

Colorado/Utah Chapter
Annual Report
2012

Membership:

33 current members
1 member lost
1 member gained

Financial Balance:

\$768.09 as of 12/31/2012

7 lookouts were staffed (at least occasionally) in 2012. Devils Head on the Pike National Forest, Deadman Lookout on the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest and Benchmark Lookout on the San Juan National Forest. Zenobia and Round Top Lookouts in Dinosaur National Monument were staffed, as was Park Point Lookout in Mesa Verde National Park. I have an unconfirmed report that Shadow Mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park was utilized part time this summer due to the extraordinary fire season in Colorado in 2012.

Squaw Mountain Lookout did not make it onto the rental system in 2012 but it sure is close! A very creative solution was executed with cooperation of the the Clear Creek Ranger District, Historicops and the FFLA. Shatter proof glass and new window trim was installed in August. This will allow for the removal of the old shutter system and should make for a more "renter friendly" lookout. The incinerator toilet was installed in the historic outhouse and works well. Thanks to the relentless efforts of Clear Creek Ranger Nicole Malandri, a complete RRAC board approval was signed off on by the Regional Forester. This means the lookout was given the green light to rent. A soft launch date is now set for the lookout to open on July 1, 2013.

West White Pine Lookout was moved to the "Running Deer Natural Area" just East of Fort Collins. It was placed as an interpretive landmark and several work days were lead by Karen Mancini, Senior Environmental Planner for the City of Fort Collins. Most of the old structure was carefully reworked, sanded and stained. FFLA members had a strong showing on the restoration as did the former mayor of Fort Collins, Doug Hutchinson who was a lookout at West White Pine in 1964/65. In June, 2012, the "High Park Fire" actually burned over the original foundation of the lookout on West White Pine Mountain. One has to wonder, if not decommissioned and moved, would the lookout have burned, or, if staffed could the fire have been caught in time to save the mountain?

Devil's Head Lookout celebrated it's 100th year of service in grand fashion during the 2nd week of July. At that time, celebrations were also held for long time, current lookout Bill Ellis' 80th birthday! Bill's wife Margaret was also on site and available to sign copies of "Important Pioneer Women of Sedalia" in which she is featured, a highly recommended read. The festivities were organized extremely well by Pike National Forest's new Archeologist Pricilla Riefkohl. Interpretive stations were set up all along the trail, the Pike pack string brought up supplies and Smokey Bear signed autographs and took photos with close to 200 attendees. FFLA Chairman Keith Argow was present and spoke of his history with the lookout as a young man. The FFLA placard

on the lookout was refreshed as well.

Ute Mountain Lookout in Utah will get a new roof in 2013! Please contact the CO/UT Director if you would like to get involved. More details to follow...