



Division of
Forest Protection
2011 ANNUAL REPORT



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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LETTER from the DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the 2011 *Annual Report of the New York State Forest Rangers*. Our role as protectors of state land and the people who use these lands is a critical responsibility, and we offer this report to the public, our fellow agencies and division members to highlight our achievements during the past year.

On the cover, Forest Rangers provided vital life saving services to the people of New York during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Using a wide variety of tactics, these officers rescued and saved many people/lives from the flooding waters caused by the storms along with providing welfare checks for rural residents cut off from local emergency services. These officers also provided incident command system expertise to the many impacted communities that needed assistance dealing with the storm/floods.

In 2011, the New York State Forest Rangers completed 126 years of 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.

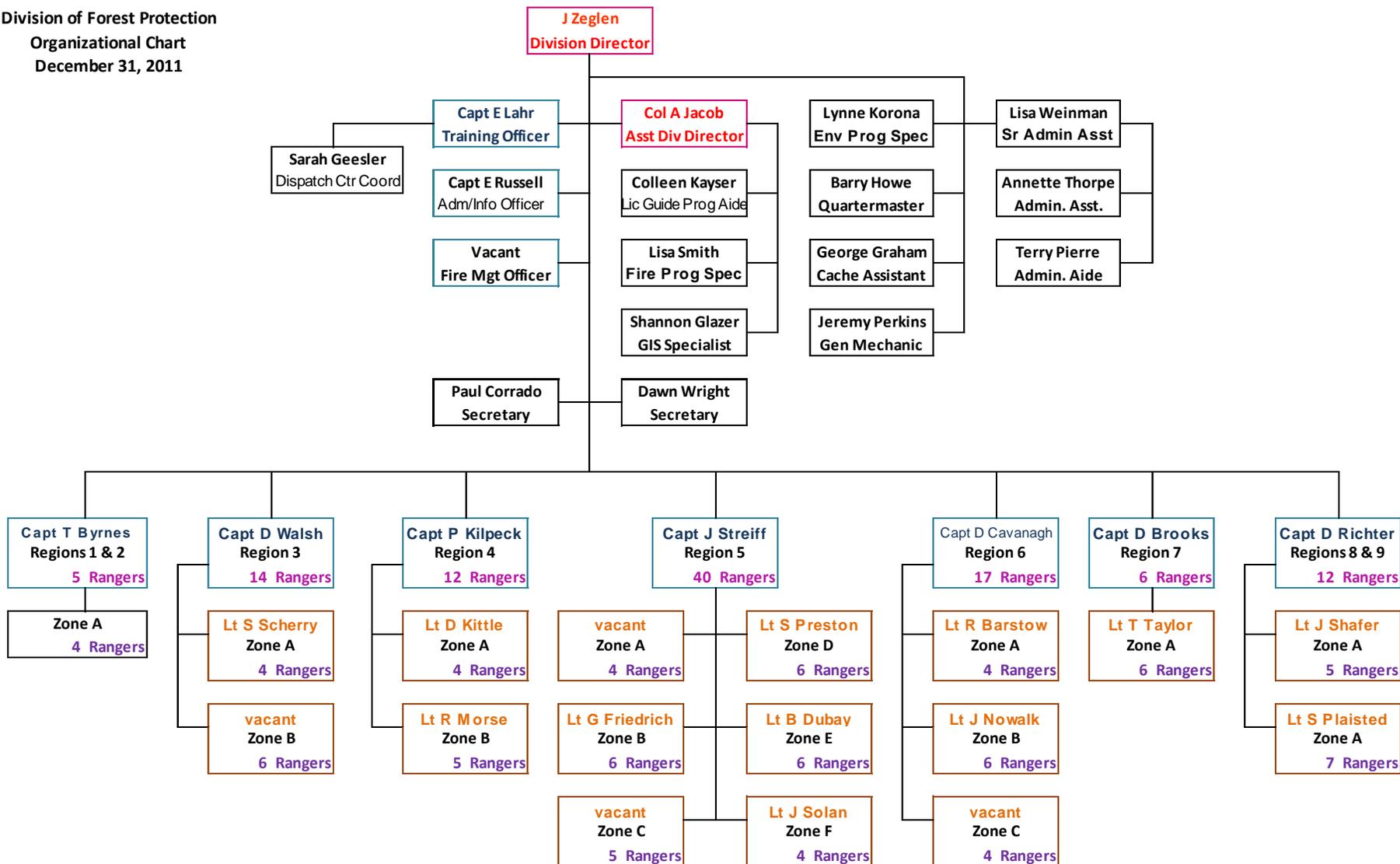
The continued national economic downturn has brought unique challenges, but I am committed to continued and improved public service, accomplishing the division's mission and supporting the department's objectives. I commend our rangers, support staff and volunteers for their many accomplishments and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

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Zeglen

Joseph J. Zeglen
Division Director

Division of Forest Protection
 Organizational Chart
 December 31, 2011



Full	Staffing Summary	Current
106	Forest Rangers	91
16	Lieutenant Forest Rangers	12
10	Captain Forest Rangers	9
2	Division Director/Assist. Div. I	2

134 Total Uniformed Forest Rangers 114



L to R Capt. E. Lahr, Lt. S. Scherry, Capt. J. Streiff, Capt. D Walsh, Lt. S. Preston, Lt. S. Plaisted, Lt. R. Morse, Capt. T. Byrnes, Capt. E. Russell, Lt. J. Nowalk, Capt. D. Brooks, Capt. P. Kilpeck, Lt. B. Dubay, Lt. R. Barstow, Director J. Zeglen, Capt. D. Richter, Lt. J. Solan, Lt. J. Shafer, Lt. D. Kittle, Lt. T. Taylor, Lt. G. Friedrich, Capt. D. Cavanagh, Col. A. Jacob

2011 Annual Report Statewide Highlights

Division Mission

The Division of Forest Protection (forest rangers) is responsible for protecting 5.0 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 New York has substantial state land resources. Forest rangers have 125 years of law enforcement history protecting public lands and the people who use those resources.

365-Day, 24-Hour Responsibility

The division's forest rangers continue their historic tradition of providing police, wildland fire, search and rescue, and emergency medical services to protect state lands and the people using them. The direct professional contact rangers make with the public is an essential service for both residents and visitors to the state. Information rangers provide helps enhance people's enjoyment and safety as rangers protect the land resources from which we all benefit. This service is a 365-day responsibility for every ranger. Historically, summer hiking/camping and fall hunting seasons were the primary periods of state-land use. However, in recent years, the use of state lands has expanded throughout the entire year, with summer and fall weekends as peak-use periods. Rangers use the Leave-No-Trace (LNT) Program to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation on public lands through education, research and partnerships. Rangers issued 2,093 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 2,034 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during the off-season. Routine patrols included 69,923 inspections of trailhead access points and inspections of 3,428 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

Law Enforcement on State Lands

Continuing a trend of several years, the most problematic activity encountered by rangers was the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles on state land. In 2011, forest rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 449 violations involving ATVs and another 614 tickets or arrests for snowmobile offenses. Another 170 violations involved the unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land. Rangers executed enforcement actions in response to 151 violations in department campgrounds and another 736 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in rangers making 85 arrests for illegal possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years of age. Rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 478 offenses related to protecting state lands and 178 fish and wildlife law offenses that occurred on or near state land.

Search-and-Rescue Responsibility

An important part of protecting the people who use New York State's natural resources is wildland search and rescue. The need to find and rescue lost or injured people in wild or remote locations often arises. Throughout 2011, 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 2011, forest rangers conducted 173 search missions, 102 rescues, 6 recoveries and 2 fugitive searches. Seventy-four percent (209) of these incidents occurred on state lands. Most of them were resolved in one or two days, but several searches lasted for a week or more, incurring thousands of hours of search time. Although hikers are the group most often reported lost or injured, people suffering from dementia or mental illness are often the most difficult to find. Rescue and recovery missions are frequently complicated by the nature of wildland recreational activity. Ice-climbing rescue requires special training and equipment. White-water boating activities require rangers to prepare for fast-moving water rescue, sometimes in the most remote and inaccessible areas of the state. Snowmobiling accidents require rangers to be prepared to treat potentially serious injuries in cold weather and remote locations. The prevailing motto within the division, "If it was easy, someone else would do it," reflects the nature and complexity of search-and-rescue missions conducted by forest rangers. During the response to Hurricane Irene in late August, followed by the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee in early September, rangers used their airboats and rescue kayaks to save or evacuate many people throughout the Adirondacks and the watersheds of the Schoharie and Susquehanna rivers.

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 2011, rangers presented 45 NYS Basic Wildland Search courses to 872 participants. Another 72 presentations, covering wilderness first aid, advanced search-and-rescue training and incident management were given to 1,507 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 2011, forest rangers reported 47 wildfires which burned a total of 232 acres. This was the lowest occurrence of wildfire reported by forest rangers in their 125-year history. During the last 25 years, rangers responded to an average of 282 wildfires per year burning an average total of 2,644 acres per year. In 2008, the 2,855-acre Overlooks Fire severely burned Minnewaska State Park in Ulster County. New York's largest wildfire in 2011 occurred in Monroe County on the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area. This 145-acre fire burned through a large open wetland characteristic of the area and was determined to have been ignited by smoking activity. On November 9, a 29-acre arson-caused fire burned across the DeGrasse State Forest in the Town of Russell, St. Lawrence County. Another smoking-related fire occurred on November 13 in the Town of Bristol, Ontario County, burning a total of 11.5 acres.

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 230 volunteer firefighters the basics of

wildfire suppression. On four occasions, rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 72 firefighters, state employees, students and volunteers completed this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 18 training sessions to 311 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 two four-hour training sessions to 180 inmates.

Wildfire Prevention

The best way to reduce wildfire occurrence is to prevent fires from starting. Rangers gave 60 prevention presentations to 12,130 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 47 wildfires extinguished by the division in 2011, rangers did not attribute any fire to the actions of children. This statistic stands as a tribute to the effectiveness of the 67-year Smokey Bear campaign at preventing wildfires started by children and adults.

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 3,543 burning permits as required by the NYS Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 176 of the permitted burns to insure compliance with the terms of the permits. In addition, they issued tickets or made arrests for 33 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 16 through May 14. Forest rangers and environmental conservation officers (ECOs) made 693 arrests for those violating the state's open burning regulations. As a result, New Yorkers experienced a 25 percent reduction in the number of wildfires caused by debris burning during the ban period in 2010 and 2011 as compared to the previous ten-year average. Many rural fire departments supported the burn ban with public announcements. As a result, 861 towns and cities had fewer wildfires caused by debris burning in 2010 and 2011 as compared to the previous five-year average, 32 had the same number of fires, and 105 towns actually had more fires than their previous five-year average.

National Response to Wildfires



4A Fire, Apalachicola National Forest, Florida, June 8-22, 2011. Ranger Carpenter served as an Engine Boss.

In 2011, 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 division did send four of its specially trained and experienced rangers to national wildfire incidents as single resources. Ranger Timothy Carpenter responded to the Apalachicola National Forest in Florida on June 8 as an engine boss on the 4A Fire. Ranger Bryan

Gallagher was dispatched to Arizona's Wallow Fire on June 9 as an ordering manager. On June 26, Ranger Steven Ovitt accepted an operation section chief (OPS) assignment with the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission assigned to the 21,220-acre Race Pond Fire in Georgia. On July 19, Ranger David Russell accepted an assignment with the Compact wildfire prevention and education team to Kisatchie National Forest in Pineville, Louisiana.

Prescribed Fire

In 2011, 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 165 acres. Rangers also assisted federal and county partners and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with three prescribed burns on their properties, treating seven 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 2011, 475 qualifying fire departments received VFA grants of \$1,000 each. Not only does this program place much needed dollars in the hands of rural fire departments, it also furthers the solid working relationship between forest rangers and the volunteer firefighter service.

Support to Other Agencies

Forest rangers provide 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 586 occasions in 2011. 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. Almost every ranger in the state was involved at one time or another with the state's response to Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee in August and September. Rangers staffed several state and county emergency operations centers as DEC agency-representatives to the local response. In addition, Ranger Jim Prunoske was one of the unified commanders of the state incident management team (IMT) assigned to Schoharie County. This was the largest IMT deployment in New York since the September 11, 2001 disaster in New York City. Prunoske, along with a dozen other rangers, provided innumerable welfare checks of rural residents cut off from local emergency services by roads washed out by record flooding. Airboat operations in Broome and Tioga counties included transporting flood victims from their homes and eventually the mapping of chemical containers strewn along the Susquehanna River so contractors could subsequently remove them for appropriate disposal.

Licensed Guide Program

The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2011, there were a total of 2,101 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 191 new licenses and 303 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 134 license guide checks statewide, and two 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 2011.

Comprehensive Annual Report

The division's *2011 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 2011 forest ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

2011 FOREST RANGER DIVISION FACT SHEET

Division Members at Full Staffing

106	Forest Rangers
28	Forest Ranger Lieutenants, Captains and Directors
8	Administrative Support Staff
2	Fire Cache Equipment Specialists

State Lands & Easements Acres

3,083,299	Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve
789,823	State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple Use Areas
203,026	Wildlife Management Areas
888,610	Conservation Easements
17,478	Other DEC Lands
+ 46,358	NYC DEP Public Access Lands
<u>5,028.864</u>	DEC Administered Lands

2010 Population (in millions)

19.4	New York State
32.2	Surrounding States (VT, MA, CT, NJ, PA)

Wildfire Management Program

18	Fires Suppressed in the Spring
19	Fires Suppressed in the Summer
10	Fires Suppressed in the Fall
232	Acres Burned
9	Prescribed Fires
172	Acres of Prescribed Fire
3,543	Burning Permits Issued
176	Burning Permits Inspected
38	Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events with 793 Participants
60	Fire Prevention Events with 12,130 Attendees
33	Fire Prevention Law Violations/Tickets
475	\$1,000 Grants to Rural VFDs

Search and Rescue Program

173	Search Missions
102	Rescue Missions
6	Recoveries
2	Fugitive Searches
117	Search and Rescue or First Aid Training Events with 2,379 Participants

Protection of State Lands and State Resources

69,923	Inspections of Trailheads/Access Points
21,514	Miles of Trails Walked or Waterways Paddled (canoe/kayak)
11,279	Inspections of Occupied Campsites
2,093	State Land Camping Permits Issued
3,428	Miles of State Boundary Line Inspected
744	State Land Use Permits Inspected
2,034	Patrols of DEC Public Campgrounds
449	ATV Violation Tickets Issued
1,142	State Land Offense Tickets/Arrests
614	Offenses Related to Snowmobile Use
178	Fish and Wildlife Offense Tickets
481	Other En Con or Other Law Offenses
335	DEC Permit Inspections
44	Outdoor Use Presentations to 4,244 Participants

