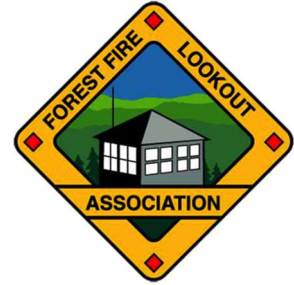


FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION California-South Division



2021 Year-End Report

CURRENT DIVISION OFFICERS:

Scott McClintock, Director

LOCAL FFLA CHAPTERS:

1. San Diego-Riverside
2. Monterey

MEMBERS:

66
60

decrease/increase

-8
+6

AFFILIATES:

1. Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (Angeles NF)
2. Southern California Mountains Foundation (San Bernardino NF)
3. Hi Mountain Condor Lookout (Los Padres NF)

2021 REGIONAL NOTE - In 2021, California experienced:

- the hottest summer temperatures on record,
- the driest water year in a century,
- the 2nd largest wildfire in state history (Dixie Fire, 960,000 acres),
- the USFS maxed out its deployment of firefighters and support systems in August,
- the USFS closed California forests from September 1st through the 22nd due to unprecedented fire danger and staff depletion.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. **CHEWS RIDGE LO (751)** – Continued as acting Chapter Chairman until October, when administration of the Chapter was turned over to local control. The season opened March 5 with virus control procedures instituted and public tours limited. Chews Ridge LO was evacuated 9 days in June for the Willow Fire, and was closed 21.5 days in September due to forest closure.
Project Status: COMPLETE

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2. **CONE PEAK LO (1288)** – This structure is currently full of repeater gear and is not useable as a lookout. The Los Padres National Forest radio technicians had plans to remove the equipment, and avail the structure to the FFLA for restoration and operation. However, the access road to the lookout trailhead suffered major, potentially irreparable washout damage in December, 2021. I anticipate it will be years, (if ever) until the road is repaired and the lookout is accessible.
Project Status: SUSPENDED.

3. **SID ORMSBY LO (883)** – Several Monterey Chapter members toured and evaluated Sid Ormsby. It is loaded with microwave, television, and other transmitters, making radiation safety a large issue. Inquiries into RF testing are underway. There is also an accumulation of mysterious substance in the cab attic which will need biological and asbestos testing.
Project Status: PENDING

4. **FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN LO (881)** – In 2020, I conducted a site visit at this lookout, deemed it highly viable as a restoration & operation project, and submitted a proposal, which was ignored. The main obstacle to restoration is that the viewshed is 60% blocked by mature trees that have surrounded the tower. In 2022, I will re-pitch the proposal to different bureaucrats.
Project Status: PENDING



-continued-

5. **LYONS PEAK LO (754)** – This tower is surrounded by private land and access to it is severely limited by litigation. On December 22, I and three members from the San Diego-Riverside Chapter were airlifted to the tower courtesy of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Dept. helicopter squadron, and attached plywood shutters over the windows to protect the cab from vandalism and weather. This project hopefully preserves the cab for restoration and operations when/if the access issue is resolved.

PROJECT STATUS: SUSPENDED

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022:

- Conduct site visits to as many California-South towers as possible and update their conditions.
- Submit visit reports to the NHLR.
- Pursue restoration and reactivation projects, especially Figueroa Mountain LO.
- Evaluate San Rafael, aka Cerro Negro LO (1220) for operations potential.
- Pursue relations with new management people on the Los Coyotes Reservation regarding Hot Springs Mountain LO (753). The current structure has collapsed, but additional possibilities can be explored.

2020 DIVISION TOWER STATISTICS:

Standing lookouts:	33
Lookouts in active service:	13
Lookouts in partial service:	0
Rental lookouts:	0
Lookouts needing significant repairs:	9
Lookouts converted to alternate uses:	6
Lookouts lost in 2021:	0

Respectfully submitted,



Scott McClintock, Director
California-South Chapter