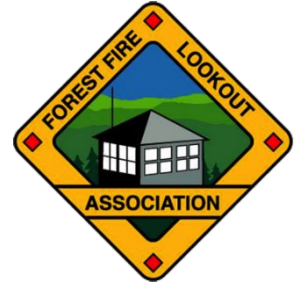


FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
State Historic Preservation Office – Liaison
Historian



2024 Year-End Report

CURRENT OFFICER:

Kyle Stetler

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

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

Approximately 3 new lookouts were registered in the NHLR, all of which were in Florida while the FFLSR had no new additions.

2. **Leviathan Peak LO (Humboldt-Toiyabe NF) #282** – Coordination had been ongoing with the H-T NF staff over what to do Leviathan Peak. As of mid-2024, local FFLA/Buck Rock Foundation (BRF) members continue working with local fire management and CHP personnel to stave off demolition and hopefully re-staff the lookout. The state of California had planned to proceed with demolition work in spring 2024 if no alternative plans had been developed but due to other issues the project is now on hold.

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

Project Status: ONGOING



3. **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. Annual SHPO coordination emails are embedded below.

Project Status: ONGOING

4. **Oregon** – The Deschutes and Umpqua National Forests have proposed removing 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 primarily—and they have tentatively reached an agreement to salvage some materials from the Deschutes lookouts. I also coordinated with the Umpqua NF Heritage Program Lead about potential future plans/options and had a productive conversation. There was also coordination with staff on the Rogue-River Siskiyou NF pertaining to both east side lookouts generally and on the west side Bolan Mountain specifically. Jon Aronson has also been coordinated with the RRSNF. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59894>
Project Status: ONGOING

5. **Montana** – Coordination with the Montana SHPO on the fate of Hogback lookout on the Helena-Lewis and Clark is ongoing but at this time, after conversations with additional FS staff, demolition seems the most likely outcome.
Project Status: ONGOING



OBJECTIVES FOR 2025:

- 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 coordination.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Stetler

SHPO Liaison and Historian

2024 SHPO Status Update	Contact(s)	STATUS
Arkansas	section106@arkansas.gov and Scott Kaufman, JESSICA H. COGBURN	Consultation but no adverse effect on two projects - Sugarload Lookout and Horn Lookout. Letters attached in email.
Alabama	Amanda McBride	We reviewed a project for a telecommunications tower in the location of the former Redland Lookout Tower in Elmore County, but nothing for existing towers. That is all I see in the database.
Arizona	Mary-Ellen Walsh	We have had no consultation on fire lookouts at the federal or state level.
California	Susan Negrete, Brandon Greenway, Jeffrey Delsescaux	NEED FOLLOW UP
Colorado	Mark Tobias, Matt Marques, and Mitchell Schaefer	As far as I am aware, the only consultation that might be of interest to you from 2023 was the Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout (5GA.300) rehabilitation project (HC#81557). The lookout is listed in the National Register, and Rocky Mountain National Park did a really good job working with us to ensure the work would adhere to The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. I remember mentioning to them that they should reach out to your organization for comment, but they recently had a changing of the guard at the Superintendent role that may have distracted them from that recommendation. If you'd like more information about the project, feel free to let me know. Or you can reach out to their cultural resources staff directly.
Florida	Joe Bomberger and Mike Dubose	I have looked through our projects and could not find any

		fire lookout towers, but I did find a number of fire stations.
Georgia	Jennifer Dixon	I've checked our tracking system and I am unable to locate any projects submitted to HPD for review by either a federal or state agency in any area of the state associated with fire towers or fire lookouts.
Idaho	Chris Shaver, Launi Ellering	I really don't conduct Forest Service Reviews anymore, so I just don't have any firsthand knowledge to speak of. Good luck and thanks for the ongoing interest in the Fire Lookouts!
Kentucky	Nicole Koncol	Not that we are aware of
Louisiana	Jennie Garcia and Sadie Whitehurst	I don't believe we've had any Section 106 consultation for fire lookouts or equivalent undertakings. I'm not aware of any 106 consultations for fire lookouts or equivalent come through. I'll keep on the "lookout" for them.
Maine	Kirk Mohney	The Commission's compliance coordinator searched our Section 106 records for any submittals in 2023 relating to fire lookouts, and found none. The search also covered any state related activity that we would have been asked to comment on.
Massachusetts	Ed Bell, Ed.Bell@sec.state.ma.us	There was a single review that the MHC conducted in 2023 for a 1951-constructed, but since modified, fire tower in Sunderland, Mass. (MHC project #RC.73436). The MHC reviewed an FCC Form 621 submittal to replace modern communication equipment with newer equipment for the Mass. State Police. The MHC offered its opinion (9/13/2023) that the project would not adversely