Licensed Guide Program

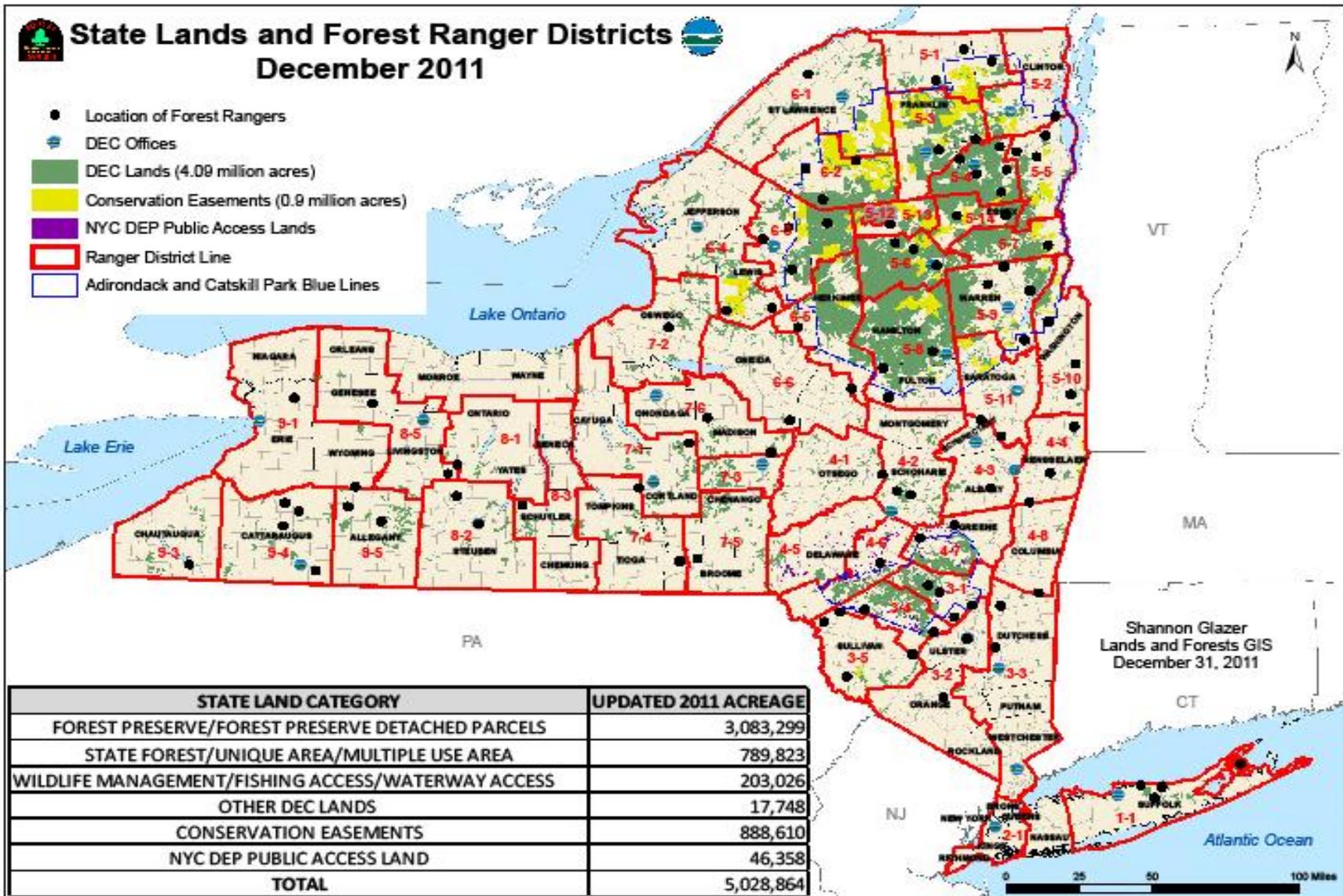
2,101	Licensed Guides on 12/31/11
191	New Guide Licenses Issued
303	Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated
0	Guide Licenses Revoked
134	Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials
2	License Guide Violations Ticketed

Other

1746	Calls for service/Complaints
586	Assists to other Agencies
106	Other Presentations, Fairs and Career Talks to 9,437 Attendees

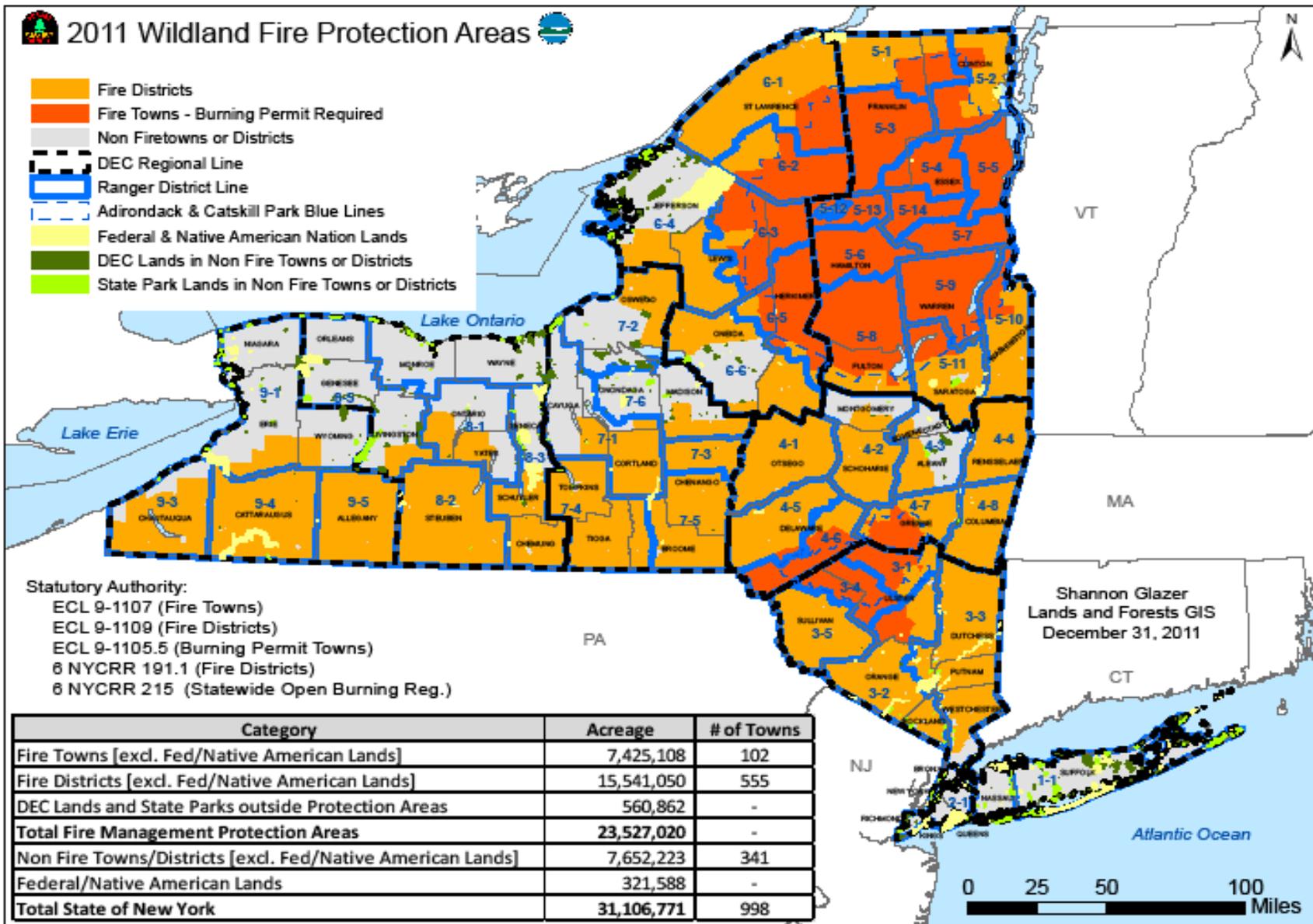
How Rangers Spent their Time in 2011

50%	State Land Patrol and Enforcement
8%	Fire Management Activities
10%	Search-and-Rescue Missions and Training
21%	Administrative Responsibilities
10%	Other Responsibilities



2011 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



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	# of Towns
Fire Towns [excl. Fed/Native American Lands]	7,425,108	102
Fire Districts [excl. Fed/Native American Lands]	15,541,050	555
DEC Lands and State Parks outside Protection Areas	560,862	-
Total Fire Management Protection Areas	23,527,020	-
Non Fire Towns/Districts [excl. Fed/Native American Lands]	7,652,223	341
Federal/Native American Lands	321,588	-
Total State of New York	31,106,771	998

Region and Zone Narratives

Regions 1 and 2 by Captain Tim Byrnes



NY Guard BWSC

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

The 2011 regional accomplishments focused primarily on supporting law enforcement endeavors by working with both internal and external police agencies. Staff assisted with natural resource projects and responded as incident management assets to Hurricane Irene and the subsequent floods in Schoharie County. Staff was kept busy teaching wildland fire courses and search-and-rescue classes.

The U.S. Forest Service invited Captain Eric Lahr and Smokey Bear to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Smokey is the most recognized symbol of fire prevention in the world and he was surrounded by other characters that were previous parade balloons. Over 3.5 million people attended the parade and another 50 million viewed it on television.

Each ranger has their own unique method for remaining active on state lands and ensuring the public is aware of state land boundaries and the activities permitted at various times of the year. I can speak directly to each ranger's accomplishments through multiple events, but there is always one event that stands out in comparison to routine business.



Captain Lahr and Smokey at Macy's Parade

On November 22, after receiving a complaint of state land clearing occurring on the Boegner Estate in Nassau County, Ranger Burkholder observed that two acres of pristine open field and a mature pine tree stand had been cleared and the land surface altered to support an illegal ATV track. After a preliminary investigation and a consensus between regional natural resource staff and the defendant, a resolution based on a consent order was reached. While the schedule of the consent order is still in progress, the defendant must pay a \$20,000 fine and plant 45 six-foot evergreen trees and reseed the area with a perennial native grass, ultimately restoring the area to a natural state.

On December 18, both Ranger Thompson and Ranger Slade culminated a years' long effort at impounding the one thousandth illegal ATV from public lands while working with members of the Central Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council's ATV Task Force. Both rangers have been very active in working with the task force, and, after reaching this milestone impound, 2011 showed 45 summonses issued for ATV enforcement.

From August 22 through August 25, Ranger Gallagher took the lead in implementing a natural resource project on the Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area, using the Army National Guard Aviation Air Assault Battalion and both regions' operations and wildlife staff to clear woody vegetation from a total of five acres on four separate plots. The project resulted in the reestablishment of open grassland fields that had been dominated by pitch pine and scrub oak trees. This benefited both the department's goal of grassland habitat management and the opening of interior spaces for emergency landing zones and staging areas for emergency response, particularly for wildland fires and search-and-rescue incidents.

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



Lt. S. Scherry clearing a blown down tree after Hurricane Irene.

Region 3 Zone A is the westernmost of the two Region 3 zones, comprising all of Sullivan County and the western portion of Ulster County. Nearly all state land holdings designated forest preserve in Region 3 are located in Zone A, 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, wildlife management areas and unique areas. Five rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

Policing the four department campgrounds kept Zone A rangers busy on weekend evenings throughout the summer. During these weekends, Zone B rangers were frequently assigned to supplement necessary patrols. Campground staff often expressed their

appreciation for ranger presence into the late hours to maintain quiet and compliance with campground rules. Lt. Stephen Scherry coordinated campground patrols, and, with the use of two 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 focused on underage drinking enforcement with the help of other rangers and local police agencies. Due to his extensive efforts in past years, only three tickets for underage drinking were issued in 2011.

Zone A staff was fully engaged in the response and subsequent safety issues following Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee in late August and September. Zone rangers supported critical roles in the Ulster County Emergency Operations Center, while performing welfare checks and transporting critical supplies to those stranded by the storms' aftermath. Lt. Scherry acted as incident command branch director, overseeing all law enforcement agency involvement for Ulster County emergency operations.

Region 3, Zone B by Captain Daniel Walsh

Region 3 Zone B lies in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley region of upstate New York. This area is considerably influenced by those moving or traveling from the greater New York City metropolitan area. Most of the wildlands are increasingly owned by New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (OPR&HP or State Parks) who, along with several other non-governmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute, Mohonk Preserve and other such non-governmental organizations, provide significant outdoor recreation for the public. Forest rangers are a presence on much of these publically used tracts through joint training and response to emergencies. In total, rangers protect 21,493 acres of department-administered state lands. 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 vehicles (ATV) are 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 an unusually wet spring leading to very few wildfires compared to past years. Rangers had prepared for a typically busy fire year with extensive training to inmates and correction officers at nearby state correctional facilities. Rangers trained 75 inmates at six downstate correctional facilities throughout the region and plan to do so again in 2012. Using inmates helps leverage local volunteer firefighters and provides much needed support for the arduous task of wildland firefighting.

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 more than 40 tickets to violators 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 nationally recognized Firewise Program throughout the Shawangunk Ridge communities in Ulster County. His efforts included helping TNC develop a community wildfire protection plan in the towns of Wawarsing and Rochester. He met with both town boards and supervisors to encourage homeowners to keep their properties safe from wildfire. Mecus and Ranger Rob Dawson taught local fire departments and homeowners techniques of assessing wildfire risk to homes and methods of fireproofing property values. Due to these efforts and the heightened awareness of fire prone conditions on the Shawangunk Ridge, DEC's Division of Environmental Permits requested ranger input on permitting requirements for large-scale subdivision review to ensure such Firewise components are built into community development.

During March, the Town of Hyde Park Police and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office requested ranger assistance with an evidence search in connection with a homicide. Few clues were available as rangers assisted with ground searching and associated mapping. Rangers Megan Dominesey and Jenifer Temple were DEC's lead on this five-day operation. At a June joint press conference, rangers were singled out for outstanding contributions for their efforts in helping to resolve this case. A 21-year old Poughkeepsie man has been charged in the homicide.

Region 4, Zone A by Lt. Darryl Kittle



Albany Pine Bush RAWS training

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 an additional 40 parcels (6,978 acres) of New York City-owned public access areas acquired in 2011. Most of these are in Greene County. Through a cooperative agreement between DEC and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), rangers are responsible for patrolling these parcels in conjunction with state lands patrols. DEC acquired three parcels of land totaling 915 acres in the Zone for 2011. Most notable was the 162-acre Round Island in the Town of Catskill, Greene County in the Hudson River, and a 548-acre parcel adjoining the Beebe Hill State Forest in the Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County. The zone consists of six forest rangers and one lieutenant forest ranger.

Ranger Karen Glesmann identified 35 encroachments on the Albany Pine Bush (APB) Preserve in 2011. After verifying the current adjoining landowner, DEC's regional enforcement coordinator, Marcia Ellis, issued legal notices to each encroaching. All but one landowner complied with the department's conditions. The individual who did not comply was issued a ticket for the local criminal court. Glesmann also worked with state police to investigate marijuana plants growing on the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area. A total of 77 plants were removed and destroyed.

Wildfire activity in the zone was limited to four wildfires, totaling two acres. There were also two prescribed burns in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, totaling 15 acres. The 2009 change to the open burning regulation that bans open burning from March 16 through May 14 significantly reduced the number of wildfires rangers needed to extinguish. A half-acre fire on Tibbit's State Forest in March resulted from a propane tanker truck overturning down the embankment of Route 7 in the Town of Pittstown. Due to the risk of an explosion, rangers helped Rensselaer County emergency service personnel maintain a one-mile exclusion zone, which included Tibbit's State Forest, while the tanker burned itself out.

Rangers staffed the DEC desk and filled planning and logistics functions at the State Office of Emergency Management (SOEM) for six natural disaster weather events and one planned exercise. These events included: Hurricane Irene, Binghamton area flooding, snowstorms in February and October and a flooding event in central New York in March. Hurricane Irene caused extensive damage to the mountaintop areas of Greene County, where almost 16 inches of rain fell. Particularly hard hit were the villages of Windham and Prattsville. Nearly all roads and bridges in these areas were compromised or washed out completely. Ranger Jeff Breigle performed numerous welfare checks on stranded residents, and DEC campgrounds were closed for two weeks. Significant damage also occurred on trails and foot bridges in the forest preserve. In

addition to SOEM, rangers staffed the Greene County Emergency Operations Center for five days to help coordinate recovery and relief efforts from the hurricane.

