

Forest Fire Lookout Association - Northern California Chapter Report 2012

Current Membership: 19 members

Current Balance: \$1,332.33

Overview:

-Education concerning fixed-point forest fire detection's significance within the fire suppression team; and, the preservation of existing fire towers (staffed and unstaffed) are key issues emphasized here in Northern California.

-Responded to dozens of requests via email, mail, phone and in person for fire lookout information. The fire lookout rental programs remain a topic of interest.

-Distributed FFLA brochures to hundreds of visitors at Weaver Bally Lookout, which I staffed during 2012 fire season. Updated and improved fire lookout tower information exhibit. Confirmed nearby geocache site.

-Attended Klamath National Forest Lookout Workshop in May. Especially enjoyed the Fire Weather presentation by Brenda Belongie, the camaraderie, and tasty potluck lunch.

-Ongoing oral history project. Interviewed former Shasta County fire lookouts.

-Gathered with several fire lookouts in Redding in November. Listened to a presentation of a new software program, Dragon Plot, which is currently used at a few Bureau of Land Management fire towers. Designed as a fire detection tool to complement existing Osborne Fire-Finder, and with the ability to enable quick Latitude/Longitude calculations for reporting to fire crews. Useful during low light conditions and poor visibility. Looking forward to the expanding use of this new technology. A laptop and steady power supply is required, which might limit the possibility of use at some lookout sites.

Goals:

-Expand FFLA membership. Host Chapter meetings & lookout hikes/gatherings. "Adopt" a fire tower restoration project. Document additional lookout site locations for nomination to National Historic Lookout Register. Continue to compile oral history interviews. Provide forest visitors with fire lookout history, stories, and tower locations.

Lookout Tower Status Report: (This is not a complete list**)**

Humboldt County - Grasshopper (staffed during lightning), Pratt Mtn. (unstaffed), Schoolhouse Peak (unstaffed), Brush Mtn. (staffed), Horse Ridge (staffed)

Trinity County - Ironside (staffed), Hayfork Bally (staffed) Weaver Bally (staffed), Bonanza King (staffed), Plummer Peak (staffed), Bully Choop (staffed during lightning).

Tehama County - Tomhead (staffed), Pattymocus (unstaffed), Inskip (staffed), Turner Mtn. (unstaffed), Colby Mtn.(staffed).

Shasta County - Shasta Bear (unstaffed except during lightning & red flag conditions), Sugarloaf (staffed sporadically), Latour Butte (staffed sporadically), Soldier Mtn, (unstaffed except during lightning & red flag conditions), West Prospect (staffed), Burney Mtn. (staffed), Hirz Mtn.(visitor rental). South Fork (no longer exists. Repeater site.),

Siskiyou County - Siskiyou Bear (sporadically staffed), Black Fox (staffed), Grizzly Peak (no longer exists. Repeater site), Girard Ridge (visitor rental) Bradley (unstaffed), Herd Peak (staffed), Orr Mtn. (staffed), Quartz Hill (staffed), Ukonum (staffed), Bolivar (staffed), Lake Mtn.(staffed), Eddy Gulch (staffed), Blue Lake (in need of restoration, vandalism).

Modoc County - Little Mt. Hoffman (visitor rental), Schonchin Butte (staffed). Unknown others-Timber Mtn., Blue Mtn., Fox Mtn.

Lassen County - Antelope (staffed), Manzanita (staffed), Harvey (unknown staffing), Dyer Mtn. (unknown staffing), Mt. Harkness (staffed), Fredonyer (staffed).

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie J. Lamoureux, Northern California Chapter Director