

# Division of Forest Protection **2012 ANNUAL REPORT**



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## LETTER from the DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the 2012 *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.

Forest rangers provided vital life-saving services to the people of New York State during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. These efforts were of such a heroic nature that 14 forest rangers were invited to and recognized at the Governor's State of the State Speech in January 2012. Later in October, Super Storm Sandy, the largest storm to hit the Northeast in recorded history, had a devastating impact on Long Island and the New York City areas. New York State Forest Rangers were again called upon to assist with a wide variety of tasks. They staffed state and local emergency operations centers, filled positions on both state and local incident management teams, provided air boat crews to the affected areas for rescues, and helped clear blown down trees in many areas.

In 2012, the New York State Forest Rangers completed 127 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 wildlife program today only requires 12 percent of our time, our police activities on five-million acres of state lands encompass 51 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 programs. 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.

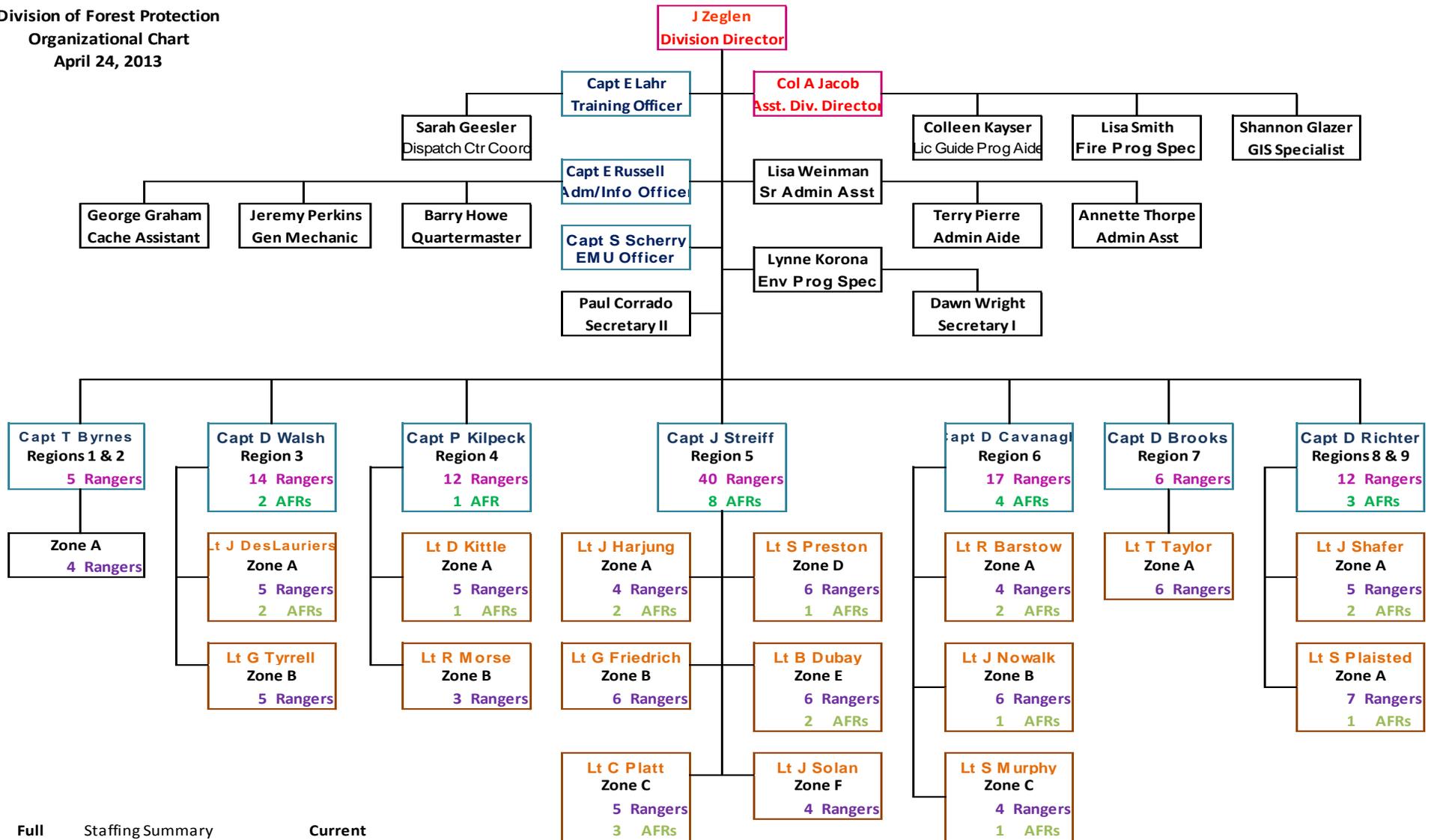
I would like to thank our division members who dedicated time to the thorough and accurate collection of data and narratives presented herein. Special thanks to DEC's Division of Public Affairs and Education who provided editing, graphics and publishing support.

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.

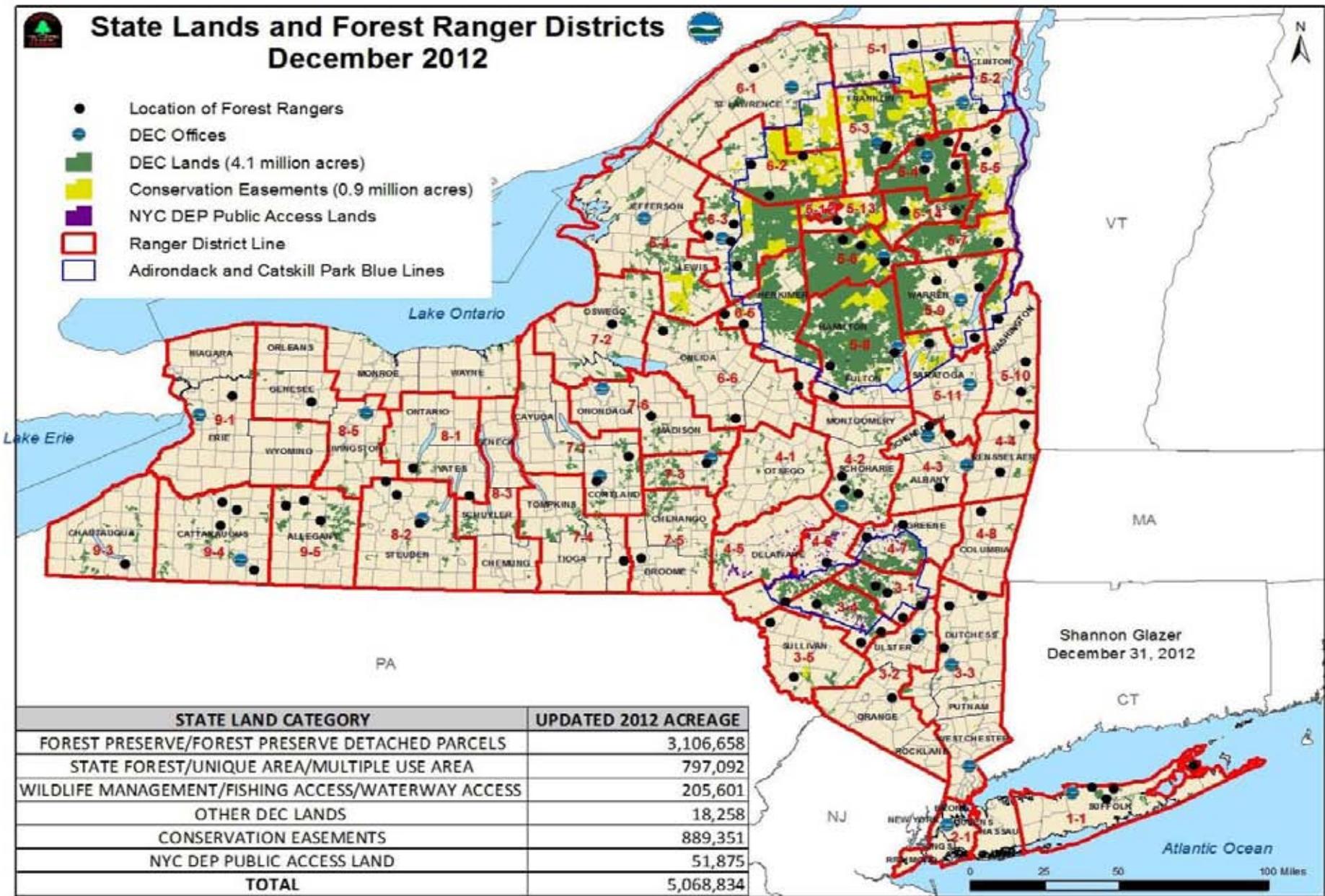
Sincerely,

Joseph J. Zeglen /s/  
Division Director

Division of Forest Protection  
Organizational Chart  
April 24, 2013



Full	Staffing Summary	Current
106	Forest Rangers	86
16	Lieutenant Forest Rangers	16
10	Captain Forest Rangers	10
2	Division Director/Assist. Div. Dir.	2
18	Asst. Forest Rangers (AFRs) (Seasonal)	18
152	Total Uniformed Forest Rangers	132



## 2012 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. Over three-million acres are in the Adirondack Park alone, but every region of the state has substantial state land resources. Forest rangers have 127 years of law enforcement history protecting public lands and the people who use the state's natural resources.

### 365-Day by 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 department state lands and the people using these lands. The direct professional contact rangers make with state land users is an essential service for both residents and visitors to the state. The information rangers provide helps enhance people's enjoyment and safety, while protecting the land resources from which we all benefit. This public service role is a 365-day responsibility for every ranger. Historically, summer hiking/camping and fall hunting seasons were the primary periods of state-land use. However, in recent years, the use of state lands has expanded throughout the entire year, with summer and fall weekends as peak-use periods. Rangers use the Leave-No-Trace (LNT) Program to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation on public lands through education, research and partnerships. In 2012, rangers made 60 presentations about the proper use of state lands to 7,048 recreationists. In addition, rangers issued 2,030 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 1,823 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during the off-season. Routine patrols included 65,701 inspections of trailhead access points and inspection of 2,079 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

### Law Enforcement on State Lands

Continuing a trend of the last decade, the most problematic activity encountered by rangers was the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles on state land. In 2012, forest rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 483 violations involving ATVs and another 298 tickets or arrests for snowmobile offenses. Another 269 violations involved the unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land. Rangers executed enforcement actions in response to 140 violations in department campgrounds and another 1,129 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in rangers making 195 arrests for illegal possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years old. Rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 325 offenses related to protecting state lands and 205 fish and wildlife law offenses that occurred on or near state lands.

## **Search and Rescue Responsibility**

An important part of protecting the people who use New York's natural resources is wildland search and rescue. The need often arises to find and rescue lost or injured people in wild or remote locations. Throughout 2012, 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 five 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 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 the state's lead agency and subject matter experts on wildland search and rescue and are nationally known and respected for their work.

## **Search and Rescue Missions**

In 2012, forest rangers conducted 162 search missions, 101 rescues and 11 recoveries. Seventy-six percent (208) of these incidents occurred on state lands. Most of them were resolved in one or two days, but several searches lasted longer, incurring thousands of hours of search time. Although hikers comprise the group most often reported lost or injured, people suffering from dementia or mental illness are frequently the most difficult to find. Rescue and recovery missions are often 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 Super Storm Sandy in October and November, rangers used their airboats to evacuate people in Queens, New York City.

## **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 2012, rangers presented 40 NYS Basic Wildland Search courses to 724 participants. Another 69 presentations, covering wilderness first aid, advanced search and rescue training and incident management were given to 2,190 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 susceptible to seasonal wildfires. The division is the state's lead agency for the control and prevention of wildfires. In 2012, forest rangers reported 177 wildfires, which burned a total of 2,146 acres. During the last 25 years, rangers responded to an average of 279 wildfires annually,

each of which burned an average total of 2,691 acres. Late winter and early spring of 2012 was exceptionally dry and warm in the southeastern portion of the state. On April 9, the largest wildfire in New York occurred on Long Island. The 992-acre Crescent Bow Fire burned through the central pine barrens area of Suffolk County, resulting in three homes and one fire engine being destroyed. The division's wildfire investigation unit determined this fire was caused by incendiary activity, but no arrests were made. Two days earlier, the 52-acre Tamarack Resort Fire destroyed eight homes and 40 other buildings in Ulster County. The owner of the property was charged with illegal open burning and fourth-degree arson. April 9 also was the first day of the 481-acre Anthony Wayne Fire in Palisades State Park in Rockland County. This fire did not damage any property and was determined to have been caused by smoking activity. The summer was also quite dry, and rangers responded to 67 wildfires. All but two of these fires comprised less than ten acres, and most were less than one-quarter acre. Unextinguished campfires were the primary cause of these fires, with lightning causing seven fires in the Adirondacks.

## **Wildfire Training**

The division's wildfire mitigation role requires considerably more time than what 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 17 occasions, teaching 276 volunteer firefighters the basics of wildfire suppression. On five occasions, rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 90 firefighters, state employees, students and volunteers completed this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 40 training sessions to 905 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 one four-hour training session to 175 inmates.

## **Wildfire Prevention**

The best way to reduce wildfire occurrence is to prevent fires from starting. Rangers gave 53 prevention presentations to 8,222 people. Many of these events were at 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 177 wildfires extinguished by the division in 2012, rangers attributed only five fires to the actions of children. This statistic confirms the effectiveness of the 68-year Smokey Bear campaign at preventing wildfires started by children.

## **Wildfire Prevention Enforcement**

Debris burning, arson and unextinguished campfires are the three leading categories of human-caused wildfires in New York State. To prevent debris fires, rangers and their permit-issuing agents issued 3,681 burning permits as required by NYS Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 142 of the permitted burns to insure compliance with the terms of the permits. In addition, they issued tickets or made arrests for 107 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 469 arrests for those violating the state's open burning regulations. As a result, New Yorkers experienced a 74% reduction in the number of wildfires caused by debris burning during the spring ban period in 2010, 2011 and 2012 as compared to the previous ten years. Many rural fire departments supported the burn ban with public announcements. Consequently, 792 towns and cities had fewer wildfires caused by debris burning in 2010, 2011 and 2012 as compared to the previous five-year average; 14 had the same number of fires and 192 towns actually had more fires than their previous five-year average.

## **National Response to Wildfires**

In 2012, the division sent one 20-person initial attack firefighting crew to the 9,863-acre West Garceau and Elevation Mountain fires in Montana from August 15 through 31 as part of its cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service. The division typically sends one or two crews to help with wildfires out of state 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 also sent six of its specially trained and experienced rangers to national wildfire incidents as single resources. Ranger Peter Liebig was assigned as the planning section chief at the East End and Low Gap wildfires in Missouri; Ranger Scott Jackson was assigned as a priority trainee on the same fires located in Mark Twain National Forest; Ranger Michael Burkholder was assigned as a receiving/distribution manager at the 98,115-acre Arapaho Fire in Wyoming; Ranger Adam Pickett was assigned as a situation unit leader at the 2,562-acre Chrandal Creek Fire at Bitterroot National Forest in Montana; Ranger Jaime Laczko was assigned as a priority trainee task force leader at the 146,832-acre Trinity Ridge Fire in Idaho; Ranger Timothy Carpenter was assigned as a priority trainee task force leader at the 181,798-acre Halstead Fire in Idaho; and Ranger Robert Rogers was assigned as a resource unit leader trainee at the 340,659-acre Mustang Complex Fire in Idaho.

