

Northern California Chapter Report 2010

Membership : 37

Financial Balance: \$ 1,270.33

Overview:

-As Northern California Chapter Director, I continue to emphasize education and preservation of fire lookout towers. The word is cheerfully spread while regularly handing out FFLA brochures.

-Responded to dozens of requests for fire lookout information via mail, email and phone. Most inquiries were geared toward specifics of fire lookout tower visitor rental program and tower access routes. Local lookout tower history is also a big topic of inquiry.

-Northern California Chapter boundaries changed in October 2010 to include the geographic areas of Klamath, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Tahoe National Forests. A new chapter, the **California Pacific Chapter**, headed by Chapter Director, Brad Ells encompasses the Pacific Coast to Sierra-Nevada foothills to the northern border of Mendocino National Forest and southern border of Los Padres National Forest.

Presentations:

-On an informal basis, I interacted with hundreds of lookout visitors throughout fire season, on-the-job at Weaver Bally Lookout, Shasta-Trinity National Forest. I designed and installed a temporary fire lookout informational exhibit at the base of the tower.

-Gathered with Trinity County fire lookouts over pizza in November. Employment concerns with new hiring preference mandates were aired.

Fire Tower Visitor Rentals:

-Newly opened fire lookout visitor rentals include Sardine Lookout, Tahoe National Forest, and Black Mountain, Plumas National Forest.

New:

-Camera fire detection technology has been installed at Eddy Gulch Lookout, Klamath National Forest. The lookout remains staffed during fire season. Hogback Lookout, Shasta-Trinity National Forest is next in line for camera detection installation when the state budget allows.

Goals:

-Expand Forest Fire Lookout Association membership in the Redding and surrounding area. Many retired fire folks reside there, and I see a potential volunteer base for future lookout restoration projects.

-Work continues on compilation of current status of fire lookouts, by county and forest. An ongoing project.

-Oral history project progresses slowly, with former Northern California lookout interviews. Heads up, retired ones, you may get my call. Your stories are so inspiring.

In closing:

-Former Northern California Director Marie Green Hall retired from U.S. Forest Service, Anthony Peak Lookout, Mendocino National Forest. Best wishes for retirement bliss.

-All time, postage, phone bills, Internet service have been paid for out-of-pocket as donations to FFLA.

-Please note my phone number contact change. I can be reached at **(530)-244-6917**.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Lamoureux, Northern California Chapter, Forest Fire Lookout Association