



Division of Forest Protection

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



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Table of Contents

LETTER from the DIRECTOR	3
2010 Annual Report Statewide Highlights	4
Division Mission	4
24-Hour, 365-Day Responsibility	4
Law Enforcement on State Lands	4
Search and Rescue Responsibility	4
Search and Rescue Missions	5
Search and Rescue Training.....	5
Wildfire Mitigation	5
Wildfire Training	5
Wildfire Prevention.....	6
Wildfire Prevention Enforcement	6
National Response to Wildfires	6
Prescribed Fire	6
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants	6
Support to Other Agencies.....	7
Licensed Guide Program.....	7
Comprehensive Annual Report.....	7
2010 FOREST RANGER DIVISION FACT SHEET	8
Division Members.....	8
State Lands & Easements Acres	8
2009 Population (in millions)	8
Wildfire Management Program	8
Search & Rescue Program	8
Protection of State Lands & State Resources	8
Licensed Guide Program.....	8
Other	8
How Rangers Spent Their Time in 2010	8
Region and Zone Narratives	11
Regions 1 and 2 by Captain Tim Byrnes	11
Region 3, Zone A by Lt. Stephen M. Scherry	12
Region 3, Zone B by Lt. Paul Rinaldi.....	13

Region 4, Zone A by Lt. Darryl Kittle.....	14
Region 4, Zone B by Lt. Rob Morse.....	15
Region 5, Zone A by Lt. Bob Marrone.....	16
Region 5, Zone B by Lt. Gary Friedrich.....	17
Region 5, Zone C by Lt. Brian Dubay.....	19
Region 5, Zone D by Lt. Steve Preston.....	20
Region 5, Zone E by Captain John Streiff.....	21
Region 5, Zone F by Lt. John Solan.....	22
Region 6, Zone A by Lt. Robert Barstow.....	23
Region 6, Zone B by Lt. Joel Nowalk.....	24
Region 6, Zone C by Captain Robert Cavanagh.....	26
Region 7, Zone A by Lt. Timothy Taylor.....	27
Region 8 by Lt. Joseph Shafer.....	28
Region 9 by Lt. Shawn P. Plaisted.....	29
Division Retirees in 2010.....	30
Wildland Fire Management by Colonel Andy Jacob.....	32
Preparedness and Assistance with National Emergencies.....	32
Predictive Services Program.....	32
Communities-At-Risk Project.....	33
2010 Training & Development Report.....	35
Search and Rescue (SAR) Training.....	35
Police Officer Training Program.....	36
Wildfire Management Training Program.....	36
Wilderness First Responder Training Program.....	38
Other Notable Training Accomplishments.....	38
DIVISION TRAINING SUMMARY REPORT.....	39

LETTER from the DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the *2010 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.

In 2010, the New York State Forest Rangers celebrated our 125-year anniversary for protecting the states forests from destructive forest fires and timber theft. During these years, the role and responsibilities of the rangers have changed significantly. While our wildfire program today only requires 10 percent of our time, our police activities on nearly five-million acres of state lands encompass 50 percent of our time. The division's wildland search and rescue program has developed in the last 40 years to become a larger part of our mission than wildfire has been in the past decade.

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 who provided editing, graphics and publishing support.

The continued 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, support staff and volunteers for their many accomplishments and sincere dedication.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Zeglen

Joseph Zeglen
Division Director

2010 Annual Report Statewide Highlights

Division Mission

The Division of Forest Protection (forest rangers) is responsible for protecting five-million acres of state-owned and department-managed lands and easements. More than three million acres are in the Adirondack Park alone, but every region of the state has substantial state land resources. Forest rangers have 125 years of law enforcement history protecting public lands and the people who use the state's natural resources.

24-Hour, 365-Day 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. The direct professional contact rangers make with state land users is an essential service for both residents and visitors. 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, use has expanded throughout the year, with summer and fall weekends as peak-use periods. Rangers use the Leave-No-Trace (LNT) Program as a means of promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation on public lands through education, research and partnerships. Rangers issued 1,968 camping permits to groups of 10 or more and to groups staying at one site for more than three nights. Throughout the year, rangers inspected or patrolled the department's 60 public campgrounds 2,105 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during the off-season. Routine patrols included 63,228 inspections of trailhead access points and inspection of 2,580 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

Law Enforcement on State Lands

Continuing a trend of several years, the most problematic activity encountered by forest rangers was the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles on state land. In 2010, rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 369 violations involving ATVs. Another 110 violations involved the unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land. Rangers executed enforcement actions in response to 182 violations on department campgrounds and another 674 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in rangers making 102 arrests for illegal possession of alcohol by a person less than 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 2010, 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 2010, forest rangers conducted 140 search missions, 65 rescues and 5 recoveries. Seventy-four percent (155) 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 people most often reported lost or injured, others suffering from dementia or mental illness are often the most difficult to find. Rescue and recovery missions are frequently complicated by the nature of wildland recreational activity. Ice-climbing rescue requires special training and equipment. White-water boating activities require rangers to prepare for fast-moving water rescue, sometimes in the most remote and inaccessible areas of the state. Snowmobiling accidents require rangers to be prepared to treat potentially serious injuries in cold weather and remote locations. The prevailing motto within the division, "If it was easy, someone else would do it," reflects the nature and complexity of search-and-rescue missions conducted by forest rangers.

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 2010, rangers presented 24 NYS Basic Wildland Search courses to 445 participants. Another 54 presentations, covering wilderness first aid, advanced search and rescue training and incident management were given to 1,583 participants in support of local and division response to incidents statewide.

Wildfire Mitigation

An important part of protecting public lands, as well as privately owned forest lands, is wildfire mitigation. 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 2010, forest rangers reported 155 wildfires which burned a total of 1,413 acres. During the last 25 years, rangers responded to an average of 298 wildfires per year that burned an average total of 2,795 acres per year. In 2008, the 2855-acre Overlooks Fire severely burned Minnewaska State Park in Ulster County. In 2010, the largest wildfire in New York occurred in Seneca County on the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. This 695-acre fire burned through a large, open wetland characteristic of the refuge, and it was determined to have been ignited by incendiary activity. Staten Island, a borough of New York City, had two large wildfires burn through phragmites wetlands. On March 10, a 33-acre fire burned in the Great Kills Park section of the Gateway National Recreation Area. On September 8, a 145-acre fire also occurred on the Park. Both wildfires, along with several others throughout Staten Island were determined to have been ignited by incendiary activity.

Wildfire Training

The division's wildfire mitigation 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 14 occasions, teaching 293 volunteer firefighters the basics of wildfire suppression. On six occasions, rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 73 firefighters, state employees, students and volunteers completed this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 33 training sessions to 839 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 nine

four-hour training sessions to 266 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 65 prevention presentations to 21,590 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 155 wildfires extinguished by the division in 2010, rangers attributed only three fires to the actions of children. This statistic stands as a tribute to the effectiveness of the 66-year Smokey Bear campaign at preventing wildfires started by children.

Wildfire Prevention Enforcement

Debris burning, arson and unextinguished campfires 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 3,785 burning permits as required by the NYS Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 425 of the permitted burns to insure compliance with the terms of the permits. In addition, they issued tickets or made arrests for 70 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 2009, 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. Forest rangers saw a 33 percent reduction in the number of wildfires caused by debris burning during the ban period in 2010 as compared to the previous ten-year average. Many rural fire departments supported the burn ban with public announcements. As a result, 688 towns had fewer wildfires caused by debris burning in 2010 as compared to the previous five-year average, 173 had the same number of fires, and 71 towns actually had more fires than their previous five-year average.

National Response to Wildfires

In 2010, the division did not mobilize any firefighting crews to nationally significant wildfires as part of its cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service. The division typically sends one or two crews each year. A crew consists of a forest ranger as crew boss and three other rangers as squad bosses. The other 16 members are forest rangers, other DEC employees and department volunteer firefighters. The year 2010 was unusual because the division did not send rangers or crews to support federal wildland firefighting efforts.

Prescribed Fire

In 2010, 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 six prescribed fires on departmental state lands, burning a total of 81 acres. Rangers also assisted federal and county partners and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with three 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 US Forest Service. VFA grants assist rural volunteer fire departments with the purchase of fire-suppression equipment and supplies. In 2010, 466 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 volunteer firefighters.

Support to Other Agencies

Forest rangers provide a variety of 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 603 occasions in 2010. Many were automobile accidents at which a ranger came upon the scene. Others included fugitive searches, fire-scene traffic control, evidence searches, drownings and marijuana-plantation eradication. Because rangers are considered experts in the National Incident Management System Incident Command Systems (NIMS ICS), they often are called upon to teach courses on these topics at police academies, county government centers and local fire departments.

Licensed Guide Program

The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2010, there was a total of 2,074 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 202 new licenses and 254 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 619 license guide checks statewide, and seven arrests were made 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 2010.

Comprehensive Annual Report

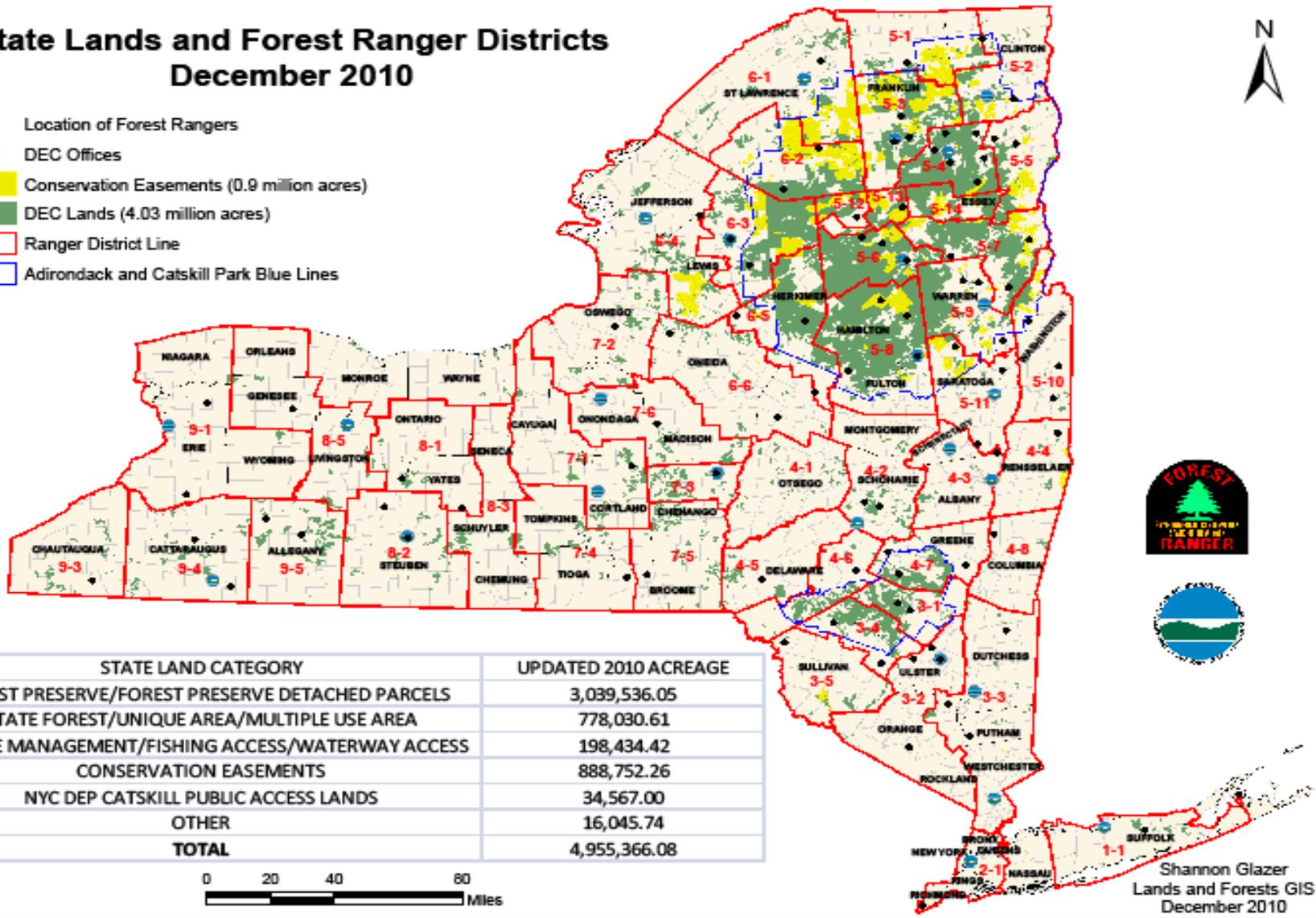
The division's *2010 Annual Report* includes summary tables of reportable data on wildfire occurrence, prescribed fire, search and rescue missions, arrests or tickets issued, public presentations and general activities. Most summaries are reported at the division's zone level. A zone is identified as 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 2010 forest ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

2010 FOREST RANGER DIVISION FACT SHEET

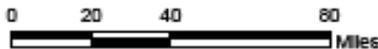
<p>Division Members</p> <p>106 Forest Rangers</p> <p>28 Forest Ranger Lieutenants, Captains & Directors</p> <p>6 Administrative Support Staff</p> <p>2 Fire Cache Equipment Specialists</p> <p>State Lands & Easements Acres</p> <p>3,039,536 Adirondack & Catskill Forest Preserve</p> <p>778,031 State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple-Use Areas</p> <p>198,434 Wildlife Management Areas</p> <p>888,752 Conservation Easements</p> <p>16,046 Other DEC Lands</p> <p>+ 34,567 NYC DEP Public Access Lands</p> <p>4,955,366 DEC Administered Lands</p> <p>2009 Population (in millions)</p> <p>19.5 New York State</p> <p>32 Surrounding States (VT, MA, CT, NJ, PA)</p> <p>Wildfire Management Program</p> <p>98 Fires Suppressed in the Spring</p> <p>49 Fires Suppressed in the Summer</p> <p>8 Fires Suppressed in the Fall</p> <p>1,413 Acres Burned</p> <p>9 Prescribed Fires</p> <p>122 Acres of Prescribed Fire</p> <p>3,785 Burning Permits Issued</p> <p>425 Burning Permits Inspected</p> <p>57 Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events with 1,471 Participants</p> <p>65 Fire Prevention Events with 21,590 Attendees</p> <p>70 Fire Prevention Law Violations/Tickets</p> <p>466 \$1,000 Grants to Rural VFDs</p> <p>Search & Rescue Program</p> <p>140 Search Missions</p> <p>65 Rescue Missions</p> <p>5 Recoveries</p> <p>78 Search & Rescue or First Aid Training Events with 2,028 Participants</p>	<p>Protection of State Lands & State Resources</p> <p>63,228 Inspections of Trailheads/Access Points</p> <p>23,669 Miles of Trails Walked or Waterways Paddled (canoe/kayak)</p> <p>12,074 Inspections of Occupied Campsites</p> <p>1,968 State Land Camping Permits Issued</p> <p>2,580 Miles of State Boundary Line Inspected</p> <p>961 State Land Use Permits Inspected</p> <p>2,105 Patrols of DEC Public Campgrounds</p> <p>369 ATV Violation Tickets Issued</p> <p>958 State Land Offense Tickets/Arrests</p> <p>445 Offenses Related to Snowmobile Use</p> <p>177 Fish & Wildlife Offense Tickets</p> <p>276 Other En Con or other Law Offenses</p> <p>492 DEC Permit Inspections</p> <p>49 Outdoor Use Presentations to 2,590 Participants</p> <p>Licensed Guide Program</p> <p>2,074 Licensed Guides on 12/31/10</p> <p>202 New Guide Licenses Issued</p> <p>254 Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated</p> <p>0 Guide Licenses Revoked</p> <p>619 Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials</p> <p>7 License Guide Violations Ticketed</p> <p>Other</p> <p>1984 Calls for service/Complaints</p> <p>603 Incidents of Assisting other Agencies</p> <p>90 Other Presentations, Fairs and Career Talks to 42,010 Attendees</p> <p>How Rangers Spent Their Time in 2010</p> <p>49% State Land Patrol & Enforcement</p> <p>10% Fire Management Activities</p> <p>13% Search & Rescue Missions & Training</p> <p>24% Administrative Responsibilities</p> <p>4% Other Responsibilities</p>
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State Lands and Forest Ranger Districts December 2010

