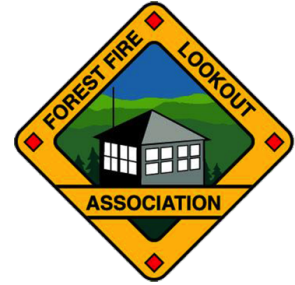


# FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

## California-South Division



## 2023 Year-End Report

### CURRENT DIVISION OFFICERS:

Scott McClintock, Director

### LOCAL FFLA CHAPTERS:

1. San Diego-Riverside
2. Monterey

### AFFILIATES:

1. Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (Angeles NF)
2. Southern California Mountains Foundation (San Bernardino NF)
3. Hi Mountain Condor Lookout (Los Padres NF)

### PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. **CHEWS RIDGE LO (751)** – This Chapter is now fully self-governing and operating quite smoothly. I assisted in Reconnect Training for that chapter on March 25. During 2024, I coordinated/facilitated the construction of a display case for Cone Peak’s retired Osborne Fire Finder, which was installed in the public lobby of the Monterey District Ranger Station. Submitted article about this project to *Lookout Network* on 6/15.
2. **CONE PEAK LO (1288)** – This structure is currently full of repeater gear and is not useable as a lookout. The Los Padres National Forest radio technicians had plans to remove the equipment, and avail the structure to the FFLA for restoration and operation. However, the access road to the lookout trailhead suffered major washout damage in December, 2021. Repairs to the road have begun, but will be extensive. I will be monitoring that status for the time that the lookout is accessible.  
Project Status: SUSPENDED.
3. **FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN LO (881)** – In 2020, I conducted a site visit at this lookout, deemed it highly viable as a restoration & operation project, and submitted a proposal, which was ignored. This Ranger District is continually assigned to temporary “Acting” District Rangers who will not make permanent decisions.  
Project Status: PENDING

4. **LYONS PEAK LO (754)** – This tower on the Cleveland National Forest is surrounded by private land and access to it is severely limited by litigation. Continuing to monitor the access status, and if it improves, will press for restoration and activation.  
**PROJECT STATUS: SUSPENDED**

5. **BOUCHER HILL LO (394)** – Facilitated repairs to the weather station sensor mast on 5/21, and FFLA funds for structural repairs on 5/23.

6. **CHALONE PEAK LO (396)** – Pinnacles National Park has decided to demolish this tower, due to lack of funds for the \$300,000 to \$1 million required to restore it; and ongoing access limitations. Corresponded on 12/27 regarding the pending demolition and preservation of the Osborn Fire Finder.



#### 7. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:

- A. April 29 – Attended and presented at San Diego-Riverside Chapter’s Reconnect training session.
- B. July 26 – Submitted article to *Lookout Network*: “Automated Smoke Reporting” and subsequent correspondence.
- C. August 26 - Corresponded with CA DOJ, Registry of Charitable Trusts, regarding Tahoe Chapter’s delinquency notice. Resolved.
- D. August-September – Correspond and assist Shane Harris (Southern Calif Mountains Foundation) with application to host the 2024 Western Conference.
- E. October 5 - Began correspondence with Caitlin Scully from the Alert California camera system regarding a project to compare Alert Calif camera feeds to what staffed lookouts would see. Provided access to tower locations from the National Historic Lookout Register.

#### OBJECTIVES FOR 2024:

- Conduct site visits to as many California-South towers as possible and update their conditions.
- Submit visit reports to the NHLR.

- Pursue restoration and reactivation projects, especially Figueroa Mountain LO.
- Pursue relations with new management people on the Los Coyotes Reservation regarding Hot Springs Mountain LO (753). The current structure has collapsed, but additional possibilities can be explored.

**2023 DIVISION TOWER STATISTICS:**

Standing lookouts:	26
Lookouts in active detection service:	13
Rental lookouts:	0
Lookouts needing significant repairs:	9
Lookouts converted to alternate uses:	6

Respectfully submitted,



Scott McClintock, Director  
California-South Chapter