North/South Lake Public Campground had a high volume of campers and day users throughout the year. Ranger patrols resulted in the issuance of 74 appearance tickets. Twenty-seven of those tickets were issued for excessive speed and eight were issued for illegal snowmobile operation. Rangers Breigle and Christine Nelson responded to seven bear complaints in the campground and issued 21 tickets to campers for failure to secure their coolers from hungry bears. Unfortunately, one problem bear had to be dispatched by DEC wildlife staff. Nelson also responded to seven complaints relating to quiet hours, unclean campsites and intoxicated campers.

On December 3, Ranger Nelson responded to a report of four hikers threatened with a firearm as they planned to camp at the Elm Ridge lean-to in Wildham High Peak Wild Forest, Greene County. When the hikers arrived at the lean-to, they saw a group of three had already set up tents in it. When the hikers asked to share the lean-to, one of the campers threatened them with a shotgun. Fleeing back down the trail to their vehicle, they met with Ranger Nelson in Windham. Nelson located the campers' vehicle, as it was leaving the area. She followed the vehicle until a Greene County Sheriff's patrol stopped it. A 26-year old Garden City man admitted to threatening the complainants and was arrested for menacing. Tickets were also issued for engaging in threatening behavior on state land and erecting a tent in a lean-to.

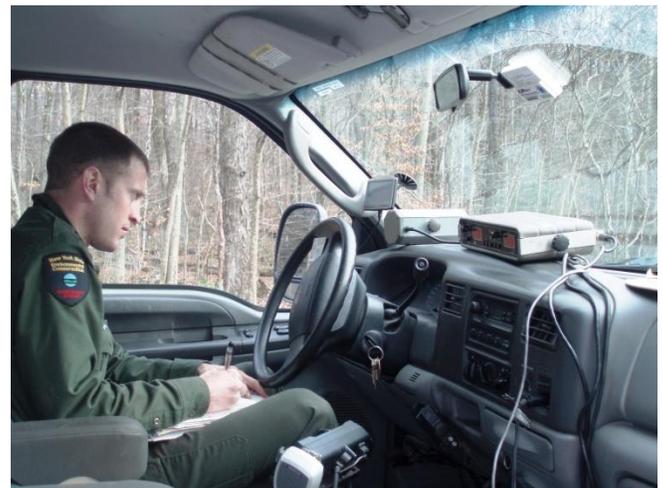
The portion of State Route 23A that passes up the Kaaterskill Clove, Town of Hunter, Greene County, had a marked increase in public use and associated problems. The area is particularly popular during the summer months, and hundreds of people come daily to enjoy the forest preserve swimming holes on the Kaaterskill Creek. Limited parking results in large numbers of illegally parked vehicles along this narrow and winding roadway. A large amount of garbage is often left behind on busy weekends. In 2011, Ranger Nelson and other zone rangers issued 180 parking tickets and 35 appearance tickets for assorted state land offenses.

There was an unusually high number of search and rescue incidents in Zone 4A in 2011, especially incidents in which the subject died. In February, a 50-year-old Stony Point man, who was a counselor at Camp Trimount, died from an apparent heart attack while leading a hike up Thomas Cole Mountain. In July, a 27-year-old Kingston man fell off a 60-foot waterfall in the Platte Clove area while taking photographs and died from his injuries. In August, rangers assisted state police with a search for a 57-year old Ghent man who was found deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. In October, a 51-year old Schenectady man died of natural causes on the Escarpment Trail near Inspiration Point.

Region 4, Zone B by Lt. Robert Morse

Region 4, Zone B consists of Delaware, Otsego, Montgomery and Schoharie counties, encompassing 3,504 square miles. The zone comprises 3 wild forest areas totaling 34,810 acres, 14 state forest units covering 76,125 acres, 4 wildlife management areas totaling 7,352 acres and 9 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 four forest rangers and one lieutenant.

Zone 4 B includes 80 miles of snowmobile trails that run through forest preserve, state forests and wildlife



Forest Ranger Kerr operating radar in campsite.

management areas. Thirty-seven snowmobile safety compliance checks were done throughout the winter season, resulting in 734 snowmobiles checked and 17 tickets issued.

On June 18, staff at Little Pond Campground called Lieutenant Rob Morse to address some campers not complying with campground rules. The caretaker indicated that the campers occupying sites #73 and #74 had been warned at check-in about leaving food and coolers unattended and that quiet hours must be observed. Two more warnings were given by staff later that evening. Campground staff also noticed there were three tents on site #74 and a keg of beer, which are contrary to campground rules. When the group was told to remove one tent and put the keg of beer in their vehicle, several of them became argumentative, cursing and threatening staff. Rangers Joe Bink and Jason Seeley met the campers shortly after midnight and quieted them down for the rest of the night. The next morning, Bink and Seeley issued each camper a ticket for failing to obey quiet hours and evicted them from the campground.

On October 8, Ranger Seeley observed a large group of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) go past his residence on County Route 95 in the Town of Freemont, Sullivan County. He attempted to determine where the group had come from or where they were going. While on State Route 97 in the hamlet of Hankins, a resident flagged Seeley down to report that a group of ATVs had gone to the railroad tracks that run west along the Delaware River. Seeley was aware that route would put them onto a 981-acre tract of detached forest preserve called Bouchouxville, in Long Eddy. Upon his arrival at the state land, another resident reported that 26 ATVs had driven past not long ago on their way toward the state land. Due to the large number of subjects, Seeley requested assistance, and rangers Bink and Dave Meade and ECO Scott Steingart responded. A total of 33 appearance tickets were issued by the officers for unlawfully operating an ATV on public lands and unlawfully operating an unregistered ATV.

From late August through mid-September, Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee caused major devastation in many of the communities in Delaware and Schoharie counties. Schoharie County government services were virtually non-existent for weeks. A State Office of Emergency Management (SOME) incident management team (IMT) was assigned to the command post at the Cobleskill Fairgrounds to reestablish a local, state and federal government response to the severe damage. Region 7 Forest Ranger Jim Prunoske was designated incident commander for the IMT with support from ten other forest rangers and many other state and federal first responders. Region 4, Zone B Ranger Tom Edmunds was assigned as a division supervisor with responsibility for organizing and directing crews removing debris and rubbish, as well as clearing and opening roads.

On June 13, a 60-year old Scranton, PA man was fishing with his brother on the Delaware River adjacent to Stockade Road in the Town of Hancock, Delaware County when he crossed the river to fish the back side of an island. When his brother returned to their previous location, he could not find him. After searching up and down the shoreline looking, the brother called 911. Ranger Ian Kerr along with several other rangers responded to assist the fire department. As emergency personnel searched the riverbank, members of the Hancock Fire Department searched the river using their boats. Early the next morning, the man's body was located approximately 1/2 mile downstream from where he was last seen, an apparent victim of accidental drowning.

Region 5, Zone A by Captain John Streiff

Region 5 Zone A covers the southern portion of Franklin County and the northwestern corner of Hamilton County. It includes the towns of Duane, Waverly, Franklin, Brighton, Harrietstown, Tupper Lake in Franklin County and the northern half of Long Lake, Hamilton County. The primary recreational uses in the zone are canoeing and camping in summer and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in winter. Zone A contains all or parts of the Saranac chain of lakes 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 Ponds, Rollins Pond, Meacham Lake, Buck Pond, Saranac Lake Islands, Lake Eaton and one interior outpost at Raquette Falls. Full staffing includes six forest rangers and one lieutenant.

During the early morning hours of January 2, a 55-year old Saranac Lake man walked away from his residence. According to the Saranac Lake Police, he was last seen in an altered mental state and was under the influence of drugs. Rangers Julie Harjung, Pete Evans, Kevin Burns, Scott van Laer and Tom Gliddi assisted the Saranac Lake and State Police with wildland search assignments in the vicinity of the man's last known location. Police were assigned to do a door-to-door search of residences in the area. Rangers managed ground, aerial, K-9 and boat searches, but after seven days, the search was scaled back due to the lack of leads and a heavy snowfall. On April 10, after the winter snow pack had melted, the man's body was located by a homeowner less than a quarter-mile from his residence in the back yard of a heavily residential area.



Illegal camp on state land.

From April 27 to May 5, with a rapid spring snowmelt and heavy rains, the Saranac chain of lakes and the Saranac River rose and topped 100- year flood levels. Extensive damage was done to the village and town's infrastructure when floodwaters topped embankments and flooded homes and businesses in the Village of Saranac Lake. A few days later, the same flooding problems occurred along the Raquette River in the Village of Tupper Lake. Rangers Harjung, Evans, Gliddi and Jeff Balerno supported multi-agency incident commands at the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Village of Tupper Lake. A division airboat and crew was on standby in case a rescue or evacuation was needed. Rangers also provided welfare checks and supported sandbagging operations along the banks of the Saranac River. Ranger documentation was instrumental to the municipalities for FEMA reimbursement.

In the fall of 2009, now-retired Lieutenant Bob Marrone and Ranger Keith Bassage obtained information about a local group of hunters from Saranac Lake who were building an illegal structure near Upper St. Regis Lake in the Town of Brighton in the St. Regis Canoe Primitive Area. Ranger Balerno gathered additional information about the structure from helicopter overflights, and eventually he found it. Balerno, Evans and Harjung continued to monitor the site to determine who was responsible for the illegal structure. On one visit, Balerno and Evans found a digital camera, which provided identification of the suspects. On November 20, Evans arrested a 69-year old man and a 57-year old man from Saranac Lake while they were using the structure during deer hunting season. The two were ordered by the Town of Brighton Court to remove the camp and pay restitution to the department.

On August 9, Ranger Harjung coordinated removal of another illegal camp in the Saranac Lake Wild Forest behind Lake Colby in the Town of Harrietstown. The camp was 24 feet by 12 with four bunk beds, a metal roof, wood stove and propane cook stove. The structure had been built many years ago by unknown people. After failing to locate those responsible, department managers decided to remove the structure. Twelve Gordon College students and counselors and three department staff removed all interior property and then dismantled the structure. Materials were carried to a nearby trail, then loaded onto an all-terrain vehicle (ATV)

to travel across a railroad bed to a pickup truck designed to travel on the rails. A New York Central Railroad employee then moved the items to the department's Saranac Inn facility for disposal.

Ranger Jeff Balerno conducted 48 hours and 18 miles of joint foot patrols with ECO Jim Cranker in Franklin County on both state easement and forest preserve. On one occasion, tickets were issued to a 57-year old man from Lyon Mountain for hunting with bait, feeding deer, operating an unregistered ATV and failure to carry a hunting license. These patrols terminated a well-established deer and bear baiting operation occurring on conservation easement lands and an isolated tract of forest preserve. Multiple illegal ATV trails were also discovered, which culminated in additional tickets for state land, fish and wildlife and vehicle and traffic offenses.

As a state police helicopter crew chief, Ranger Balerno was involved with aviation missions and training for northern Region 5 hoist operators in 2011. This included five training sessions, eight searches, two utility missions and a remote rescue hoist in the Seward Range. He also supported a State Police narcotics unit with five marijuana eradication missions. These missions resulted in the removal of 374 plants, many of which were on state easements and forest preserves. Balerno also was crew chief on several helicopter missions related to Hurricane Irene throughout New York State.

Region 5, Zone B by Lt. Gary Friedrich



Forest Ranger Praczkajlo and EPA contractor, Ausable River

Region 5, Zone B is in 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 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 six forest rangers and one lieutenant.

On April 27, Rangers Rob Praczkajlo and Glen Bronson responded to Essex County for swift water rescue with the Region 5 Airboat. Deep snowpack and warm spring weather, combined with several spring thunderstorms, resulted in flooding in the towns of Jay, Wilmington, North Elba and the Village of Saranac Lake. Rangers responded to rescue individuals trapped when rivers rose rapidly and crested outside their banks. As a result of this unusual weather event, Lake Champlain reached a new record level of 103.5 feet (previous record was 101.86 feet) and remained above flood stage until July. Average level for Lake Champlain is 95.5 feet.

On August 28, the largest natural disaster to hit northern New York State in a century began. Hurricane Irene dumped as much as 13 inches of rain in the High Peaks and surrounding areas. This deluge caused major flooding and road closures in the area's valleys. The Ausable River crested at 18.43 feet (previous record was 15.22 feet, and the average level for the Ausable River is 2.5 feet). Zone B rangers responded to calls for help ranging from swift water rescues to staffing emergency operation centers. Ranger Praczckajlo assisted the EPA with locating by global positioning systems (GPS) hundreds of hazardous waste sites that resulted in the rivers and on their banks. These sites were identified and assigned to EPA contractors for cleanup.

This September, a long-standing encroachment case on Chazy Lake was brought to a close. In 1966, the department acquired lands previously owned by the New York State prison system around the Town of Dannemora. One of these parcels was on the shores of Chazy Lake and included two dwellings. The occupants were told to remove the illegal dwellings because they were built on land the department acquired. These dwellings existed in 1989 and were supposed to be removed then. One owner signed a use-and-occupancy agreement that gave him ten years to leave. In 1999, for various reasons, he was allowed to remain beyond those ten years. In 2009, a lawsuit was filed seeking to have both dwellings removed from the property. In 2010, the occupants agreed to vacate the property and remove the dwellings by September 2011.

On October 1, Ranger Tom Gliddi assisted the local fire department with locating a lost hunter in the Town of Constable. Franklin County 911 received a call from the wife of a 53-year old Constable man with multiple medical conditions who was overdue from hunting. A hasty search through the center of the search area found the man in poor condition. He had spent most of the afternoon lost and said his bronchitis had been bad since dark. Gliddi and rescuers escorted him out to a waiting ambulance, where he received on-scene treatment.

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. These details resulted in 42 citations for various snowmobile violations and 32 illegal ATV use violations, one arrest for snowmobiling while intoxicated and one arrest for driving while intoxicated.

Region 5, Zone C by Lt. Brian Dubay



Lt. Dubay at Beede Search.

Region 5, Zone C includes most of the Adirondack High Peaks and 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 forest preserve, 365,581 acres of state land and 12,518 acres of conservation easements. 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. Seven forest rangers, two seasonal assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

On February 19, three inexperienced hikers from Cleveland, Ohio were rescued from the Trap Dyke by rangers Jim Giglinto, Del Jeffery, Kevin Burns, Charlie Platt, Julie Harjung and Rob

Prackajlo. The hikers lacked the experience and equipment to climb out of the dyke without assistance. Rangers lowered the three to safety in the dark with below-zero wind chill.

On August 8, rangers received a call from a hiker that a man was on the Marcy Dam Trail suffering from exhaustion. Rangers Giglinto and Joe LaPierre responded to assist the 49-year old Endicott man. As Giglinto began his medical evaluation, the Endicott man lost consciousness and stopped breathing. Both rangers administered CPR until evacuation to awaiting ambulance could occur. Unfortunately the man did not recover and was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.

The most notable event for Zone C in 2011 was Hurricane Irene, which dumped more than nine inches of rain in a 12-hour period. This storm permanently changed the landscape in the Dix Mountain, Giant Mountain and High Peaks wilderness areas. Rangers responded to multiple incidents during the storm, including evacuation of residents in the hard hit town of Keene, where some were rescued from second-story windows. Ranger Charlie Platt assisted with rescues and cleanup even though his own home had been damaged and his garage washed away. Three stranded motorists trapped by fallen trees on a flooded section of Route 73 were rescued by Lieutenant Brian Dubay and ECO John Blades, who cut a hole through the downed trees so the motorists could drive out of danger.

Some of the most dramatic changes from Irene are the numerous landslides and gullies caused by flash flooding. One of the slides on Mount Colden flushed through the Trap Dyke, leaving nothing behind but bare rock and talus. It was in this area on September 30 that a 22-year old man from Binghamton died from a fall at Avalanche Waterfall. Fifteen rangers and five volunteers spent seven hours recovering the body from the wilderness location.

