

THE HORSE RANCH, DEER SHED
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Joseph vicinity *Eagle Cap Wilderness Area*
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-K

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Columbia Cascades Support Office
National Park Service
909 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Deer Shed

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Location: The Horse Ranch is located within the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The ranch lies in a valley along the Wild and Scenic Minam River in Wallowa County. It is approximately nine air miles northeast of Cove, Oregon and thirteen air miles southwest of Enterprise, Oregon. SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 36, Township 2S, Range 41E, Willamette Meridian.

This deer shed is located in the southeastern edge of the main building complex set apart from the other buildings against the timbered hillside. It is approximately 200' from the kitchen/dining hall.

Significance: The deer shed is significant as it relates to the building complex. A deer shed is typically accessory building in a hunting facility. It provided a temporary storage area for freshly killed deer and elk before it was butchered and flown out. It was built in ca. 1947 by Red Higgins; one of a number of new buildings added during his ownership when the dude ranching operations were expanding.

According to the Determination of Eligibility for the National Register (letter dated, May 1, 1996) between the State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Forest Service, the deer shed is a non-contributing building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: The deer shed is set into the timbered hillside on the eastern edge of the ranch. The small pole frame structure, measuring approximately 4' N.S. x 6' E.W. is covered with a high-pitched gable roof sheathed with hand-split shingles. Small peeled log purlins and pole rafters support the roof. Entry is through a screen door on the west elevation. The structure is enclosed with screening (or hardware cloth). The structure is in fair-poor condition.

Historical Context: This building constructed ca. 1947. The building was described as the "deer shed" in a 1947 *Oregonian* article about the Horse Ranch. According to Richard Cason (former resident), the shed was used to store fresh 'kill' the hunters brought in before it was flown out.

Sources: Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, National Register Determination of Eligibility. Site analysis by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan, August 1996.

Project Information: In 1994, the Horse Ranch (Red's Horse Ranch) was acquired for inclusion in the National Wilderness System by the USDA Forest Service. As a result of the property acquisition, the USDA Forest Service is preparing an Environmental Analysis Report and Future Use Determination for the site. This process will enable the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to establish management direction and priorities for the property. As part of the environmental analysis, a Determination of Eligibility report was completed in the spring of 1996.

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Deer Shed
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