Forest Fire Lookout Association
Restoration Grant Program

2025
RESTORATION GRANT ANNUAL REPORT

Two Restoration Grants were awarded in 2025:

An FFLA Restoration Grant was awarded in July to the Town of McClellanville, South Carolina to go toward a comprehensive condition assessment of the McClellanville Lookout Tower! The $500 grant helped to leverage the additional matching funds necessary for a South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office grant and to lead to the eventual restoration of this historic tower.

The overall project plan for the McClellanville Lookout Tower restoration focuses on preserving the historic structure and addressing critical deterioration. The project leveraged the $14,000 matching grant from the South Carolina SHPO, which required completion by September 30, 2026, requiring funds to be secured to ensure timely progress. The key phases of the project include the comprehensive conditions assessment, development of construction documents to guide restoration efforts and ensure preservation standards are met, and research and preparation of a National Register nomination. The condition assessment process began with the advertisement of a Request for Qualifications for interested architects and structural engineers.

The other award was an Emergency Stabilization Grant to the Monterey Chapter to go toward the Chews Ridge Lookout roof replacement. Chews Ridge suffered major roof damage over the 2024-2025 winter and the local chapter launched multiple fundraising efforts to raise $15,000 for roof replacement. $500 went toward the fundraising effort in a stabilization/emergency mode.

The 2024 Restoration Grant for Duckett Top Lookout was returned, as the work was postponed and other funding expected when the project is continued.

The Wild Bronco Fund grant that was received in 2023 for use on Oregon lookout restoration projects was transferred to the Sand Mountain Society for use on the Wildhorse Lookout restoration.

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

Gary Weber
Treasurer