Division of Forest Protection

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

This page left intentionally blank.

Table of Contents

Letter from the Director 4

2009 Annual Report Statewide Highlights 6

Division Mission 6

365-Day/24-Hour Responsibility 6

Law Enforcement at State Lands 6

Search-and-Rescue Responsibility 6

Search-and-Rescue Missions 6

Search-and-Rescue Training 7

Wildfire Management 7

Wildfire Training 7

Wildfire Prevention 7

Wildfire Prevention Enforcement 8

National Response to Wildfires 8

Prescribed Fire 8

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants 8

Support to Other Agencies 8

Licensed Guide Program 9

Comprehensive Annual Report 9

2009 Forest Ranger Division Fact Sheet 10

Division Members 10

State Lands and Easements Acres 10

2008 Population 10

Wildfire Management Program 10

Search-and-Rescue Program 10

Protection of State Lands and Resources 10

Licensed Guide Program 10

Other 10

How Rangers Spent Their Time in 2009 10

Region and Zone Narratives 12

Regions 1 and 2 by Captain Tim Byrnes 12

Region 3, Zone A by Lt. Stephen M. Scherry 13

Region 3, Zone B by Lt. Paul Rinaldi 14
Region 4, Zone A by Lt. Darryl Kittle 15
Region 4, Zone B by Lt. Rob Morse 17
Region 5, Zone A by Lt. Bob Marrone 18
Region 5, Zone B by Lt. Gary Friedrich 19
Region 5, Zone C by Lt. Brian Dubay 21
Region 5, Zone D by Lt. Steve Preston 22
Region 5, Zone E by Captain John Streiff 24
Region 5, Zone F by Lt. John Solan 26
Region 6, Zone A by Lt. Robert Barstow 27
Region 6, Zone B by Lt. Joel Nowalk 28
Region 6, Zone C by Lt. Doug Riedman 30
Region 7, Zone A by Lt. Timothy Taylor 31
Region 8 by Lt. Joseph Shafer 32
Region 9 by Lt. Shawn P. Plaisted 33
Wildland Fire Management 34
Preparedness and Assistance with National Emergencies by Lisa Smith 34
Predictive Services Program by Col. Andy Jacob 35
Saratoga Fire Cache by Lt. John Solan 36
Wildland Search-and-Rescue Advisory Committee Activities 37
2009 Training and Development Report 38
Search-and-Rescue (SAR) Training 38
Police Officer Training Program 39
Wildfire Management Training Program 40
Wilderness First Responder Training Program 40
DIVISION TRAINING SUMMARY REPORT 41

Letter from the Director

I am pleased to present the *2009 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.

On June 16, 2009, the forest ranger force celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passing of Colonel William F. Fox, New York's Superintendent of Forests from 1891 to 1909 and the recognized "Father of today's Forest Ranger Force." Our annual report cover pictures DEC Assistant Commissioner for Public Protection Henry Hamilton, along with command staff and select rangers at the gravesite of Colonel Fox in Ballston Spa, Saratoga County in commemoration of his life's work.

Within these pages, you will see how rangers 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, which 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

This page left intentionally blank

2009 Annual Report Statewide Highlights

Division Mission

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 123 years of law enforcement history protecting public lands and the people who use the state's natural resources.

365-Day/24-Hour Responsibility

The division's forest rangers continue their historic tradition of being the "eyes and ears" for the department regarding public use of state lands. Direct professional contact between rangers and 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 to promote and encourage responsible outdoor recreation on public lands through education, research and partnerships. Rangers issued 2,207 camping permits to groups of 10 or more and to all groups staying at one site for more than three nights. Throughout the year, rangers inspected or patrolled the department's 60 public campgrounds 2,297 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during the off-season. Routine patrols included 78,188 inspections of trailhead access points and inspection of 2,692 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

Law Enforcement at State Lands

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 2009, forest rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 680 violations involving ATVs. Another 185 violations involved the unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land. Rangers executed enforcement actions in response to another 1,279 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in rangers making 268 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.

Search-and-Rescue Responsibility

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 2009, 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.

Search-and-Rescue Missions

In 2009, forest rangers conducted 144 search missions, 84 rescues and six recoveries. Seventy-eight percent (182) 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 usually 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.

Search-and-Rescue Training

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 2009, rangers presented 37 NYS "Basic Wildland Search" courses to 777 participants. Another 79 presentations, covering wilderness first aid, advanced search-and-rescue training and incident management were given to 1,999 participants in support of local and division response to incidents statewide.

Wildfire Management

An important part of protecting public lands, as well as privately owned forest lands, is wildfire management. New York State has 18.5 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 2009, forest rangers reported 159 wildfires, which burned a total of 1,405 acres. During the last 25 years, rangers responded to an average of 317 wildfires per year that burned an average total of 2,907 acres annually. In 2008, the 2,855-acre Overlooks Fire severely burned Minnewaska State Park in Ulster County. In 2009, the Hudson Valley once again experienced the largest fire in the state. On April 18, a suspicious 300-acre fire burned across the Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest in the Town of Mamakating, Sullivan County. On April 29, a lightning strike caused a 95-acre fire in the Vanderwhacker Wild Forest, Essex County. Due to the remote location, two state police helicopters were used to bring resources to the fire and drop water on it.

Wildfire Training

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 38 occasions, teaching 827 volunteer firefighters the basics of wildfire suppression. On eight occasions, rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 207 firefighters, state employees, students and volunteers completed this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 51 training sessions to 1,530 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 398 inmates. Through advanced training of corrections officers, this course will be taught by DOCS staff in the future.

Wildfire Prevention

The best way to reduce wildfire occurrence is to prevent fires from starting. Rangers gave 134 prevention presentations to 35,946 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 six 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.

Wildfire Prevention Enforcement

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 11,163 burning permits as required by the NYS Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 713 of the permitted burns to insure compliance with the terms of the permits. In addition, they issued tickets or made arrests for 119 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. In October, New York's open burning regulations were updated for the first time since their inception in 1970. The new regulation generally prohibits burning anything other than tree branches and prohibits these fires from March 15 through May 15. As compliance increases through information and enforcement, the number of wildfires should be drastically reduced.

National Response to Wildfires

In 2009, the division mobilized one 20-person firefighting crew to Alaska wildfires as part of its cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. The crew consisted of a forest ranger as crew boss and three other rangers as squad bosses. The other 16 members were forest rangers, other DEC employees and department volunteer firefighters. This was an average year for rangers supporting federal wildland firefighting efforts since New York sent its first crews in 1979.

Prescribed Fire

In 2009, 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 seven prescribed fires on departmental state lands, burning a total of 187 acres. Rangers also assisted federal and county partners and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with seven prescribed burns on their properties, treating 41 acres in total.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

Each year, the division administers the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program, using funds provided by the U.S. Forest Service. VFA grants assist rural volunteer fire departments with the purchase of fire-suppression equipment and supplies. In 2009, 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.

Support to Other Agencies

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 485 occasions in 2009. Many were automobile accidents at which a ranger came upon the scene. Others included fugitive searches, fire-scene traffic control, evidence searches, drownings and eradication of marijuana plantations. 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.

Licensed Guide Program

The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2009, there was a total of 2,099 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 188 new licenses and 240 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 301 guide-license checks statewide and made one arrest 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 2009.

Comprehensive Annual Report

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 2009 forest ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

2009 Forest Ranger Division Fact Sheet

Division Members

- 106 Forest Rangers
- 28 Forest Ranger Lieutenants, Captains and Directors
- 27 Seasonal Assistant Forest Rangers
- 6 Administrative Support Staff
- 2 Fire Cache Equipment Specialists

State Lands and Easements Acres

- 2,849,340 Acres of Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve
- 774,531 Acres of State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple-Use Areas
- 197,670 Acres of Wildlife Management Areas
- 979,641 Acres of Conservation Easements

2008 Population

- 19.5 million in New York State
- 31.8 million in Surrounding States (VT, MA, CT, NJ, PA)

Wildfire Management Program

- 140 Fires Suppressed in the Spring
- 2 Fires Suppressed in the Summer
- 17 Fires Suppressed in the Fall
- 1,404 Acres Burned
- 13 Prescribed Fires
- 228 Acres of Prescribed Fire
- 11,163 Burning Permits Issued
- 713 Burning Permits Inspected
- 104 Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events with 2,962 participants
- 135 Fire Prevention Events with 35,964 participants
- 119 Fire Prevention Law Tickets
- 401 $1,000 Grants to Rural VFDs
- 1 20-Person Crew Mobilized to Western Wildfire

Search-and-Rescue Program

- 144 Search Missions
- 84 Rescue Missions
- 6 Recoveries
- 116 Search and Rescue or First Aid Training Events; 2,776 Participants

Protection of State Lands and Resources

- 78,188 Inspections of Trailheads and Access Points
- 23,160 Miles of Trails Walked or Waterways Paddled (canoe/kayak)
- 13,873 Inspections of Occupied Campsites
- 2,207 State Land Camping Permits Issued
- 2,692 Miles of State Boundary Line Inspected
- 1,294 State Land Use Permits Issued
- 2,297Patrols of DEC Campgrounds
- 680 ATV Violation Tickets Issued
- 1,279 State Land Offense Ticket or Arrests
- 480 Offenses Related to Snowmobiles
- 328 Fish and Wildlife Offense Tickets
- 283 Other En Con Law Offenses
- 753 DEC Permit Inspections

Licensed Guide Program

- 2,099 Licensed Guides as of 12/31/09
- 188 New Guide Licenses Issued
- 240 Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated
- 0 Guide Licenses Revoked
- 301 Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials
- 1 Licensed Guide Violation Ticket or Arrest

Other

- 1,761 Calls for Service/Complaints
- 485 Assists to Other Agencies

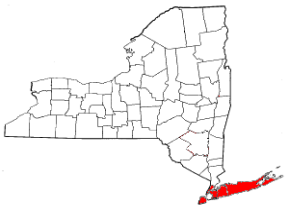
How Rangers Spent Their Time in 2009

- 56% State Land Patrol and Enforcement
- 10% Fire Management Activities
- 10% Search-and-Rescue Missions and Training
- 21% Administrative Responsibilities
- 3% Other Responsibilities

This page left intentionally blank.

Region and Zone Narratives

Regions 1 and 2 by 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.

Rangers participated in multiple all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) enforcement details throughout the year. While on a July afternoon routine patrol of state lands at the David A. Sarnoff Preserve, Suffolk County, rangers Kevin Slade and Michael Thompson apprehended a group of teenagers illegally operating ATVs. Each was ticketed for trespassing on state lands and operating an ATV on public lands. Several hours later and after receiving a complaint about ATVs on state lands just to the north at the Peconic Headwaters Natural Resource Area, Slade and Thompson apprehended two more ATVs with teenaged operators. Both individuals were also ticketed for illegal operation on public lands and trespassing.

Region 1 rangers continued the long-standing practice of involvement with cooperative community assist projects as highlighted on October 6. Rangers from Region 1 and 2 joined a coordinated effort to remove four abandoned vehicles from state lands within the Central Pine Barrens area. Supported by the Army Air National Guard Air Assault Unit at MacArthur Airport, these four abandoned vehicles were extracted using a long line suspended from a UH60 Blackhawk helicopter. Each vehicle was then flown to a designated drop area, where it was then transported by the Town of Brookhaven to a recycling facility.

Wildland firefighter trainees hiking to an assignment with hand tools.

As is often typical with large and remote properties, illegal encroachments, dumping and tree cutting are just as prevalent on open space public lands in the populated areas of Nassau and Suffolk counties. On June 16, Ranger Michael Burkholder investigated a complaint of encroachment and damage to state land. Although the encroachment case required further investigation, the nearby property owner had cleared underbrush and stored items such as a cement mixer, scrap wood, and a utility trailer on state land. The property owner was subsequently ordered to remove all items and cease altering state land. On November 12, Ranger Thompson discovered a camper trailer that had been abandoned and set on fire. The owners of the trailer could not be identified, and the trailer was removed for appropriate disposal. On November 14, Ranger Bryan Gallagher responded to a complaint of illegal tree cutting and depositing of solid waste on state lands. He discovered that the tree was a very old red oak, and the defendant had removed more than 17 large limbs, along with several smaller trees. Gallagher charged the suspect with several counts of violating New York's Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). An administrative law judge ordered the defendant to pay $2,500 in fines and remove all solid waste to an approved solid waste management facility.

During another incident, Ranger Burkholder apprehended a teenager on state lands without a required property access permit. During his interview, Burkholder determined that the youth had built a system of high-quality dirt-track jumps and valleys. The youth was issued a summons for the impressive, but illegal, alteration to state land. At his court date, it was agreed that he would return the site to its original state with the help of DEC Operations.

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

On February 8, while patrolling the north Mount Loretto Woods state property on Staten Island, Ranger Howard Thomes spotted three illegal ATVs. Having developed a working relationship with the NYPD 123rd Precinct, Thomes requested officers to stand guard at the specific exit points along the wood line to prevent the ATVs from leaving the scene. Thomes eventually apprehended the three ATV riders, who ranged in age from 18 to 26, issued summonses for no registration, no insurance, and for failure to obey signs and impounded the three ATVs.

Ranger Thomes and the department's natural resources staff continue to address encroachments to state lands throughout New York City. On May 14, a resident of Staten Island, adjacent to the state's Bloesers Pond property, was charged with placing fill in a freshwater wetland and discharging pool water into a regulated wetland. The homeowner was also charged with installing a fence, depositing rubbish, and cutting trees on the adjoining state land. The homeowner was charged administratively and was required to pay a fine and restore the state lands to their original condition.