## **Prescribed Fire**

In 2012, 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 eight prescribed fires on departmental state lands, burning a total of 206 acres. Rangers also assisted federal partners with three prescribed burns on their properties, treating 61 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 2012, 386 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 581 occasions in 2012. 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 related 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 Super Storm Sandy in October and November. Rangers staffed several state and county emergency operations centers as DEC agency representatives to the local response. In addition, Captain David Brooks was deputy incident commander of the state incident management team (IMT) assigned to the Breezy Point community of Queens, New York City. Brooks, along with a dozen other rangers, provided logistical and recovery support to the community, which was severely damaged by flooding sea water and an associated fire that destroyed 337 homes.

## Licensed Guide Program

The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2012, there was a total of 2,159 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 220 new licenses and 327 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 255 license guide checks statewide, and five arrests were made for guiding without a license. Two guides had their licenses revoked for their involvement with the drowning death of a rafting client on the Upper Hudson River in Hamilton County on September 27.

## Comprehensive Annual Report

The division's *2012 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 2012 forest ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

## 2012 FOREST RANGER DIVISION FACT SHEET

### Division Members at Full Staffing

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

### State Lands and Easements Acres

3,106,658	Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve
797,092	State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple Use Areas
205,601	Wildlife Management Areas
889,351	Conservation Easements
18,258	Other DEC Lands
+ 51,875	<u>NYC DEP Public Access Lands</u>
5,068,834	DEC Administered Lands

### 2011 Population (in millions)

19.5	New York State
32.4	Surrounding States (VT, MA, CT, NJ, PA)

### Wildfire Management Program

85	Fires Suppressed in the Spring
67	Fires Suppressed in the Summer
25	Fires Suppressed in the Fall/Winter
2,146	Acres Burned
11	Prescribed Fires
267	Acres of Prescribed Fire
3,681	Burning Permits Issued
142	Burning Permits Inspected
62	Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events with 1,426 Participants
53	Fire Prevention Events with 8,222 Attendees
107	Fire Prevention Law Violations/Tickets
386	\$1,000 Grants to Rural VFDs

### Search and Rescue Program

162	Search Missions
101	Rescue Missions
11	Recoveries
0	Fugitive Searches
110	Search/Rescue or First Aid Training Events with 2,923 Participants

### Protection of State Lands and State Resources

65,701	Inspections of Trailheads/Access Points
18,172	Miles of Trails Walked or Waterways Paddled (canoe/kayak)
13,762	Inspections of Occupied Campsites
2,030	State Land Camping Permits Issued
2,079	Miles of State Boundary Line Inspected
1,113	State Land Use Permits Inspected
1,823	Patrols of DEC Public Campgrounds
483	ATV Violation Tickets Issued
1,733	State Land Offense Tickets/Arrests
298	Offenses Related to Snowmobile Use
205	Fish and Wildlife Offense Tickets
325	Other En Con or Other Law Offenses
322	DEC Permit Inspections
60	Outdoor Use Presentations to 7,048 Participants

### Licensed Guide Program

2,159	Licensed Guides on 12/31/12
220	New Guide Licenses Issued
327	Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated
3	Guide Licenses Revoked
254	Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials
5	License Guide Violations Ticketed

### Other

1952	Calls for service/Complaints
581	Incidents of Assisting Other Agencies
132	Other Presentations, Fairs, Career Talks to 11,167 Attendees

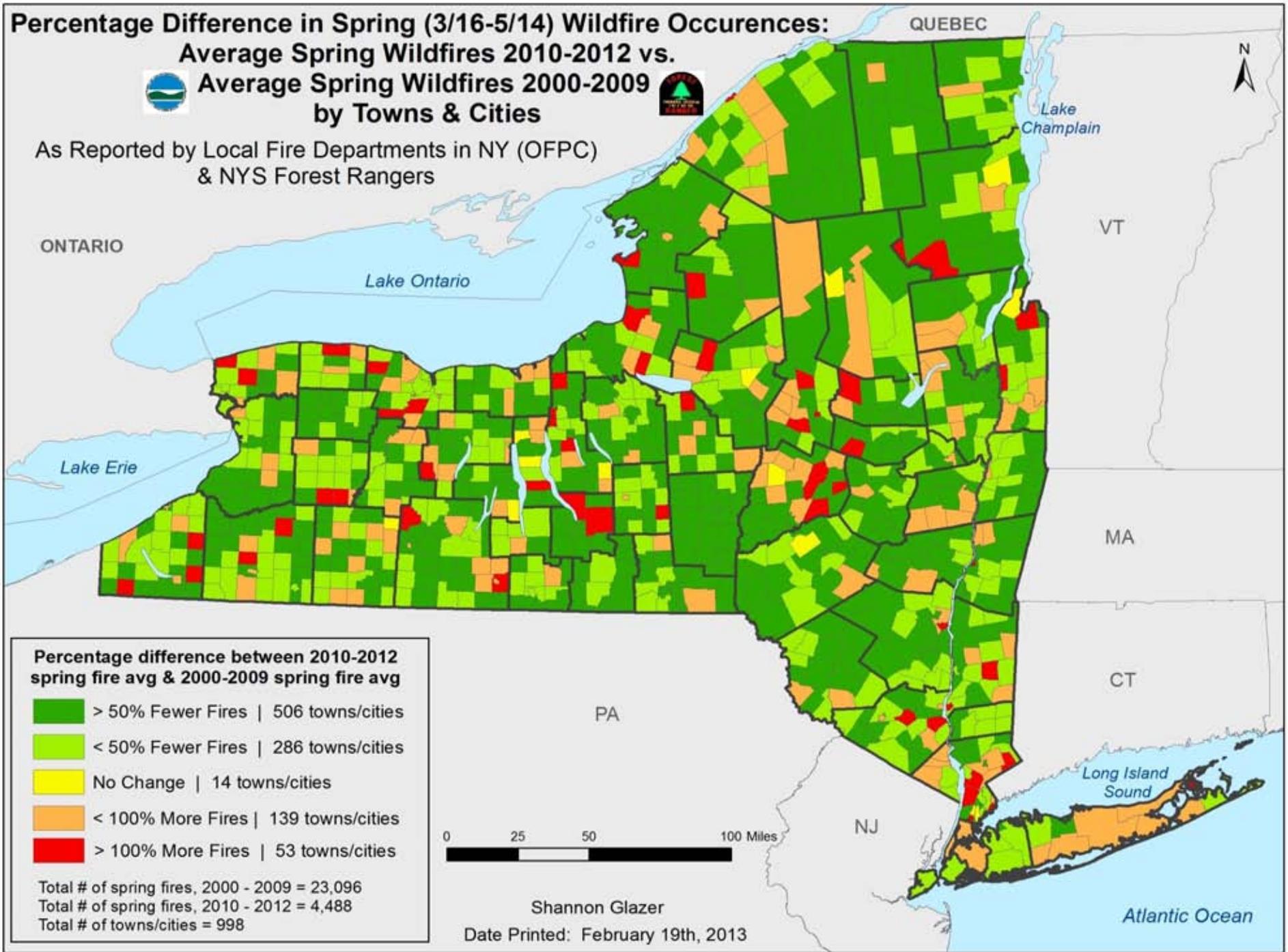
### How Rangers Spent Their Time in 2012

51%	State Land Patrol and Enforcement
11%	Fire Management Activities
12%	Search/Rescue Missions and Training
20%	Administrative Responsibilities
6%	Support to Other Programs/Agencies

**Percentage Difference in Spring (3/16-5/14) Wildfire Occurrences:  
Average Spring Wildfires 2010-2012 vs.  
Average Spring Wildfires 2000-2009  
by Towns & Cities**



As Reported by Local Fire Departments in NY (OFPC)  
& NYS Forest Rangers



**Percentage difference between 2010-2012  
spring fire avg & 2000-2009 spring fire avg**

- > 50% Fewer Fires | 506 towns/cities
- < 50% Fewer Fires | 286 towns/cities
- No Change | 14 towns/cities
- < 100% More Fires | 139 towns/cities
- > 100% More Fires | 53 towns/cities

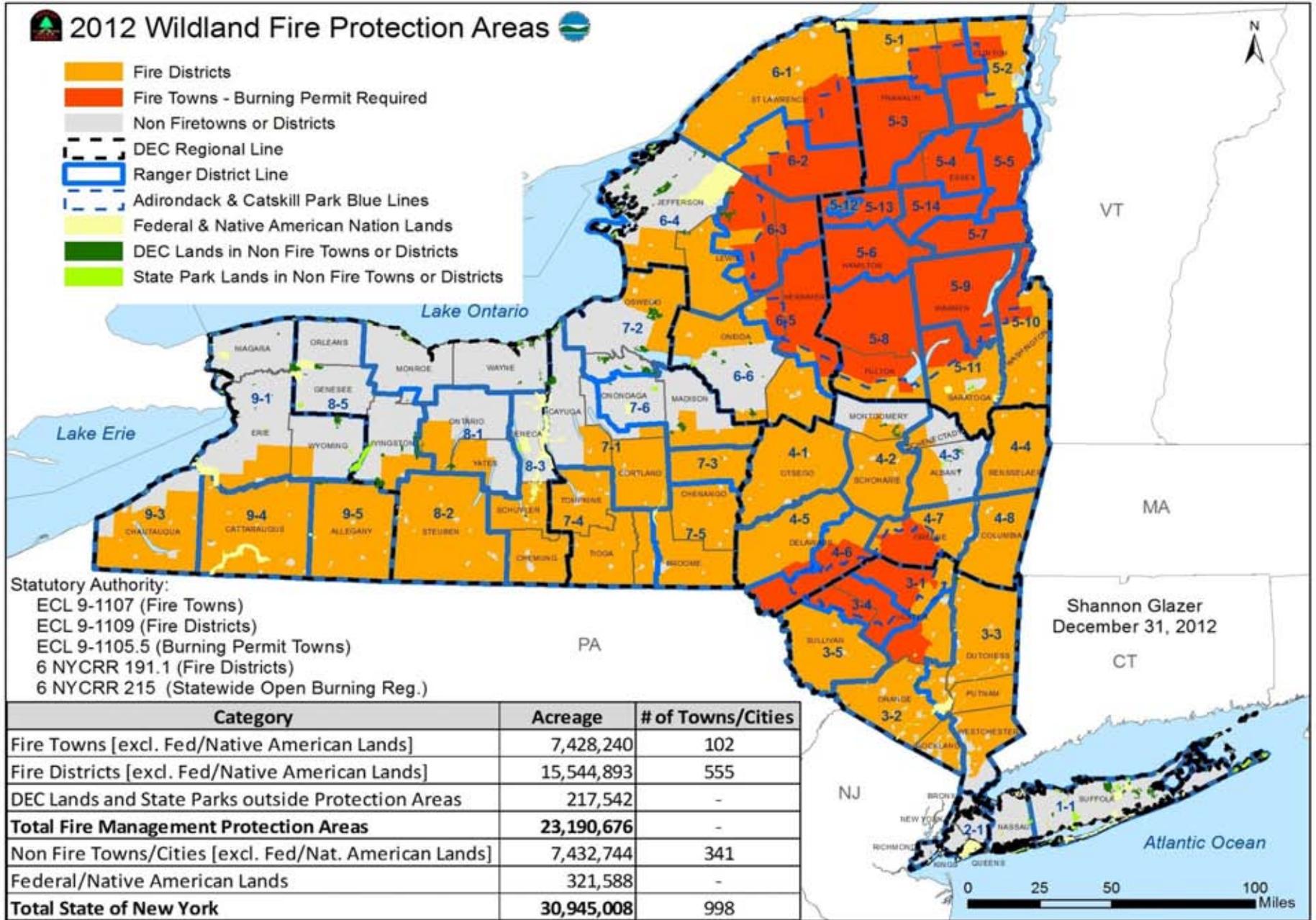
Total # of spring fires, 2000 - 2009 = 23,096  
 Total # of spring fires, 2010 - 2012 = 4,488  
 Total # of towns/cities = 998



Shannon Glazer  
Date Printed: February 19th, 2013

# 2012 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



## Region and Zone Narratives

### Regions 1 and 2 by Captain Timothy Byrnes



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

Rangers assigned to Region 1 began and ended a tumultuous year with some remarkable environmental and significant events that tested the training and experience of all. The week of April 9 was very dry and quickly contributed to one of the worst spring fire seasons that Long Island had seen in recent history. The impact to state land was significant as the 992-acre Crescent Bow Fire consumed dry volatile pitch pine woodlands of private, county, state and federal ownership. The next day, rangers Michael Burkholder and Michael Thompson responded to three wildfires on the Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area, which ignited from a flare gun fired from a moving vehicle. They quickly contained these fires and preserved evidence usually lost during fire suppression. On April 17, the 59-acre Weeks Avenue Fire burned private lands within two hours and was videotaped from helicopters by local news media. Rangers William Giraud, Region 7, Charles Kabrehl, Region 5, and Captain Edwin Russell, Central Office, supported Ranger Bryan Gallagher and local fire and police arson investigators in determining the cause of the Crescent Bow Fire. This fire and the Rocky Point fire, along with several others during April, were determined to have been caused by incendiary activity; however, no arrests were made, and the fire investigations remain ongoing.



Ranger Michael Thompson discusses line construction on the Weeks Avenue Fire.

Much of the protection of state lands on Long Island involves prevention of illegal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use, which is prohibited on all public lands. On February 23, Ranger Slade was patrolling a trail on Panamoka Preserve, Town of Brookhaven, when an ATV approached him. Slade ordered the operator to stop, but he hit and injured Slade instead. The as yet unidentified ATV operator escaped. This incident is one example of danger that may be encountered on public lands.

On September 6, state park police asked rangers to help them find a 72-year old fisherman who was reported missing in Caleb Smith State Park. Rangers Burkholder and Gallagher developed a formal search incident action plan, and, within 24 hours, the man was found.

On October 29, Super Storm Sandy heavily impacted the coastal areas of Long Island and New York City. Rangers Gallagher, Slade, Burkholder and Thompson provided operational, logistical and planning incident command support to Nassau and Suffolk counties each day. They, along with 15 upstate rangers, provided command and operational support to state and local incident management teams (IMT) and county emergency operations centers (EOC). Rangers cleared state lands of storm debris and delivered needed supplies to communities along the southern coast of Long Island. Their last assignment at the end of November was to support the state IMT serving the devastated Breezy Point community in New York City.

### Region 3, Zone A by Lieutenant Stephen M. Scherry



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 170,000 acres of forest preserve state lands in Region 3 are located in Zone A. Two wilderness areas comprise over 81,000 acres, and another 24,198 acres are spread across dozens of separate parcels of state forest, wildlife management areas, and unique areas. One lieutenant, seven rangers and two seasonal assistant forest rangers (AFRs) are assigned to this zone.

On April 7, a wildfire caused by illegal debris burning began at the Tamarack Resort, Town of Wawarsing, Ulster County. The fire quickly spread and consumed 10 residences, 34 structures and 52 acres before it was stopped. Sixty-three fire departments with 322 firefighters and 78 fire engines from four counties, along with two bulldozers and one helicopter, were involved with controlling this fire. County fire coordinators credit Ranger Robert Dawson's superb management of the fire response as incident commander for limiting further damage from this wildland-interface fire. An investigation by Ulster County sheriff's deputies and Dawson led to the arrest of a 56-year old Nassau County man for arson in the fourth degree, a felony, and several environmental conservation law offenses.



Lieutenant Steve Scherry inspects firewood for invasive insects at Mongaup Pond Campground.

Policing the four department campgrounds kept Zone A busy on summer weekend evenings. During these times, Zone B rangers were frequently assigned to supplement patrols. Campground staff often expressed their appreciation of late-night ranger presence to maintain quiet and compliance with campground rules. Lieutenant Stephen Scherry coordinated campground patrols, and the use of radar guns helped enforce speed limits to keep the campgrounds safe. As a result, no traffic accident injuries were reported, and only a few evictions resulted from noncompliance with campground regulations.

