"peter preston"
<ppreston@inna.net>

03/08/2004 04:04 PM

To: "Larry Kingsbury" <lkingsbury@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Backcountry Telephone System

Larry, I apologize for the delay; was off on a trip for a few days. Telephone has been around for a long time, before USFS was created. I don't have my refs available but I seem to recall that telephone was strung
to Warren in 1890s. Telephone was also strung to Thunder Mtn c1910. First USFS telephone that I know of was from Warren to Chamberlain RS in 1912. Telephone did not reach Big Creek area until c1924 when that area was acquired by USFS. As you and I have talked about, the backcountry phone system was the life line of the area; every mine and ranch, as well as FS stations and lookouts, had a phone justified to report fire but used for all purposes. Dan Levan's documents note that he was responsible for maintaining "over 400 miles of telephone line" in the backcountry!! I am interested in doing a paper but I am not in a position to do so for some months to come because of loss of house. At one time I had given thought to including a telephone chapter in the "Wilderness Post Offices" document that I have been working on for several years. That way the old "communication systems" can be under one cover. Pete

----- Original Message -----
From: "Larry Kingsbury" <lkingsbury@fs.fed.us>
To: "peter preston" <ppreston@inna.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2004 6:30 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Idaho mining history

>
>
>
>
> Hi Pete! I was wondering if you were interested in producing a historical
> paper on the use of telephones in the backcountry? I have no idea as to
> when the first telephone was installed? Give me your thoughts on this
> subject. Larry
> Lawrence A.Kingsbury
> Heritage Program Manager
> Payette National Forest
> 208-634-0750 -- phone
> 208-634-0728 -- fax
> PO Box 1026
> McCall, ID 83638
>
>