

2021 Wisconsin FFLA Chapter Report

Accomplishments

- Continued research into Wisconsin's historic lookouts and as able, tracking of the DNR's tower divestment. As of November 2021:
 - 39 towers have been conveyed to the private landowners upon which they stand. This includes towers which reverted ownership back to the Menominee Tribe, USFS, and Department of Military Affairs, as well as 2 in which the DNR owned land parcel was sold with the tower still standing.
 - 19 towers have been demoed – some sold to private individuals for potential rebuilding, some sold for scrap.
 - 27 towers are still planned to be removed.
 - 7 towers are pending.

2 towers are confirmed to have been sold, removed, and rebuilt in new locations on private property.

Information provided by the Department indicates that generally towers are offered for public auction twice. If they are unsold after that point they will be included in a demolition contract at a future date when funds for such purposes are allocated by the Legislature.

- Coordinated with the Ottawa National Forest who was exploring options for the future of their Tepee Lake Lookout Tower. Provided technical information as to the work that was done on the Mountain Fire Tower on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF.
 - FFLA member provided drone photography of the tower for use in making a better assessment of its condition as well as for potential future use in an interpretive display.
 - There was some public support for retaining the tower and the Forest is currently still evaluating options for future use.
- Assisted one private landowner in the search for tower blueprints for the tower he purchased from DNR. Answered several general inquiries from the public.

Tyler Bormann, WI Chapter Director
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