



# FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION, INC.

*San Diego – Riverside Chapter*

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## 2010 Annual Report

### History:

The San Diego – Riverside Local Chapter was formed in January 2008 under the FFLA Southern California Chapter led by George and Pam Morey.

### Purpose:

The San Diego – Riverside Chapter was formed for the purpose of restoring and staffing the remaining fire lookouts on and around the Cleveland National Forest in San Diego County, California.

### Lookouts:

Seven lookouts remain standing; High Point and Boucher Hill on Palomar Mountain, Lyons Peak, Los Pinos, Hot Springs Mountain, Estelle Mountain and Red Mountain.

### Cleveland National Forest Partnership:

The second anniversary of the CNF – FFLA partnership passed on Dec 5, 2010. High Point Lookout was staffed 72% of the available days during the 2010 fire season. We look forward to successfully maintaining our relationship for the remaining 3 years of the agreement and beyond.

### California State Department of Parks and Recreation Concessions Agreement:

The Chapter reached an agreement in principal to complete the restoration of Boucher Hill Lookout Station located within Palomar Mountain State Park. The Station will be operated by volunteer staff for Fire Detection and Interpretive purposes. This 5 year agreement is unique in the park system as the only active fire lookout operated on behalf of the State Parks Department.

### Accomplishments:

- Increased coverage with 204 total shifts worked at High Point.
- Trained 14 new fire lookout volunteers.
- Retained 21 fire lookout volunteers for second year of service.
- Staffed High Point Lookout 138 of 193 possible days.
- Contributed significantly to Forest Fire Detection through dozens of smoke reports, several first reports and hundreds of lightning strike reports.
- Installed Davis Weather Station with Internet linking available to the public and reporting to the National Weather Service: <http://aprs.fi/weather/KF6ILA-10>
- Hosted Annual FFLA National Board of Directors meeting.
- Attended FFLA Western Conference in Grangeville, Idaho.
- \$40,000 construction grant acquired from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.
- Contributed 3134 hours to Forest Service volunteer program.
- Continued archiving historic lookout photos and documents.
- Maintained relationships with the Forest Service, BLM, CDF Museum, California State Parks and other California fire lookout volunteer programs – SBNFA, ANFFLA, BRF and Miami Mountain Lookouts.
- Reached agreement with California State Parks to restore and operated Boucher Hill Lookout.
- Maintained local Email list of over 200 people with restoration and fire lookout interests.
- Maintained quarterly Email newsletter.
- Acquired significant photo and memorabilia collection from a former Lyons Peak Lookout operators family, dating from 1930 -1970.
- Registered 2 former fire lookout sites on the national registry site: [www.firetower.org](http://www.firetower.org).
- "San Diego County Fire Detection History" presentation by invitation of the Congress of History.

**Media:**

- October 2010 – San Diego Union-Tribune: *“Cameras installed to spot wildfires early”*
- November 2010 – San Diego Union-Tribune: *“Palomar’s Boucher Trail has county’s best Fall colors”*
- December 2010 - San Diego Union-Tribune: (Lyons Peak Lookout photo): *“Rain to pick up overnight in San Diego”*.
- December 2010 – WorldNews: *Osborne Fire Finder* - [http://wn.com/Osborne\\_Fire\\_Finder](http://wn.com/Osborne_Fire_Finder)

**2011 Plans:**

- Pursue grant funds and materials donations for current and future restoration projects.
- Continue to expand Chapter structure and grow membership.
- Complete Concessions Agreement with California State Parks.
- Encourage completion of reconstruction work at Boucher Hill Lookout by Cal Fire.
- Open Boucher Hill Lookout for fire detection and public interpretation.
- Establish partnership with the CDF Museum for Boucher Hill interpretive displays.
- Continue restoration work plan for High Point Fire Lookout Station.
- Open High Point Lookout for public interpretation.
- Continue to encourage the Cleveland National Forest and Descanso Ranger District staff to consider the restoration and staffing of Lyons Peak Lookout.
- Continue to explore a potential project at Hot Springs Mountain Lookout.
- Maintain communication with Cal Fire – Riverside Ranger Unit regarding the status of Estelle Mountain Lookout located at Hemet Air Attack Base.
- Schedule work and training dates.
- Revise training manual and program as needed. Add Boucher Hill module
- Identify and train volunteer Fire Lookout Volunteers with chapter staff.
- Finalize and produce Fire Lookout Host uniform components with chapter specific logos.
- Staff High Point everyday during the fire season.
- Continue historic document and image acquisition.
- Complete Golden Eagle Tracking Project at High Point.
- Continue to develop website and produce newsletters.
- Pursue all additional media opportunities.
- Continue participation in the San Diego County Fair and Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival for recruiting and public information purposes.
- Establish relationship with local REI Stores for the purpose of ongoing recruiting.

**Conclusion:**

The San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter had successful and stable year. We increased fire detection coverage at our active lookout while continuing to pursue additional projects and sites.

We look forward to continuing and expanding a successful Fire Lookout Volunteer program in Southern California for our residents, visitors and agency partners.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Eells,  
San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter Chair

January 12, 2011  
Menifee, California