During the summer, two assistant forest rangers (AFRs) patrolled remote forest preserve lands in Sullivan and Ulster counties, providing backcountry users with general information and safety tips. AFR Theresa Scarano spent most of her time at Balsam Lake Wild Forest, interacting with campers and hikers at popular Alder Lake. AFR Joe Herrod returned to patrol Slide and Big Indian wilderness areas in the central Catskills. No reports of lost hikers or serious incidents involving campers occurred at that time.

During the after-storm response to Super Storm Sandy, rangers helped manage an emergency evacuation center and equipment staging area at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) used the center as it did for Hurricane Irene in 2011. Rangers provided security and distribution support for DHSES equipment and supplies.

On December 2, “Good Samaritan” campers helped save two inexperienced hikers lost on Slide Mountain in very inclement weather. A 35-year old Huntington woman and 36-year old Babylon man were assisted by the two campers, who became hypothermic themselves as a result of helping the two hikers. The campers determined they needed to hike out and call for help. Rangers Rob Mecus, Jason Seeley, Ken Gierloff and Jacob Deslauriers eventually located the lost hikers. After spending considerable time warming and drying the two, rangers were able to guide them out safely.

### Region 3, Zone B by Lieutenant Gregory Tyrrell



Region 3, Zone B lies in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley region of New York. This area is considerably influenced by people from the New York City metropolitan area. Most of the largest wildland parcels are owned by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP or State Parks), along with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute, Mohonk Preserve, and other such non-governmental organizations, and provides significant outdoor recreation opportunities. Forest rangers are a presence on most of these publically used tracts through joint training and response to emergencies. In total, rangers protect 21,493 acres of department-administered state lands. While hunting activity remains consistent from year to year, mountain biking, hunting-dog training, birdwatching and horseback riding are popular state land activities too. Five rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

Zone B experienced an unusually warm and dry winter. This led to an early fire season, with the first wildfire on February 22. In total, seven wildfires were suppressed by Zone B rangers. Most were fewer than 10 acres; however, a 481-acre wildfire occurred in Harriman State Park, Rockland County. Rangers were assisted by firefighters from the Palisade Interstate Park Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Albany Pine Bush Commission and DEC fire wardens, who brought this fire under control in two days.



Smokey Bear, Ranger Megan Dominesey, Trooper Steve Hobson with Darby and Trooper Francine Torhan attend a fire prevention event.

Stewart State Forest in Orange County continues to be a heavily used recreational area. At 6,700 acres, it is the largest piece of DEC-administered wildland in the zone. Rangers, environmental conservation officers (ECOs) and local police participated in two joint enforcement details targeting unlawful ATV operation on the property. Ranger Robert Mecus alone issued more than 50 tickets to violators of land-use regulations.

On December 21, rangers were asked to assist local, county and state police in finding two local men who were canoeing the night before on the Hudson River in Hyde Park, Dutchess County. Rangers led police and volunteers in searching the shoreline for signs of the missing men, while Ranger Megan Dominesey provided digital mapping of all field operations. After a week of river patrols by numerous agencies, no sign was found of either the 26-year old Millbrook man or the 31-year old Hyde Park man.

## Region 4, Zone A by Lieutenant Darryl Kittle



Region 4, Zone A consists of Rensselaer, Columbia, Albany, Schenectady and Greene counties and constitutes an area of 2,686 square miles, with a population of 705,000. 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. In addition, there are 1,851 acres of the Hudson River National Estuaries Research Reserve, 51 acres of 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. Through a cooperative agreement between DEC and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), rangers are responsible for patrolling DEP parcels as they are patrol nearby state lands. DEC acquired two parcels of land in 2012, both along the Hudson River in Greene County. These were the 123-acre Vosburgh Swamp and 25-acre Bronk Island. Division personnel in the zone consist of five forest rangers, one lieutenant forest ranger and one seasonal assistant forest ranger.



Ranger Jeff Breigle fixes a trail kiosk.

Ranger Karen Glesmann identified 16 encroachments on the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in 2012. This was the third successful year of coordination among Glesmann, APB staff, the Region 4 enforcement coordinator and the regional attorney. After verifying landowner encroachments, the regional enforcement coordinator sends them a letter detailing compliance requirements. In the past three years, nearly 140 encroachments have been successfully resolved.

Ranger Jeff Breigle participated in the removal of marijuana plants from three illegal operations on state lands in August and September. Acting on an anonymous tip, eight plants were removed from a swamp area at Featherstonough State Forest, Greene County. A second anonymous tip resulted in removal of 27 well-concealed plants growing near a busy trailhead in Colgate Lake Wild Forest. A Greene County and state police task force asked Breigle to guide their officers into a plot of 36 plants growing in the Windham-Blackhead Range Wilderness Area, which had been located during an aerial detection flight in late August.

The North/South Lake Campground in Greene County was venue to many enforcement actions in 2012. Following detection of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Albany, Ulster and Greene counties, rangers and ECOs conducted a joint firewood regulation enforcement detail on July 20th, resulting in one ticket. On June 16 and August 20, Ranger Christine Nelson responded to numerous black bear complaints in the campground, which resulted in seven tickets issued to campers for failing to properly store their food. Unfortunately, the feeding of bears resulted in the need to destroy a juvenile bear. In response to public and campground staff complaints of excessive speed in the campground, Nelson conducted a number of speed enforcement details and issued a total of 36 vehicle and traffic tickets. Nearby, State Route 23A along Kaaterskill Clove was once again busy with excessive public use and associated problems. In the warm summer months, hundreds of people come daily to enjoy the forest preserve's swimming holes on the Kaaterskill Creek. Several incidents of vehicle tires being slashed and windows being broken to steal personal belongings had been reported to local police through much of the early summer. On July 9, Ranger Nelson participated in the arrest of two subjects in the act of a "smash and grab" burglary of a vehicle during a town and county police surveillance detail of the area.

The zone had a reduced number of search and rescue incidents in 2012 even though there were three large search incidents. On February 8, state police asked forest rangers to help find a missing 28-year old Petersburg woman with a history of mental illness. She was last seen two days earlier walking along Route 2 toward Massachusetts. Six rangers organized volunteer crews to search Taconic Ridge State Forest. Coordinated investigation between the state police and Williamstown (MA) Police determined the woman had been staying in the Williamstown area those two days. She was dropped off at the command post by a passing motorist just as it was being demobilized.

On August 10, Schodack Police asked rangers to help locate a 44-year old Town of Nassau man. Over the course of the next two days, 13 rangers organized the search efforts of five volunteer search and rescue teams and 300 local police and firefighters. The man's body was located by search crews on the third day, a half-mile from his residence. An investigation determined the man had committed suicide.

The third large search was for a 28-year old Northboro, MA man. He was last seen by his father in the mid-afternoon of October 8, while they were hiking in the Bash Bish Falls area of the Taconic State Park, Columbia County, along the NY/Mass border. Ten rangers assisted the Columbia County Sheriff's Department in leading the search effort. Over the next two days, 100 officers and volunteers searched the large and difficult terrain of the state park and Mount Washington Massachusetts State Park. The man was located in the early morning hours of October 10 after a family member persuaded him to call 911. With the coordinates obtained from the 911 center, Ranger Chris DiCintio led a group of police and fire personnel to the subject, a little over a mile from the nearest road and more than two miles from the falls.

#### Region 4, Zone B by Lieutenant Robert Morse



Zone B consists of Delaware, Otsego, Montgomery and Schoharie counties encompassing 3,504 square miles. The zone comprises three wild forest areas totaling 34,810 acres, 14 state forest units covering 76,300 acres, four wildlife management areas totaling 7,352 acres, and nine forest preserve parcels totaling 5,000 acres. It also 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.

On September 26, Ranger Bill Henry found a pile of construction and demolition (C&D) material dumped at the Burnt-Rossman Hill State Forest. Henry examined the material for evidence and then requested the Division of Operations remove the mess. On October 1, as the Operations crew was doing that, they found a AAA membership card. Ranger Henry spoke to the card holder, who explained that while he was away over the Labor Day weekend, his granddaughter's husband demolished a couple of trailers and subsequently dumped the material on state land. Henry interviewed the 29-year old Middleburg man, who confessed to the violation. An \$800



Region 4 rangers train with an airboat on the Hudson River at Henry Hudson Park, Town of Bethlehem, Albany County.

consent order for cleanup and removal costs brought this case to a close.

On July 22, Ranger Tom Edmunds received a call that campers were shooting at Looking Glass Pond in Burnt-Rossman Hills State Forest the night before. Ranger Edmunds located the campsite, where several trees were had been cut, and garbage, fireworks, and toilet paper were strewn around. Edmunds determined the campers were two men from Livingston, ages 26 and 27. Both plead guilty to camping within 150 feet of a trail and depositing rubbish on state land, and paid a total of \$1,050 in fines.

In early November, Ranger Joseph Bink received a complaint about illegal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use and hunting stands with bait piles in the Delaware Wild Forest. On November 9, Bink met with the complainant to locate the hunting stands, which were at the same location Bink had investigated the year before. On November 17, the first day of deer rifle hunting season, Bink and Lt. Rob Morse hiked in at sunrise, approached different tree stands at the same time, witnessed three men hunting over bait and a number of saplings cut near one of the tree stands. As the rangers escorted the Long Island men out of the woods, they found their ATVs parked on state land. While Lt. Morse continued to look for other violations, Ranger Bink took the hunters back to their camp to meet ECOs Nathan Doig and George Wilber. Bink and the ECOs issued several tickets for hunting over bait, enticing to feed deer, cutting trees, ATV operation on public lands and ATV operation without insurance.

### Region 5, Zone A by Lieutenant Julie Harjung



Region 5 Zone A covers the towns of Duane, Waverly, Franklin, Brighton, Harrietstown, Tupper Lake in Franklin County and the northern half of Long Lake, Hamilton County. Canoeing, hiking, camping, hunting, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are the most common uses of state lands in this area. Zone A contains most of the Saranac chain of lakes and Debar Mountain Wild Forest, the Saint Regis Canoe Area and the William C. Whitney and western 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 one lieutenant, six forest rangers and two seasonal assistant forest rangers.



A state SORT leader and OFP&C officer assists region 5 and 6 rangers with the search for Colin Gillis in Piercefield.

On the evening of March 11, a 19-year old Tupper Lake man attended a social gathering in nearby Piercefield, Saint Lawrence County. He was seen by friends walking away from the party and was reported missing the next day. State police and rangers conducted an intensive search for nine days, with support from 17 different organizations, bringing 900 searchers to search for more than 10,000 hours. State police and the U.S. Army at Fort Drum incurred more than 100 aviation hours as part of the search. An intensive water search was conducted using the division's airboat on nearby rivers, lakes and ponds. Rangers experienced with whitewater kayaks and rafts were used on several occasions to search the Raquette River downstream of the Piercefield Dam. State police and Tupper Lake Fire Department divers used underwater cameras and side sonar to search below the frigid water and ice. Over 180 hours of canine

searching occurred with state police and volunteer's search dogs. Foot searches included all roads, railroads, drainages and shorelines in the area and 11 miles along State Route 3. Unfortunately the young man was never found, and his disappearance is an open state police investigation.



Divers salvage aircraft from Gull Pond.

On August 16, rangers were notified of a downed aircraft in the vicinity of Whitney Park, Town of Long Lake. After a brief search, the location was confirmed as Gull Pond, which is forest preserve land in Herkimer County. A command post was established at Whitney Ranger Headquarters as the best access route to the remote pond. Rangers, ECOs, state police, the Vermont National Guard and the U.S. Army and Air Force worked cooperatively to find the plane, rescue the pilot and recover the aircraft. The aircraft was a very small airplane carrying experimental equipment and sensitive documents. Rangers secured the plane until the owners could retrieve items and remove the plane. With ranger assistance and equipment,

the plane was safely removed, and less than a gallon of aviation fuel spilled in the pond.

During a May weekend, rangers Peter Evans and Bob Zurek taught the Basic Wildland Search course at Paul Smiths College to 28 students. Rangers also taught the national Basic Wildland Firefighter course, S130 and S190, to 12 students from the college and neighboring fire departments.

On June 22, rangers Peter Evans and Scott van Laer found more than 100 young people drinking on Paul Smith's College easement property in the Town of Brighton. They wrote 40 appearance tickets for underage drinking, which resulted in fines and court-mandated alcohol awareness classes for those ticketed. In August, a similar incident on college easement lands resulted in more tickets for underage drinking and drug possession.

In August, Ranger Evans investigated a boating accident with the state police in which a 12-year old boy had been thrown from his boat and run over, resulting in injuries from the propeller. His father, a 54-year old Lake Forest, Illinois man, was ticketed for allowing underage operation with no boating safety class.

Ranger Jeff Balerno is Region 5's aviation training coordinator and liaison to the state police aviation unit at Lake Clear Airport. He conducted seven training sessions for hoist operators, assistant forest rangers, wilderness stewards, interior caretakers, trail crews, Life-Flight and backcountry medics, and Franklin County firefighters. As an aviation crew chief, he completed 22 missions, including 15 search and rescues, 10 remote rescue hoists, and two utility missions. Balerno also supported the state police narcotics unit in conjunction with the Franklin County Drug Task Force, and flew eight marijuana eradication missions, resulting in the removal of over 1,200 plants, many of which were on state land easements or forest preserve.

## Region 5, Zone B by Lieutenant Gary Friedrich



Region 5, Zone B is in the northeastern corner of the state. The zone includes the Saint Lawrence Valley in northern Franklin County, all of Clinton County and the ten towns in the Champlain Valley, Essex County. Zone B has large areas of remote forests and agricultural farmland, along with state-owned forest preserve islands on Lake Champlain. Along with numerous wildlife management areas and state forests outside the Adirondack Park, Zone B includes all or portions of the Chazy Highlands,

Hammond Pond, Split Rock and Taylor Pond wild forests, and Giant Mountain and Hurricane Mountain wilderness areas. Altogether, there are 149,031 acres of Adirondack Park forest preserve lands, 148,693 acres of conservation easements and 47,722 acres of state forest, wildlife management areas, unique areas, fishing access and trailways within Zone B. The zone includes six forest rangers and one lieutenant.

The extreme weather of 2011, with record high rainfall and lake levels, was followed in 2012 by record low rainfall and lake levels. On March 22, Ranger Tom Gliddi assisted local firefighters with a 32-acre wildfire caused by illegal debris burning in the Town of Bombay, Franklin County. An investigation did not determine who set the fire. On August 28, rangers Tom Gliddi, Dan Fox and Sarah Bode contained and controlled a seven-acre wildfire with a bulldozer in the Town of Altona, Clinton County. The fire was declared out on September 6 and was caused by a farm tractor operating in tall dry grass.

On May 17, rangers were notified that a 19-year old Gansevoort man had fallen approximately 40 feet at Split Rock Falls in the Town of Elizabethtown, Essex County. Rangers Rob

Prackajlo and Jim Giglinto located the man at the bottom of ledges adjacent to the Bouquet River. Ranger Giglinto rappelled to the creek bottom and began the process of evacuating the injured man. Ranger Prackajlo located a suitable evacuation route so he could be carried out to a waiting ambulance.



Ranger David Russell assists the National Guard.

In July, the Vermont National Guard Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vermont asked Captain John Streiff about conducting a joint training exercise with U.S. Army personnel on state lands in the Adirondack Park. Captain Streiff and Lieutenant Gary Friedrich met with DEC Lands and Forests staff and military officials and agreed on a combination of state lands and easements in western Clinton County. Rangers Dave Russell and Del Jeffery (U.S. Army, retired) were assigned to coordinate on-scene activities. Forty soldiers were flown from Fort Drum via Blackhawk helicopters to four drop zones. They conducted combat exercises, low-angle climbing and casualty evacuation. Members of the state police special operations response team (SORT) also participated.

