Grave Peak Lookout, Powell Ranger District, Idaho

The recent article “Grave Peak Lookout Preservation” by Cindy Schacher, archaeologist, highlighted the activity of a group who volunteered their time to preserve a high elevation lookout with special historical significance. The narrative and photographs described the restoration of the 1924 Grave Peak Lookout that commands a high panoramic view at 8,228 feet overlooking much of the Powell Ranger District. Special thanks are in order for the dedication and hard work that involved human backpacking of renovation materials for the last few miles because the trail provided no turnaround for the mule train. The Grave Peak area and lookout are famous for several other historical reasons.

The legend of the “secret lost gold” was chronicled by Keller in the Lookout Network, Vol. 30, No. 2, 2012 and Moore in his book “The Lochsa Story, Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains,” pages 79-94, that described the story about a Nez Perce Indian named Isaac who died, supposedly while guiding a party to find the gold. The story may be fact or fiction but the lost gold has never been found.

Grave Peak Mountain and Lookout holds a special place in the history of the northwest that merits our accolades for the time and effort given for the preservation and restoration of this famous lookout.

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