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

Zone A, the most western of the two Region 3 zones, comprises all of Sullivan County and the western portion of Ulster County. Nearly all the state land holdings designated forest preserve in Region 3 are located in Zone A and total 170,000 acres. Two wilderness areas comprise more than 81,000 acres, and another 24,198 acres are spread across dozens of separate parcels of state forest, wildlife management areas and unique areas. Seven rangers, four seasonal assistant forest rangers (AFRs) and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

Rangers and the pilot and crew of New Brunswick's Fire Boss single engine air tanker pose for a photograph at the Orange county Airport shortly before a demonstration of air tanker tactics.

Policing the four DEC campgrounds kept Zone A rangers busy on weekend evenings throughout the summer. During these weekends, Zone B rangers were frequently assigned to supplement needed patrols. Campground staff often expressed their appreciation of ranger presence during late hours to maintain quiet and compliance with campground rules. Lt. Steve Scherry made underage drinking enforcement a priority this year, resulting in 27 arrests.

Ranger Jason Seeley made considerable inroads this past year, keeping the peace at the heavily used Crystal Lake Intensive Use Area, a detached forest preserve parcel in western Sullivan County. This area is very popular with campers and other recreationists, with 100 or more visitors on a

typical weekend. Seeley's efforts have centered around underage drinking enforcement with the support of other rangers and local police agencies.

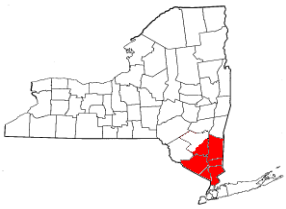
Ranger Robert Dawson's thorough patrols at Vernooy Kill State Forest and nearby forest preserve uncovered extensive unlawful trail cutting designed for mountain bike riders. Close monitoring of related internet websites also provided clues to the perpetrators, and eventually Dawson was able to apprehend those responsible after several weeks of surveillance. The case is pending an administrative hearing, and site restoration will be a large component of any settlement.

Ranger David Meade continues to be lead Wilderness First Aid Instructor for all forest rangers and environmental conservation officers (ECOs). Meade brings extraordinary experience to the classroom, with more than ten years of paramedic experience alone. He has devoted hundreds of hours to this division training and is regarded as a subject matter expert sought after by many agencies. In 2009, he joined the division's Helicopter Hoist Operator Team and conducted a successful emergency hoist operation at Katterskill Falls, Greene County for an injured hiker.

For the first time, the region assigned two assistant forest rangers (AFRs) to patrol New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) lands recently opened for public use. AFRs Luis Calcorzi and Jesse Carlson spent numerous weeks speaking with outdoor recreationists about the nearly 17,000 acres of new opportunities that now exist through a cooperative agreement between DEP and DEC. Each year, additional acreage will be transferred to DEC's oversight, and though observed use was light, it is expected to increase as word gets out about these new outdoor opportunities.

After property line-delineation training by DEC's Lands and Forests Bureau of Real Property, Zone A followed through on the division's goal of increasing the amount of state land property line inspections by several fold this past year. Important segments that needed improved identification were documented with GPS units, and several minor trespasses and encroachments were uncovered.

Region 3, Zone B by Lt. Paul Rinaldi



Zone B lays in the heart of the historic and bourgeoning Hudson Valley region of New York State. This area is considerably influenced by those moving up or traveling from the greater New York City (NYC) metropolitan area. Most of the wildlands are increasingly owned by New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP or State Parks) which, along with several other non-governmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute, Mohonk Preserve and others provides significant outdoor recreation to the public. Forest rangers provide a presence at many of these publically used tracts through joint training and response to emergencies. In total, rangers protect 21,493 acres of state lands administered by DEC. Seven rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone. Stewart State Forest in Orange County, along with various other parcels throughout Dutchess, Putnam and eastern Ulster counties provide the public with nearly 15,000

New Brunswick's Fire Boss single engine air tanker scooping water from Lake Awosting in Minnewaska State Park during a demonstration of air tanker tactics.

acres of wildland recreational opportunities. While hunting activity remains constant from year to year, mountain biking and unlawful all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use is a continual presence, along with significant pressure from hunting dog trials and training, bird watching and equestrian events.

Rangers Benjamin Baldwin, Jacob DesLauriers and Gregory Tyrrell spent a significant amount of patrol time at Stewart State Forest during the past year ensuring the laws designed to accommodate many public uses were properly enforced. With assistance from the ECOs, rangers ensured Stewart State Forest had no major incidents, fatalities or otherwise disruptive occurrences during the year.

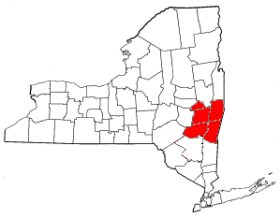
Ranger Robert Mecus continued his outstanding efforts promoting the FireWise Communities concept throughout fire-prone areas along the Shawangunk Ridge in Ulster County. His efforts extended to helping TNC promote the FireWise Community Wildfire Protection Program in the towns of Wawarsing and Rochester. Ranger Mecus met with community leaders as a means of encouraging homeowners to keep their properties safe from wildfire. With help from Ranger Dawson, he initiated outreach efforts, including teaching local fire departments the techniques of assessing wildfire risk to homes and methods of improving fireproofing property.

New Brunswick's Fire Boss conducting a demonstration of water drops at Minnewaska State Park.

Ranger Megan Dominesey has continued her involvement with the department'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, she readily shares her extensive GIS capabilities on searches, fire mapping, and the division's GIS initiative.

In September, Region 3 hosted an aerial demonstration of New Brunswick, Canada's new AT-820F single engine aerial tanker (SEAT) or " Fire Boss" airplane make water drops at Minnewaska State Park in Ulster County. This event brought together key fire personnel and emergency managers from around the region to see firsthand the capabilities of a modern SEAT. The demonstration made it evident that this aircraft would be very effective at controlling wildfires similar to the 2,800-acre fire that occurred in Minnewaska State Park in 2008.

Region 4, Zone A by 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-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. There are also 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 consist of one lieutenant forest ranger and six forest rangers and up to four assistant forest rangers (AFR) in the summer months.

State land acquisitions in 2009 consisted of 3 parcels and easements. One was the 57-acre Bronx Island on the Hudson River. In addition, rangers and AFRs were assigned to patrol 25 parcels of New York City (NYC)-owned public access areas totaling 4,573 acres in Greene County. This additional duty resulted from a 2008 cooperative agreement between DEC and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), whereby public recreational opportunities would be allowed at previously permit-only access areas. Many of these DEP parcels adjoin forest preserve and state forest parcels.

Wildfire activity in Zone A was limited to 11 fires totaling 30 acres. This resulted from below-normal temperatures and frequent rainfall throughout the year. In addition to wildfires, rangers from Region 4 continued their involvement with the Albany Pine Bush prescribed fire program, participating in five burns totaling 24.5 acres. All fires occurred between mid-March and mid-May. The largest ones occurred in Rensselaer County, with four fires between four and seven acres.

As a result of a severe ice storm in December that blocked many trails, snowmobiling was markedly down from previous years, especially in Albany County. Rangers conducted 20 snowmobile patrols resulting in eight tickets being issued.

North/South Lake Campground in Greene County saw a high volume of summer campers. Despite not having any significant enforcement incidents, excessive speed continues to be the primary complaint from the public. Ranger patrols in the campground resulted in a total of 57 tickets, of which 41 were speed related. Construction of the new dam at Colgate Lake in Greene County was completed early in the year, which enabled the lake to refill by camping season. Historically, this area receives a high volume of public use, and there was concern of illegal parking along the access road and the parking area accessible to people with disabilities. Due in large part to rangers effectively posting “No Parking” signs and stepping up patrols, only four tickets were issued for illegal parking. In June, Ranger Jeff Breigle discovered an illegal trail being cut by a local mountain bike club in the Elm Ridge area of the Windham Wild Forest. An Adopt-A-Natural-Resource (AANR) agreement was in the process for the trail to be constructed following the passage of an amendment to the Catskill Land Use Master Plan. The matter was handled administratively because the trail was being constructed prior to the amendment being finalized. Breigle closely monitored the remainder of the trail construction throughout the summer and fall without further incident.

Rangers participated in the statewide initiative to educate the public about the new firewood regulations. In conjunction with the recreation staff at the North/South Lake Public Campground, rangers visited more than 75 campsites and handed out informational brochures, explained the regulations, and instructed the campers to burn all of their firewood prior to leaving.

Ranger Karen Glesmann was part of a collaborative effort with staff from DEC Real Property and Regional Enforcement Coordination and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission to resolve encroachments on the 3,000-acre Albany Pine Bush Preserve. During the past decade, encroachments have included sheds, gardens, swing sets, fences, brick walls, bird feeders, ornamental ponds and a portion of a swimming pool. This year, a system was coordinated to send letters to encroaching landowners, ordering remediation. Glesmann then inspected the properties for compliance. Those who did not comply were issued an Order on Consent. As a result of this year’s work, nearly 100 landowners were sent letters and almost everyone came into compliance.

Ranger Karen Glessman inspecting an encroachment to state lands in Albany County.

State police helicopter assists rangers with a rescue at Kaaterskills Falls, Greene County.

Rangers responded to two fatal incidents at forest preserve lands this year. In June, a 32-year-old male hiker from Georgia fell 50 feet at Kaaterskill Falls. Rangers and local rescue squad personnel completed the recovery and carry-out operation. The second fatality was at the North/South Lake Campground for a 14-year-old autistic camper from Lindenhurst, NY. He was last seen playing by a stream in the early evening hours of August 13 while his father was setting up the campsite. During the second day of searching, searchers located the boy submerged in a stream that feeds the lake.

On May 17, a 911 call was placed during an argument between James Hartley and his brother in the Greene County Town of Ashland. Hartley reportedly threatened his brother with a shotgun and then fled the premises in his vehicle. An advisory for the vehicle was broadcast via the Greene County police radio system. Within 20 minutes of this broadcast, Ranger Breigle encountered the vehicle while exiting the Huntersfield State Forest. The vehicle had been abandoned with the headlights on and keys in the ignition, indicating the subject had fled into the woods just moments earlier. A sheriff's deputy advised Breigle that the subject had prior felony arrests and was presumed to be armed with a shotgun. Nearby properties, outbuildings and roads were searched as a state police helicopter searched the area; however, Hartley was not apprehended until later that summer.

Region 4, Zone B by Lt. Rob Morse

Region 4, Zone B consists of Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie and Montgomery counties, encompassing 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 5,000 acres of forest preserve on nine detached parcels. It also includes two DEC-administered campgrounds and a forest ranger field station at the Huckleberry Brook Storage Facility. Zone B comprises six forest rangers, one lieutenant and one seasonal assistant forest ranger.

On Friday, August 21, Ranger Joseph Bink was issuing camping permits in the Big Pond camping area in Delaware County when he came across two men fishing. When Bink asked to see their fishing licenses, one of the men stated that he didn't catch anything, and that he only had a North Carolina fishing license. Ranger Bink asked both individuals for identification. As they went to their car to retrieve their identification, he scanned the shoreline and discovered a depression in the weeds, where he located a large Tupperware container with several illegal fish. When the two returned, Ranger Bink began questioning them again about taking fish. The men restated that they didn't have any luck. Ranger Bink then told them that he found the fish, and he radioed for assistance. ECO George Wilber responded and ran license checks while Bink continued questioning the individuals. One of them had an active warrant for his arrest from Pennsylvania for a DWI case. Ranger Bink needed to respond to another incident and so turned the individuals over to ECO Wilber. The two men were taken for immediate arraignment to the Town of Andes Court. Both pled guilty to fishing without a freshwater fishing license, possession of six under-sized black bass, one black bass above the limit and taking two undersized trout. The defendant who had the active warrant was remanded to the Delaware County Jail to await extradition.

Due to budget constraints, the Bear Spring Public Campground was not opened this year. Rangers continued to patrol the campground and day-use area and respond to complaints of illegal activities. At the Little Pond Public Campground, rangers conducted speed-enforcement details and responded to complaints of disorderly campers and campers feeding bears. They also participated in the effort to educate the public about the new firewood regulations.

Ranger Mike Bodnar (right) instructs Ranger Joe Bink the proper techniques of felling large diameter trees.

There are approximately 80 miles of snowmobile trails in the zone that run through forest preserve, state forests and wildlife management areas. Rangers conducted 72 patrols of these trails to inspect the condition of the trails, estimate public use, and check for regulatory and safety compliance. A total of 607 snowmobiles were checked, and 58 tickets were issued. Two enforcement details were conducted at the Lutheranville and Rural Grove state forests, where a total of 33 snowmobiles were checked and three tickets issued.

Forest rangers Joseph Bink and Ian Kerr, along with and Assistant Forest Ranger (AFR) David Whipple, conducted 29 patrols of more than11,000 acres of New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) properties in Delaware County pursuant to an agreement between DEP and DEC. The intent of these patrols was to identify illegal activities and estimate public use. Evidence of encroachments, illegal tree stands and ATV use were found on the properties and referred to the DEP police for further investigation.

On October 1, 2008, while surveying a boundary line on the Lutheranville Reforestation Area in Schoharie County, DEC Real Property staff discovered that a portion of a private road had been constructed on state land. Adjoining property owners were also using a cleared and mowed area on state land to park their cars and to store a camping trailer, shed and other portable items. As a result of cooperative efforts among Regional Enforcement Coordinator Marcia Ellis, Regional Attorney Richard Ostrov, Ranger William Henry and Forester Bob Cross, a consent order was sent to the involved landowners. Since then, the private road and the other encroachments have all been removed from state land.