On October 2, state police asked rangers to help locate a missing two-year old boy in the Town of Jay, Essex County. Rangers Prackajlo, Scott van Laer, Chris Kostoss, Chuck Kabrehl and Captain Streiff responded. While the rangers were searching, two neighbors heard about the search and decided to check trails near their home. They located the child along a logging road, about a half-mile from his home. Ranger Prackajlo returned the boy to his parents, missing one shoe but in good condition.

During routine patrols, Ranger Dave Russell arrested two individuals for aggravated driving while intoxicated, a felony. The first was a 38-year old Merrill woman at the Chateaugay State Boat Launch. The charge was elevated to a felony because a child was in the car at the time of arrest. The second was a 32-year old Merrill man who Ranger Russell observed driving erratically on State Route 374 in the Town of Dannemora, Clinton County. Russell administered a field sobriety test and determined the subject was intoxicated. The charge was subsequently elevated to aggravated driving while intoxicated because the man had a prior conviction for the same offense within the past ten years.

## Region 5, Zone C by Lieutenant Charles Platt



Region 5, Zone C includes most of the Adirondack High Peaks and consists of the towns of Keene, North Elba, Wilmington, and Harrietstown within Essex and Franklin counties. The land within the zone is more than 65 percent forest preserve, with 365,581 acres of state land and 12,518 acres of conservation easements. Zone C continues to have the highest incidence of rescues in the state, primarily due to the year-round popularity of the High Peaks region. Six forest rangers, three seasonal assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.



Rangers Chris Kostoss, Chuck Kabrehl and Lieutenant Scott Murphy attend to an injured hiker.

In the mid-afternoon of February 20, a 58-year old Saratoga Springs man became separated from his hiking party near the summit of Mount Marcy. The ensuing two-day search involved 20 rangers and state police aviation. The lost man was able to call 911 which, in turn, was able to get an approximate location of him near the Mt. Marcy summit before cell phone contact was lost. A helicopter search was cancelled due to cloudy weather and high winds. Rangers began a ground search but were forced back due to extreme weather on the summit. In the early morning of the second day, an additional team of rangers climbed the mountain and located the man who was cold but alert. He was then evacuated by helicopter hoist and flown to a nearby hospital.

The weekend of February 26-27 proved to be a very busy weekend with three incidents within 24 hours. On late Friday afternoon, a 42-year old Andover, CT man hiking on Algonquin Mountain was forced off the trail by severe winds and blinding snow. He spent the night in a snow hole and was very wet and cold when rangers found him. Rangers Scott van Laer, Joe LaPierre and Chris Kostoss treated the hiker for hypothermia and frostbite to his hands and feet. The subject was eventually evacuated by snowmobile to a waiting ambulance. As this rescue concluded, a 62-year old Brooklyn man was reported overdue from a backcountry ski trip. Rangers Charlie Platt, van Laer, Kostoss and LaPierre began the search. LaPierre located the man stranded on the opposite side of the brook due to the loss of a bridge from Hurricane Irene. The man was taken by snowmobile to the Adirondack Loj to meet with his family. Finally, late Saturday, Ranger Kevin Burns was told that a 36-year old Lee, MA man was overdue from hiking Mount Marcy to Adirondack Loj. Rangers Burns, LaPierre, and van Laer searched Marcy Dam to the Indian Falls area during the late night and early morning with no success. The man was eventually located by rangers Del Jeffery and Tom Gliddi. He was suffering from hypothermia and frostbite and was evacuated by helicopter hoist operation.

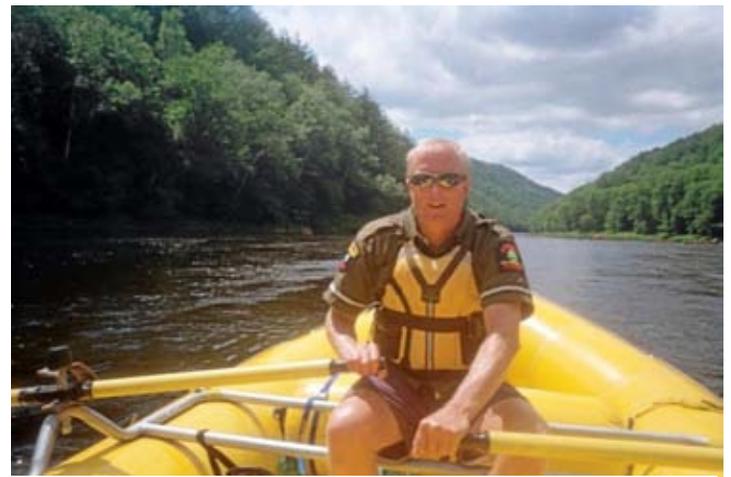
The weekend of July 28-29 brought the annual Can-Am Rugby Tournament to Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. The DEC Meadowbrook Public Campground has traditionally been almost exclusively occupied by rugby players and their friends. This has led to many regulation compliance problems for campground staff. This year, rangers van Laer, LaPierre, and Russell, along with ECOs Jeff Hovey and Mike Phelps issued tickets for underage drinking and possession of marijuana which resulted in better compliance with campground rules by most other campers.

On the evening of December 15, one of the most difficult rescues in recent memory began when a 41-year old Syracuse man fell 200 feet down the slide on Nippletop Mountain. Rangers Rob Praczkajlo, Dave Russell, and Bob Zurek, accompanied by Physicians Assistant Gary Nye from the Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake, reached the man on the remote slide at 3:40 a.m. December 16. Rangers Tom Gliddi, Evan Donegan, Jason Scott, and Kevin Burns hiked to the rescue site before first light with a litter and additional rescue equipment. Due to ice and terrain that required technical rope skills, local volunteer ice climbers Don Mellor and Colin Lohr responded with Ranger van Laer to assist. A state police helicopter with Ranger LaPierre as hoist operator was unable to reach the rescue site due to poor weather. Using high-angle rope rescue techniques, rescuers lowered the man to the bottom of the slide in a litter. He was then carried one mile through some of the roughest terrain in the Adirondacks. Rangers Glen Bronson and Art Perryman had cut a path to the main trail and then assisted on several more miles of trail to the waiting ambulance. Fifteen rangers and 14 volunteers were involved in the 28-hour rescue.

## Region 5, Zone D by Lieutenant Steve Preston



Region 5, Zone D comprises Fulton and Hamilton counties. The zone's headquarters is located at the DEC Northville Sub-office, with a secondary office at the DEC Indian Lake Maintenance Facility. State land management areas include whole or parts of the West Canada Lake, Silver Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, Pigeon Lake, Blue Ridge and Siamese Ponds wilderness areas, Ferris Lake, Shaker Mountain, Moose River and Jessup River wild forests, West Canada Mountain and Hudson River Gorge primitive areas, totaling 809,929 acres. The zone includes 17 DEC campgrounds, 47,043 acres of conservation easements and 6,081 acres of state forests. Six rangers, one lieutenant and one seasonal assistant forest ranger are currently assigned to Zone D.



Ranger Bruce Lomnitzer does raft patrol on the Hudson River.

On September 27 at noon, state police in Indian Lake told rangers that a 53-year old Columbus, Ohio man said he was in a guided raft on the Indian and Hudson rivers when his girlfriend and the guide were ejected near the Gooley Club and were now missing.



Rangers and investigators videotape the Hudson River where a woman drowned while rafting.

Rangers Bob Zurek, Gary Miller, Dave Kallen, Ian Kerr and Evan Donegan responded with the Indian Lake Fire Department, Indian Lake Rescue, state police and Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. The raft guide was quickly located along Chain of Lakes Road and taken into state police custody. At 2:15 PM, Kallen, Kerr, several firefighters and Hamilton County Sheriff Karl Abrams located the body of the 53-year old woman 500 yards from the confluence of the Indian and Hudson rivers. While recovery efforts were underway, the state police investigators, along with DEC Investigator Lieutenant Ken Bruno and Ranger Lieutenant Steve Preston questioned the guide and determined he was

intoxicated at the time of the incident. The 37-year old North Creek man was arrested. In November, he pled guilty to criminally negligent homicide and was sentenced in January 2013. The Hamilton County District Attorney is pursuing charges against the owner of the rafting company for this and several previous incidents related to licensed whitewater guides.

On May 25, rangers Kallen and John Ploss were patrolling the Mason Lake area of Jessup River Wild Forest when they encountered six campers at a designated campsite on the lake shore. The two rangers apprehended four underage campers with an unsanitary campsite and in possession of alcohol, marihuana, hydrocodone pills and an unregistered .22 caliber handgun. Rangers issued appearance tickets for four counts of underage possession of an alcoholic beverage on state land, and six counts of failure to keep a neat and orderly campsite, while Hamilton County sheriff's deputies arrested one person for unlawful possession of marihuana, criminal possession of a controlled substance and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree.

At 2:30 AM on Wednesday, June 27, DEC Albany Dispatch received a call from a Binghamton woman reporting that her 54-year old husband and 15-year old son were hiking the Northville-Placid Trail and were possibly lost or injured. On the previous Monday, she had received a Spot Locator message that they had arrived at Spruce Lake in the West Canada Lake Wilderness and were on schedule. That Tuesday night she never received a message and became concerned for their safety. Later Wednesday morning, Lieutenants Julie Harjung and Steve Preston sent Ranger Jason Scott to the second lean-to on the Cedar Lakes, where the two hikers were expected to be that night. Scott reported there were no signs of either hiker, so he continued west on the Northville-Placid Trail. Later that day, Scott found the two in good condition near the third lean-to. According to the father, they were ahead of schedule and spent the night at South Lake. He said he had sent a message to his wife Tuesday night with their location, but it was never recorded on her computer. The hikers continued with their hike while Scott completed his 16-mile trek back.

### Region 5 Zone E by Lieutenant Brian Dubay



Zone E comprises Warren County and the southern half of Essex County. The southern part of the zone is made up of Lake George and Wilcox Lake wild forests, while the central and northern portions include the Pharaoh, Siamese and Hoffman wilderness areas, and southern portions of the High Peaks and Dix wilderness areas. State lands total 440,000 acres and include six DEC-administered campgrounds. The zone is patrolled by seven forest rangers and one lieutenant and, during the summer, two seasonal assistant forest rangers.



Assistant forest ranger training at Pack Forest in Warrensburg

On June 3 at 11:00 PM, a call came into Essex County 911 for five overdue hikers who had supposedly gone into the Marcy area from the Upper Works Trailhead. Ranger Del Jeffery searched through the night without encountering the subjects. At first light on June 4, the search expanded, with additional rangers assigned. At 10:00 AM, the group was found in the Flowed Lands. All five were suffering from mild hypothermia after spending a cool night in the woods with no equipment.

On June 20 and one of the hottest days of the year, a 28-year old New York woman called 911 to report symptoms of heat exhaustion. She was unfamiliar with her location but believed she was on the Tongue Mountain Range. Rangers Evan Donegan

and Jamie Laczko responded and located her several hours later near the summit of French Mountain. The woman's condition continued to deteriorate, so the rangers requested support from the Southern Adirondack Medical Support Group and state police aviation. She was hoisted off a nearby pinnacle and flown to the local hospital for treatment for severe dehydration.

On August 25, state police requested rangers' help finding a missing 45-year old Chestertown man. The man's car had been abandoned in a remote area of Crown Point. Rangers conducted searches in both Chestertown and Crown Point for over a week, until Ranger Mark St. Claire located the man's body over a mile from where his vehicle had been found. An investigation and autopsy determined his death to be a suicide. During the search, rangers Art Perryman and Charles Kabrehl located several marijuana plantations and supported Essex County sheriff deputies with the removal of 40 plants.

Rangers extinguished three mountaintop fires totaling 11 acres—two small island fires and two fires caused by a malfunctioning railroad engine. Ranger Rick Schroeder saw some of the most active fire on the south side of Hackensack Mountain from a three-acre fire caused by an unattended bonfire. In addition to these fires, rangers used their type 6 fire engine to help Zone D with a fire.

On June 10 and 13, rangers once again helped state police investigators search for evidence in the High Peaks Wilderness Area for the remains of Douglas Legg. Legg went missing on July 10, 1971 near his family's camp on Newcomb Lake. At the conclusion of the largest wildland search in the state at that time, no evidence of Legg had been found. In 1993, a hunter reported seeing human bones on one of the many islands on Newcomb Lake. Rangers led investigators to that location, only to find deer bones. In spring 2012, Ranger Del Jeffery coordinated an evidence search with teams from the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams, plus state police dive teams, a major crimes unit, a forensics specialist and a pathologist. The search concentrated on the islands and under water near the point Legg was last seen. No new evidence was located, and the disappearance remains a cold case.



Ranger Bob Zurek supervises a water search during the Douglas Legg search.

## Region 5, Zone F by Lieutenant 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. It offers the only drive-up forest preserve access to the Lake George shoreline within the Lake George basin. In addition, both counties have land holdings of The Nature Conservancy, Battenkill Conservancy and the Lake George Conservancy that are generally adjacent to DEC-administered lands. There are approximately 30 miles of snowmobile trails in Saratoga County on department-managed lands and easements and approximately 50 miles of snowmobile trails in Washington County. Zone F is assigned five forest rangers and one lieutenant.



Rangers Werner Schwab and Mike Bodnar secure marihuana removed from state lands.

On April 23 in the Town of Providence, Saratoga County, rangers Tony Goetke and David Kallen fought the largest fire to occur in Region 5 in 2012. Rangers and local volunteer fire firefighters used hand tools over several days to contain the remote 36-acre fire that had been caused by an unextinguished campfire. Their efforts saved a nearby hunting camp from being destroyed.

On May 12, rangers worked with more than 100 local volunteers and state police to search for a missing 17-year old Cambridge man along the Hudson River, Town of Greenwich, Washington County. On May 13, the man's body was found in the river, a victim of an apparent accidental drowning.

Rangers continued their intensive summer patrols of the Shelving Rock area in the Lake George Wild Forest. The area is visited by tens of thousands of people each year, many who come to engage in underage drinking, drug use and unregulated camping. While rangers continue to observe heavy use of this popular access point to Lake George, illegal activity has been reduced due to extra patrols and enforcement actions by rangers.

On July 4, an annual event on the Battenkill River promoted on the Internet has been growing each year. Approximately 1,000 people of all ages float down the Battenkill River in tubes, canoes, homemade rafts and kayaks. Most attendees access the river at the State Department of Transportation rest area on Route 313 near the Vermont state line, and take out at the Battenkill State Forest near Eagleville Covered Bridge, Town of Jackson. Excessive and underage alcohol consumption, drug use, littering, illegal motor vehicle use on state land and fighting are common during this event.

Lieutenant John Solan organized a joint security detail between rangers and ECOs. A large fight among 20 or more people occurred late in the day at the state forest requiring numerous state police and sheriff's patrols to end it and disperse the crowd of several hundred people.

The annual Log Bay Day boating event on Lake George was once again held on the last Monday of July. Log Bay is surrounded by forest preserve within the Shelving Rock Special Management Area. Lieutenant Solan assigned 17 rangers to the Log Bay Area from 10:00 AM to midnight, working with Washington County sheriff's deputies and state police. Over 2,000 people attended the event this year, with many gaining access to the bay through state lands.



Log Bay Day on Lake George

Over 100 arrests were made by the three police agencies, with offenses ranging from violations of state land regulations to illegal drug use and driving while intoxicated. Every car entering the area is stopped and informed of the state land regulations and that there is zero tolerance for underage alcohol and drug use.

Ranger Goetke organized several after-dark state land security details in Saratoga County to curb underage drinking that often results in littering and state land damage. Several arrests were made late in the summer as a result of these patrols. Neighbors of Middle Grove and Daketown state forests were pleased with the increased efforts to minimize late night disruptive activity. In addition, Ranger Goetke was successful at getting the section of Hughes Road that transects Middle Grove State Forest closed by the Town of Providence. When open, this road is a popular location for garbage dumping and late-night parties.