- ◆ Location of Forest Rangers
- DEC Offices
- Conservation Easements (0.9 million acres)
- DEC Lands (4.03 million acres)
- ▭ Ranger District Line
- ▭ Adirondack and Catskill Park Blue Lines



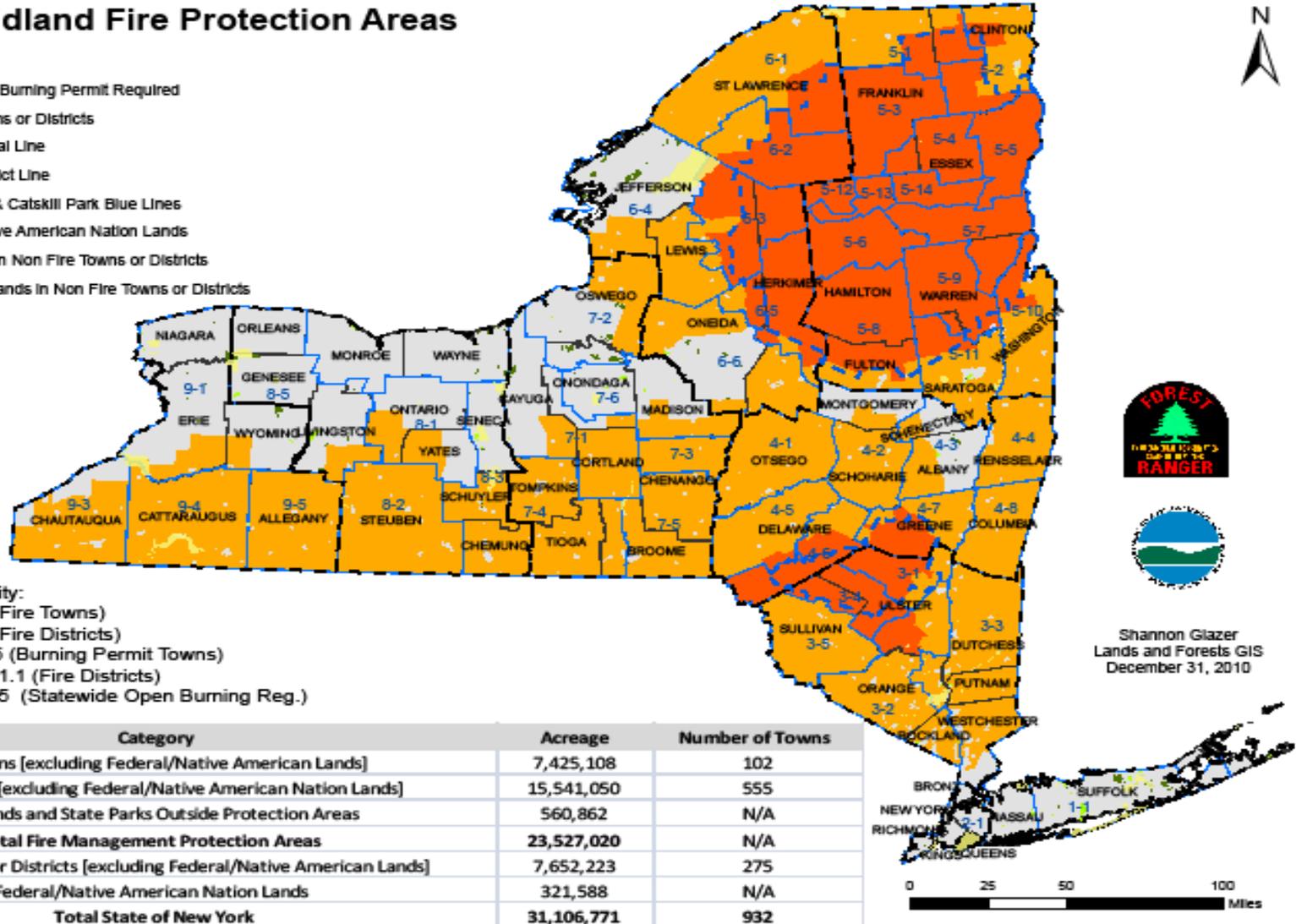
STATE LAND CATEGORY	UPDATED 2010 ACREAGE
FOREST PRESERVE/FOREST PRESERVE DETACHED PARCELS	3,039,536.05
STATE FOREST/UNIQUE AREA/MULTIPLE USE AREA	778,030.61
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT/FISHING ACCESS/WATERWAY ACCESS	198,434.42
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	888,752.26
NYC DEP CATSKILL PUBLIC ACCESS LANDS	34,567.00
OTHER	16,045.74
TOTAL	4,955,366.08



Shannon Glazer
Lands and Forests GIS
December 2010

2010 Wildland Fire Protection Areas

-  Fire Districts
-  Fire Towns - Burning Permit Required
-  Non Firetowns or Districts
-  DEC Regional Line
-  Ranger District Line
-  Adirondack & Catskill Park Blue Lines
-  Federal/Native American Nation Lands
-  DEC Lands In Non Fire Towns or Districts
-  State Park Lands In Non Fire Towns or Districts



Shannon Glazer
Lands and Forests GIS
December 31, 2010

Statutory Authority:
 ECL 9-1107 (Fire Towns)
 ECL 9-1109 (Fire Districts)
 ECL 9-1105.5 (Burning Permit Towns)
 6 NYCRR 191.1 (Fire Districts)
 6 NYCRR 215 (Statewide Open Burning Reg.)

Category	Acreage	Number of Towns
Fire Towns [excluding Federal/Native American Lands]	7,425,108	102
Fire Districts [excluding Federal/Native American Nation Lands]	15,541,050	555
DEC Lands and State Parks Outside Protection Areas	560,862	N/A
Total Fire Management Protection Areas	23,527,020	N/A
Non Fire Towns or Districts [excluding Federal/Native American Lands]	7,652,223	275
Federal/Native American Nation Lands	321,588	N/A
Total State of New York	31,106,771	932

Region and Zone Narratives

Regions 1 and 2 by Captain Tim Byrnes



Back to front: Rangers B. Gallagher, K. Slade, M. Burkholder, M. Thompson, H. Thomes, Captain T. 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 work unit or administrative zone. The entire zone comprises 1,501 square miles, with a population of 11-million people. The department protects 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.

On April 2, while on foot patrol of the Peconic River Headwaters Natural Resource Management Cooperative State Land Area in Suffolk County, rangers Michael Thompson and Kevin Slade observed an individual riding a bicycle with a plastic cooler attached to the back of the bicycle. Both rangers followed the bicyclist, and they witnessed the cyclist meet with another cyclist, who was attentively waiting off to the side of the woodland trail. Thompson and Slade then waited for both subjects to emerge from the woods. About 40 minutes later, the rangers stopped both subjects and interviewed each individually. Salvatore Cimillucha, 30, of Ridge, admitted to planting marijuana on the forested state lands. He was arrested and charged for growing cannabis without a license, unlawful possession of marijuana and for trespassing. Eleven plants were seized and destroyed.

On April 15, a sportsman complained about a theft of trees at the Fresh Pond State Land Unit on the Peconic River Cooperative Area. An initial investigation by Ranger Thompson revealed 16 juniper trees had been removed. Rangers initiated a surveillance detail, and, on the next day, Ranger Bryan Gallagher apprehended Gilberto Arturo Bonilla-Sorto, 32, of Burtonsville, Maryland in possession of six evergreen shrub trees root-balled and burlapped for transport. Gallagher arrested and charged Bonilla-Sorto with petit larceny and six counts of removing trees from state lands.

Rangers once again provided helicopter firefighting awareness training at the department's David A. Sarnoff State Land Preserve. Participants watched New York Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters demonstrate water bucket operations and other aerial firefighting capabilities using simulated smoke and fire. On June 17, rangers coordinated another abandoned-vehicle lift to remove five derelict cars from both state and county lands within the Central Pine Barrens area of Suffolk County. Army National Guard helicopters practiced their proficiency with sling loads while removing the abandoned vehicles.

In Region 2, Ranger Howard Thomes works jointly with environmental conservation officers (ECOs) of the department's Division of Law Enforcement. On August 19, a complaint was received about a person who had removed a truckload of scrap metal that was being contained and prepared for official permitted removal from department property. Stan Kocur was conducting a DEC-permitted barge salvage operation on department property and had compiled the salvaged premium steel for later authorized disposal. Both Ranger Thomes and ECO Alan Brassard met with the informant who had video footage from a series of personal security cameras. Both officers obtained pictures of the suspect vehicle and verified the time and date stamp of the vehicle exiting

from the adjoining private property. Further investigation of local businesses led both officers to conclude that Michael A. Manning, 33, of Leonardo, New Jersey had indeed received payment from DonJon Recycling in Staten Island for three trips that Manning made that day with scrap materials. The owner of DonJon Recycling confirmed that the vehicle in the picture was indeed Manning's vehicle. With sufficient ground work and a criminal history obtained from the New York City Police Department, Manning was arrested and charged with larceny. The superb investigation by both Thomes and Brassard prepared the department's investigators for additional enforcement action.

As the implementation of a new marine fishing license took effect, Ranger Thomes had the added responsibility of informing those who fish from Mount Loretto Unique Area's one-mile-long Raritan Bay waterfront of the new requirements. Both warnings and tickets indicated a very busy season for marine fishing from the state property. In addition to enforcing the new regulations, Thomes also had one of the busiest wildfire seasons in a long time, with almost 230 acres of public lands burned. As a result of the collaboration between multiple city, state and federal jurisdictions, Thomes was involved with developing a community wildfire protection plan.

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



L to R: Captain D. Walsh, Rangers K. Geirloff, J. Seeley, R. Dawson, M. Ellenbogen, Lt. S. Scherry, G. Miller



wildlife management areas and unique areas. Six rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

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 the needed patrols. Campground staff often expressed their appreciation of ranger presence into the late hours to maintain quiet and compliance with campground rules. Lt. Steve Scherry coordinated campground patrols, and, with the arrival of speed enforcement radar guns, the zone ensured compliant speed. No serious injuries or incidents occurred due to traffic accidents in the campgrounds.

Ranger Jason Seeley continued his progress this past year of 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 focused on underage drinking enforcement with the help of other rangers and local police agencies.

Ranger Ken Gierloff spent considerable time in Wilson Campground near Kingston doing his best to enforce the campground leash regulations. Gierloff spoke with several dog owners and reminded them of the

Zone A, the more 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, totaling 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,



importance of keeping their pets leashed for public sanitation reasons. Due to his efforts, most patrons understood the importance of keeping the expansive lawn areas clean for recreation by others. While few tickets were issued, campground staff noticed an increased use of the field.

Region 3, Zone B by Lt. Paul Rinaldi



L to R: Captain D. Walsh, Rangers R. Mecus, J. Deslauriers, J. Temple, D. Slingerland, M. Dominesey, B. Baldwin, G. Tyrrell



Zone B lies in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley region of upstate New York. This area is considerably influenced by those moving up from or traveling from the greater New York City (NYC)

metropolitan area. Most of the wildlands are increasingly owned by the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (OPRHP or state parks) who, along with several other non-governmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute and Mohonk Preserve, provide significant outdoor recreation for the public. Forest rangers provide a presence on much 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. 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 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. Seven rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

Zone B experienced a very dry late spring leading to significant, prolonged summer ground fires (fires that burn the organic soil and tree roots). On July 7, a fire was discovered in Huckleberry Ridge State Forest in the Town of Deerpark, Orange County. The fire quickly spread across the steep mountain laurel slope, burning 8.5 acres before being contained by rangers and volunteers. Though relatively small in size, rangers from three regions labored for nearly two weeks conducting extensive pumping operations on this stubborn ground fire. It took steady rains another week to fully extinguish the fire, which was caused by incendiary activity.

A similar fire began on August 9 in the Village of Tuxedo Park, Orange County. The fire was eventually contained to nine acres through hard work by several rangers, fire departments, DEC fire wardens and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) volunteers. After ten days of firefighting, which included using bulldozers, the fire was declared out. It had been caused by an abandoned campfire that spread to surrounding forest fuels.

Ranger Gregory Tyrrell spent much of his patrol time at Stewart State Forest to ensure that users of the public lands complied with general and site-specific regulations. Throughout the year, Tyrrell issued 40 tickets to those who were in violation of land-use rules. As a result, and with assistance from the department's environmental conservation officers (ECOs), no fatalities or major incidents occurred in the state forest.

Ranger Robert Mecus continued his outstanding efforts at promoting the FireWise Program throughout wildfire-prone communities along the Shawangunk Ridge in Ulster County. His efforts extended to helping TNC develop a community wildfire protection plan in the towns of Wawarsing and Rochester. Ranger Mecus met with both town boards and supervisors to encourage homeowners to keep their properties safe from wildfire. He and Ranger Rob Dawson taught local fire departments and homeowners techniques for assessing wildfire risk to homes and methods of fireproofing property. Rangers Mecus and Dawson and Ranger Megan Dominesey also assisted TNC in developing an all-agency Northern Shawangunk Ridge Fire Management Plan.

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), 10,336 acres of wildlife management area property and a 435-acre environmental education center in Albany County. There were no state land acquisitions within this zone in 2010. There were, however, seven parcels (1,071 acres) of New York City-owned public access areas added to the existing 4,573 acres in Greene County. Through a cooperative agreement between the department and NYC, rangers are responsible for patrolling these parcels when they are patrolling state lands. Division personnel in the zone consist of six forest rangers and one lieutenant forest ranger.



As part of a collaborative effort within DEC, 81 landowners were sent letters ordering the removal of their property from adjoining state lands. Ranger Karen Glesmann conducted follow up inspections of state boundary lines and found 59 landowners who complied with the conditions in the letters. Tickets were issued to three landowners who had not complied within the required time period.

Wildfire activity in the zone was limited to 11 wildfires totaling 21 acres and three prescribed burns in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve totaling 41 acres. The first year of the state's March 15 to May 15 open burning ban significantly reduced the number of wildfires that rangers needed to extinguish. Many county fire coordinators also reported significant reductions in the number of spring wildfires contained by fire departments. In late summer, rangers responded to two half-acre wildfires that required several days of firefighting activity. A dry spell in late August and September resulted in ground fires at an overlook vista on Bash Bish Mountain in the Taconic State Park, Columbia County and another fire in the Town of Brunswick, Rensselaer County.

The DEC-managed North/South Lake Public Campground in Greene County once again had a high volume of campers and day users throughout the year. Rangers intensified their patrols for public safety issues,

especially excessive speed by motorists in the campground, resulting in a total of 113 tickets issued. Thirty-nine of those tickets were issued for excessive speed, and 30 were issued for illegal snowmobile operation. Ranger Jeff Breigle and State Trooper Saddlemire investigated and arrested Robert W. Kelly, 50, Selden, NY, who broke into the campground's firewood storage shed and stole a dozen bags of firewood. Further investigation revealed that Kelly was a felon and illegally in possession of a couple firearms. Due to the dry summer, bears were frequently reported to be a problem. Ranger Christine Nelson assisted campground staff with a group of bears visiting campsites during daylight hours on July 17. On August 27, rangers, ECOs and forestry staff conducted a firewood regulation enforcement detail at North Lake in response to finding emerald ash borers in portions of Greene County. Following an aggressive public outreach campaign and checking a large volume of campers for compliance, two tickets and one warning were issued for unlawfully transporting firewood.