Region 5, Zone D by Lt. Steve Preston

Region 5, Zone D comprises Fulton and Hamilton counties. The zone's headquarters is located at the DEC sub-office in Northville, and the zone also maintains an office at the Indian Lake DEC facility. Eight rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone, with two covering Fulton and portions of Hamilton County and six covering the remainder of 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 Wild Forest, Jessup River Wild Forest, West Canada Mountain Primitive Area, Sargent Pond Wild Forest, Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area, Moose River Wild Forest, Hudson River Gorge Primitive Area, Blue Mountain Lake Wild Forest, Blue Ridge Wilderness Area and Siamese Pond Wilderness Area, all of which total 809,929 acres. Within the zone are 17 DEC campgrounds, 47,043 acres of conservation easements and 6,081 acres of state forests. Zone D includes nine forest rangers and one lieutenant.

On March 29, the Inlet Police Department requested ranger assistance with a search for a 44-year old woman from Dewitt. The day before, a missing persons report was issued by DeWitt Police for the woman, and Inlet Police had found her vehicle at the entrance road to the Limekiln Campground. For the next two days, 20 rangers from regions 5 and 6, as well state police helicopters and volunteers from the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams searched the woods and trails in Moose River Plains Wild Forest. On March 30, her body was located in a patch of woods between the Moose River Plains Road and Fawn Lake. The apparent cause of death was suicide.

On August 28, while the rains of Hurricane Irene drenched the region, two men and a woman from Northville were canoeing on the Sacandaga River. The river was near flood stage when the three rolled their canoe and were stranded in 3.5 feet of water in the middle river unable to reach either shore. Fulton County 911 requested a DEC ranger airboat, which was unavailable due to similar assignments in Schoharie County.

Lieutenant Steve Preston responded with an inflatable rescue kayak. It took three trips to successfully rescue each of the canoers, who were mildly hypothermic and treated by the local ambulance service.

The tract of land known as Township 40 has been a significant forest preserve issue in Region 5 for a very long time. Township 40 is located in the Town of Long Lake and includes the hamlet of Raquette Lake, as well as the lake itself. In Township 40, there are 233 parcels of land, many of which have lakeside camps whose ownership is contested by both the State of New York and private individuals. On November 14, rangers Jason Scott and Gary Miller became aware of a large amount of tree cutting on one contested parcel. During Thanksgiving week, rangers observed heavy equipment and excavated holes being dug by National Grid, the local utility company, presumably for the purpose of installing electrical power to one or more new structures. With executive approval, a notice of violation was issued to National Grid in early December for illegal tree cutting and erection of structures on state land. Since receiving the notice, National Grid has ceased operations and removed the poles on this parcel.

During the 2010 deer hunting season, Ranger John Ploss was told by local deer hunters of a marijuana plantation near North Vly, Ferris Lake Wild Forest, Hamilton County. On June 15, 2011, Ploss located three plots of marijuana near North Vly, approximately one mile from State Route 10. With assistance from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, Ploss set up cameras around the plantations to identify those involved. By late August, after the cameras had not produced any leads to the possible identity of the subjects, it was decided to pull the plants prior to their harvest. One piece of information that Ploss did obtain while working in the area was that a gray Dodge Dakota pickup truck was frequenting the North Vly trailhead. On September 8, while heading north on Route 10, Ploss saw the pickup truck parked along the side of Route 10 in the vicinity of the plantations. Ploss contacted the sheriff's department, who sent three officers and ECO Pete Buswell. A plan was developed in which Ploss, Deputy Wilt and ECO Buswell would go to the first plot of marijuana while Sheriff Abrams and Deputy Braunius watched the vehicle. At about noon, a 52-year old Johnstown man exited the woods and was confronted by Sheriff Abrams. After questioning, the man was cited for unlawful possession of marijuana but would not give up any information regarding the growing operation. While eradication was in progress, a search was done of the trails where the Johnstown man had exited the woods, and a stash of harvested marijuana and growing and harvesting implements were located by Lt. Preston in a discarded backpack. By the end of the operation, 102 plants had been harvested from the three plots. Later in the year, the man pled guilty to three counts of violating the Public Health Law for growing cannabis without a permit—a class A misdemeanor—three counts of using state land for agricultural purposes and one count of unlawful possession of marijuana.

Region 5, Zone E by Captain John Streiff

Zone E comprises Warren County and southern Essex County. The majority of department-administered lands in Warren County are within the Lake George and Wilcox Lake wild forests and the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. Also in Warren County is a portion of the Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area, six DEC public campgrounds with 1,284 campsites combined, Prospect Mountain Memorial Highway Intensive Use Area and the Hudson River Special Management Area. State 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. Rangers also have security responsibilities at the Putts Pond, Paradox Lake, Sharp Bridge, Lake Luzerne and Fourth Lake public campgrounds, along with the Scarroon Manor Day Use Area. At full staffing, eight rangers and one lieutenant protect 369,397 acres of forest preserve and 744 acres of non-forest preserve state land.

On June 27, a 25-year-old Washington, DC woman sent a text message to her father that she and her two hiking companions were lost on Crane Mountain. No further texts were received. The woman's father contacted state police and then Ray Brook Dispatch. By chance, Ranger Steve Ovitt, in Georgia on an out-of-state wildfire

assignment, was calling to check in with Ray Brook Dispatch. With information from Ovitt, Dispatcher Alicia Bodmer was able to direct Ranger Evan Donegan to a drainage below the outlet of Crane Mountain Pond. Donegan found the three women in good health and escorted them to the trailhead and their vehicle.

Log Bay Day, a gathering of hundreds of boats and thousands of partiers, was again held on the last Monday of July in and around Log Bay on Lake George. Log Bay itself is a picturesque shallow bay located in the Town of Bolton, Warren County. The eastern shoreline is state forest preserve in the Shelving Rock Special Management Area. On July 25, 16 rangers, 2 lieutenants and police from county and state agencies, lead by Lieutenant John Solan, were assigned to the Log Bay Area from 10:00 AM to midnight. More than 2,000 people attended, many accessing the bay via the forest preserve. In excess of 100 arrests were made by all assigned police units combined. Offenses ranged from violations of state land use to illegal drug use and driving while intoxicated. During the event, rangers Mark St. Claire, Chuck Kabrehl and Dave Kallen were summoned to a boat for a man who was unconscious and not breathing. Rangers waded to the boat and began CPR. Lake George Park Commission boat patrols could not immediately reach the man due to the congestion of boats in Log Bay. Eventually a patrol boat did reach the boat, and the man was transported to an ambulance where he regained consciousness.

On November 17, a 45-year old man from Bakers Mills fell 25 feet from his hunting tree stand, sustaining arm and ankle injuries. Unable to obtain cell service, he crawled for three hours before he could call a family member for help. His family called Warren County 911, who contacted Ray Brook Dispatch for assistance. Rangers Rick Schroeder and Chuck Kabrehl responded along with local emergency services. The man was carried out through wet terrain and across three streams before being transported by Johnsbury ambulance. He was then airlifted to Albany Medical Center. Rangers later found the tree stand and issued him a ticket for storage of personnel property on state land.

Region 5, Zone F by Lt. John Solan

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

On March 6, Saratoga Springs Police asked rangers to help them search for a 19-year-old man from Briarcliff Manor who was partying with friends at Skidmore College. A security camera inside a doctor's office showed the young man staggering, barefoot, bleeding and wearing nothing other than a shirt and shorts earlier that day. Police suspected he had broken into the office after a night of drinking and that he would eventually contact friends on his own. By late in the evening on March 6, 2011, police and family members grew increasingly concerned that the man had not returned. Rangers began searching on March 7 after an overnight snowstorm subsided. Searchers located a possible set of footprints that had been snowed in leading to the bank of Slade Brook, not far from the doctor's office where the intrusion was filmed. It was not possible to determine whether the depressions in the 12 inches of new snow were human footprints. After a full day of searching the land, the search was expanded to include Slade Brook. Using special coldwater rescue suits, searchers found the man's body under ice a few feet downstream from the presumed footprints. Investigators speculate that he

stumbled into the brook and drowned shortly after leaving the doctor's office. Police continued to investigate the incident, especially in regard to the source of alcohol at the parties.

Ranger Tony Goetke, with the help of rangers from Washington County, organized several after-dark state land security details on state forests in Saratoga County to curb underage drinking and associated state land damage. Several arrests were made in late summer leading to fewer parties in state forests. Neighbors were particularly pleased with the efforts, which reduced late night noise and litter.

Zone F includes a 30-mile network of snowmobile trails on conservation easement lands and forest preserve in northwestern Saratoga County. Heavy snow during the 2010-2011 winter encouraged an exceptional amount of snowmobile use on these trails. Rangers coordinated patrols with other county and state police agencies. During peak weekend use, more than 100 snowmobiles per hour passed through safety and enforcement checkpoints.

Region 6, Zone A by Lt. Robert Barstow

Zone A consists entirely of Saint Lawrence County at 2,842 square miles, geographically the largest county in New York. It 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. Six forest rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.



Ranger Scanlon teaching S130 at the SUNY Ranger School.

Rangers continue to teach the 40-hour national basic wildfire, "S130-190" course as part of the curriculum at the State University of New York (SUNY) Ranger School in Wanakena. Rangers and SUNY staff developed an approved fire plan this year, including a live-fire training exercise with the students.

Snowmobile enforcement continues to be a major part of the winter workload, with some 500 miles of groomed trails predominately on state land and easements. In coordination with other law enforcement agencies, rangers provide a safe environment with numerous safety checkpoints that include speed enforcement and sobriety checks. On February 26, while patrolling Cranberry Lake

Wild Forest, rangers Scott Murphy and Jay Terry observed two snowmobiles cross Route 3 without stopping. Both snowmobilers failed to stop when the rangers ordered them to do so. Murphy was able to get to the next trail intersection with his patrol vehicle, where he stopped one of the operators. The other operator turned around and attempted to flee by jumping a 20-foot snowbank and crashing onto the parking lot of the Cranberry Lake Fire Department. Ranger Terry arrived at the firehouse as the crash happened, and, after a short scuffle, he was able to arrest the operator—a 24-year old man from Ogdensburg. A search of the suspect and his belongings revealed a backpack with \$18,323 in small bills. The US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in Plattsburgh was notified and responded to the scene. The suspect was the focus of an ongoing federal drug investigation in Saint Lawrence County. After he was arraigned on 13 snowmobiling violations, he was taken into custody by DEA.

Between Feb 17 and March 21, Ranger Will Benzel responded to three different incidents where motorists followed their global positioning system (GPS) units onto a groomed snowmobile trail between Horseshoe Lake and the Massawepie Boy Scout Camp. All three drove on the snowmobile trail until they got stuck and called 911. Fortunately, all three were stranded in areas where they had cellphone coverage and were quickly towed.

Cranberry Lake Fire Dept again obtained a department temporary revocable permit (TRP) for their annual ice fishing derby the first weekend of March. This event continues to grow every year, and there were over 500 anglers registered this year. ECOs enforce fishing regulations, while rangers ensure safe operation of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on the ice. The Region 6 airboat was also staged on the ice to provide rescue should it be needed. One pickup did go through the ice. Fortunately, they were able to exit the vehicle before it sank.

On March 24, Ranger Greg Hoag overheard a radio transmission from ECO John Murphy who was in pursuit of a stolen pickup driven by a man whom the officer had attempted to arrest. The driver was believed to be in possession of a hand gun. Shortly after the radio call, Murphy lost sight of the vehicle, which then passed Hoag in the opposite direction. Hoag turned around, followed the vehicle and radioed State Police. They told Hoag they had no troopers in the area and asked him to maintain visual contact with the car. The driver pulled over, only to then speed away again when Hoag attempted to arrest him. Once Hoag told State Police what occurred, troopers set stinger strips on the highway to deflate the suspect's tires; however, he avoided the strips. Hoag continued to follow the vehicle until two State Police cars took over the chase. At the next stinger strip deployment, the suspect's tires were deflated, but he continued driving another five miles until police cars completely blocked him. Hoag and a trooper removed the driver from the car and placed him under arrest. The driver, a 44-year old Lewis County man, was found in possession of a loaded .357 revolver and was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, criminal possession of stolen property, unlawful fleeing of a police officer, resisting arrest, criminal mischief and reckless endangerment, along with multiple traffic violations.

On Aug 27, rangers received a call from Ohio State University that 48 students in four separate groups were hiking in the Five Ponds Wilderness and needed to exit before Hurricane Irene hit the area. Ranger Hoag located one group that first night on Cranberry Lake and evacuated them by boat. He was able to contact the second group the next morning and also bring them out by boat. Meanwhile rangers Benzel and Howard Thome hiked 20 miles during the night to contact the other two groups. All students were safely led out of the woods without injury.

Region 6, Zone B by Lt. Joel Nowalk



Forest Ranger Cornell in state police helicopter.

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

Plateau, there are now four large conservation easements in Zone B, totaling 104,957 acres. These diverse state lands host a variety of user groups throughout the year. With heavy snowfall, Zone B has the largest snowmobile trail system in the state. Cross-country ski trails have been developed in many state forests, and a network of horse trails has evolved in a portion of the Independence River Wild Forest. The popularity of whitewater 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 includes one lieutenant, six forest rangers and two assistant rangers.

Region 6, Zone B includes Stillwater Reservoir, which has by far the greatest intensity of recreational use 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 New Year's Day, two individuals were riding snowmobiles on Stillwater Reservoir when one of the sleds broke a drive belt. The other sledder came back to assist, and, when he parked beside the disabled sled, both broke through the ice and sank. Ranger Luke Evans responded with his cold water rescue suit and flat ice rescue gear and was able to assist the subjects to shore. The two were then transported to a nearby restaurant, where they were warmed and evaluated for any medical problems. One week later, two other snowmobiles broke through the ice and sank; fortunately both operators were able to get themselves to safety. Evans and members of the Lewis County Dive Team removed all four snowmobiles from under the ice.

Rangers spent much of their time during the winter months focusing on the ever-increasing snowmobile use on state lands. Numerous snowmobile patrols and checkpoints were held. During a checkpoint, snowmobilers are informed about proper state-land use. In addition, snowmobiles are checked for safety and compliance with the rules governing snowmobile operation. On more than one occasion, rangers were able to respond rapidly to a snowmobile accident and assist local emergency services with securing the scene, providing first aid and transporting injured subjects. While preparing for a routine patrol and checkpoint, rangers John Scanlon, Michael Hubschmitt and Luke Evans were told of a snowmobile accident. All three immediately responded with snowmobiles and the rescue-boggan. They immediately secured the scene and suspected the accident victim had a possible back injury and broken hip or leg. They secured him to a back board and transported him to a waiting ambulance.

Rangers spend much of their time during the summer months trying to curtail illegal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use on state land. During the past few years, illegal ATV activity has declined due to proactive patrols and checkpoints. Compliance is difficult to attain because most town and county roads are open to ATVs. Rangers routinely respond to ATV accidents throughout the zone due to the proximity of their patrols and because they have the proper first responder training and equipment. On August 6, Ranger Scanlon and Lt. Joel Nowalk responded to an ATV accident on the Croghan Easement. A 25-year old female passenger from Carthage was ejected from an ATV while it was being operated illegally on a snowmobile trail. By unlocking a state access gate, Lt. Nowalk gave Croghan Fire Department emergency medical technicians (EMTs) quick access to the remote scene. It appeared that the woman had suffered a severe head and back injury. Because an ambulance could not get to the scene, the woman was transported in the back of the ranger patrol pickup to an ambulance. Scanlon coordinated the landing of a state police helicopter at a landing zone five miles away, and she was then transported by ambulance to a waiting helicopter. Unfortunately, the woman remained paralyzed below her waist.