Region 5, Zone A by Lt. Bob Marrone

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. Primary recreational uses in the zone are canoeing and camping in summer and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in winter. Zone A contains all or parts of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest, Debar Mt. Wild Forest, St. Regis Canoe Area, William C. Whitney Wilderness and High Peaks Wilderness, totaling 284,055 acres of forest preserve and 103,914 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 run by Operations in the summer and protected by rangers during the off season. Staffing includes six forest rangers, four assistant forest rangers (AFRs) and one lieutenant.

Once again, Ranger Keith Bassage taught Paul Smith's College students techniques about wildland search and rescue, state land use and wildfire management. He also taught staff from the Adirondack Park Agency's

(APA) Paul Smiths' Visitor Interpretive Center the wildland use ethics program, "Leave-No-Trace". Rangers continued to work with the local search-and-rescue team—SARNAK—on first aid, low-angle rescue, Type II search techniques training and crew supervision. Ranger Jeff Balerno provided flat ice, rope rescue and helicopter operations training to members of various fire companies throughout Franklin County.

Zone A rangers used their helicopter expertise to assist state police in locating marijuana plants. Helicopter flights were also used on various occasions to assist environmental conservation officers (ECOs) with locating bait piles on state and private land. In June, Zone A hosted an intensive training session for helicopter hoist operators attended by rangers from regions 3, 4 and 5. These rangers are now on their way to gaining enough experience to be "signed off" as helicopter crew chiefs.

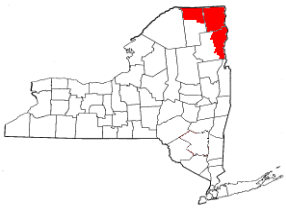
One of the many occassions where a state police helicopter assists rangers with the rescue of an injured hiker in the Adirondack Mountains.

Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) interns devoted a three-person crew to remove an old cabin on a parcel recently acquired by the state along the shore of Upper Saranac Lake. Ranger Julie Harjung and the interns organized a volunteer day that included trip leaders from Gordon College's Lavida summer camp to transport scrap materials from the cabin. The NFCT interns also installed two level areas for tents and a fire ring at the cabin site.

On Friday, April 10, state police investigators requested ranger assistance with tracking an individual involved in the robbery of Community Bank in the Village of Tupper Lake. Rangers responded and conducted Type 1 searches in the area surrounding the bank and along the Raquette River. The following day, they organized more than 20 troopers, ECOs and local police to conduct intensive grid searches of the area in an attempt to find evidence. Unfortunately, the search did not produce any.

On July 4, Sophia Jones, age 9, wandered from a camp only accessible by boat on the northeast corner of Long Lake, bordering on the Western High Peaks Wilderness Area. Family and friends looked for three hours before notifying state police. Because the subject was nine years old and poorly dressed for the steady, cold rain that was falling, several state and local emergency service agencies responded. Logistics was an immediate priority, as the camp was a seven-mile boat ride from the Hamlet of Long Lake. Rangers were transported by boats from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Long Lake Fire Department, as well as Long Lake's ranger patrol boat. Within two hours of arriving, rangers made voice contact with the girl about one mile from the camp. She was sitting on a rock in a very rugged, large, beaver-flooded swamp south of the Northville-Placid trail between Shattuck Clearing and Long Lake. Father and daughter were reunited around midnight after rangers found a relatively dry route through the maze of beaver swamps. As a show of appreciation, the Jones family purchased a specialty sleeping bag designed for search-and-rescue operations and donated it to the department.

Region 5, Zone B by Lt. Gary Friedrich



Region 5, Zone B is the northeastern corner of the state. Zone B includes the St. Lawrence Valley in northern Franklin County, all of Clinton County and the Champlain Valley, including ten towns in northeastern Essex County. It 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, Zone B 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 149,031 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. This year, an additional 99,125 acres of conservation easement land were added in the zone, bringing the total easement acreage to 148,693 acres. Zone B includes seven forest rangers and one lieutenant.

On March 28, Ranger David Russell organized an ATV enforcement detail on state land in the Town of Bellmont, Franklin County. This occurred because of a request of the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board, and the detail included environmental conservation officers (ECOs), state police and state park police. Two hundred ATV's were checked, resulting in 19 citations for no insurance or registration, one safety violation and three arrests for driving while intoxicated.

On May 4, Clinton County Emergency Dispatch asked rangers to investigate a wildfire that was believed to be intentionally set. The investigation included Zone B rangers, Ranger Edwin Russell—a fire-cause-and-origin investigator—ECO Investigator Ken Bruno and state police investigators. The investigation lasted two months and identified 18 fires and two possible suspects. The two suspects were interviewed by state police and rangers, but neither would admit to the arsons, and no credible evidence was gleaned from the interviews. Two weeks after the initial interview, there was a suspicious fire at a vacant barn, and the Clinton County Sheriff's Office received an anonymous tip implicating the same two suspects. They were again interviewed and admitted to all the suspect arson fires. They have been charged with fifth-degree arson, and the case has been forwarded to the Clinton County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Quebec's CL-415 air tanker demonstrates the dropping of water as part of a demonstration at the Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

On July 20, James Smith, 49, of Peru, New York, was arrested for third-degree grand larceny, following a six-month investigation into the theft of approximately $5,300 in timber from the Titusville State Forest in Franklin County. The successful arrest was a joint effort among Ranger Tom Gliddi, ECO Investigator Bruno, and DEC foresters and land surveyors. Smith was arraigned in the Town of Malone Justice Court, pled not guilty and was released under the supervision of the probation department.

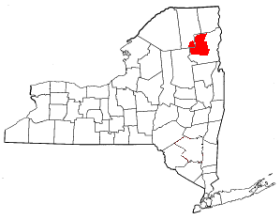
On August 25, rangers received a request from state police to assist with the search for Scott Adkins, age 23, an escaped convict from Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility. Adkins was last accounted for at the correctional facility at approximately 9:30 PM the day earlier but found missing 12:30 AM At 11:00 AM, a report came in to command post of a possible sighting. Within minutes, the subject was located but would not comply with a trooper's orders to stop and was subsequently shot. Ranger Bronson and ECO Darrah were only one hundred yards away on the same trail headed toward the trooper's location. They responded and assisted in

apprehending the subject who was then taken road side to where he received medical attention and eventually recovered from his wound.

On September 19, at approximately 2:05 PM, DEC Dispatch in Ray Brook received a call from state police who had received a call from ONSTAR that Sue Doyle reported three children missing at the DEC Taylor Pond Campground in Clinton County. Ranger Dan Fox and a state trooper responded. The children were last seen at approximately 11:30 AM heading to the outhouse. The parents attempted to locate the children for approximately two hours before activating ONSTAR. Because of the lack of physical evidence to indicate the direction in which the children might have traveled, more resources were requested. While a major ground search effort was gearing up, a state police helicopter with Ranger Julie Harjung on board located the children approximately three miles from the campground. Ranger Jim Giglinto and a volunteer made contact with the children and escorted them back to the campground. Search operations were concluded and the subjects were escorted out of the woods and returned to their parents by 5:11 PM

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 Praczkajlo, Dan Fox and Glen Bronson brought the message of conservation and environmental awareness to more than 1,200 students.

Region 5, Zone C by 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 Zone C is more than 65 percent state forest preserve, with 365,581 acres of state land and 12,518 acres of conservation easements. 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 due mainly to the year-round popularity of the High Peaks region. In 2009 alone, the High Peaks generated more than 50 emergency incidents. Rescues came fast and furious all year long, and most victims had unstable injuries and required immediate evacuation.

In mid-August, Rupert May, 42, of Waterloo, NY, was several miles into the High Peaks Wilderness when he fell 15 feet off a bridge while wearing his heavy overnight backpack. His hiking partner pulled him out of the stream and found that Rupert was not breathing. Rupert's partner was able to revive him using what little knowledge he had of CPR and then went for help. Rangers, SARNAK (Search and Rescue of the Northern Adirondacks, a volunteer community service organization) and Back Country Medical personnel amazingly arrived within 90 minutes and began treating Rupert for his extensive injuries. While rangers Kevin Burns and Julie Harjung worked with Backcountry Medical to keep Rupert alive, other rangers and volunteers formulated a plan to get him out to a waiting ambulance. As darkness descended, all hopes of a helicopter evacuation were eliminated.

Ranger Kevin Burns and Chris Kostoss are assisted by Wilmington Fire Department firefighters with the rescue of a man who fell into the Ausable River Gorge.

Rangers began the arduous task of carrying Rupert out while trying not to worsen his severe injuries. Once out of the wilderness, Rupert was rushed to the hospital for treatment. The rescue effort had taken a total of eight hours. Rupert suffered a skull fracture, broken ribs, collapsed lung, broken collarbone and a broken jaw, but thanks to all involved, he survived his injuries.

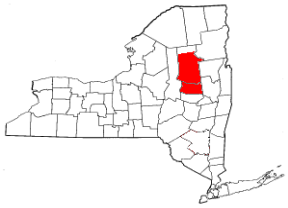
In the early fall, Ranger Chris Kostoss was called by Wilmington Fire Department to an incident where Mark Miner, age 80, of Moorhead, Kentucky, had fallen off a 20-foot ledge onto rocks in the Ausable River. When Kostoss and other rangers arrived, the subject had dragged himself out of the water but remained on the rocks at water level while fading in and out of consciousness. Rangers rappelled to Miner and, along with local EMT's from the fire department, stabilized him and began to rig a technical rope system to raise him in a litter out of the chasm. Once brought to safety, Miner was flown via North Country Life Flight to a Burlington, VT hospital.

An insurance-contracted helicopter removes wreckage of an airplane from Santanoni Mountain.

On November 16, rangers were notified by state police that a plane carrying two passengers was overdue at its Malone destination and presumed missing in the Adirondacks. Further investigation by Ray Brook Dispatcher Ann MacBride enabled state police and rangers to narrow the search area to Santanoni Peak in the Town of Newcomb. Rangers Kevin Burns and Joe LaPierre located the wreckage from a state police helicopter on the morning of November 17. LaPierre was inserted and confirmed that two bodies were located in the wreckage. For the remainder of the day, state police and rangers worked together to remove the remains from the wreckage. FAA personnel were then given an overview and fly-over of the accident site for their investigation. Three weeks later, rangers assisted an aerial salvage company with removing the wreckage from the crash site.

Bear issues were prevalent in the popular camping areas of the High Peaks Wilderness in 2009. Enforcement of the bear-canister regulation was increased to limit the number of negative bear-human encounters. Rangers were assigned a detail once per week to both negatively condition problem bears and to strictly enforce regulations about food storage. Due to both the increased patrols and an active bear year, rangers more than doubled the tickets they issued because of improper food storage compared to tickets issued for the same reason in 2008.

Region 5, Zone D by Lt. Steve Preston



Region 5, Zone D comprises Fulton County and most of Hamilton County. Zone D headquarters is located at the DEC sub-office in Northville, and Zone D also maintains an office at the Indian Lake DEC facility. State land 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 that total 789,429 acres of forest preserve. Zone D also includes 15 DEC campgrounds, 47,043 acres of conservation easements and 6,081 acres of state forests. Zone D includes nine forest rangers, two assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant.

On July 3, Ray Brook Dispatch reported to Ranger Greg George that Kyle Richmond, 15, was lost in the Rock Pond area of the Blue Ridge Wilderness. Rangers George and Bruce Lomnitzer responded and completed two Type I searches between Rock Pond and Durant Road but did not locate Kyle. Due to the remoteness and the frequency of large, prolonged searches in the area, rangers Tom Eakin, John Ploss, and Jason Scott also assisted in the search effort. Assignments were developed covering all trails within the Cascade Pond area as well as along the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, from Cedar River Road to Durant Lake. At 7:45 PM, Lomnitzer located Kyle 1.5 miles from the Durant Campground off the Northville-Lake Placid Trail in good condition.

Ranger Pete Evans carries Kyle Richmond out of the Blue Ridge Wilderness Area after Richmond had become lost.

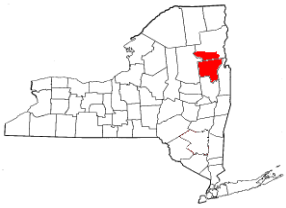
On the evening of August 11, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office received a phone call from Linda Cox reporting that her son, Joshua, and his friend, Stephen Mosley, had started a kayak trip from Higgins Bay to Spy Lake around 10:45 AM that morning but had not returned. During the night, rangers searched the waterways along the planned route, while Ranger Mark Kralovic hiked in from White House, along the west branch of the Sacandaga River. At 7:00 AM the next morning, operations began with ten rangers and a state police helicopter, concentrating search efforts in that same area. At 8:50 AM, rangers Jim Waters and Charles Kabrehl located the boys on the south shore of Sacandaga's west branch, approximately ½-mile upstream from Big Eddy, in good condition. According to Joshua Cox, he and Stephen became lost after missing the Spy Lake outlet and continued to paddle into the Sacandaga River. At noon, the boys reached the first set of waterfalls. Stephen exited the kayak, while Joshua went over the falls with the boat. Joshua was able to exit the kayak and swim to shore just before going over the second waterfall. With their kayak pinned on a rock above the second waterfall, the boys were forced to walk downstream until nightfall. Both spent the night along the shore until rangers arrived in the morning.

While rescues of recreational users are very common in this zone, rangers are sometimes called upon to rescue wildlife. On December 6, Ranger Eakin came across a mature bald eagle that had been caught in a leg-hold trap. The bird had flown into a hemlock tree with the trap attached to one of it's talons and was found hanging upside down. Ranger Eakin notified DEC Dispatch, who notified Peter Nye from the Endangered Species Unit. Using a pole and a cargo net, Eakin was able to remove the trapped eagle from the tree and secure it in the cargo net until a licensed wildlife rehabilitator arrived. The eagle was taken by North Country Wildcare and then transported to Wilmington, NY for rehabilitation and observation.

