



Division of  
Forest Protection

**2008 ANNUAL REPORT**



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## LETTER from the DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the *2008 Annual Report of the New York State Forest Rangers*. Our role as protectors of state land and the people who use these lands is a critical responsibility, and we offer this report to the public, our fellow agencies and division members to highlight our achievements during the past year. Within these pages, you will see how we have applied our unique training and skills to an array of law enforcement, search and rescue, wildland fire and emergency management problems. Along with reports from our individual work units, you will also find, in tabular form, a record of statewide activity that has been conducted by forest rangers throughout the year.

I would like to thank our division members who dedicated time to the thorough and accurate collection of data and narratives presented herein. Special thanks to DEC's Division of Public Affairs and Education who provided editing, graphics and publishing support.

The national economic downturn has brought unique challenges, but I am committed to continued and improved public service, accomplishing the division's mission and supporting the department's objectives. I commend our rangers, seasonal employees, support staff and volunteers for their many accomplishments and sincere dedication.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rinaldi  
Division Director

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**Division of Forest Protection**  
**2008 Annual Report**  
**Statewide Highlights**

The Division of Forest Protection (forest rangers) is responsible for protecting 4.5 million acres of state-owned and department-managed lands and easements. Nearly three million acres are in the Adirondack Park alone, but every region of the state has substantial state land resources. Forest rangers have 122 years of law enforcement history protecting public lands and the people who use the state's natural resources.

The division's forest rangers continue their historic tradition of being the "eyes and ears" for the department regarding public use of state lands. The direct professional contact rangers make with state land users is an essential service for both residents and visitors to the state. The information rangers provide helps enhance people's enjoyment and safety, while protecting the land resources from which we all benefit. This public service role is a 365-day responsibility for every ranger. Historically, summer hiking/camping and fall hunting seasons were the primary periods of state-land use. However, in recent years, the use of state lands has expanded throughout the entire year, with summer and fall weekends as peak-use periods. Rangers use the Leave No Trace Program as a means of promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation on public lands through education, research and partnerships. Rangers issued 2,204 camping permits to groups of 10 or more or to any group staying at one site for more than three nights. Throughout the year, rangers inspected or patrolled the department's 60 public campgrounds 2,228 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during the off-season. Routine patrols included 82,429 inspections of trailhead access points and inspection of 2,728 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

Continuing a trend of several years, the most problematic activity encountered by rangers was the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles on state land. In 2008, forest rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 763 violations involving ATVs. Another 159 violations involved the unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land. Rangers executed enforcement actions in response to another 866 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in rangers making 275 arrests for illegal possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years of age. Ranger patrols have been most crucial on weekends when state-land use is most intense and the majority of violations occur.

An important part of protecting the people who use New York's natural resources is wildland search and rescue. The need often arises to find and rescue lost or injured people in wild or remote locations. Throughout 2008, the division fulfilled its traditional responsibility of assisting, rescuing and comforting hundreds of people. Forest rangers have always provided search-and-rescue response in the Adirondack and Catskill parks. During the last four decades, this service has expanded to all wildland areas of the state. In rural areas, local emergency services are insufficient to effectively find a lost hiker or rescue an injured person in a remote area. In urban and suburban areas, local services are available but generally not trained or experienced in wildland search or back-country rescue techniques. New York's forest rangers

are nationally known and respected for their search-and-rescue work and are even asked to teach agencies and volunteer groups from other states.

In 2008, forest rangers conducted 149 search missions, 92 rescues and four recoveries. Seventy-eight percent (191) of these incidents occurred on state lands. Most of them were resolved in one or two days, but several searches went on for a week or more, incurring thousands of hours of search time. Although hikers are the group most often reported lost or injured, people suffering from dementia or mental illness are often the most difficult to find. Rescue and recovery missions are frequently complicated by the nature of wildland recreational activity. Ice-climbing rescue requires special training and equipment. White-water boating activities require rangers to prepare for fast-moving water rescue, sometimes in the most remote and inaccessible areas of the state. Snowmobiling accidents require rangers to be prepared to treat potentially serious injuries in cold weather and remote locations. The prevailing motto within the division, "If it was easy, someone else would do it," reflects the nature and complexity of search-and-rescue missions conducted by forest rangers. In 2006, the division added two new airboats to its fleet of three to support flooding, whitewater and ice rescues or recoveries.

Considerable time and effort goes into preparing for search-and-rescue missions. Rangers train emergency-service agencies and volunteer groups to work with them during incidents. Together, they maintain positive relationships and continually improve the search-and-rescue program. In 2008, rangers presented 33 NYS "Basic Wildland Search" courses to 691 participants. Another 84 presentations, covering wilderness first aid, advanced search-and-rescue training and incident management were given to 4,021 participants in support of local and division response to incidents statewide.

An important part of protecting public lands, as well as privately-owned forest lands, is wildfire management. New York State has 18.4 million acres of public and private forest lands that are susceptible to seasonal wildfires. The division is the state's lead agency for the control and prevention of wildfires. In 2008, forest rangers reported 157 wildfires which burned a total of 3,634 acres. During the last 25 years, rangers responded to an average of 310 wildfires per year burning an average total of 2,850 acres per year. Although 2008 was well below average in the number of fires, one fire alone burned 2,855 acres. On April 17, a fire that would be named Overlooks Fire began in the Minnewaska State Park in the Town of Rochester, Ulster County. Extremely dry conditions combined with highly flammable woodlands on this mountaintop park prevented the fire from being readily contained. For four days, rangers and hundreds of volunteer firefighters, state park rangers and law enforcement officers worked at safeguarding the communities of Kerhonkson and Cragmoor (Town of Wawarsing) by using aggressive firefighting tactics, road closures and some evacuations. By the end of the fire, \$223,000 was spent to support the multi-agency effort, but no homes were lost, and only one firefighter was seriously injured.

Although the Overlooks Fire was a major wildland fire, New York's history proves that very large and destructive wildfires can and do occur. In 1908, the Forest, Fish and Game Commission reported 605 fires had burned a total of 396,298 acres of forest land across New York. The most damaging fire that year was the 30,000-acre fire that completely destroyed the Village of West Long Lake (now known as Sabattis) in northern Hamilton County. The extreme

dry and windy weather of September 27, 1908 caused this fire--which began 18 days earlier--to escape initial control and burn eight miles north to Cranberry Lake in St. Lawrence County. All the buildings in West Long Lake, along with a lumberyard and 30 railroad cars were destroyed. Seventy residents escaped without any loss of human life but the total loss of property was estimated at \$130,000 (approximately \$2.8 million in 2008 dollars). In contrast, the 2008 Overlooks Fire had the potential to burn a similar amount of acreage and destroy millions in property but was contained by the application of more than 100 years of experience and technology.

The division's wildfire management role requires considerably more time than that which is spent extinguishing fires. Similar to the search-and-rescue program, significant time and energy is focused on preventing fires from occurring and preparing for fire suppression. Forest rangers instructed the 12-hour NYS Basic Wildland Fire Suppression Course on 23 occasions, teaching 393 volunteer firefighters the basics of wildfire suppression. On five occasions, rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 78 firefighters, state employees, students and volunteers completed this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 40 training sessions to 873 firefighters, emergency-service personnel and volunteers in advanced firefighting or incident-command management. The division relies heavily on NYS Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) inmate crews for "mop-up" of controlled fires. Rangers gave seven four-hour training sessions to 326 inmates. Through advanced training of corrections officers, this course will be taught by DOCS staff in the future.

The best way to reduce wildfire occurrence is to prevent fires from starting. Rangers gave 100 prevention presentations to 122,296 people. Many of these events were large gatherings such as the state and county fairs where Smokey Bear appears with a ranger. Smokey continues to be the most recognized symbol of fire prevention in the world. Of the 157 wildfires extinguished by the division in 2008, rangers attributed only five fires to the actions of children. This statistic stands as a tribute to the effectiveness of the 65-year Smokey Bear campaign at preventing wildfires started by children.

Debris burning, unextinguished campfires and arson are the three leading categories of human-caused wildfires in New York State. As a means of preventing debris fires, rangers and their permit-issuing agents issued 11,998 burning permits as required by the NYS Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 622 of the permitted burns to insure compliance with the terms of the permits. In addition, they issued tickets or made arrests for 112 violations of law related to fire prevention. The most frequent violation was burning without a permit in towns within the Adirondack and Catskill parks. Department burning permits are not required in other areas of the state. For the sixth year, seasonally-employed assistant forest rangers (AFR) were required to discuss campfire safety with campers during their patrols in 2008. This increased focus on preventing wildfires through campfire awareness contributed to a continued reduction in the occurrence of backcountry wildfires. Only 11 campfire-caused wildfires, burning a total of 12 acres, were extinguished and reported by rangers in 2008.

In 2008, the division mobilized two 20-person firefighting crews to California wildfires as part of its cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service. For each crew, a forest ranger acted as

crew boss and three other rangers served as squad bosses. The other 16 members were forest rangers, other DEC employees and department volunteer firefighters. NYS Crew #2 was sent to the Basin Complex Wildland Fire at the Los Padres National Forest, and Crew #3 was sent to the Bear Wallow Complex and Panther Fire at Klamath National Forest. In June, Crew #1 was mobilized to a fire in the White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire but was cancelled en route to that incident. This was another busy year for rangers supporting federal wildland firefighting efforts since New York sent its first crews in 1979.

In 2008, forest rangers maintained their working relationship with the department's Division of Lands and Forests and Division of Fish and Wildlife to use prescribed fire as an ecosystem management tool. Throughout the year, rangers conducted 14 prescribed fires on departmental state lands, burning a total of 174 acres. Rangers also assisted federal and county partners and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with seven prescribed burns on their properties, treating 37 acres in total.

Each year, the division administers the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program, using funds provided by the US Forest Service. VFA grants assist rural volunteer fire departments with the purchase of fire-suppression equipment and supplies. In 2008, 401 qualifying fire departments received VFA grants of \$1,000 each. Not only does this program place much needed dollars in the hands of rural fire departments, it also furthers the solid working relationship between forest rangers and the volunteer firefighter service.

Forest rangers provide several support activities to other programs within the department, other state agencies and local governments throughout New York State. They assisted other agencies with emergency incidents on 463 occasions in 2008. Many were automobile accidents at which a ranger came upon the scene. Others included fugitive searches, fire-scene traffic control, evidence searches, drownings and marijuana-plantation eradication. Because rangers are considered experts in the National Incident Management System Incident Command Systems (NIMS ICS), they often are called upon to teach courses on these topics at police academies, county government centers and local fire departments.

The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2008, there was a total of 2,066 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 207 new licenses and 312 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 338 guide license checks statewide and made three arrests for guiding without a license. No guides had their licenses revoked for being convicted of committing violations of New York's Environmental Conservation Law in 2008.

The division's *2008 Annual Report* includes summary tables of reportable data on wildfire occurrence, prescribed fire, search-and-rescue missions, arrests or tickets issued, public presentations and general activities. Most summaries are reported at the division's zone level. A zone is identified as the smallest work group under the direct command of a division supervisor. There are 17 division zones in the state, each within a department region. Each zone supervisor has provided a narrative review of activities within their zone as part of the division's annual report. All summaries are substantiated by data reporting at the region, zone or individual ranger level. A fact sheet on 2008 forest ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

# 2008 FOREST RANGER DIVISION FACT SHEET

## Division Members

- 106 Forest Rangers
- 28 Forest Ranger Lieutenants, Captains & Directors
- 31 Seasonal Assistant Forest Rangers
- 4 Administrative Support Staff
- 2 Fire Cache Equipment Specialists

## State Lands & Easements Acres

- 2,814,611 Adirondack & Catskill Forest Preserve
- 775,924 State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple Use Areas
- 197,886 Wildlife Management Areas
- 667,113 Conservation Easements

## 2006 Population (in millions)

- 19.3 New York State
- 31.7 Surrounding States (VT,MA,CT,NJ,PA)

## Wildfire Management Program

- 133 Fires Suppressed in the Spring
- 15 Fires Suppressed in the Summer
- 9 Fires Suppressed in the Fall
- 3,634 Acres Burned
  - 21 Prescribed Fires
  - 211 Acres of Prescribed Fire
- 11,998 Burning Permits Issued
- 622 Burning Permits Inspected
- 75 Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events;
  - 1,670 Participants
- 100 Fire Prevention Events;
  - 122,296 Attendees
- 112 Fire Prevention Law Violations/Tickets
- 401 \$1,000 Grants to Rural VFDs
  - 2 20-Person Crews Mobilized to Western Wildfires

## Search & Rescue Program

- 149 Search Missions
- 92 Rescue Missions
- 4 Recoveries
- 117 Search & Rescue or 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Training Events; 4,712 Participants

## Protection of State Lands & State Resources

- 82,429 Inspections of Trailheads/Access Points
- 24,502 Miles of Trails Walked or Waterways paddled (canoe/kayak)
- 14,006 Inspections of Occupied Campsites
- 2,204 State Land Camping Permits Issued
- 2,728 Miles of State Boundary Line Inspected
- 1,229 State Land Use Permits Inspected
- 2,228 Patrols of DEC Public Campgrounds
  - 763 ATV Violation Tickets Issued
- 1,300 State Land Offense Tickets/Arrests
  - 333 Offenses related to Snowmobile Use
  - 319 Fish & Wildlife Offenses Tickets
  - 265 Other EnCon or Other Law Offenses
  - 760 DEC Permit Inspections

## Licensed Guide Program

- 2,066 Licensed Guides on 12/31/08
- 207 New Guide Licenses Issued
- 312 Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated
- 0 Guide Licenses Revoked
- 338 Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials
- 3 License Guide Violations Ticketed

## Other

- 463 Incidents of Assisting other Agencies

## How Rangers Spent Their Time In 2008

- 51% State Land Patrol & Enforcement
- 14% Fire Management Activities
- 12% Search & Rescue Missions & Training
- 22% Administrative Responsibilities
- 1% Other Responsibilities

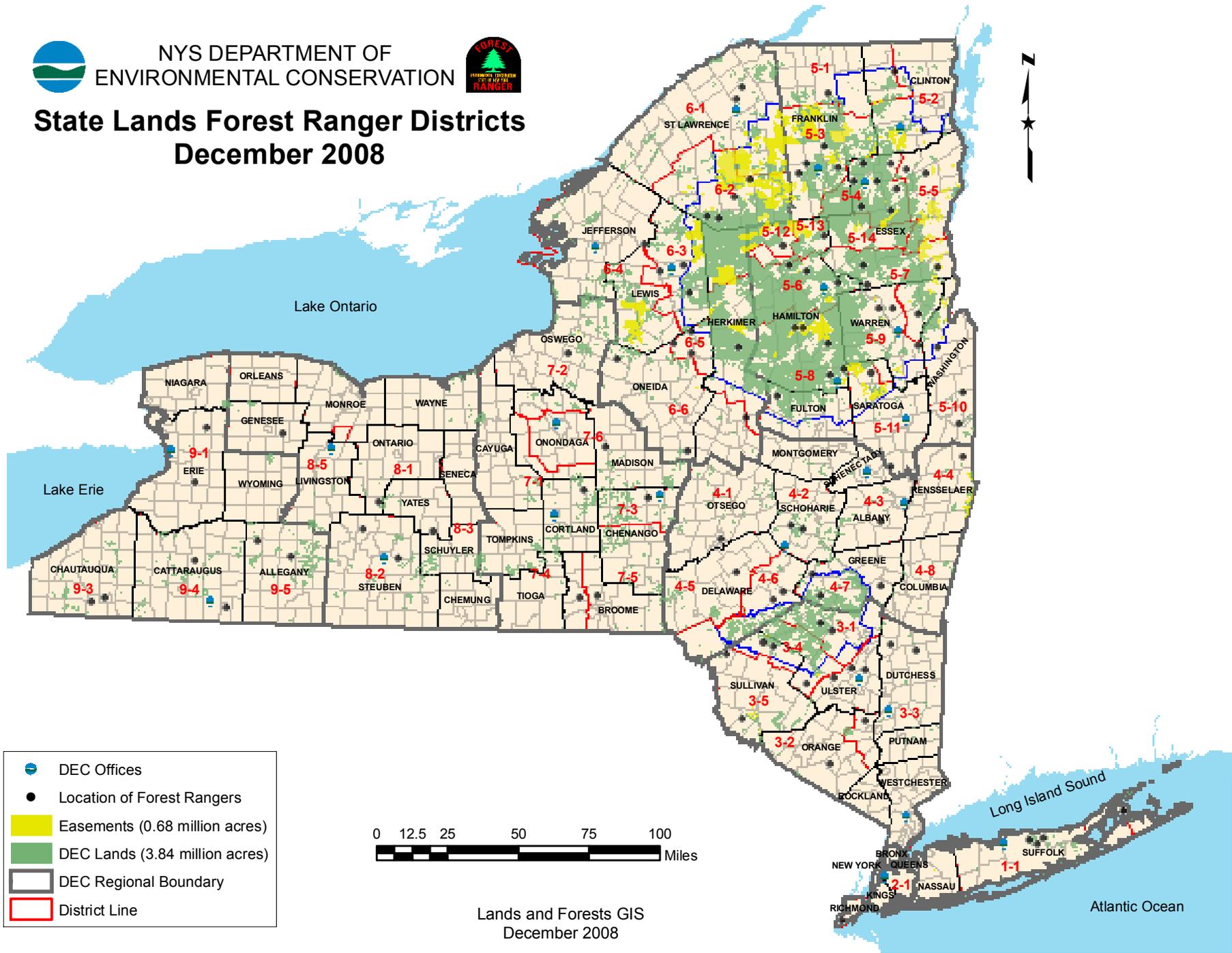
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NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



