

2024 Wisconsin FFLA Chapter Report

18 February 2025

As recently appointed Wisconsin Chapter Director, I am continuing the great work Tyler Bormann has done to track and research Wisconsin's historic lookouts and the DNR's current involvement with the lookouts.

I am not tracking any current lookout projects and I will continue to work on updating the 'baseline' information below:

As of December 2024:

Baseline: There are currently 60 Wisconsin Lookouts on the National Historic Lookout Register (NHLR) and the Wisconsin Register. These registers list 13 of these towers as 'gone.' I will update their status when confirmed and in my next report.

As of January 2022:

- 39 towers have been conveyed to the private landowners.
- 19 towers have been demoed – some sold to private individuals, some sold for scrap.
- 27 towers were planned to be removed.
- The status of seven towers is pending.
- Only two towers are confirmed to have been sold, removed, and rebuilt in new locations on private property.

Note: The DNR states that "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."

Chapter goals:

- Verify and update NHLR/WI registers which identify 13 of the 60 lookouts as 'gone.'
- Track status of lookouts and ongoing projects at Wisconsin towers.
- Visit at least 10 towers this calendar year and provide updates on each of them.

Miscellaneous:

Update on Park Falls Lookout:

Designated as Park Falls Lookout and registered US #1218, WI#24 .

Currently located on my property, less than five miles from Park Falls location.

Erected in 1934 in Butternut. Later moved to Park Falls.

Purchased from the DNR and moved to its current location in 2018.

Coordinates: To be verified during my next visit.

The tower's base currently is at 1,530 ft (466 m)

Administered by Mr. Ken Boness of Butternut, WI. (715) 661-0233.

SIGNED

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