There was an unusually high number of search and rescue incidents in the zone in 2010. Most significant were seven fatalities that occurred on state land. The year's first fatality was ice climber Daniel Pawlick, 40, of Stamford, Connecticut, who fell while attempting a popular vertical ice sheet along Route 23A near Moore's Bridge, Green County. The second fatality was Seth Lyon, 49, who had been on a hiking and camping trip with his friend, Alberto Risemberg. The two were hiking near the summit of Blackhead Mountain as a severe nor'easter hit the Catskills. They were able to build a shelter and call 911 on a cell phone. The resulting three-day search involved 33 rangers who searched this third-tallest mountain in the Catskills in extremely adverse weather and terrain. Risemberg was found alive in the evening hours of the second day of searching. Several rangers used their winter survival gear and spent the frigid night on the summit with Risemberg before rescuing him from the mountain early the next day. Unfortunately, Seth Lyon was found deceased on the third day near the summit. The adverse weather conditions had resulted in rangers not being able to find him sooner.

Rangers Joe Hess and Chris DiCintio continued to develop their expertise as helicopter hoist operators, a critical component to many rescues in the Catskill Mountains. These skills were used for two rescues in July at some of the most inaccessible areas of the Catskills. The first rescue involved Roberta A. Forest, 63, Highland, NY, who sustained serious head injuries after falling on Thomas Cole Mountain. The second extraction was for Larry Pulumbo, 48, Valley Cottage, NY, who fell 60 feet over a cliff in Platte Clove in the same general area where two fatalities occurred earlier in the year. He had been scouting the area with a companion for potential ice-climbing opportunities. Rangers rappelled to the subject, assisted EMTs at the scene and prepared the subject for a helicopter hoist extraction. Rangers also rescued his companion, who was stuck on the ledge from which his companion had fallen.

Region 4, Zone B by Lt. Rob Morse



Back to front: Rangers I. Kerr, T. Edmunds, J. Bink, Lt. R. Morse, W. Henry, Capt. P. Kilpeck



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 nine forest preserve parcels totaling 5,000 acres. The zone includes two DEC-administered public campgrounds and a ranger field station at the Huckleberry Brook Storage Facility. Zone B is currently assigned six forest rangers and one lieutenant.

Zone B includes 80 miles of snowmobile trails that

run through forest preserve, state forests and wildlife management areas (WMA). Forty-five regulatory and safety compliance checks were done throughout the season, resulting in 642 snowmobiles checked and 52 tickets issued. Another seven details were accomplished in Lutheranville State Forest, Bear Spring WMA and Milford State Forest, with 292 snowmobiles checked and 25 tickets issued.

On April 9 at 9PM, Delaware County Emergency Services requested ranger help to find missing 11-year-old Russell Seaman, who reportedly went hiking at 5 PM to a small waterfall about a mile away from his family's cabin. Fire department members from Margarettsville and Andes searched the woods around the cabin as they waited for Ranger Joe Bink to arrive. Bink assigned Type I crews consisting of rangers, firefighters, and police K-9 units to search the immediate area surrounding the cabin and ledges. At the same time, the command post was moved to the Andes Fire Department. Several other tracking and scent dogs were used, along with two-person crews conducting sweeps along the ledges and old logging roads in the area. New York City Department of Environmental Protection police used their boats to search the shoreline of the Pepacton Reservoir. At approximately 2:20 AM, Russell was located in good health along an old logging road by volunteers from the Margarettsville Fire Department.

On August 21 at approximately 7 PM, Otsego County Emergency Services requested ranger assistance to find Dolly Layman, a 73-year old woman suffering from dementia. Mrs. Layman was last seen at 4 PM when she took her daily walk along Mather Road in the Town of Laurens. Type I search crews searched streams, trails and roads in the general area throughout the day and into the next morning. On the second day of searching, which included heavy rains, Type III search crews searched within one-half mile of the last known location of Mrs. Layman. Crew types I and II, including K-9 units, searched drainages and interior trails. On August 23, the third day of searching, Layman was located in good condition by a Type III crew member approximately six-tenths of a mile from her last known location.

DEC's Little Pond and Bear Spring campgrounds are located in Zone B. Throughout planned patrols of the campgrounds, there were no major problems except for a few black bears in the beginning of the season. Rangers conducted numerous speed-enforcement patrols in the campgrounds, with a total of 33 tickets issued for excessive speed.

On July 31, Little Pond Campground staff requested that Ranger Bink attend to a bear problem at one of the remote campsites. Ranger Bink and ECO Vern Bauer responded and fired rubber buckshot at the problem bear. Approximately two hours later, Bink came upon another bear at the recycling center and used a shotgun bean bag projectile to chase the bear away. That evening, the campground caretaker called Ranger Bink back to assist with a very different problem. Bink arrived to find park ranger and off-duty police officer Ryan Schrader conducting a standard field-sobriety test on a man later identified as Dzmitry Fiadzku, 37, Brooklyn. Fiadzku had reportedly driven his vehicle out of the campground at a high rate of speed in an erratic manner. Bink assisted Schrader and detained Fiadzku's three intoxicated companions, who were annoying campground staff. A Delaware County Sheriff's deputy eventually arrested Fiadzku for driving while intoxicated and several other violations, while Bink evicted the other three men.

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 in Franklin County and the northern half of Long Lake in Hamilton County. The primary recreational uses in the zone are canoeing and camping in summer and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in



winter. The zone contains all or parts of the Saranac Lake and Debar Mountain wild forests, the Saint Regis Canoe Area and the William C. Whitney and High Peaks wilderness areas, totaling 284,055 acres of forest preserve and 103,914 acres of conservation easements. There are also six department campgrounds: Fish Creek Pond, Rollins Pond, Meacham Lake, Buck Pond, Saranac Lake Islands, Lake Eaton and one interior outpost at Raquette Falls. Staffing includes six forest rangers and one lieutenant.



Back to Front: Rangers J. Waters, K. Bassage, P. Evans, J. Balerno, R. Zurek, J. Harjung, Capt. J. Streiff

For Zone A, 2010 began with the successful conviction of Donald McGray, 39, Ticonderoga, for aggravated assault on a police officer and felony use of a weapon. On August 28, 2008, McGray refused to drop his firearm while two state troopers and Ranger Julie Harjung approached him by boat on the Raquette River. When Trooper George Stannard attempted to disarm McGray, Stannard was shot through the hand. Ranger Harjung, an emergency medical technician (EMT), quickly treated Stannard to prevent further damage to his hand. In 2009, Harjung received recognition from the superintendent of state police for her actions. McGray was sentenced to a 15-year maximum jail term.

In late July, Captain John Streiff was asked by the U.S. Secret Service to provide forest ranger assistance on a security detail for former President George W. Bush. President Bush was due to vacation at Great Camp Top Ridge near Paul Smiths the coming weekend. President Bush, an avid mountain biker, was scheduled to take two rides while in the area, both through state land in the Town of Harrietstown on the Bloomingdale Bog Trail. Streiff and ECO Captain Larry Didonato assigned rangers and ECOs to strategic points along the trail. At the end of the first day, former President Bush made himself available for photographs with the department's officers.

On August 24, state police investigators assigned to Ray Brook asked rangers to help organize a search effort for Carrie Bailey, 37, Saranac Lake. Bailey was last seen leaving a camp after a fight with her boyfriend. Searching roadways by helicopter and vehicles, rangers were unsuccessful in locating her on the first day. Because state police had possible coordinates from Bailey's cell phone indicating she was at a remote location, management of the search was given to the rangers. Ranger Pete Evans developed field search assignments for 25 troopers. Later that day, a trooper discovered Bailey's car and body. Forensic tests revealed the cause of death to be an unintentional overdose.

Region 5, Zone B by Lt. Gary Friedrich



Back to front: Rangers G. Bronson, T. Gliddi, R. Praczkajlo, D. Fox, Lt. G. Friedrich, S. Bode, D. Russell, Capt. J. Streiff



Region 5, Zone B encompasses the northeastern corner of the state. The zone includes the St. Lawrence Valley in northern Franklin County, all of Clinton County and the Champlain Valley, including ten towns in northeastern Essex County. Zone B has large areas of remote forests and agricultural farmland, along with islands on Lake Champlain, which are entirely state-owned forest preserve. Along with numerous wildlife management

areas and state forests outside of the Adirondack Park, 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 to 148,693 acres. Zone B includes seven forest rangers and one lieutenant.

On December 1, 2009, Ranger Mark St. Claire received information from a hunter of a possible timber trespass in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. St. Claire located evidence of logging activity in a remote area of the wild forest bordered by private land. He then followed the skid trails which led to a private residence. When St. Claire interviewed the landowner, he indicated that his brother might be responsible. Foresters in Warrensburg surveyed the trespass and appraised the value of the timber removed, and DEC Investigator Kenneth Bruno processed the criminal charges. Five acres of timber had been removed at a value of \$10,836. On January 19, Scott N. Clark, 46, Pottersville, was arrested for stealing trees from state land, a misdemeanor. Clark was arraigned in the Town of North Hudson court, and the case was still pending by year's end.

On February 1, state police in Plattsburgh asked rangers to help locate Anthony V. Pavone, 52, Peru, because he was suspected of committing a double homicide earlier that day in Dannemora. Eight rangers and six ECOs assisted state police for four days, managing the search and searching remote areas across Clinton and Essex counties. On February 5, Pavone was captured in Broome County. State police rely on rangers to organize, manage and document searches to support their investigations and prosecutions.

On April 5, state police asked rangers to help locate Kim McDonald, 56, of Beekmantown. McDonald was reported to have taken a substantial number of sleeping pills the night before and said he was "quitting life" as he walked into the woods adjacent to his residence. Rangers Rob Prackajlo, Glen Bronson and Tom Gliddi organized the search and later that morning, state troopers located McDonald a quarter-mile behind his residence. He was missing his shoes, suffering from exposure and had superficial wounds to his face and hands and was quickly transported to the local hospital.

On May 27, rangers were notified of a smoke sighting near Skagerack Mountain in the Town of Chesterfield, Essex County. Rangers located the remote fire adjacent to and partially contained by the scar of a 150-acre fire that occurred in 1998. Rangers controlled the fire at seven acres and still had time for their Memorial Day Weekend patrols of state land and campgrounds.

On November 17, state police in Essex County asked rangers to help find Nancy R. Foster, 76, Elizabethtown, who reportedly was suffering from dementia. Foster was last seen at her residence at noon, and it was suspected she had wandered into the nearby forest. As rangers directed a large number of searchers the next morning, ECO de la Rosa and his K-9 partner, Gunner, came upon Foster about one mile behind her home. When found, she was confused, suffering from hypothermia and had an injury from a fall.

Rangers Dave Russell, Glen Bronson and Lieutenant Gary Friedrich are involved with the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board for safe and legal ATV and snowmobile use. The rangers provide numerous compliance checks to ensure safe and sober operation of these vehicles on state lands and easements.

Region 5, Zone C by Lt. Brian Dubay



Back to front: Rangers C. Platt, C. Kostoss, J. LaPierre, K. Burns, D. Jeffrey, S. van Laer, J. Giglinto, Capt. J. Streiff



Zone C consists of the towns of Keene, North Elba, Wilmington and parts of St. Armand, North Hudson, Newcomb and Harrietstown within Essex and Franklin counties. The land within the zone is more than 65 percent state forest preserve, with 365,581 acres of state land and 12,518 acres of conservation easements. In the summer, one volunteer assisted the seven forest rangers and one lieutenant with back-country user education at the busiest camping and hiking locations.

Zone C continues to have the highest incidents of rescues in the state, primarily due to the year-round popularity of the High Peaks region. In 2010, the High Peaks generated 54 rescue incidents. This number is a significant jump from a low of 17 rescue incidents in 2005. Rescues this year challenged even the most experienced rangers.

The year began with a snowpack avalanche on the west face of Wright Peak. Two skiers were buried in the incident but were able to extricate themselves. The avalanche occurred on the same slide where a skier was killed by a similar avalanche in 2000. Human-triggered avalanches have become more frequent as thrill seekers journey onto these steep slides during times of increased avalanche danger. Rangers documented the event for the National Avalanche Reporting Center and post warning signs in the area when the danger is high.

On July 22, rangers responded to a possible drowning in the Ausable River, Town of Keene. Robert E. Hamer III, 12, Miami, Florida, had been swimming in the fast-moving river when he became trapped underwater in a hydraulic. Ranger Jim Giglinto was the first ranger on the scene and prevented the boy's father and firefighters from entering the river and also becoming entrapped in the hydraulic. Giglinto and local firefighters were able to dislodge Robert from the hydraulic using a long pole. A technical rope rescue was needed to bring the boy to the roadside, where he was evacuated to the Lake Placid Hospital by helicopter. The boy died days later, never waking from his drowning-induced coma.

On August 9, rangers were notified that Mary Stonor-Saunders, 46, Chicago, Illinois, had fallen and hit her head on rocks at a remote swimming hole on the Bouquet River, Town of Keene. Once on the scene, rangers found her with symptoms that indicated spinal injuries. She was back-boarded and removed by helicopter hoist to March Field, where Ranger Julie Harjung, an emergency medical technician (EMT), provided additional care while Stonor-Saunders was flown to Saranac Lake Hospital.

On August 16, rangers responded to the Upper Washbowl Cliff in the Chapel Pond Pass, Town of Keene, on a report of a fallen climber. Rangers and Keene Valley firefighters found Dennis Murphy, 35, Lake Placid, had fallen 120 feet to his death. A joint investigation by state police and DEC investigators determined that Murphy had slipped at the top of a rappel route, and, although his climbing partner tried to catch him, he slid over the edge of the cliff.

On November 22, rangers were called by state police to find Wesley Wamsganz, 22, Saranac Lake, who was last seen walking into the High Peaks. Rangers, volunteers, state police and K-9 units searched for ten days

without success in winter conditions and rough terrain. Without having any evidence of where Wamsganz went and because of the subsequent snow pack that would hide his body, the search was terminated.

Region 5, Zone D by Lt. Steve Preston



Back to front: Rangers J. Seifts, A. Perryman, M. Kralovic, T. Eakin, D. Kallen, G. George, B. Lomnitzer, Lt. S. Preston, J. Scott, J. Ploss, Capt. J. Streiff

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, Siamese Ponds Wilderness and the W.C. Whitney Wilderness Area, totaling 809,929 acres. Within the zone are 17 public campgrounds, 47,043 acres of conservation easements and 6,081 acres of state forests. The zone includes ten forest rangers and one lieutenant.

On August 10, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office notified rangers of an injured man in the middle of the Sacandaga River at Auger Falls. Rangers Tom Eakin, Mark Kralovic and Jim Waters responded and found Michael Torres, 21, Middle Grove, had pulled himself from the water after slipping into the gorge while sitting on a ledge 25 feet above the river. Ranger Kralovic rappelled down to the ledge to secure Torres and assess his injuries. Ranger Eakin maintained communications between Kralovic and Ranger Waters, who coordinated local rescue squads setting up a haul system for the high-angle rescue. Torres was fitted with a harness and personal flotation device (PFD) and was hauled in tandem with Kralovic from the gorge. Once at the top of the river bank, Torres was carried one-half mile to an awaiting ambulance. He was then transported to Albany Medical Center, treated for his injuries and hypothermia and released the same day.