# State Lands Forest Ranger Districts December 2008



- DEC Offices
- Location of Forest Rangers
- Easements (0.68 million acres)
- DEC Lands (3.84 million acres)
- DEC Regional Boundary
- District Line



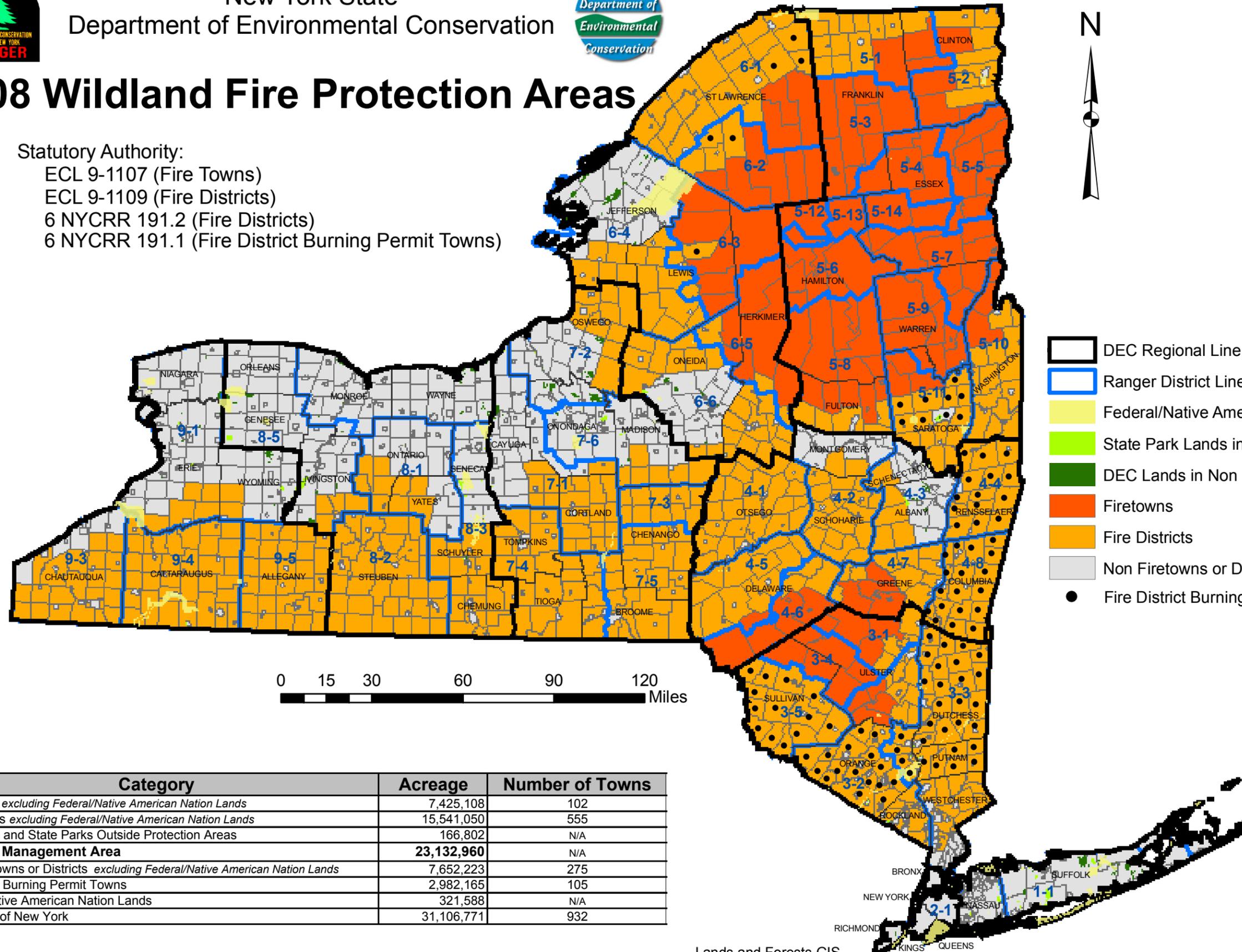
Lands and Forests GIS  
December 2008



# 2008 Wildland Fire Protection Areas

Statutory Authority:

- ECL 9-1107 (Fire Towns)
- ECL 9-1109 (Fire Districts)
- 6 NYCRR 191.2 (Fire Districts)
- 6 NYCRR 191.1 (Fire District Burning Permit Towns)



- DEC Regional Line
- Ranger District Line
- Federal/Native American Nation Lands
- State Park Lands in Non Fire Towns or Districts
- DEC Lands in Non Fire Towns or Districts
- Firetowns
- Fire Districts
- Non Firetowns or Districts
- Fire District Burning Permit Towns

Category	Acreage	Number of Towns
Fire Towns <i>excluding Federal/Native American Nation Lands</i>	7,425,108	102
Fire Districts <i>excluding Federal/Native American Nation Lands</i>	15,541,050	555
DEC Lands and State Parks Outside Protection Areas	166,802	N/A
<b>Total Fire Management Area</b>	<b>23,132,960</b>	N/A
Non Fire Towns or Districts <i>excluding Federal/Native American Nation Lands</i>	7,652,223	275
Fire District Burning Permit Towns	2,982,165	105
Federal/Native American Nation Lands	321,588	N/A
<b>Total State of New York</b>	<b>31,106,771</b>	<b>932</b>

## REGIONAL AND PROGRAM NARRATIVES



### Regions 1 & 2 Captain Tim Byrnes

Region 1 comprises two counties: Suffolk and Nassau, and Region 2 comprises the five boroughs of New York City: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. Both regions 1 and 2 comprise one forest ranger working unit or administrative “zone.” The entire zone comprises 1,501 square miles, with a population of 11 million people. The department owns 19,899 acres of land and easements throughout this area. The zone has five rangers, with four rangers assigned to Region 1 and one assigned to Region 2. One regional captain supervises the entire zone.

Every search, rescue or recovery event is handled with great care and perseverance. On January 23, Rangers Michael Thompson and Kevin Slade were requested to coordinate a search for a missing person, Ian Magilloway, 33, of Huntington Station, at the Office of State Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (OPR&HP or “state parks”) Planting Fields Arboretum in Nassau County. Both rangers coordinated and supported a well-organized search of a 409-acre area resulting in recovery of Mr. Magilloway’s



Students at the NY Wildfire and Incident Management Academy learning the techniques of felling trees with a chainsaw.

body by a volunteer search team. The same two rangers also were called out on May 29 to assist in recovering the body of Richard Olson, 49, of Ridge, who suffered a fatal heart attack while bike riding in the Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area, Suffolk County.

On February 17, Ranger Kevin Slade witnessed a vehicle illegally operating in the Peconic River Headwaters Natural Resource Management Area. Ranger Slade also noticed that the vehicle did not display a license plate. As he watched, two men began stripping an abandoned vehicle for parts and hid those parts in the woods. John Wellbrook, 23, of Calverton and Timothy Goetz, 22, of Medford were charged with depositing rubbish on state land, operating an uninsured, unregistered and uninspected vehicle and operating an unauthorized motor vehicle on state lands.



Rangers using a NY National Guard helicopter to remove an abandoned vehicle from state land in Suffolk County.

Responding to a tip on November 21, rangers Thompson and Slade patrolled the Nugent Management Area and found 50 cultivated, partially harvested marijuana plants. A quick call to the Suffolk County Police Department Narcotics Unit resulted in the joint removal and transfer of the plants. An earlier enforcement case that was developed from finding fertilizer and water bottles in the adjacent state land area was given to the narcotics unit, resulting in a potential suspect.

One of the biggest enforcement cases this year resulted in Anthony V. Ferrantello, of AVF Development Corporation, Garden City, admitting to illegally disposing of construction debris on state land. Rangers Thompson and Michael Burkholder had witnessed a truck dumping a 30-cubic-yard container full of construction debris onto the Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve in the Town of Babylon in late December 2007. Following the initial investigation, rangers Thompson and Slade investigated other dump piles on the property and were able to include a total of 38 piles of debris in the charges and penalties. The development company completed a subsequent cleanup by November 2008.

Although most state forest rangers work in rural or wilderness locations, Ranger Howard Thomes is assigned to Mount Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island, New York City. With a sharp eye for the problems that occur in the city-park environment, Thomes responded to a complaint at Mount Loretto and discovered a man disturbing some anglers. After a brief interview with the subject, Thomes determined he was intoxicated while operating his vehicle. Thomes, along with assistance from NYPD officers from the 123<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, arrested Jonathan Argenziano, 33, of Richmond County and charged him with driving while intoxicated. He had a blood-alcohol content of 0.136.



Ranger Howard Thomes with marihuana plants seized from state lands on Staten Island.

While on patrol July 9, Ranger Thomes discovered a person stripping an abandoned auto for parts in the wooded section of North Mount Loretto Woods. With assistance by NYPD officers, the suspect, William

Cavanaugh, 42, of Richmond County was charged with possession of burglars' tools and auto stripping in the third degree.

Even though Ranger Thomes is usually focused on enforcement-related matters, he also makes time to bring the message of education and prevention to children and adults throughout the New York City region. During one event, Thomes taught 200 students from Grover Cleveland High School (Ridgewood, Queens) about a career as a forest ranger. At another event, Thomes informed 300 visitors about woodland safety during the National Kids Safe Night Out at Midland Beach, Staten Island. And no child or adult was left disappointed when he brought Smokey Bear to the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan during the Ad Council's main event. Whether it is meeting people on the trail or passing out safety and recreation information at an event, Ranger Thomes always finds his work rewarding.



**Region 3, Zone A  
Lt. Stephen M. Scherry**

Zone A, the westernmost zone in Region 3, comprises all of Sullivan County and the western portion of Ulster County. Nearly all state land holdings designated "forest preserve" in Region 3 are located in Zone A—a total of 170,048 acres. The two wilderness areas, Slide Mountain and Big Indian, comprise more than 81,000 acres of that forest preserve total. Another 24,136 acres are spread across dozens of separate parcels of state forest, wildlife management areas and unique areas. In addition, 6,431 acres comprise land easements, for a grand total of 200,629 acres of state lands within this zone. Seven rangers, four seasonally employed assistant forest rangers (AFRs) and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

Policing of the four DEC campgrounds kept rangers busy on most summer-weekend evenings. Campground staff were always grateful for ranger presence late into the night. Lt. Robert Morse of Region 4 assisted Region

3 rangers with a radar detail at Mongaup Pond Campground, enforcing the posted 15 mph speed limit within the largest of the region's four campgrounds.



Ranger Gary Miller assisting DEC Wildlife staff with tagging bears in Sullivan County.

During Memorial Day weekend, rangers organized and managed the massive search effort to find missing four-year-old Daniel Niktalova, who was vacationing with family at their summer home near Yulan, Sullivan County. The far-reaching investigation included New York State Police, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York City Police Department and the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Lt. Paul Rinaldi was on the scene as the division's liaison officer for the entire duration, while Ranger David Meade was incident commander, directing the efforts of more than 100 people. The child was located the following morning by the Type III crew assigned to search blocks within the designated search area. Although he was in good shape, he was transported to a local hospital for medical evaluation as a precaution. Subsequent to the successful search, Lt. Rinaldi was invited to the statewide law-enforcement ceremony at the New York State Fair in Syracuse to receive recognition from Senator Hillary Clinton.

Rangers swiftly responded to a call for help on August 20 to find a missing six-year-old girl who had been playing behind her family's vacation home in the Town of Shandaken, Ulster County. Soon more than 100 people and law-enforcement officers from surrounding areas were on hand to help in the search effort. Within hours, the little girl was

found safe and sound by a roving perimeter patrol. A contributing factor to the quick, successful conclusion to this search was the swift response by and support of environmental conservation officers in regions 3 and 4.



**Region 3, Zone B**  
**Lt. Paul Rinaldi**

Zone B is in the center of the Hudson Valley region and is considerably influenced by people from New York City (NYC) who commute to work or spend their weekends in these suburbs and rural areas. Most of the large-parcel wildlands are owned by State Parks and non-governmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute, Mohonk Preserve and others who provide significant outdoor recreation. Forest rangers provide a presence on much of these publically used tracts through joint training and response to emergencies. Rangers protect 22,093 acres of state lands and easements administered by DEC. Seven rangers, one seasonal AFR and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.



Burning-out fire operations on the Overlooks Fire in Minnewaska State Park along Route 44-55 in Ulster County

Stewart State Forest in Orange County and various other parcels throughout Dutchess, Putnam and eastern Ulster counties provide the public with a variety of wildland recreational opportunities. While hunting

remains consistent from year to year, mountain biking and unlawful all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) use of these state lands continue to soar. DLE off-road patrols routinely protect these areas from unlawful ATV use. New regulations for Stewart State Forest were enacted in the fall, and rangers Benjamin Baldwin and Jacob DesLauriers spent a lot of time patrolling there to ensure that they were followed. Consequently, Stewart State Forest had no major incidents, fatalities or otherwise disrupting occurrences in 2008.



Night fire operations on the Taconic Fire in Dutchess County.

Most notable this past year was the 2855-acre Overlooks fire that burned primarily across Minnewaska State Park Preserve in the towns of Rochester and Wawarsing, Ulster County. After it was reported at noon on April 17, rangers, park staff and several local volunteer fire departments responded. Upon arriving at the scene, rangers and firefighters witnessed extreme fire behavior in the pitch pine-oak forest despite little or no wind. All attempts to contain this fire were unsuccessful on the first day, and by the end of April 18, the uncontained fire had spread to more than 1,000 acres. Due to the large expanse of remote parkland and the unique nature of fuels within the park and surrounding Shawangunk Ridge mountain top, DEC deployed a Type 2 incident management team (IMT) comprising rangers, state, county and local emergency- response organizations. Rangers from across the state and hundreds of volunteers worked tirelessly for several days,

finally declaring the fire contained seven days after it began. State police aviation and NY Air National Guard helicopters provided the much-needed air support for this remote operation.

The Overlooks fire was not the only wildfire to occur in the Hudson Valley during the exceptionally dry weeks of late April. The IMT developed strike teams to combat any serious wildfire that might occur in the seven-county region. On April 24, a team was sent to Bear Mountain State Park in northern Rockland County. Aggressive tactics, night-long firefighting operations and an early-morning dousing by helicopter water buckets contained this fire to seven acres, preventing it from turning into another major fire.

Ranger Robert Mecus continues his outstanding efforts in promoting the FireWise Communities concept throughout fire-prone areas along the Shawangunk Ridge. His efforts have helped TNC promote federally approved community wildfire protection plans (CWPP) in the towns of Wawarsing and Rochester, and he has met with community leaders to encourage homeowners to keep their property safe from wildfire. Mecus' efforts are the primary reason the communities were well prepared when the Overlooks fire occurred.

Ranger Megan McCone has continued her involvement with DEC's sustainability forums that promote better approaches to natural resource and energy use in business, governmental and personal applications. She brings a high degree of expertise and background to this important department initiative and regularly contributes to material and program development. In addition to her efforts with sustainability projects, Ranger McCone readily shares her extensive GIS capabilities on wildland searches. She also worked closely with the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) during the Overlooks fire, producing real-time, accurate mapping for fire managers and public information.



## Region 4, Zone A Lt. Darryl Kittle

Region 4, Zone A consists of Rensselaer, Columbia, Albany, Schenectady and Greene counties and constitutes an area of 2,686 square miles, with a population of 705,000 people. Within these counties are approximately 124,500 acres of DEC-



Region 4 rangers practicing mountain rescue techniques.

administered lands, managed under ten different land classifications. The zone includes two wilderness areas (37,411 acres), five wild forests (42,902 acres), two DEC public campgrounds (760 acres) and 15 detached parcels of forest preserve (447 acres). Throughout the five-county zone, there are 27,691 acres in 18 different state forests. Rangers also patrol the 1,851 acres of the Hudson River National Estuaries Research Reserve, 51 acres in scenic areas, 2,751 acres within the Albany Pine Bush Preserve (APB) and 10,336 acres of wildlife management area property on eight parcels. Finally, there is also a 435-acre environmental education center in Delmar, Albany County. Division personnel in the zone consists of six forest rangers, one lieutenant forest ranger and up to four assistant forest rangers in the summer months.

