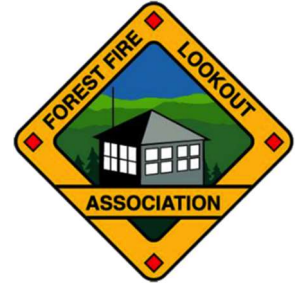


**FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION**  
State Historic Preservation Office – Liaison



**2020 Year-End Report**

**CURRENT OFFICER:**

Kyle Stetler

**PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:**

1. Mount Washburn LO (Yellowstone NP) #576 - Work is almost complete on the addition of an external communications equipment apparatus. With most of the communications an electronics equipment moved to the new structure, the rehabilitation was supposed to proceed in 2020 but will now likely be done in 2021. FFLA worked with park staff this fall to develop the new interpretive panels inside the lookout observation deck.  
Project Status: ONGOING



2. Leviathan Peak LO (Humboldt-Toiyabe NF) #282 – FFLA officially commented on the NEPA planning document and thereafter was contact by the Forest Service to collaborate. Made initial contact with H-T staff to develop a plan for new use for this lookout, such as move to the Great Basin Learning Center. The state of California has proposed to remove it in order to make way for more communications equipment.  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/86485\\_FSPLT2\\_128805.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/86485_FSPLT2_128805.pdf)  
Project Status: **LOOKING FOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT TO SEE IF LOOKOUT CAN BE MOVED.**



3. Wisconsin Lookouts – Coordination is ongoing, but sporadic, with Wisconsin SHPO to determine if there is some mechanism to slow down or prevent the sale of all the state managed lookouts. As many are located on leased private land parcels, the state has actively divested themselves of several lookouts. In 2019, the Wisconsin Chapter Director obtained data and information on several of the remaining lookouts and submitted it to the SHPO. They made a tentative decision that several of the lookouts were historic but that any further action would need to be taken by the state DNR. That agency however continues to show no interest in carrying that effort forward and sold simply dismantled, without attempting to auction several lookouts in 2020.  
Project Status: ONGOING
  
4. Coordination – During SHPO coordination emails any information on projects I receive, is forwarded onto the appropriate chapter director so that they are aware of the project and everyone is informed. The full extent of that coordination is below in the table.

#### **OBJECTIVES FOR 2021:**

- Continue bi-annual, or annual, coordination with SHPO staff at the top 30 offices.
- Send out status update email to 40 SHPOs.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kyle Steller*

SHPO Liaison

## SHPO INFORMATION – DECEMBER 2020 STATUS

STATE	ACTION	
Idaho		
Texas		
Minnesota		
Wisconsin		
Missouri		
West Virginia		
Mississippi		
Washington	I did search through old emails just to check, because my memory is embarrassingly faulty. It looks like we did get a couple, one was an HPMP at High Rock Fire, and the other was a restoration plan at Burley Mountain. Attached is what we got from King County, it's Mount Peak. As it was a local project, I don't really have any more information. We didn't have any concerns, so we let it through without asking for more information.	
Oregon	I reviewed the cases we've had this year for lookouts, and a couple popped up. One was not really a 106 case, but a notice that Olallie Mountain Lookout had burned in one of the many wildfires we suffered this year. Here's the resource record for that one: <a href="https://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&amp;resultDisplay=63179">https://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&amp;resultDisplay=63179</a> Another was replacement of solar panels on Mt. Scott Lookout at Crater Lake NP (SHPO Case# 20-0900). The ones there now are pretty intrusive, they are replacing them with more efficient ones, mounted flush to the roof, which will greatly decrease the visibility, and reducing the load on the roof, which had needed supports before (now to be removed). We felt this to be no adverse effect, and a marked improvement over the current situation. I've attached the salient pieces of the submission.	
California	I haven't seen any in the past year.	
Arizona	No, I am not aware of any this year.	
New Mexico	It looks like we had one consultation that actually came in at the end of the year last year, so I don't know if I reported on it already. It was for maintenance on the Mangas Mountain Fire Lookout in the Gila National Forest, Catron County. We responded in early January 2020 with a conditional No Adverse Effect.	
Nevada	Thank you for reaching out to our office regarding Section 106 actions for Forest Fire Lookouts within the state of Nevada. For the calendar 2020 year, our office has not received any Section 106 undertakings regarding this property type.	
Wyoming	As far as I know, we didn't consult on any fire lookouts this year. I know that Yellowstone has made progress on Mount Washburn. I'm cc'ing Tobin so he can update you on the work they have done so far. Hope you are well. I'm retiring the end of the month, so Brian Beadles will be the Deputy SHPO and Sara Needles is SHPO after the first of January. Brian will be handling most of the day to day operations of the office.	