## Region 6, Zone A by Lieutenant Robert Barstow



Region 6, Zone A consists entirely of Saint Lawrence County (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 Campground, with 173 campsites. At full staffing, this zone includes one lieutenant, six forest rangers, and two AFRs.



Ranger Benzel conducts a snowmobile speed enforcement detail near Cranberry Lake NY.

Rangers continue their tradition of teaching the S130-190 federal wildfire fighting course as part of the curriculum at the State University of New York (SUNY) Ranger School in Wanakena. The Ranger School has an approved prescribed fire plan that allows live-fire experience as part of the course. Many graduates use their wildfire skills throughout their careers.

In March, rangers received several complaints about an illegal trail at the forest preserve in the Town of Pierceland. Rangers Wil Benzel and Howard Thomes, and Lt. Robert Barstow discovered the Childwold Snowmobile Club had rerouted an approved corridor trail on a conservation easement into the forest preserve. Several violations occurred, including an illegal stream crossing, cutting trees and removal of several locks on state gates. The club was fined \$2,500 and was required to remediate the affected site.

In August, Ranger Jay Terry learned about a large underage alcohol and drug party planned for Brasher State Forest. With the probability of more than 100 young people attending, Ranger Terry assembled a task force of rangers and state troopers to intervene. Nineteen people were issued 30 tickets, and two minors were returned to their parents. Charges included possession of marijuana, driving while intoxicated, open containers in a motor vehicle, felony drug possession, underage alcohol possession and leaving a fire unattended. One individual was also arrested on an outstanding warrant from Franklin County.

On the night of October 22, Ranger Wil Benzel was dispatched to direct the search for an 81-year old Potsdam man. Upon arrival, Benzel found more than 100 firefighters and volunteers, along with Saint Lawrence

County sheriff's deputies. While setting up a command post, Benzel noticed a fire department ladder truck. With typical ranger ingenuity, Benzel had the truck taken to the next road over, where a flood light was put on top of the ladder, which was then raised to its highest point. The elderly gentleman was quickly located through the subsequent search effort.

Upstate New York experienced a drought during late summer and early fall. A state-wide burning ban was generally well supported by the public. Little enforcement was necessary, and only a few fires occurred from unextinguished campfires. On September 13, a fire was discovered on state forest land in the Town of Rossie, burning in very steep, rocky terrain and embedded deep in the ground. A DEC Operations crew used a bulldozer to place a line around the fire, while rangers monitored the continuing ground fire. An investigation determined who was responsible for the fire, but he has yet to be apprehended.

## Region 6, Zone B by Lieutenant Joel Nowalk



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

With the addition of the 40,000-acre Fish Creek easement on the Tug Hill Plateau, there are now four large conservation easements in Zone B, totaling 104,957 acres. These diverse state lands host a variety of user groups throughout the year. With heavy snowfall, Zone B has the largest snowmobile trail system in the state. Cross-country ski trails have been developed in many state forests, and a network of horse trails has evolved in a portion of the Independence River Wild Forest. The popularity of 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 forest rangers.

On July 19, the pilot of an aircraft surveying the western portion of the Independence River Wild Forest for dead pine trees killed by invasive insects noticed a large amount of smoke coming from the area of Stoney Lake in Lewis County. Ranger Michael Hubschmitt responded and located a four-acre wildfire burning approximately a mile from the nearest road. Rangers Jennifer Snyder, Luke Evans, and Martin Candee responded with the zone's type 6 engine, portable pumps, and hand tools. The fire was burning adjacent to a beaver pond on a rocky hillside. Rangers set up multiple pumping stations using Mark III and mini-striker pumps with progressive hose lays to control the spread of the fire. Volunteers dug a fire line around the fire perimeter, and it took three days of mopping up hot spots burning in stumps and deep duff until the fire was controlled.



Ranger Candee conducts mop-up operations on a fire near Stoney Lake in eastern Lewis County.

On July 21, Ranger Evans received a complaint of a camper along Stillwater Reservoir exposing himself. Evans and Assistant Forest Ranger Bill Compeau responded by boat and found the man standing on the shoreline completely naked. Evans asked him if there

were any weapons or drugs at his campsite. The 50-year old Syracuse man stated he had a 9mm carbine and some marijuana. After Evans placed the man under arrest, a search of his belongings revealed an Uzi Vector carbine with six high-capacity loaded magazines and an illegal short barrel, along with some marijuana. Evans transported the man by boat to Stillwater Ranger Headquarters, where he was turned over to state police for processing on weapons and drug charges.

On July 31, a 75-acre brush fire was reported in the Town of Adams, Jefferson County. Upon arrival, Ranger John Scanlon encountered neighbors and farmers attempting to put the fire out. One farmer reportedly spread manure as a makeshift fire line. Scanlon sized up the fire, made an incident action plan and ordered three bulldozers to create a line around the fire. In addition, approximately 12 volunteer fire departments with 100 firefighters used brush trucks, ATVs with slip-on units, and hand tools to reinforce the bulldozer fireline. An overnight rain shower followed by eight days of mopping up by Ranger Snyder and local volunteer firefighters was necessary before the fire was deemed out. It was later determined the fire was caused by an unknown motorist discarding a cigarette.

Throughout the summer, Ranger Martin Candee supported the Lewis County Sheriff's Department Drug Task Force in locating marijuana plantations. A total of 241 plants were seized and destroyed at Tug Hill State Forest. Many additional sites were located but had been harvested prior to their discovery. The task force continues its investigation to identify those involved with this extensive drug network.

On September 14, rangers were advised a subject had collapsed near Gleason Falls in the Town of Watson in Lewis County. Rangers Candee, Evans, Scanlon, and Hubschmitt found a 79-year old Chittenango man dehydrated and faint after his three-mile hike. Rangers cut a trail through the woods while local EMTs assessed the man's condition. Using a six-wheeled ATV specifically designed for carrying a rescue litter, the man was moved to a waiting ambulance and transported to a local hospital.

## Region 6, Zone C by Lieutenant Scott Murphy



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 preserve 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 forest rangers and one lieutenant assigned to Zone C.



Ranger Bob Coscomb wades in the Black River after finding an illegal campsite on Forest Preserve lands in December 2012.

On April 14, Ranger David Cornell responded to a request for assistance from the McConnellsville Fire Department. A wildfire was burning in dried hardwood leaf litter in a remote area in the Town of Vienna, Oneida County. Rangers Adam Pickett and Robert Piersma and ECO Vernon Fonda also responded to the scene. Fonda arrived first and scouted the area to determine the best access to the fire. The rangers quickly formed an incident action plan, and, with the assistance of six volunteer fire departments, the wildfire was knocked down and contained. Over 13 acres of forest were burned. It took an additional five days of patrol and mopping up hotspots before the fire was declared out.

On May 26, rangers Chad Richardson and Robert Coscomb were on patrol in the Black River Wild Forest and adjacent North Lake easement lands in Herkimer County when they encountered a distraught 28-year old Boonville woman. The rangers determined that the woman and her husband had a disagreement while staying at a state land campsite. The couple stated the altercation was a simple disagreement, but rangers filed a domestic incident report.

On May 25, Ranger Coscomb responded to a complaint of illegal use of motor vehicles on forest preserve land. The complainant said that late the previous night, a vehicle nearly ran over his tent and that the occupants were disorderly, camping illegally and making a mess. Rangers Coscomb and Pickett responded to the location by boat, while rangers Hoag and Robert Piersma patrolled by foot. Piersma and Hoag located one vehicle stuck in the trail and another vehicle parked illegally on the forest preserve. After meeting with the complainant, the rangers located three Middleville men illegally camped nearby. The three were ticketed for unlawful camping within 150 feet of the lake, failing to maintain a neat, clean, and sanitary campsite, unauthorized motor vehicle use, and possession of marijuana. The two illegal vehicles were towed and impounded.

On May 27, rangers were called by Herkimer County 911 Dispatch to respond to a North Lake campsite for a man threatening members of the camping party with a knife. Rangers Pickett, Richardson, and Greg Hoag, along with two state troopers responded. The 25-year old Forestport man was combative and under the influence of bath salts. He was charged with harassment, menacing, and resisting arrest.

On July 6, a group of three adults and five children were tubing the North Branch of the Moose River from Rondaxe to Old Forge in Herkimer County. Toward evening, the group realized they had underestimated the length of their trip and were unsure of their location. They contacted a local campground by cell phone and reported they were lost. Rangers Coscomb, Pickett, Luke Evans, and Assistant Forest Ranger William Compo responded. While Pickett and Coscomb set up a command post and coordinated responders, Evans and Compo canoed upstream from the lost subjects' last known location and began searching. During the early morning hours of July 7, Evans and Compo located the original eight subjects, plus two others who went looking for them, about a mile north of their destination. The group had become stranded due to darkness.



Ranger Bob Coscomb consults maps and regulations with a hunter during big game season 2012.

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

A search for an 81-year old Lansing woman was the first and most difficult search of the year. On the afternoon of March 3, she was reported to have walked away from her residence. Rangers Joan and Jeremy Oldroyd responded and were assisted by nine rangers from adjoining regions. Management of resources was overwhelmed on March 4 when over 400 volunteers became involved in the search. An aerial search was not possible for the first two-and-a-half days due to foul weather conditions. A Civil Air Patrol flight on the afternoon of March 5 spotted the woman's body a mile from her residence, an apparent victim of exposure to the cold.



Ranger Scott Jackson digs ground fire on the Hula Popper Fire.

A significant number of fatalities occurred on state lands in Region 7 this year. A motor vehicle accident at Connecticut Hill WMA took the lives of three Newfield residents in March when the truck they were riding in left the road and overturned in a pond. On April 20, a 39-year old Canastota woman committed suicide in the Stoney Pond State Forest, Madison County. Her body was discovered by two people driving through the area. On April 15, a 63-year old Berkshire man committed suicide at Turkey Hill State Forest, Tioga County. In this case, state police located the subject's body from his cell phone. In August, a 45-year old Willet man drowned while swimming with family at the Whitney Point Multiple Use Area (MUA), Broome County. Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd was alerted to the incident by others as he was patrolling. Broome County Dive Team members located the victim's body in about ten feet of water near the point where he was last seen.

The ten-acre Hula Popper Fire, one of three occurring in Hall Island State Forest this summer, was especially difficult for Ranger Jackson and others to suppress. The Salmon River Reservoir was significantly drained so that the fire could only be accessed by hiking to it. Once on scene, rangers dug over 200 feet of fire line, two feet deep through roots and duff to contain the stubborn ground fire.

The remains of five illegal meth labs were found on state land this year, as were three marijuana plantations that rangers removed.

## Region 8 by Lieutenant Joseph Shafer



Region 8 is considered one 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. At full staffing, Region 8 has one lieutenant, five forest rangers and two seasonal AFRs.

On October 23, Ranger Daniel Cordell and ECO Chris Ward were at York Central School when students told the two officers they observed a person lying in a field as they rode to school. Cordell and Ward responded to the location and found an injured man lying in the field. An investigation determined that the 44-year old Leicester man had been riding his ATV on the nearby railroad bridge the day before when it became lodged between the two sets of railroad tracks. As the ATV suddenly stopped, the man was thrown off and fell through an opening between the tracks down 20 feet to the creek below. He was able to drag himself out of the creek and to the field where he was first seen. Cordell and Ward rendered first aid until emergency medical personnel responded. The man was subsequently treated for a brain bruise, fractures to both legs, a broken back and a punctured lung.

While on routine patrol of High Tor Wildlife Management Area in Yates County on November 17, Ranger Dormer informed Yates County dispatching police, fire and EMS of a hunter shot and lying in a field. Dormer was the first responder on scene and, when he arrived, he observed two of the hunter's companions roadside. Dormer told one of the men to find a path for EMS to reach their injured companion, while the other man showed Dormer where the injured man was. A third hunting companion was with the 59-year old Rochester man when Dormer arrived. Dormer and the two men provided first aid until EMS arrived and transported the injured hunter to an area hospital.

Region 8 was assigned two AFRs this year. Shalyn Yost was primarily assigned to the newly acquired Hemlock Canadice State Forest while Katelyn Almeter was primarily assigned to Sugar Hill and Birdseye Hollow state forests. They were both kept very busy answering questions and providing information to visitors. Yost routinely encountered 25 vehicles with boats at the four boat launch sites in her patrol area. Because these parcels are new state land acquisitions, Yost addressed many prohibited activities, such as camping, having campfires, building structures, dumping and swimming. Almeter's patrol area included the Finger Lakes Trail and the 35-mile-long Six Nations Trail. The area also includes a fire tower, several cabins, a bath house, and large areas used for camping and horse riding. She located and extinguished 12 unattended campfires and notified local police of several domestic violence incidents and the presence of a registered sex offender camping on state land.

## Region 9 by Lieutenant 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 daily 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 sizeable being the Allegany Indian Reservation near Salamanca and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation near Brant. Seven forest rangers, one lieutenant and one seasonal assistant forest ranger are assigned to the zone.

In January, rangers Martin Flanagan, Dan Cordell and John Kennedy trained state and state park police in flat-ice rescue at Darien Lake State Park. State park officers were given an abbreviated flat-ice rescue course and the opportunity to rescue mock victims on and through the ice. The three rangers alternated as helicopter hoist crew chiefs and rescuers. This training was to simulate a rescue on frozen waterways such as the Great Lakes.

At about 9 PM on February 3, Ranger Kennedy received a complaint from a neighbor of Tillman WMA who heard screaming from what they thought was an animal. When Kennedy arrived, he met two Erie County sheriff's deputies who had also received the same complaint. The three officers searched the area and located a vehicle to the west of the Tillman Road parking area. When they looked through the vehicle's windows, they saw hunting gear in the back seat even though hunting is not authorized at Tillman WMA. Kennedy patrolled the trails in the southern portion of the property and determined that the screaming was actually a predator call used by hunters. He located two 21-year old Buffalo men dressed in camouflage and issued tickets for unauthorized hunting and use of this state land after sunset.



Ranger John Kennedy assisted DEC Wildlife staff with a bat survey at the West Mine in Akron.

On February 24, rangers Flanagan, Kennedy and Bob Rogers assisted the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department with a search for a suicidal 34-year old West Valley man in the Town of Ashford, who was last seen four days earlier. Upon arrival, Flanagan and Kennedy organized firefighter crews to search the area near the man's home. Rogers also debriefed other law enforcement personnel who had been searching by foot or with a K-9. Soon after, two searchers on horseback found the man deceased, presumably from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Rangers Peter Liebig and Justin Thaine continued their work with Partners for Prevention in Allegany County, where remote state lands are attractive for late night underage drinking parties. Phillips Creek, Vandermark Turnpike, and Palmer's Pond state forests in the eastern part of the county are common sites for underage drinking due to nearby Alfred College and University. Thaine and Liebig intensified their enforcement activities at these state forests to prevent off-road vehicle use, underage drinking and illegal drug use. As a result, 13 associated arrests were made related to these illegal activities.

On August 11, Ranger Kennedy received a complaint from two hikers who said that the previous night, they had found a party spot at Carlton Hill MUA. While searching the woods at the reported party location, Kennedy located many trees that had been cut down, a large amount of trash that had been left behind and a wallet with a driver's license. When the owner of the wallet was questioned, he named numerous other people who had been at the party. With the assistance of state police, five Warsaw men, ages 17 to 21, were apprehended, and seven tickets were issued for depositing trash and cutting trees on state land.

On December 8, while patrolling English Hill State Forest, Ranger Liebig encountered one person operating a utility vehicle (UTV) illegally on a public highway. The 48-year old Allen man was stopped and subsequently turned over to state police, who charged him with two felonies and a misdemeanor for driving while intoxicated and criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree.