On June 7, Ranger John Ploss was patrolling the East Canada Creek, Hamilton County, when he located 30 marijuana plants growing on the east shore of the creek. For the next two months, rangers Ploss and Eakin set up surveillance using trail cameras and foot patrols to catch the grower but were unsuccessful. On July 23, a state police helicopter flew the East Canada Creek area, locating more plants south of the original growing site. Due to the increased police presence in the area, the Hamilton County Sheriff and rangers decided to confiscate the plants before the grower could return and harvest the crop. Later that day, rangers and deputies removed 176 marijuana plants from the area.

As in previous years throughout the summer, rangers in Hamilton and Warren counties checked the white water guides on the Hudson River for license compliance. This year, tickets were issued to guides of the Hudson River Rafting Company, owned by Pat Cunningham, 70, North Creek, for not being licensed to guide trips on the Hudson. Reports of unsafe practices led rangers to take statements from customers after their trip was concluded. On August 19, rangers Steve Ovitt, Bruce Lomnitzer and Lieutenant Steve Preston met with Hamilton County District Attorney James Curry to review statements obtained throughout the summer. Curry recommended that both Cunningham and Heath Bromley, 35, Watertown, Massachusetts, be cited for reckless



Region 5, Zone D comprises Fulton and Hamilton counties. Zone D headquarters are located at the DEC sub-office in Northville, and the zone also maintains an office at the Indian Lake DEC facility. Ten rangers are assigned to this zone, with three assigned to Fulton County and seven assigned to Hamilton County. State land unit management areas include whole or parts of the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area, Silver Lake Wilderness Area, Ferris Lake Wild Forest, Shaker Mountain

endangerment and violating the penal law on state land and waters. Curry subsequently convened a grand jury to review other possible charges. On August 19, rangers Ovitt, Lomnitzer and Lieutenant Preston apprehended both men at the takeout on the Hudson River and issued each man two appearance tickets for the above charges. Based on witness statements obtained throughout the summer, a grand jury indicted Cunningham on two counts of reckless endangerment in the second degree and three counts of endangering the welfare of a child, all misdemeanors. The charges were still pending by year's end.

Work continued this year on the Wakely Mountain Fire Tower. Rangers Bruce Lomnitzer and Jay Scott assisted the Indian Lake Operations staff with helicopter flights that moved building material to rebuild the helipad. On November 29, after Operations completed the foundation for the pad, a New York Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter completed the project by flying in the 2,000-pound deck sections for the pad. Lomnitzer and Scott also assisted with flight operations.

Region 5, Zone E by Captain John Streiff



Back to front: Rangers M. St. Claire, R. Schroeder, S. Ovitt, E. Donegan, E. Russell, Lt. J. Solan, J. Chambers, S. Guenther, Capt. J. Streiff



Zone E comprises Warren County and southern Essex County. The majority of department-administered lands in Warren County are within Lake George and Wilcox Lake wild forests and Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. Also in Warren County is a portion of the Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area, six DEC public campgrounds with 1,284 campsites combined, Prospect Mountain Memorial Highway Intensive Use Area and the Hudson River Special Management Area. State-administered lands in southern Essex County include the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area, Vanderwacker Wild Forest, Hoffman Notch, Pharoah

Lake and portions of Dix Mountain wilderness areas. Forest rangers also have responsibility 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 and one lieutenant protect 369,397 acres of forest preserve and 744 acres of non-forest preserve state land.

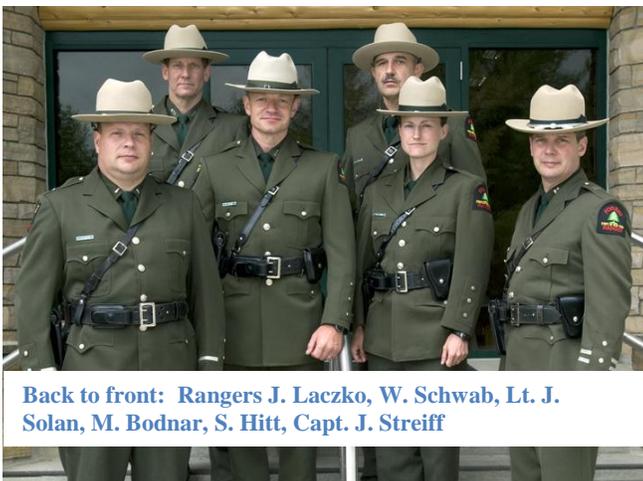
The search and rescue season began in February with two incidents involving skiers at Gore Mountain Ski Area going off the trail into the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. On February 24, Ray Brook Dispatch received a phone call from Gore Mountain employee Mike Pratt reporting that friends of Mike Downer, 29, Glendale, Massachusetts, reported him missing after he skied out of the ski area. Ski patrollers Pat Sharky and Eric Knierin located Downer's tracks and followed him down toward Black Mountain Brook. There was concern that Downer might have missed the drainage and head further west into the Siamese Pond Wilderness, so rangers were called to intercept Downer. Ranger Steve Ovitt took a snowmobile up the east side of the drainage while rangers Art Perryman and Chuck Kabrehl searched the west side of the drainage. As night closed in, Ovitt located the ski patrollers and Downer, who was wet, cold and tired but in good health.

On February 28, Ranger Ovitt was told by Gore Mountain Ski Area staff that multiple skiers were believed to be skiing in the restricted area south of the mountain and were likely lost. Ski patrollers were already following ski tracks toward the Black Mountain Brook drainage. Rangers were summoned, and a command post was set up on a nearby road. Four rangers went up the Black Mountain Brook drainage to intercept the skiers as they came down the hill. At nightfall, rangers Art Perryman, Chuck Kabrehl and Mark St.

Claire located the subjects they were looking for near the headwaters of the brook. Within an hour, all were back at the ski area lodge. In the meantime, a woman reported to Gore Mountain staff that her husband had called her on his cell phone and said he and their two boys were lost somewhere on the south side of Gore Mountain. Fortunately, ski patrollers Jeff Polka and Tara Foster, who had helped with the first search, found the tracks of these three lost skiers and located them at 8 PM. Due to the very deep snow, difficult ski conditions and exhaustion of the lost skiers, it took rangers until 2 AM before everyone was back at the ski lodge.

On April 15, state police requested assistance from ECO Steve de la Rosa and his K-9 to help find missing Bradley Tennyson, 97, Chestertown. Rangers Ovitt and Kabrehl along with de la Rosa responded to support the state police mission. A Warren County Sheriff's deputy reported seeing Tennyson walking along State Route 9 earlier in the day, within a mile or so of his residence. Ovitt was able to locate a fresh track in the sand along the shoulder of the road in the area where the deputy had seen the subject. At several points, the track changed direction and appeared to be wandering with no purpose. Eventually, Ovitt followed the track from the shoulder of the highway and up an old logging road but was unable to follow the track across the grass and moss. ECO de la Rosa and his K-9 were brought to the last footprint and located Tennyson within an hour. Tennyson was not adequately dressed for the weather and was barely responsive. He was evacuated from the woods, and an ambulance transported him to Glens Falls Hospital.

Region 5, Zone F by Lt. John Solan



Back to front: Rangers J. Laczko, W. Schwab, Lt. J. Solan, M. Bodnar, S. Hitt, Capt. J. Streiff



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, Town of Fort Ann, Washington County. In addition, both counties have land holdings of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Battenkill Conservancy and the Lake George Conservancy that are generally adjacent to DEC-administered lands. There are approximately 30 miles of snowmobile trails in Saratoga County on DEC-managed lands and easements and approximately 50 miles of snowmobile trails in Washington County. Zone F includes five forest rangers and one lieutenant.

The incidents of search and rescue or wildfire emergencies were relatively low in Zone F in 2010. The most notable search incident was when rangers assisted state police with a fugitive search in the Town of Easton, Washington County. On the night of Friday, August 20, Abel Jimenez, was reported to have seriously injured State Trooper J.P. Smith during a vehicle stop. At that time, Jimenez was wanted for questioning in connection with a domestic dispute. Ranger assistance was requested on Sunday, August 22 to help police search teams from local, county, state and federal agencies navigate in the wooded terrain of Washington County. Rangers were then assigned to the incident command planning section under the direction of State Police Troop G emergency management specialists to assist troopers with implementing the National Incident Command System to manage the incident. Jimenez was captured hiding in a barn on Sunday, August 29, in the Town of Brunswick, Rensselaer County about 20 miles from the original incident.

In September, Saratoga Springs Police requested assistance with locating a missing person. Eleanor Adams, 69, was reported missing on September 16 from her apartment by family members. Adams' apartment was located on the fringes of the City of Saratoga Springs, adjacent to some fairly large woodlots and brushy areas. Rangers organized searches of the adjacent wooded areas using city fire and police personnel, along with volunteers from the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams ("federation") as well as local volunteer firefighters. Search efforts were not successful at locating Adams, nor were any clues found. On September 28, the body of Eleanor Adams was located in a wooded area on the southern boundaries of the Saratoga Spa State Park, approximately four miles from her apartment and well outside of the primary search area around her apartment. Investigators did not receive any clues or sightings that would have indicated she had traveled so far in that direction.

A high priority was again placed on patrolling the Shelving Rock Area on the east side of Lake George in Washington County by all Zone F rangers. Increased patrols in recent years have led to a significant reduction of illegal activity and abuse of state land in this area, which is very heavily used by tens of thousands of people each year. Rangers continue to maintain a consistent presence in the area, especially on weekend afternoons and evenings.

Log Bay Day was again held on the last Monday of July in and around Log Bay on Lake George. Log Bay is bordered by forest preserve within the Shelving Rock Special Management Area. Sixteen rangers and two lieutenants were assigned to the Log Bay area from 10 AM to midnight. More than 2,000 people attended the event, with many accessing the bay via state lands. Washington County Sheriff's deputies assisted rangers with vehicle and traffic checks at road access points. Between rangers and deputies, more than 100 tickets and/or arrests were made throughout the detail. Offenses ranged from violations of state land use to illegal drug possession and driving while intoxicated. Each car entering the area was stopped, and occupants were informed of the regulations governing state land, including a "zero tolerance" for underage alcohol or drug possession. As a result, no serious injuries were reported.

Region 6, Zone A by Lt. Robert Barstow



Back to front: Rangers J. Terry, W. Benzel, G. Hoag, S. Murphy, Lt. R. Barstow, Capt. R. Cavanagh

Zone A consists entirely of Saint Lawrence County (2,842 square miles), geographically the largest county in New York, which includes 252,875 acres of state land and 159,322 acres of conservation easements. The majority of this land lies in the southern portion of the county. The most significant tracts are the Five Ponds, Bog River and Low's Lake wilderness areas and the Aldrich Pond, Horseshoe Lake, Cranberry Lake, Whites Hill, Raquette Boreal and Grass River wild forests. In addition, there are large tracts of easements, numerous state forests and the Cranberry Lake Public Campground, with 173 campsites. There are six forest rangers and one lieutenant assigned to this zone.

Rangers again taught the S130-190 fire course as part of the curriculum at the State University of New York (SUNY) Ranger School in Wanakena. This course is well received by students and gets better each year with additional involvement from Ranger School staff.

Snowmobile season was again very busy. The county has more than 500 miles of groomed trails, most of which are on state land or easements. In coordination with other law enforcement agencies, rangers were able

to provide a safe environment for the public. Throughout the snowmobile season, rangers were visible conducting safety check points, enforcing speed limits and curbing alcohol abuse. Late one evening during snowmobile season, rangers Jay Terry and Scott Murphy were patrolling Brasher State Forest when they observed a large group who failed to stop for a road crossing. Murphy followed the last snowmobile while Terry activated his vehicle's emergency lights and stopped the lead riders of the group. While the last two snowmobiles lingered out of sight of Ranger Terry, Ranger Murphy quietly approached them as they leaned heavily on one another and discussed which way to go and what to do. Because of strong indicators of impairment, Travis Leggue, 33 and Nathan P. Rufa, 31, both of Massena, were arrested for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and failing to stop for a road crossing.

In the spring, while patrolling a small, detached parcel of forest preserve, rangers Greg Hoag and William Benzel located a sap-collecting line running to adjacent private property. A further investigation located approximately 250 maple taps illegally placed on state lands. When the parties responsible were located, they indicated their family had been tapping state property for years as part of their maple sugaring operation. Darryl Seymour, 52 and Robert Burke, 87, both of Harrisville, were charged with damaging trees, illegal commercialization and depositing rubbish on state land. They paid a combined fine of \$1,200 for all the violations.

Low's Lake, in the southern part of the county, is one of the most remote areas of the state and one of the most popular canoe areas for camping and bass fishing. The distance from the canoe launch at the lower dam to the western end of Low's Lake, to the head waters of the Oswegatchie is approximately 14 miles with a short portage around the upper dam. Prevailing westerly winds build large waves and limit canoe access for days at a time. It is a challenge to manage this area as wilderness yet still provide for public safety and resource protection. Rangers Hoag and Benzel and Lieutenant Bob Barstow conducted a number of interior patrols by guide boat and canoe between May and October. These patrols successfully stopped illegal incursions by anglers in motorboats and provided safety and security checks for the public using this unique wilderness area. During one emergency in October, Ranger Benzel and Lieutenant Barstow responded to a report of an injured man at a campsite on Low's Lake. The subject had a severe back injury and was in a remote campsite accessible only by water. Rangers were able to stabilize the man and move him by boat to an area where he could be safely evacuated.

While on routine patrol of Brasher State Forest, Ranger Murphy observed an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) towing a trailer on a forest access road. The operator, Eugene L. Dissotille, 41, Winthrop, was wearing a cowboy hat, and sitting on a bale of hay on the trailer was a passenger with a large cooler. Ranger Murphy stopped the ATV and advised the subjects they were operating on a closed road and not wearing helmets. Dissotille gestured to his cowboy hat and slurred "This is my helmet." After failing all field sobriety tests, Dissotille was arrested for driving while intoxicated, operating an ATV on a closed road, operating an unregistered ATV and of course, wearing a cowboy hat instead of a helmet.

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





Back to front: Rangers L. Evans, J. Snyder, Lt. J. Nowalk, M. Candee, J. Scanlon, M. Hubschmitt, Capt. R. Cavanagh

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. At full staffing, this zone has six forest rangers and one lieutenant.

Zone B includes Stillwater Reservoir which has, by far, the greatest intensity of use of all areas in the zone. With an easily accessible state boat launch, fishing, boating and camping at more than 40 designated campsites are very popular during the summer. Unlike many other summertime destinations, Stillwater Reservoir's popularity does not decline in the winter, when thousands of snowmobiles pass through the community on a weekly basis. Snowmobile accidents are very common on the reservoir. To expedite ranger response to them, a rescue-boggan is staged at the Stillwater ranger headquarters. On March 5, Ranger Luke Evans responded to a snowmobile accident on the reservoir. While operating a snowmobile at a high rate of speed, Daniel Mitchell, 42, of Madison, hit a shoal and was thrown approximately 200 feet from his machine. Evans was able to stabilize Madison and evacuate him with the rescue-boggan to an awaiting ambulance. Soon afterward, the snowmobile operator was transported by state police helicopter to Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

Rangers spent much of their time during the winter months focusing on ever-increasing snowmobile use on state lands. Numerous snowmobile patrols and checkpoints were held. During each checkpoint, snowmobilers were informed about proper state land use while their machines were checked for safety and compliance with the rules governing snowmobile use. On more than one occasion, rangers were able to respond rapidly to a snowmobile accident and assist local emergency services in securing the scene, providing first aid and transporting injured subjects.

