

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
State Historic Preservation Office – Liaison
Historian



2022 Year-End Report

CURRENT OFFICER:

Kyle Stetler

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. **National Historic Lookout Register and Former Fire Lookout Sites**

Approximately 170 new lookouts were registered in the NHLR. Many of the new additions were in Washington, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Mississippi, Arkansas, Arizona, New York, and West Virginia. The FFLSR had 20 new additions, several of those unfortunately including lookouts that had been destroyed by fires in the recent past.

2. **Mount Washburn LO (Yellowstone NP) #576** - Work is complete on the addition of an external communications equipment apparatus. With the communications and electronics equipment moved to the new structure, the rehabilitation continued was completed this summer. FFLA worked with park staff to develop the new interpretive panels inside the lookout observation deck and those were installed this summer (2022).

Project Status: COMPLETE



3. **Leviathan Peak LO (Humboldt-Toiyabe NF) #282** – Coordination has been ongoing with the H-T NF staff over what to do Leviathan Peak. As of December 2022, some local FFLA/Buck Rock Foundation (BRF) members are attempting to stave off demolition by coordinating with local fire management personnel. The state of California plans to proceed with demolition work in summer 2023 if not alternative plans are developed. The hope is that some skilled deconstruction and salvage could still occur.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/86485_FSPLT2_128805.pdf

Project Status: ONGOING



4. **Wisconsin** – Wisconsin SHPO is no longer communitive, the Wisconsin chapter director resigned, and the auctions have had mixed results but several of the lookouts have been sold.
Project Status: COMPLETE
5. **Coordination** – During SHPO coordination emails any information on projects I receive, is forwarded onto the appropriate chapter director so that they are aware of the project and everyone is informed.
Project Status: ONGOING
6. **Oregon** – The Deschutes and Umpqua National Forests have proposed removed a combined 7 lookouts. This is in addition to the 5 lookouts that the Malheur NF has had slated for removal for the past couple of years. Oregon SHPO is aware of the situation and coordination is ongoing. I have also been coordinating with other local lookout groups (Sand Mountain Society) about the possible salvage of some materials from the Deschutes lookouts while I recently contacted the Umpqua NF Heritage Program Lead about potential future plans/options and had a productive conversation.
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59894>
Project Status: ONGOING
7. **Missouri** – The state of Missouri is still in the process of removing 13 state owned lookouts and the lookouts were placed on a state surplus website in October. Only has been determined to be eligible under historic guidelines. This action was forwarded onto the state/area chapter director.
Project Status: COMPLETE

8. **Montana** – Coordination with the Montana SHPO on the fate of Hogback lookout on the Helena-Lewis and Clark is ongoing while mitigation measures are being developed for the removal of Yager Butte lookout on the Custer-Gallatin NF.
Project Status: ONGOING



9. **Tepee Lake lookout (Ottawa NF #311)** – Coordinated with the Ottawa NF, and John Miller, on the disposition of the Tepee Lake Lookout. As of last report, the Forest is leaning towards leaving the tower in place, fencing around it to secure safety of the public, doing some harvesting around the site to provide better viewing of the tower, and lastly installing a camera so folks can see the view from the tower.
Project Status: Ongoing



OBJECTIVES FOR 2023:

- Continue annual coordination with SHPO staff at the top 30 offices.
- Send out status update email to 40 SHPOs.
- Wrap up Leviathan Peak coordination as well as Hogback and Yager Butte coordination.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Steller

SHPO Liaison and Historian