State land acquisitions in 2008 consisted of seven parcels totaling 730 acres. Three of these acquisitions added acreage to existing DEC lands in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and the Beebe Hill State Forest in Columbia County. Middle Ground Flats, a 213-acre island, contains dozens of rustic structures and camps. Forest rangers posted notices on these structures indicating that they will be removed in the coming year by DEC staff. Another

land acquisition along the Hudson River corridor included the 311-acre Livingston property, which provides some excellent upland game and deer-hunting habitat.

Rangers patrolled DEC's North/South Lake and Devil's Tombstone campgrounds on most weekends during the summer months, holiday weekends and during events at the nearby Hunter Mountain Ski area. They responded to at least ten complaints throughout the summer at the North/South Lake Campground. Complaints included non-compliance of quiet hours, cutting trees, harassment and at least one incident of a camper shooting a BB gun at a campsite. Sixty-three tickets were issued at the campgrounds for various violations to campground rules and regulations. Three Zone A rangers received certification in radar operation, resulting in 36 violations for speeding in the campgrounds, a very serious risk to staff and campers alike.



Ranger Karen Glesmann with Smokey Bear at the State Fair.

Rangers were both persistent and successful in breaking up underage drinking parties on state lands in 2008. Rangers Glesmann and Breigle responded to a complaint of a party in the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area in Albany County. Upon arrival, they found four people camping and drinking beer from a keg. Three of the subjects were underage and were issued tickets for unlawful possession of alcohol, and all were ticketed for illegal camping. In Columbia County, Ranger DiCintio had staked out an area for several weeks in Harvey Mountain State Forest where there were signs of past alcohol parties. On Sunday, June 8, he encountered a party primarily consisting of college students from

Massachusetts. Six were ticketed for underage possession of alcohol. On July 4 in Rensselaer County, Ranger Hess encountered 11 underage people drinking in the Taconic Ridge State Forest and ticketed all of them. Finally, Ranger Hess had staked out an area where subjects were burning wire for salvage. On April 14, two suspects were caught burning wire and camping illegally, resulting in six tickets being issued. These focused patrols and enforcement actions significantly decreased underage drinking activity on those state lands for the remainder of the year.

Forest Rangers were involved in three search incidents that resulted in recovery of deceased hikers or campers, including Akiho Miyashiro, an 87-year old University of Albany geology professor. Professor Miyashiro was last seen by his wife on July 22 as he walked near a popular overlook in Thatcher State Park, Albany County. OPR&HP officials asked rangers to organize a search, which involved nearly a dozen agencies during two days of continuous heavy rain. Miyashiro's body was located on July 24 by a crew of rangers using a Type 1 search technique along the base of the cliffs. Rangers then assisted with a high-angle extraction of Miyashiro's body. It was later determined that Miyashiro had been hiking off-trail along the edge of a cliff at dusk and had slipped and fallen to his death. Another search involved missing 18-year old, William Dunn in the Town of Catskill, Green County. Dunn was camping with friends on May 11 at the Holcim Gravel Bank and had left the campsite following an argument. When he didn't return, local fire and police were called, and forest rangers were requested to assist with planning and conducting a ground search. The incident involved nearly 50 personnel from seven different agencies. The following morning, a state police dive team found Dunn's body at the bottom of a quarry pond. The third incident involved the recovery of 59-year-old hiker, Terry Finger. On June 11, three other hikers found Mr. Finger's body on the Pecoy Notch Trail between Sugarloaf and Indian Head mountains, Greene County. There were no apparent signs of foul play, and rangers assisted a state police helicopter with extraction of the body.

The zone experienced an active, four-week fire season this April. Rangers were called to coordinate helicopter water-bucket drops on two fires in Albany County. The first was a six-acre fire that originated from a railroad track and was difficult for volunteer firefighters to access. The second was an intense 47-acre fire caused by debris burning in Rensselaerville and threatening nearby homes. For both fires, rangers organized local firefighters and coordinated water-bucket drops with great success. Prevailing wet weather throughout much of the year prevented several attempts at prescribed burns in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.



**Region 4, Zone B  
Lt. Rob Morse**

Region 4, Zone B consists of Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie and Montgomery counties and encompasses 3,504 square miles. The zone comprises three wild forest areas totaling 34,810 acres, 14 state forest units covering 76,125 acres, four wildlife management areas totaling 7,352 acres and 9 detached forest preserve parcels covering 5,000 acres. It includes two DEC-administered campgrounds and a forest ranger field station at the Huckleberry Brook Storage Facility. The zone is staffed with one lieutenant, six forest rangers and one seasonally employed assistant forest ranger.



Ranger Tom Edmunds with full pack on search mission.

On March 12, Ranger Ian Kerr noticed two men traveling on ATVs down State Route 8 in Leonardsville, Madison County. As Kerr passed them, he realized that one was being towed by the other. When Kerr stopped to ask whether they needed assistance, they drove into the

next driveway, got off their ATVs and walked toward the house. Kerr got out of his vehicle to question the men when one of them said he lived at that residence. As the two men continued up the driveway, the owner of the house came out and told both men to leave. One of them yelled at the homeowner and when Kerr went to question him, the man became combative. As Kerr attempted to make an arrest, the man resisted and grabbed Kerr. Kerr subsequently took control of the subject, while the homeowner contacted state police. As Kerr was completing the standard field sobriety test, state police arrived to assist and process the arrests. Each man was charged with DWI, resisting arrest, unregistered and uninsured ATVs and illegally operating on a public highway.

On the night of July 4, Ranger Joe Bink noticed a woman sitting at the trailhead to the Campbell Mountain lean-to. When Bink questioned the woman, she told him there was a young girl at the lean-to with severe abdominal pain. Bink contacted Delaware County emergency services and asked for assistance from Downsville fire and emergency medical services. Rangers Kittle and Edmunds, who had been patrolling DEC Little Pond Campground, responded. Ranger Edmunds hiked to the lean-to and assessed the condition of the patient while Ranger Bink led the Downsville Fire Department ATV to the lean-to. The patient was then transported by ATV to a waiting ambulance.

On Saturday, July 19 at approximately 2:30 AM, staff at Little Pond Campground asked for assistance with some unruly campers. Ranger Bink responded and determined that the campground caretaker had already spoken to the group on three separate occasions. Ranger Bink confronted the nine campers at approximately 4 AM as they were playing drinking games and eventually got them to call it a night. The next morning Ranger Bink and Region 3 Ranger Jason Seeley went to the site, woke the campers and issued appearance tickets for their failure to observe quiet hours. All were subsequently evicted from the campground.



**Region 5, Zone A  
Lt. Bob Marrone**

Region 5, Zone A covers the southern portion of Franklin County and the northwestern corner of Hamilton County. It includes the towns of Duane, Waverly, Franklin, Brighton, Harrietstown, Tupper Lake and the northern half of Long Lake. The primary recreational uses in the zone are hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The zone contains all or parts of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest, Debar Mt. Wild Forest, the St. Regis Canoe Area, William C. Whitney Wilderness and High Peaks Wilderness, totaling 336,890 acres of forest preserve and 60,111 acres of conservation easements. Six campgrounds, Fish Creek Ponds, Rollins Pond, Meacham Lake, Buck Pond, Saranac Lake Islands, Lake Eaton and one outpost at Raquette Falls are managed by DEC Operations in the summer and protected by rangers during the off-season. Staffing includes six forest rangers, four assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant.



Historic sign in community of Sabbatis, Hamilton County , marking the location of the wildfire that destroyed West Long Lake in 1908.

Ranger Keith Bassage once again instructed Paul Smith's College students in search and rescue, state land use and fire management. He also trained staff of the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) Visitor Interpretive Center

about state land use and leave-no-trace. Rangers continued to work with the local search and rescue team, SARNAK, training them in first aid, low-angle rescue, Type II search techniques and crew supervision. Ranger Jeff Balerno provided training in flat ice, rope rescue and helicopter operations to members of various fire companies around Franklin County. A special low-angle-rescue training was accomplished on Azure Mountain with the St. Regis Falls Rescue Squad following an all-night incident in the same area.



Rangers Bob Zurek and Bruce Lomnitzer flying in state police helicopter 1-H9 on a search mission in Hamilton County.

Zone A rangers took an active role this year in the annual 90-mile Adirondack Canoe Classic. Rangers assisted other DEC staff in changing management of the event to the Incident Command System (ICS). Crew assignments, maps and instructions were digitized and formatted into an incident-action plan so that next year, all the information needed by the many volunteers will be distributed via e-mail.

Zone A rangers used their helicopter expertise to assist the divisions of Operations and Lands and Forests with airlifting remnants of the last remaining camp in the Santa Clara Tract (former Champion lands) and inserting bridge materials into the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Deer Pond area. Helicopter flights also were used on various occasions to find and eradicate more than 150 marijuana plants.

On August 20 at 2:30 AM, Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from a camper on

Little Tupper Lake reporting that his father was experiencing an increased heart rate. Rangers Bob Zurek and Jim Waters responded to the boat house at the Whitney Wilderness Area field headquarters. They quickly determined that the dark and fog on the lake made it impossible to safely find their way on the water. However, because Ranger Zurek had earlier programmed the coordinates of all the campsites in his GPS unit, both rangers were able to slowly navigate to the campers. Once there, they found the subject and transported him back to an awaiting ambulance, where he was treated for a heart attack.

On July 3, Ranger Julie Harjung was the first on the scene of a one-person bicycle accident involving Joanne Chayer, 61, of Quebec at the DEC Fish Creek Campground. Harjung reported that the woman swerved to avoid wildlife while bicycling in the campground. Chayer appeared to have a serious head injury, so Harjung helped stabilize her and assisted the ambulance crew with loading the patient. Chayer was transported to Adirondack Medical Center and then transported to Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington, VT, where she was admitted to the intensive-care unit.

On August 28 at 4:00 PM, Donald McCray of Ticonderoga, NY called 911 by cellphone and threatened to harm himself with a firearm. McCray had placed a similar call the previous day, but rangers and state police were unable to locate him. This second call revealed that he was calling from Coreys Road in the Town of Tupper Lake, where numerous undeveloped forest-preserve campsites are located along the Raquette River. Later that afternoon, McCray was seen in a canoe on the Raquette River, but he failed to stop when ordered to do so. Ranger Julie Harjung had access to a DEC motorboat and transported troopers George M. Stannard and Dustin E. Fleishman to McCray. As the three officers neared McCray, they saw that he was holding a muzzleloader firearm at his abdomen and heard McCray threaten to shoot himself. Harjung and the troopers began talking with McCray and eventually got him to float downstream to where the motorboat and canoe came side-to-side. Other rangers and

troopers were located at the boat launch and were watching through binoculars as events unfolded across the river. After considerable dialog between the officers and McCray, he turned the muzzle of the weapon away from his head, and Trooper Stannard quickly acted to disarm him with assistance from Trooper Fleishman and Ranger Harjung. During the struggle for control of McCray's firearm, Trooper Stannard was shot in the hand. McCray was subsequently disarmed and arrested without further injury to anyone. McCray was charged with one count of assault in the second degree and Trooper Stannard was eventually able to return to work.



Ranger Julie Harjung teaching first aid to assistant forest rangers.

Hunting season brought the usual number of searches. This year, Ranger Bassage used the new technology available through Franklin County's 911 system to locate two hunters in the Gabriels area. On November 22, Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from Dan Spencer reporting that his son-in-law, John Noris, and nephew, George White, were lost in the woods. The subjects went hunting on state land off Rainbow Lake Road and by 9 PM called Spencer to say they were lost. Rangers Bassage and David Russell responded and made cellphone contact with both men. After making three attempts to get a bearing on the two from different locations, the rangers told the two to contact Franklin County 911 to get coordinates for their location. Using the coordinates, rangers Bassage and Russell were able to locate both men and get them out of the woods by 7:30 AM.

In June, the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) held their annual spring conference in Vermont. This was the first time in MRA's

49-year history that the annual meeting was held on the east coast. New York's Forest Rangers co-hosted the event along with the Stowe Mountain Rescue Team. Rangers Balerno and Giglinto performed a helicopter-hoist demonstration and were featured in the *Meridian*, the MRA's quarterly News publication.



**Region 5, Zone B  
Lt. Gary Friedrich**

Region 5, Zone B is the northeastern corner of the state. The zone includes the St. Lawrence Valley in northern Franklin County, all of Clinton County and the Champlain Valley, including ten towns in northeastern Essex County. Zone B has large areas of remote forests and agricultural farmland, along with islands on Lake Champlain which are entirely state-owned forest preserve. Along with numerous wildlife-management areas and state forests outside of the Adirondack Park, the zone includes all or portions of the Chazy Highlands Wild Forest, Taylor Pond Wild Forest, Giant Mountain Wilderness Area, Split Rock Wild Forest, Hurricane Mountain Wilderness Area, Hammond Pond Wild Forest and the Champlain Islands. Altogether, there are 129,931 acres of forest-preserve lands within the Adirondack Park and an additional 47,722 acres of state forest, wildlife-management areas, unique areas, fishing access and trailways outside the park. In addition, 49,578 acres of conservation



Ranger Joe LaPierre (inside) assists Rangers Del Jeffery and Mark St. Claire get to a remote fire.

easements fall within this zone. Recent purchases of land from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have added 19,100 acres to the Chazy Highlands Wild Forest in the towns of Ellenburg, Dannemora and Saranac. Zone B includes seven forest rangers and one lieutenant.

Forest Rangers Dave Russell and Glen Bronson increased their snowmobile enforcement presence on state land during the 2008 snowmobile season. In conjunction with the state police, state park police, forest rangers, the Franklin County Safety Board, the district attorney's office and the Malone and Tupper Lake police departments, a public-safety announcement addressing snowmobile safety was produced and aired on local television stations. Several enforcement details were conducted, resulting in a multitude of tickets for safety infractions and two arrests for snowmobiling while intoxicated.

On April 25, rangers responded to a Franklin County 911 call for assistance in locating Edwin Brown, 84, of Howich, Quebec, who did not return from cutting wood on the family woodlot. Rangers searched through the night without locating the subject, and plans were developed for a more extensive search the next day. Early that morning while flying a search grid in a state police helicopter, Ranger Keith Bassage located Brown approximately 1.5 miles from the woodlot. Brown was extracted from the wooded area and flown to an awaiting ambulance at the search staging area.

On May 7, rangers assisted state police with the investigation of a law-enforcement-related shooting. The incident involved two US Border Patrol agents who encountered two ATV operators attempting to illegally enter the US from Canada. While trying to detain them, one operator attempted to run over the agents to evade arrest. The agents fired several rounds at the fleeing suspects. Rangers provided their expertise with evidence searching and GPS mapping, including a map showing the travel route of the ATVs and the locations of shell casings.

As a result of diligent patrol of state-land boundaries in Franklin County, Ranger Tom Gliddi discovered two recent timber trespasses in the Titusville State Forest. Gliddi's discovery prevented the trespasses from becoming greater than first observed. One case has been resolved by issuing an appearance ticket to Patrick Remillard, owner of Remillard Logging for unlawful cutting of 40 trees on state land. Remillard pled guilty, paid a fine of \$250 and completed department-approved site remediation. The other trespass continues to be investigated. In addition to discovering the trespasses, Gliddi also observed evidence of illegal marijuana growing adjacent to state land. This information was turned over to the Franklin County Drug Task Force. Search warrants were obtained by the task force and 70 marijuana plants were removed.



One of 19 new ranger patrol vehicles in 2008.

On July 16, Dylan Luce, 31, of Schenectady, NY was injured while swimming at a popular swimming hole in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. Luce fell approximately 40 feet, landing on a ledge on the edge of the Bouquet River. Rangers and local volunteer fire and rescue departments responded, stabilized the injured swimmer and used a high-angle extraction method to remove him to a waiting ambulance.

On December 6, Rangers Dave Russell and Glen Bronson conducted a joint detail with Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) officers Taylor, Darrah and Hovey on newly acquired state land from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This recent acquisition, in which the North Slope Hunting Club retained exclusive rights to the property until December 31, 2008, was deeded to the State of New York

earlier in 2008. Ranger Russell conducted an inventory of the property one week prior to the detail and located five baited tree stands, two on previous state holdings that were inaccessible prior to the purchase. Russell then organized a detail for the last Saturday of the big-game rifle season. As a result of the detail, three individuals were arrested for 13 violations, including two charges for illegal



Ranger Jeff Balerno showing NYS DOCS Moriah Shock inmates how to dig out ground fire and use water to extinguish a wildfire.

ATV use on state land, three for not wearing a helmet, three for unlawful feeding of deer, three for hunting over bait and two for failure to carry a hunting license.

Zone B experienced an unusually quiet fire season this year, with only seven fires reported, burning 9.5 acres.

Rangers continued their dedication to teaching youth about resource protection. Through public events in Franklin, Clinton and Essex counties, rangers David Russell, Tom Gliddi, Sarah Bode, Rob Prackajlo and Glen Bronson brought the message of conservation and environmental awareness to more than 2,000 students.



