchen woodpile collapsed on him as he was collecting wood for the evening meal. Tommy's body was packed from the Clara to American River for his return home to Japan by Ira Ford. Tommy's passing reminds us of various nationalities which contributed workers to the early mining and settling efforts to this Bumping area. Tom Fife was from Scotland, Hindoo John from India, and Ruben Root from Minnesota.

Side trips to this scenic view include Swamp Lake trailhead and Twin Sisters Lake trailhead. A short distance along the Swamp Lake trail offers outstanding views of Bumping waterfalls. The Twin Sisters Lake trailhead offers dispersed camping. The Deep Creek horse camp, one mile before Twin Sisters trailhead offers a good place for horseback riders to depart into the Wilderness. As you explore up Road #2008 you will pass by Copper City. This is the site of the old Copper City bunkhouse (hotel) and mining area located a short distance off the main road on a primitive spur road. It may be best to park along the main road and venture along the Copper City access road on foot.

Among the free handouts in the Naches Ranger Station you will find a "Roaded Trips Guide" which gives more information on this and other one day driving trips. A one inch topographic map, also available at the Naches Station, is invaluable for these trips. The district reception area also sells plant and animal guide books to make your drive more enjoyable.

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