On May 24, Ranger Michael Hubschmitt responded to a small fire at Indian Pipe State Forest in the Town of New Bremen, Lewis County. This forest is mostly coniferous plantations established in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Ranger Hubschmitt contained the fire and attributed it to a cigarette being thrown out a window of a motor vehicle. At the time, Hubschmitt had no expectation that two more fires would be ignited within a half-mile of this first fire of the summer. Without ranger response and assistance from local fire departments, the next two fires could have become large, damaging wildfires. After conducting an investigation, it was determined that both fires were set deliberately using incendiary devices and were believed to be the work of one person. The investigation into this ongoing incident continues.

On September 22, an anonymous call was received reporting marijuana being grown in Mohawk Springs State Forest. Given the time of year and likelihood of the plants being harvested, an immediate detail was coordinated with state police. Rangers Jen Snyder, Marty Candee, and Mike Hubschmitt led a state police investigator and four troopers to the remote location of 60 illegally cultivated plants. The plants were then removed and destroyed.

Region 6, Zone C by Captain Robert Cavanagh



Back to front: Rangers A. Pickett, D. Cornell, R. Coscomb, C. Richardson, R. Piersma, Capt. R. Cavanagh

Region Six, 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 wild forest areas, three wilderness areas, one unique area, three fish and wildlife management areas, two campgrounds (Alger Island and Nicks Lake) and Hinkley Day Use Area. The zone also includes 20,088 acres of conservation easements. At full staffing, there are six rangers and one lieutenant assigned to Zone C.

In January, rangers Bob Coscomb, Rob Piersma and Chad Richardson responded to a report of an injured snowshoer in the Black River Wild Forest. Nancy Zumpano, 46, Forestport, inadvertently stepped on a balsam fir tree buried in snow and fell three feet, injuring her ankle. Rangers were able to reach Zumpano by snowmobile and stabilize her injury. They then guided volunteer rescue squad personnel to the location. Though the injury was not life threatening, the location was remote, and deep snow hindered the woman's evacuation. After some quick thinking and a visit to a nearby hunting camp, a kayak was used as a sled to tow Zumpano to an awaiting ambulance.

In March, rangers worked with Lean2Rescue to facilitate the movement of supplies and materials for a new lean-to at Bear Lake in the Black River Wild Forest. Lean2Rescue volunteered to erect the new structure. Cedar logs were cut on state forest land in Oneida County and the lean-to was preassembled. All that remained was a way to move materials to the lean-to location. Ranger Coscomb coordinated several different agencies to successfully and safely move nine tons of logs and other construction material by helicopter 10 miles to the remote location. Rangers assisted at each critical location by directing air traffic and providing safety and security for the operation.

In April, rangers from regions 6 and 7, along with a number of other department personnel, conducted a prescribed burn in Buck Hill State Forest in Oneida County. The location of the burn was an orchard used to provide seed for the department's Saratoga Tree Nursery. White pine cone borers had so infested the stand that it became of no value as a seed source. By burning the understory vegetation and debris of the plantation, the orchard was cleared and most of the cone borers were eliminated before they could further infect the trees. The burn was a success both in terms of safety and in the accomplishment of the overall objective.

In July, Ranger Richardson responded to a report of a missing child. He located a frantic woman on the State Route 28 bridge over the Moose River. The woman stated her boyfriend and her nine-year-old son and six-year-old daughter had gone tubing on the river and not returned. Richardson quickly coordinated a search involving state, county and local emergency personnel. After two very stressful hours, the missing family members were located near the access to Nelson Lake. High water and a strong current had caused the group to lose their tubes at Nelson Falls. All three were able to make their way to shore unharmed as they waited for rescuers to find them.

Region 7, Zone A by Lt. Timothy Taylor



L to R: Lt. T. Taylor, Rangers J. Oldroyd, J. McPherson, W. Giraud, J. Oldroyd, S. Jackson, Capt. D. Brooks. J. Prunoske missing



Region 7 functions as one large ranger 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 and includes nine counties in central New York. The total area exceeds 6,700 square miles. Forest ranger responsibility has expanded to include more than 261,000 acres of state forest lands, wildlife management areas, unique areas, conservation easements and one multiple-use area. Six forest rangers, one lieutenant and one captain are assigned to this zone.

In 2010, rangers removed 172 marihuana plants, two 30-gallon bags of leaves and buds and 8 bundles of plants from 5 state land parcels in different counties. Tips from the public and DEC employees along with focused patrols led to these discoveries.

Rangers Jim Prunoske and Jim McPherson found a man and a woman at a gravel pit at the New Michigan State Forest in possession of eight long guns, a flare gun, military style body armor, assault helmet, gas mask, hatchet, machete, camera and tripod. A gallon of gasoline and a bag of fireworks were also hidden nearby. The pair claimed they had driven from Rochester for a picnic and some target shooting. On further investigation, the rangers determined that only the fireworks were illegal, and the man was ticketed for the offense.

In July, state police requested rangers to assist them with an evidence search after a decomposed human head was found on a private woodlot. The search for additional remains resulted in finding a major portion of the torso, later identified as the remains of a known drug dealer reported missing in February. The death has been ruled a homicide

Rangers conducted a 35-acre prescribed burn on Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife as habitat improvement, primarily to benefit the eastern Massassauga rattlesnake. Cicero Swamp is one of only two sites in New York State this endangered species is known to inhabit.

Rangers assisted with organizing and instructing at the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams 2010 COMFED weekend convention held at Cayuga County fairgrounds. Rangers taught New York's Basic Wildland Search Skills course and demonstrated their airboat operations.

A deer hunter at the 3,500-acre Cicero Swamp WMA called 9-1-1 in December when he started to experience chest pains. The swamp, a thick almost impenetrable area of flooded timber makes any foot travel difficult. The Onondaga County helicopter located the subject and dropped emergency supplies. Advised of the subject's location, Ranger Scott Jackson and a team of responders hiked a mile into the swamp to reach the subject, provided first aid and built a warming fire. Rangers Wil Giraud and Jim Prunoske led another team

using chainsaws to open an old road as an evacuation route by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Within a few hours of being reached, the subject was on his way to the hospital.

Region 8 by Lt. Joseph Shafer



L to R: Lt. J. Schafer, Rangers P. Dormer, D. Cordell, T. Carpenter, A. Farrand, W. Meehan, Capt. D. Richter



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. The region is also home to several federal properties, including the Finger Lakes National Forest and the Montezuma and Iroquois national wildlife refuges.

On April 4, a wildfire consumed 695 acres at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The primary concerns for firefighters were smoke effects on the Thruway and protection of several federal structures. Because the fire was burning in inaccessible wetland that is adapted to wildfire, it was allowed to burn to open water. It was determined to be an incendiary fire.

In June, the department purchased Hemlock and Canadice lakes from the City of Rochester for \$13.7 million. The nearly 7,000-acre acquisition conserves the last two undeveloped Finger Lakes which have supplied water to Rochester for more than 130 years. In addition to the 7,000 acres, there are 2,449 acres of water, 23.6 miles of shoreline and four public boat launches. The public will continue to enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and hiking on these parcels. Former Commissioner Pete Grannis said, "This is without a doubt the most important land acquisition project the state has undertaken outside of the Adirondack and Catskill parks in more than a generation." The property is now called Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. The City of Rochester will still draw drinking water from these two lakes, and the property will be protected with site-specific regulations. As with most new state land acquisitions, rangers are faced with developing regulation compliance through information and enforcement.

At 4:30 PM on October 7, rangers were requested by the Schuyler County Sheriff to assist with finding Charlotte Perri, 11, Ithaca, NY, at Cornell University's Arnot Forest. Charlotte was attending a two-day program with her school and was playing a game of "survivor" when she became lost. When rangers Bill Meehan, Anne Farrand, Jeremy Oldroyd and Joan Oldroyd arrived, they were immediately assigned with organizing more than 140 volunteers, firefighters, police officers and teachers that were already on scene. The rangers established a command post and started reviewing what had been accomplished. They determined the

location where the subject was last seen and formulated a search plan. At 8:30 PM, one of the assigned crews located the girl. A state police helicopter had to direct the team's exit, as the logging slash, terrain, darkness and lack of roads hampered their ability to travel through the forest. After she was brought out to her awaiting parents, Charlotte said, "I started hallucinating. I was really, really scared. It was not very fun."

Region 9 by Lt. Shawn P. Plaisted



L to R: Lt. S. Plaisted, Rangers J. Kennedy, R. Rogers, P. Liebig, M. Flanagan, D. Pachan, J. Thaine, W. Krulish, Capt. D. Richter



Region 9 is considered one ranger administrative zone and comprises the six western-most counties : Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauque, 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. Most of this state land experiences heavy public use due to its proximity to the Buffalo and Rochester metropolitan areas. One notable example is the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area, which attracts hundreds of day-use recreationists in the warmer months. This area includes the Zoar Valley Gorge, which holds the region's only regulated whitewater, 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 notable in size being the Allegany Indian Reservation near Salamanca and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation near Brant. Seven forest rangers, one lieutenant and one captain are assigned to the region.

Rangers Peter Liebig and Justin Thaine continued joint operations with the Allegany County Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Sheriff's Department. Late-night patrols focused on areas known to be frequented by underage individuals who consume alcohol illegally on state lands. As the result of a complaint, one new "party" spot was staked out for several nights, and eventually several underage youths were ticketed and removed from the property. Overall, 20 enforcement actions for underage possession were undertaken in the region.

Unfortunately, another life was lost in Zoar Valley again this year. On June 28, hikers found the body of Simon P. Griffis, 48, East Otto, in the Cattaraugus Creek after he apparently fell from the cliffs 150 feet above. On November 22, Drew Carriero, 18, Gowanda, was hunting when he slipped and fell 50 feet off the rim of Zoar Valley. Rangers John Kennedy, Robert Rogers, Tim Flanagan and David Pachan assisted local fire and police with this rescue, which took 12 hours to complete. Carriero suffered serious head and leg injuries and

credits the multi-agency response for saving his life. He stated in a television interview how lucky he was to be alive.

The Erie County Sheriff's Department and the State Office of Emergency Management organized a multi-agency search drill conducted in Allegany State Park in Cattaraugus County on October 16 and 17. Lieutenant Shawn Plaisted and rangers Pachan, Flanagan, Liebig, Thaine and Wayne Krulish participated in this two-day drill as part of a Child Abduction Response Team (CART) exercise. Rangers were assigned to incident command functions in support of 100 other police officers and special response teams from the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department, Erie County Sheriff's Department, New York State Police, New York State Park Police, Salamanca Police Department and Seneca Nation Marshals. This drill was the first of its kind in the region and was designed to improve all law enforcement agency responses to child abductions. On November 11, rangers assisted park police in the 65,000-acre Allegany State Park with a search for Thomas Hamilton, 92, Great Valley. Hamilton and his daughter had been hiking in the park when she left him to find help after he could no longer walk. Rangers from regions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 helped manage the nine-day extensive search in rugged terrain. Investigators could not determine where Hamilton's daughter had left him, and no new leads or clues developed as to where he might have been. In all, rangers managed more than 350 searchers from multiple police agencies, state federation search volunteers and upwards of 20 volunteer fire departments.

Rangers assisted the state police, the Southern Tier Drug Task Force and several county sheriff departments again this year in an effort to eradicate marijuana from the region. Altogether, 1,024 marijuana plants were removed from Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties, with 117 plants removed from state lands.

Division Retirees in 2010



On January 7, Forest Ranger Joseph Kennedy retired after 26 years of ranger service. Joe began his career assigned to Summitville, Sullivan County and then transferred to Piercefield in St. Lawrence County. As a result of the July 1995 Adirondack microburst and blow-down (derecho), Joe developed his skills as one of the nation's experts on wildfire danger rating and predictive services. In 2006, Joe was assigned to the Central Office as the division's predictive services specialist. He singlehandedly developed New York's system of remote, automated weather stations (RAWS) and assisted New England states with developing their fire-danger rating systems. In 1990, Joe received the Northern Federation of Law Enforcement Officers Special Act Award for lifesaving actions while on routine patrol. In 2003, Joe received the Superintendent's Award for his contribution to the department's response to the 2001 World Trade Center Attack. In 2009, Joe received the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission's ("Compact") Outstanding Service Award for his work with wildfire predictive services.



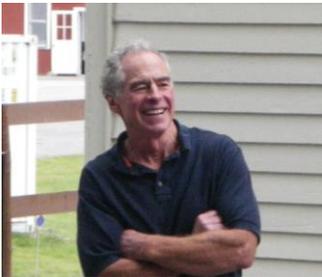
On June 24, Lieutenant Douglas Riedman of Old Forge, retired. Doug started his career at DEC with the Division of Real Property in 1977 and became a forest ranger in the Old Forge, Herkimer County area in 1981. Doug was instrumental in developing training courses in human tracking, technical rope rescue and flat-ice rescue. He served for many years on the division's search and rescue advisory committee. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant for Region 6, Zone C, assigned to the Herkimer sub-office.



On June 24, Lieutenant Chris Liebelt retired after a 17-year ranger career. Chris was hired as a forest ranger in March 1993 and assigned to Suffolk County, Region 1. Chris transferred to Sullivan County, Region 3 in August 1994, then Delaware County, Region 4 in May 1995 and then Warren County, Region 5 in September 1996. In September 2003, Chris was promoted to lieutenant in the Region 6, Lowville Zone and then transferred to the Region 5, Warren County Zone in May 2004. Chris was involved in the airboat program and was an instructor for the flat-ice program, teaching at several training academies. Chris was the recipient of the division's Raymond Murray Award for saving the life of a fellow ranger who nearly drowned.



On August 2, Lieutenant Bob Marrone retired after 25 years of forest ranger service and five additional years with the Division of Lands and Forests. In January 1985, Bob began his ranger career assigned to the Town of Hardenburgh, Ulster County in Region 3. In February 1993, Bob was promoted to lieutenant in Region 5, Zone A, Franklin County. Bob was a participant in the division's Search and Rescue Advisory Committee for 22 years. Following his retirement, Bob continues to represent New York State for American Society Testing Materials (ASTM), a group responsible for setting national search and rescue standards.



On August 28, Forest Ranger Greg George retired after 33 years of service. Greg was hired in June 1977 and assigned to Otsego County, Region 4. In 1984, he transferred to the Blue Mountain Lake Ranger District, Hamilton County in Region 5. Greg was the 1989 recipient of the Superintendent's Award and was one of the driving forces behind Region 5's training program, as well as the statewide search and rescue program. His leadership and experience will be missed.



On September 20, Division Director Thomas Rinaldi retired after 28 years of service as a forest ranger and another seven years in the Division of Lands and Forests. Tom was hired as a ranger in September 1982 in the Rosendale Ranger District, Ulster County, Region 3. He was promoted to captain at the Central Office in February 1993, to assistant division director in March 1998, acting division director from 1999 to 2002 and division director in October 2006.



On October 1, Forest Ranger Steve Guenther retired after 28 years as a forest ranger in northern Saratoga and southern Warren counties. In the 1980s, Steve was instrumental in teaching the National Incident Command System to rangers throughout the state. He was also a driving force behind specialized regional training throughout his career. His ability to use characters such as "Granny" to deliver otherwise dry material left a memorable mark on all his students. Steve was a co-recipient of the Superintendent's Award for his role at managing the department's response to the September 2001 World Trade Center Attack.



On December 22, Forest Ranger Keith Bassage retired due to a job-related injury. Keith began his ranger career in 1994 in St. Lawrence County, Region 6, and, in August 2000, he transferred to Region 5, Zone A, Franklin County, St. Regis Canoe Area. Keith was involved in the out-of-state fire program and was a crew chief with the aviation program.



On December 23, Forest Ranger Wayne LaBaff of Stockholm retired. Wayne began his ranger career in December 1983, and, for his entire career, he was assigned to St. Lawrence County, where he is widely known. Previous to 1983, Wayne had worked for DEC as a forestry technician for five years. Wayne's administrative and computer skills were critical in developing reporting systems that are still in use by the Division of Forest Protection.