<p>Montana</p>	<p>On the Lolo National Forest: The first is a re-evaluation of the eligibility status of the Cinnamon Bear Lookout. The forest determined it Eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C and we concurred. This is a platform lookout likely from the 1920s. The second is the Henry West Fire Lookout. This lookout was intentionally destroyed years ago (I think 1970s, but I don't recall the exact date). Very little remains at the location of the former lookout. The forest determined it ineligible and we concurred. The forest was also considering some work at the Priscilla Lookout and reached out to our office for advice, but to the best of our knowledge this project was cancelled or postponed. Fish Wildlife Service was doing some rehab work at the CCC Lookout tower at Medicine Lake. They did some improvements to the steps to make the lookout more usable present day, but did not impact any of the architectural features of the lookout. The Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest might have a 106 project near Porphry Peak Lookout, an energy company wants to build a large equipment tower and we will be working with them to avoid adverse effects (likely visual effects) to the lookout. Perhaps the work at Priscilla will be restarted? My hope is that agencies will put some of the Great American Outdoors Act funding to restoring some lookouts, but I have not been told of a potential project. I'm not aware of any state lookout projects.</p>	
<p>Colorado</p>	<p>To my knowledge, we've only consulted on one fire lookout this past year. Rocky Mountain National Park has teamed with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and Anderson-Hallas Architects to complete a historic structure assessment for its Shadow Mountain Lookout (5GA300). The lookout was listed on the National Register on August 2, 1978 and this planning will inform future brick and mortar restoration. Dan Jackson is probably your best point of contact:</p>	
<p>South Dakota</p>	<p>Thank you for reaching out. We have not had any projects pertaining to fire lookouts in South Dakota come through for 106 consultation in the last year, and I am not aware of any lookout projects that would only be state actions. Our office has a very good relationship with the Black Hills National Forest, and they regularly keep us abreast of upcoming projects, including any lookout projects. I do see that some of the lookout locations within South Dakota are within the exterior boundaries of reservations. Tribal Historic Preservation Officers may have been consulted on lookout projects slated for Tribal lands.</p>	
<p>Michigan</p>	<p>Thanks for your inquiry. We have had no formal contact re: lookouts but there was an inquiry from the Huron-Manistee National Forest about the possibility of moving the Udell lookout tower, which is NR listed. No sure plans in the works, however.</p>	
<p>Tennessee</p>	<p>We listed one fire tower in the National Register of Historic Places. It was the Ripley Fire Lookout Tower on Joe Crihfield Road near Ripley in Lauderdale County. It was listed on March 9, 2020. We are currently in the process of nominating two more. They are the Chuck Swan Fire Lookout Tower on Main Forest Road near Sharps Chapel in Union County and the Twinton Fire Lookout Tower on Threet Road near</p>	<p>Since November 2019, we have review 2 Section 106 projects that concerned fire towers. One was a cell tower adjacent to the Jennings Knob Fire Tower in Watertown (Wilson County), the other was a cell tower near the Huntingdon Fire Tower in Huntingdon (Carroll County). We</p>

	Crawford in Overton County. Both are scheduled to be reviewed by our State Review Board at their January 2021 meeting, and we're hopeful they will be listed in early-to-mid 2021.	occasionally see fire tower for our state reviews as well, as they are often state property and the state has been reverting them and the land back to the original owners per their deeds. We have not reviewed one of these since 2018.
Georgia	2020 has been a year, so I can understand why its only been once! I'm not remembering which ones we have talked about before, but one of the ones we saw earlier this year is the rehab of the Oaky Woods WMA fire tower. It is all talk at this point, so nothing has been done, but it might come to fruition. If so, it would most likely run through the Office of the State Archaeologist, and not our office (just a heads up!).	
Pennsylvania	It was the "Big Flat Fire Tower Demolition" in the Michaux State Forest (ER 2020-0236-041). There was mitigation - drone photograph documentation.	
North Carolina	We have had no federal actions involving Fire Lookout Towers this year. And, I haven't heard from the NCFCS about any towers. I think they have slowed down a bit as their network of towers has pretty much been reduced to a minimum. Checking my records, I find that they have removed or sold 25 towers – 21 in 2017, 1 in 2019, 2 in 2016 and 1 in 2015. Some of the sales were for scrap. A few others were for private use, mostly hunting related. The problem is that our state preservation law only covers properties listed in the National Register and even then we can only recommend to the state agency that they find an alternative to demolition. Then, having gotten our recommendations, they do what they were planning to anyway. Sad, but true.	
South Carolina	We only had one request this year, it was for the Rosemary Fire Tower that is managed by Shaw AFB, see attached for their project review form and our response letter. We passed along the FFLA contact PDF and URL to Chip Ridgeway as a potential consulting party and he had emailed us backed that he tried to look up the Forest Fire Lookout Association's web page, but it appeared to be down. We also encouraged them to register the Rosemary Fire Tower on your list of towers. So it might be helpful to reach our directly to Mr. Ridgeway just so he has your contact information. His email information is in our response letter.	
New York	Based on a check of our online submission system it does not appear that any fire observation towers came to us for Section 106 reviews (or Section 14.09 of our state historic preservation act). We did, however, have one request from NYS DEC to evaluate the Graham Mountain Fire Observation Tower, Town of Hardenburgh, Ulster County. Based on the information provided by DEC we determined that this tower is NR eligible. DEC did not submit any associated work being done at this tower for our review; they simply asked for an evaluation of eligibility.	
Massachusetts	Since we last corresponded, no reviews were conducted by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for fire lookout towers. I continue to remind staff to copy you at the FFLA on any reviews involving fire lookout towers.	

Vermont	We didn't have any consultations for fire lookouts this year. There has been on and off talks about two lookouts, Spruce and Elmore, but the projects haven't officially been submitted or reviewed yet.	
Alabama	I can't remember any such projects but I will run a query of our database and ask folks in other departments so I can be sure. I'll let you know what I find out.	
Maine	Our Section 106 consultation database contains the following projects relating to fire towers that were reviewed in 2020: <a href="#">Fire tower Cab replacement Allagash Mtn</a> ; <a href="#">Fire tower platform replacement Round Pond Mtn</a> ; <a href="#">Fire Tower Cab replacement Debouille Mtn</a>	
Virginia	Thanks for reaching out. I can not find any record of DHR reviewing a project involving fire towers this year.	
Florida	I just checked our database and don't see any fire lookout projects.	