**Region 5, Zone C  
Lt. Brian Dubay**

Zone C consists of the towns of Keene, North Elba, Wilmington and parts of St. Armand, North Hudson, Newcomb and Harrietstown

within Essex and Franklin counties. The land within the zone is more than 65 percent state-forest preserve, with 365,581 acres of state lands and 12,518 acres of conservation easements. One of the newest additions to the forest preserve has been the 6,700-acre purchase of the National Lead Tract in the Town of Newcomb from the Open Space Institute. In the summer months, six assistant forest rangers assisted the seven forest rangers and one lieutenant with back-country user education in some of the busiest camping and hiking locations.

Zone C continues to have the highest incidents of rescues in the state. In 2007, 28 percent of statewide rescues occurred in Zone C. This is due mainly to the year-round popularity of the High Peaks Region. The year 2008 was no different, as rangers experienced a record number of rescue events since it became a zone in 2003. Rescues came fast and furious all year long, and most victims had unstable injuries and required immediate evacuation. Of the more than 35 rescue incidents, two are described below.



Rangers utilizing a state police helicopter to extricate a victim of a fall from Chapel Pond Canyon near Keene, Essex County.

In early August, Valerie Vachinsky, 34, of West Sand Lake, NY, fell while leading a moderately difficult technical mountain climb route in Chapel Pond Canyon. Her fall caused an open fracture to her lower leg. Her partner lowered her to a rocky area near the base of the ledge, where rangers found her. After splinting the injury, the rangers and other volunteers lowered the subject again to a large flat boulder. It was from this boulder that rangers Jim Giglinto and Joe LaPierre

accomplished a helicopter hoist pickup and transportation to a local hospital. After surgery, the victim had to recuperate for several months.



Vertical ice rescue training.

In late fall, rangers successfully rescued a young and inexperienced man in the High Peaks Wilderness who spent two nights in deep snow and cold temperatures on the side of Mount Marcy. Rangers Keith Bassage and Jeff Balerno found

the subject, Dave Robertson of Albany, NY, in poor condition during the second day of searching. He was curled up in a wet sleeping bag with mild hypothermia and little energy. Extreme winds prevented a helicopter evacuation, so the rangers gave Robertson food and encouraged him to start walking. Rangers assisted the subject for the next five hours on the two-mile climb down to the Lake Colden Outpost. Once there, Robertson was treated for mild hypothermia and a severe rash due to wet clothing. Once again, a helicopter evacuation was not possible, so the rangers and Robertson remained at the outpost for the night. By next morning, helicopter flight was possible, and Robertson was transported directly to a local hospital. The consensus among all rescuers was that any further delay in finding Robertson and getting him to the outpost would have resulted in his death.

While the zone was busy with rescues, Ranger Charlie Platt received an evening phone call from a neighbor that initiated one of the areas most labor-intensive searches since the early 1990s. It was during the hottest part of the summer when rangers began searching for Jeremy Quinn in the Town of Keene. Jeremy was a local fire department volunteer and had gone on many rescues with rangers during his service. He was a well-liked member of the small community of Keene, and townspeople poured out in droves to help with the search. Jeremy had not shown up for work, and his family had found his vehicle at a residence that he worked for on the weekends. Rangers

and up to 200 volunteers began searching the immediate area. Within four days, the primary search area had been completely grid-searched with no sign of Jeremy, and so the search was called off. Several days later, the caretaker of a local estate found Jeremy's body only a few hundred yards across the road from the search area at the base of a cliff. Rangers assisted in recovery of the body and with the subsequent state police investigation into his death. Police ruled the death accidental, but questions remain about why Jeremy was so far from his vehicle.

Because of so many search-and-rescue incidents, rangers worked hard at patrolling state lands. One such patrol was fruitful when Ranger Chris Kostoss arrested a man for destruction of state property. This man had been sought by both rangers and state police for slashing tires, destroying tents and ripping down dozens of state signs in the Wilmington Wild Forest. Kostoss encountered the man and noticed his walking stick had a sharpened screwdriver attached to its end. While being questioned, the man was found to be in possession of a destroyed DEC sign. The case is still awaiting trial.



Captain John Streiff spoke to Chinese forestry delegation on Mount Jo, Eastern High Peaks, Essex County.

Rangers Kevin Burns and Joe LaPierre were patrolling the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest when they found themselves sharing their lane of the road with an oncoming pair of motorcycles traveling at a high rate of speed. They avoided a collision but immediately thereafter discovered that one of the motorcycles had slid out at a nearby intersection, and the operator had run into the woods. After several minutes of searching, the rangers located and arrested the subject.

LaPierre administered a field sobriety test and determined the subject to be intoxicated. With assistance from the state police, the subject was charged and processed for driving while ability impaired. The second motorcycle operator was never located.



**Region 5, Zone D  
Lt. Steve Preston**

Region 5, Zone D comprises Fulton County and the majority of Hamilton County. Zone headquarters are located at the DEC sub-office in Northville, and the zone also maintains an office at the DEC's Indian Lake facility. Nine rangers are assigned to this zone, with three assigned to Fulton County and six assigned to Hamilton County. State land unit-management areas include all or parts of the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area, Silver Lake Wilderness Area, Ferris Lake Wild Forest, Shaker Mountain Wild Forest, Jessup River Wild Forest, West Canada Mountain Primitive Area, Sargent Pond Wild Forest, Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area, Moose River Wild Forest, Hudson River Gorge Primitive Area, Blue Mountain Lake Wild Forest, Blue Ridge Wilderness Area and Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area, totaling 789,429 acres. Within the zone are 15 DEC campgrounds, 47,043 acres of conservation easements and 6,081 acres of state forests. The zone includes nine forest rangers, two assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant.

This year, Zone D experienced an increase in search-and-rescue responses, most of them brief but some with unique circumstances, including one "campaign " search. On October 15, Fred Gillingham was reported missing after he missed a dinner engagement and his flight back to California. At 4:00 PM, state police located Gillingham's vehicle at the Rock River trailhead and contacted Ray Brook Dispatch to inform them of the situation. Rangers Greg George, John Seifts, Jason Scott and Ed Russell responded and started to search the trail systems in the Rock

River area as well as check Gillingham's camp for possible leads. From evidence found in the camp and through interviews with Gillingham's wife in California, it was learned that Gillingham may have been missing since October 12.



Ranger John Seifts (right) providing flat ice rescue training to local firemen.

For the next 11 days, rangers from regions 4, 5 and 6, the Indian Lake Fire Department, eight different teams from the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue and the State Police Aviation Unit searched the densely forested area around Rock Lake and the Rock River in the Town of Indian Lake. On October 26, after expending 5,228 search-hours and finding no clues to Gillingham's whereabouts, the search's status changed to limited-continuous. On November 17, Ranger George received a phone call from a hunter who was north of Rock River and southeast of Barker Pond. The hunter stated that he had come upon a body that was possibly that of Fred Gillingham. The next day, 10 rangers and State Police Investigator Dan Lahue made the three-mile trek from First Lake to recover the remains of Fred Gillingham.

On November 29 and while on patrol, Ranger Kallen overheard radio communications on

the Fulton County fire frequency that two snowmobilers had gone through the ice on Pine Lake. Kallen arrived simultaneously with local emergency-response personnel and initiated the rescue of Justin Brownell, 21, of Johnstown and Chad Stumphs, 21, of Caroga Lake. The two snowmobilers were clinging to the ice approximately 150 yards from shore. Caroga Lake volunteer firefighter Joe Insogna and Ranger Kallen donned their cold-water rescue suits and began to make their way to Brownell and Stumphs. At 50 yards from the subjects, the ice broke under the rescuers and forced Insogna and Kallen to break ice and swim to Brownell and Stumphs. The two were then secured by Insogna and Kallen while other volunteer firefighters rigged ropes to pull all four to shore. After getting both men to land, Brownell was transported to Nathan Littauer Hospital in Johnstown, while Stumphs was airlifted to Albany Medical Center due to his prolonged exposure in the water. Both subjects were extremely hypothermic and near death when rescued.



Ranger Bruce Lomnitzer with patrol snowmobile.

On May 18, Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from Stephen Paz reporting that his brother-in-law, Eric Rehm, had not returned from a six-day camping trip in the Silver Lake Wilderness Area. Rehm had started his trip from the Benson trailhead on the Northville Lake Placid Trail on May 11, from which he

planned to hike to the Hamilton Stream lean-to and then back to Benson. Rehm's vehicle was located by Paz and Rehm's mother, Carol, on May 18 after he failed to return the night before. Rangers were dispatched to the area and started Type I searches from Benson to the Silver Lake lean-to and from Whitehouse to the Hamilton Stream lean-to on the Northville Lake Placid Trail. They were unable to locate any sign of Rehm. While Rehm did sign the register book at the beginning of his trip in Benson, he didn't sign any other lean-to or trail register.

On May 20, 14 rangers were deployed to different locations in the Silver Lake Wilderness Area. A state police helicopter was used to transport a number of teams to remote locations to speed up the search process. Later that morning, rangers Art Perryman and Chuck Kabrehl located Rehm on the West Branch of the Sacandaga River, a mile from the Northville Lake Placid Trail. He was tired but in good condition. The subject was transported by helicopter to the Wells Central School, examined by the Wells Ambulance Squad and then released. Rehm stated that he had traveled to the Silver Lake lean-to on his first day but was too tired the next day to continue, so he started hiking back to his vehicle. West of Rock Lake, he missed the trail and became lost in the Sacandaga's drainage. After finding a beaver meadow, he set up camp and remained there for the next six days until he was found.

During the last two years, Zone D has been made responsible for enforcement duties within the 15 DEC campgrounds located in the zone. A considerable amount of time is spent from early May through Columbus Day weekend patrolling the campgrounds and assisting DEC Operations staff with enforcement issues. Northampton Beach and Caroga Lake campgrounds have the majority of problems due to their proximity to the cities of Johnstown, Gloversville and Amsterdam. On May 23 at 11:30 PM, rangers Perryman and Kallen were patrolling the Northampton Beach Campground when they observed what they thought were underage individuals consuming alcohol at three adjoining sites. After interviews and investigation, 15 individuals were cited for underage

possession of alcohol, and three were cited with the additional charge of failure to keep a



Ranger Tom Eakin sorting through marijuana plants seized in Hamilton County.

neat and orderly campsite. All were arraigned and plead guilty on May 24 in Northampton Town Court.

The interior deer camp has been an Adirondack deer-hunting tradition for many decades in Hamilton County. Over the years, these camps have been abandoned for a variety of reasons, primarily because of the age of the hunting population. This year, rangers John Seifts and Bruce Lomnitzer, as well as DEC Operations and Lands and Forest staff took the initiative and developed a plan to remove some of the remnants of these old camps. During the summer, the Student Conservation Association packed out three camps from the Piseco area and one camp from the Indian River area of Moose River Plains under supervision by Seifts and Lomnitzer. Due to the success of the operations, plans are being developed to continue this operation next summer.



**Region 5, Zone E**  
**Lt. Chris Liebelt**

Zone E comprises Warren County and southern Essex County. The majority of department-administered lands in Warren County are within Lake George Wild Forest, Wilcox Lake Wild Forest and the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. Also in Warren County is a portion of the Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area, six DEC public

campgrounds with 1,284 campsites combined, Prospect Mountain Memorial Highway Intensive Use Area and the Hudson River Special Management Area. State-administered lands in southern Essex County include the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area, Vanderwacker Wild Forest, the Hoffman Notch, Pharoah Lake and portions of the Dix Mountain Wilderness Area. In total, the zone includes eight forest rangers, two assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant protecting 370,139 acres of forest preserve, 2,104 acres of other types of state land and 32,929 acres of conservation easements.

There were 12 wildland fires that rangers responded to in Zone E in 2008, ending with a two-acre fire on November 22. The largest fire, named the Twist Mountain Fire, occurred in the Town of Lake Luzerne, Warren County and was contained to a little more than 15 acres. Burning in rolling topography, this fast-moving fire caught a nearby homeowner off guard. According to Ranger Steve Guenther, in an effort to suppress the fire early on, homeowner Thomas Duncan suffered burns on more than 30 percent of his body. Duncan had been burning leaves and was wearing polyester clothing. He was treated at the Westchester Medical Center's burn unit for his injuries and has since recovered.



Ranger Steve Ovitt with one of three new rescue airboats.

The May 26 Reservoir Fire in the Town of Queensbury, Warren County is believed to have started from a campfire. This fire burned in a mix of hardwood and softwood slash. In the first operational period, the wind-driven fire spread with 50 to 60-foot flame lengths. The intense fire was finally contained to less

than 10 acres by forest rangers, including Ranger Evan Donegan as incident commander and firefighters from 14 volunteer fire departments.

Spring in Zone E not only brings wildfires, but the use of state land begins to increase with the milder weather. The Hudson River Recreation Area (HRRRA), located along the Hudson River in the towns of Warrensburg and Lake Luzerne, is accessible by vehicle and has 16 designated campsites offering car camping, most often to local residents. On the weekend of May 9, rangers Suzy Heare and Chuck Kabrhel were on patrol in the HRRRA and came upon a large group establishing camp at Site 10. Upon entering the site, both alcohol and marijuana were detected by the rangers. Through interviews, it was learned that the group was an after-prom party from the Schenectady area, and no one was of 21. The rangers issued more than 26 tickets, ranging from underage possession of alcohol on state land to disorderly conduct. With additional proactive patrols, rangers remained vigilant throughout the remainder of the camping season at the HRRRA, and no similar large-scale offenses occurred.

Year after year, rangers are involved in search-and-rescue missions at popular state land destinations such as Tongue Mountain overlooking Lake George and Crane Mountain in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. On August 28, six subjects in two canoes were paddling on the Schroon River when they hit class 2.5 rapids. Both canoes capsized in the fast water, and all parties, including Geoffrey Louis, 62, and his wife Patricia, 64, were thrown into the water. Geoffrey and Patricia remained with their canoe, which became lodged between some rocks, while the other four made it to shore. When Ranger Rick Schroeder arrived on the scene, the Louises were still with the canoe. Several attempts with throw bags failed due to the distance. At one point, Mr. Louis jumped into the water, grabbed a throw bag and subsequently made it to shore, but Patricia remained with the canoe. Rangers Mark St. Claire, Steve Guenther, Werner Schwab, Steve Ovitt, Del Jeffrey and Assistant Forest Ranger Brett Gold arrived on the scene and began to set up a tether rope system, but Mrs.

Louis's canoe dislodged from the rocks. She was then rescued with throw bags by those on shore. After Mrs. Louis was safely on shore, Mr. Louis slipped on some rocks in his efforts to reach his wife. He injured his lower back, and he and his wife were then transported to Glens Falls Hospital by North Warren EMS.



**Region 5, Zone F  
Lt. John Solan**

Region 5, Zone F includes Saratoga and Washington counties. Both counties combined have 36,636 acres of forest preserve, 1,056 acres of wildlife-management areas, 7,073 acres of state forest and 31,811 acres of conservation easement lands. These lands are protected by five forest rangers, one assistant forest ranger and one lieutenant. Shelving Rock is a heavily used day-use and undeveloped camping area located in the Lake George Wild Forest in the Town of Fort Ann, Washington County. In addition, both counties have land holdings of The Nature Conservancy, Battenkill Conservancy and the Lake George Conservancy that are generally adjacent to DEC-administered lands. There are approximately 30 miles of snowmobile trails in Saratoga County on DEC-managed lands and easements and approximately 50 miles of snowmobile trails in Washington County.



Ranger Werner Schwab near top of Black Mountain.

During the winter of 2008, rangers initiated more aggressive snowmobile patrols of the

forest preserve and the adjacent easement lands in the towns of Greenfield, Corinth, Day and Edinburg, Saratoga County. The approximately 30 miles of snowmobile trails on DEC-administered lands and easements have become very popular with snowmobilers from the greater Saratoga/Capital District area that do not want to travel to Tug Hill or Moose River Plains to snowmobile. These trails connect to trails on private land and provide access to the Sacandaga Reservoir and points beyond.

Weather conditions during the spring made for a very active spring fire season from mid-to late April. Rangers assisted fire departments with numerous fires, the largest of which was 50 acres in the Town of Cambridge, Washington County.

Rangers continued to target underage drinking and drug activity on state lands. The Shelving Rock Area continues to be heavily used, especially during periods of warm weather. The land surrounding Log Bay, adjacent to the Shelving Rock Area on the east shore of Lake George, is a very popular forest-preserve day-use destination. For the past decade, the last Monday of July has come to be known as "Log Bay Day." Log Bay Day started more than 10 years ago as a day off for the many seasonal employees from the restaurant and tourist resort attractions in the Lake George area. The event has grown in popularity and requires a significant ranger presence on forest-preserve state lands surrounding Log Bay. In 2008, 16 rangers, two lieutenants and one assistant forest ranger were assigned to protect state land and the people using these lands during this event. Rangers, working closely with the Washington County Sheriff's Department, made approximately 70 arrests for various DEC, penal law and vehicle and traffic offenses on or near the forest preserve. Rangers also rescued two intoxicated teenagers who had ventured from their boat to the top of Shelving Rock Falls and fell approximately 30 feet. Luckily, the brother and sister were not seriously injured; however, both individuals received tickets for underage possession of alcohol.