Wildland Fire Management by Colonel Andy Jacob

Preparedness and Assistance with National Emergencies

The Forest Ranger Division annually receives more than \$1 million from the US Forest Service (USFS) 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 USFS to support national wildfire suppression by sending trained firefighters and expert support staff to incidents throughout the country. To do so, the Division of Forest Protection's Fire Management Administrative Specialist, Lisa Smith, singlehandedly processed 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 2010 for processing. Regional volunteer, fire warden and emergency firefighter lists were periodically updated as needed to maintain accurate, current records of credentialed and available firefighters. In 2010, 38 forest rangers and 90 DEC employees and volunteers requested participation in the out-of-state fire program. The national wildfire preparedness level did not reach as high or last as long in 2009 as it had in previous years, and New York did not send any firefighters to national incidents in 2010.

Predictive Services Program

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. 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 the division and its interagency partners with hourly fire-weather data and informational support. Critical fire-weather breakpoints and fire-business thresholds calculated from historic and current fire weather provide realistic fire management decision points for the division.
- Actively maintained contact with the five National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving New York State. This communication results in improved fire-weather services for the division 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, NWS now prepares a daily next-day weather forecast for each of the division's 16 RAWS. This allows for next-day forecasting of fire danger indices, allowing for improved fire management planning at the local, regional and division levels.
- Actively 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 US Fish & Wildlife Service at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in Genesee County and the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge on Long Island, the US Army at West Point and Fort Drum, the 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 NY State Fire Chiefs Association. These contacts assure cooperation and availability of resources when needed under emergency conditions.
- Continued availability of real-time access to the National Lightning Detection Network for division managers and supervisors with the 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.

Communities-at-Risk Project

Communities-at-risk is a national wildfire term used to identify those communities that are at greater risk to destructive wildfires than neighboring communities. Some of the factors that are used to define risk are vegetative cover, elevation, slope and aspect, historical fire occurrence and anticipated human activity as it relates to possible fire occurrence. New York State has a wide variety of vegetative and forest cover, and most of these can support life-threatening wildfire under dry and windy conditions. There are no communities in New York where wildfire does not occur. Major cities, including the five boroughs of New York City have an unexpectedly large number of wildfires burning parks and open lands, especially open wetlands. Even with professional firefighters in station at all times, cities do report property losses and injuries related to wildfires within their jurisdiction. In 2010, the borough of Staten Island reported dozens of wildfires, one of which consumed 145 acres of wetlands and threatened many homes and properties along wetland perimeter.

**Wildland and Outdoor Fires Reported by All Fire Departments in New York State
January 2000 through September 2010**

Years/ Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2000	153	75	818	798	621	328	495	233	211	559	562	150	5003
2001	38	116	123	2806	2044	499	768	972	477	778	1393	237	10251
2002	300	395	729	1157	854	417	1138	1262	937	236	288	142	7855
2003	139	36	388	2750	745	312	622	305	269	350	492	154	6562
2004	92	183	500	1536	527	509	384	236	206	294	770	162	5399
2005	48	90	200	3877	1280	953	674	1014	856	301	690	186	10169
2006	112	251	1751	2878	1370	396	345	563	148	218	259	275	8566
2007	145	122	385	1392	1854	908	646	619	846	326	253	74	7570
2008	180	100	509	3605	1009	569	510	395	339	386	461	138	8201
2009	57	132	1096	1731	465	154	104	81	109	154	476	74	3929
2010	34	64	297	903	475	202	381	188	138	39	7	-	2728
Total	1298	1564	6796	23433	11244	5247	6067	5868	4536	3487	5175	1518	76233

Fire data is from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

Highlighted fields do not have all data for that month.

Rather than focus on the traditional method of identifying communities-at-risk by assessing vegetative cover and topographic features (elevation, slope and aspect), the division has focused its attention on the historic occurrence of wildfire as the primary factor. Although forest rangers have maintained fire occurrence records for more than 100 years, it was apparent that rangers reported only a small fraction of all wildfire in New York. Through partnership with the state’s Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFP&C), the division obtained the individual fire occurrence records of all wildfires reported by fire departments in the state from 2000 through mid-2010. While forest rangers reported an average of 2,137 fires since 2001, fire departments reported 68,560 fires during the last 10 years. These records, along with ranger reports, provide the best source of understanding wildfire occurrence in New York at the state, regional, county or community level.

For several years, the division has supported a geographical information system (GIS) intern in the Division of Lands and Forests. Shannon Glazer, a graduate student at SUNY Albany, has worked with the historical wildfire data maintained by division forest rangers and OFP&C. Because fire departments collect fire occurrence information very differently than wildfire agencies and NYS’s forest rangers, a considerable amount of work is needed to process the data into useable formats. The primary GIS product has been state maps that depict all 999 towns (villages included) and cities with one type of fire occurrence in relationship to all other communities. Communities shown in red are generally within the top 5 percent of wildfire occurrence for that particular type or cause of fire, while communities shown in dark green are within the lowest 50 percent of communities. Depending on the type of fire, the season of fire occurrence or the cause of fire that is of concern, different communities are shown to be more at-risk. Urban communities generally have more fires than rural communities; however, urban communities have far less fires *per capita* than rural communities.

Through developing and understanding wildfire statistics and occurrences in New York State, the division can direct its resources to areas of greatest concern. Fire occurrence data indicates that between March 15 and May 15, the new burn-ban regulation reduced wildfires caused by debris burning by 33 percent in 2010 as compared to the 2000 to 2009 average. Scattered towns throughout New York actually showed an increase of fire occurrence during the ban period in 2010, indicating a need for increased enforcement in those towns.

Although it is not intuitive to wildfire mitigation, urban communities need wildfire prevention strategies. These and other considerations will be addressed as the division continues its lead role in wildfire prevention.

2010 Training & Development Report

In 2010, ranger training activities accounted for a total of 23,000 program hours. This amounted to a slight decrease from the previous year. This year, the division’s training and development program recorded 312 training events in four primary risk types. These include: wilderness search and rescue (8,358 hours), wildfire management (7,850 hours), law enforcement program (3,870 hours) and all other general training (2,923 hours). The table below summarizes the total number of training events given to other groups or received by rangers in 2010.

RISK TYPE*	TRAINING PROGRAM	Training Received	Training Given	EVENTS
WS	Wildland Search & Rescue	15	85	100
WS	Helicopter & Aviation	38	1	39
WS	Airboat Operation	24	0	24
LE	Law Enforcement	42	1	43
WF	Wildfire Management	17	46	63
EM	Wilderness First Aid	8	4	12
HZ	Hazardous materials	9	0	9
MA	Management	8	0	8
NR	General	2	0	2
AR	All Risk & Other ICS	12	0	12
TOTAL for all EVENTS				312

*WS – Wildland Search and Rescue, LE - Law Enforcement, WF - Wildfire Management, EM - Emergency Medical, HZ - Hazardous Materials, NR - no risk

The following narrative briefly summarizes some of the more notable events that occurred throughout 2010. While most of the annual training events did not receive special mention in this report, they are no less significant. On behalf of the division, we would like to thank all instructors for their efforts in the training and development of New York State Forest Rangers.

Search and Rescue (SAR) Training

In 2010, the division continued to focus on delivering regionally sponsored training events for the development of each officer’s search and rescue skills. This year, the division sponsored a total of 100 wildland SAR-related events. Each region routinely offers SAR training in subject matter that is considered relevant to 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, GPS and land navigation, airboat operation, snowmobile operation and helicopter operations.

In addition to regionally approved training events, rangers attended several division-sponsored courses. Lt. G. Friedrich continued to serve as the division coordinator for the Helicopter Hoist Operator’s Program. In 2010, the helicopter hoist operators attended 39 training sessions throughout New York State. The training was accomplished with the support and assistance of the New York State Police Aviation Unit. The training

consisted of topics in personnel and litter hoists, ground schools, forward-looking-infrared camera training and bucket operations.

Similarly, the division's airboat operators recorded 24 separate training events across the state. This training prepares the officer to effectively operate a division airboat under a variety of environmental conditions. The airboat continues to provide a valuable life-saving resource on open water, swiftwater and flat-ice conditions. The division recognizes Lt. S. Preston and Ranger R. Schroeder for serving as program coordinators for this training.

In July, Captain P. Kilpeck attended a 24-hour course, Wide Area Search Techniques. The course was sponsored by FEMA and was held at the state's Oriskany Training Center.

Police Officer Training Program

In 2010, the division completed 18 annual firearms training sessions. This training was conducted throughout the year and allowed all rangers to fulfill their mandated firearms proficiency training. Additionally, the division successfully completed seven defensive tactics refresher training events. Lt. Timothy Taylor once again dutifully served as the program coordinator for all mandated annual use of force training. He was again assisted in these efforts by the division's cadre of firearms and defensive tactics instructors. This cadre consisted of Capt. T. Byrnes and Lt. B. Dubay and rangers P. Liebig, G. Bronson, D. Cordell, M. Hubschmitt, A. Farrand, M. Flanagan, T. Goetke, S. Murphy, Lt. Morse, J. Oldroyd, I. Kerr, M. Burkholder and J. Kennedy.

In June, several rangers attended a Handling and Processing Juveniles course sponsored by NYS Commission of Correction. Lts. S. Scherry, T. Taylor and J. Shafer attended this one-day course.

The division sent four rangers to the state Standardized Field Sobriety Testing course in a continuing effort to elevate these skills in each officer. Rangers J. Oldroyd, D. Pachan, J. Prunoske and W. Giraud successfully completed the training.

In November, Ranger C. Richardson completed the 80-hour Instructor Development School. Through successful completion of this Division of Criminal Justice-sponsored course Ranger Richardson can join the cadre of firearms and defensive tactics instructors.

Wildfire Management Training Program

In 2010, several training initiatives were undertaken in the wildfire program to further the development of the division's wildfire management resources.

In March, 12 rangers from Region 5 attended an S-330 Strike Team/Task Force Leader course. The course was taught by lead instructor Steven Ovitt. The rangers who successfully completed the course were: M. Bodnar, G. Bronson, E. Donegan, S. Hitt, D. Jeffery, C. Kabrehl, D. Kallen, J. LaPierre, A. Perryman, C. Platt, R. Praczkajlo and E. Russell.

In July, 13 rangers attended a 24-hour S-440 Planning Section Chief course. The rangers who successfully completed the program were: K. Burns, R. Dawson, P. Dormer, W. Giraud, J. Hess, S. Jackson, C. Kabrehl, R. Mecus, A. Pickett, D. Russell, J. Scott, J. Seeley and M. Thompson. Capt. D. Brooks and rangers P. Liebig and J. Prunoske provided the course instruction.



This year, the division was able to secure approval to send nine students, four IMT trainees and three instructors to the New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy. The courses varied depending upon the rangers' stated preference. Rangers K. Slade, H. Thomes, W. Meehan, B. Gallagher, J. Thaine, E. Donegan, H. Thomes and D. Kallen attended the academy as student trainees. Rangers M. Thompson, C. Kabrehl, R. Rogers and J. Oldroyd assisted the academy IMT as trainees. Additionally, two non-division department employees attended courses in support of the division program. Also, Rangers J. Prunoske, P. Liebig and S. Jackson served the academy as instructors.

In October, the division sent six rangers and one citizen participation specialist to attend the Complex Incident Management course in Portland, Maine. The 40-hour course prepares trainees to serve on incident management teams. The team consisted of captains E. Lahr and D. Cavanagh, rangers W. Giraud, R. Schroeder, J. Laczko and R. Rogers and citizen participation specialist W. Fonda.

Throughout the year, the division sponsored 16 OFPC certified Basic Wildland Firefighting Suppression courses. This course is typically offered to volunteer firefighters, and a total of 338 firefighters were trained.

Capt. D. Cavanagh and J. Streiff successfully completed the I-400 Advanced Incident Command System course at two separate offerings. Additionally, four rangers successfully completed the I-300 Intermediate Incident Command System training. They were rangers M. Thompson, K. Slade, M. Burkholder and D. Cordell.



The Division sponsored five, 40-hour S-130 Firefighter Training and S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior courses throughout the year. These courses occurred in regions 3, 6, 7 and 8 and provided instruction to 65 firefighters. Successful completion of this nationally approved course qualifies individuals to become wildland firefighters on federal incidents. Additionally, during the spring months, the division hosted 18 RT-130 Annual Firefighter Refresher courses. A total of 291 firefighters participated in this training. The refresher course is mandatory for anyone interested in participating in the federal fire response program.

Wilderness First Responder Training Program

In April, Ranger Julie Harjung instructed a Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician course to several DEC first aid instructors. Additionally, the division's Wilderness Medical Associate (WMA) instructors provided a total of 10 courses in first aid instruction.

A total of 102 rangers were provided recertification training in wilderness first responder level first aid. This year marked the third consecutive year that the DLE was offered wilderness first aid training. Seventy-seven DLE members attended the training. The course offering can be summarized by type and group: five sessions were offered to division members as Wilderness First Responder (WFR) refresher training, four Wilderness First Aid (WFA) sessions were given to the DLE, and one WEMT course was provided to the first aid program instructors. Each officer who attends a WMA session is required to pass an exam and perform satisfactorily in practical scenarios.

In 2010, there were 12 wilderness first aid instructors for the Office of Public Protection. These dedicated individuals are: rangers J. Harjung, D. Meade, S. Hitt, J. Temple, M. Burkholder, R. Dawson, P. Evans, M. Dominesey and R. Rogers; ECOs B. Willson and B. Hummel and dispatcher A. Reynolds. The division thanks each of these officers for their continued support of this vital program.

Other Notable Training Accomplishments

In March, Region 4 staff participated in the State Office of Emergency Management Disaster LAN course. This course prepares rangers to work at the Office of Emergency Management during times of a state-declared emergency. The course was attended by Capt. P. Kilpeck and rangers K. Glesman, J. Hess, C. DiCintio, C. Nelson and W. Henry.

Finally, each ranger was provided refresher training in hazardous materials response, use of a respirator mask and the department-sponsored Cyber Security Training course.