In late September, Ranger Marty Candee located an area on state land where he believed marijuana had been growing. An investigation of the area led him to an adjoining landowner's property. Ranger Candee contacted state police and advised them of his findings. Candee and state troopers went to the landowner's

house and interviewed the residents. During the interview, officers detected a strong odor. A subsequent search of the residence led to the discovery of 10 pounds of processed marijuana and an indoor growing operation. A 58-year old Turin man and a 66-year old Martinsburg man were arrested for multiple violations.

Region 6, Zone C by Captain Robert 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 early June, Ranger Bob Coscomb took a large group of forest rangers, department staff and other interested people on an exploration of Ice Cave Mountain in the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area, Herkimer County. Rangers located and descended into a series of ice caves and crevasses on the mountainside. Locations of caves and evacuation routes were mapped and planned for anticipated rescue operations.

In late June, while on routine patrol in Tri-County State Forest, Oneida County, Ranger Dave Cornell noticed a new trail developing in an unlikely location. The trail started on a forest access road, where vehicles had been parking for unknown reasons. Cornell observed that the new trail was not well marked and did not lead to an area recreationists would likely visit. After following the trail for a short distance, Cornell located evidence of an active methamphetamine lab. Withdrawing from the location, Cornell obtained the assistance of the State Police to secure the scene and process evidence. This was just one of several similar methamphetamine lab sites located by rangers in the area during the past year.



Region 6 rangers at ice caves.

During the spring and summer, rangers received numerous complaints of illegal camping, underage drinking and reckless motor vehicle operation in the vicinity of North Lake in the Black River Wild Forest, Herkimer County. Rangers increased their patrols in the area, and, on the night of July 1, Ranger Chad Richardson observed a vehicle being operated recklessly and speeding at 108 miles per hour per his radar unit. Richardson followed the vehicle, which continued at a high rate of speed up a dead end road toward rangers Rob Piersma, Adam Pickett and Bob Coscomb. They were able to box the vehicle in and take into custody the operator, a 21-year old Whitesboro man, and charge him with reckless endangerment, reckless operation, fleeing a police officer and speeding.

On July 27, Ranger Richardson responded to a report of a domestic incident near a campsite in the Fulton Chain Wild Forest in Herkimer County. A man reportedly assaulted a woman and fled into the woods with a firearm. Additional rangers, state troopers and several local police agencies initiated a search for the assailant. Despite an intensive search of several days involving K-9, aircraft and other resources, no trace of the alleged attacker was located. The assault was a random attack by an unknown assailant.

On August 11, Ranger Rob Piersma was patrolling Beaver Creek State Forest, Oneida County when he observed a vehicle parked adjacent to a forest access road. Upon inspection, Piersma observed a large white

plastic bag and what appeared to be a small marijuana leaf on the front seat of the vehicle. While waiting for the operator to return to his vehicle, Piersma requested the assistance of ECOs Steven Lakeman, Ricardo Grisolini, and Cory Schoonover with K-9 “Griz.” The operator returned to his vehicle and drove it a short distance before stopping and getting out at another location on the same state forest. When officers questioned the man, he stated he had just come back from a walk. The white plastic bag was found nearby and contained, among other things, several “Miracle Grow” potting soil bags. A quick search of the area located two plots of marijuana that the subject admitted he had been cultivating. In all, 43 marijuana plants were seized. The 20-year old Cassville man was charged with a variety of state land violations as well as criminal possession of marijuana.

Region 7, Zone A by Lt. Timothy Taylor

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 Unadilla River. It 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 February, as Ranger Jackson attended to a disabled vehicle, a passing motorist alerted him to a more serious situation occurring just up the road. ECO Panipinto was engaged in a physical altercation with the male driver and female passenger of a vehicle he had stopped. Ranger Jackson promptly responded to that location and assisted ECO Panipinto in physically controlling and arresting both persons, who were charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest.



Ranger airboat operating in Broome County.

Late in August, Hurricane Irene hit New York State as it tracked north up the East Coast. In preparation for what became an event of widespread devastation and destruction in the eastern part of the state, Captain Brooks, Ranger Giraud and Ranger Jackson were assigned to the DEC Emergency Response Coordination Center to coordinate the department’s response. Ranger Prunoske, initially assigned to the Office of Emergency Management, was reassigned as incident commander of the State Incident Management Team sent to hard hit Schoharie County. Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd deployed with the Region 7 airboat to Schoharie County and later served at the Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Operation Center.

With little rest after responding to Hurricane Irene, Region 7 forest rangers responded to another catastrophic natural disaster in our own region. The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee dropped ten inches of rain on the southern tier in 24 hours on top of the three plus inches of rain dropped by Irene the previous week. The additional rain caused flash flooding of small streams and record flooding of the Chenango and Susquehanna rivers around Binghamton and Owego. Rangers from Region 7, supported by additional rangers from regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 staffed emergency operation centers at the Broome County Public Safety Building, the Conklin Fire Department and the DEC Kirkwood Office. Rangers also operated three airboats from the beginning of the disaster, logging more than 45 hours of operating time and rescuing in excess of 100 persons and nearly a dozen pets. As rescue needs subsided along with flood water levels in the following weeks, rangers with airboats

assisted DEC Environmental Remediation staff and Environmental Protection Agency staff with locating displaced hazardous material containers strewn along the bed and banks of along 67 miles of river.

Finding a plot of several hundred marijuana plants growing on the Salmon River State Forest, Ranger Jackson secreted a camera on site to monitor the growing activity. Jackson checked the site again near the end of the growing season and found the plants had been recently harvested. When he checked the data on the hidden camera, he found the harvesting had taken place just hours earlier, and the camera data clearly identified a 51-year-old Redfield man as the person who did the harvesting. In cooperation with members of the State Police Community Narcotic Enforcement Team Drug Task Force, the man admitted to the crime and was charged with a public health law misdemeanor of unlawful growing of cannabis by a person without a license and was issued an appearance ticket to appear at the Redfield Town Court. The man later pled guilty to the misdemeanor and was fined \$255.

An outstanding timber theft case from 2009 was finally closed in December using a new procedure designed to help clear old cases that have languished for various reasons. A DEC administrative law judge mediated a meeting between DEC and the suspect, which ended with the suspect relinquishing his \$1,760 bond and paying \$4,592 in penalties for the theft of more than 200 larch trees from Stonehill State Forest.

Region 8 by Lt. Joseph Shafer

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

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

For the past couple of years, there have been complaints that some people with department-issued Motorized Access Permits for Persons with Disabilities were abusing the permit conditions. Forest rangers and ECOs coordinated a plan to address this situation. While on routine patrol during the southern zone firearm deer season, Ranger Patrick Dormer noticed vehicle tracks going beyond a DEC road barrier on High Tor Wildlife Management Area, Yates County. Dormer noted that personal equipment had been dropped off at a location along the road behind the barrier and also that multiple sets of footprints originated and returned to where the vehicle was parked. Dormer eventually located the operator who produced a permit. During the interview, the operator admitted to transporting equipment and other people with his vehicle (a violation of his permit) and received a ticket which resulted in a \$250 fine and possible loss of his permit.



Ranger Dormer making firewood inspection.

In June 2010, the department purchased the 7,000-acre Hemlock and Canadice lakes from The City of Rochester. When Rochester owned the property, it allowed boaters to store their small rowboats, canoes and kayaks on city-owned land throughout the year. When the department took ownership of the land, the storage of personal property, including boat storage, became illegal under the new land management regulations. The department made significant attempts to contact all boat owners to advise them they could no longer store personal property on the new state-owned land. A deadline was established when the boats were to be removed and, indeed, most were. Rangers, Operations and Lands and Forests staff removed and stored all remaining boats after the deadline had passed. As boaters contacted rangers after the deadline, their boats were returned to them, along with a ticket for the unlawful storage.

The largest fire in Region 8 this spring was the Buck Pond Fire in the Town of Greece, Monroe County on the Braddocks Bay Wildlife Management Area. The fire started around 2:30 PM alongside Edgemere Drive, possibly the result of unextinguished smoking materials from a vehicle. The cattail marsh quickly ignited and burned steadily for the next six hours. Initially responding fire departments requested forest ranger assistance to help manage the fire due to its size and location. Fire crews from 18 area departments, along with Region 8 rangers and fire wardens worked to keep the fire from spreading into an adjoining housing development and nearby residences. Due to the fire's size and location near other cattail marshes that make up a large portion of the WMA, nearby residences were evacuated and major highways were shut down in case the fire could not be contained in the Buck Pond area. Fire crews were able to contain the fire around 8 PM. The fire burned approximately 145 acres of cattail marsh and brush in the Buck Pond unit. Forest rangers initiated a fire investigation and conducted interviews and meetings with agencies, landowners and media during the week regarding the fire and its effects on the WMA.

Region 9 by Lt. Shawn Plaisted

Region 9 is considered one ranger division administrative zone and comprises the six western-most counties in New York: Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany. There are more than 102,490 acres of state forest lands located on approximately 75 parcels within the region. In addition, there are 17,739 acres of wildlife management areas located on nine parcels. 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 contains the Zoar Valley Gorge, which holds the region's only regulated whitewater river, the Cattaraugus Creek. The region is a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas. There are many state land parcels with significant oil and gas deposits, some of which have active wells and pipelines. In 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.

During the evening of July 1, rangers David Pachan and Wayne Krulish organized a joint highway checkpoint with state police at an entrance to a popular Fourth of July weekend party area located at Chautauqua Gorge State Forest. A total of 35 motor vehicles were stopped, and one misdemeanor and seven violation arrests were made. Charges included unlawful possession of marijuana, unlawful possession of fireworks, aggravated unlicensed operation, unregistered motor vehicle, fraudulent inspection sticker, no motor vehicle insurance and failure to use a seat belt and a warning for a cracked windshield. Pachan patrolled the interior of the state forest and apprehended others with fireworks and marijuana. This detail was a success, as the rest of the weekend at this location was relatively quiet in contrast to years past.



Joint helicopter/flat ice training, Forest Ranger Kennedy and NYSP Troop A

Each year there are a number of search-and-rescue missions in the Zoar Valley area, and this year was no different, with rangers responding to six incidents. One incident involved the rescue of a 21-year-old Lancaster woman who suffered significant injuries due to a fall from the top of the gorge. Another incident involved the fatality of a 48-year-old Boston, NY man who died suddenly while kayaking in Cattaraugus Creek.

On September 1, Region 9 rangers conducted a successful search for a group of hikers in Zoar Valley. The hikers included a mother and four children between the ages of 6 and 10 who became disoriented after wandering off the trail. Fortunately for all involved, mom was carrying a cellphone. She called 911, and the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office dispatcher notified Ranger Krulish. Because the phone had a GPS application on it, the caller provided 911 with her exact location. With this information, Krulish was able to locate the lost hikers by himself and in much less time than it would have taken otherwise. Ranger John Kennedy assisted with walking the hikers out of the woods and returning them to their vehicle.

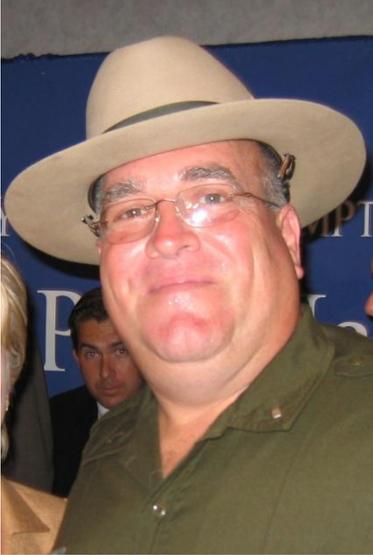
Rangers Pachan, Krulish and Flanagan were at Allegany State Park on June 10 conducting a search-and-rescue training exercise in conjunction with state park police for the Niagara Frontier Search and Rescue team. While the search team members were out in the field completing their assignments, the park police duty sergeant asked Ranger Pachan to assist with search operations for two missing people in the 65,000-acre park. Pachan organized crews, consisting of the search-and-rescue team and park police officers. Search assignments were made and crews were sent into the field. In a short period, both subjects were located. The 80-year-old man from Snyder and 65-year-old woman from Amherst had symptoms of dehydration and shock but chose to walk out of the woods aided by searchers.

In June, rangers Kennedy and Flanagan participated in a joint helicopter hoist operator training session with the state police dive team near the Buffalo Harbor in Erie County. Crew chiefs Kennedy and Flanagan rescued divers who simulated being stranded on the Niagara River. For the first time in the region's history, a Billy Pugh net was used to rescue the "stranded" divers. After each diver was caught with the net, he or she was carried to a safe landing spot by the shore.

In May, Ranger Liebig and US Border Patrol agents attended the Wide Area Search Course sponsored by FEMA in Erie County. As a result, border patrol offered their helicopter for aerial surveillance of state land parcels in Allegany County to locate marijuana. On several occasions, rangers assisted border patrol, State Police, the Southern Tier Drug Task Force and several county sheriff departments with their efforts to eradicate marijuana from the region. Altogether, 406 marijuana plants were removed from DEC state lands in

Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Niagara and Allegany counties, with the most notable being a parcel with 221 plants in Allegany County. Acting on a tip from border patrol, the Southern Tier Drug Task force seized 158 plants from two state land parcels in the towns of Almond and Birdsall in northeast Allegany County, with an additional 63 plants on a neighboring parcel of private land.

Division Retirees in 2011



In March, Region 3 Lieutenant Paul Rinaldi retired after a long career with the department starting out as a forest fire tower observer under Ranger Edward Jacoby in District 14 (eastern Region 3) at Clove Mountain, Town of Union Vale, Dutchess County. He was later appointed as a Forest Ranger I and was the first ranger stationed in Long Island since the 1950s. Paul later transferred to Region 3, Putnam County, where he remained for the duration of his career. During his time there, he became a certified defensive tactics instructor, firearms instructor and division armorer. Paul was a skilled and talented instructor, and, as a NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services general topics instructor, taught Article 35 use of force and street drug interdiction. He was also trained in the nationally recognized Firewise Program to help communities protect their homes from wildfires. Paul was promoted to zone lieutenant, a position he held for the remainder of his career. He enjoys touring on his BMW motorcycle to both old haunts and new surroundings.

In April, Region 4 Forest Ranger Frederick J. Dearstynne retired after a 26-year distinguished career with the division. Spending the majority of his career in the Catskills of Greene County, he participated in hundreds of search-and-rescue missions. Fred was an emergency medical technician (EMT) and was very active at training rangers in first aid, CPR and rope rescue. He also was certified as a wildland fire investigator and mountain bike patrol officer.



On August 18, Region 5 Forest Ranger Steve Ovitt retired after 27 years of service. He worked in Region 3 before transferring to Region 5, where he was responsible for patrolling the Siamese Wilderness Area. Steve served as an airboat operator and helicopter hoist operator and was heavily involved in all aspects of technical wildland search and rescue.



On March 30, Region 5 Forest Ranger Tom Eakin retired after 37 years of service. He spent his entire career in the Speculator/Lake Pleasant Ranger District, Hamilton County. During his service, Tom developed the search investigation and airboat programs, which he continued to lead until his retirement. He mentored many younger rangers who came to Region 5.



On June 22, Region 5 Forest Ranger John Seifts retired after 37 years of service. He started his career in Region 3 as a ranger in Dutchess County before transferring to the Piseco Lake Ranger District, Hamilton County in 1984. John was highly respected for his community involvement and his knowledge of the local backcountry.