Rangers also worked to expand and improve the department's pheasant-stocking program

on state land in Saratoga and Washington counties, including several state-land youth-pheasant-hunt stocking locations. Carter's Pond Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which for years was the only state-land stocking location in southern Region 5, had suffered from overcrowding, resulting in conflicts with adjacent landowners over parking and private-land trespass. As suggested by rangers, Region 5 Natural Resource staff expanded the number of state-land release sites in Zone F from one to three in 2007 to ease crowding. Rangers suggested that the program be expanded to the Daketown State Forest in Saratoga County and the Eldridge Swamp State Forest in Washington County, which was tried on an experimental basis in 2007. In 2008, these two new state-forest release sites were advertised, which helped to greatly minimize overcrowding and conflicts at Carter's Pond WMA.

Zone F rangers continue to assist in the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of 12-year-old Jalie Rainwalker from the Town of Greenwich, Washington County. Rainwalker was last seen in November 2007 and has been the subject of a nationwide search. Rangers continue to maintain close contact with the Cambridge/Greenwich Police Department, which is lead for this investigation.



**Region 6 Zone A**  
**Lt. Robert Barstow**

Zone A consists entirely of St. Lawrence County (2,842 square miles), geographically the largest county in New York. Presently there are five rangers, three seasonally employed assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant who patrol approximately 253,938 acres of state lands and 211,087 acres of easements under department jurisdiction. The majority of this land lies in the southern portion of the county. The most significant tracts are the Five Ponds, Bog River and Lows Lake wilderness areas and the Aldrich Pond, Horseshoe Lake, Cranberry Lake, Whites Hill

and Raquette Boreal wild forests. In addition, there are large tracts of easement lands, numerous state forests and the 173-site Cranberry Lake public campground.

Snow came early to southern St. Lawrence County last winter, and snowmobile season lasted into April. With the latest easement purchases, nearly all the snowmobile trails in southern St. Lawrence County are under the jurisdiction of DEC. Forest rangers conducted patrols and safety checks with help from the state police, county sheriff's department, the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) and a few other police agencies. Emphasis was on speed and reckless operation. The St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association continues to strongly support law enforcement as a means of providing safe snowmobiling.

While on routine patrol in the White Hill Wild Forest on June 4, Ranger Wayne LaBaff discovered that several black cherry trees had been cut and removed from the state forest preserve. An investigation revealed the logs had been sold to a local mill. Two subjects were arrested on several charges related to this incident. Felony charges were narrowly avoided because the logs were cut to the wrong length, which greatly diminished the value.



Ranger Greg Hoag standing next to a black cherry tree on state land.

Early in the last century, people began building "floating camps" on Cranberry Lake, which usually were anchored to forest-preserve lands. Over the years, the department made several efforts to remove these illegal structures without success.

Beginning in May 2005, an individual began construction on a new floating camp. He was contacted and ticketed by rangers but refused to cease construction. Eventually, and through the combined efforts of rangers and Region 6

regional attorney Randy Young, this individual was brought before an administrative law judge, fined \$48,000 and required to remove the structure. As rangers and DEC staff began enforcement action against other camp owners, the remaining camps were either removed by the owners or demolished by the department. By August 2008, Cranberry Lake no longer had any floating camps, ending nearly 70 years of unsightly degradation and encroachment on the forest preserve.

One evening in June, Ranger Greg Hoag came across suspicious activity in the area of Greenwood Creek State Forest. Suspecting that a large party would take place that evening, Hoag requested the assistance of rangers Murphy and Benzel. When they returned to the scene, the three rangers encountered approximately 35 young adults consuming alcohol and engaging in loud, obnoxious behavior. During the course of the evening, the three rangers issued more than 40 citations for a variety of offenses, with most for underage drinking. All minors were remanded to the custody of a parent or guardian. The lone adult responsible for providing alcohol to the minors was tried and convicted in town court.



**Region 6, Zone B  
Lt. Joel Nowalk**

Region 6, Zone B comprises Lewis and Jefferson counties and the northern portion of Herkimer County. It encompasses the Tug Hill Plateau, which annually receives the highest measured snowfall in the state, and the western portion of the Adirondack Park. Zone B has a diverse array of state land, ranging from 26,964 acres of wildlife-management areas (WMAs) in Jefferson County, 104,893 acres of state forests managed for multiple use in Lewis and Jefferson counties and 204,493 acres of forest preserve lands in eastern Lewis and northern Herkimer counties. With the addition of the 40,000-acre Fish Creek easement on the Tug Hill Plateau, there are now four large conservation easements in

Zone B, totaling 104,957 acres. These diverse state lands host a variety of user groups throughout the year. With heavy snowfall, Zone B has the largest snowmobile trail system in the state. Cross-country ski trails have been developed in many state forests, and a network of horse trails has evolved in a portion of the Independence River Wild Forest. The popularity of white-water rafting and kayaking has brought users to the Beaver, Black and Moose rivers. Hunting and fishing still comprise a large portion of use on state land. This zone is staffed with five forest rangers, two assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant.

In May, all roads under the jurisdiction of the department were closed to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Forest rangers were instrumental in assisting DEC Operations staff in ensuring all roads and trails were properly signed throughout the summer and fall. Rangers spent countless hours patrolling the affected state lands, educating the public and enforcing these changes.

Zone B includes Stillwater Reservoir which, by far, has the greatest intensity of use of all areas in the zone. With an easily accessible state boat launch, fishing, boating and camping at more than 40 designated campsites are very popular during the summer. The division purchased a new 2008 Star Craft patrol boat furnished with GPS and radio communication. This boat is used daily from ice out in the spring to freeze over in early December. An assistant forest ranger is assigned to the Independence River Wild Forest and is instrumental in public outreach at Stillwater. Unlike many other summertime destinations, Stillwater Reservoir's popularity does not decline in the winter, when thousands of snowmobiles pass through the community on a weekly basis. Snowmobile accidents are very common on the reservoir. To expedite ranger response to them, a rescue-boggan is staged at the Stillwater ranger headquarters.

Rangers spent much of their time during the winter months focusing on the ever-increasing snowmobile use on state lands. Numerous snowmobile patrols and checkpoints were held. During a checkpoint, snowmobilers are

informed about proper state-land use. In addition, machines are checked for safety and compliance with the rules governing snowmobile use. The acquisition of additional snowmobiles, radar units and Alcho-sensor (Breathalyzer) units enhanced each ranger's ability to effectively patrol and police state lands during the snowmobile season. On more than one occasion, rangers were able to respond rapidly to a snowmobile accident and assist local emergency services in securing the scene, providing first aid and transporting injured subjects.



Ranger Luke Evans with seized fireworks from campers along Stillwater reservoir.

In February, rangers assisted with the liming of Peaked Mountain Lake in northern Herkimer County. Working in this remote location required the cooperation of several agencies. Rangers rerouted snowmobile traffic away from the landing site and provided site security and communications for the state police helicopter that carried the sling-loaded lime.

The Otter Creek horse trails system in the Independence River Wild Forest continues to be a popular destination for riders. There is extensive camping near the riding-assembly area, and Ranger Michael Hubschmitt continues to be called regularly for his vast knowledge of this area and its history. In response to changing public use, an assistant forest ranger was assigned to this area. Regular patrols of the trail system, camping areas and adjacent lands reduced the incidence of camping problems, trespass and trail degradation.

In April, rangers worked in conjunction with several other agencies to coordinate safety and security during the annual “SNIRT ATV Poker Run” held on Tug Hill in Lewis and Jefferson counties. Many of the roads and trails that facilitate this event are adjacent to state land or connect to state-forest access roads. Working with other police agencies during this event, rangers issued 66 violations for ATVs illegally riding on state lands and made one arrest for driving while intoxicated.



Ranger Mike Hubschmitt and two state troopers seizing marijuana plants from state lands.

On several occasions, rangers assisted county sheriffs’ departments and state police with locating and removing marijuana being grown illegally. One incident led to 100 plants being removed and destroyed.

On July 4 weekend, Ranger Luke Evans was asked by Town of Webb police to handle a fireworks complaint at Beaver River Station, a remote community in Herkimer County, because no other agency was available to respond. Ranger Evans subsequently issued several summonses and confiscated approximately \$3,000 worth of illegal fireworks and related paraphernalia.



**Region 6 Zone C**  
**Lt. Doug Riedman**

Zone C comprises all of Oneida County and the southern two-thirds of Herkimer County. State- land interests include 273,997 acres divided among 28 state forests, portions of four forest- preserve wild forest areas, three wilderness areas, one unique area, three fish

and wildlife- management areas, two campgrounds (Alger Island and Nicks Lake) and Hinckley Day Use Area. The zone also includes 20,084 acres of conservation easements. Five forest rangers, one assistant forest ranger and one lieutenant are assigned to zone C.

On January 2, rangers coordinated a large search in the Town of Sangerfield, Oneida County near the Tassel Hill State Forest. Greg T. Williams, 47, was reported missing after not returning from hunting near his home in Waterville. Rangers from across the state, along with state police, search federation volunteers, Division of Law Enforcement officers, the Red Cross, K-9 teams from numerous agencies and state police aviation searched for eight days. Deep snow and sub-zero weather hampered the search efforts. The search changed to limited-continuous status after January 12 until additional clues could be found regarding Williams’ disappearance. On April 29, Williams’ body was found along railroad tracks in Madison County, seven miles south of the primary search area. His cause of death was ruled suicide.



Ranger Bob Coscomb and Rob Piersma in coldwater rescue suits training for flat ice rescues.

On February 4, rangers coordinated a “Lean 2 Rescue” project. Materials to rehabilitate three lean-tos needed to be moved to Russian Lake and Queer Lake, Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area and Middle Settlement Lake, Ha-Da-Ron-Dah Wilderness Area. These lean-tos were in poor condition from years of heavy use. Volunteers with the Adirondack Mountain Club were ready to do the work, but there was no viable means to transport the materials by land or water. Rangers provided

the coordination and communications between DEC staff, state police helicopter and the Lean 2 Rescue organization to move the supplies.

On July 31, Ranger Bob Coscomb stopped an all-terrain vehicle in Popple Pond State Forest, Oneida County. When the subject fled into the adjoining woods, Coscomb called for additional officers to assist with his apprehension. During the manhunt, it was determined the 41-year old male suspect had outstanding warrants in two counties and suspended drivers' licenses in the states of New York and Massachusetts. When he was captured three hours later, he had lost his footwear. He was arraigned in the Boonville town court and charged with resisting arrest, fleeing a police officer and several vehicle and traffic violations.

In November 10, rangers concluded a three-day search for missing deer hunter, John Lawler, 76, of New Jersey. Lawler was missing for two nights in a remote section of the Black River Wild Forest, Herkimer County. He had endured heavy rain, snowfall and sub-freezing temperatures while lost. When found, Lawler was hypothermic and was transported to a Utica hospital after being moved miles by foot, boat and vehicle from a location near Sand Lake. Lawler was interviewed the following day and credited search personnel with saving his life.



**Region 7, Zone A  
Lt. Timothy Taylor**

Region 7 functions as a large ranger administrative zone and comprises nine counties in central New York. The total area of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga and Tompkins counties exceeds 6,700 square miles and contains 256,729 acres of state lands and easements managed by DEC. The landscape stretches from the Pennsylvania border north to the eastern shore of Lake Ontario and from the Finger Lakes area east to Unadilla River country. State lands include

conservation easements, a multiple-use area, state forest lands, unique areas and wildlife-management areas. Six forest rangers, one assistant forest ranger, one lieutenant and one captain are assigned to this zone.

Finding abandoned vehicles on state land is not unusual. The burned-out pickup that Ranger Scott Jackson found on a remote muddy road in the Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area in April was different. This truck was reported stolen to the Onondaga County Sheriff the week before. Even though he could not drive it, the owner was contacted and had it removed once road conditions improved.

Marijuana grown on state land continues to be a problem. Patrols for interdiction and eradication led to the removal of more than 100 plants from six different state-land units during the summer. People living on state land, commonly referred to as "squatters," is unusual. When Ranger Jim McPherson responded to a complaint of a puppy being neglected at a campsite on state land, he found the dog adequately cared for, but the person occupying the site had no permanent residence. He was staying in one location for the 14-day maximum time allowed by regulation then moving to another.



Lt. Tim Taylor with Smokey Bear display at the State Fair in Syracuse.

Rangers provided assistance to local law-enforcement agencies on a number of cases in 2008. Early in April, the Broome County sheriff requested rangers to assist with the search for Bethanie Dougherty, a

41-year old Town of Lisle woman reported as missing under suspicious circumstances. Rangers Joan Oldroyd, James Prunoske,

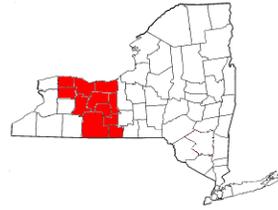
James McPherson, Wil Giraud, Scott Jackson and Region 4 rangers Ian Kerr and Tom Edmunds assisted with management of the ground search and the search of several miles of the Tioughnioga River using a division airboat. After several days of searching, no clues were found, and the investigation is still open.

Later in April, rangers responded to a request from Ithaca College Public Safety to assist with the search for William Jacobson, a missing Ithaca College student. The student was last seen leaving a party in the early morning hours. On the second day of ranger-directed operations, state police divers located Jacobson's body in a pond. His death was ruled an accidental drowning.

In October, the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) requested ranger assistance to locate a missing helicopter in the Town of Dryden, Tompkins County. While enroute, the responding rangers were notified by the Civil Air Patrol that the crash site had been located from the air. After arriving, rangers helped secure the scene and mark a vehicle-access route for investigators.

After 61-year-old William Lee, a Town of Norwich, Chenango County resident, was found murdered in his home in November, state police requested ranger assistance with the search for evidence near Lee's property. This case is still under investigation. Later that month, the body of 22-year-old Daniel Parsegov, a Town of Vestal, Broome County man, was found in the Hoxie Gorge State Forest in the Town of Virgil, Cortland County by a hunter. The Cortland County coroner's initial report indicated the cause of death was accidental.

The New York State Fair, with more than 900,000 people passing through the gates in 2008, is the largest public-relations event conducted by rangers every year. The 2008 display for the fair, showcasing the division's mission, was developed by Lt. Taylor and staffed in the DEC log cabin during the 12 days of the fair by rangers Giraud, Jackson, McPherson, Lt. Taylor and Captain Brooks.



## **Region 8 Lt. Joseph Shafer**

Region 8 is considered a ranger administrative zone and comprises the following 11 counties in west-central New York: Orleans, Genesee, Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Yates, Seneca, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung. The region includes 88,699 acres of state lands divided among 53 parcels. These lands are almost equally divided between state forests (49,301 acres) and wildlife management areas (39,398 acres).

The region has a mix of urban and rural areas. Its largest metropolitan area is Rochester, in the northern county of Monroe. Significant oil



Region 8 rangers and forestry staff conducting a prescribed fire at Oak Rush Unique Area.

and gas deposits are located in the region, and some state-land parcels have active wells. Region 8 often has a higher incidence of wildfires than either Region 9 to the west or Region 7 to the east. Many state parks are located in the region, with the two largest being Watkins Glen and Letchworth state parks. The region is also home to several federal properties, including the Finger Lakes National Forest and the Montezuma and Iroquois national wildlife refuges.

Region 8 is home to the threatened timber rattlesnake. Because rangers are always at

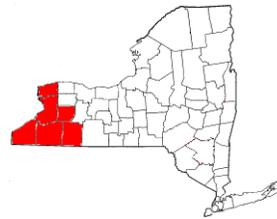
work in rattlesnake environs, awareness training is necessary. Bob Corneau, NYSDEC-licensed Timber Rattlesnake Removal and Salvage Technician, provided rangers with a full day of training. The morning session was about the rattlesnake's life cycle, recognizing the rattlesnake's environment the potential danger from rattlesnakes, what to do when encountering a rattlesnake and how to avoid rattlesnake problems. During the afternoon, Corneau took the group into the field and located "Hank Williams," a radio-fitted timber rattlesnake. On the second day of training, Dr. John Benitez of the UR Medical Center discussed the effects of a rattlesnake bite and the effectiveness of anti-venom treatment.

Hi Tor Wildlife Management Area (WMA) consists of 6,100 acres in the Naples area with high public use. Retired Ranger Jim Carpenter, current Ranger Pat Dormer and Fire Warden George Fraley recognized the potential challenges in the WMA with regard to search and/or rescue operations. Their public-safety foresight resulted in development of access roads, trails, a heli-spot and designated campsites, along with cooperative training between rangers and local emergency services. On March 1, two subjects were ice climbing in the WMA when one of them fell, injuring himself significantly. His companion called 911, and because Ranger Dormer has trained and worked well with all responding agencies involved, the rescue--which included helicopter transportation--was completed within two hours.