While patrolling in Chautauqua County on December 9, Ranger Pachan noticed a parked vehicle on state land with an expired inspection. Upon further investigation, he noticed a pair of brass knuckles in the vehicle. Pachan apprehended the 25-year old Jamestown man camping on state land and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, false inspection sticker, marijuana possession, and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree.

## Wildland Fire Program by Fire Management Administrative Specialist Lisa Smith



**The Crescent Bow Fire threatens homes and power lines as it burns 992 acres on April 9.**

2012 was the third year of New York's new open burning regulations that prohibit the burning of leaves and garbage at any time, and brush between March 16 and May 14. Although difficult to compare with other years, spring 2012 was, anecdotally, exceptionally dry and snowless during the winter and up to April 30 throughout much of the state. Among the most notable spring fires were the 52-acre Tamarack Lodge Fire, Ulster County on April 7 that consumed eight residences and 40 other buildings, the 992-acre Crescent Bow Fire, Suffolk County on April 9 that destroyed one residence, 15 other buildings and one fire engine, and the 481-acre Anthony Wayne Fire in Bear Mountain Park, Rockland County on

April 9. The division flew ten aerial-detection and open-burning compliance missions in mid-April and detected twice as many wildfires than illegal burns.

The traditionally large number of debris burning-caused wildfires in regions 3 and 4 (lower Hudson Valley) was almost non-existent, with only two of 22 wildfires caused by debris burning during the spring ban. Upstate fire departments continue to provide anecdotal reports that the number of wildfires they respond to has drastically reduced due to the burn ban. Heavy rains in early May put an end to the 2012 spring fire season for all of New York.

Another dry spell affected upstate during the summer, resulting in 68 wildfires that burned a total of 138 acres. On July 31, the 75-acre Green Settlement Fire in Jefferson County was one of two large fires over 10 acres that occurred. Almost all the other summer fires were less than one-acre in size and caused by unextinguished campfires or lightning strikes. Due to the dry weather and increasing number of wildfires, Governor Cuomo ordered the spring burn ban extended from July 13 through October 10. Dry weather continued until Super Storm Sandy affected the Northeast in late October.

As part of maintaining its ability to control wildfires in New York and support other states when needed, the division annually qualifies wildland firefighters to state and national standards. In 2012, over 170 firefighters submitted the required 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. More than half of these active wildland firefighters were interested in 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 the IQS.

On March 22 and 23, a crew boss and single-resource meeting was held at the Port of Albany. These meetings plan our yearly goals and expectations regarding out-of-state wildfire response, as well as in-state fire support. Colonel Andrew Jacob and Captain Eric Lahr led the meeting, with rangers Tim Carpenter, Bryan

Gallagher, Peter Liebig, David Kallen, Jamie Laczko, Adam Pickett and Fire Management Administrative Specialist Lisa Smith attending.

2012 was busy as compared to the previous two years for sending rangers to out-of-state wildfires. Ranger Peter Liebig was assigned as the planning section chief at the East End and Low Gap wildfires in Missouri from June 30 through July 12. Ranger Scott Jackson was assigned as a priority trainee on the same fire from July 3 through 12. These fires were located in the Mark Twain National Forest and consumed more than 550 acres total. Ranger Michael Burkholder was assigned as a receiving/distribution manager at the Arapaho Fire in Wyoming from July 2 through 17. This fire consumed 98,115 acres and was managed by a national type 1 incident management team (IMT). Ranger Adam Pickett was assigned as a situation unit leader at the 2,562-acre Chrandal Creek Fire at the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana from July 12 through July 27. Ranger Jaime Laczko was assigned as a priority trainee task force leader at the 146,832-acre Trinity Ridge Fire in Idaho from August 9 through 25. Ranger Timothy Carpenter was assigned as a priority trainee task force leader on the 181,798-acre Halstead Fire in Idaho from August 14 through 29. Ranger Robert Rogers was assigned as a resource unit leader trainee on the 340,659-acre Mustang Complex Fire in Idaho from August 15 through September 1.



**NYS-1 Fire Crew in Montana**

New York sent one 20-person initial attack firefighting crew (NYS Crew #1) to the 9,863-acre West Garceau and Elevation Mountain fires in Montana from August 15 through 31. It included crew boss Ranger David Kallen, squad bosses rangers William Giraud and John Scanlon and volunteer Lawrence Day; sawyers Forester Eric Kasza, maintenance assistants Joseph Pries and Steven Brown; and firefighters Ranger Michael Thompson, Mineral Resource Specialist Paul Giachetti, volunteers Jacob Powell, Matthew Vincent, Douglas Velte and Jon Cole; foresters James Canevari, Christopher Sprague, Aaron Graves and Joshua Utberg; Marine Biologist Stephanie Larkin, Citizen Participation Specialist Theresa Copa and Pesticide Control Specialist 2 Mark Solan.

Communication Technician 1 Alicia Bodmer was assigned as an Expanded Dispatcher Recorder Trainee at the Northeast Coordination Center (NECC) in Augusta, Maine from June 8 through 17. Bodmer used the national Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) to assign and transport northeastern firefighters to wildfires throughout the country. Retired US Forest Service employee Howard Hann was assigned as a division group supervisor at the Arapaho Fire in Wyoming from July 2 through 17 and a type 3 incident commander at the Lagoon Creek Fire in Oklahoma from August 9 through 24. Hann helps Region 8 rangers with wildfires and other incident command responsibilities since his retirement and relocation to New York. Retired Ranger Steven Ovitt was assigned as a division group supervisor and a task force leader at the 2012 Miscellaneous ABCD Fire Complex in Idaho from August 10 through 27.

### **Emergency Management by Colonel Andrew T. Jacob**

DEC's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) are representatives of DEC divisions and regions coordinated by Director Ronald Gatto. Colonel Andrew Jacob, Division of Forest Protection, Major Tim Duffy, Division of Law Enforcement, and Chief Dennis Farrar, Division of Environmental Remediation Spills Unit

comprise the core leadership of the EMU. Each DEC division selects a program emergency response coordinator (PERC), and each region selects a regional emergency response coordinator (RERC) to represent their program or region in the EMU. On February 29, Commissioner Joe Martens signed Commissioner Policy 54 as the first department policy to define the EMU and its mission. It did not take long to implement the policy, as New York State was affected by large wildfires and a historic super storm later in the year.



Ranger Karen Glesmann works the DEC desk at DHSES SEOC during Super Storm Sandy.

The State Office of Emergency Management (SOEM) State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated on 11 occasions in 2012 for natural and planned events. All activations required a Region 4 forest ranger to staff the DEC desk. Rangers Karen Glesmann, Bill Henry, Christine Nelson, Joe Hess, Tom Edmunds and Joe Bink alternated assignments throughout the year or incident. Five events were in response to severe snowstorms and flooding in February, April, May, July, September and December. The severe drought that impacted much of the country in the spring and summer months resulted in activation of the SEOC for two weeks in April in preparation for any large fire complexes. Three activations were for planned training exercises in July, August, September and October. The largest SEOC activation was in preparation, response and recovery efforts related to

Super Storm Sandy. Rangers were assigned to the agency desk from late October through mid-December.

Super storm Sandy hit southeastern New York on October 29 and caused the greatest damage in history to property in New York City and Long Island. As with all recent large-scale natural disasters, forest rangers were directed to provide rescue services and recovery support to communities and other department programs. Two of the division's airboats (AB-53 and AB-54) were sent to New York City and Long Island. Rangers Rob Prackajlo, Rick Schroeder, Tony Goetke, Evan Donegan, Art Perryman and Jamie Laczko staffed AB54 at Republic Air Field in Suffolk County while rangers David Kallen, Charles Kabrehl and John Ploss staffed AB-53 at Jamaica Armory. The AB54 crew assisted New York City firefighters and police officers with the rescue of an elderly couple who had become stranded by tidal water in their neighborhood, and the crew eventually assisted the DEC Spills Unit with identifying orphan chemical tanks.

Ranger Mike Bodnar was assigned as agency representative to a 10-person sawyer crew of department employees sent to New York City to cut and clear tree debris. They took assignments in Staten Island and Queens and used Mount Loretto Unique Area as a base of operations. Rangers Chuck Kabrehl, Evan Donegan and Rob Dawson had the same assignment with a smaller crew sent to the city in late November.

Rangers staffed most of the positions at DEC's emergency response coordination center (ERCC) located at the department's Port Albany Maintenance Facility. Under the leadership of DEC's Director of Emergency Management Ron Gatto, rangers, ECOs, citizen participation specialists and staff from several other department programs monitored the response of all department employees and developed daily situation reports. Captains Eric Lahr and Dave Brooks were incident commanders; rangers Bob Rogers and Jim McPherson were planning section chiefs; Captain Ed Russell was finance section chief; Lieutenant John Solan and Ranger Werner Schwab were logistics section chiefs; rangers David Russell, Bill Mehan and Pat Dormer were resource unit leaders; rangers Joe Hess, Chris Kostoss, Rob Mecus, Dave Cornell and Megan Dominesey were situation unit leaders; Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist Shannon Glazer assisted; and Mechanic Jeremy Perkins supported the logistics unit.

On November 26, nine forest rangers were assigned to the state incident management team (IMT) operating in the Breezy Point community of Rockaway Peninsula, Queens. Captain Tim Byrnes was assigned as DEC Agency Representative, Captain Dave Brooks as deputy incident commander, Ranger Pete Liebig as planning section chief, Ranger Scott Jackson as resource unit leader and demobilization unit leader, Ranger Kevin Slade as resource unit leader trainee, Ranger Adam Pickett as situation unit leader, Ranger Mike Thompson as situation unit leader trainee, Ranger Mike Burkholder as supply unit leader, and Ranger Bryan Gallagher as facilities unit leader. Most of the other 29 IMT members were employees of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Service (DHSES). The team’s mission was to support the community’s recovery from 3,000 homes lost or destroyed by the flooding sea and 337 homes lost from a storm-caused fire. The IMT reestablished communications systems for the local volunteer fire departments, provided portable showers, wash stations, and portable light towers and generators, and supported the Red Cross food service. The IMT also distributed thousands of safety glasses, Tyvex coveralls, puncture-resistant work gloves and similar safety equipment. One IMT member acted as a liaison between the utility companies, contractors, and volunteers. Three public information boards were erected at the three fire stations to provide safety, health, restoration and recovery information to the community.

## 2012 Training and Presentation Report

In 2012, forest ranger training activities accounted for 545 training events for a total of 3,480 classroom hours and 31,614 attendees. A summary of these events is listed in the table below.

RISK TYPE	TRAINING PROGRAM	Total Attendees	Class Hours	Ranger Training	Training to Others	Total Events
WS	Wildland Search and Rescue	7,807	943	15	150	165
WS	Helicopter and Aviation	167	145	21	3	24
WS	Airboat Operation	130	127	19	0	19
LE	Law Enforcement	748	552	39	22	61
WF	Wildfire Management	17,425	1,244	12	175	187
EM	Wilderness First Aid	163	78	4	7	11
AH	All Hazard	162	192	11	7	18
NH	No Hazard - General	<u>5,012</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>60</u>
	<b>TOTAL for All Events</b>	<b>31,614</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>545</b>

## Wildland Search and Rescue Training

In 2012, the division continued regionally sponsored training to develop, enhance and maintain the search and rescue skills of its rangers through 55 training events. Each region selected training topics to match their geographic area. These topics included wilderness search and rescue, swiftwater rescue, high and low angle rope rescue, flat and vertical ice rescue, basic backcountry skiing, global positioning system (GPS) and land navigation, airboat operation, snowmobile operation, and helicopter operations.

Lieutenant Gary Friedrich continued as the division's coordinator for helicopter hoist operators. In 2012, there were 21 training events with state police aviation that involved 114 training hours. Training topics included personnel and litter hoists, ground schools, forward-looking infrared (FLIR) training, and firefighting water bucket operations.

Similarly, the division's airboat operators accomplished 19 training events over 129 training hours that prepare the operators for a variety of environmental conditions. Lieutenant Steve Preston and Ranger Rick Schroeder led the airboat program to ensure that operators develop and maintain the necessary skills for open water, swiftwater and flat ice.



## Police Officer Training

In 2012, the division completed all state-mandated firearms proficiency training, plus several courses involving patrol rifle qualification, active shooter response and defense tactics refresher. Lieutenant Timothy Taylor served as the use-of-force training program coordinator. He was assisted by Captain Tim Byrnes, lieutenants Brian Dubay, Rob Morse and Scott Murphy, and rangers Peter Liebig, Glen Bronson, Dan Cordell, Mike Hubschmitt, Chad Richardson, Greg Hoag, Joe LaPierre, Anne Staples, Tim Flanagan, Tony Goetke, Joan Oldroyd, Ian Kerr, Mike Burkholder and John Kennedy.

## Wildfire Management Training

Throughout the year, rangers sponsored and taught 17 Basic Wildland Firefighting Suppression courses certified by the state Office of Fire Prevention and Control. This course is designed for volunteer firefighters, and a total of 276 firefighters were certified. In addition, one four-hour course was provided to 175 Department of Correction's inmates.

The division sponsored five 40-hour S-130 Firefighter Training and S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior courses throughout the year. These courses were held in regions 4, 5, 6 and 7 and provided instruction to 72 firefighters. Successful completion of these nationally approved courses qualifies individuals to become wildland firefighters on federal incidents. Additionally, during the spring, the division hosted eight RT-130

Annual Firefighter Refresher courses as part of the annual qualification process for firefighters to attain federal response credentials.

### Wilderness First Responder Training

The division’s Wilderness Medical Associate (WMA) instructors provided four recertification courses to 36 rangers as part of a three-year rotation of training and certification. Each ranger must pass an exam and perform satisfactorily in all practical scenarios. Lieutenant Julie Harjung is lead instructor, assisted by rangers Jen Temple, Mike Burkholder, Rob Dawson, Peter Evans, Megan Dominesey and Bob Rogers and ECOs Brian Willson and Bruce Hummel.



### Training Hours Summary Report

In 2012, the division recorded a total of 545 training events for a total of 27,067 work hours or 16% of total annual ranger work hours. Rangers were instructors for 11,651 hours or 7% of total annual work hours and received training for 15,416 hours or 9% of total hours. The search and rescue training program accounted for 8,073 hours or 30% of all training time; wildfire training accounted for 5,979 hours or 22%; police training accounted for 9,904 hours or 37%; and other general training accounted for 3,111 work hours or 11%.

The following annual comparison table and bar graphs provides a breakdown of all training activity for the division in 2012 as reported by each ranger.