With 15 DEC campgrounds located within the zone, a majority of ranger time in the summer is spent patrolling these important facilities. On July 10 at approximately 10:30 PM, Limekiln Public Campground reported an incident of loud and disorderly campers. Ranger Jason Scott and Town of Inlet Police Officer John Harrington responded and found Jamie Lynn Jenkins of Fulton, New York, intoxicated, using obscene language and in possession of a small amount of marijuana. Ms. Jenkins was charged with three violations and brought before Judge Atwell in the Town of Indian Lake. Due to her poor disposition and lack of $1,000 in bail, she was remanded to the Hamilton County Jail until bail could be posted. Jenkins eventually pled guilty to all charges.

During the fall, restoration of the Wakely Mountain Fire Tower took a major step forward when Lands and Forests, Indian Lake Operations, DEC Central Office staff, volunteers and state police helicopter pilots removed years of accumulated trash from and took needed materials to the site. Rangers Greg George and Bruce Lomnitzer assisted with the sling loads and communications and will remain active in this project for years to come.

Region 5, Zone E by Captain John Streiff



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 a total of 1,284 campsites, 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, Hoffman Notch, Pharoah Lake and portions of Dix Mountain wilderness areas. Forest rangers also have responsibilities at Putts Pond, Paradox Lake Sharp Bridge, Lake Luzerne, Fourth Lake, and Harris Lake public campgrounds, along with the Scarroon Manor Day Use area. Eight forest rangers, two assistant forest rangers (AFRs) and one lieutenant protect 369,397 acres of forest preserve and 744 acres of non-forest preserve state land.

Zone E is a “hot spot” for wildfire activity in Region 5 and the entire Adirondack Park. The 2009 fire season included 16 fires that burned a total of 160 acres. Most of these fires occurred during the spring fire season. On April 29, a lightning strike caused the zone’s largest fire to burn 95 acres in the Vanderwhacker Wild Forest, Town of Minerva. Due to the remote location, two state police helicopters were used to bring resources to the fire and drop water on the fire itself. The Peasly Road Fire in the Town of Ticonderoga burned 45 acres due to strong winds and low relative humidity. The cause of this fire was deemed incendiary and an investigation followed. Trained inmates from the NYS Department of Corrections Moriah Shock Camp helped rangers with both of these wildfires.

The summer season began with a drowning accident on the Hudson River. On June 28, Ranger Evan Donegan responded to a call for a missing swimmer in the Hudson River, Town of Lake Luzerne. Division airboats responded from Warrensburg and Northville. Initial reports were that a group of swimmers were in the vicinity of Rockwell Bridge and were swimming across the Hudson. Witnesses state that one of the swimmers, Jessie Lyons, 25, of Idaho, was caught in the current and drifted downstream. Lyons was last seen floating face down below the surface in the turbulent waters of the Hudson, just above the confluence of the Sacandaga River, before he floated out of sight. Rangers set up a series of belay lines across and upstream on the Hudson River to assist with boat control in the swift water. Rangers also used drags to search deep holes that were deemed unsafe for divers. At the conclusion of three days of searching, Lyons was still missing, and the search was terminated. Later that week, authorities received a call from a local fisherman who discovered Lyon’s’ body below the 9N bridge, approximately two miles from the point where it was last seen.

The Hudson River Recreation Area is a heavily used area of the Lake George Wild Forest from spring to Labor Day. It is located in Warren County in the towns of Warrensburg and Luzerne along the east side of the Hudson River. For more than two decades, the area has been a traditional destination for people wanting to ride their ATVs and hold parties. Underage alcohol consumption and illegal drug use have been associated with these pursuits. During summer 2009, two separate sexual assaults occurred at the “Rec Area,” both of which were investigated by the Warren County Sheriff’s Department. Starting in late April and through mid-September, two rangers were scheduled to work each Friday and Saturday night from early evening through midnight or later depending on activity. Their presence significantly cut down on illegal camping, partying and other illegal or problematic activity. DEC staff and rangers will develop improved management techniques for the coming years as a means of further reducing resource damage and improving public safety.

On August 23 at 2:05 AM, rangers were called by Essex County Emergency Management to open the gate at Scaroon Manor so fire departments could access a serious boat accident at Taylor Point on Schroon Lake. Ranger Ed Russell opened the gate and assisted local responders with extrication and transport of the four subjects. An investigation determined that the boat operator had been drinking at bars along the lake and failed to see Taylor Point. The boat ran aground about 20 feet from the shoreline. State police charged the operator with numerous navigation law infractions.

The boat that crashed through the woods at Scaroon Manor due to an intoxicated operator.

The states of New York, Vermont, and the Province of Quebec celebrated the Quadra Centennial" on September 19 at DEC's Crown Point Public Campground. This international event marked the 400th anniversary

The Office of Public Protection's Incident Response vehicle (IRV) is utilized at the lake Champlain Quadra-Centential celebration.

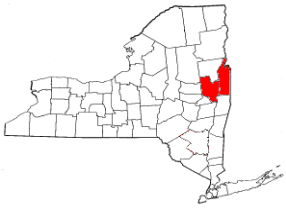
Ranger Ed Russell briefs Commissioner Pete Grannis of the operational plan for the Lake Champlain Quadra-centential.

of Samuel de Champlain's discovery of the lake that bears his name. Dignitaries included Vermont Governor Jim Douglas and DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis on what turned out to be a beautiful fall day. Rangers assisted in planning and managing the security aspects of the celebration, using the Office of Public Protection's new incident response vehicle (IRV).

On May 2, Ranger Steve Guenther and volunteer members of a trail crew hiked to the summit of Hadley Mountain, where they found the fire tower cabin and storage building vandalized. Guenther and volunteers of the Friends of Hadley Mountain had spent hundreds of hours rehabilitating both the tower and out buildings. A seasonally employed interpreter staffs the tower each summer. On November 9, rangers worked with a state police helicopter and brought supplies in to restore the structures to their previous historical condition.

Rangers in Zone E ended the year with a non-traditional bang. On December 28, rangers and ECOs' supported the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in the implosion of the Champlain Bridge located near the DEC Crown Point public campground. As operations planning section chief (OPS), Ranger Steve Ovitt developed an incident action plan with state police, state park police, the U.S. Coast Guard, ECO's , the demolition contractor, and several other state and local agencies. Two division air boats were on standby in case a water emergency developed. At 10:00 AM, the "all clear" sign was given, and the 78-year-old bridge imploded and fell into Lake Champlain. It will be replaced by fall 2011.

Region 5, Zone F by 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. 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 Nature Conservancy, Battenkill Conservancy and Lake George Conservancy land holdings 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. Zone F includes five forest rangers, one assistant forest ranger and one lieutenant.

Rangers, DEC staff and volunteers unwrap equipment and supplies needed to maintain Hadley Mountain Fire Tower and cabin.

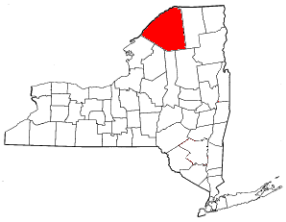
Search-and-rescue activity in Zone F was slightly below average, possibly due to abnormally wet conditions through mid-summer and fewer visitors to state land. Human remains were discovered by a hunter on the boundary between private property and DEC conservation easement lands. Rangers were asked to assist state police and sheriff's department investigators with searching an area around the initial find for further remains or evidence. Rangers established one-acre blocks around the initial find as teams of troopers searched for further evidence. Rangers also brought in volunteer cadaver K-9 teams, which were successful at locating additional bone fragments. The investigation concluded that the remains were that of Jennifer M. Hammond, who was reported missing in the Town of Milton, Saratoga County in 2003. This was the second female reported missing from the Town of Milton whose skeletal remains were located on or very near state land in Saratoga County.

Assistant Commissioner Henry Hamilton, ranger command staff and select rangers pay tribute to Colonel William F. Fox on the 100th anniversary of his death.

The primary focus for Zone F in 2009 was state land protection and patrol. Shelving Rock continued to be heavily used, requiring planned patrols from late April through Labor Day. The annual event known as "Log Bay Day" occurs on the last Monday of July in Lake George's Log Bay, adjacent to the Shelving Rock Area. Sixteen rangers and two lieutenants were assigned to patrol and protect the shoreline during the event. Rangers worked closely with the Washington County Sheriff's Department, which also assigned 12 deputies and supervisors to the event to monitor increased vehicular traffic to Log Bay from local roads through the forest preserve.

In addition to the Shelving Rock area, rangers from both counties spent a significant number of hours patrolling the snowmobile trail system on Lyme [conservation] Easement B and forest preserve in Saratoga County. During weekend peak use, rangers checked between 150 and 200 snowmobiles per hour. They also assisted DEC Lands and Forests with an inventory of snowmobile trails on easement lands in Saratoga County.

Region 6, Zone A by Lt. Robert Barstow



Zone A consists entirely of St. Lawrence County (2,842 square miles) and is geographically the largest county in New York State. Presently there are five rangers, two seasonal assistant forest rangers (AFRs) and one lieutenant who patrol approximately 252,875 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.

Rangers once again taught the federal wildland firefighter basic course (S130/190) at the SUNY Ranger School in Wanakena. This course has become part of the curriculum and was well received by students. Rangers also conducted a well-attended wildland search course at SUNY Canton for local law enforcement officers. Increased participation by other police agencies in wildland searches, as well as ranger participation in fugitive searches, created a need for joint training. The benefit of this training was recognized in September when state police conducted a search for an individual believed to be a danger to himself and others. Rangers coordinated a search effort incorporating state police, sheriff's deputies, environmental conservation officers and local police.

A long and snowy winter led to another busy snowmobile season. A number of safety details were conducted, several of them in conjunction with state police, the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department and the state park police. Special efforts were made to curb speeding, reckless operation and alcohol abuse. A number of arrests were made for snowmobiling while intoxicated. Rangers patrolled hundreds of miles of trails, providing visible evidence of enforcement on state lands. These efforts have been supported by the greater snowmobile community concerned about keeping snowmobiling safe and family oriented.

Ranger Will Benzel does a safety inspection of a snowmobile near the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest.

Early in the morning during Memorial Day weekend, rangers received a call from a camper that a bear had been shot in Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Lieutenant Bob Barstow and Ranger William Benzel responded and began an investigation which later included environmental conservation police officers (ECOs). After a short time, Barstow and Benzel identified the shooter as Benny Haywood, 29, of Tupper Lake, NY, who confessed and

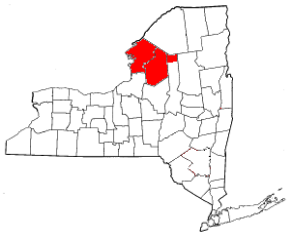
was arrested. The carcass, hide, and shotgun used were all recovered, and Haywood, a convicted felon on parole, was remanded to county jail and eventually returned to state prison.

A generally cold and wet summer resulted in a decrease of campers at the DEC Cranberry Lake public campground and nearby primitive campsites. However, the newly opened 50-mile trail around Cranberry Lake did generate a marked increase in use of the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest and the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. Illegal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use continued to be a problem, as was underage drinking. On August 25, rangers were told by state police in Tupper Lake that a large party was being planned in the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest later that day. Rangers, troopers and ECOs responded and arrested 25 individuals for underage alcohol possession.

A complaint at Chandler Pond during Labor Day weekend resulted in a situation which was anything but routine. After receiving information, rangers found a group illegally camping on the far shore. They borrowed a boat, rowed across the pond and interviewed the campers. After determining that the group was in fact camping in a prohibited area, the rangers returned to their vehicle to write tickets. A special file check through Ray Brook Dispatch revealed that one of the subjects had given a false identity. When rangers returned to the site, the individual had fled. While conducting a search of private hunting camps in the area, the subject was spotted going through a trap door into a cellar, where he subsequently barricaded himself and refused to come out. After a lengthy stand-off, the subject, Larry Fountain, 46, of Colton, NY, was removed, arrested and found to have a lengthy criminal history.

The state forests in the northern part of the county continue to provide popular areas for growing marijuana. As rangers worked with the St. Lawrence County Drug Task Force, many plants were identified and destroyed. In September, in the Town of Brasher, Ranger Scott Murphy attempted to stop two men operating an ATV illegally on state land. The subjects fled and abandoned the ATV, leaving evidence that they had been tending marijuana plants. State police assisted Murphy, and the subjects were eventually tracked to a nearby residence. When officers approached the residence, a strong odor of marijuana was detected. A search warrant was obtained for the residence, where more than ten pounds of marijuana, various drug paraphernalia, several illegal weapons, cash and other illegal drugs were recovered, and the two men were arrested.

Region 6, Zone B by 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, one assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant.

Zone B includes Stillwater Reservoir which, by far, is used the most 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. 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. In February, Ranger Evans responded to a snowmobile

accident after a local man, traveling at a high rate of speed, hit an ice pressure ridge, resulting in severe injuries. Ranger Evans provided CPR and basic care until more advanced medical support arrived. Unfortunately, the snowmobiler did not survive his injuries.

In April, rangers worked in conjunction with several other police agencies to coordinate safety and security during the annual "SNIRT ATV (all-terrain vehicle) 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, rangers issued 57 violations for ATVs illegally riding on state lands. During the event, rangers responded to an ATV accident that resulted in a fatality. Rangers provided CPR until local EMS personnel arrived and used their six-wheeled ATV to transport the victim.