On March 30, Region 5 Forest Ranger Mark Kralovic retired after 29 years of service. He spent his entire career in the Wells Ranger District, Hamilton County. Mark was instrumental in the early development of Region 5's swift water rescue and rope rescue programs.



On April 30, Region 5 Forest Ranger John Chambers retired after 25 years of service. John started in Region 9 and moved to Region 5 in the early 90s. While in Region 5, he worked in the Newcomb and Minerva Ranger District in Essex County. John was integral to the airboat and swift water rescue programs and valuable on search-and-rescue missions.

Wildland Fire Program by Lisa Smith, Fire Management Administrative Specialist

As part of maintaining its ability to control wildfires in New York State and support other states with their fires, the division annually qualifies wildland firefighters per state and national standards. In 2011, 162 firefighters submitted forms and records for processing their annual credentials. This included in-state and out-of-state volunteers, fire wardens, other department employees and forest rangers. Ninety-seven of these active wildland firefighters were available for out-of-state wildfires as well in-state fires. Current qualifications, experience and certifications are tracked for all firefighters in the national Incident Qualification System (IQS) database. The division had more than 700 individuals listed in IQS for fire-related support.

The national preparedness level remained below PL-3 for the majority of the season; however, 2011 was the worst fire season in history for Arizona and Texas. Arizona's 522,900-acre Wallow Fire was the largest in state history. The 3.6 million acres of fire in Texas, caused by one of the severest droughts in that state's history, also kept the demand for resources steady for the season.

Ranger Timothy Carpenter responded to the Apalachicola National Forest in Florida on June 8 as an engine boss on the 4A Fire. Carpenter's assignment was to contain fires from the most recent lightning strikes, which were occurring daily. This was Carpenter's first assignment in swamp vegetation, which is very different from what is seen in the Northeast. The southern green vegetation contains oily resin which easily burns and is difficult to extinguish.

Ranger Bryan Gallagher was dispatched to Arizona's Wallow Fire on June 9 as an ordering manager for a 20-day assignment. He worked at the incident command post near Alpine, AZ, which is a high-elevation desert where temperatures range from 85 (day) to 20 degrees (night). Gallagher led three other members of the ordering unit and found it an exceptional experience for future assignments.

On June 26, Ranger Steven Ovitt accepted an incident management team (IMT) assignment with the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission, known as "Compact," as operation section chief (OPS). The IMT was assigned to the 21,220-acre Race Pond Fire in Georgia.

On July 19, Ranger David Russell accepted an assignment with the Compact wildfire prevention and education team to Kisatchie National Forest in Pineville, Louisiana. Russell and the team spent two weeks implementing fire prevention activities to reduce the occurrence of fire during the extreme dry weather. Russell's assignment resulted in his national qualification as Prevention Education Team Member.

On June 22, retired DEC Region 1 Natural Resource Supervisor Chuck Hamilton accepted an assignment to the Honey Prairie Fire as a Logistics Section Chief 1 Trainee for a wildfire complex in Fargo, Georgia.

During July 11 through 18, Assistant Forest Ranger Ann MacBride worked at the Northeast Coordination Center (NECC) in Augusta, Maine as an expanded dispatcher recorder. MacBride used the national resource ordering and status system (ROSS) to assign and transport northeastern firefighting resources to wildfires throughout the country.

In early September, retired US Forest Service employee Howard Hann was sent to Oklahoma as a division supervisor and then to Texas as a type 3 incident commander. Hann has supported Region 8 rangers during wildfires and with other incident command responsibilities since his retirement and relocation to New York State.

Emergency Management Unit by Colonel Andrew Jacob

DEC's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) has been an ad hoc group of key department emergency response managers for the past decade. In 2011, the EMU was formalized with the appointment of Ronald Gatto by Governor Cuomo as the Director of the EMU. It comprises Major Tim Duffy, Division of Law Enforcement; Dennis Farrar, PE and Chief of DEC's Spills Unit; and Colonel Andrew Jacob, Division of Forest Protection. Director Gatto reports directly to the Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Public Protection.

The year 2011 saw exceptional flooding in eastern New York. Rangers were assigned to the State Office of Emergency Management (SOEM) for liaison desk duty at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in early February when a record snowfall hit New York City. Although they were requested to teach National Guardsmen how to operate chainsaws, the task was cancelled due to a lower than expected impact. In mid-March, heavy rains washed much of the snow pack away and caused flooding in low-lying areas across the state. The SEOC was again operational, with rangers staffing the DEC-SOEM desk for several periods. In late April, heavy rains, high winds and some tornados caused damage throughout New York, resulting in heavy flooding, road closures, landslides and tree damage. Twenty-three counties throughout upstate New York were declared federal disaster areas. Rangers staffed the SEOC DEC desk, supported SEOC operations, staffed local command posts and rescued stranded residents. All of these incidents combined were minor compared to what would happen in New York in late August and September.

New York had several days to prepare for Hurricane Irene's impact on Long Island and New York City. When it came near New York, it was reduced to a tropical storm and traveled west of the anticipated route through Nassau County. Although sections of New York had strong winds, the storm brought extreme amounts of rain to the northern Catskill Mountains and eastern Adirondacks. Entire communities in Green, Schoharie and Essex counties were washed away in flash floods, and several deaths were reported. Airboat operations were minimal due to the suddenness of flooding. Schoharie County lost its government center and emergency operations center in the flooding along the Schoharie Creek. A Type 1 incident management team (IMT) was established at the Schoharie County Fairgrounds. Ranger Jim Prunoske was assigned as one of the unified incident commanders, with ten other rangers assisting the IMT with command and field operations. Rangers performed rescue and welfare checks throughout regions 3, 4 and 5 and supported local emergency operations centers when able. Throughout the most affected counties, state, county and town bridges and roads were washed away, leaving some communities stranded. DEC's Port of Albany emergency operations center was staffed with the division's incident management team. Captains Eric Lahr and David Brooks were in command at the port and had the task of tracking and reporting on all department activities related to the storm. Situation reports from every region and almost every program came in throughout the day. At one point, the department's daily situation report (Sit Rep) was 70 pages long. Through all the work, no serious injuries were reported by any department employee. Unfortunately, Hurricane Irene was soon followed by the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee.

About a week after Irene arrived, the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee hit eastern and central New York, especially the Susquehanna River watershed. Record flooding occurred in Broome and Tioga counties. Rangers made numerous rescues of stranded residents in the communities surrounding Binghamton while supporting the county EOC and local incident command posts. As the water from both storms receded, stream damage and debris piles became most noticeable. Rangers assisted the DEC Spills Unit and federal agencies with locating the most severe debris sites for remediation. They used airboats and kayaks to navigate the rivers and creeks to locate and document the debris so contractors could eventually remove the material from the waterways.

2011 Training and Development Report by Captain Eric Lahr

In 2011, forest ranger training activities accounted for a total of 22,835 program hours, an amount consistent with the previous three years. This year, the division’s program recorded 326 training events in four disciplines. These included: wilderness search and rescue (7,972 hours), wildfire management (6,160 hours), law enforcement program (5,787 hours) and all other general training (2,917 hours). The table below summarizes the total number of trainings given to other groups or received by rangers in 2011.

RISK TYPE*	TRAINING PROGRAM	Training Received	Training Given	EVENTS
WS	Wildland Search and Rescue	26	77	103
WS	Helicopter and Aviation	34	0	34
WS	Airboat Operation	30	0	30
LE	Law Enforcement	41	9	50
WF	Wildfire Management	22	44	66
EM	Wilderness First Aid	5	0	5
HZ	Hazardous materials	10	0	10
MA	Management	2	1	3
NR	General	14	8	22
AR	All Risk and Other ICS	3	0	3
	TOTAL for all EVENTS	187	139	326

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

The following narrative summarizes the more notable trainings that occurred in 2011. While most were not mentioned in this report, all training is important for rangers to develop and maintain their skills sets. The division owes each instructor a debt of gratitude for their efforts at training New York State Forest Rangers.

Search and Rescue (SAR) Training

In 2011, the division sponsored 103 wildland search-and-rescue (SAR) related events. Each region focused their SAR training on topics that related to their geographic area. Some examples were wilderness search and rescue, swift-water rescue, high-and-low-angle rope rescue, flat-and-vertical ice rescue, basic backcountry skiing, global positioning systems (GPS), land navigation, airboat operation, snowmobile operation and helicopter operations.

Lieutenant Gary Friedrich continued to serve as the division’s coordinator of the helicopter hoist operator’s program. In 2011, helicopter hoist operators attended 34 training sessions throughout the state. The training was accomplished with the support, assistance and coordination of the New York State Police Aviation Unit. Topics included personnel and litter hoists, ground schools, forward-looking infrared (FLIR) training and water-dropping or “Bambi” bucket operations.



Similarly, the division’s airboat operators recorded 30 training events across the state. This training prepares rangers to safely operate a division airboat under a variety of environmental conditions. These airboats

continue to provide life-saving rescues on open water, swiftwater and flat-ice conditions. During Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, airboat operators demonstrated their advanced skills in rescuing many people stranded by high, swift-moving waters. Lieutenant Steve Preston and Ranger Rick Schroeder are to be commended for serving as coordinators of this training.

The division hosted 18 flat-ice rescue training sessions. These courses were delivered to local volunteer fire personnel and forest rangers. A total of 273 students were trained in these techniques.

Police Officer Training Program

In 2011, the division completed 20 annual firearms training sessions. This mandatory training was conducted throughout the year so all rangers could fulfill their firearms proficiency training. Additionally, 11 defensive tactics refresher training sessions were held. Lieutenant Tim Taylor served as the program coordinator for all use-of-force training. He was assisted in these efforts by Captain Tim Byrnes, lieutenants Brian Dubay and Rob Morse and rangers Peter Liebig, Glen Bronson, David Cordell, Michael Hubschmitt, Chad Richardson, Greg Hoag, Joe LaPierre, Anne Farrand, Tim Flanagan, Tony Goetke, Scott Murphy, Joan Oldroyd, Ian Kerr, Michael Burkholder and John Kennedy.



In January, Captain Edwin Russell attended a three-week Municipal Police Training Council course in police supervision at the department's law enforcement academy. In March, Captain Byrnes, lieutenants Steve Scherry and Tim Taylor and rangers Michael Bodnar, Glen Bronson, Michael Hubschmitt and Peter Liebig attended Sig Sauer Armorer's training at the Sig Academy in Epping, NH. In May, Ranger Christine Nelson attended the 40-hour NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation Marine Patrol Vessel Operator Course in Lake George.

Wildfire Management Training Program



In 2011, the division sent 12 trainees to the New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy in Upton. Courses varied depending upon the rangers' stated preferences. Rangers Scott Jackson, Charles Kabrehl, Michael Thompson, Adam Pickett, Jeremy Oldroyd, David Kallen and Rob Praczkjlo attended the academy as students. Rangers Thompson, Kabrehl, Bob Rogers and Joan Oldroyd worked as incident management team (IMT) trainees. Rangers Jim Prunoske, Peter Liebig and Scott Jackson served as academy instructors.

The division provided four 40-hour S-130 Firefighter Training and S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior courses in regions 4, 5, 6 and 7 to 72 firefighters. These courses are basic training for federal wildland firefighters. The division also hosted ten RT-130 Annual Firefighter Refresher courses to 160 firefighters. In June, rangers Prunoske, Praczkajlo, Scanlon, Ovitt, Kabrehl, Slade and Schroeder attended the Advanced Fireline Leadership (L-380) Course sponsored by the Northeastern Forest Fire Compact.

Wilderness First Responder Training Program

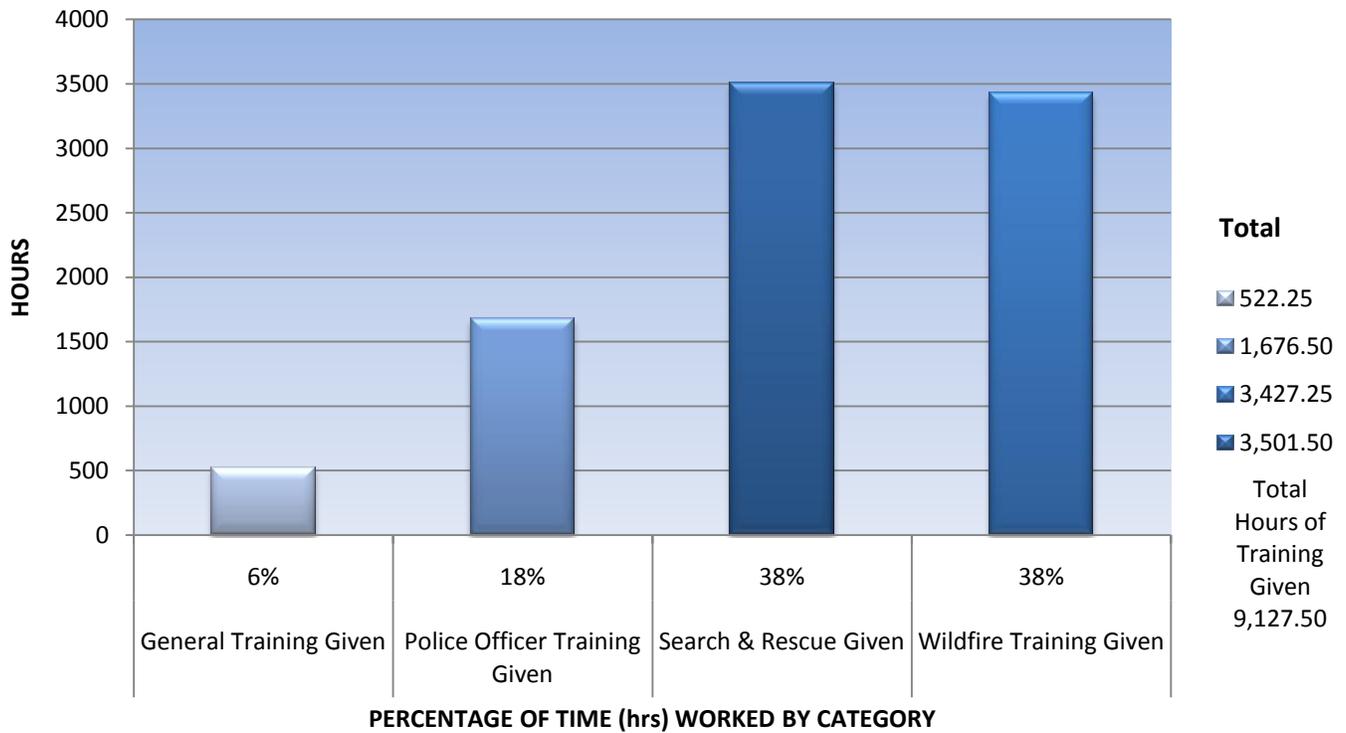
The division's Wilderness Medical Associate (WMA) instructors taught five courses of wilderness first aid. Ninety-six rangers were recertified as Wilderness First Responders after they passed an exam and performed satisfactorily in practical scenarios. Instructors included rangers Julie Harjung, Jenifer Temple, Michael Burkholder, Rob Dawson, Peter Evans, Megan Dominesey, Bob Rogers and environmental conservation officers Brian Willson and Bruce Hummel.

DIVISION TRAINING SUMMARY REPORT

In 2011, the division provided 326 training events during 22,835 work hours. The search-and-rescue training program accounted for 7,972 hours (35%) of all training provided by rangers, a slight (1%) decrease from 2010. Wildfire training accounted for 6,160 hours (27%), a 7% decrease from the previous year. Police Officer training accounted for 5,787 hours (25%), a 9% increase from 2010. Other general training accounted for 2,917 work hours (13%), the same as last year. The following table and bar graphs provide a breakdown of training activity for the division in 2011.

