



Forest Fire Lookout Association Restoration Grant Program

2019 RESTORATION GRANT ANNUAL REPORT

Four Restoration Grant applications were received in 2019; awards were made to all four. One emergency stabilization grant was awarded. In addition, one request was made to the Matt Walter Fund; it was granted.

1) **Skookum Butte Lookout, Montana**

The first FFLA Restoration Grant of 2019 was awarded to the Lolo National Forest for the rehabilitation of Skookum Butte Lookout on the Missoula Ranger District. The \$500 grant will help to purchase a variety of supplies and materials necessary for the project; some of which are: shiplap for shutter reconstruction, subfloor, and roof sheathing, window glass, and maple flooring. The 1928 lookout is a rare log/frame lookout, one of only three of that design known to remain. Phase I of the multi-year project occurred July 9-18 with a Passport in Time project. FFLA SHPO Liaison Kyle Stetler and FFLA member Libby Langston have been instrumental in providing support to initiate the project; the project leader is Lolo NF East Zone Archaeologist (and FFLA Member) Sydney Bacon.

2) **Grave Peak Lookout Restoration, Idaho**

The second FFLA Restoration Grant of 2019 has been awarded to the NezPerce-Clearwater National Forest for the restoration of Grave Peak Lookout on the Powell Ranger District. The \$500 grant was matched by the North Idaho-Montana Chapter and used to purchase cedar shingles for the project. The first phase of the multi-year project took place July 13 – 23. The D-6 cupola lookout, built in 1924, is the last standing D-6 lookout in Idaho, but has not been staffed since the 1960s. In 1998, FFLA member Dick Gilman built and installed new window shutters. In addition to the roof replacement, planned future work includes repair/replacement of the main floor and the cupola floor, window frames, and windows. The 1998 window shutters will be primed and painted. Flathead NF Lead Lookout (and FFLA Member) Leif Haugen is the project work leader.

3) **Ossipee Hill Fire Tower Stabilization, Maine**

The third FFLA Restoration Grant of 2019 was awarded for the stabilization of the Ossipee Hill Fire Tower. The \$500 grant was to be used for materials for effort targeting repairs on the wooden superstructure. There are some braces and cross members that are cracked and/or rotted that will be replaced. Associated hardware, such as large bolts, washers, and nuts will also be replaced. Financial contributors to this effort will be solely FFLA; work was to be done by a small group of FFLA members. This stabilization is important to eliminate weak structural issues that could allow the lookout to sway, tip, or even collapse. FFLA Maine Director Bill Cobb has been involved in the project.

4) **Konocti Lookout Tower, California**

The last FFLA Restoration Grant of 2019 was awarded for the repair and/or replacement of the cab of the Konocti lookout tower, a CALFIRE lookout in Lake County, California, staffed by volunteers from the Konocti local chapter of the FFLA. The \$500 grant will be used for materials, as well as to leverage additional larger grants for major repairs, or possibly full replacement, of the tower cab. A full statement of work is forthcoming from CALFIRE, but at minimum, floor framing and roof rafters suffering from dry rot will be replaced. FFLA California-Pacific Director Bill Ulmer will be coordinating FFLA's role in the project.

5) **Boucher Hill Lookout, California**

An FFLA Stabilization Grant was awarded to the San Diego Riverside Chapter to provide emergency repairs at Boucher Hill Lookout for water intrusion repair in the siding and around the windows. The \$300 grant was supplemented by chapter funds. Southern California Director Scott McClintock was involved with the project.

6) Poke-O-Moonshine Fire Tower, New York

A Matt Walter Fund Grant was awarded to the Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine to go toward the replacement of the tower's brass alidade that was stolen last year. The Friends supplemented the \$200 grant to cover the full cost of the brass replica that they were able to have in place for the bulk of the hiking season; they also upgraded the security for the tower cab.

Gary Weber
Treasurer