



# Fire Lookouts Go High Tech

Fire lookouts have gone high tech thanks to the [AlertWildfire](#) camera network. [AlertWildfire](#) is a network of cameras (in California, Nevada, Idaho, Washington and Oregon) used in conjunction, when possible, with traditional staffed fire outlooks to help in providing early detection of wildfires. The first cameras in Oregon are located on [Blue Mountain](#) and [Steens Mountain](#). With costs of fire suppression reaching historical levels this network of fire monitoring cameras will pay for itself with the early detection of just one fire.

The screenshot shows the AlertWildfire website interface. At the top, there are logos for the University of Oregon and Nevada Seismological Laboratory. The main header is 'Oregon-Idaho-Washington'. Below this is a navigation bar with links for Home, Network Map, About, Partners, YouTube, and DONATE!. The main content area is titled 'OR-ID-WA Cameras Current View' and features a large live video feed of a landscape with mountains and a valley. To the right of the video is a map showing the location of the camera. Below the main video, there is a row of smaller video thumbnails for various cameras: Aeneas Lookout, Lower Deer, Blue Mountain, Northern Nazarene Univ, and Rattlesnake Ridge West, WA. The interface includes zoom controls and a 'Tweet' button.

With the improved awareness and prevention of wildfires [AlertWildfire](#) provides, it also improves firefighter safety and enables management teams at wildfire incident command centers to more effectively determine how to use their firefighting resources. The added bonus, anyone can access the view from each camera at [alertwildfire.org](#) effectively crowdsourcing fire observation expanding the possibility of early fire detection simple due to the increased numbers of people on fire watch.

[AlertWildfire](#) was developed through [University of California San Diego's High Performance Wireless Research and Education Network](#), [University of Nevada Reno's AlertTahoe](#) and [BLM Wildland Fire Camera Project](#) with the challenge of connecting firefighters and federal & state agencies with real-time fire activity information across a broad geographical range in order to prevent fires from reaching catastrophic size.

[This article from southtahoenow.com](https://southtahoenow.com) can give you a sense of what these high tech fire lookouts are doing in the Tahoe, NV area to help prevent catastrophic fires.

*This article is provided by High Desert Partnership; a Harney County nonprofit convening and supporting six collaboratives including the Harney County Wildlife Collaborative.*

