

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
State Historic Preservation Office – Liaison



2021 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 and electronics equipment moved to the new structure, the rehabilitation continued through 2021 and will now likely be done in 2022. FFLA worked with park staff to develop the new interpretive panels inside the lookout observation deck and the goal will be to have those installed in 2022.
Project Status: ONGOING
2. **Leviathan Peak LO (Humboldt-Toiyabe NF) #282** – Coordination has been ongoing with the H-T NF staff over what to do Leviathan Peak. As of fall 2021, the engineering assessment had been done and the initial determination was that the lookout, with adequate bracing, could be lifted via helicopter. Initial outreach was made to the California Army National Guard units on Stockton which operate CH-47 Chinook helicopters and the right estimate of \$20,000 was developed. The forest staff are waiting to hear from the state of California how much they had allocated for demolition work, but alternative plans are being developed such as skilled deconstruction. https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/86485_FSPLT2_128805.pdf
Project Status: ONGOING



3. **Wisconsin** – Wisconsin SHPO is no longer communitive. 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.
5. **Oregon** – The Deschutes and Umpqua National Forests have proposed removed a combined 7 lookouts. This is in addition to the 5 lookouts that the Malheur NF has had slated for removal for the past couple of years. Oregon SHPO is aware of the situation and coordination is ongoing. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59894>
6. **Missouri** – The state of Missouri is in the process of removing 13 state owned lookouts. Only has been determined to be eligible under historic guidelines. This action was forwarded onto the state/area chapter director.
7. **Montana** – Coordination with the Montana SHPO on the fate of Hogback lookout on the Helena-Lewis and Clark is ongoing while mitigation measures are being developed for the removal of Yager Butte lookout on the Custer-Gallatin NF.



8. **Tepee Lake lookout (Ottawa NF #311)** – Coordinated with the Ottawa NF, and John Miller, on the disposition of the Tepee Lake Lookout. As of last report, the Forest is leaning towards leaving the tower in place, fencing around it to secure safety of the public, doing some harvesting around the site to provide better viewing of the tower, and lastly installing a camera to folks can see the view from the tower.



OBJECTIVES FOR 2022:

- Continue annual coordination with SHPO staff at the top 30 offices.
- Send out status update email to 40 SHPOs.
- 2022 SHPO Coordination email has been sent.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Stetler

SHPO Liaison

JANUARY 2022 SHPO STATUS UPDATE

2021 SHPO Status Update	Contact(s)	STATUS
Texas	Justin Kockritz	
New Jersey	Lindsay Thivierge	
South Carolina	Elizabeth Johnson	
Idaho	Lindsay Johansson	
Washington	Holly Borth	
Michigan	Martha MacFarlane-Faes	Thank you. Happy new year to you as well. I will look into this and we will get back to you.
California	Susan Negrete, Brandon Greenway, Jeffrey Delsescaux	Brendon -- Nothing SoCal R5.
Pennsylvania	Emma Diehl and Cheryl Nagle	Barbara Frederick is now going to be the lead for our DCNR (state parks) and Forest Service (federal) compliance reviews -

		so I forwarded your email to her and she will respond.
Arizona	Mary-Ellen Walsh	I will look into this and get back to you. David has also retired.
Maine	Kirk Mohney	The Maine Historic Preservation Commission conducted one Section 106 consultation in 2021 that involved a fire lookout tower. This was a National Register of Historic Places eligibility assessment for the Littles Mountain Fire Tower, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge.
New York	Kathy Howe	Stabilization and Rehabilitation of the Vanderwhacker Mountain Fire Tower Observer Cabin. Reconstruction of a 49-foot tall fire tower, originally on Makomis Mountain, in the Village of Speculator's park as a public use for education and outdoor recreation.
Wisconsin	Daina Penkiunas	From Tyler - DNR is continuing with tower disposals. One of our members corresponded a bit with them last fall and from what he relayed to me most towers are being offered for public auction a minimum of twice. After that they will be demoed through a state contract, however the Legislature has to specifically allocate money in the budget for capital improvement projects (or disposals), so it may be some time before money is allocated. The state has a 2-year budget cycle and I don't know where they're at in it right now. So ultimately it could be years before some are removed. DNR did provide an

