

**FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION**  
California-Northern Chapter



**2025 Year-End Report**

**CURRENT CHAPTER OFFICERS:**

Jon Aronson, Director

**LOCAL FFLA CHAPTERS:**

Argentine Rock Restoration Group – <https://www.argentinelookout.org/>

**AFFILIATES:**

**PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:**

1. **Orleans Mountain LO (Six River's NF) #458** – As with this year, there is cautious optimism that once again support is building for this project. There are a few local volunteers who are hopefully going to undertake the initial stabilization and rehabilitation work while a formal plan is developed. Ongoing conversations with forest staff to iron out process is underway, specifically, the forest staff is hoping to move onto formal tribal consultation. Other forest priorities, however, have been consuming relevant staff time. For the second year in a row the lookout was wrapped with fire preventing material and has survived another close call.

Project Status: PENDING



2. **Argentine Rock LO (Plumas NF) #601** – A formal group/subchapter has been formed following the MOU/MOA being signed. The group was also awarded a large Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant from the Forest Service. We are also still tentatively looking at light work on Red Rock LO after gaining concurrence with the district staff.

The group got quite a bit accomplished this year. The new steel constructed stairs for safer access. New stairs to access the observation cabin have been built. As well as reconstruction of the lookout itself. This has been quite the chore as access is up a narrow path and all the materials have been moved up by hand.

Project Status: ONGOING



3. **Grouse Ridge LO (Tahoe NF) #283** –This has been put into the forest service budget to be put into the rental program. Contact with staff has been minimal as some folks moved on this past year.



4. **Ball Mountain LO (Klamath NF) #1383** –Contact has been ongoing for Ball Mountain, Scott Bar, as well as Baldy Mountain. This is a slow go on this forest, although I did have the prevention tech on the forest reach out about Lake Mountain as well as Collins Baldy to make time to go look at them this spring for some needed repairs.

Project Status: PENDING



5. **Scott Bar LO (Klamath NF) #1381** – Discussion was renewed this summer as to what to do with Scott Bar Mountain. The Klamath NF put in a request roughly in 2016/2017 to remove the lookout but coordination with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been ongoing since then. The District Archeologist (Jason Coats) was also interested in establishing an MOU with the FFLA.



6. **Knob Peak LO (Shasta Trinity NF) #1346** – We are still working diligently to get something going on the Shasta Trinity. The district ranger is hard to track down. Heritage staff as well as the Rec. staff are supportive of putting this into the rental program. This could be an easy foot in the door if we can get something going. We were contacted by an engine captain about Black Fox LO. We met with the engine crew at the LO. This one is slated to be rebuilt by the USGS pending funding. On going discussions about Black Rock Mountain LO are also happening.  
Project Status: PENDING



7. **Sugar Hill LO (Modoc NF) #1331** – Attended a meeting with forest staff at the Lookout. We came up with a couple ideas to look at possible relocation or restoration. Local tribe members were invited to attend but were unable to make it. Still waiting on forest staff to get back to me on which idea is the most feasible with the tribe as well as any grants that are out there,  
Project Status: Ongoing



8. **Pilot Peak LO (Plumas NF) #600** – A meeting held at Pilot Peak with Jeff Greef, me and forest staff. We talked about closing up the lookout to keep the weather out of it so it could be preserved for a future restoration on it. Jeff was able to coordinate some volunteers to go over and repair the roof as well as board up the windows to keep the weather out. Thanks everyone for helping with this.



#### **Other:**

2 staff meetings were attended in Southern Oregon. One on the Fremont Winema and the other on the Rouge River Siskiyou NFs. There is a forest wide agreement with the Fremont Winema and lookout assessments have started. Dutchman Peak as well as Robinson Butte are the topics of the Rouge River Siskiyou. They want to do some minor repairs to Dutchman as well as living cabin updates. They have some funding but would like to get some FFLA volunteers to help as well. Forest staff went out and repaired a sagging wall at Bald Butte LO. Staff volunteered their time to do this.

Attended a meeting with Forest staff at Black Mountain LO to talk about repairs this coming summer to give the lookout a face lift for the rental program while staying within period correct materials. We tossed around the idea of a full forest agreement with the Plumas as well.

#### **FINANCIAL ACTIVITY:**

No major activity.

**OBJECTIVES FOR 2026:**

- Continue project development on ongoing coordination with agency staff.
- Support additional information and new entries to NHLR.
- Pursue restoration and reactivation projects with small grants to two of the forests.
- Continue email the NorCal members to keep them apprised of volunteer opportunities.
- We have been approached by a few people proactively looking for volunteer opportunities and the goal will be to connect those people to actual projects this upcoming summer.

**2025 Chapter Tower Statistics:**

Total lookout towers in chapter:	108
Towers in active service:	40ish
Towers in rental program	4
Towers needing significant repairs	43
Towers hopelessly dilapidated	5
Towers converted to alternate function	4
Towers schedule to be removed	3
Complete new tower under construction	0

Respectfully submitted,

*Jon Aronson*

Director – California-Northern Chapter