



Forest Fire Lookout Association

CA Sierra/Nevada Area Chapter
48663 Todd Eymann Road, Pinehurst, CA 93641

California - Sierra and Nevada CHAPTER 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The California – Sierra and Nevada Chapter includes fire lookouts in the National Forests of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the state of Nevada.

MEMBERSHIP: The CA Sierra/Nevada chapter currently has 40 paid members, a gain of 3 from 2010. The end-of-year balance for this chapter was \$888.95.

FISCAL: The end of year balance for this chapter is \$7,323.39

National Chapter/Membership: \$956.95

Tahoe Subchapter: End of Year Balance: \$5,958.44

Yosemite/High Sierra Subchapter: End of Year Balance: \$408.00

ACTIVITIES, UPDATES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Historic **Needles Lookout**, Western Divide Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest succumbed to a structure fire July 28, 2010. The 1938 CCC-constructed tower and cab were completely destroyed. The forest would like to see the lookout rebuilt and is pursuing external partnerships to help with funding, planning and volunteer organizing.

The Buck Rock Foundation received a second round of funding (approximately \$18,000) from the Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to continue the **rehabilitation of Delilah Lookout (SQF) and Mt Tom Lookout (SNF)**. A new storage shed, security gate, cameras, solar panels and battery system, and UV blinds were installed at Delilah. A new roof and outhouse are scheduled to be constructed at Mt Tom.

The Buck Rock Foundation received funding (approximately \$29,000) from the Kern and Tulare Counties Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to rehabilitate **Buck Rock Lookout** beginning during the summer of 2012. The interior will receive a complete make-over with goals to bring it back to its original 1920's era design. Portions of the stairway and catwalk will be rehabilitated with health and safety items addressed.

Park Ridge Lookout (SEKI) was nominated and accepted to the National Historic Lookout Register.

The Sierra National Forest continued repairs at **Signal Peak Lookout**, which is still staffed for fire detection

The restoration of **Blue Ridge Lookout**, CAL-Fire Tulare County, was completed and the tower was placed in the Tulare County Fairgrounds where it was opened to receive visitors during the Tulare County Fair in October 2011. Interpretation signs will be produced to enhance the display.

The nominations of Angora (TNF), Bald Mt (Inyo NF), Needles and Buck Rock (SQF) to the **National Geographic Geotourism Map Guide** were accepted and can now be found on their website at www.sierranevadageotourism.org.

The Buck Rock Foundation held training and orientation programs for paid lookouts and volunteers at the Central California Interagency Communications Center in May 2011.

The annual Open House, Barbeque and Blessing at Buck Rock took place on Labor Day weekend attracting approximately 500 visitors who toured the lookout.

THREATENED OR REMOVED: As far as we can determine, there are no lookouts in this chapter that were removed in 2011 or are threatened for removal in the near future. In recent discussions with fire management in each Forest throughout this chapter, lookouts are still considered important heritage, fire detection and/or public relation resources.

LOCAL CHAPTERS:

- **Tahoe Chapter of the FFLA** – Local organization whose purpose is to rehabilitate Grouse Peak Lookout. A heavy Sierra snow pack deterred much of the work planned for rehabilitation of Grouse Peak during the 2011 season. See attached individual report.
- **Yosemite/High Sierra Chapter**, under the direction of FFLA member Jeff May, is dedicated to preserving the lookouts on the Sierra NF and Yosemite National Park. The Miami Volunteer Association is managed under this chapter. See attached individual report.

PLAN OF WORK FOR 2012:

- Continued restoration work at Mt. Tom (SNF) and Delilah (SQF)
- Rehabilitation of Buck Rock Lookout (SQF)
- Begin the planning process for rebuilding the Needles Lookout (SQF)
- Continued restoration work at Grouse Peak Lookout (TNF)
- NHLR dedication at Henness Ridge and Crane Flat Lookouts (YNP)
- Rehabilitation projects at Miami Lookout (SNF)
- Continue to facilitate the preservation of Bald Mt (SNF)

- Media/PR opportunity for presenting the NHLR for Park Ridge Lookout.
- Buck Rock Open House – Labor Day weekend, September 2, 2012.
- Ongoing outreach at community events and lookout towers.
- Assist CAL-Fire with creating an interpretive experience at the Blue Ridge Lookout display for the Tulare County Fair.

SUMMARY

The fiery demise of the iconic Needles Lookout was a devastating loss to our Chapter. This lookout was well-loved and visited by people from all over the world. We are hopeful that this feeling will go a long way towards its recovery as we outreach for historical information, funding and volunteers while facilitating the rebuilding process.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ball Allison
CA Sierra/NV Chapter Director