The roof of the Cage Lake lean-to after being vandalized by gunfire.

On the weekend of May 2, 2009, four friends went trout fishing and camped at Cage Lake. Cage Lake is located in the northernmost part of Herkimer County in the remote Five Ponds Wilderness. While fishing, the friends became intoxicated and decided to stop at the lean-to on the north shore of the lake. Upon beaching their canoe, they shot their 9mm Glock pistol into the lean-to, putting multiple holes through the roof. After shooting the lean-to, one individual decided to climb on the roof of the lean-to and rip shingles off. In addition, 33 beer cans were discarded in the area, and the outhouse was tipped over.

The following week, DEC Operations staff noticed the destruction at the lean-to and notified local rangers. Rangers started an investigation and interviewed multiple people who recreate in the area frequently. With the help of DEC's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI), the subjects responsible for the destruction were apprehended and subsequently confessed. Due to the remote location of the lean-to and the cost of materials and labor, DEC Operations staff estimated the cost of repair to be $1,167.91. One subject was convicted of criminal mischief and ordered to pay full restitution. The other was convicted for littering and given the maximum fine.

Conservation instructor Kevin O'Neill (right) and District Superintendent Jay Boak (second from left) of the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES gratefully accepting a $20,000 donation from the settlement of a criminal case of timber theft from state forest land in the Town of West Turin, Lewis County. Ranger Marty Candee and DLE Investigator Dave Clarke were also in attendance.

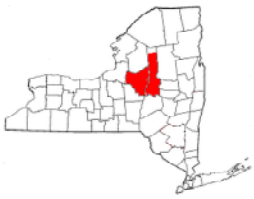
Forestry students acquired funds to help purchase much needed equipment and items to advance their education. The funds were obtained as part of a plea negotiation that concluded a two-year investigation and prosecution by Ranger Marty Candee (center), BECI Investigator Dave Clarke (second from right) and the Lewis County Assistant District Attorney Caleb Petzoldt (left).

The investigation was initiated in 2007 after the discovery of a timber trespass related to a previous timber sale on state land. The results of the investigation led to the arrests of two local men for larceny of 801 trees from state land. The defendants had purchased the right to log certain state lands, but, in so doing, they

removed additional trees. Penalties could have included fines of more than $250,000 per defendant plus prison sentences. Based upon the defendants' immediate cooperation, they received misdemeanor convictions in exchange for a donation of $20,000 to BOCES and reimbursement of $15,000 for stolen timber, in addition to a $5,100 penalty to be paid to the State of New York. The reparation allows for the fines to be awarded directly to the community where the crime occurred.

In May 2009, Ranger John Scanlon was on foot patrol inspecting a boundary line in Fulton Chain Wild Forest adjacent to some private camps in the Big Moose area in the Town of Webb. Ranger Scanlon noticed that a state corner monument had been destroyed, and boundary line trees had been cut. Scanlon started an investigation, and, with the assistance of Lands and Forests Real Property staff, the boundary line was re-surveyed for an accurate tally of trees cut. Scanlon interviewed the adjacent landowner, who admitted to the tree cutting and boundary line encroachment. In an effort to make restitution, the subject was not charged criminally. The matter was settled thru a consent order, which required a $500 fine and remediation of the site to its natural condition.

Region 6, Zone C by Lt. Doug Riedman



Region 6, 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 20,088 acres of conservation easements. Five forest rangers, one assistant forest ranger and one lieutenant are assigned to Zone C.

Rangers spend much of their time during the winter months focusing on the ever-increasing snowmobile use on state lands. During January, February and March, rangers conducted or supported six snowmobile enforcement details that checked 800 snowmobiles at various locations on state land throughout Herkimer and Oneida counties. At each checkpoint, snowmobilers are informed about proper state land use, while machines are inspected for compliance with the rules and regulations governing snowmobile operation. Rangers emphasized enforcement of the reckless operation and unsafe speed laws to help provide a safe riding environment for other snowmobilers. Inadequate exhaust, no insurance and no registration were common violations also encountered.

On August 26, Ranger Coscomb coordinated a search on Rondaxe Mountain in Herkimer County for a group of seven hikers, including seven-month-old twins. The group became disoriented and were overtaken by darkness on their return trip to the trailhead. They called for help when they found themselves at the edge of a steep cliff. Coscomb and rangers Mike Hubschmitt and John Scanlon negotiated the steep, rocky terrain and led the group off the mountain to safety.

On October 6, a three-day search was concluded successfully for Fay Spencer, 47, of Oswego, NY. Mr. Spencer was returning from a fishing trip at Horn Lake in the West Canada Lakes Wilderness Area in Herkimer County when he became lost. All Zone C rangers along with 11 other rangers from regions 5 and 6, state police and the Herkimer County Emergency Management Office endured three days of wet weather while searching for Spencer. Due to the remoteness of the search area, float planes had to be used to transport searchers.

On October 20, Lieutenant Doug Riedman was notified that a hiker had fallen from a cliff outside the Village of Old Forge. Lt. Riedman and rangers Rob Piersma, Chad Richardson and Marty Candee responded. Wesley Rennie, 67, of Pompey, NY and a friend were doing their annual hike up Bald Mountain. On their return

trip, Mr. Rennie got too close to the edge of a cliff and slid more than 100 feet to the bottom. He injured his arm, shoulder and lower back as he smashed into several trees before coming to rest. Once stabilized, Rennie was carried by crews of rangers and local volunteer firefighters who cut a trail to NYS Rt. 28 to a waiting ambulance, and then he was flown to a Syracuse hospital.

Region 7, Zone A by Lt. Timothy Taylor

Region 7 functions as one large administrative zone, stretching from the Pennsylvania border north to the eastern shore of Lake Ontario and from the Finger Lakes east to the Unadilla River. Zone A includes nine counties in central New York. The total area exceeds 6,700 square miles and contains 256,729 acres of state forest lands, wildlife management areas, unique areas, conservation easements, and a multiple-use area, all managed by DEC. Six forest rangers, one lieutenant and one captain are assigned to this zone.

Rangers Scott Jackson, Jim McPherson and Wil Giraud conduct a snowwmobile safety check point at O'Hara State Forest.

The Town of Redfield in Oswego County thrives on winter recreation. One Friday afternoon in February, rangers Scott Jackson, Jim McPherson and Wil Giraud, supported by rangers Dave Cornell and Rob Piersma from Region 6, conducted a snowmobile compliance detail at the O'Hara State Forest. Rangers checked 77 snowmobiles and issued five tickets for operating without insurance.

In June, rangers Jim McPherson and Jim Prunoske investigated a logging accident involving three individuals conducting a firewood harvest at the Beaver Creek State Forest in the Town of Brookfield, Madison County. Two workers were struck by a tree felled by the third worker. One individual was left unconscious and in critical condition after being hit in the head and pinned by the tree. Poor cutting practices were determined to be the primary cause of the accident.

Firefighters extinguish the remains of a barn and farm equipment after an unattended burning barrel caused a wildfire.

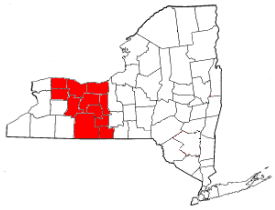
The Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the Town of West Monroe, Oswego County has been the site of unsanctioned boat rafting by party-goers for several years. Hoards of partiers descend on the bay by water or land every Saturday prior to the July 4 holiday. In the past, this event has led to many complaints of disorderly conduct and intoxicated driving that were difficult for local emergency services to handle. DEC installed a gate in 2009 on the state land portion of Toad Harbor Road to address this issue and to curtail similar problems experienced at this location throughout the year. Captain David Brooks, with rangers Jackson, McPherson and Prunoske, spent the day of the party on the WMA informing users of the regulations and monitoring their

activities. At the height of the event, more than 300 boats were estimated to be anchored in the bay. When the parking area became full, rangers turned more than 50 vehicles away. The detail resulted in three individuals being ticketed for open containers in a motor vehicle, and one report of an assault was investigated. Local residents sent very positive comments to the department regarding installation of the gate and oversight of the event.

Since purchasing an airboat at the end of 2008, the Chenango County Sheriff's Office operators have received training exclusively from Region 7 rangers. Joint training of airboat operators continued this year on the Susquehanna River, on flat ice and at night.

The division's State Fair display, emphasizing the role of forest rangers in New York, was developed and staffed by Region 7 rangers under the direction of Lieutenant Taylor. The New York State fair is the oldest state fair in the country and one of the largest. Total attendance this year was stated to be 971,273 visitors. The fair runs for twelve days, from the end of August through Labor Day.

Region 8 by 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 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.

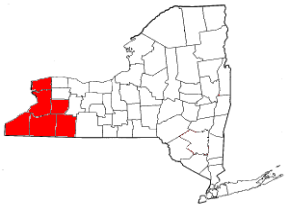
On June 18, rangers from regions 7, 8 and 9 were requested to manage a search for a missing 84-year-old. After an entire day of searching, no new leads or clues developed. During the second day of the search, the investigative unit developed intelligence, which put the subject just north of the primary search area. Rangers adjusted their resources accordingly and located the subject within two hours. In all, rangers managed 165 searchers on June 19, including two aviation units and firefighters from 20 volunteer fire departments.

Ranger conduct prescribed fire operations at Rush Oak Openings Unique Area.

Rangers, foresters, fire wardens and volunteers conducted prescribed fire activities at Rush Oak Openings Unique Area (ROOUA) again this year. ROOUA contains a globally rare plant community commonly referred to as an "oak opening," which is composed of native prairie grasses and associated plants usually surrounded by oak/hickory forests. These native grasses require frequent burning to maintain their viability. Prescribed fire is the primary tool for accomplishing this, and, as evidenced by the prolific resurgence of the grasses in burned areas, is very effective. Rangers have been participating in this highly successful undertaking for approximately 15 years.

Forest rangers participated in a cross boundary agreement with Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF). This is a cooperative effort generated from the mutual interest among the FLNF, U.S. Forest Service Northeast Area State and Private Forestry and DEC rangers. Implementing this grant further developed existing relationships and enhanced the capacity and effectiveness of state and local resources to provide wildfire suppression protection in and around the area of the national forest. Rangers trained 62 volunteer firefighters, pre-positioned a slip-on pump trailer unit and division fire equipment trailer at the national forest. Rangers and FLNF staff met on several occasions to plan for wildfire emergencies.

Region 9 by Lt. Shawn P. Plaisted



Region 9 is considered one administrative zone and comprises six western 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 due to 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 contains 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 on 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 sizeable being the Allegany Indian Reservation near Salamanca and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation near Brant. Seven forest rangers, one assistant forest ranger, one lieutenant and one captain are assigned to the region.

Rangers Pete Liebig (center) and Tim Carpenter discuss operational procedures with Regional Forester Wayne Cooper (right) during the Emerald Ash Borer multi-agency response.

Due to normal snowfall, a wet spring and an unusually rainy summer, the region experienced a low incidence of wildfires. Only 12 wildfires that burned a total of 24 acres were reported by rangers.

Dan Mitchell returned as the region's seasonal assistant forest ranger (AFR) assigned to Zoar Valley. On a daily basis, AFR Mitchell provided public interpretive services concerning the regulations and dangers of Zoar Valley. This summer was unusually cool and wet, and, as a result, the amount of searches significantly decreased from an average of 20 to only 7 for the year. The most notable search-and-rescue mission occurred in Allegany County, where more than 100 volunteers searched for a female subject who was located on the second day in good health and close to her last known point. Several agencies were involved, including the state police aviation unit.

On June 18, an invasive tree pest insect species known as the emerald ash borer or EAB, was confirmed to be present in Randolph, Cattaraugus County. Rangers Peter Liebig, David Pachan and Tom Koss were immediately involved in organizing the multi-agency response. Rangers Tim Carpenter (Region 8), Bryan

Gallagher (Region 1) and Jim Prunoske and Scott Jackson (Region 7) were also involved during the six-week mission. Rangers organized the incident, using the incident command system (ICS), and direct support concluded on July 29. Rangers continue to work to limit the spread of this and other invasive species by enforcing regulations concerning the transportation of firewood and quarantine of certain timber products.

DEC and DOT crew members chip ash trees as part of locating and eradicating Emerald Ash Borers near Randolph, NY.

Rangers David Pachan, Tim Flanagan and Peter Liebig assisted state police, the Southern Tier Drug Task Force and county sheriff's departments again this year in an effort to eradicate marijuana from the region. Together, the agencies removed 387 marijuana plants from Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties, with 141 plants removed from state lands. This multi-agency response continues to be a tremendous success, as for years it has removed thousands of plants from the area. Investigation into the identities of the various growers continues.

Each year, Region 9 rangers encounter significant incidents of underage alcohol possession on state lands. This year, Rangers Liebig and Justin Thaine participated in a joint venture with the Allegany County Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse and the Allegany County Sheriff's Department. Late night patrols concentrated on known areas of use by underage individuals who choose to consume alcohol illegally on state lands. As the result of a good tip, one large party was "busted, with more than 30 arrests made. Overall, 80 enforcement actions for underage possession were undertaken in the region.

Wildland Fire Management

Preparedness and Assistance with National Emergencies by Lisa Smith

Group picture of New York State #1 fire crew that were assigned to the Bluff Creek Fire in Alaska.

