

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
California-Northern Chapter



2019 Year-End Report

CURRENT CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Kyle Stetler, Acting Director

LOCAL FFLA CHAPTERS:

None at the time

AFFILIATES:

None at this time

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. Orleans Mountain LO (Six River's NF) #458 - Based on the proactive nudge from a local fire chief, who's uncle once staffed the lookout, initiated the process to begin stabilization and rehabilitation of this lookout in coordination with the Forest Heritage Program Manager and the District Ranger. The Forest Supervisor has also been notified. Have tentatively offered some funds to help elevate project status within FS planning cycle. NOTE: Sensitivity around consultation with the Karuk tribe.
Project Status: PENDING
2. Argentine Rock LO (Plumas NF) #601 – Have been working proactively with Forest Archeologist for two years on this project. That person had not felt that the Forest Leadership had the appetite or budget unfortunately to take on this project. We had been tentatively looking at light work on Red Rock LO but as of a few weeks ago, the Fire Management staff had tentatively decided that they might reactivate the lookout.
Project Status: PENDING
3. Grouse Ridge LO (Tahoe NF) #283 – The lookout has almost all of the work completed to turn this into a rental. Have been coordinating with the local ranger district recreation staff person to get this one finished. The hope is that this summer it will be available. This lookout is also tied up with all of the other lookouts that are or could be in the rental program but are not due to the lapse in approval form standing Recreation Resource Advisory Committees. In conversations with the R5 Public Services Director, their hope was to have a new RRAC running in 2020. Overall, the Tahoe has four lookouts they would like to get into the rental program. One, Sardine LO, is already being used by friends of district employees and the public can all the office to reserve it. The other two, Martis LO and Verdi LO are still in very good shape and would need minimal work.
Project Status: Near Completion
4. Harkness LO (Lava Beds Nat. Mon.) #516 – Successful first season of restoration work being carried out by HistoriCorps and National Park Service. We are kept in the loop on this project vis-à-vis the park archeologist.
Project Status: Ongoing
5. Harvey Mountain LO (Lassen NF) #517 – District staff outreached to us after making contact with Scott McClintock. They are looking for funds to do some immediate repair

work on the lookout. We are actively working with Gary to facilitate a small grant to provide to the district.

6. Ball Mountain LO (Klamath NF) #1383 - The district ranger on the Goosenest is interested in pursuing some type of restoration work for Ball Mt. LO. He actually visited the LO and went up into the cabin. He's talked to the district archaeologist, but hasn't moved beyond that yet. Hopefully once the heritage staff gets through the end of year push, they can start thinking about a plan. I have also proposed a project for Baldy Mountain LO but that has not progressed.
Project Status: Pending

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY:

No major activity.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2020:

- Continue project development on ongoing coordination with agency staff.
- Support additional information and new entries to NHLR.
- Pursue restoration and reactivation projects with small grants to two of the forests.
- Continue email the 36 NorCal members to keep them apprised of volunteer opportunities.
- We have been approached by a few people proactively looking for volunteer opportunities and the goal will be to connect those people to actual projects this upcoming summer.

2019 Chapter Tower Statistics:

Total lookout towers in chapter:	111
Towers in active service:	51
Towers in rental program	4
Towers needing significant repairs	43
Towers hopelessly dilapidated	6
Towers converted to alternate function	4
Towers schedule to be removed	3
Complete new tower under construction	0

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Stetler, Acting Director
California-Northern Chapter