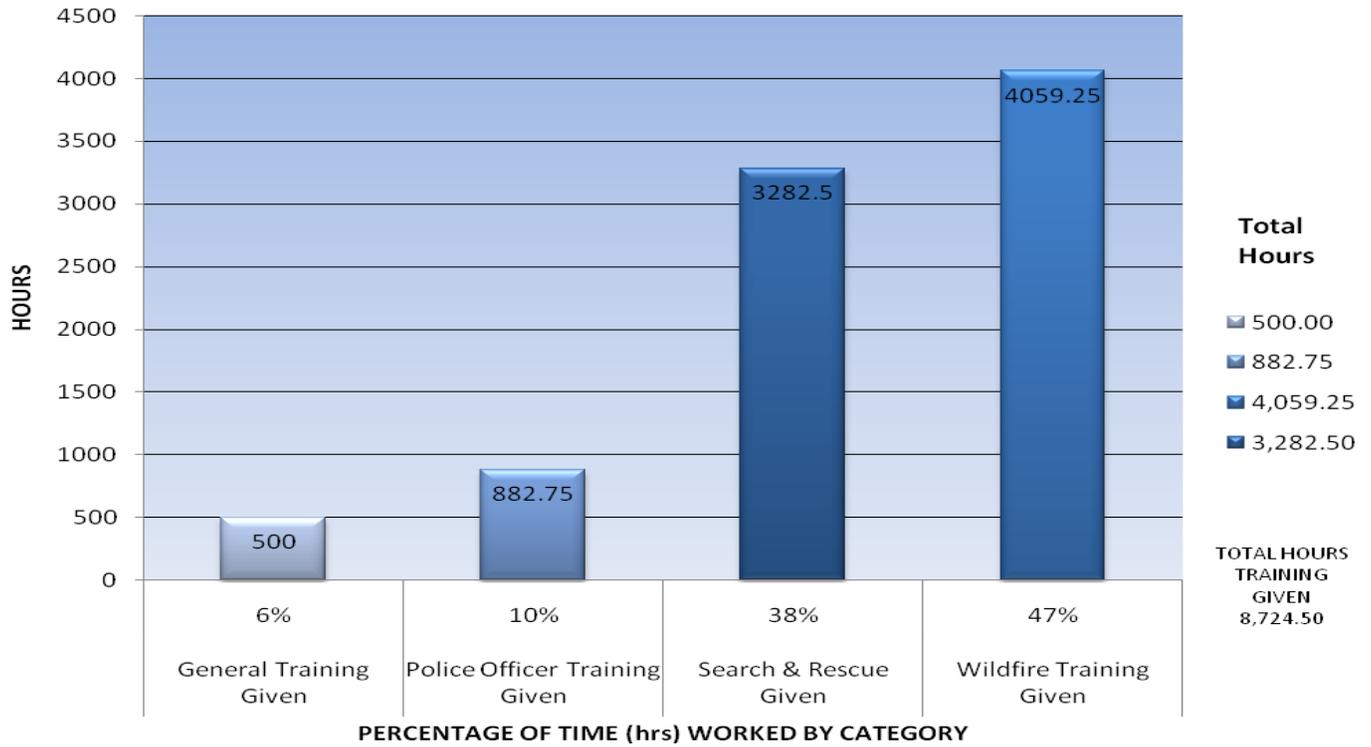
DIVISION TRAINING SUMMARY REPORT

In 2010, the division reported a total of 312 training events for a total of 23,000 work hours. The search and rescue training program accounted for 8,358 hours or 36 percent of all training time worked by rangers. Wildfire training accounted for 7850 hours or 34 percent of all training given and received. Police officer training accounted for 3,870 hours or 17 percent of all training given and received. All other general training accounted for 2,923 work hours or 13 percent of all training. This year witnessed a similar level of training as what was reported in 2008 and 2009. The following annual comparison table and bar graphs provides a breakdown of all training activity for the division in 2010 as reported by each officer.

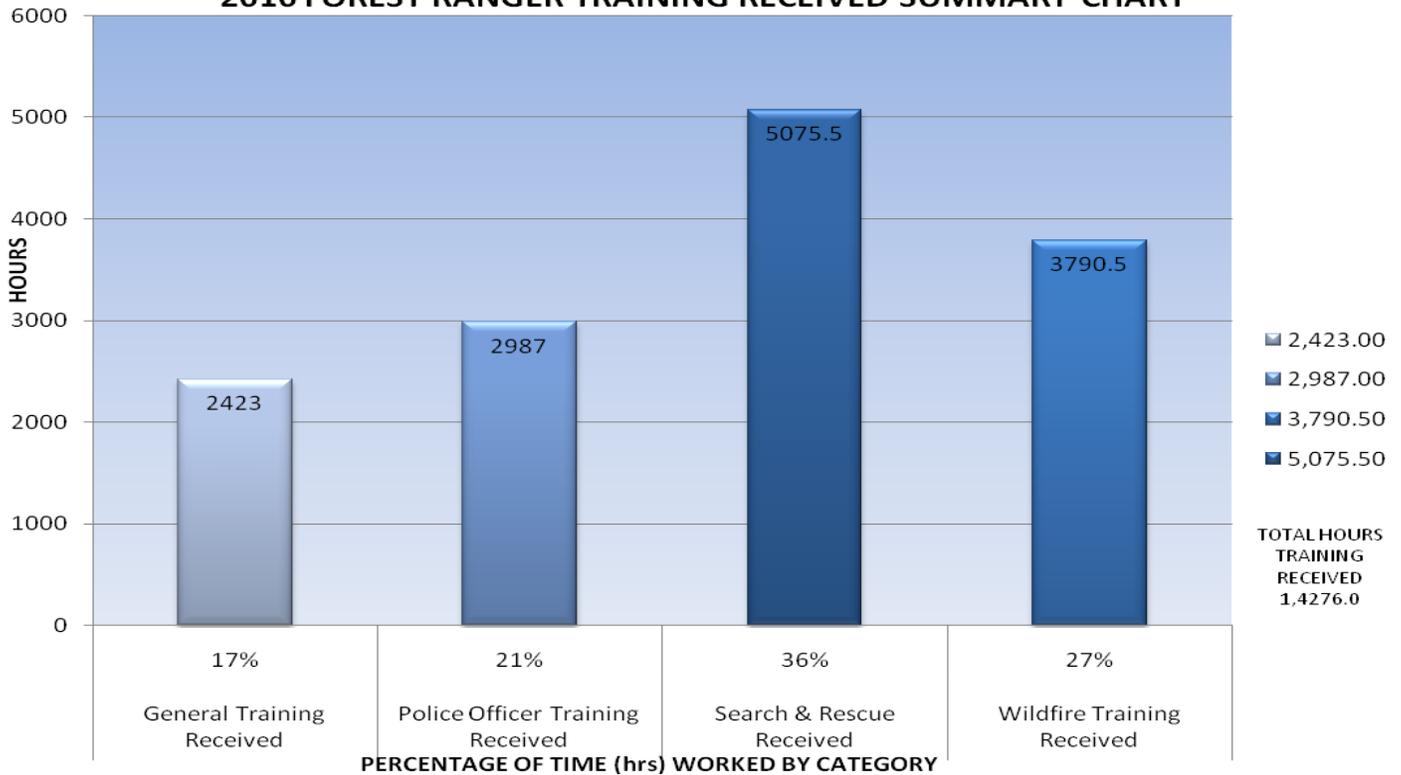
DIVISION of FOREST PROTECTION
Table of Hours Worked in the Training Program by Category

		Annual Program Hours Worked Per Category		
CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	2008	2009	2010
Search and Rescue Training	Given	3,730.00	4093.50	3282.50
Search and Rescue Training	Received	5,094.00	6194.00	5075.50
Search and Rescue Training Total		8,824.00	10287.50	8358.00
Wildfire Training	Given	3,746.25	4043.75	4059.25
Wildfire Training	Received	2,280.25	3009.00	3790.50
Wildfire Training Total		6,026.50	7052.75	7849.75
Police Officer Training	Given	1,034.00	784.50	882.75
Police Officer Training	Received	2,574.50	3117.75	2987.00
Police Officer Training Total		3,608.50	3902.25	3869.75
Basic Academy Training	Given	1,311.50	0.00	0.00
Basic Academy Training	Received	0.00	0.00	0.00
Basic Academy Training	Administration	473.00	0.00	8.00
Basic Academy Training Total		1,784.50	0.00	8.00
General Training	Given	676.25	721.00	492.00
General Training	Received	2,243.75	2,594.25	2245.00
General Training	OSHA	100.50	90.00	178.00
General Training Total		3,020.50	3405.25	2915.00
Grand Total		23,264.00	24647.75	23000.50

2010 FOREST RANGER TRAINING GIVEN SUMMARY CHART



2010 FOREST RANGER TRAINING RECEIVED SUMMARY CHART



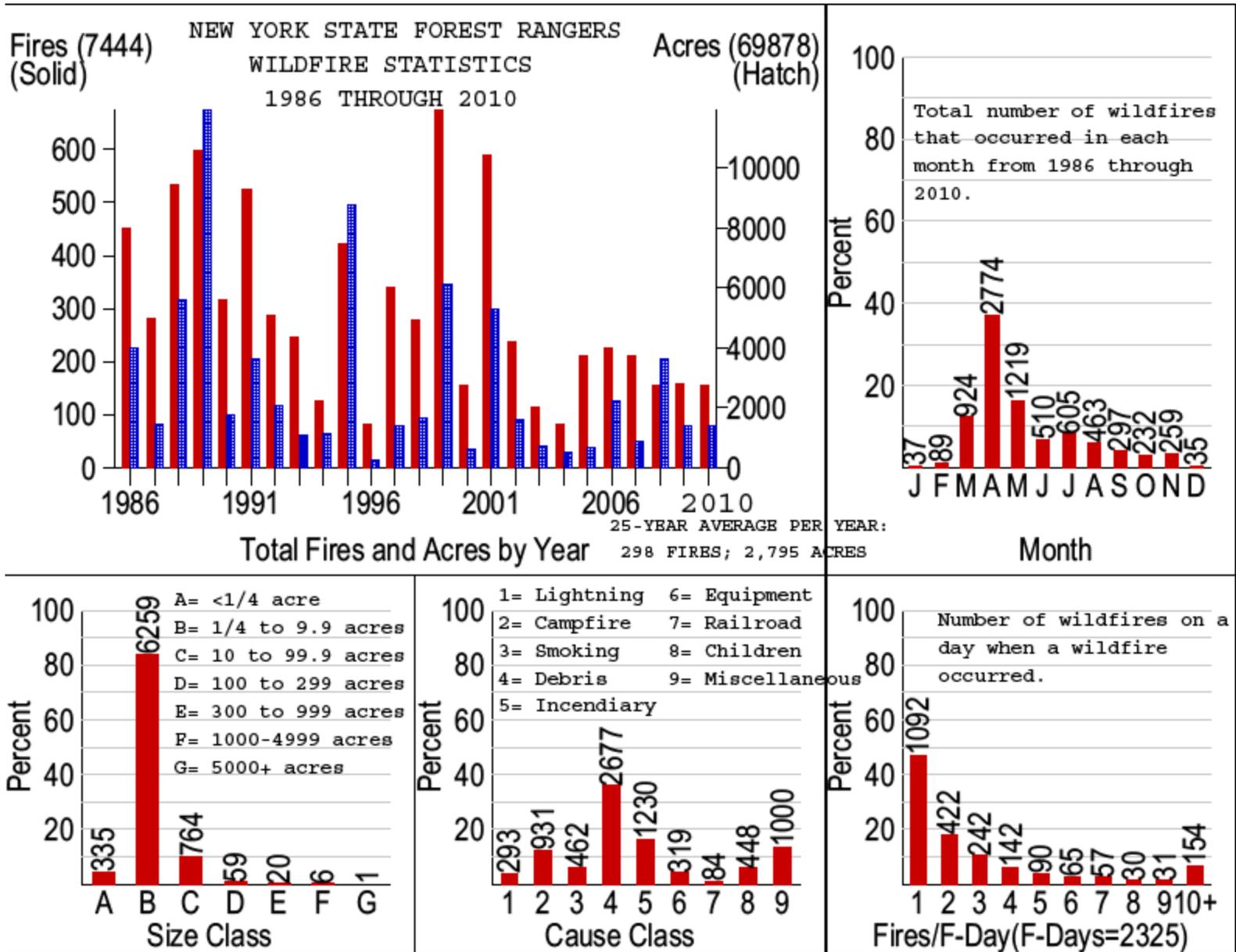
2010 SUMMARY OF WILDFIRES BY FOREST RANGER ZONE

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	0	2	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	9	9	8	37
# of Campfire Caused Fires	1	2	2	0	0	3	0	1	2	3	4	0	0	1	2	0	2	23
# of Lightning Caused Fires	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
# of Arson Caused Fires	26	2	6	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	3	1	47
# of Other Caused Fires	0	2	4	4	2	0	0	0	4	5	2	1	0	1	2	8	1	36
TOTAL # OF FIRES	28	6	14	13	3	4	3	1	8	12	9	2	4	2	14	20	12	155
# of Fires < 0.25 acres	5	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	6	2	3	0	1	1	2	3	1	31
# of Fires 0.25 to 9.9 Acres	14	4	12	13	3	1	2	0	2	10	6	1	3	1	9	15	8	104
# of Fires 10 to 99.9 Acres	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	16
# of Fires 100 Acres or larger	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
TOTAL ACRES OF FIRE	281	68	53	21	8	4	12	1	2	9	7	13	6	4	91	778	55	1,413
# of State Land Fires	12	0	5	3	0	3	1	1	3	1	5	0	2	1	3	1	0	41
# of Private and Other Government Land Fires	16	6	9	10	3	1	2	0	5	11	4	2	2	1	11	19	12	114
# of Spring Fires	8	3	7	11	3	1	3	0	4	9	3	1	1	1	14	17	12	98
# of Summer Fires	14	3	7	0	0	3	0	1	4	3	6	1	3	1	0	3	0	49
# of Fall-Winter Fires	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
TOTAL COST OF FIRES	0	\$800	\$871	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$34	0	0	\$425	0	0	\$60	0	\$2,190

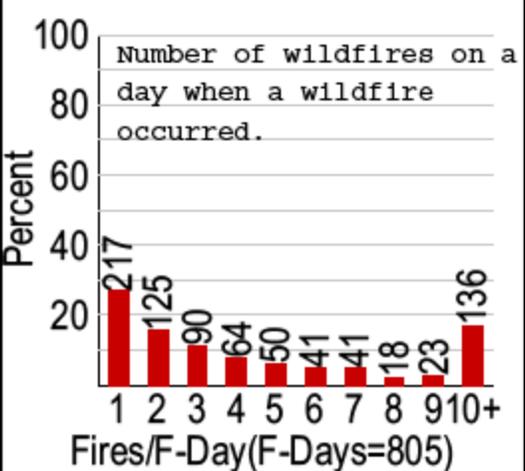
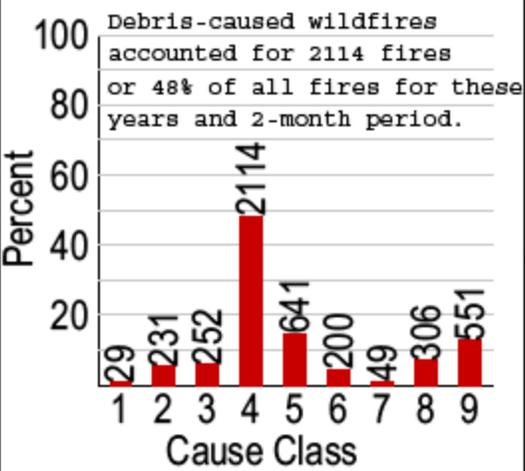
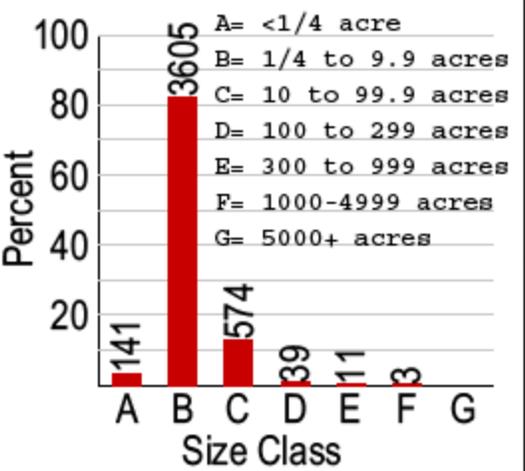
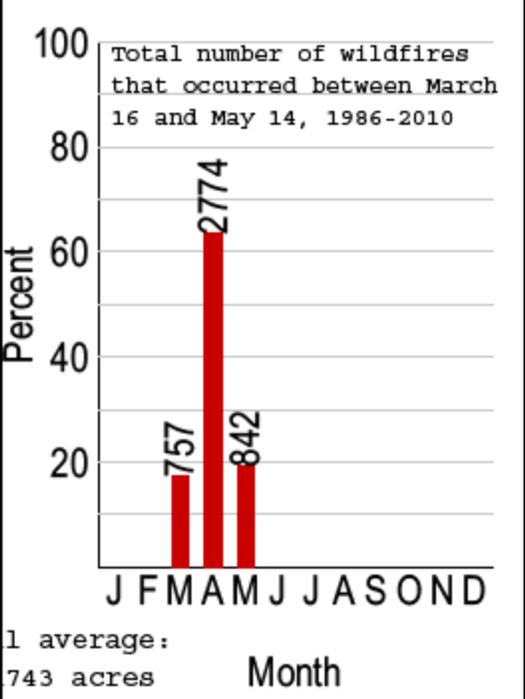
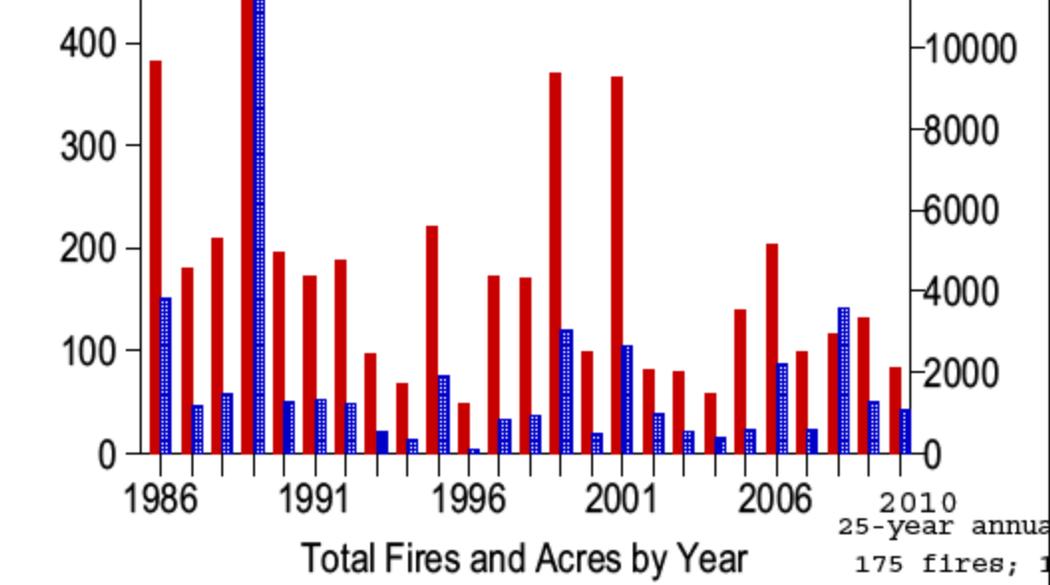
Wildland Fires and Acres Burned in New York State 1955-2010