While on routine patrol in the Rattlesnake Hill WMA, Ranger Dan Cordell noticed damage to several DEC-installed gates and ditches, apparently caused by a 4x4 vehicle. Five other rangers, four ECOs, two investigators and several Operations personnel assisted with the investigation, leading to the identification of two suspects. Cordell subsequently charged the two with one felony, two misdemeanors and three ECL violations. The charges resulted in \$355 in fines, \$1,600 in restitution and jail time for one of the men. The gate and related damage has been repaired.

While en route to a wildfire at Erwin Hollow State Forest, Ranger Dormer observed the

person in front of him driving erratically. Dormer decided to stop the vehicle and determined the driver was highly intoxicated. After the arrest, Dormer continued to the wildfire. His joint wildfire cause-and-origin investigation with county investigators later resulted in the issuance of four ECL charges against the person responsible for starting the fire.



**Region 9**  
**Lt. Shawn Plaisted**

Region 9 is considered a ranger administrative zone and comprises the six western-most counties in New York: Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany. There are more than 102,490 acres of state forest lands located on approximately 75 parcels within the region. In addition, there are 17,739 acres of wildlife management areas located on nine parcels. Some of these state lands experience heavy public use because of their proximity to the Buffalo metropolitan area. One notable example is the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area, which attracts many day-use recreationists. This area includes the Zoar Valley Gorge, which holds the region's only regulated white water, the Cattaraugus Creek.

The region is a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas. There are many state-land parcels with significant oil and gas deposits, some of which have active wells and pipelines in them. In addition, solution mining for salt is also located on both state and private parcels in Wyoming County. Several state parks are located in the region, the two largest being Allegany and Letchworth. The region is also home to several Native American reservations, the most notable being the Allegany Indian Reservation near Salamanca and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation near Brant. Eight forest rangers, one assistant forest ranger, one lieutenant and one captain are assigned to the region.

Due to wet spring and summer conditions and an average lake-effect snowfall, the region experienced a low incidence of wildfires with

only 14 reported. The year 2008 also demonstrated a significant drop in search-and-rescue incidents, with only eight searches. Another noticeable drop was that of Zoar Valley rescues and similar incidents. Dan Mitchell was hired as the region's first seasonal assistant forest ranger assigned to Zoar Valley. On a daily basis, he provided public interpretive services of the regulations and dangers of Zoar. This summer was unusually cool and wet, with searches declining from an average of 20 to only 8 for the year. The most notable search and rescue in Zoar occurred on June 29 and involved nine youths from the greater Buffalo area. The subjects hiked upstream on the south branch of Cattaraugus Creek. Heavy rains caused the



A leased oil well on state lands that is leaking and causing damage.

creek to swell rapidly, and their return path was cut off. Rangers Bob Rogers and Tim Flanagan responded that evening, but darkness, the flooded creek and thick fog made an immediate rescue impossible. When daylight came, Erie County helicopter, "Erie Air 1" was able to fly in and extract all subjects plus their two dogs from a ledge in the gorge.

Another search of major significance was the assist that several Region 9 rangers provided to the state police in Chautauqua County. On October 29, state police requested ranger assistance for a missing woman from the Jamestown area. Mrs. Corrie Anderson was missing and the subject of suspected foul play. Rangers, state police, sheriff's deputies, environmental conservation officers, volunteers and Massassauga Search and Rescue teams spent 11 days on ground

searches in the area of Mrs. Anderson's residence. She has yet to be located, and in December, an equine search team from Texas joined the search effort at the request of the Anderson family.

On September 26, rangers Wayne Krulish and Tim Flanagan were on routine patrol in the Zoar Valley Multiple Use area when they heard a call that there had been a police shooting in nearby Gowanda. The rangers were the second units to respond. Each used their wilderness advanced first-aid training to complete a field exam of the wounded Town of Gowanda police officer. The bullet hit the officer's body armor and did not cause a serious wound. Although there was a rapid and intense search of the area by all local police agencies, the suspect has yet to be caught.

A similar experience occurred in July when Ranger Flanagan was patrolling near Franklinville, Cattaraugus County and overheard a radio transmission about a police chase of an attempted- burglary suspect. Flanagan responded along with several police officers, and both subjects were quickly apprehended. One suspect was bold enough to hide in a grocery store in the Village of Franklinville, while the other was located in the woods near the stolen and abandoned vehicle. This case demonstrated yet another example of cooperative work by several police agencies.

Rangers Tom Koss, David Pachan, John Kennedy, Tim Flanagan and Peter Liebig assisted state police and the Southern Tier Drug Task Force again this year and successfully removed 336 marijuana plants from Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. This multi-agency response has been a tremendous success as it has removed thousands of plants from the area over the years. Investigation of the identities of the various suspected growers continues.

Forest rangers encounter a lot of underage alcohol consumption each year and this case was no different than any other except for the number of individuals involved. On May 17, rangers Koss and Pachan found more than 100 youths camping on state lands in Chautauqua

Gorge State Forest. State police were requested to assist in the underage-drinking bust, which resulted in more than 60 tickets issued to North Tonawanda High School teens and graduates celebrating their prom night. Charges included underage possession of alcohol, group camping without a permit, disorderly conduct and procuring alcoholic beverages for a person under the age of 21 years. Hopefully, future classes will learn a lesson from their alumni.

## **WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT**

### **Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors Annual Meeting**

The Division of Forest Protection, with special help from Region 4, Zone A, hosted the 2008 Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors (NFFS) annual meeting. The NFFS is a working group of state fire supervisors from each of the 20 states represented by the Northeast Association of State Foresters. The week-long event, from June 16-20, was held at the Century House in Latham. Forest rangers and Forestry staff from Region 4 used the Incident Command System (ICS) to organize and manage this event and as an opportunity for an ICS training exercise. Approximately 60 personnel from the 20 northeast states and federal wildland fire agencies attended the meeting, the theme of which was, "Current Issues for Fire Management—Prescribed Fire in the Northeast." Topics discussed included: the US Forest Service's (USFS) redesign of their state and private forestry organizational structure; how the USFS redesign may affect current business practices between state and federal cooperators; issues concerning state and federal prescribed-fire programs, such as hazardous fuel reduction, habitat preservation and rare species management, and air-quality considerations when conducting prescribed fire in the northeastern United States.

### **Preparedness and Assistance with National Emergencies**

The Division of Forest Protection organized three 20-person crews (one Type 2 and two Type 2 Initial Attack wildland firefighting

crews) to help federal agencies suppress wildfires. NYS Crew #1, led by Ranger Tim Carpenter as crew boss, was dispatched to the Rattlesnake Mountain Fire, White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire on June 1. The need for this crew was cancelled while most were still en-route to mobilize at the Saratoga Fire Cache. A change in weather conditions provided the relief needed to combat this fire with local resources.

The members of this crew jumped on board to answer the call with less than a 24-hour turnaround. NYS Crew #2, led by Ranger Dave Kallen as crew boss, was dispatched to the East Basin Complex located in the Los Padres National Forest in California on July 8. The crew's primary objective was keeping the fire confined to the wilderness boundary through ground and aerial firing operations and structure-protection duties.

Crew #3, led by Ranger Tim Carpenter as crew boss, was dispatched to the Klamath National Forest in northern California on July 30. They were assigned to the Bear Wallow Fire for a few days and then reassigned to the Panther Fire. This crew was responsible for burnout operations along the fire line. Each of these crews comprised forest rangers, other department employees and department volunteer firefighters. Several rangers who were the most recent hires in the division had their first opportunity to participate in this valuable program, gaining immeasurable training skills in fighting wildland fire.

In addition to the above out-of-state assignments, several forest rangers, department employees and volunteers with specific single-resource, incident-management skills also were mobilized for wildfire emergency incidents, as follows:

- Ranger Steve Ovitt was dispatched to California as a supervisor at Iron Complex, located in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.
- Ranger Pete Liebig was dispatched to California as a plans section chief at Siskiyou Complex in the Klamath National Forest. This was his first assignment as a single resource, providing him with experience with a

- large, complex, incident-management team (IMT).
- Ranger Jaime Laczko was dispatched to Oregon as a strike team crew leader at Lonesome in the Rogue River National Forest, then reassigned as a felling boss at Wild Rivers Complex in the Siskiyou National Forest.
  - Region 1 Natural Resources Supervisor Charles Hamilton was dispatched to California, American River Complex and to Nevada, East Slide Rock Ridge with the Rocky Mountain Type 1 IMT as a supply unit leader.
  - Retired Ranger Robert Conklin also was dispatched with the Rocky Mountain Type 1 IMT to Nevada on East Slide Rock Ridge as a security manager.
  - Department volunteer Robert Miles was dispatched to three assignments this year--to Virginia at South One as an expanded dispatch support dispatcher, to Oregon at UPF ABC Lightning as an ordering manager and to California at East Basin Complex as an equipment manager trainee.
  - Department volunteer Gary Glintenkamp was dispatched to two assignments this year, both in California as a dozer boss--first to Canyon Complex and the second to Yolla Bolly Complex.
  - Department volunteer Gary Gibbins was dispatched to California as an EMT-B to Lime Complex. This was Gary's first single-resource assignment after serving on NYS fire crews over the years. His fire experience and EMT background was greatly appreciated as he was used to train up-and-coming fireline EMTs and was extended beyond the 14-day period because of his skills.
  - Department volunteer Marc Manno was our last single resource dispatched to California on the Hidden Fire as an EMT-I on September 17. After arriving for his assignment, however, he was turned around and sent home because weather conditions had been favorable, and his services were no longer needed. Marc has been

on NYS fire crews for the last few years and has assisted in the refresher training of local fire departments on out- of-state firefighting.

- Rangers Jim Prunoske, Tom Koss and Bryan Gallagher traveled to Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Gustav as part of New York's SEMO Incident Management Team, overseeing emergency-relief efforts in storm-struck areas.

These mobilizations not only assisted the state, federal and Northeastern Forest Fire Compact cooperators in a time of need, but also provided excellent training opportunities for in-state firefighting and incident-management support. Lisa Miner, Fire Management Administration Specialist, processes all of the documentation required to mobilize any and all New York State wildland firefighting resources to federal or Compact incidents.

### **Predictive Services Program**

The Predictive Services Program continued its primary mission of providing informational support to assist with planning and decision-making within the framework of the State Wildland Fire Management Plan. This support includes seasonal, monthly and weekly fire-weather and fire-danger outlooks, daily fire-weather and fire-danger reports, weekly fire-danger-severity summaries and on-site fire-behavior predictions for both wildland fire and prescribed-fire operations.

The goals of the program including the following responsibilities and tasks completed in 2008:

- Continued to operate, maintain and improve the network of 16 state-of-the-art interagency remote automatic fire weather stations (RAWS). This weather-station network provides the rangers and interagency partners with hourly fire-weather data and informational support. Critical fire-weather breakpoints and fire-business thresholds calculated from historic and current fire weather provide realistic fire-management decision points.

- Provided fire-danger training to the department's Office of Public Protection (OPP) Ray Brook Dispatch, including fire-danger structure and terminology, a description of the RAWS network and associated products and application of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) within the framework of regional fire management plans.
- Provided fire-danger and fire-weather training for interagency cooperators, including the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact ("Compact") members, local volunteer fire departments and federal and state fire personnel.
- Maintained contact with the five National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving New York State. This communication results in improved fire-weather services by providing the NWS with a better understanding of the rangers' organization and fire-management responsibilities. In addition to a daily fire-weather-planning forecast issued for each forecast zone in the state, the NWS now prepares a daily next-day weather forecast for each of the 16 RAWS in the interagency network. This allows for next-day forecasting of fire-danger indices, improving fire-management planning at the local, regional and statewide levels.
- Maintained open lines of communication to share fire-weather and fire-danger information with interagency partners, including the National Park Service at the Saratoga Battlefield and the Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island, the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in Genesee County and the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge on Long Island, the US Army at West Point and Fort Drum, the US Forest Service at Finger Lakes National Forest, NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at the Lake Champlain, Palisades, and Allegany districts, The Nature Conservancy at the Albany Pine Bush and the Wilton Preserve, the Long Island Pine Barrens Commission, New Jersey and Pennsylvania state wildland fire agencies and local volunteer fire departments through presentations to the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, county emergency management coordinators and the State Fire Chiefs Association. These contacts assure cooperation and availability of resources when needed under emergency conditions.
- Continued availability of real-time access to the National Lightning Detection Network for managers and supervisors, with the extension of an agreement negotiated through the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, providing personnel the ability to remotely track severe thunderstorms to assist in locating and suppressing lightning-caused wildland fires.
- Support of fire-behavior training programs for all personnel, including instructing fire-behavior courses at the New York Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy on Long Island and at the SUNY Ranger School at Wanakena.
- Fire-weather/fire-danger-related professional memberships: served as the eastern and southern states' representative to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Fire Environment Working Team, served as the state representative to the National Steering Committee for Fire Danger, served as the New York representative to the Compact Fire Science Working Team and participated as a member of the American Meteorological Society and the International Association of Wildland Firefighters. Participation on these teams, committees and organizations furthers the knowledge and understanding of fire-weather and fire-danger science, as well as furthering an expertise in the application of the NFDRS as an integral part of ranger fire-management programs.

## **Predictive Services Program - Related Projects Initiated in 2008:**

- Continued a wildland-urban interface fuels-mapping project in conjunction with the department's GIS unit. This mapping initiative integrates wildland fuels data with population densities to identify areas of risk in the urban interface within the state.
- Participated in the National Landfire Fuels-Mapping Project as it relates to zones within New York State.
- Implemented a training program for captains and lieutenants to provide them with the tools and skills to analyze fire-weather and fire-occurrence data. This training will allow regional supervision to identify and set critical fire-management decision points on the local level.
- Began a demonstration project in conjunction with the department's GIS unit to map the wildland fire elements of fuels, weather and topography for use as a reference guide to division personnel. This project combines data from the interface-fuels project, the historic-fire-occurrence data project, historic and current-fire weather data and topographic feature information for use in fire-spread models.

## **NEW YORK CITY WATERSHED PUBLIC LAND ACCESS INITIATIVE**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officials completed a landmark agreement to increase recreational access to approximately 18,000 acres of DEP-managed property in the Catskill Mountain region. Under this cooperative agreement, hiking, hunting, fishing and trapping on dozens of DEP-managed parcels that are adjacent to state forest-preserve lands no longer require a separate DEP permit. For many years, DEP permits have been required for access to DEP-managed land in the Catskills watershed. Under the new agreement, the applicable DEC hunting, fishing and trapping licenses will be the only documentation needed on these public access area (PAA) lands affected by this agreement. No permit will be necessary for hiking. Under the new PAA initiative, DEC forest rangers will patrol the PAAs to enforce laws and regulations, enhance protection of the environment and further assist DEP in land- management decisions. New York State owns more than 200,000 acres in New York City's watershed west of the Hudson River, the vast majority of which is forest preserve located within the Catskill Park. DEC has successfully managed these lands for many decades, allowing residents and visitors to enjoy passive recreational activities without the need for access permits. As part of the agreement, four DEC assistant forest rangers were assigned to assist DEP personnel with posting of the properties in September and October. All PAAs were properly posted for the new access opportunities by the beginning of big-game rifle season on November 16.

## 2008 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

In 2008, forest ranger training activities accounted for a total of 23,264 program hours or 9 percent of all hours worked. This amounted to a significant decrease of 29,390 hours from the previous year. The decrease is, in large part, due to not having a recruit class. This year, the division's training and development program concentrated on five primary training program areas: search and rescue (8,824 hours), wildfire management (6,090 hours), police officer program (3,608 hours), basic academy instruction (1,784 hours) and all other general training (3,020 hours).

The following narrative briefly summarizes some of the more notable training events in 2008. While many other training opportunities are not mentioned in this report, they are not any less significant. All instructors are commended for their continued commitment in development of the ranger's practical skills.

### **Search and Rescue (SAR) Training**

In 2008, the division continued to encourage regional training for the development of each ranger's search-and-rescue skills. This year, the regions sponsored a total of 23 SAR training events. Each region continues to offer SAR training in subject matter that is considered relevant for their specific regional programs. SAR training events typically include a diverse range of topics. Some examples of this year's regional SAR training include: swift-water rescue, high- and low-angle rope rescue, flat and vertical ice rescue, basic backcountry skiing, GPS and land navigation, airboat operation, snowmobile operation and helicopter hoist operations.

In addition to regionally approved training events, rangers attended several other division-sponsored courses. In January, 12 rangers

attended a Rescue 3 International Rope Training session.

In June, five rangers served as instructors at the Mountain Rescue Association Annual Conference in Stowe, VT. Lieutenants Brian Dubay and Bob Marrone, along with rangers Greg George, Chris Kostoss and Kevin Burns instructed helicopter hoist operations and high- and low-angle rope rescue techniques.

In June, rangers Rob Mecus and Scott Jackson provided basic rope techniques training to 10 members of the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources.



In July, the 10 ranger graduates of the 17<sup>th</sup> Basic School in 2007 attended a course on Managing the Search Function. This course was coordinated by Captain Pat Kilpeck to prepare rangers for managing complex searches in their

assigned areas.