The division annually receives more than $1 million from the Forest Service to support both in-state and out-of-state wildfire suppression and hazard mitigation. For more than 30 years, the division has made an annual commitment to the U.S. Forest Service to support national wildfire suppression by sending trained firefighters and expert support staff to incidents throughout the country. To do so, the division's Fire Management Administrative Specialist, Lisa Smith, singlehandedly processes all the documentation, training records, travel manifests and payroll accounts associated with national and international mobilizations. More than 230 Firefighter Data Forms were received in 2009 for processing. Regional volunteer, fire warden and emergency firefighter lists were periodically updated as needed to maintain accurate and current records of credentialed and available firefighters. In 2009, 38 forest rangers and 90 DEC employees and volunteers requested to participate in the out-of-state fire program.

Morning briefing of firefighters on the Bluff Creek Fire in Alaska.

The national wildfire preparedness level did not reach as high or last as long in 2009 as it had in previous years. The division answered a national request by sending a 20-person, Type 2 initial attack firefighting crew to Alaska. On August 18, NYS Crew #1 was dispatched to the Bluff Creek Fire, Crazy Mountain Complex with Ranger Scott Jackson as the crew boss. NYS #1 was mobilized within 12 hours to meet four other U.S. Forest Service Eastern Area crews at the Manchester, NH airport. The crew cleared firelines so that other crews could conduct necessary burn-out operations. This was the first time a New York crew was dispatched to Alaska, let alone to the very remote location where they were assigned. NYS #1 oyees, and ten employees on leave status working as federal nger Jaime Laczko was dispatched to Oregon for the Williams rved as a felling boss, assisting the local power companies' sawyers in power line safety within a fire incident. DEC volunteer Gary Glintenkamp was dispatched to Michigan, Huron-Manistee National Forests, as a dozer boss.

Predictive Services Program by Col. Andy Jacob

The Predictive Services Program continued its primary mission of providing informational support to the division to assist with planning and decision-making within the framework of the State Wildland Fire Management Plan. Ranger Joseph Kennedy was fully assigned to this responsibility for the fifth consecutive year. His nationally recognized expertise provided 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 remote automatic weather station (RAWS) at Stonykill DEC Educational Center in Dutchess County.

The goals of the program—including the following responsibilities and tasks—were completed in 2009:

- Continued to operate, maintain and improve the division's network of 16 state-of-the-art, interagency, remote, automatic, fire weather stations (RAWS). This weather station network provides 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 for the division.
- Provided fire-danger training to the dispatchers at Ray Brook Dispatch Center, 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) by the division within the framework of regional fire management plans.
- Provided fire-danger and fire-weather training for the division's interagency cooperators, including Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) 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 division's organization and fire-management responsibilities. In addition to a daily fire-weather planning forecast issued daily for each forecast zone in the state, the NWS now prepares a

daily next-day weather forecast for each of the division's 16 RAWS. This enables forecasting of fire-danger indices and improved fire-management planning at the local, regional, and division levels.

- Maintained 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in Genesee County and the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge on Long Island, the U.S. Army at West Point and Fort Drum, the USDA Forest Service at the Finger Lakes National Forest, New York State Parks 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, neighboring state wildland fire agencies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and local volunteer fire departments, through presentations to the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, county emergency management coordinators, and the N.Y. State Fire Chiefs Association. These contacts assure cooperation and availability of resources when needed under emergency conditions.

- Maintained availability of real-time access to the National Lightning Detection Network for division managers and supervisors with extension of an agreement negotiated through the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, which provides division personnel with the ability to remotely track severe thunderstorms as a method of locating and suppressing wildland fires caused by lightning.

Saratoga Fire Cache by Lt. John Solan

The division's Saratoga Fire Cache is located on the grounds of the DEC Tree Nursery in the City of Saratoga Springs. Region 5, Zone F Lt. John Solan serves as cache manager. General mechanic Jeremy Perkins has worked at the cache for almost ten years, and his assistant, George Graham, has worked at the cache for almost eight years. The mission of the fire cache is to manage the division's fire equipment, provide a mobilization site for fire crews traveling to and from national assignments and support other division equipment needs.Fire cache buildings consist of a three-bay shop with two attached and heated storage bays, a separate five-bay cold storage building and four bays in a pole barn. Inventorying, repairing, storing and assigning fire equipment, such as pumps, chainsaws and hand tools, constitutes a large part of staff time. The cache is also responsible for maintaining the division's fleet of 19 fire equipment cargo trailers. Each spring, each zone is assigned a trailer to support their prescribed fire and wildfire suppression needs. The trailers are returned to the cache each fall to be overhauled. Each winter, cache staff inspect, inventory and test equipment in each trailer in preparation for the following fire season. Both cache employees have attended formal pump repair training. In 2009, more than 90 portable pumps were tested to ensure field operability when the need arises.

Lt. John Solan discusses the use of a wildfire pump testing unit with Ranger Division command staff and mechanic Jeremy Perkins.

The fire cache also serves as a mobilization and demobilization point for New York's fire crews assigned to national or Canadian wildfires. In 2009, one 20-person crew was mobilized through the cache. The division's inventory of wildland fire personal protective equipment is kept at the cache for both in-state and out-of-state incidents and training.

In addition to supporting the wildland fire program, cache staff assist DEC mechanics with the installation of emergency lights, sirens and decals on division trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs and boats. Due to a lack of new patrol vehicles in 2009, staff were able to refinish four utility trailers used to transport ATVs. The more than 10--year-old trailers were disassembled, sandblasted, primed, painted and reassembled. Refinishing the trailers and replacing their wooden decking should extend their lives and reduce the need for outright replacement.

An ATV utility trailer undergoing complete restoration at the fire cache.

Wildland Search-and-Rescue Advisory Committee Activities

By Captain Pat Kilpeck

Lt. Bob Marrone has participated on the ASTM International subcommittee responsible for search and rescue personnel, training and education. This subcommittee has issued a *Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member*, which establishes the minimum training, knowledge and skills for Level I land search team members. A Level I land search team member searches on the surface of the land only, not in partially or fully collapsed structures, in or on water, in confined spaces, or underground, and is required to have only an overview level of knowledge of 'rescue' as it pertains to search and rescue.

A forest ranger is hoisted from a state police helicopter as part of continual training in the use of aircraft for search and rescue missions.

One of the three newest airboats to the Ranger Division during flat ice operational use training.

The Search-and-Rescue Advisory Committee has spent considerable time in the past few years revising and improving the state's Wildland Search Crew Boss Course. One of the main goals of the newly revised course is to provide the training necessary so that students who attend and complete the course will meet the requirements of the ASTM *Standard Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member*. This will eventually allow a searcher to pursue further training and qualify for the Level II Land Search Team Member and a single resource within the FEMA system.

Attending a course for crew boss requires prerequisite training, skill development and an application submitted to the lead instructor. Students need to demonstrate proficiency with the field exercises to pass the course. A rocker patch that

A New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams k-9 unit undergoing field training.

compliments the NYS Volunteer Searcher patch, qualification card and certificate are issued to all who successfully complete the course. The new course provides forest rangers with trained individuals who can assist with leading crews on a search. In addition, it enables qualified individuals to meet the minimum training requirements established by the ASTM for a Level I Land Search Team Member.

Committee members also assisted in development of the Crew Chief Program, which trains rangers and state police in safe, efficient helicopter hoist operations. Hoist operations were developed to extricate injured subjects from remote areas. The objectives of the program are to encourage all agencies to adopt standard operating procedures (SOPs), continue back-country hoist missions, standardize rescue gear, conduct monthly training for operators and biannual ground school for all rangers, and certify crew chiefs with night-vision goggles to assist state police special team members with hoist certification. In 2009, rangers were involved in 53 helicopter missions. Fifteen missions were for search incidents, ten for rescues, 14 for marijuana eradication, seven for wildfires, four for transporting supplies to remote areas, three for illegal deer and bear bait-pile detection and two for a state police mission.

The committee has worked with the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams and has continued to advance the cooperative working relationship for training, meetings, reporting and notifications. One example is that when the federation's K-9 teams are performing certifications or re-certifications for their handlers and dogs, rangers who attend these exercises ideally get a better understanding of the team's capabilities.

2009 Training and Development Report

In 2009, forest ranger training activities accounted for a total of 24,648 program hours, a slight increase from the previous year. This year, the division's training and development program recorded 253 training events in four primary risk types. These included: wilderness search and rescue (10,288 hours), wildfire management (7,053 hours), law enforcement program (3,902 hours), and all other general training (3,405 hours). The table below summarizes the total number of events given to other groups or received by rangers in 2009.

The following report summarizes some of the more notable events which occurred throughout 2009. While many other training opportunities did not receive special mention in this report, they are no less significant. The division is grateful to all instructors for their continued commitment to developing skills within the ranger ranks.

Search-and-Rescue (SAR) Training

In 2009, the division continued to focus on delivering regionally sponsored training events for the development of each ranger's search-and-rescue (SAR) skills. This year, the division sponsored a total of 121 wildland SAR-related events. Each region continues to offer SAR training in subject matter that is considered relevant for their specific region or area of program responsibility. SAR training events typically include a diverse range of topics. Some samples of this year's wilderness SAR training include: wilderness search and rescue, swift-water rescue, high- and

low-angle rope rescue, flat- and vertical-ice rescue, basic backcountry skiing, global positioning system (GPS) and land navigation, airboat operation, snowmobile operation, and helicopter hoist operations.

In addition to regionally approved training events, rangers attended several division-sponsored courses. In April, 21 rangers attended the 32-hour NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFP&C) swift-water technician course. Ranger Delbert Jeffery assisted a cadre of instructors in delivering this program. Lt. Gary Friedrich continued to serve as the coordinator for the division's helicopter hoist operator program. In 2009, helicopter hoist operators attended 39 training sessions throughout the state. The training was accomplished with the support and assistance of the New York State Police Aviation Unit. It consisted of topics in personnel and litter hoists, ground schools, Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) training, and bucket operations.

Similarly, the division's airboat operators recorded 19 separate training events across the state. This training prepares each ranger to effectively operate a division airboat under a variety of environmental conditions. Airboats continue to provide a valuable life-saving resource on open water, swift water, and flat ice. The division once again recognizes Ranger Rick Schroeder for serving as the airboat program coordinator.

Ranger Wil Giraud providing driving instruction to Ranger Jason Seeley.

Police Officer Training Program

In 2009, the division was unable to provide fall in-service training due to a reduced budget. However, it did complete 15 annual firearms training sessions for all sworn members to meet mandated firearms proficiency training. Lt. Timothy Taylor once again dutifully served as the lead instructor for all mandated, annual use-of-force training. He was again assisted in these efforts by the division's cadre of firearms instructors. This cadre consisted of Capt. Tim Byrnes, Lts. Steve Scherry and Brian Dubay and rangers Peter Liebig, Glenn Bronson, Dan Cordell and Mike Hubschmitt.

In January, six rangers attended a week-long basic snowmobile law enforcement training program. The instructor from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) taught rangers the laws regulating snowmobile operation, accident reporting, field operations, and search-and-rescue operations. In April and September, rangers Jeff Balerno, Delbert Jeffery, Kevin Burns, Jeremy Oldroyd, Howard Thomes and Mike Thompson attended the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) certified Standard Field Sobriety Testing Course. In May, Ranger Wil Giraud completed an 80-hour Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) instructor school. He is the first ranger to have completed this course and is now a member of the OPP EVOC instructor cadre. Throughout the spring, 43 rangers attended firewood regulations training. This training provided rangers with information on a new department regulation restricting the transport of firewood.

Wildfire Management Training Program

In 2009, several training initiatives were undertaken in the wildfire program to further the development of the division's wildfire management capabilities. In January, two rangers from Region 9 attended an I-300 Intermediate Incident Command Course (ICS) for expanding incidents. The course was sponsored by the NY State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) and attended by Lt. Shawn Plaisted and Ranger David Pachan. In November, Ranger Joseph Kennedy, the division's wildfire predictive services specialist, served as a lead instructor for a course that taught setup and use of remote area weather stations. This was offered to National Park Service employees in Stroudsburg, PA.

On December 29, Ranger Kennedy retired after 26 years of service. His contribution to the division in wildfire management will be greatly missed. It was through his efforts that the division is recognized for having a premier fire-danger rating system and wildfire predictive services. The division appreciates all of his contributions to the ranger force and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

Ranger Joe Kennedy checking the remote automatic weather station (RAWS) at Schroon Lake, Essex County.

This year the division sent 13 students and one instructor to the New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy in Suffolk County. Ranger Jim Prunoske assisted with the Planning Section Chief Course as an instructor.

Wilderness First Responder Training Program

During 2009, the division's Wilderness Medical Associate (WMA) instructors provided a total of nine courses in first-aid instruction to 160 students. This was the second year that the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) was offered wilderness first-aid training. Each ranger or officer who attends a WMA session is required to pass an exam and perform satisfactorily in practical scenarios.

Additionally this year, two of the division's newer first-aid instructors attended the NYS Department of Health (DOH) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) basic course. Rangers Mike Burkholder and Jenifer Temple both successfully completed this rigorous 80-hour program. In October, rangers David Meade and Julie Harjung attended a Vital Signs Training Conference to learn how officers provide first-aid treatment in a downed-officer scenario. Currently, there are ten wilderness first-aid instructors in the Office of Public Protection. These dedicated individuals are: rangers Julie Harjung, David Meade, Suzanne Hitt, Jenifer Temple, Michael Burkholder and Robert Dawson; DLE officers Brian Willson and Bruce Hummel, and OPP dispatchers Ann MacBride and Angela Reynolds.

Ranger Jen Temple and ECO Brian Willson prepare first-aid mannequins for training.