		updated spreadsheet showing current status of towers, which I've attached.
Wyoming	Brian Beadles	I searched our database for projects related to lookouts. I found two current projects that are ongoing. Both are listed as National Register or Condition Assessments for Pelican Cone Fire Lookout and Observation Peak Fire Lookout, both in Yellowstone.
Alabama	Amanda McBride	The only other fire tower that we have seen come through is the rehabilitation of the tower at Flagg Mountain
Virginia	Roger Kirchen	In checking our files and with review staff, I see no evidence that we reviewed any state or federal action pertaining to fire towers
Vermont	Yvonne Basque	The Division for Historic Preservation has been working with Forest, Parks and Recreation on safety improvements for fire towers. The work is not currently funded or reviewed under Section 106, but under Vermont State Law 22VSA. Otherwise, there is no other work on fire towers last year.
Nevada	Ashley Wiley	The Nevada SHPO has not received any Section 106 consultation regarding fire lookouts for FY21. Our office is not aware of any equivalent actions at the state level.
South Dakota	Jenna Dietmeier	Black Hills National Forest submitted Section 106 consultation on the proposed demolition of the garage and toilet at Bear Mountain. Black Hills National Forest proposed emergency repairs on the outhouse at the Custer Peak

		Lookout. Our office does have a Programmatic Agreement with the Black Hills National Forest, in which certain BHNF undertakings are exempt from Section 106 consultation under certain conditions
Georgia	Jennifer Dixon	We did receive a project at the end of the year (it hasn't been reviewed yet) for the Chenocetah Fire Tower on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.
Florida	Joe Bomberger and Mike Dubose	After searching through our database, the closest thing I found was one project for the Caladesi Island State Park - Discovery Center for a fire tower replacement with an observation tower.
New Mexico	Michelle Ensey	I checked our database and it doesn't appear that we had any consultations for fire lookouts in 2021.
West Virginia	Patricia Hutchins and Lora Lamarra	No projects related to lookout towers have come in for our review, not are we aware of any actions at the state level.
Montana	Laura Evilsizer and Eric Newcombe	Hogback is ongoing and Yager Butte has a signed MOA. The CGNF will need to nominate Poker Jim to the NR.
Missouri	Amanda Burke	This year we are still working with the Forest Service to ensure the mitigation for the loss of the National Register eligible Roby fire tower complex is complete. You may recall this project has been going on since 2015. For the mitigation they were supposed to complete a historic context or MPDF for fire towers on Forest Service land in Missouri. The original MOA which had been extended a few times

		expired in 2020 so we had to draft a new agreement document for the project. This version's language is more precise and hopefully will result in completion of the context soon. As to the MDC projects they are separate from the Forest Service projects. I did not see that we received anything on fire tower lookouts from MDC in our 2021 log
North Carolina	Renee Gledhill-earley	We have had no forest fire lookouts come in 2021 – neither federal or state.
Massachusetts	Ed Bell	In 2021, one review (federal and state) was conducted by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for a project on a fire lookout tower. It was for modification of the existing telecommunications equipment on the DCR's fire lookout tower at 1947 Route 6, Wellfleet, Mass. It wasn't an adverse effect so no consultation was conducted.
Colorado	Mark Tobias, Matt Marques	We do have one fire lookout project currently underway in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Park has submitted rehab plans for the Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout in Grand County (5GA.300). So far, we have only commented on the 95% plans. If you'd like to participate in consultation, I recommend contacting the Park cultural resource staff that I've listed below. I'll keep your contact and let you know if any other fire lookout projects come up.
Mississippi	Hal Bell	MDAH did not receive any projects in 2021 involving fire lookout towers. Thanks.

Tennessee	Rebecca Scmitt, Peggy Nickell, Casey Lee and Kelley Reid	As far as National Register goes, in 2021 we listed the Big Hill Fire Lookout Tower (Marion County), Twinton Fire Lookout Tower (Overton County), and the Chuck Swan Fire Lookout Tower (Union County). There were quite a few state reviews in 2021 that involved fire tower complexes. The state submitted for the demolition of buildings within six fire tower complexes. However, none of the fire tower themselves were proposed for demolition. I did not see any 106 projects concerning fire towers for 2021. However, there were two from recent years that never had a conclusion, so perhaps they will be pop back up soon. Jennings Knob Fire Tower and Kettle Foot Fire Tower.
Oregon	Jason Allen	Ongoing status of Deschutes and Umpqua NF disposal effort.