In October, Captain Tim Byrnes and Lt. Paul Rinaldi attended a comprehensive, graduate-level Inland Search and Rescue Planning course. presented by U.S. Coast Guard instructors. The course covered search theory and its application to wilderness searches.

Throughout the year, the division provided introductory-level ArcView 9 geographical information systems (GIS) training to every ranger. The training was provided by rangers Marie Ellenbogen, Megan McCone and Jen Snyder, who are designated as division GIS coordinators. This was the first step in providing further training in this geographic mapping software application.

Lt. Gary Friedrich coordinated the division's helicopter hoist operator's program. In 2008, the helicopter hoist operators attended 20 training sessions throughout the state. This was accomplished with the support and assistance of the New York State Police Aviation Unit. The training consisted of topics in personnel hoists, forward-looking infrared (FLIR) training, litter and sling load hoists.



Similarly, the division's airboat operators attended 15 separate training events across the state. This training develops proficiency in the operation of division airboats under a variety of

environmental conditions. The four division airboats have proven to be a valuable life-saving resource on open water, swiftwater and flat-ice conditions. Ranger Rick Schroeder has served as the program coordinator for this training for several years.

### **Police Officer Training Program**

In 2008, the division provided its mandatory annual firearms training to all rangers. Lt. Tim Taylor served as the lead instructor for all use-of-force training. He was assisted by the division's cadre of firearms instructors, including: Captain Tim Byrnes, lieutenants Steve Scherry and Brian Dubay and rangers Pete Liebig, Glen Bronson, Dave Cordell and Mike Hubschmitt.

In January, rangers Bill Henry, Tom Edmunds, Christine Nelson and Suzie Heare attended a week-long basic snowmobile law enforcement training program sponsored by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The instructors taught the laws regulating snowmobile operation, accident reporting, field operations and search-and-rescue operations.

In February, the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) hosted a snowmobile operation course at the request of the ranger division. Twenty rangers successfully completed the eight-hour course and learned the fundamentals of snowmobile operation.

Also in February, the division's use-of-force instructors, rangers Dan Cordell and John Kennedy, attended a Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) -sponsored Illegal Guns course. The training provided information on current federal and state gun laws and gun crime reduction initiatives.

In March, Captain Byrnes, lieutenants Taylor, Scherry and Paul Rinaldi, along with rangers Mike Bodnar, Glen Bronson, Dan Cordell, Pat

Dormer, Mike Hubschmitt, Pete Liebig, Steve Ovitt and Dave Slingerland attended a Sig-Sauer armorer school in Fulton, NY. This training certifies division armorers to service and maintain the division's firearms.

Throughout 2008, ten rangers attended one of three separate Radar/Lidar Operators (speed gun) courses sponsored by DCJS.

### **Wildfire Management Training Program**

In January, Region 9 Lt. Shawn Plaisted and Ranger Dave Pachan attended an I-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents course. sponsored by the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO).

In February, six rangers attended the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission, "Compact" Winter Academy in South Portland, Maine. Ranger Brian Gallagher and Lt. Rinaldi successfully completed a Supply Unit Leader course in which Ranger Tom Koss assisted with instruction. Rangers Tim Carpenter, Scott Jackson, Adam Pickett and Lt. Joe Shafer completed the Situation Unit Leader course.

Also during February, Ranger Joe Kennedy served as a member of a national instructor cadre for the Advanced National Fire Danger Rating System Course. This course was taught to fire management leaders at the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI) in Tucson, AZ.

In early April, Ranger Steve Ovitt served as an S-300 Incident Commander - Extended Attack lead instructor for a course sponsored by the compact. The course was held in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Also in April, Captain Kilpeck attended the All Hazards Liaison Officers course sponsored by SEMO.

In June, Ranger Joe Kennedy traveled to Colorado to serve as a lead instructor for an S-

290 Intermediate Fire Behavior course at the Colorado State Wildfire Academy. Ranger Kennedy is a recognized national leader in this subject matter and routinely supports both the division and outside agencies teaching this course.

Rangers Michael Thompson and Kevin Slade attended the S-215 Fire Operations in the Urban Interface course at the New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy. Ranger Howard Thomes attended the L-280 Followership to Leadership course at the academy. Captains David Brooks and Tim Byrnes, along with rangers Bryan Gallagher, Jim Prunoske, Joe Kennedy, Bill Meehan and Scott Jackson assisted with instruction of several academy classes.

In October, Colonel Andy Jacob and Captain Eric Lahr attended a three-day course on High Reliability Organizations sponsored by the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The course presented the principles of a high-reliability organization and a staff ride of the 1999 Albany Pine Barrens prescribed fire escape.

The division sponsored four 40-hour courses in S-130 Firefighter Training and S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior throughout the year. These courses were given in regions 1, 4, 5 and 6. Successful completion of these nationally approved courses qualifies individuals to become wildland firefighters on federal incidents. Additionally, the division hosted 12 RT-130 Annual Firefighter Refresher training sessions throughout the state. This course is a mandatory refresher for anyone interested in participating in the federal fire response program.

### **Wilderness First Responder Training Program**

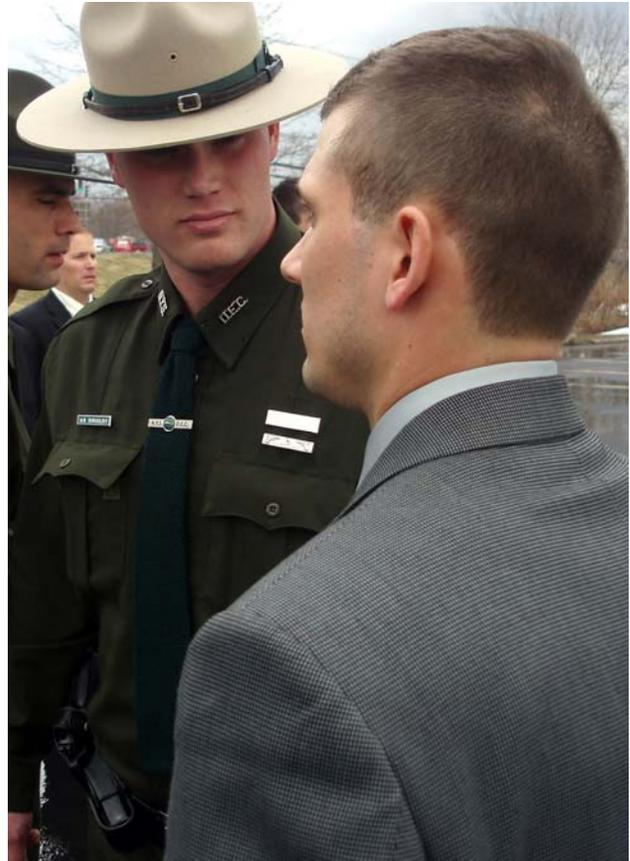
During 2008, the division's Wilderness Medical Associate (WMA) instructors provided a total

of 10 courses in first aid instruction. A total of 195 students received some level of first aid instruction though out the year. The first time DLE environmental conservation officers (ECO) received in-service first aid training was in 2008. Each officer who attends these sessions is required to pass an exam and perform satisfactorily in practical scenarios.

Additionally, this year the division attempted to recruit new instructors into the first aid instructor cadre. As a result of our recruitment efforts, several new officers and dispatchers from within the Office of Public Protection (OPP) have agreed to support the program. The cadre now comprises rangers, ECOs and dispatchers and includes lead-instructor rangers Julie Harjung, Dave Meade and Suzie Heare. New instructors include rangers Jenifer Temple, Michael Burkholder, Rob Rogers and Rob Dawson, ECOs Brian Willson and Bruce Hummel and dispatchers Ann MacBride and Angela Reynolds.

### **18<sup>th</sup> Basic School for Uniformed Officers**

On March 31, opening ceremonies were held for the 18<sup>th</sup> Basic School for Uniformed Officers. This school was attended solely by environmental conservation officers (ECO), breaking a recent trend of having joint schools. At the time when the 18th Basic School began, ranger staffing was at full capacity, so it was unnecessary for ranger recruit participation. However, through a continuing cooperative partnership with the DLE, rangers provided support staff and instructors to the school. Ranger Michael Burkholder was an outstanding drill instructor at the 18<sup>th</sup> Basic School. His attention to detail, commanding presence and leadership provided a prime example of professionalism for the new ECOs.



Additionally, captains Patrick Kilpeck, Eric Lahr and John Streiff, Lt. Brian Dubay and rangers Julie Harjung, David Meade, Suzanne Heare and John Kennedy all taught courses at the Basic School.

### **Other Notable Training Accomplishments**

Several other training accomplishments were recognized during the year. Colonel Andy Jacob, Major Joe Zeglen and Captain Eric Lahr attended a 54-hour Supervisory Institute course sponsored by the DEC Training Unit. In late May, Lt. Bob Marrone traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado to attend the annual ASTM International Committee Meeting on search and rescue (SAR). This meeting brings together professional search-and-rescue personnel from across the country and is working to establish universal credentialing standards for SAR.

**DIVISION TRAINING SUMMARY REPORT**

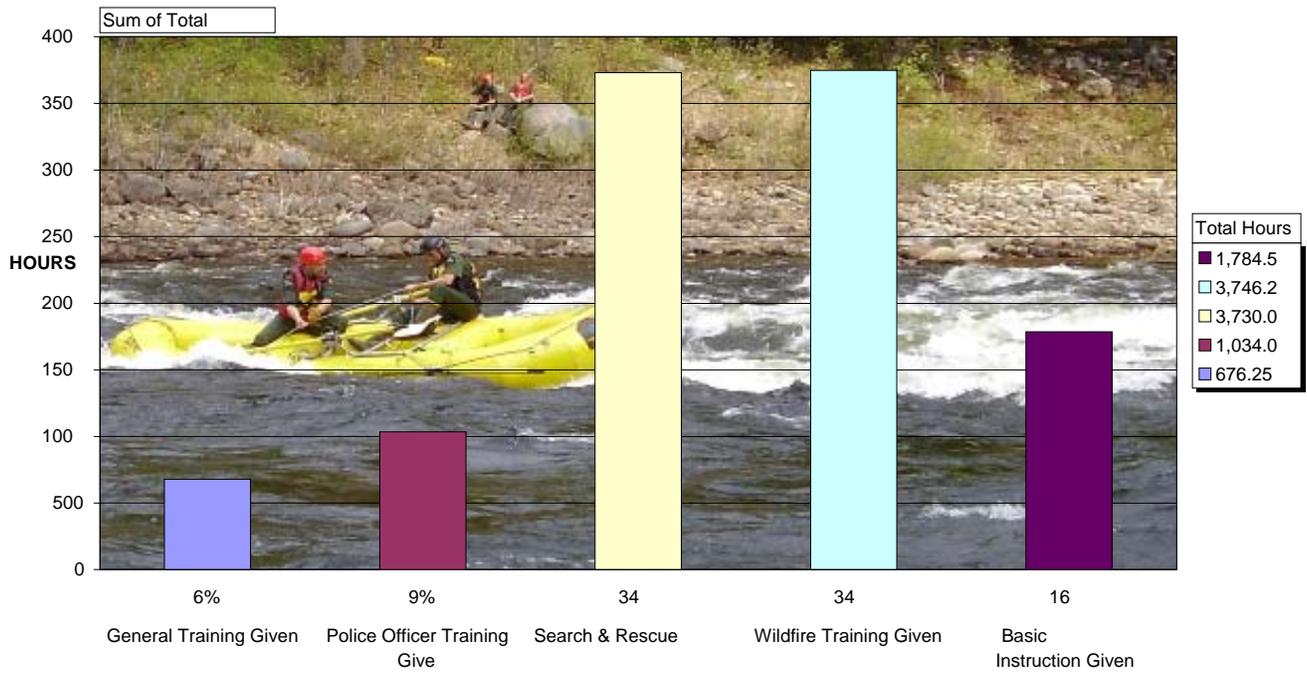
In 2008, the division reported a total of 23,264 work hours dedicated to a variety of training events. Search-and-rescue training accounted for 8,824 hours or 38 percent of all training given and received. Wildfire training accounted for 6,090 hours or 26 percent of all training given and received. Police Officer training accounted for 3,608 hours or 15 percent of all training given and received. Basic School training received and given accounted for 1,784

work hours or 8 percent of all training given and received. All other general training accounted for 3,020 work hours or 13 percent of all training. This year witnessed a significant decrease in the amount of training from the previous year. This can be largely attributed to our division's limited involvement in the 18<sup>th</sup> Basic School, as well as having to cancel several training opportunities due to current fiscal constraints. The following annual comparison table and bar graph provides a breakdown of all training activity for the division in 2008 as reported by each employee.

**DIVISION OF FOREST PROTECTION  
Table of Hours Worked in the Training Program by Category**

CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	Annual Program Hours Worked Per Category		
		2006	2007	2008
Search-and-Rescue Training	Given	4,915.25	4,359.25	3,730.00
Search-and-Rescue Training	Received	5,419.00	5,592.50	5,094.00
<b>Search-and-Rescue Training Total</b>		<b>10,334.25</b>	<b>9,951.75</b>	<b>8,824.00</b>
Wildfire Training	Given	4,790.75	3,903.50	3,746.25
Wildfire Training	Received	4,221.25	3,631.00	2,280.25
<b>Wildfire Training Total</b>		<b>9,012.00</b>	<b>7,534.50</b>	<b>6,026.50</b>
Police Officer Training	Given	1,912.75	2,839.50	1,034.00
Police Officer Training	Received	4,546.50	10,603.25	2,574.50
<b>Police Officer Training Total</b>		<b>6,459.25</b>	<b>13,442.75</b>	<b>3,608.50</b>
Basic Academy Training	Given	86.00	4,129.25	1,311.50
Basic Academy Training	Received	0.00	11,283.75	0.00
Basic Academy Training	Administration	195.00	2,391.75	473.00
<b>Basic Academy Training Total</b>		<b>281.00</b>	<b>17,804.75</b>	<b>1,784.50</b>
General Training	Given	696.75	740.25	676.25
General Training	Received	3,242.75	3,084.75	2,243.75
General Training	OSHA	91.75	95.50	100.50
<b>General Training Total</b>		<b>4,031.25</b>	<b>3,920.50</b>	<b>3,020.50</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>30,117.75</b>	<b>52,654.25</b>	<b>23,264.00</b>

### 2008 FOREST RANGER TRAINING GIVEN SUMMARY CHART



### 2008 FOREST RANGER TRAINING RECEIVED SUMMARY CHART



**2008 SUMMARY OF WILDFIRES BY FOREST RANGER ZONE**

<b>Region &amp; Zone</b>	<b>1&amp;2</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>5A</b>	<b>5B</b>	<b>5C</b>	<b>5D</b>	<b>5E</b>	<b>5F</b>	<b>6A</b>	<b>6B</b>	<b>6C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b># of Debris Caused Fires</b>	0	2	3	6	7	0	2	2	1	3	6	0	7	5	9	13	11	77
<b># of Campfire Caused Fires</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	11
<b># of Lightning Caused Fires</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	6
<b># of Arson Caused Fires</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b># of Other Caused Fires</b>	5	3	6	2	2	4	4	1	5	7	6	0	2	0	10	3	3	63
<b>TOTAL # OF FIRES</b>	5	5	9	8	9	5	7	5	9	12	13	0	10	5	21	20	14	157
																		0
<b># of Fires 0.1 to 0.9 Acres</b>	4	1	1	1	4	1	3	2	5	7	2	0	8	3	10	3	5	60
<b># of Fires 1.0 to 9.9 Acres</b>	1	3	4	5	5	4	4	3	4	4	7	0	2	2	7	13	8	76
<b># of Fires 10 to 99 Acres</b>	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	4	4	1	20
<b># of Fires 100 Acres or larger</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL ACRES OF FIRE</b>	2	71	2945	81	11	13	10	19	16	32	114	0	7	11	108	147	48	3634
																		0
<b># of State Land Fires</b>	5	0	3	0	0	3	1	2	7	1	0	0	1	0	6	1	1	31
<b># of Private and Other Government Land Fires</b>	0	5	6	8	9	2	6	3	2	11	13	0	9	5	15	19	13	126
<b># of Spring Fires</b>	2	5	8	8	9	2	6	4	7	9	13	0	9	4	14	19	14	133
<b># of Summer Fires</b>	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	15
<b># of Fall-Winter Fires</b>	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	9
<b>TOTAL COST OF FIRES</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	\$222,961	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$98</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$575</b>	<b>\$486</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$224,156</b>