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
2010	155	1413	9.1

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



NEW YORK STATE FOREST RANGERS
 WILDFIRE STATISTICS FOR 1986-2010
 MARCH 16 THROUGH MAY 14 ONLY



SUMMARY of ALL SEARCH & RESCUE MISSIONS
Reported by
FOREST RANGERS in 2010

Activity of Subject(s)	Total #	% Total	Searches	Rescues	Recoveries	Costs
Airplane/ Flying	2	1.0%		1	1	
Biking	2	1.0%	1	1		
Camping	4	1.9%	4			
Climbing (Rock/Ice)	2	1.0%		2		
Fishing	5	2.4%	5			
Hiking	95	45.2%	56	36	3	\$14,445
Hunting	26	12.4%	22	4		\$1,417
Runaway/Fugitive	2	1.0%	2			
Skiing/Snowshoeing	8	3.8%	7	1		
Snowmobile/ATV	12	5.7%	5	7		
Suicides	8	3.8%	7		1	
Swimming	2	1.0%	1	1		
Walking/Walkaway	20	9.5%	20			\$3,058
Whitewater/Boating	12	5.7%	4	8		
Other***	10	4.8%	6	4		
Totals	210	100%	140	65	5	\$18,920

*** Other incidents include alcohol, caving, horseback riding, logging, rescue, sightseeing, trapping and unknown.

Number of Incidents By Day Of Week

Event	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
Search	18	9	9	21	14	36	32	140
Rescue	9	6	8	6	7	18	11	65
Recovery	1		1		1	2		5
Total	28	15	18	27	22	56	44	210

Number & Percentage of Incidents occurring by Month

MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total	MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total
January	12	5.7%	July	19	9.0%
February	6	2.9%	August	32	15.2%
March	12	5.7%	September	19	9.0%
April	13	6.2%	October	28	13.3%
May	18	8.6%	November	20	9.5%
June	21	10.0%	December	10	4.8%
			TOTAL	210	100%

ANNUAL REPORT OF PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & TRAINING GIVEN BY FOREST RANGERS IN 2010

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		6
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above			18			8						32	3		8	4		73
Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events		2	6				1				1				4			14
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		49	132				14				22				76			293
Number of 4-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events			1		2		1											4
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above			19		70		177											266
Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events	2	4	1	3			1				3		1		7	8	3	33
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	20	107	100	134			31				117		32		96	179	23	839
Number of Fire Prevention Events		9	2	7	17	1	6	1	1	1	7	1	1	2	4	5		65
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		610	1270	9801	5500	60	1380	100	45	246	1010	150	10	139	540	729		21590
Number of Basic Wildland Search Course Events	7	1	4		2				1		1			1	3	2	2	24
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	106	16	85		34				19		19			30	25	41	70	445
Number of Other S&R or 1st Aid Course Events		1	3	4	1	2	3	4	6	6	3				20		1	54
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		20	77	64	14	28	50	59	85	81	230				854		21	1583
# of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations		1		18		1	4		5		2	1	1	13		3		49
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		90		505		10	128		84		45	18	15	1568		127		2590
Number of Career Information Events		2	3	8	2	1	5		2		2	1	3	5	3	5		42
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		80	2575	2121	135	2	263		273		115	42	105	133	173	383		6400
Number of Other Presentations or Training Events				3	3	2	7		2	3	8		7	1	3	9		48
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above				60	620	20	328		30	60	3236		153	20000	10033	1070		35610
Total # of Presentations & Training Events	9	20	21	43	27	8	28	5	17	10	27	4	14	22	45	33	6	339
Total Hours of Presentations & Training Events	72	105	203	264	241	81	85	29	65	38	212	46	98	109	313	151	64	2176
Total Number of Attendees at Events	126	972	4276	12685	6373	128	2371	159	536	387	4794	242	318	21870	11805	2533	114	69689

2010 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	3	10	2	4	2	6	1	12	12	2			1	4	3	68
Fishing/Hunting /Trap.	1	2		1	1	2		1	9	1	1	3	4	1	3			29
Walk-aways/Run-aways	1	1	1	3	2	2			1		1	1	1		3	1		18
ATV/Snowmobile/Boat				2	1	1			3				1		1			9
Other	1	1	1	1		1				1	1			1	3	3	2	16
RESCUES INCIDENTS																		
Ice or Rock Climbing				1				1										2
Camping/ Hiking/Skiing		3	2	7		1		16	4	2	1					2		38
ATV/Snowmobile/MV									5	1			1					7
Boating/Water Rescues				2		1			4					1	1			9
Other	1		2						1			1			2		1	8
RECOVERIES																		
Land Related				2													1	3
ATV/Snowmobile/Boat																		
Water Related																		
Suicides															1			1
Other				1														1
TOTAL # of INCIDENTS	4	13	9	30	6	12	2	24	28	17	16	7	7	3	15	10	7	210
STATE LAND INCIDENTS	4	11	4	23	0	10	2	22	25	14	14	7	6	2	6	3	2	155
TOTAL COST		\$929		\$1634				\$1569		\$31		\$888	\$2658				\$11211	\$18,920

Wildland Search and Rescue Missions

New York State

1963-2010

Year	# of Missions	Staff Hours	Year	# of Missions	Staff Hours
1963	76	1,296	1985	201	5,698
1964	53	816	1986	211	5,730
			1987	253	5,064
1965	106	3,050	1988	223	8,063
1966	116	1,877	1989	259	6,081
1967	130	2,447			
1968	100	1,805	1990	259	7,804
1969	113	4,028	1991	252	4,290
			1992	244	11,282
1970	116	1,320	1993	241	8,907
1971	104	9,255	1994	208	5,100
1972	138	8,604			
1973	178	15,941	1995	212	6,200
1974	144	15,941	1996	236	7,700
			1997	251	6,494
1975	162	4,049	1998	209	7,049
1976	211	6,741	1999	228	4,130
1977	202	5,324			
1978	156	3,334	2000	286	10,725
1979	163	4,445	2001	261	8,768
			2002	257	10,313
1980	164	4,382	2003	237	9,382
1981	163	5,300	2004	220	7,209
1982	184	6,858			
1983	215	7,003	2005	229	10,378
1984	188	5,381	2006	226	15,708
			2007	223	8,964
			2008	245	14,094
			2009	234	6,587
			2010	210	13,175

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

2010 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 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
# of Assists to Other Agencies at Emergency Incidents	22	32	20	52	2	31	63	36	95	19	29	38	15	29	22	21	77	603
# of defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment	4	0	0	0	0	6	1	5	8	10	9	3	2	1	0	1	2	52
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger	0	12	0	143	81	33	136	291	219	186	182	66	23	64	0	0	0	1436
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permit Inspections	0	5	0	11	0	13	43	19	229	46	12	35	2	10	0	0	0	425
# of Article 9/191 BP's issued by Issuing Agent	0	1150	0	152	136	12	501	0	101	665	172	0	0	0	0	0	0	2889
# of Camping Permits Issued	0	89	7	88	72	234	63	129	369	206	109	98	97	77	170	97	63	1968
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected	0	752	776	300	495	586	707	1180	1696	1492	301	576	404	407	1142	805	455	12074
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds	0	251	2	127	94	399	234	77	628	105	47	58	4	79	0	0	0	2105
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	5	3	6	48	101	0	16	2	71	0	1	11	7	175	262	179	74	961
# of responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)	1	0	0	0	4	0	11	3	19	6	1	6	2	13	1	10	9	86
# of Guides checked for License Compliance	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	552	38	0	0	0	0	19	0	4	619
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	28	0	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	43
# of Stream Crossing Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	177	1	3	1	14	1	0	0	0	203
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections	50	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	144	83	289
# of Snowmobiles checked						61	678	46	326	10	111	1957	3505					6694
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	1593	2917	2610	2048	2548	2713	3921	3191	4550	2633	2292	1278	1700	7250	6576	6905	8503	63228
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	210	161	58	198	271	74	251	32	212	301	26	68	101	128	237	71	181	2580
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by foot or paddle	954	1252	1388	1533	771	2020	1454	2993	2501	2779	854	689	539	1053	956	681	1252	23669
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by motorized equipmen	1090	558	39	162	519	1544	654	625	3525	444	199	1729	2541	4186	1278	711	1921	21725

2010 SUMMARY OF TICKETS OR ARRESTS MADE 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
Environmental Conservation Law Rules and Regulations	69	58	85	156	90	58	45	45	132	78	41	66	56	19	63	73	185	1319
NYS Vehicle & Traffic Offenses	11	10	17	30	71	9	24	7	24	29	14	106	28	14	52	11	71	528
Parks & Recreation (Snowmobile & Navigation)	0	5	6	20	44	18	8	28	44	5	0	69	40	47	2	7	19	362
Arrests Turned over to Another Agency	0	0	5	25	0	8	23	15	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	26	113
Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests)	8	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	6	15	5	5	6	9	0	1	22	83
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	88	73	113	234	206	93	102	95	208	134	62	246	130	89	117	92	323	2405
Offenses Related to State Land Use	38	43	64	64	19	27	22	28	42	41	20	43	44	8	21	38	76	638
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	0	4	4	7	1	1	5	2	5	2	2	3	3	2	4	11	14	70
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	0	1	0	37	1	20	15	2	2	6	3	5	2	1	18	10	54	177
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations	0	1	14	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	16	7	15	6	44	0	20	4	5	14	7	101	28	16	39	5	42	369
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State	3	0	7	3	18	1	5	2	0	17	3	10	1	0	10	9	21	110
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	0	0	3	51	49	3	10	6	42	11	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	182
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	14
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State Lands	0	6	0	13	0	5	0	3	14	9	9	4	1	5	8	10	15	102
Offenses Related to other ECL or R&R	25	0	0	5	1	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	4	0	2	1	6	52
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	6	11	0	18	4	18	10	5	4	23	14	8	7	9	11	3	59	210
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	0	0	6	29	69	18	11	15	94	9	1	69	40	47	4	4	29	445
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests as Reported	88	73	113	234	206	93	102	95	208	134	62	246	130	89	117	92	323	2405

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Protection of State Lands									
Inspections of trailheads/access points	30,684	50,726	62,632	65,015	74,524	78,843	82,429	78,188	63,228
Miles of trails walked or waterways paddled	14,209	15,118	21,108	20,023	20,682	20,398	24,502	23,160	23,669
Inspections of occupied campsites	11,980	10,501	14,888	12,564	13,501	15,319	14,006	13,873	12,074
State land camping permits issued	2,259	2,272	2,627	2,037	1,958	2,123	2,204	2,207	1,968
Miles of state boundary line inspected	5,095	3,287	2,528	2,462	2,544	2,134	2,728	2,692	2,580
Patrols of DEC public campgrounds	1,015	1,215	1,092	1,097	1,581	2,379	2,228	2,297	2,105
ATV violation tickets issued	538	507	529	520	620	745	763	680	369
State land offense tickets/arrests	449	438	650	936	903	1,006	1,300	1,279	958
Fish & wildlife offenses tickets	180	232	236	246	242	316	319	328	177
Outdoor safety & state land use presentations	88	79	149	140	125	109	125	116	49
State land use permits inspected	3,279	1,188	1,609	1,173	1,197	1,123	1,229	1,294	961
Offenses related to snowmobile use	91	78	62	74	29	192	333	480	445
Other EnCon or other law offenses	246	151	160	132	196	201	265	283	276
DEC permit inspections	2180	2505	2385	1256	1677	1076	760	753	492
Wildfire Management Program									
Fires suppressed in the Spring	144	86	63	160	211	131	133	140	98
Fires suppressed in the Summer	180	20	15	48	11	65	15	2	49
Fires suppressed in the Fall					9	15	9	17	8
Acres burned	2,062	594	473	669	2,323	855	3,634	1,404	1,413
Prescribed fires	15	8	15	23	30	13	21	13	9
Acres of prescribed fire	132	56	149	273	330	301	211	228	122
Burning permits issued	11,795	25,561	20,947	27,277	26,447	19,055	11,998	11,163	3,785
Burning permits inspected		2,517	2,299	1,825	1,147	1,002	622	713	425
Wildfire Control/ICS Training events	145	75	90	71	119	91	75	104	57
Fire prevention events	140	109	126	95	98	112	100	135	65
Fire prevention law violations/tickets	173	143	153	126	155	115	112	119	70
\$1,000 Grants to rural VFDs	291	306	357	339	346	365	401	401	466
Search and Rescue Program									
Search missions	154	162	152	151	144	153	149	144	140
Rescue missions	70	67	60	72	76	67	92	84	65
Recoveries	12	8	8	6	6	3	4	6	5
Search & Rescue or 1 st aid training events	91	62	92	117	132	147	117	116	78
Licensed Guide Program									
Licensed guides	2,178	2,179	2,218	2,190	2,182	2,090	2,066	2,099	2,074
New guide licenses issued	274	227	236	262	185	164	207	188	202
Guide licenses renewed or updated	239	275	195	406	232	277	312	240	254
Guide licenses revoked	0	1	0	0	4	11	0	0	0
Checks of licensed guide credentials	347	249	454	764	135	306	338	301	619
License guide violations ticketed	6	4	0	2	0	8	3	1	7

