New Mexico FFLA Chapter Report

2015

January 8, 2016

Membership: 12

Carry forward: \$414.61

Lookout related information:

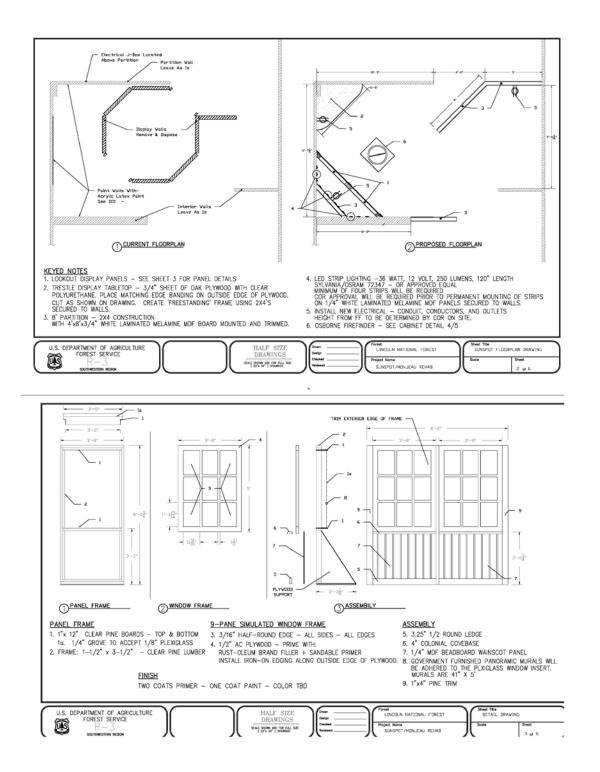
✓ During 2015 we made some progress on our stated goals (see NM Chapter Report 2014). The first was to make some headway on submitting lookouts to the National Historic Lookout Register (NHLR) and its partner the Former Fire Lookout Sites Register (FFLSR).

We added seven lookouts to the NHLR (Sacramento, Wofford, Weed, James Ridge, Dark Canyon, and Bluewater from the Lincoln National Forest; and, the Encino from the Santa Fe National Forest). This brings the NM list to thirty-seven. We added four former lookouts to the FFLSR (Alamo, Mayhill, and Smokey Bear (Block), from the Lincoln National Forest; and Clara Peak from the Santa Fe National Forest).

We still have a long way to go on this endeavor, as the list of NM lookouts compiled by David Lorenz in 2008 shows a total of 94 extant and former lookouts within five agencies (National Forests, NM State Forests, Tribal lands, DoD, and National Park Service). Of the 94 lookouts, 60 are listed as still standing, so we are only 62% on our submissions to the NHLR. We have a considerable way to go on the former lookouts, having only four of the 34 listed. (Note: If anyone lives in New Mexico or is coming for a visit, we could use some help in making these nominations.)

✓ Our second goal (one which we have been working on for a couple years now) has finally come to fruition. The goal was to install a mock lookout cab exhibit in the Sunspot National Solar Observatory Visitor's Center within the Lincoln National Forest's educational area. Although the exhibit is not net completed, the contract was let in 2015

along with some additional repairs to the Monjeau Lookout (see below). As part of the exhibit, we will be using one of Kresek's Firefinder Alidades that I am donating to the exhibit. We will also be placing our FFLA brochures in this part of the exhibit.



✓ Although we restored Monjeau Lookout cab in 2013 after it was burned over during the Little Bear fire of 2012, it appears that the fire caused the grouting to weaken and allowed rainwater to penetrate the structure and seep out of the blaster of the central column in the observer's cabin below. The wood floors were damaged and the paint on the walls began to bubble up. These problems were repaired by installing a new floor with tiles that look like wood, and various water sealents.



✓ The final goal was to continue to build a photographic database on the Lincoln National Forest Lookouts. However this project has been expanded to include photos from all New Mexico lookouts as I can get them, as well as any other project or activity that is FFLA related. The database can be seen by anyone at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/lincoln_nf_lookouts/sets. When the Sunspot Visitor's Center project is completed, this will be the place to see pictures.

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