

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

CALIFORNIA SIERRA/NEVADA CHAPTER

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The California Sierra/Nevada Chapter addresses Forest Fire Lookouts from the area of Kernville, CA to the South continuing North thru Sequoia/Inyo/Sierra/Stanislaus/Eldorado/Toiyabe and Tahoe National Forests to Interstate 80, West to Rte. 99 and East thru the state of Nevada. Also included here are CDF (California Department of Forestry, i.e. CAL FIRE Lookout Towers in the Sierra Foothills.

CALIFORNIA SIERRA/NEVADA FORESTS—

I have identified 105 historically registered lookouts in California. Approximately 31 towers with historical designation are located within the forests listed in the first paragraph. I have identified two - three CDF foothill location lookouts within my designated territory. Some are in active service either by CDF, or by Forest Service, or used on an emergency basis only, while a couple were burned down or are being possibly restored.

RESEARCH—

I continue to research the lookouts within the geographic territory to determine status regardless of their historical designation. Since my assignment as Director within the last 2.5 months, research is a priority in my territorial development.

MEMBERSHIP—

I have recently received a list of 45 members who have paid dues as relates to the California Sierra/Nevada Chapter. Locations of these members run everywhere from San Pedro, CA to Amador City, CA and throughout the states of California, Nevada, and Colorado.

FOUNDATIONS—

Within my area there is a large sub-chapter, or independent foundation called the Buck Rock Foundation which essentially mans the lookouts within the Sequoia National Forests. Their Chairman is Kathy Allison. We have exchanged e-mails and since she previously served as Director of the California Sierra/Nevada Chapter, I believe it is extremely important for me to meet face to face with Kathy to coordinate and seek her knowledge that may be helpful in bringing other lookouts outside of her Foundation into the FFLA family.

FINANCIAL—

From the recent financial/membership list sent to me from Gary Weber, it would appear the California Sierra/Nevada Chapter has \$3171.11 in available funds to support development sub-chapters and/or restoration.

PLANS—

1. Recently have identified two towers within the CDF family, Howell Mountain Lookout and Wolf Mountain Lookout which are located just North of I-80. My colleague, Bill Ulmer, and I will be discussing security matters regarding the towers, and other subjects later this week with CDF local personnel. It may be possible at some future point to bring them into the FFLA family.

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION CALIFORNIA SIERRA/NEVADA CHAPTER

2. I will be continuing my research into viable lookout towers and establishing contacts with CDF and USFS personnel.
3. I hope to conduct a road trip to introduce myself to agencies within the territory.
4. Meet with Kathy Allison to gain her knowledge of the region.
5. If I can bring towers on line, I hope to establish subgroups within the FFLA family.
6. Work to add towers to the NHLR list.

Respectfully submitted January 6, 2016,

Bill Luedeke
Director, FFLA California Sierra/Nevada Chapter