DIVISION of FOREST PROTECTION				
Table of Hours Worked in the Training Program by Category				
		Annual Program Hours Worked per Category		
CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	2009	2010	2011
Search-and-Rescue Training	Given	4,093.50	3,282.50	3,501.50
Search-and-Rescue Training	Received	6,194.00	5,075.50	4,470.25
Search-and-Rescue Training Total		10,287.50	8,358.00	7,971.75
Wildfire Training	Given	4,043.75	4,059.25	3,427.25
Wildfire Training	Received	3,009.00	3,790.50	2,732.50
Wildfire Training Total		7,052.75	7,849.75	6,159.75
Police Officer Training	Given	784.50	882.75	1617.25
Police Officer Training	Received	3,117.75	2,987.00	4,170.25
Police Officer Training Total		3,902.25	3,869.75	5,787.50
Basic Academy Training	Given	0.00	0.00	0.00
Basic Academy Training	Received	0.00	0.00	0.00
Basic Academy Training	Administration	0.00	8.00	59.25
Basic Academy Training Total		0.00	8.00	59.25
General Training	Given	721.00	492.00	522.25
General Training	Received	2,594.25	2,245.00	2,308.00
General Training	OSHA	90.00	178.00	27.00
General Training Total		3,405.25	2,915.00	2,857.25
Grand Total		24,647.75	23,000.50	22,835.50

2011 FOREST RANGER TRAINING GIVEN SUMMARY CHART



2011 FOREST RANGER TRAINING RECEIVED SUMMARY CHART



2011 SUMMARY OF WILDFIRES BY FOREST RANGER ZONE

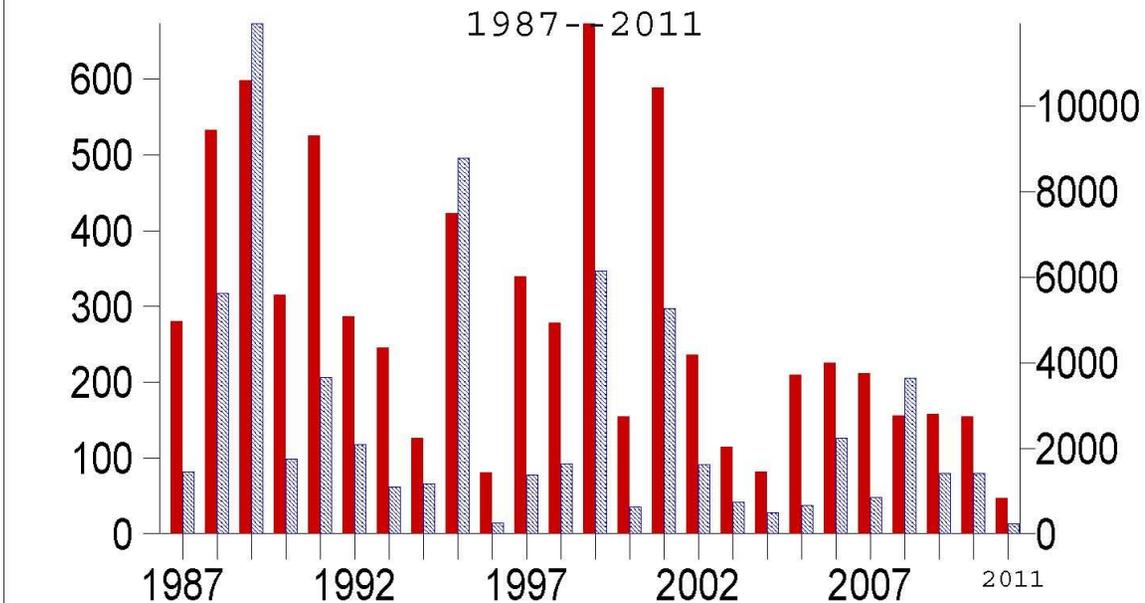
Region & Zone	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	TOTAL
# of Debris Caused Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	6
# of Campfire Caused Fires	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	16
# of Lightning Caused Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
# of Arson Caused Fires	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	10
# of Other Caused Fires	0	1	0	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	12
TOTAL # OF FIRES	6	1	1	4	0	7	2	1	3	8	2	1	1	0	4	5	1	47
# of Fires < 0.25 acres	2	0	0	1	0	7	0	1	3	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	22
# of Fires 0.25 to 9.9 Acres	4	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4	3	1	22
# of Fires 10 to 99.9 Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
# of Fires 100 Acres or larger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL ACRES OF FIRES	11	0.7	2	2	0	0.7	3.5	0.1	0.3	8.1	0.4	29	0.1	0	2.1	165	7	232.4
# of State Land Fires	3	0	0	1	0	7	0	1	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	20
# of Private and Other	3	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	4	4	1	27
# of Spring Fires	5	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	18
# of Summer Fires	1	1	0	0	0	7	0	1	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
# of Fall-Winter Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	1	10
TOTAL COST OF FIRES	\$0																	

Wildland Fires and Acres Burned in New York State 1955-2011

Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire
1955	1,720	23,127	13.4
1960	714	5,065	7.1
1965	1,200	8,469	7.1
1970	631	2,262	3.6
1971	596	2,203	3.7
1972	508	2,693	5.1
1973	669	3,300	4.9
1974	558	2,268	4.1
1975	795	2,968	3.7
1976	484	6,140	12.7
1977	895	7,016	7.8
1978	792	7,143	9.0
1979	552	2,593	4.7
1980	772	5,391	7.0
1981	655	5,540	8.4
1982	610	3,389	5.5
1983	356	1,585	4.5
1984	319	1,516	4.8
1985	644	3,666	5.7
1986	460	3,799	8.3
1987	267	1,072	4.0
1988	556	5,031	9.0
1989	603	11,730	19.5
1990	322	1,589	4.9
1991	535	3,453	6.6
1992	292	2,014	6.9
1993	243	992	4.1
1994	129	1,177	9.1
1995	379	7,334	19.4
1996	79	211	2.7
1997	309	1,218	3.9
1998	346	2,569	7.4
1999	629	5,557	9.3
2000	134	451	3.4
2001	460	4,545	9.9
2002	324	2,062	6.4
2003	106	594	5.6
2004	73	431	5.9
2005	208	669	3.2
2006	231	2,323	10.1
2007	211	855	4.1
2008	157	3,634	23.1
2009	159	1,405	8.8
2010	153	1,410	9.2
2011	47	232	4.9

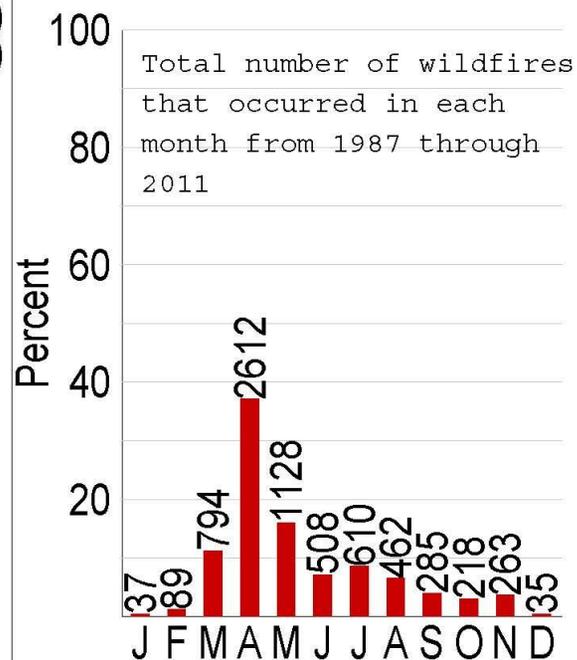
SOURCE: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Forest Protection

NEW YORK STATE FOREST RANGERS
WILDFIRE STATISTICS

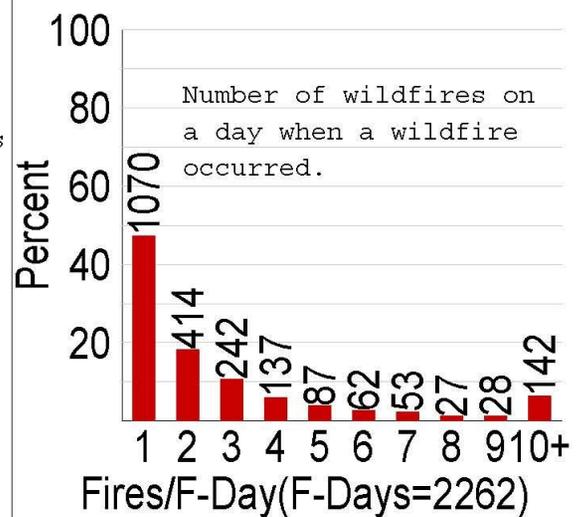
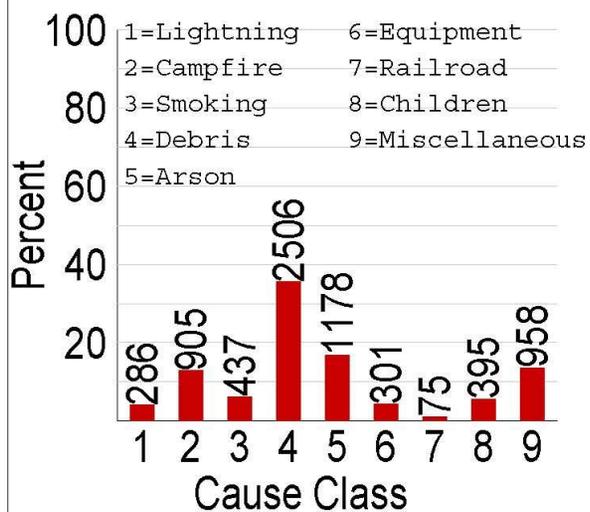
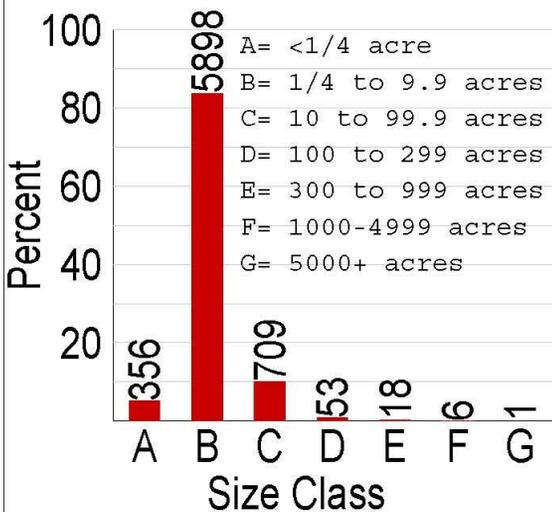


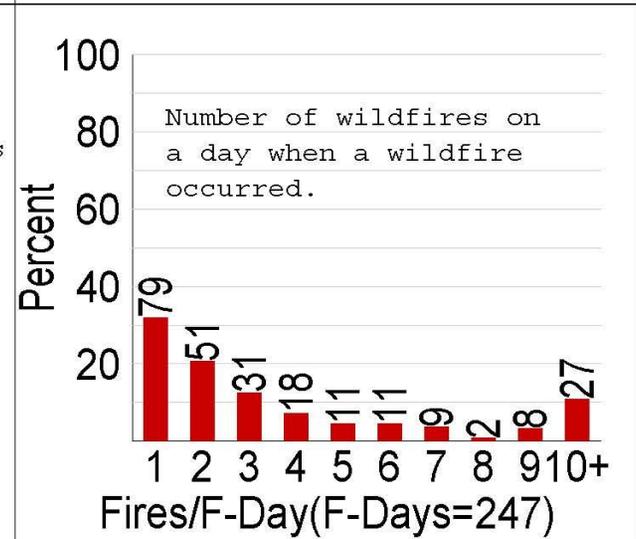
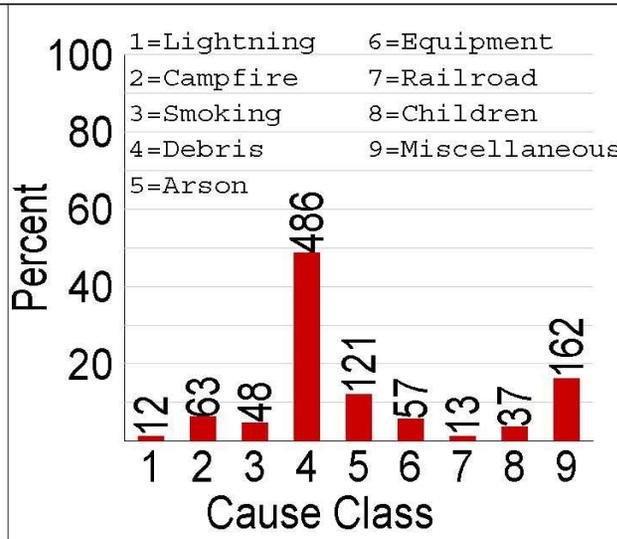
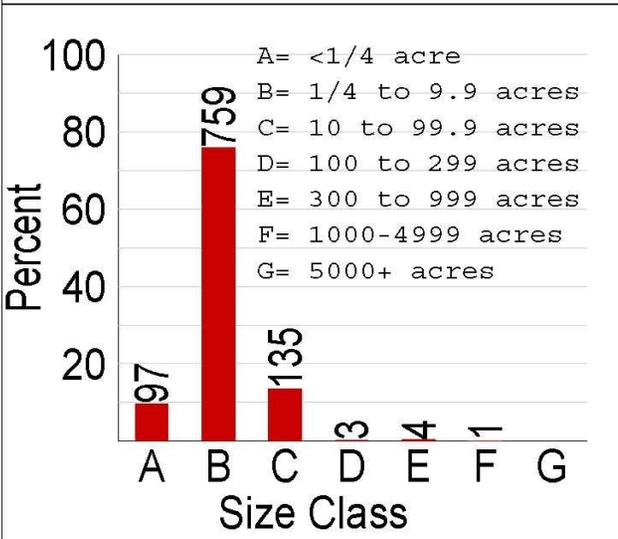
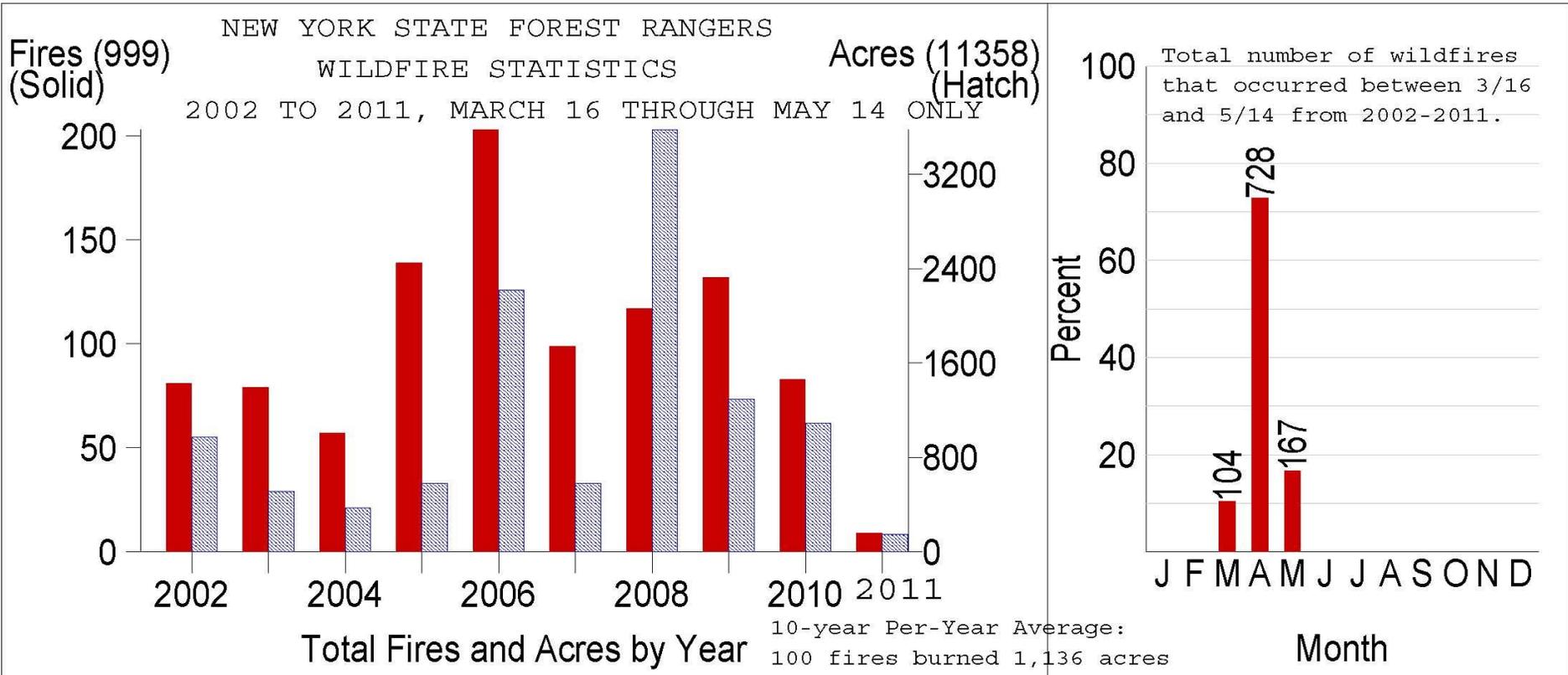
Total Fires and Acres by Year

