



Forest Fire Lookout Association Restoration Grant Program

2024 RESTORATION GRANT ANNUAL REPORT

Two Restoration Grant applications were received in 2024; awards were made for both.

The first FFLA Restoration Grant was awarded in February to Bo Dossett, Madison County Ranger, North Carolina Forest Service for restoration of the Duckett Top Fire Tower. The \$500 grant was planned to be used to facilitate repair work to prevent further water damage to the lookout, slated for repairs but listed as a low priority project for the state due to no longer being in use (staffing stopped circa 2000). The grant was also to be used to try to leverage additional funding from the state for more extensive repairs and speed up the timeline for funding.

Planned tasks included covering of missing windows with plywood to stop immediate water damage from rain and snow coming through the windows and rotting out the floor, replacing old plywood siding rotting on the exterior with hardi-backer or cement board in order to keep water and ice from entering through the walls, and installing metal flashing under exterior siding.

Repairs were planned to be made during the summer and fall of 2024 by Dossett and additional Madison County NCFS staff, but have not yet begun.

The second FFLA Restoration Grant of 2024 was awarded to Katie Russ for restoration of the original 1930s Douglas Fir Tongue and Groove style wood flooring at Smith Peak Lookout in the Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District. The original wood was buried under two layers of paint and one layer of linoleum. The \$500 grant was used for materials and supplies needed to complete the restoration equipment to complete the project.

The other partner for this project was the local hardware store, Mountain Hardware and Sport, in Blairsden, CA. They supplied a generator and floor sander for the project, as well as sharing expertise.

The project was completed in September by Katie, with the help of one volunteer, while she was actively staffing the lookout.

No requests were made for emergency stabilization grants or grants from the Matt Walter Fund or from the Chuck Butler Fund.

Gary Weber
Treasurer