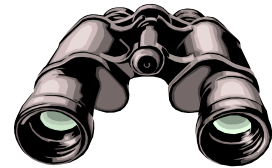


ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION



Eyes on the
forest!

Dear Contributor,

As you know, the fires of October 2003 were labeled the worst wildfire disaster in California's history. More than 14,500 firefighters stood up to the infernos that had ravaged 743,000 acres of brush and timber. The fires in Southern California obliterated 3,179 buildings, including 2,863 residences, and at least 105,000 people were forced from their homes.

Unfortunately the fires were responsible for killing 22 people.

The year before, on the 1st day of September 2002, another violent fire swept through the San Gabriel Mountains above foothill communities of Los Angeles County. This was called the "Curve Fire" and one of its ironic victims was an old Historic National Monument, the **South Mount Hawkins Fire Lookout Tower** located above the Crystal Lake Campgrounds.

Sitting outside in the Sun and wind, our lookout volunteers are returning to the summit of South Mount Hawkins with a radio, binoculars, and a map for the 2004 fire season, just as fire lookouts have done in the past. It is that important we keep our "eyes on the forest".

Fire Lookout Towers are making a come back. Many fires are reported by cell phone, and patrolling rangers, but Fire Lookout Towers can often report a fire in back country areas before they are detected from the highways. Towers also are remote outposts for hikers.

In these ages of reduced or limited funding, trained volunteers staff the Fire Lookout Towers and as such, they offer more "eyes on the forest" for very little cost.

Considering the vast expenses and losses from the 2002-2003 California Fires, we ask that you consider donating to help these volunteers keep their "eyes on the forest."

Your 501(c)(3) tax-deductible donation will be used to help rebuild the **South Mount Hawkins Fire Lookout Tower** that was lost in the 2002 Curve Fire. With your help, the tower will be rebuilt and again staffed by volunteer lookouts.

The **South Mount Hawkins Fire Tower** will offer protection to the communities of Azusa, Duarte, Glendora, Monrovia, and San Dimas. Even the mountain communities of Big Pine, Mt. Baldy Village, and Wrightwood will benefit from the tower.

Please help us keep more "eyes on the forest" with your donation. Your donation will make a difference.

Thank you,

Charles P. White

Public Relations Lead &

Volunteer Fire Lookout Operator

Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association