DIVISION TRAINING SUMMARY REPORT

In 2009, the division reported a total of 253 training events for a total of 24,648 work hours. Search-and-rescue training accounted for 10,288 hours or 42 percent of all hours worked for both training given and training received. Wildfire training accounted for 7,053 hours or 29 percent of all training given and received. Police Officer training accounted for 3,902 hours or 16 percent of all training given and received. All other general training accounted for 3,405 work hours or 14 percent of all training. This year witnessed a level of training similar to what was reported in 2008. The following annual comparison table and bar graphs provide a breakdown of all training activity for the division in 2009 as reported by each officer.

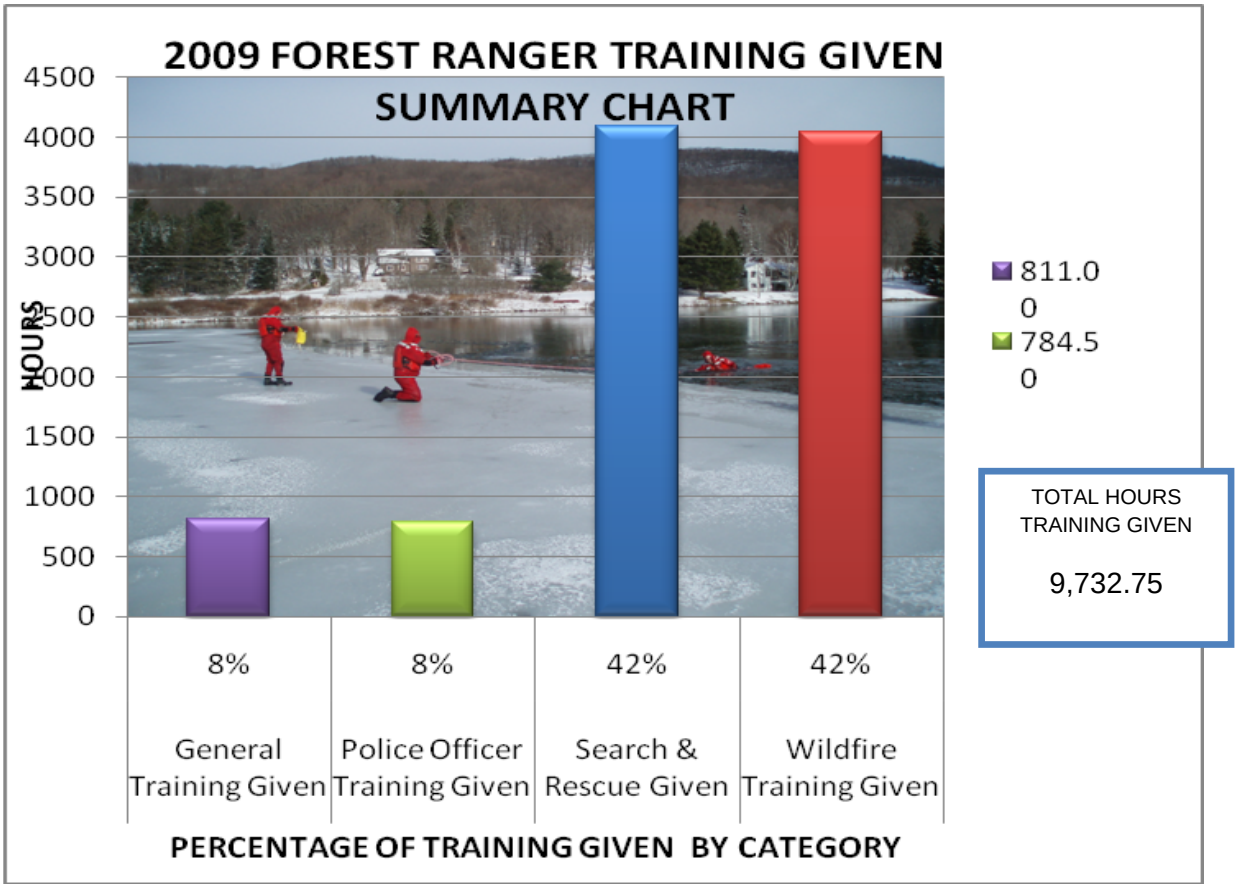
RISK TYPE*	TRAINING PROGRAM	EVENTS
WS	Wildland Search & Rescue	63
WS	Helicopter & Aviation	39
WS	Airboat Operation	19
LE	Law Enforcement	31
WF	Wildfire Management	67
EM	Wilderness First Aid	12
HZ	Hazardous materials	12
NR	General	10
	TOTAL	253

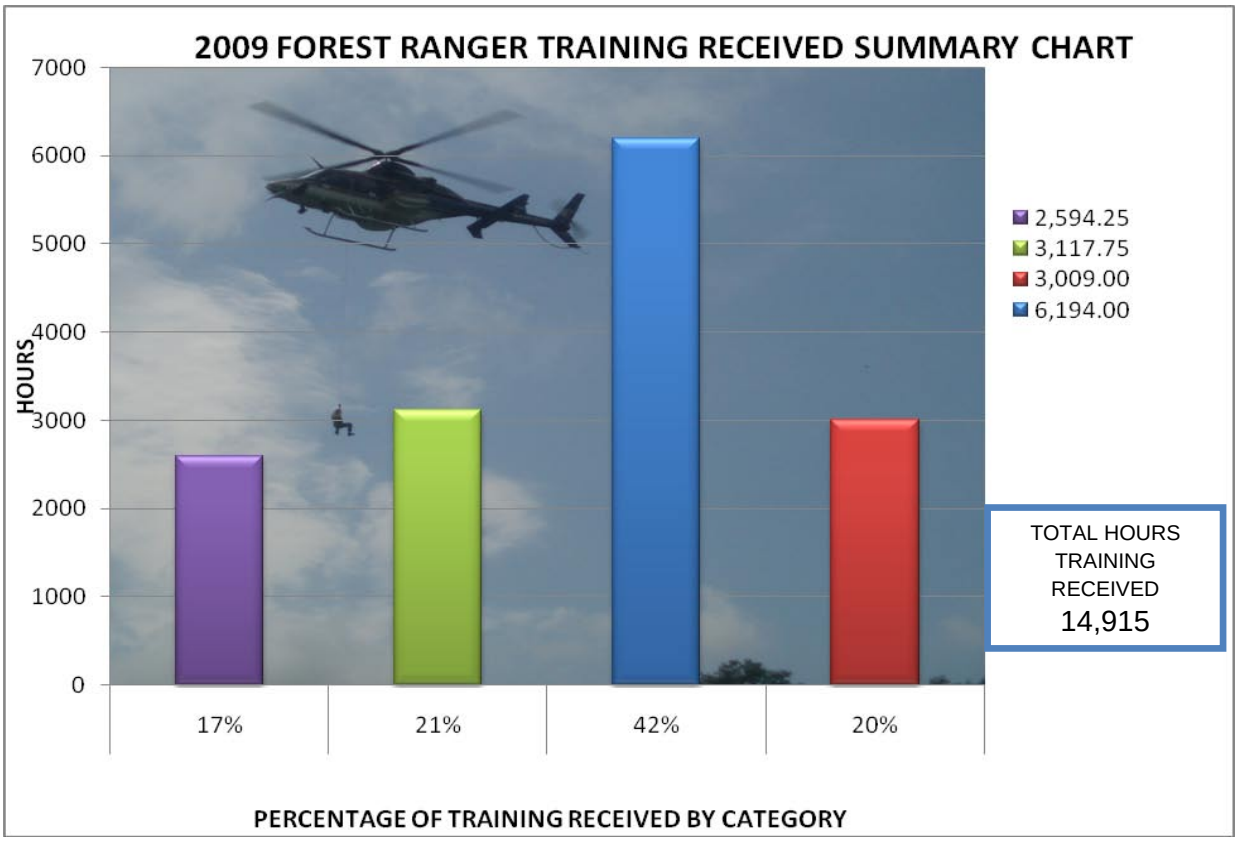
*WS – Wildland Search and Rescue, LE - Law enforcement, WF - Wildfire management, EM - Emergency medical, HZ - Hazardous materials, NR - no risk

DIVISION OF FOREST PROTECTION

Table of Hours Worked in the Training Program by Category

		Annual Program Hours Worked Per Category		
CATEGORY	**ACTIVITY**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
Search-and-Rescue Training	Given	4,359.25	3,730.00	4,093.50
Search-and-Rescue Training	Received	5,592.50	5,094.00	6,194.00
Search-and-Rescue Training Total		**9,951.75**	**8,824.00**	**10,287.50**
Wildfire Training	Given	3,903.50	3,746.25	4,043.75
Wildfire Training	Received	3,631.00	2,280.25	3,009.00
Wildfire Training Total		**7,534.50**	**6,026.50**	**7,052.75**
Police Officer Training	Given	2,839.50	1,034.00	784.50
Police Officer Training	Received	10,603.25	2,574.50	3,117.75
Police Officer Training Total		**13,442.75**	**3,608.50**	**3,902.25**
Basic Academy Training	Given	4,129.25	1,311.50	0.00
Basic Academy Training	Received	11,283.75	0.00	0.00
Basic Academy Training	Administration	2,391.75	473.00	0.00
Basic Academy Training Total		**17,804.75**	**1,784.50**	**0.00**
General Training	Given	740.25	676.25	721.00
General Training	Received	3,084.75	2,243.75	2,594.25
General Training	OSHA	95.50	100.50	90.00
General Training Total		**3,920.50**	**3,020.50**	**3,405.25**
Grand Total		**52,654.25**	**23,264.00**	**24,647.75**


2009 FOREST RANGER TRAINING GIVEN SUMMARY CHART
HOURS
4500
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
811.00
784.50
8%
8%
42%
42%
General Training Given
Police Officer Training Given
Search & Rescue Given
Wildfire Training Given
PERCENTAGE OF TRAINING GIVEN BY CATEGORY
TOTAL HOURS TRAINING GIVEN
9,732.75


2009 FOREST RANGER TRAINING RECEIVED SUMMARY CHART
HOURS
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
2,594.25
3,117.75
3,009.00
6,194.00
17%
21%
42%
20%
PERCENTAGE OF TRAINING RECEIVED BY CATEGORY
TOTAL HOURS TRAINING RECEIVED
14,915

2009 Summary of Wildfires by Forest Ranger Zone

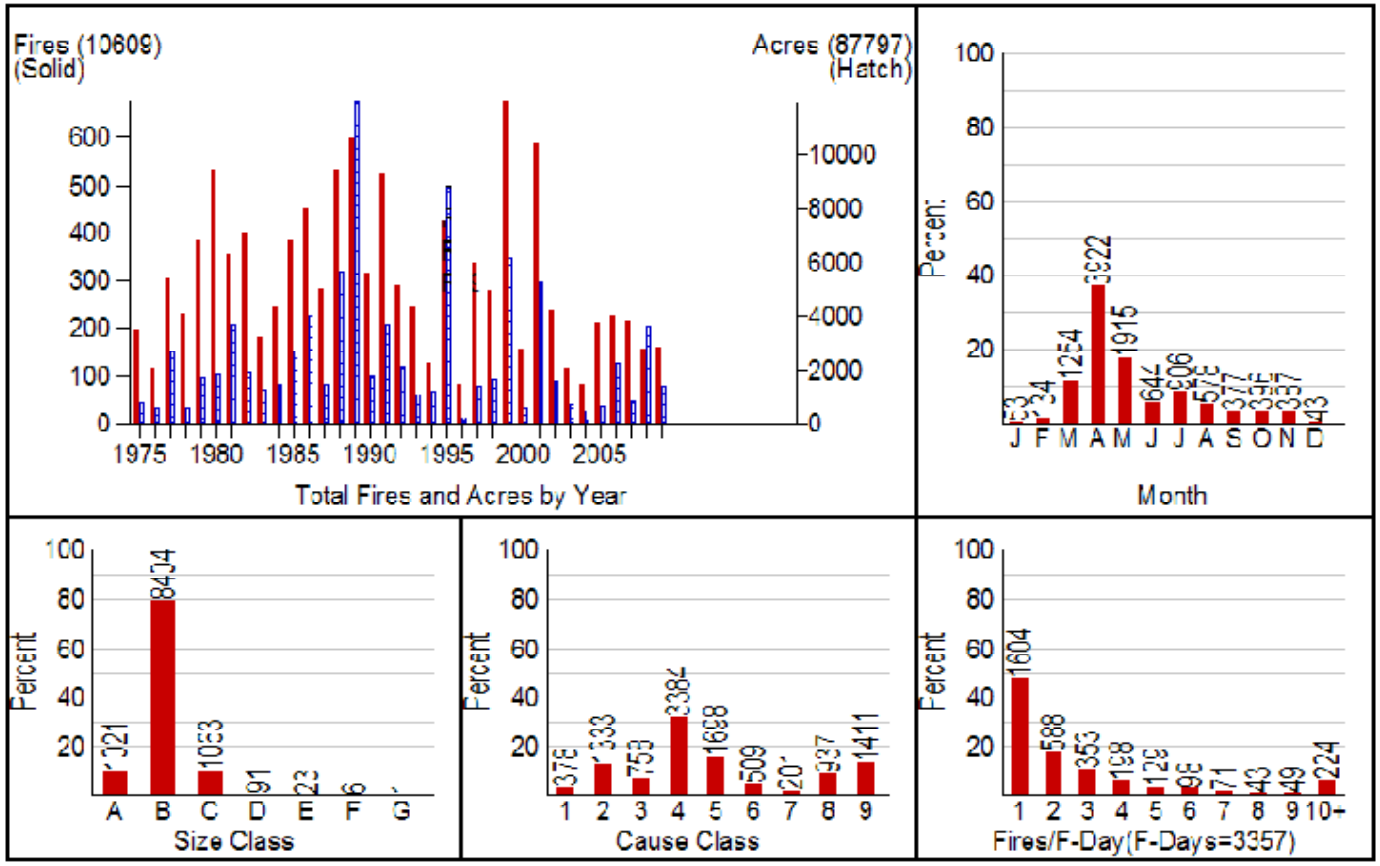
Region & Zone	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	TOTAL
# of Debris-Caused Fires	0	6	3	4	6	0	7	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	19	8	4	65
# of Campfire-Caused Fires	1	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	19
# of Lightning-Caused Fires	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
# of Arson-Caused Fires	7	3	4	1	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	3	31
# of Other-Caused Fires	1	1	2	6	2	0	2	2	0	3	2	1	1	1	6	7	3	40
TOTAL # OF FIRES	9	12	10	11	13	2	12	2	1	16	5	1	3	3	29	18	12	159
# of Fires < 0.25 acre	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	1	4	1	0	0	1	5	0	2	21
# of Fires 0.25 to 9.9 Acres	7	10	6	10	10	0	9	2	0	9	3	1	3	2	22	12	10	116
# of Fires 10 to 99.9 Acres	2	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	6	0	21
# of Fires 100 Acres or larger	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL ACRES OF FIRE	119	399	228	30	44	0	36	2	0	160	85	9	15	12	89	153	24	1405
# of State Land Fires	3	1	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	6	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	22
# of Private and Other Government Land Fires	6	11	8	11	11	0	12	1	0	10	5	0	3	3	26	18	12	137
# of Spring Fires	9	11	9	10	12	0	10	2	1	14	3	1	2	3	27	15	11	140
# of Summer Fires	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
# of Fall-Winter Fires	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	2	3	1	17
TOTAL COST OF FIRES	$0	$230	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$60	$384	$0	$0	$0	$120	$299	$0	$1,093