25-year Average per Year:
282 fires burned 2,644 acres



Month





SUMMARY of ALL SEARCH & RESCUE MISSIONS

Reported by
FOREST RANGERS in 2011

Activity of Subject(s)	Total #	% Total	Searches *	Rescues	Recoveries	Costs
Airplane/ Flying	1	0.4%		1		
Biking	2	0.7%	1	1		
Camping	10	3.6%	5	5		
Climbing (Rock/Ice)	5	1.8%		5		
Fishing	2	0.7%	2			
Hiking	140	49.5%	81	57	2	
Hunting	35	12.4%	31	4		
Runaway/Fugitive	18	6.4%	17		1	
Skiing/Snowshoeing	3	1.1%	3			
Snowmobile/ATV	9	3.2%	3	6		
Suicides						
Swimming	6	2.1%		4	2	
Walking/Walkaway	24	8.5%	21	3		
Whitewater/Boating	17	6.0%	7	9	1	
Other***	11	3.9%	4	7		
Totals	283	100%	175*	102	6	

* Includes two fugitive searches

*** Other incidents include chainsaw use, horseback riding, motor vehicle use and stranded.

Number of Incidents By Day Of Week

Event	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
Search	24	13	20	18	27	45	26	173
Rescue	11	14	10	9	10	32	16	102
Recovery	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	6
Fugitive	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Total	36	27	31	27	40	79	43	283

Number & Percentage of Incidents occurring by Month

MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total	MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total
January	12	4%	July	35	12%
February	8	3%	August	45	16%
March	10	4%	September	23	8%
April	4	1%	October	46	16%
May	26	9%	November	28	10%
June	34	12%	December	12	4%
			TOTAL	283	100%

2011 SUMMARY of SEARCH-and-RESCUE INCIDENTS by ZONE

SEARCH ACTIVITY	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
Aircraft				1														1
Biking									1	1								2
Boating						3		1	3	2						1	1	11
Camping						2		2	3	1		2						10
Chainsaw				2														2
Climbing: Rock/Ice				1				4										5
Criminal		1			1			1						1				4
Fishing					1												1	2
Hiking	1	10	3	24	1	4	4	44	11	15	10	2	3			4	5	141
Horseback riding													1					1
Hunting		3	1		2	3	3		4	4			5	2	3	1	4	35
Motor Vehicle					1							1			1	2		5
Off Road vehicle/ATV							1						1	1				3
Runaway		2	2	1				1			1			1	5	1		14
Skiing								2		1								3
Snowmobile								1		1	1	1	1	1				6
Stranded		1			1			1										3
Swimming				3					1	1	1							6
Walking	1			2	1	2	1		1		4	1	1	1	3	3	2	23
Whitewater		1							2	2								6
TOTAL # of INCIDENTS	2	18	6	34	8	14	9	57	26	28	17	7	12	7	12	12	14	283
STATE LAND INCIDENTS	1	13	3	27	0	12	6	52	24	22	11	5	12	4	4	4	9	209
TOTAL COST		\$24.00						\$114.20	\$912.08				\$449.98	\$558.13	\$57.45		\$620.00	\$2,735.84

Wildland Search-and-Rescue Missions

New York State

1963-2011

Year	# of Missions	Staff Hours	Year	# of Missions	Staff Hours
1963	76	1,296	1990	259	7,804
1964	53	816	1991	252	4,290
			1992	244	11,282
1965	106	3,050	1993	241	8,907
1966	116	1,877	1994	208	5,100
1967	130	2,447			
1968	100	1,805	1995	212	6,200
1969	113	4,028	1996	236	7,700
			1997	251	6,494
1970	116	1,320	1998	209	7,049
1971	104	9,255	1999	228	4,130
1972	138	8,604			
1973	178	15,941	2000	286	10,725
1974	144	15,941	2001	261	8,768
			2002	257	10,313
1975	162	4,049	2003	237	9,382
1976	211	6,741	2004	220	7,209
1977	202	5,324			
1978	156	3,334	2005	229	10,378
1979	163	4,445	2006	226	15,708
			2007	223	8,964
1980	164	4,382	2008	245	14,094
1981	163	5,300	2009	234	6,587
1982	184	6,858			
1983	215	7,003	2010	210	13,175
1984	188	5,381	2011	283	7,977
1985	201	5,698			
1986	211	5,730			
1987	253	5,064			
1988	223	8,063			
1989	259	6,081			

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

ANNUAL REPORT of PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS and TRAINING GIVEN by FOREST RANGERS in 2011

<i>DEC Region-Zone</i>	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
<i>Number of S130/190 Training Events</i>					1				1			1			1			4
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>					20				4			35			13			72
<i>Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events</i>		1					3					2			5	3		14
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>		23					57					23			72	55		230
<i>Number of Four-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events</i>					1		1											2
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>					40		140											180
<i>Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events</i>				1			2				3		1		5	6		18
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>				23			23				52		28		72	113		311
<i>Number of Fire Prevention Events</i>		5	1	8	9	1	2	1	2	1	8		2	2	4	9	5	60
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>		1303	100	1,644	1,536	12	590	30	350	110	930		200	420	1,515	1,616	1,774	12,130
<i>Number of Basic Wildland Search Course Events</i>	6	6	9	4		1	4	1	1		2	1	1		5	2	2	45
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>	80	102	183	74		14	95	7	13		41	33	16		72	73	69	872
<i>Number of Other S&R or First Aid Course Events</i>				2	3		1	2	3	2	6	1	1	3	20	1	27	72
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>				22	440		10	50	44	24	109	14	55	73	456	13	197	1,507
<i># of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations</i>		1		5		2	1		5		3		3	15		2	7	44
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>		40		243		40	20		77		770		1,100	1,083		300	571	4,244
<i>Number of Career Information Events</i>			1	12	2	13	3		3	5	1				4	8	4	56
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>			75	462	32	515	258		110	269	35				134	711	259	2,860
<i>Number of Other Presentations or Training Events</i>	1			2	5	3	4	3	6	1	10	2	1		4	4	4	50
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events Above</i>	8			170	62	45	211	90	163	50	2457	21	55		79	3140	26	6,577
<i>Total # of Presentations and Training Events</i>	7	13	11	34	21	20	21	7	21	9	33	7	9	20	48	35	49	365
<i>Total Hours of Presentations and Training Events</i>	49	87	111	179	212	40	102	35	119	24	185	99	95	85	279	153	196	2,050
<i>Total Number of Attendees at Events</i>	88	1468	358	2,638	2,130	626	1404	177	761	453	4394	126	1,454	1,576	2,413	6,021	2,896	28,983

2011 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	12	8	49	36	17	37	67	38	67	47	21	37	30	31	21	21	47	586
# of defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment	0	1	6	18	13	2	0	3	0	0	1	7	9	3	1	2	11	77
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger	0	19	0	123	116	48	319	261	131	47	419	30	26	20	0	0	0	1559
# of Article 9/191 Burning Permit Inspections	0	9	0	2	1	10	23	11	69	1	12	12	21	5	0	0	0	176
# of Article 9/191 BP's issued by Issuing Agent	0	1050	0	95	142	0	240	0	0	277	180	0	0	0	0	0	0	1984
# of Camping Permits Issued	0	108	5	72	73	298	45	147	254	129	73	195	143	27	344	91	89	2093
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected	45	1045	625	151	261	662	433	1747	692	446	151	1178	684	169	1004	821	1165	11279
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds	14	286	24	167	78	494	207	96	340	184	13	61	2	58	0	0	10	2034
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	7	2	28	28	48	2	11	0	36	10	1	10	2	87	348	84	40	744
# of responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)	0	1	1	1	0	3	26	3	6	1	10	16	3	1	2	7	6	87
# of Guides checked for License Compliance	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	114	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	6	134
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	18	0	8	3	2	0	0	0	0	34
# of Stream Crossing Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	1	52	0	11	7	1	0	0	0	2	84
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections	74	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	28	102	41	251
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	2819	4262	3116	2515	2914	2948	3925	3819	2556	2774	2798	2579	2088	4821	6742	8568	10679	69923
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	305	125	94	180	193	117	232	18	159	177	41	69	131	778	245	69	495	3428
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by foot or paddle	884	1458	1573	1302	663	1903	1860	3234	1799	1657	866	481	458	377	1054	668	1277	21514
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by motorized equipmen	1648	580	111	463	705	992	895	761	1988	114	113	1364	1595	1708	1075	877	2598	17587
# of TOT's													7					7
# of Warnings Given						37	60	7	311	60	0		126					601
# of Boats/Snowmobiles Checked				175	734	2502	1031	100	6670	1056	1050		2794					16112
# of Tickets Written						40	39	6	85	11	10		98					289
Hours spent on Recreational Vehicle Enforcement															1593			1593
# of Recreational Vehicle stops/checks															2587			2587
ATV/Snowmobile miles spent on RV Enforcement						933	717	294	2022	637	487				2771			7861
# of Snowmobile Patrols						7	24	7	52	14	13							117
# of Snowmobile Checkpoints						8	29	4	81	18	10							150

2011 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	93	63	66	221	76	35	19	99	84	36	29	151	33	15	63	46	212	1341
NYS Vehicle & Traffic Offenses	26	39	22	191	58	17	54	22	16	24	18	149	46	56	42	14	114	908
Parks & Recreation (Snowmobile & Navigation)	1	2	9	6	16	36	20	21	37	7	10	193	66	43	9	9	15	500
Arrests Turned over to Another Agency	0	0	0	1	9	0	26	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	61
Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests)	22	1	0	0	2	1	0	6	0	3	4	8	2	4	1	0	33	87
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	142	105	97	419	161	89	119	152	137	70	61	501	147	118	115	69	395	2897
Offenses Related to State Land Use	55	48	41	130	20	15	10	50	21	7	3	103	31	11	36	20	91	692
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	0	6	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	0	2	2	0	1	3	1	4	33
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	2	3	20	5	8	9	19	10	8	0	3	6	1	0	11	9	64	178
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	45	24	11	0	38	1	32	3	8	10	12	121	40	43	16	8	37	449
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State	18	8	10	1	1	0	5	0	1	16	5	26	6	12	9	6	46	170
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	0	1	0	60	57	1	3	5	6	11	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	151
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State Lands	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	4	2	13	36	1	3	3	1	14	85
Offenses Related to other ECL or R&R	17	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	7	2	38
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	4	12	5	189	14	19	9	22	0	13	10	8	2	7	11	8	107	440
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	1	3	8	15	20	41	40	15	86	11	12	192	66	41	25	8	30	614
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests as Reported	142	105	97	419	161	89	119	152	137	70	61	501	147	118	115	69	395	2897

TOTAL of FOREST RANGER WORK ACTIVITIES per CATEGORY and YEAR

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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	69,923
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	21,514
Inspections of occupied campsites	11,980	10,501	14,888	12,564	13,501	15,319	14,006	13,873	12,074	11,279
State land camping permits issued	2,259	2,272	2,627	2,037	1,958	2,123	2,204	2,207	1,968	2,093
Miles of state boundary line inspected	5,095	3,287	2,528	2,462	2,544	2,134	2,728	2,692	2,580	3,428
Patrols of DEC public campgrounds	1,015	1,215	1,092	1,097	1,581	2,379	2,228	2,297	2,105	2,034
ATV violation tickets issued	538	507	529	520	620	745	763	680	369	449
State land offense tickets/arrests	449	438	650	936	903	1,006	1,300	1,279	958	1,142
Fish and wildlife offenses tickets	180	232	236	246	242	316	319	328	177	178
Outdoor safety and state land use presentations	88	79	149	140	125	109	125	116	49	44
State land use permits inspected	3,279	1,188	1,609	1,173	1,197	1,123	1,229	1,294	961	744
Offenses related to snowmobile use	91	78	62	74	29	192	333	480	445	614
Other EnCon or other law offenses	246	151	160	132	196	201	265	283	276	481
DEC permit inspections	2180	2505	2385	1256	1677	1076	760	753	492	335
Wildfire Management Program										
Fires suppressed in the spring	144	86	63	160	211	131	133	140	98	18
Fires suppressed in the summer	180	20	15	48	11	65	15	2	49	19
Fires suppressed in the fall					9	15	9	17	8	10
Acres burned	2,062	594	473	669	2,323	855	3,634	1,404	1,413	232
Prescribed fires	15	8	15	23	30	13	21	13	9	9
Acres of prescribed fire	132	56	149	273	330	301	211	228	122	172
Burning permits issued	11,795	25,561	20,947	27,277	26,447	19,055	11,998	11,163	3,785	3,543
Burning permits inspected		2,517	2,299	1,825	1,147	1,002	622	713	425	176
Wildfire control/ICS training events	145	75	90	71	119	91	75	104	57	38
Fire prevention events	140	109	126	95	98	112	100	135	65	60
Fire prevention law violations/tickets	173	143	153	126	155	115	112	119	70	33
\$1,000 Grants to rural VFDs	291	306	357	339	346	365	401	401	466	475
Search-and-Rescue Program										
Search missions	154	162	152	151	144	153	149	144	140	173
Rescue missions	70	67	60	72	76	67	92	84	65	102
Recoveries	12	8	8	6	6	3	4	6	5	6
Search and rescue or First aid training events	91	62	92	117	132	147	117	116	78	117
Licensed Guide Program										
Licensed guides	2,178	2,179	2,218	2,190	2,182	2,090	2,066	2,099	2,074	2,101
New guide licenses issued	274	227	236	262	185	164	207	188	202	191
Guide licenses renewed or updated	239	275	195	406	232	277	312	240	254	303
Guide licenses revoked	0	1	0	0	4	11	0	0	0	0
Checks of licensed guide credentials	347	249	454	764	135	306	338	301	619	134
Licensed guide violations ticketed	6	4	0	2	0	8	3	1	7	2