<b>DIVISION of FOREST PROTECTION</b>				
<b>Table of Hours Worked in the Training Program by Category</b>				
	<b>Annual Program Hours Worked per Category</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2011</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
Search and Rescue Training Given	4,094	3,282	3,502	4,061
<u>Search and Rescue Training Received</u>	<u>6,194</u>	<u>5,076</u>	<u>4,470</u>	<u>4,012</u>
<b>Search and Rescue Training Total</b>	<b>10,288</b>	<b>8,358</b>	<b>7,972</b>	<b>8,073</b>
Wildfire Training Given	4,044	4,059	3,427	3,717
<u>Wildfire Training Received</u>	<u>3,009</u>	<u>3,790</u>	<u>2,753</u>	<u>2,262</u>
<b>Wildfire Training Total</b>	<b>7,053</b>	<b>7,849</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>5,979</b>
Police Officer Training Given	784.50	883	1,617	2,854
<u>Police Officer Training Received</u>	<u>3,118</u>	<u>2,987</u>	<u>4,170</u>	<u>7,050</u>
<b>Police Officer Training Total</b>	<b>3,902</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>5,787</b>	<b>9,904</b>
Basic Academy Training Given	0	0	0	415
Basic Academy Training Received	0	0	0	0
<u>Basic Academy Training Admin.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>62</u>
<b>Basic Academy Training Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>477</b>
General Training Given	721	492	522	542
General Training Received	2,594	2,245	2,308	2,070
<u>General Training OSHA</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>22</u>
<b>General Training Total</b>	<b>3,405</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>2,634</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24,648</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>22,856</b>	<b>27,067</b>

## 2012 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	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	5	0	1	0	1	5	7	27
# of Campfire Caused Fires	1	1	3	2	3	10	3	4	6	4	3	3	2	1	3	2	1	52
# of Lightning Caused Fires	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	9
# of Arson Caused Fires	13	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	21
# of Other Caused Fires	5	9	3	3	5	1	3	2	1	7	4	0	4	3	7	7	4	68
<b>TOTAL # OF FIRES</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>177</b>
# of Fires < 0.25 acres	8	1	0	4	2	9	4	4	4	5	3	3	3	1	4	3	4	62
# of Fires 0.25 to 9.9 Acres	7	8	5	2	8	3	6	2	4	8	12	1	4	2	7	12	5	96
# of Fires 10 to 99.9 Acres	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	17
# of Fires 100 Acres or larger	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL ACRES OF FIRES</b>	<b>1103.5</b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>507.6</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>2145.9</b>
# of State Land Fires	11	1	1	3	1	6	2	4	4	2	1	4	2	0	4	5	3	54
# of Private and Other Government Land Fires	8	11	6	4	9	6	9	2	4	11	15	0	6	4	7	11	10	123
# of Spring Fires	17	9	4	3	4	0	1	1	2	6	9	0	3	2	9	10	5	85
# of Summer Fires	0	1	1	4	4	12	8	5	6	5	3	4	5	1	2	3	3	67
# of Fall-Winter Fires	2	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	3	5	25
<b>TOTAL COST OF FIRES</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,739</b>	<b>\$439</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$12</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$447</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,697</b>

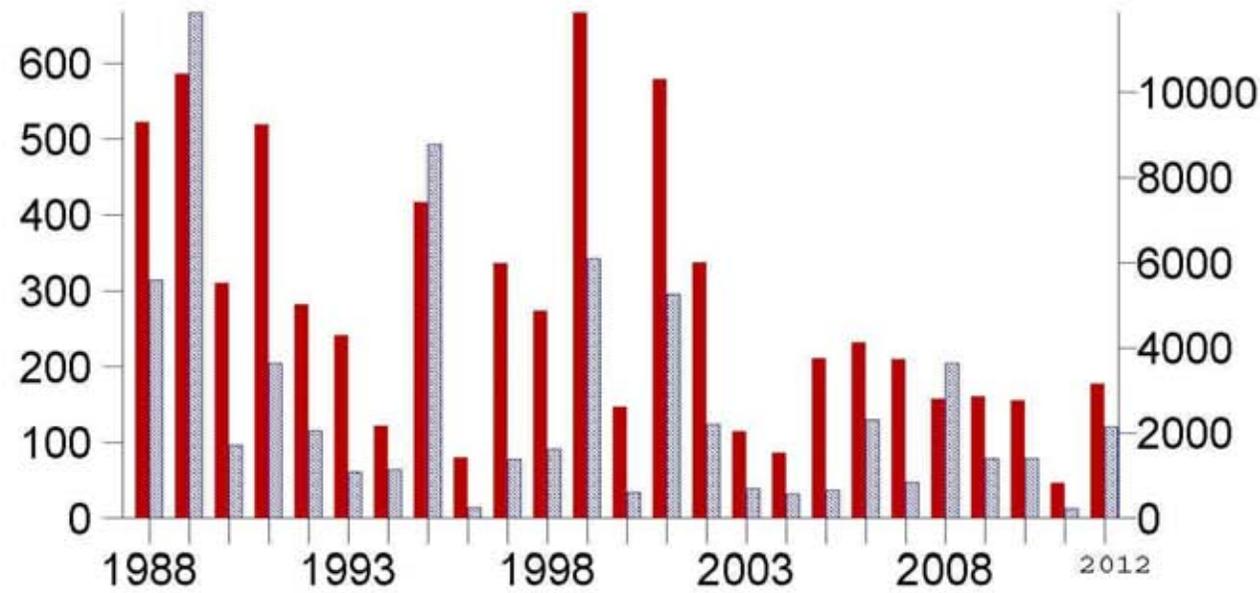
## Wildland Fires and Acres Burned in New York State 1961-2012

Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire
1961	663	4,440	6.7
1962	1,532	19,549	12.7
1963	1,429	12,405	8.7
1964	1,742	18,592	10.7
1965	1,200	8,469	7.1
1966	1,131	5,856	5.2
1967	657	4,218	6.4
1968	1,458	11,413	7.8
1969	894	5,135	5.7
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	155	1,413	9.1
2011	47	232	4.9
2012	177	2,146	12.1

Fires (6971)  
(Solid)

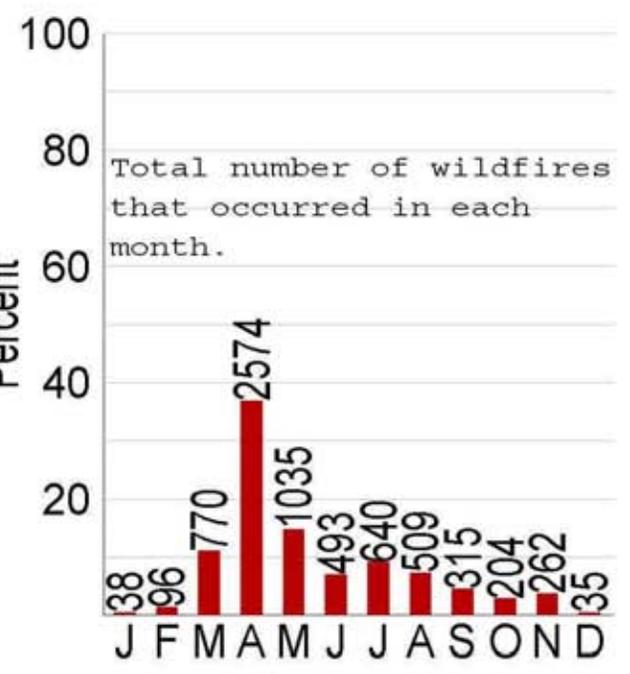
NEW YORK STATE FOREST RANGERS  
WILDFIRE STATISTICS FOR ALL NEW YORK  
1988-2012

Acres (67273)  
(Hatch)

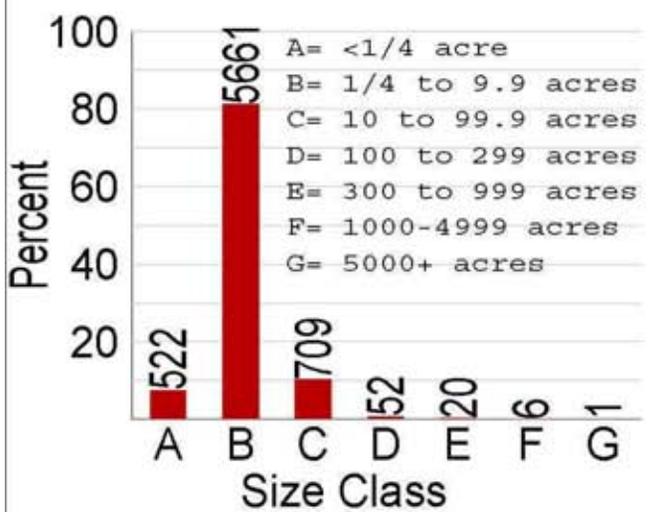


Total Fires and Acres by Year

25-YEAR ANNUAL AVERAGE OF FIRES:  
279 FIRES BURN 2,691 ACRES.

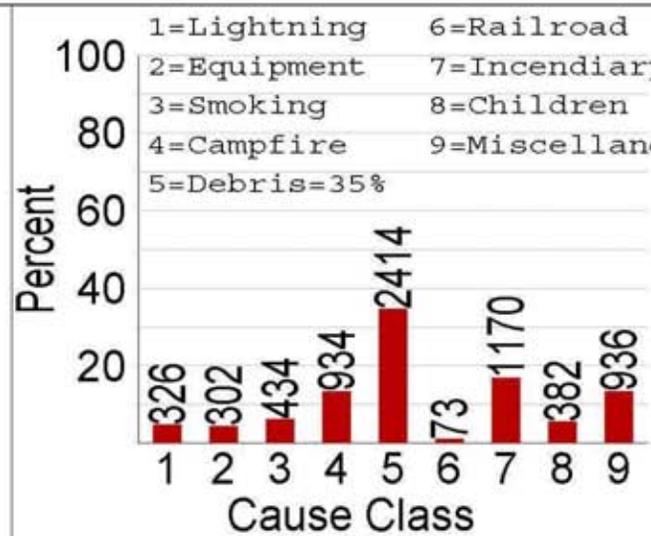


Month



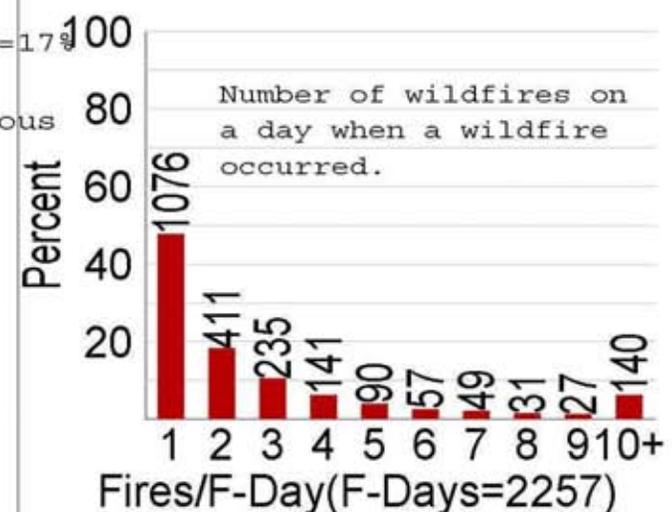
Size Class

A= <1/4 acre  
B= 1/4 to 9.9 acres  
C= 10 to 99.9 acres  
D= 100 to 299 acres  
E= 300 to 999 acres  
F= 1000-4999 acres  
G= 5000+ acres

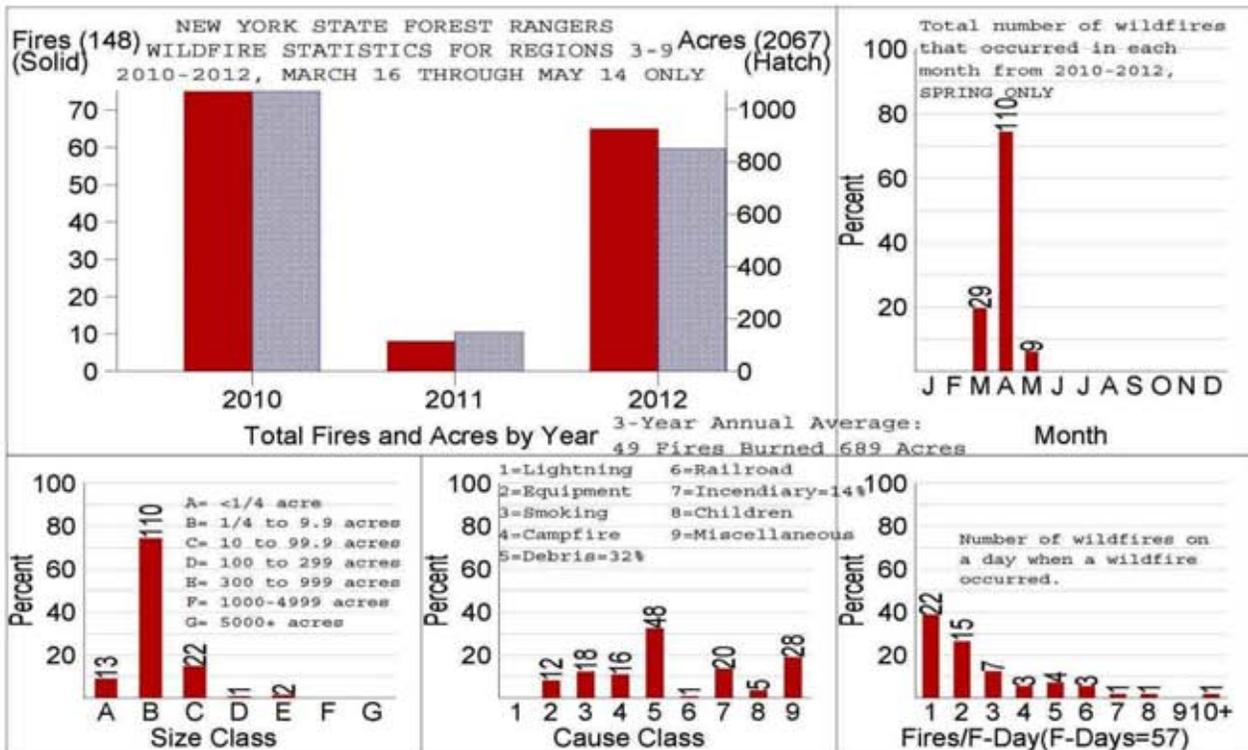
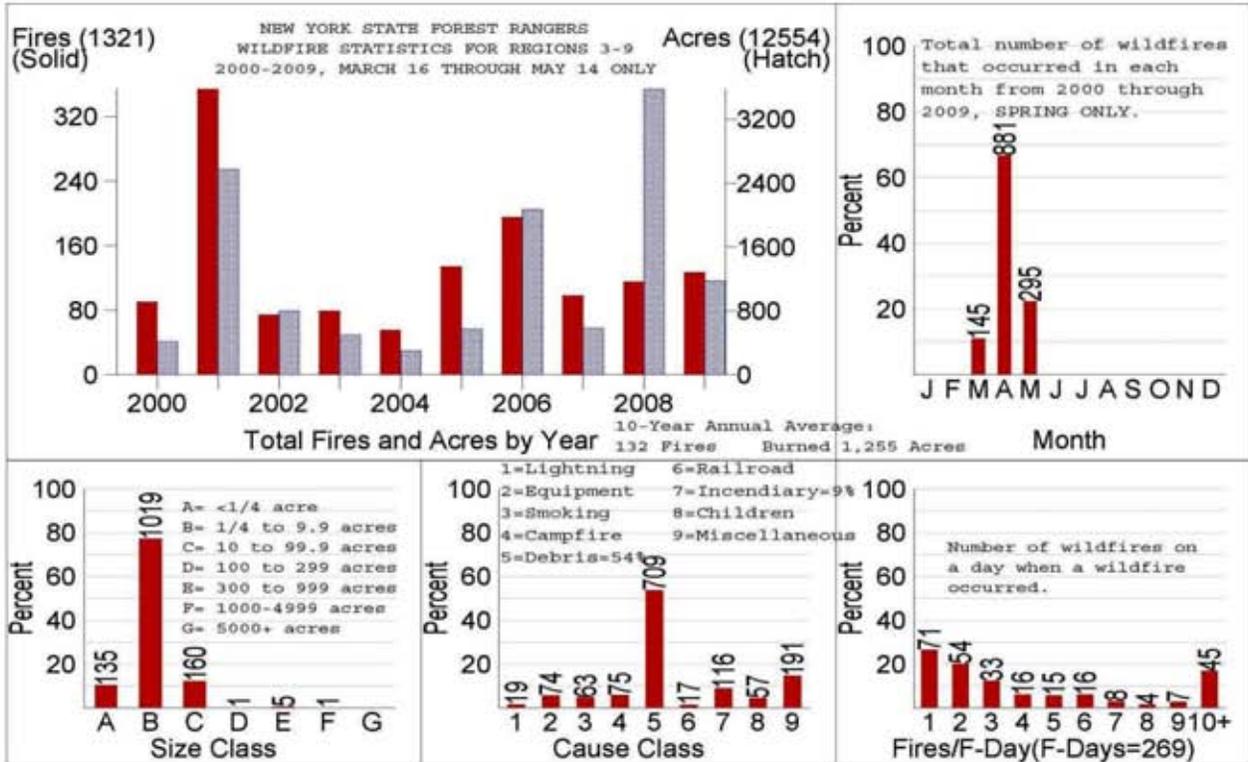