Wildland Fires and Acres Burned in New York State 1955-2009

Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire
1955	1720	23127	13.4
1960	714	5065	7.1
1965	1200	8469	7.1
1970	631	2262	3.6
1971	596	2203	3.7
1972	508	2693	5.1
1973	669	3300	4.9
1974	558	2268	4.1
1975	795	2968	3.7
1976	484	6140	12.7
1977	895	7016	7.8
1978	792	7143	9.0
1979	552	2593	4.7
1980	772	5391	7.0
1981	655	5540	8.4
1982	610	3389	5.5
1983	356	1585	4.5
1984	319	1516	4.8
1985	644	3666	5.7
1986	460	3799	8.3
1987	267	1072	4.0
1988	556	5031	9.0
1989	603	11730	19.5
1990	322	1589	4.9
1991	535	3453	6.6
1992	292	2014	6.9
1993	243	992	4.1
1994	129	1177	9.1
1995	379	7334	19.4
1996	79	211	2.7
1997	309	1218	3.9
1998	346	2569	7.4
1999	629	5557	9.3
2000	134	451	3.4
2001	460	4545	9.9
2002	324	2062	6.4
2003	106	594	5.6
2004	73	431	5.9
2005	208	669	3.2
2006	231	2323	10.1
2007	211	855	4.1
2008	157	3634	23.1
2009	159	1405	8.8

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

NEW YORK STATE FOREST RANGER HISTORICAL WILDFIRE OCCURRENCE STATISTICS FROM 1975-2009



SUMMARY of ALL SEARCH & RESCUE MISSIONS
Reported by
FOREST RANGERS in 2009

Activity of Subject(s)	Total #	% Total	Searches	Rescues	Recoveries	Costs
Airplane/Flying	2	0.9%	1		1	$40
Biking	2	0.9%	1	1		
Camping	5	2.1%	4	1		
Climbing (Rock/Ice)	3	1.3%	2	1		
Fishing	7	3.0%	5	2		$560
Hiking	134	57.3%	66	67	1	
Hunting	21	9.0%	21			
Runaway/Fugitive	7	3.0%	7			
Skiing/Snowshoeing	2	0.9%	1	1		
Snowmobile/ATV	9	3.8%	1	6	2	
Suicides	5	2.1%	4		1	
Swimming	2	0.9%	1		1	$1,680
Walking/Walkaway	20	8.5%	20			$72
Whitewater/Boating	9	3.8%	6	3		
Other***	6	2.6%	4	2		
Totals	234	100.0%	144	84	6	$2,352

*** 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	21	17	12	15	25	28	26	144
Rescue	11	11	9	4	9	29	11	84
Recovery	2				1	1	2	6
Total	34	28	21	19	35	58	39	234

Number & Percentage of Incidents Occurring by Month

MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total	MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total
January	8	3%	July	42	18%
February	7	3%	August	33	14%
March	11	5%	September	22	9%
April	14	6%	October	33	14%
May	19	8%	November	23	10%
June	16	7%	December	6	3%
			TOTAL	234	100%

2009 SUMMARY OF SEARCH & RESCUE INCIDENTS BY ZONE

SEARCH INCIDENTS	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	TOTAL
Camping/ Hiking/Skiing		6	1	13	2	5	1	10	9	16	3		1	6	2	1		76
Fishing/Hunting /Trap.				2		1	1	2	3	2	1		2	5	2		5	26
Walk-aways/Run-aways		1		5	2	1	1			1	2	1			6	1	2	23
ATV/Snowmobile/Boat		1				1	1		3					1				7
Other				1				2	1	1		1		1	2	3		12
RESCUES INCIDENTS																		
Ice or Rock Climbing				1		4												5
Camping/ Hiking/Skiing		2		13				38	3	4		1		1		3	1	66
ATV/Snowmobile/MV						1			3	1			1					6
Boating/Water Rescues						1		1						1				3
Other		1				1						1					1	4
RECOVERIES																		
Land Related				1														1
ATV/Snowmobile/Boat						1							1					2
Water Related														1				1
Suicides				1														1
Other								1										1
TOTAL # of INCIDENTS	0	11	1	37	4	16	4	54	22	25	6	4	5	16	12	8	9	234
STATE LAND INCIDENTS		9	1	29	1	14	3	53	16	20	4	3	4	12	3	4	6	182
TOTAL COST								$40						$2,240		$72		$2,352

Wildland Search and Rescue Missions

New York State

1963-2009

Year	# of Missions	Staff Hours	Year	# of Missions	Staff Hours
1963	76	1296	1985	201	5698
1964	53	816	1986	211	5730
			1987	253	5064
1965	106	3050	1988	223	8063
1966	116	1877	1989	259	6081
1967	130	2447			
1968	100	1805	1990	259	7804
1969	113	4028	1991	252	4290
			1992	244	11282
1970	116	1320	1993	241	8907
1971	104	9255	1994	208	5100
1972	138	8604			
1973	178	15941	1995	212	6200
1974	144	15941	1996	236	7700
			1997	251	6494
1975	162	4049	1998	209	7049
1976	211	6741	1999	228	4130
1977	202	5324			
1978	156	3334	2000	286	10725
1979	163	4445	2001	261	8768
			2002	257	10313
1980	164	4382	2003	237	9382
1981	163	5300	2004	220	7209
1982	184	6858			
1983	215	7003	2005	229	10378
1984	188	5381	2006	226	15708
			2007	223	8964
			2008	245	14094
			2009	234	6587

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

2009 [illegible]

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
#of Assists to Other Agencies at Emergencies	26	44	26	18	6	31	31	23	79	14	20	44	11	32	7	19	54	**485**
# of defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment	0	5	0	3	1	2	2	15	19	5	1	14	0	0	0	0	2	**69**
# of Part 215 Burning Permit Inspections	0	31	2	41	9	2	5	3	22	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**119**
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger	0	36	161	146	217	46	558	341	301	206	241	0	26	66	0	0	0	**2,345**
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permit Inspections	0	17	17	8	10	29	71	24	198	167	18	0	12	23	0	0	0	**594**
# of Article 9/191 BP's issued by Issuing Agent	0	1502	4866	314	279	8	576	1	113	902	208	0	0	49	0	0	0	**8,818**
# of Camping Permits Issued	0	134	9	82	160	322	81	115	315	307	120	77	80	68	153	99	85	**2,207**
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected	0	1129	1130	214	612	769	658	2056	1565	1498	360	548	368	424	993	938	611	**13,873**
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds	0	149	21	200	83	401	276	61	719	197	26	85	1	78	0	0	0	**2,297**
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	9	10	29	112	344	0	24	7	65	1	3	5	25	212	259	124	65	**1,294**
# of responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)	1	0	2	1	4	0	6	0	32	1	0	8	4	4	0	11	14	**88**
# of Guides Checked for License Compliance	0	0	0	4	0	0	16	6	260	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	**301**
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	21	11		1	13	0	0	0	0	**47**
# of Stream Crossing Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	1	59	0		1	10	1	0	1	1	**90**
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections	175	4	1	0	0	0	86	81	36	8	6	0	0	1	7	152	18	**575**
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	2294	3255	3561	3096	4638	2170	4041	4310	4865	3785	3202	3364	2994	8226	7147	7492	9,748	**78,188**
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	269	171	105	171	227	41	436	71	264	119	66	62	56	164	147	113	210	**2,692**
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by foot or paddle	1142	1329	1587	1653	990	1090	1306	3904	2154	2617	971	392	539	1116	704	567	1,100	**23,160**
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by motorized equipment	1092	610	109	362	486	1219	878	659	4498	502	839	1359	2832	2921	1110	655	584	**20,715**

2009 ANNUAL REPORT OF PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & TRAINING GIVEN BY FOREST RANGERS

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
Number of S130/190 Training Events	1			1		1				1		1			1		2	8
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	9			20		15				35		23			12		93	207
Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events		2	7	2	4		1			2		1	2		6	9	2	38
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		63	182	36	64		16			48		11	37		107	228	35	827
Number of 4-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events		1	2		2	1	1											7
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		30	58		70	70	170											398
Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events	6			3	5	1	2		1	1	5		2		9	11	5	51
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	122			56	73	4	50		27	200	149		224		247	276	102	1,530
Number of Fire Prevention Events	3	14	12	10	34	2	11	1	6	2	7	4		1	7	9	12	135
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	1000	1393	783	3480	12337	130	526	60	6650	80	855	255		10500	1898	2121	3328	35,946
Number of Basic Wildland Search Course Events	5	2	5	1	3	1	1		2		3	1	2	2	3		4	35
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	69	48	69	10	78	24	14		31		88	27	33	82	96		108	777
Number of Other S&R or 1st Aid Course Events	3	1	4	3	5	9	3	5	13				1	3	19		10	79
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	47	6	97	51	713	187	51	61	225				34	95	300		132	1,999
# of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations	7	5	4	21	1	3	5	7	8	13	12	1	4	13	3	3	6	116
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	88	60	489	930	200	132	272	362	262	1095	1247	13	144	1651	979	385	360	8,669
Number of Career Information Events	2		3	17	5	1	4	5	2	2	1	2	7	4	6	6	18	85
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	85		3317	6972	167	45	281	412	65	151	80	222	85	81	10148	961	9078	32,150
Number of Other Presentations or Training Events	1	1		3	2	7	2		18	1			2				2	40
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	100	11		61	67	138	726		646	10			13				85	1,857
Total # of Presentations & Training Events	28	26	37	61	61	26	31	18	50	22	28	10	20	23	54	38	61	594
Total Hours of Presentations & Training Events	228	121	209	333	292	176	217	50	151	106	107	72	56	108	236	69	352	2,883
Total Number of Attendees at Events	1520	1611	4995	11616	13769	745	2106	895	7906	1619	2419	551	570	12409	13787	3971	13321	84,360

2009 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
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	**150**	**134**	**79**	**134**	**263**	**89**	**103**	**140**	**189**	**205**	**84**	**588**	**280**	**116**	**116**	**109**	**390**	**3169**
Environmental Conservation Law Rules and Regulations	112	101	51	88	153	57	28	74	125	123	42	160	96	35	61	62	262	**1630**
NYS Vehicle & Traffic Offenses	29	21	20	35	36	5	30	25	20	54	20	317	116	22	43	37	74	**904**
Parks & Recreation (Snowmobile & Navigation)	0	1	3	6	52	27	21	22	33	15	15	104	57	58	11	10	9	**444**
Arrests Turned over to Another Agency	0	8	5	3	22	0	23	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	**107**
Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests)	9	3	0	2	0	0	1	5	11	13	7	7	11	1	1	0	13	**84**
Offenses Related to State Land Use	67	54	18	30	58	36	5	22	30	72	4	82	45	13	24	21	70	**651**
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	2	10	9	4	4	6	7	6	1	7	3	1	14	5	16	19	5	**119**
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	16	5	18	5	73	13	21	20	5	5	5	22	13	0	7	13	87	**328**
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**48**
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	38	9	12	23	36	4	17	7	16	30	20	254	111	21	22	29	31	**680**
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State Lands	9	12	10	7	15	1	4	3	2	12	1	59	10	1	11	6	22	**185**
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	0	2	0	43	4	0	4	3	39	1	1	25	0	5	0	0	0	**127**
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	**5**
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State lands	3	27	0	3	0	0	1	5	30	26	21	29	14	12	1	4	92	**268**
Offenses Related to other ECL or R&R	5	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**13**
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	10	3	8	12	16	23	17	19	0	42	12	12	16	1	12	7	55	**265**
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	0	3	4	6	56	6	26	10	66	8	17	104	57	58	22	9	28	**480**
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests as Reported Above	**150**	**134**	**79**	**134**	**263**	**89**	**103**	**140**	**189**	**205**	**84**	**588**	**280**	**116**	**116**	**109**	**390**	**3169**

This page left intentionally blank.