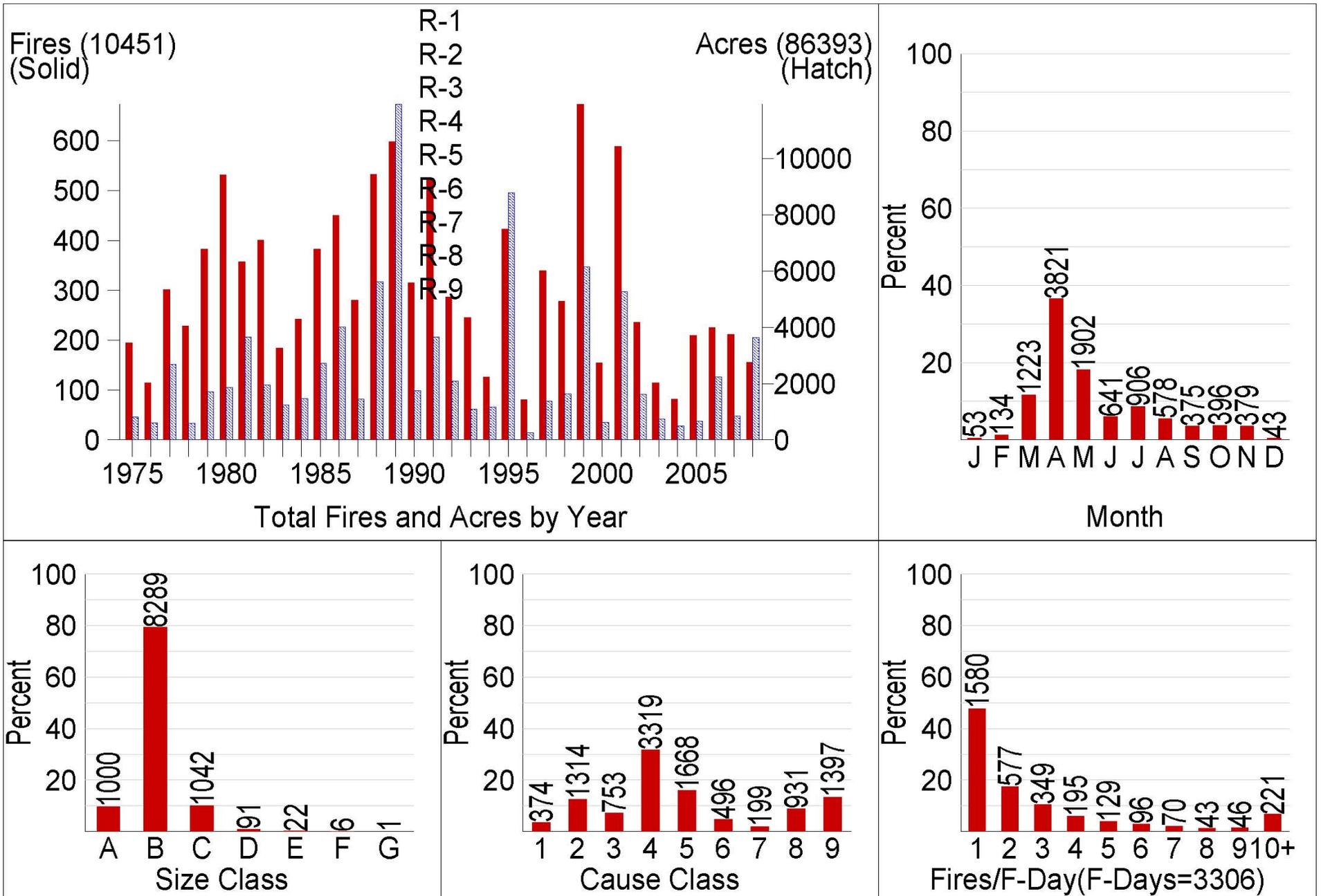
**Table 0-17**

**Wildland Fires and Acres Burned  
New York State - Selected Years 1955-2008**

Year	Forest Fire	Acres Burned	Average Acres Burned Per Fire
1955	1,720	23,127	13.4
1960	714	5,065	7.1
1965	1,200	8,469	7.1
1970	631	2,262	3.6
1971	596	2,203	3.7
1972	508	2,693	5.1
1973	669	3,300	4.9
1974	558	2,268	4.1
1975	795	2,968	3.7
1976	484	6,140	12.7
1977	895	7,016	7.8
1978	792	7,143	9.0
1979	552	2,593	4.7
1980	772	5,391	7.0
1981	655	5,540	8.4
1982	610	3,389	5.5
1983	356	1,585	4.5
1984	319	1,516	4.8
1985	644	3,666	5.7
1986	460	3,799	8.3
1987	267	1,072	4.0
1988	556	5,031	9.0
1989	603	11,730	19.5
1990	322	1,589	4.9
1991	535	3,453	6.6
1992	292	2,014	6.9
1993	243	992	4.1
1994	129	1,177	9.1
1995	379	7,334	19.4
1996	79	211	2.7
1997	309	1,218	3.9
1998	346	2,569	7.4
1999	629	5,557	9.3
2000	134	451	3.4
2001	460	4,545	9.9
2002	324	2,062	6.4
2003	106	594	5.6
2004	73	431	5.9
2005	208	669	3.2
2006	231	2,323	10.1
2007	211	855	4.1
2008	157	3,634	23.1

SOURCE: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Forest Protection

# NEW YORK STATE FOREST RANGER HISTORICAL WILDFIRE OCCURRENCE STATISTICS FROM 1975 TO 2008



**SUMMARY of ALL SEARCH & RESCUE MISSIONS**  
**Reported by**  
**FOREST RANGERS in 2008**

Activity of Subject(s)	Total #	% Total	Searches	Rescues	Recoveries	Costs
Airplane/ Flying	1	0.4%	1			
Biking	4	1.6%	2	2		
Camping	11	4.5%	6	5		
Climbing (Rock/Ice)	3	1.2%		3		
Fishing	5	2.0%	3	1	1	
Hiking	138	56.3%	66	70	2	\$5,130
Hunting	34	13.9%	33	1		\$954
Runaway/Fugitive	2	0.8%	2			
Skiing/Snowshoeing	4	1.6%	2	2		
Snowmobile/ATV	6	2.4%	3	3		
Suicides	3	1.2%	2		1	
Swimming	0	0.0%				
Walking/Walkaway	17	6.9%	17			\$484
Whitewater/Boating	6	2.4%	1	5		\$28
Other***	11	4.5%	11			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$6,596</b>

\*\*\* Other incidents include motorist, criminal investigation, unknown and search for dog.

**Number of Incidents By Day Of Week**

Event	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
Search	7	32	15	16	24	32	23	149
Rescue	10	10	7	5	9	30	21	92
Recovery		1		2		1		4
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>245</b>

**Number & Percentage of Incidents occurring by Month**

MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total	MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total
January	7	3%	July	44	18%
February	5	2%	August	37	15%
March	8	3%	September	16	7%
April	17	7%	October	39	16%
May	10	4%	November	30	12%
June	24	10%	December	8	3%
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2008 SUMMARY OF SEARCH & RESCUE INCIDENTS BY ZONE**

<b>SEARCH INCIDENTS</b>	<b>1&amp;2</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>5A</b>	<b>5B</b>	<b>5C</b>	<b>5D</b>	<b>5E</b>	<b>5F</b>	<b>6A</b>	<b>6B</b>	<b>6C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Camping/ Hiking/Skiing		2	3	9	1	3	4	16	15	10	7	1	2	3	1	1	1	79
Fishing/Hunting /Trap.	2	1		1	2	4	1	1	5	3		3	3	4	3		3	36
Walk-aways/Run-aways		5		1	1						2					2		11
ATV/Snowmobile/Boat			1							1		1		1			1	5
Other	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1		2			4	2	2	18
<b>RESCUES INCIDENTS</b>																		<b>0</b>
Ice or Rock Climbing						2										1		3
Camping/ Hiking/Skiing		2		8	1	10	3	38	6	4	1			1		2	1	77
ATV/Snowmobile/MV									1					2				3
Boating/Water Rescues									1	2		1	1					5
Other						2			1						1			4
<b>RECOVERIES</b>																		<b>0</b>
Land Related				1				1										2
ATV/Snowmobile/Boat																		0
Water Related															1			1
Suicides											1							1
Other																		0
<b>TOTAL # of INCIDENTS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>STATE LAND INCIDENTS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$484</b>						<b>\$85</b>	<b>\$5,073</b>					<b>\$954</b>				<b>\$6,596</b>

**Table 0-18**

**Search and Rescue Missions  
New York State - 1963-2008**

Year	Missions	Staff Time (Hours)	Year	Missions	Staff Time (hours)
1963	76	1,296	1985	201	5,698
1964	53	816	1986	211	5,730
1965	106	3,050	1987	253	5,064
1966	116	1,877	1988	223	8,063
1967	130	2,447	1989	259	6,081
1968	100	1,805	1990r	259	7,804
1969	113	4,028	1991r	252	4,290
1970	116	1,320	1992	244	11,282
1971	104	9,255	1993	241	8,907
1972	138	8,604	1994	208	5,100
1973	178	15,941a	1995	212	6,200
1974	144	15,941a	1996	236	7,700
1975	162	4,049	1997	251	6,494
1976	211	6,741	1998	209	7,049
1977	202	5,324	1999	228	4,130
1978	156	3,334	2000	286	10,725
1979	163	4,445	2001	261	8,768
1980	164	4,382	2002	257	10,313
1981	163	5,300	2003	237	9,382
1982	184	6,858	2004	220	7,209
1983	215	7,003	2005	229	10,378
1984	188	5,381	2006	226	15,708
			2007	223	8,964
			2008	245	14,094

r Revised

a Reflects time spent by Environmental Conservation Officers as well as Department Foresters on several unusually large searches

1 Spent by Forest Rangers of the Department of Environmental Conservation

SOURCE: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Forest Protection and Fire Management

**2008 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BY FOREST RANGER ZONE**

<b>DEC Region-Zone</b>	<b>1&amp;2</b>	<b>3-A</b>	<b>3-B</b>	<b>4-A</b>	<b>4-B</b>	<b>5-A</b>	<b>5-B</b>	<b>5-C</b>	<b>5-D</b>	<b>5-E</b>	<b>5-F</b>	<b>6-A</b>	<b>6-B</b>	<b>6-C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>ALL</b>
#of Assists to Other Agencies at Emergencies	61	32	34	22	4	15	22	32	82	5	9	41	21	24	15	19	25	<b>463</b>
# of defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment	3	15	20	2	1	2		6	24	2	3	9	3	3	4	1		<b>98</b>
# of Part 215 Burning Permit Inspections		12	45	2	1		2	2	22	3			1				1	<b>91</b>
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger		25	17	45	257	78	396	415	294	185	249	68	39	76				<b>2,144</b>
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permit Inspections		16	8	20	16	23	68	21	178	141	22		7	11				<b>531</b>
# of Article 9/191 BP's issued by Issuing Agent		1940	5395	351	352		506	1	102	1002	150	30		25				<b>9,854</b>
# of Camping Permits Issued		144	6	61	105	385	67	75	334	230	64	150	113	93	140	118	119	<b>2,204</b>
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected		1462	638	178	751	1153	613	1489	1362	1410	249	553	269	1086	791	1127	875	<b>14,006</b>
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds		331	9	184	183	283	149	60	699	46	17	105	1	161				<b>2,228</b>
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	11		17	54	353		2	1	56		4	29	18	241	247	155	41	<b>1,229</b>
# of responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)	7	3		3	5	2	7	7	29			2	8	12	1	6	8	<b>100</b>
# of Guides Checked for License Compliance		7		58			1	5	194	46		1	1	2	20		3	<b>338</b>
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued						1	1		16	1	5	11	14				2	<b>51</b>
# of Stream Crossing Inspections						1	3	14	78	1	20	11	2	6		9		<b>145</b>
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections		128				0	58	27	15	24	1	20	5			131	206	<b>615</b>
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	2797	4626	4044	3160	5219	2333	3216	4000	4402	3895	2853	3775	2226	9696	7735	7057	11,395	<b>82,429</b>
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	525	128	109	221	211	54	290	130	138	146	48	99	81	195	86	116	151	<b>2,728</b>
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by foot or paddle	1362	1432	1719	1850	1069	1073	1292	3674	2176	2725	885	1032	533	1184	727	602	1,167	<b>24,502</b>
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by motorized equipment	4766	930	306	21	382	2062	365	729	3378	642	455	2065	1988	1574	764	799	870	<b>22,096</b>

**2008 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND TRAINING GIVEN BY FOREST RANGER ZONE**

<b>DEC Region-Zone</b>	<b>1&amp;2</b>	<b>3-A</b>	<b>3-B</b>	<b>4-A</b>	<b>4-B</b>	<b>5-A</b>	<b>5-B</b>	<b>5-C</b>	<b>5-D</b>	<b>5-E</b>	<b>5-F</b>	<b>6-A</b>	<b>6-B</b>	<b>6-C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Number of S130/190 Training Events</b>	1			1		1						1				1		5
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	17			14		17						21				9		78
<b>Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events</b>		3	4	1	3	1	1			1	1		1		4	2	1	23
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		49	81	12	52	12	23			18	46		10		62	20	8	393
<b>Number of 4-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events</b>			2		2		1				1					1		7
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above			47		66		180				21					12		326
<b>Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events</b>	6			2	1	5	1		1	1	2		2		7	9	3	40
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	104			28	16	90	50		13	28	21		19		219	215	70	873
<b>Number of Fire Prevention Events</b>	6	2	9	11	13	6	3	3	6	7	8	4	1	4	5	3	9	100
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	900	240	1649	8245	4045	612	210	158	2447	1426	3538	345	1000	645	95357	664	815	122,296
<b>Number of Basic Wildland Search Course Events</b>	3	3	5	4		2	1		3					2	3	4	3	33
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	48	48	116	83		40	17		40					51	59	94	95	691
<b>Number of Other S&amp;R or 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Course Events</b>	2	3	4	5	8	4	2	14	6	4	4			2	16		10	84
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	37	39	130	86	32	82	31	154	243	2277	128			43	384		355	4,021
<b># of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations</b>	5	5	5	19	1	6	6	13	9	10	14	1	7	6	5	3	10	125
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	1030	237	415	363	60	175	320	1014	154	732	22547	145	631	950	486	146	713	30,118
<b>Number of Career Information Events</b>	3	1	5	20	7		2	1	1	7	2	2	2	8	15	9	16	101
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	1000	300	1583	5932	288		24	27	30	472	66	100	33	31346	2646	4760	4261	52,868
<b>Number of Other Presentations or Training Events</b>	1	3	2	0	1	2	2		12	1	2	1	11	10		2	0	50
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	50	115	45	0	250	18	7500		372	25	80	25	154	844		238	0	9,716
<b>Total # of Presentations &amp; Training Events</b>	27	20	36	63	36	27	19	31	38	31	34	9	24	32	55	34	52	568
<b>Total Hours of Presentations &amp; Training Events</b>	257	129	205	304	174	148	87	77	132	140	163	50	67	168	230	231	237	2,799
<b>Total Number of Attendees at Events</b>	3186	1028	4066	14763	4809	1046	8355	1353	3299	4978	26447	636	1847	33879	99213	6158	6317	221,380

**2008 SUMMARY OF TICKETS OR ARRESTS BY FOREST RANGER ZONE**

DEC REGION-ZONE	1& 2	3-A	3-B	4-A	4-B	5-A	5-B	5-C	5-D	5-E	5-F	6-A	6-B	6-C	7	8	9	ALL
<b>Total Number of Tickets or Arrests</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>3092</b>
Environmental Conservation Law Rules and Regulations	91	129	54	150	89	61	38	49	92	83	45	216	52	28	94	50	292	<b>1613</b>
NYS Vehicle & Traffic Offenses	61	19	16	25	81	12	16	15	32	23	34	253	103	37	41	31	134	<b>933</b>
Parks & Recreation (Snowmobile & Navigation)				11	16	21	21	23	31	9	8	137	20	18	8	2	16	<b>341</b>
Arrests Turned over to Another Agency				7	45		27	19	5		1						21	<b>125</b>
Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests )	12	3		3	1		2		6	5	14	14	4	1	4	3	8	<b>80</b>
Offenses Related to State Land Use	56	54	22	38	14	26	9	47	18	39	4	115	10	8	34	27	144	<b>665</b>
Offenses Related to Fire Laws		10	2	10	9	1	1	1	2	5	9	10	19	3	14	10	6	<b>112</b>
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	10	6	3	24	68	29	27	10	3	4	3	14	12	3	19	8	76	<b>319</b>
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations								23	1									<b>24</b>
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	60	21	15	23	72	6	15		24	13	21	209	103	36	36	31	78	<b>763</b>
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State	20	3	11	3	15		1		2	8	3	48	1	7	9	6	22	<b>159</b>
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds		30		63	18	5	15	1	37	1	1	2		4				<b>177</b>
Offenses Related to Air Pollution		1		2				1							1		1	<b>6</b>
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State lands		23	16	13	9		3	11	13	24	27	66	8	4	15		43	<b>275</b>
Offenses Related to other ECL or R&R	7			2	2			2	5	2					5		5	<b>30</b>
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	11	3	1	8	9	20	13	8		14	26	27	6	1	11	4	67	<b>229</b>
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation				10	16	7	20	2	61	10	8	129	20	18	3		29	<b>333</b>
<b>Total Number of Tickets or Arrests as Reported</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>3092</b>

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