



# Forest Fire Lookout Association Restoration Grant Program

## 2018 RESTORATION GRANT ANNUAL REPORT

Five Restoration Grant applications were received in 2017; awards were made to four. The other request was for “comfort” upgrades rather than restoration and was referred to the chapter, which in turn, funded it. That lookout had also received a previous restoration grant from the program. An unused portion (\$9.38) of the 2016 grant to Bunker Hill (CA) was returned to the FFLA. One emergency stabilization grant was awarded.

### 1) **Konocti Lookout Tower, California**

The first FFLA Restoration Grant of 2018 was awarded for the rehabilitation of the floor of Konocti lookout tower, a CALFIRE lookout in Lake County, California, staffed by volunteers from the Konocti local chapter of the FFLA. The \$500 grant was used to replace the flooring of the lookout; sections of the floor had rotted through due to moisture entering from leaky door seals. FFLA California-Pacific Director Bill Ulmer coordinated the project.

### 2) **Big Pocono Fire Tower, Pennsylvania**

The second FFLA Restoration Grant of 2018 was awarded to the Grey Towers Heritage Association for the restoration of the Big Pocono Fire Tower. In 2017, the tower was disassembled as part of Pennsylvania's upgrade of its fire tower network and was relocated to Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, the home of Gifford Pinchot - founder of the Society of American Foresters, the first Chief of the US Forest Service and twice Governor of Pennsylvania. The tentative timeline is to re-erect the restored fire tower at Grey Towers in 2020. Other partners include USFS - Grey Towers and the Society of American Foresters - Pinchot Chapter. Pennsylvania Director Dan Bubnis is involved with the project.

### 3) **Mt. Tom Lookout, California**

The third FFLA Restoration Grant of 2018 was awarded for rehab work on Mt. Tom Lookout on the Sierra NF in California. The 30-foot K-braced tower with a C-3 cab had several issues to be addressed. The safety railing around the tower needed to be fixed; it had holes along the grating and the safety wire. The catwalk also had several holes that were covered with plywood. The heavy shutters were weathered and in need of replacement. California-Sierra/Nevada Director Bill Luedeke was involved with the project.

### 4) **Pinnacle Peak/Mt. Peak Lookout Project, Washington**

The fourth FFLA Restoration Grant of 2018 has been awarded to the Mount Peak Historical Fire Lookout Association. The \$500 grant will go toward the rebuilding of the lookout tower that was torn down in 1966. The group wants to build a historically accurate replica of the 20 foot DNR tower with a 14x14 foot live-in cab, constructed in 1950, that will celebrate its history and importance to the area. The goal is to raise \$500,000 in the next two years to rebuild the tower. The group has received major grants from King County Parks and the State of Washington and is pursuing other private and public grant opportunities.

### 5) **Lyons Peak Lookout, California**

An FFLA Stabilization Grant was awarded to the San Diego Riverside Chapter to provide weather protection for Lyons Peak Lookout until access gets restored and they can actually work on it. The \$300 grant was supplemented by chapter funds to procure exterior plywood, paint, and bolts. Due to right-of-way litigation, access is extremely limited. The plan is to accompany communications technicians to the site and then to install the plywood over the windows and perform other weatherproofing maintenance. Southern California Director Scott McClintock is heading up the project.

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Treasurer