

# FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

## California-South Chapter



## 2018 Year-End Report

### CURRENT CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Scott McClintock, Director

### LOCAL FFLA CHAPTERS:

San Diego-Riverside

### AFFILIATES:

Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (Angeles NF)

Southern California Mountains Foundation (San Bernardino NF)

Hi Mountain Condor Lookout (Los Padres NF)

### PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. WEBSITE - Don Piller, the webmaster for San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter, volunteered to build a website for the California-South Chapter: ***firelookouthost.org***. The site is used to catalog and map this chapter's towers and maintain current status reports on each. It features links to the NHLR and the national website. It will also be used to post information regarding the 2019 Western Conference.  
Project Status: COMPLETE
2. LYONS PEAK LO (754) - In early spring, emergency stabilization funds were drawn to buy wood, bolts and paint to cover tower windows. Due to complex litigation, access can only be gained during the Cleveland National Forest's communications technician's infrequent trips to service repeaters on the peak. On 5/9/18, the materials were hauled up to the tower, and it's decomposing ceiling plywood was removed. NOTE: The sensitive litigation prohibits public discussion of this access.  
Project Status: PENDING
3. CHALONE PEAK LO (396) - Negotiations continued with the Pinnacles National Park Resources Manager to get permission to travel the private access road to inspect this tower. A date was set and I traveled to the park, however the manager was absent due to a family emergency. Inspection canceled. Weather has prevented subsequent arrangements.  
Project Status: PENDING

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4. CONE PEAK LO (1288) – Visited this lookout on 6/25/18, researched its history and submitted a nomination for the NHLR on 8/2/18. It was posted on the Register on 12/8/18. The structure is full of communications gear, and cannot be activated for fire detection.  
Project Status: CLOSED
5. CHEWS RIDGE LO (751) – Visited tower on 6/26/18 and submitted a visit report. Established e-mail communications with the Los Padres National Forest District Ranger and his Fire Management Officer about activating the tower with FFLA volunteers, however negotiations were delayed due to the state’s record-breaking fire season. On 12/6/18, I received a message from the Ranger that he was interested in continuing negotiations in 2019.  
Project Status: PENDING
6. CASTRO PEAK LO (1289) – Visited this lookout on 8/20/18, researched its history and submitted a nomination for the NHLR on 8/22/18. Castro Peak LO was relocated to a museum setting, and is not in position for fire detection. It was posted on the Register on 12/8/18.  
Project Status: CLOSED
7. On 9/6/18, I met with the managers of the Anza Electric Co-Op reference providing Internet connection to Red Mountain Lookout (Southern California Mountains Foundation) and potential donations to the San Diego-Riverside chapter.  
Project Status: REFERRED TO LOCAL CHAPTERS
8. 9/13/18-9/16/18 Attended the FFLA Western Conference in Packwood, Washington.
9. SID ORMSBEE LO (883) – On 9/18/18 I opened e-mail communications with the Monterey County Fire District regarding activating this tower, which sits on a privately controlled land conservancy. On 10/23/18 I was advised that the conservancy refuses to participate.  
Project Status: CLOSED
10. SMITH MOUNTAIN LO (884) – On 11/10/18 I explored the Smith Mountain environs but could not locate the access road. Conducted map research and will re-attempt next year.  
Project Status: PENDING

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**FINANCIAL ACTIVITY:**

Drew \$300 from an emergency stabilization grant, and \$200 from chapter funds for the Lyons Peak window protection project.

**OBJECTIVES FOR 2019:**

- Organize and host Western Conference, Oct 11-13
- 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 Chews Ridge LO.

**2018 Chapter Tower Statistics:**

Total lookout towers in chapter:	35
Counties in Chapter	10
Towers in active service:	11
Towers needing significant repairs	5
Towers hopelessly dilapidated	9
Towers converted to alternate function	7
Towers needing research/visit for status	2
Complete new tower under construction	1

Respectfully submitted,

Scott McClintock, Director  
California-South Chapter