		affect any significant historic properties.
Michigan	Martha MacFarlane-Faes and Scott Slagor	Scott Slagor, who is our S. 106 coordinator and will have a better idea regarding this question than I do at this time. I do know that Isle Royale National Park is looking at potential structure removals as part of their proposed Wilderness Plan. The Ishpeming tower may be one of those proposed for removal. a quick search of our project data base doesn't show that we had any this year, unless the fire lookout component is buried within a larger undertaking.
Minnesota	Sarah Biemers	I checked our review database and do not see that we've consulted on any projects involving this property type.
Mississippi	Hal Bell	After a search of our project database, it appears that we have not received any submissions involving fire towers in the past year.
Missouri	Amanda Burke Kevin McHugh, Jeffrey S. Alvey	Yes, staff have been dropping like flies around here. No, I don't believe we reviewed a project involving a fire tower in all of 2023, nor in the early days of 24. No, we haven't heard anything on deaccessioning.
Montana	Laura Evilsizer and Eric Newcombe, Samantha Gilk	Star Peak Lookout in Sanders County had a re-roof and repaint project that we concurred had No Adverse Effects. We concurred that Petty Mountain Lookout in Missoula County was Ineligible. We concurred that Patrol and Prairie Reef Lookouts in Lewis and Clark County were Eligible. I haven't started the review for these yet, but we also got in two projects from Lincoln County regarding roof replacements for

		Webb Mountain Lookout and Mt. Baldy Lookout.
Nevada	Ashley Wiley Robin Reed (rreed@shpo.nv.gov) and Rebecca Lynn Palmer (rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov)	To our knowledge, our office did not have any project reviews in 2023 concerning the remaining extant towers.
New Hampshire	Nadine Miller	New Hampshire Forest and Lands was awarded ARPA money to complete fire tower improvements across the state of New Hampshire. In late 2022, all of the fire towers owned by the State of NH were surveyed and evaluated through the preparation of New Hampshire Inventory Forms and were all determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on 10/26/2022. Subsequently, a historic properties management plan was prepared that highlighted the character defining features of the properties and made recommendations on best preservation/management practices focused on the entire fire tower complexes in state ownership. So not only the tower, but the watchman's cabin, garage, or other buildings that remain on site were discussed. This document was prepared on 2/21/2023. Public Archaeology Lab (PAL) completed both the comprehensive survey and management plan. Two projects have been reviewed since late 2022. They include fire tower improvements at Cardigan Mountain in Orange, NH with a DHR opinion of No Adverse Effect on 11/21/22 and Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard, NH with a DHR opinion of No Adverse Effects on 6/1/2023. There are hopes that

		select tower sites may be open for overnight rentals (watchman’s cabins), but additional study on code and safety issues need to be addressed before any movement on that can take place.
New Jersey	Lindsay Thivierge — Christopher Romanoski and Meghan Baratta	Christopher & I are not aware of any 106 reviews on fire towers in 2023.
New Mexico	Michelle Ensey	We had two Section 106 consultations. NPS/Bandelier National Monument - to repair exterior elements of their Fire Tower and USFS/Gila National Forest for the Signal Peak Tower. No adverse effects.
New York	Olivia Brazee and Kathy Howe	It looks like we reviewed three projects in the last year, but none were federal/Section 106. Pillsbury Mountain Fire Observation Tower – Demolition of Observer's Cabin. Proposed reconstruction of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower (not cabin), demolished in the 1970s and installation of antennae on the Sterling Mountain Fire Tower.
North Carolina	Renee Gledhill-earley	I am happy to report that we had no projects that involved “fire tower” other than houses for rehab on “Fire Tower Road” and other similar undertakings. As far as we know there are no fire towers that are under threat. But, we always have our fingers crossed as NC Forest and Wildlife Resources don’t always check with us until we see a project at the State Property Office to sell the property. For Mount Sterling - - No adverse effect on Mount Sterling Fire Tower (HW0120) which NPS thinks is potentially eligible. RGE 11/23/16 By copy of this email, I’m asking our NPS contact at Great Smokies to let us

		know of any updates he may have about Mount Sterling as he covers NC as well as TN.
Oregon	jamie.french@opr.oregon.gov and MaryBeth.GROVER@opr.oregon.gov	We don't really categorize our information this way so I am sorry I can't be of more help but the only cases I have regarding fire lookouts for the last 12 months are in Fremont-Winema NF and Wallowa-Whitman NF
Pennsylvania	Emma Diehl, Cheryl Nagle, Barbara Fredrick	According to a search of our projects, we did not have any Section 106 or State History Code consultations regarding fire lookouts or towers in 2023.
South Carolina	Elizabeth Johnson	A check of our tracking database didn't turn up any projects for 2023. We did have our contact at Shaw Air Force Base reach out about a potential project at the Rosemary tower house, we haven't received anything. The Forest Service Heritage Program manager for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests recently reached for an informal discussion about fire towers, but we haven't talked with them yet. We can share your contact information with them as an interested organization.
South Dakota	Jenna Dietmeier	Our office does have a number of programmatic agreements in place with federal agencies, so there is a possibility that federally-assisted maintenance on fire lookouts occurred and did not require consultation with our office. These "exempted activities" would only be in-kind repair and general upkeep which do not affect the fabric, functionality, or appearance of the lookout and would be included in a forthcoming annual report from the federal agency.

