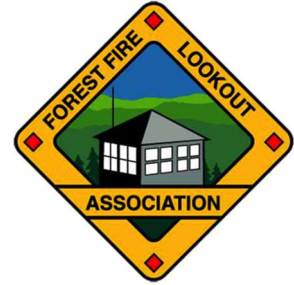


# FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION California-South Division



## 2022 Year-End Report

### CURRENT DIVISION OFFICERS:

Scott McClintock, Director

### LOCAL FFLA CHAPTERS:

1. San Diego-Riverside
2. Monterey

### MEMBERS:

77  
53

### decrease/increase

+11  
-7

### AFFILIATES:

1. Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (Angeles NF)
2. Southern California Mountains Foundation (San Bernardino NF)
3. Hi Mountain Condor Lookout (Los Padres NF)

### 2022 REGIONAL NOTES –

1. Despite the continuation of a record-setting drought and extremely low fuel moistures, Central and Southern California enjoyed a relative relief from major campaign wildfires in 2022. A notable exception was the 28,000-acre Fairview Fire, which destroyed Red Mountain Lookout (US 290) on the San Bernardino National Forest on 9/8/22.
2. The San Diego-Riverside and Monterey local chapters were in full fire detection operation. Lasting effects from the pandemic and explosive fuel prices caused some staffing shortages.

### PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. **CONE PEAK LO (1288)** – This structure is currently full of repeater gear and is not useable as a lookout. The Los Padres National Forest radio technicians have plans to remove the equipment, and possibly avail the structure to the FFLA for restoration and operation. However, the access road to the lookout trailhead suffered major washout damage in December, 2021. Repairs to the road were rumored to begin in early 2023.

Project Status: PENDING

2. **FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN LO (881)** – On 11/9/22, Mike Guerin and I met with Acting District Ranger Steve Hall at the lookout for inspection and discussion of refurbishing the tower. No decisions made.

Project Status: PENDING



3. **CERRO NEGRO LO (1220)** Correspondence with comms tech with access to San Rafael/Cerro Negro Lookout regarding access and a site visit. Scheduling ongoing.
4. **CHALONE PEAK LO (396)** Met with Pinnacles National Park Ranger Chris Symons, and corresponded with park historian Timothy Babalis regarding tower status, access, and preservation of the Osborne fire finder.
5. **MEDIA PRODUCTION** – with assistance from various members, scripted, photographed and produced:
  - A. Reconnect training video for the Monterey Chapter. <https://vimeo.com/697945153>
  - B. Virtual Tour video of Boucher Hill LO (394) <https://vimeo.com/711491173>
  - C. PowerPoint presentation on automated smoke reporting for Western Conference
6. **ARTIFICIAL INTELLEGENCE**  
Lengthy correspondence with Open Climate Tech, a 501c3 group developing AI to program mountaintop cameras for smoke recognition. Wrote document explaining participation in the project for Monterey and SDRC members. Presented AI informational training to the FFLA Western Conference in Oregon on 9/17/22.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS:**

- A. Attended MOU signing with Chairman Eells and the Southern Calif Mountains Foundation.
- B. Assisted Hi Mountain Condor Tracking Station (522) managers with historic photos.

**OBJECTIVES FOR 2023:**

- Conduct site visits to as many California-South towers as possible and update their conditions.
- Submit visit reports to the NHLR.
- Update the California-South website. <https://firelookouthost.org>
- Pursue restoration and reactivation projects, especially Figueroa Mountain LO.
- Evaluate San Rafael, aka Cerro Negro LO (1220) for operations potential.
- Pursue relations with new management people on the Los Coyotes Reservation regarding Hot Springs Mountain LO (753). The current structure has collapsed, but additional possibilities can be explored.
- Follow-up on access issues for Lyons Peak LO (754).

**2022 DIVISION TOWER STATISTICS:**

Standing lookouts:	32
Lookouts in active service:	12
Lookouts in partial service:	0
Rental lookouts:	0
Lookouts needing significant repairs:	9
Lookouts converted to alternate uses:	6
Lookouts lost in 2022:	1

Respectfully submitted,



Scott McClintock, Director  
California-South Division