Cause Class

1=Lightning 6=Railroad  
2=Equipment 7=Incendiary=17%  
3=Smoking 8=Children  
4=Campfire 9=Miscellaneous  
5=Debris=35%



Fires/F-Day(F-Days=2257)



**2012 SUMMARY of ALL SEARCH & RESCUE MISSIONS  
REPORTED by FOREST RANGERS**

Activity of Subject(s)	Total #	% Total	Searches	Rescues	Recoveries	Costs
<b>Biking</b>	3	1.1%	3			
<b>Boating</b>	8	2.9%	3	4	1	
<b>Camping</b>	11	4.0%	2	9		
<b>Climbing (Rock/Ice)</b>	2	0.7%		2		<b>\$565</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	5	1.8%	4		1	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Hiking</b>	153	55.8%	83	67	3	<b>\$22</b>
<b>Hunting</b>	30	11.0%	24	4	2	<b>\$720</b>
<b>Runaway/Fugitive</b>	14	5.1%	13		1	
<b>Skiing/Snowshoeing</b>	3	1.1%	1	2		
<b>Snowmobile/ATV</b>	9	3.3%	7	2		
<b>Swimming</b>	8	2.9%	1	7		
<b>Walking/Walkaway</b>	21	7.7%	18	1	2	<b>\$321</b>
<b>Whitewater</b>	1	0.4%			1	
<b>Other***</b>	6	2.2%	3	3		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$1,928</b>

\*\*\* Chainsaw, Criminal, Flood Victim, Motor Vehicle

**Number of Incidents by Day of Week**

Event	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	TOTAL
<b>Search</b>	22	22	17	19	22	30	30	<b>162</b>
<b>Rescue</b>	7	5	12	12	17	26	22	<b>101</b>
<b>Recovery</b>	0	1	1	0	3	4	2	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>274</b>

**Number and Percentage of Incidents by Month**

MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total	MONTH	# of Incidents	Percent of Total
<b>January</b>	11	4.0	<b>July</b>	28	10.2
<b>February</b>	16	5.8	<b>August</b>	32	11.7
<b>March</b>	12	4.4	<b>September</b>	29	10.6
<b>April</b>	10	3.7	<b>October</b>	45	16.4
<b>May</b>	22	8.0	<b>November</b>	16	5.8
<b>June</b>	35	12.8	<b>December</b>	18	6.6
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2012 SUMMARY of SEARCH-and-RESCUE INCIDENTS by ZONE**

<b>SEARCH ACTIVITY</b>	<b>1&amp;2</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>5A</b>	<b>5B</b>	<b>5C</b>	<b>5D</b>	<b>5E</b>	<b>5F</b>	<b>6A</b>	<b>6B</b>	<b>6C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Biking</b>				1			1									1		<b>3</b>
<b>Boating</b>			1			2		1	1	2				1				<b>8</b>
<b>Camping</b>		2				3	2	1	2		1							<b>11</b>
<b>Chainsaw</b>														1				<b>1</b>
<b>Climbing: Rock/Ice</b>		1						1										<b>2</b>
<b>Criminal</b>	1							1										<b>2</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	1		1			1			1	1								<b>5</b>
<b>Flood Victim</b>	1																	<b>1</b>
<b>Hiking</b>		10	6	13	2	7	6	56	16	16	7		2	2	2	5	3	<b>153</b>
<b>Hunting</b>		1			1	1	1		5	5	2	1	3	2	3	1	4	<b>30</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>								1							1			<b>2</b>
<b>Off Road vehicle/ATV</b>											2				1	2	1	<b>6</b>
<b>Runaway</b>		1	1	1			3			1	2			2	2		1	<b>14</b>
<b>Skiing</b>								3										<b>3</b>
<b>Snowmobile</b>									2				1					<b>3</b>
<b>Swimming</b>				5				1		1					1			<b>8</b>
<b>Walking</b>				1	1	3		1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5	1	2	<b>21</b>
<b>Whitewater</b>										1								<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>STATE LAND INCIDENTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>TOTAL Non-Personal Service Costs</b>	<b>\$300</b>							<b>\$587</b>					<b>\$720</b>		<b>\$321</b>			<b>\$1,928</b>

## Wildland Search and Rescue Missions

### New York State

#### 1963-2012

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
			2012	274	6,347
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 2012

DEC Region-Zone	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	ALL
<b>Number of S130/190 Training Events</b>	2								1			1				1		<b>5</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	25								18			37				10		<b>90</b>
<b>Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events</b>			5	1	3		1				1				4	2		<b>17</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above			91	10	41		9				19				64	42		<b>276</b>
<b># of 4-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events</b>							1											<b>1</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above							175											<b>175</b>
<b>Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events</b>	6		3	4		1	1		2	1	7				6	6	3	<b>40</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	126		32	78		8	54		35	25	149				115	141	142	<b>905</b>
<b>Number of Fire Prevention Events</b>	1	1	1	4	9		4		8	2	3		3	2	2	3	10	<b>53</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	500	500	150	930	2,000		65		303	250	265		335	25	125	555	2,219	<b>8,222</b>
<b>Number of Basic Wildland Search Courses</b>	3	5	4	3	2	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	6	2	1	<b>40</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	46	66	114	41	49	28	18	17	56	15	13	11	21	39	109	45	36	<b>724</b>
<b>Number of Other S&amp;R or 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Courses</b>			6	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4		1	1	15	4	11	<b>69</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above			557	86	290	70	46	65	45	326	68		8	30	180	109	310	<b>2,190</b>
<b># of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations</b>	2	6	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	7		8	7	1	3	13	<b>60</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	137	530	190	10	35	50	97	30	89	31	1,343		420	153	2,000	855	1,078	<b>7,048</b>
<b>Number of Career Information Events</b>	1		2	12	2	3	2		3	7	3		1	2	4	5	13	<b>60</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	50		950	838	625	160	25		130	810	52		25	46	50	215	1,912	<b>5,888</b>
<b>Other Presentations or Training Events</b>		1	3	3		1	5	9	4	1	5		3	27	1	6	3	<b>72</b>
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		37	82	180		136	95	198	199	200	2,036		295	1,569	9	183	60	<b>5,279</b>
<b>Total # of Presentations &amp; Training Events</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>Total Hours of Presentations &amp; Training Events</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>2,482</b>
<b>Total Number of Attendees at Events</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>2,166</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>5,757</b>	<b>30,797</b>

## 2012 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	69	8	40	34	9	34	20	27	58	14	10	15	63	94	23	25	38	<b>581</b>
# of Defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment		1	17	14		2	3	4	3				0	2			4	<b>50</b>
# of Article 9 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger		9		89	98	37	251	217	168	58	183	45	24	43				<b>1,222</b>
# of Open Burning Inspections		9		8	4	3	21	5	40	4	6	13	6	7		8	8	<b>142</b>
# of Article 9 Burning Permits issued by Agent		1,330	267	52	218	70	14		94	149	157	54	0	54				<b>2,459</b>
# of Camping Permits Issued		173	10	66	47	355	47	69	342	136	121	139	67	70	149	180	59	<b>2,030</b>
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected	35	923	1,554	197	193	555	522	1,887	1,469	719	207	304	1,847	951	823	1,021	555	<b>13,762</b>
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds	7	194	12	109	89	275	242	34	366	152	10	69	86	165		13		<b>1,823</b>
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	4	1	32	39	27		23	2	37	7	12	9	6	150	244	154	366	<b>1,113</b>
# of Responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)			1			4	14	1	10	1	6	1	3	6	4	5	5	<b>61</b>
# of Guides Checked for License Compliance				1			6	14	203	27			0			1	3	<b>255</b>
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued							6	1	17		6	6	8	2				<b>46</b>
# of Stream Crossing or Wetland Inspections						2	21	1	37		15	6	1	19				<b>102</b>
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections	37		1				4		23	46	17		0	1	9	9		<b>147</b>
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	2,322	2,985	2,893	2,415	2,885	2,963	3,691	3,724	2,935	3,012	2,632	1,463	2,483	7,162	5,182	7,992	8,962	<b>65,701</b>
# of CP-3 Compliance Checks	5			2						14			0	10	27	12	3	<b>73</b>
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	196	32	107	222	164	31	247	25	206	34	21	214	46	137	156	92	149	<b>2,079</b>
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Foot/Snoeshoe/Sk	538	757	1,029	1,485	428	1,607	1,476	2,636	1,831	1,831	520	252	453	1,097	517	514	1,201	<b>18,172</b>
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Motor Vehicle	1,411	95	350	75	481	407	405	160	399	524	130	600	95	1,022	1,798	1,256	4,925	<b>14,133</b>
Miles of Snowmobile Patrol	10		50		46	35	197	31	2,698	210	4	319	1,228	1,015	114	133	158	<b>6,248</b>
# of Snowmobile Safety/Compliance Checks			74	23	18	253	80	289	10,244	92		798	1,432	515	297	138	99	<b>14,352</b>
Hours of Motorboat/Canoe/Kayak/Raft Patrol			8	37		418	263	163	307	224	14	231	159	38	31	102	4	<b>1,999</b>
# of Navigation Law Checks			5	83	1	294	80	284	36	12	10	140	29	36	246	460	26	<b>1,742</b>
Miles of Bicycle Patrol	130	36	3	6	34		68	87	51	193			0	35		39	76	<b>758</b>
# of Conservation Easement Inspections		1		5		137	152	17	137	29	2	134	29	171			8	<b>822</b>
# of NYC DEP Property Inspections		6		22	4								0					<b>32</b>

## 2012 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
<b>Environmental Conservation Law Rules and Regulations</b>	20	68	84	295	26	75	65	225	243	75	31	52	46	124	48	104	317	<b>1,898</b>
<b>NYS Vehicle &amp; Traffic Offenses</b>	9	13	33	76	11	14	15	46	79	22	16	120	94	167	49	27	85	<b>876</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation (Snowmobile &amp; Navigation)</b>	1	1	2	4		21	1	39	35	3		15	29	25	6	3	4	<b>189</b>
<b>Arrests Turned over to Another Agency</b>				3	4	29	35	2		1							6	<b>51</b>
<b>Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests)</b>	8		1		8	2	6	17	10	5		3	6	15		2	25	<b>108</b>
<b>Total Number of Tickets or Arrests</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>3,151</b>
<b>Offenses Related to State Land Use</b>	13	45	57	279	20	39	23	80	91	26	15	40	25	26	22	43	188	<b>1,032</b>
<b>Offenses Related to Fire Laws</b>		8		5		2	13	2	6	3	4	2	6	2	1	12	13	<b>79</b>
<b>Offenses Related to Fish &amp; Wildlife Laws</b>	1	5	17	18	6	35	16	16	2	2	1	1	1	7	8	20	49	<b>205</b>
<b>Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations</b>								91		6								<b>97</b>
<b>Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation</b>	12	7	7	17	11	6	8	13	40	13	3	81	85	117	21	16	26	<b>483</b>
<b>Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State</b>	3	3	29	11		6		3	5	16	4	26	10	78	14	17	44	<b>269</b>
<b>Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds</b>		8	2	41	9	17	15	11	30	7								<b>140</b>
<b>Offenses Related to Air Pollution</b>						22	1		1	1						3		<b>28</b>
<b>Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State Lands</b>				1		1	22	49	31	3	5	2	6	50	2		23	<b>195</b>
<b>Offenses Related to other EnCon Law, Rules or Regs</b>	3			1	3	4				8							3	<b>22</b>
<b>Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations</b>	6	6	6	5			23	48	4	19	15	2	4	28	31	21	85	<b>303</b>
<b>Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation</b>			2			9	1	16	157	2		36	38	23	4	4	6	<b>298</b>
<b>Total Number of Tickets or Arrests</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>3,151</b>

## TOTAL of FOREST RANGER WORK ACTIVITIES per CATEGORY and YEAR

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Protection of State Lands</b>										
Inspections of trailheads/access points	50,726	62,632	65,015	74,524	78,843	82,429	78,188	63,228	69,923	65,701
Miles of trails walked or waterways paddled	15,118	21,108	20,023	20,682	20,398	24,502	23,160	23,669	21,514	18,172
Inspections of occupied campsites	10,501	14,888	12,564	13,501	15,319	14,006	13,873	12,074	11,279	13,762
State land camping permits issued	2,272	2,627	2,037	1,958	2,123	2,204	2,207	1,968	2,093	2,030
Miles of state boundary line inspected	3,287	2,528	2,462	2,544	2,134	2,728	2,692	2,580	3,428	2,079
Patrols of DEC public campgrounds	1,215	1,092	1,097	1,581	2,379	2,228	2,297	2,105	2,034	1,823
ATV violation tickets issued	507	529	520	620	745	763	680	369	449	483
State land offense tickets/arrests	438	650	936	903	1,006	1,300	1,279	958	1,142	1,733
Fish and wildlife offense tickets	232	236	246	242	316	319	328	177	178	205
Outdoor safety and state land use presentations	79	149	140	125	109	125	116	49	44	60
State land use permits inspected	1,188	1,609	1,173	1,197	1,123	1,229	1,294	961	744	1,113
Offenses related to snowmobile use	78	62	74	29	192	333	480	445	614	298
Other EnCon or other law offenses	151	160	132	196	201	265	283	276	481	325
DEC permit inspections	2505	2385	1256	1677	1076	760	753	492	335	322
<b>Wildfire Management Program</b>										
Fires suppressed in the spring	86	63	160	211	131	133	140	98	18	85
Fires suppressed in the summer	20	15	48	11	65	15	2	49	19	67
Fires suppressed in the fall				9	15	9	17	8	10	25
Acres burned	594	473	669	2,323	855	3,634	1,404	1,413	232	2,146
Prescribed fires	8	15	23	30	13	21	13	9	9	11
Acres of prescribed fire	56	149	273	330	301	211	228	122	172	267
Burning permits issued	25,561	20,947	27,277	26,447	19,055	11,998	11,163	3,785	3,543	3,681
Burning permits inspected	2,517	2,299	1,825	1,147	1,002	622	713	425	176	142
Wildfire control/ICS training events	75	90	71	119	91	75	104	57	38	63
Fire prevention events	109	126	95	98	112	100	135	65	60	53
Fire prevention law violations/tickets	143	153	126	155	115	112	119	70	33	107
\$1,000 Grants to rural VFDs	306	357	339	346	365	401	401	466	475	386
<b>Search-and-Rescue Program</b>										
Search missions	162	152	151	144	153	149	144	140	173	162
Rescue missions	67	60	72	76	67	92	84	65	102	101
Recoveries	8	8	6	6	3	4	6	5	6	11
Search and rescue or First aid training events	62	92	117	132	147	117	116	78	117	109
<b>Licensed Guide Program</b>										
Licensed guides	2,179	2,218	2,190	2,182	2,090	2,066	2,099	2,074	2,101	2,159
New guide licenses issued	227	236	262	185	164	207	188	202	191	220
Guide licenses renewed or updated	275	195	406	232	277	312	240	254	303	327
Guide licenses revoked	1	0	0	4	11	0	0	0	0	3
Checks of licensed guide credentials	249	454	764	135	306	338	301	619	134	254
Licensed guide violations ticketed	4	0	2	0	8	3	1	7	2	5

