



Forest Fire Lookout Association Restoration Grant Program

2017 RESTORATION GRANT ANNUAL REPORT

Four Restoration Grant applications were received in 2017; awards were made to all four. An unused portion (\$62.91) of the 2015 grant to Dutchman Peak (OR) was returned to the FFLA. No emergency stabilization grant applications were received.

1) **Blackhall Lookout, Wyoming**

The first FFLA Restoration Grant of 2017 was awarded to HistoriCorps for continuation of the Blackhall Lookout Restoration Project on the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District of the Medicine Bow National Forest in Carbon County, Wyoming. The \$400 grant was to be used to assist with the completion of the lookout site, including installation of the vault toilet. The vault and slab were installed during the summer of 2016 and the above ground structure was planned to be erected last summer. Materials needed for the 7' x 6'6" structure included 2x6s, roof sheathing, asphalt rolled roofing, siding, exterior door, and a small window. There was a good possibility of a local donor matching the FFLA grant.

2) **Squaw Mountain Watchman's Camp, Maine**

The second FFLA Restoration Grant of 2017 was awarded to the Natural Resource Education Center (NREC). The \$500 grant was to go toward the construction of a watchman's camp replica at the Greenville Maine Visitors Center. In 2016, the restoration of the Squaw Mountain Fire tower was completed on this site. The camp was to be built next to the fire tower to create a "fire lookout complex". The camp was to be the same size and style as the last standing watchman's camp on Squaw Mountain. The camp is to be dual-purpose; in the warm months when the fire tower is open, the camp will serve as an interpretive site showing elements of watchman life around 1960. In the winter months, the camp will be used as a warming shelter for the local cross-country ski group.

3) **Sterling Fire Tower, New York**

The third FFLA Restoration Grant of 2017 was awarded to the Friends of Sterling Forest for restoration work at Sterling Tower in Orange County, New York. The \$500 grant went toward work on the tower including repair of steps and landings with new pressure treated lumber using stainless hardware, reglazing of the windows of the cab, securing railings and fencing, and repainting the cab. The ground cabin was also to be repainted, and repairs made to its porch and roof. Other partners include Team Rubicon and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. New York FFLA Director Laurie Rankin was also involved with the group.

4) **Rich Mountain Lookout Tower, Oregon**

The fourth FFLA Restoration Grant of 2017 was awarded for the rehabilitation of the Rich Mountain lookout tower, an iconic landmark along the Appalachian Trail straddling the North Carolina-Tennessee state line, just outside the town of Hot Springs, NC on the Pisgah NF. The \$500 grant was to be used to match an \$8,500 grant from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for the restoration of the severely damaged and deteriorated cab. The US Forest Service was to also match \$8,500 in cash, materials, or labor. The project sought to entirely rehab the 14' x 14' cab including the replacement of the wood floor, interior and exterior siding, and paint. The grant will also solidify FFLA's role as a partner in the project and ensure that FFLA signage and logo can permanently accompany the restored structure. North Carolina Director Peter Barr has been involved with the project.

Gary Weber
Treasurer