		<p>Additionally, our state preservation law, SDCL 1-19A-11.1, only requires governmental entities to notify our office if they are undertaking a project which will affect a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In South Dakota, there is only one fire lookout listed in the National Register, and we did not receive any notifications of pending projects for that tower.</p>
Tennessee	Rebecca Scmitt, Peggy Nickell, Casey Lee and Kelley Reid	<p>No fire lookouts were listed in the NRHP in 2023. I haven't seen any come through to be added to the survey database either. I had 2 fire towers in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park come in for review under Section 106. The first was Cove Mountain Fire Tower. It was a follow up review from one done in 2021 but they added some preservation treatment suggestions as well. That one included the Mount Sterling Fire Tower but I did not review it since its in North Carolina. The second was preservation treatments for the Mount Cammerer Fire Tower..</p>
Texas	Justin Kockritz	<p>I searched our project records and checked in with the other reviewers here most likely to be part of any fire tower related review. It does not appear that we had any related projects over the past year.</p>
Vermont	Yvonne Basque and James Duggan	<p>As an update, over the past year we have had NO Section 106 consultations on fire towers/lookouts, however we did have a robust review for state purposes. The Department of Forests Parks & Recreation are poised to begin repairs and safety upgrades at a number of the</p>

		<p>towers under their stewardship. The overall project is expected to occur over the next decade, as funding permits. It is our understanding that only state funds will be used for these repairs, which triggers our state historic preservation ordinance (22 VSA Chap 14) – our criteria and process essentially mirrors Section 106. As part of the consultation, we asked for FPR to survey and evaluate all of the towers, since that has never been done prior, complete the required paperwork and make recommendations for eligibility to complete the context. Our office worked closely with FPR and their engineers to develop a base set of plans covering the general approach to repairs and define the general safety improvements scheme. As each tower is unique, we agreed they would submit plans before working on any individual tower and notify us of any alterations beyond the general plans and submit supporting documents for those repairs as needed – thus the “conditional” part.</p>
Virginia	Roger Kirchen	<p>We have no review records from 2023 pertaining to fire lookout towers. I guess that’s a good thing, but would like to see some upkeep of the ones we still have.</p>
Washington	<p>Holly Borth, Nick Vann (Deputy), Maddie.Levesque@dahp.wa.gov, Jamie Dudman</p>	<p>Last year I gave you a printout from our database showing which projects have the word “lookout” in the project name. The project number starts with the year (so in that case, 2022). I filtered the database again on project title “lookout” and did not see any 2023 project numbers. 3 projects</p>

		were returned; two were SEPAs (State Environmental Policy Act) and one was a permit for human remains found near a lookout.
West Virginia	Lora Lamarre, Benjamin Riggle and Steve Gifford	From the best I can tell, we had no reviews last year specifically regarding forest fire lookout towers. A few lookout towers fell within the visual APE established by the FCC Nationwide Agreement for telecommunications towers but none within any direct project areas. Hope that answers your question, and let me know if I can be of any further assistance
Wisconsin	Daina Penkiunas and Tyler Howe	Thanks for checking back. I have shared your inquiry with our compliance section. Someone should get back to you shortly. I do not recall reviewing any section 106 of the NHPA fire tower projects from the USFS or the NPS during 2023. As for the DNR de-accession project, I have no updates. DNR and I have discussed this project over the last few years, but I have nothing new to add.
Wyoming	Brian Beadles	I looked through our database and I didn't find any consultations involving lookout towers in 2023.
Maryland	becky.roman@maryland.gov and beth.cole@maryland.gov	Thank you for reaching out via our e106 email with your inquiry regarding fire tower consultation here in Maryland. We have several ongoing with Maryland DNR. I have a busy morning and afternoon off today. I will be copying the contacts at Maryland DNR so your organization connects to the appropriate staff at DNR. With retirements etc, many have been moving to new positions or promotions. I suggest that you please wait to

		reach out until after you have heard back from MHT
Rhode Island	elizabeth.totten@preservation.ri.gov	We reviewed repairs to the Mowry Fire Tower last year through Section 106. I'm not aware of any other projects at the state level, but our contact for fire towers has been Olney Knight Olney.Knight@dem.ri.gov, Forest Fire Program Coordinator with the RI Department of Environmental Management.
Oklahoma	Kristina Wyckoff	Thanks for reaching out. We (OKSHPO) have not received any Section 106 project reviews for lookouts in FY2023 or in FY2024 to date.
Connecticut	Jenny.Scofield@ct.gov, Todd.Levine@ct.gov, Catherine.Labadia@ct.gov	I can confirm that we have not reviewed and federal or state actions specific to fire lookouts in the past few years.
Ohio	Mariangela Pfister and Kristen Koehlinger	I don't think there have been any reviews dealing with fire lookouts, but let me talk with my staff to make sure. I looked through our project log and asked the other reviewers, and no one has said anything about reviewing projects that involved fire towers.