



Division of
Forest Protection

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Cover: Forest rangers Werner Schwab, Evan Donegan, Bruce Lomnitzer and Charles Kabrehl prepare a 55-year-old Long Island man for helicopter hoist rescue from Crane Mountain, Warren County, on September 1, shortly before sunset.

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Letter from the Director

I am pleased to present the *Division of Forest Protection 2013 Annual Report*. Our role as protectors of state lands and the people who use these lands is a critical responsibility, and we offer this report to the public, supporting agencies and division members to highlight our achievements during the past year.

The divisions of Forest Protection and Law Enforcement held a joint basic academy in 2013. The last academy attended by forest rangers was in 2007. New hires started as recruits in early May and received 24 weeks of intense training. Sixteen new forest rangers proudly graduated on October 18. These men and women filled vacancies in 6 of the department's 9 regions. Although the division did not obtain full staffing with the 16 graduates, it is in a much better position than before. Many of these new rangers used their newly acquired firefighting skills when wildfires occurred in October and November. I thank all rangers who instructed and served at the academy and those who covered assignments and incidents while others were away.

In 2013, New York State's forest rangers completed 128 consecutive years of protecting forests from destructive wildfires and timber theft. During this time, the role and responsibilities of rangers changed significantly. While our wildfire program today requires only 10 percent of our time, our police activities on 5 million acres of state lands require 42 percent of our time. The division's wildland search and rescue program has developed over the last 40 years to become a larger part of our mission than our wildfire program.

Within these pages, you will see how rangers have applied their unique training and skills to an array of law enforcement, search and rescue, wildland fire and emergency management incidents. Along with reports from field work units, you will find a tabular record of statewide activity conducted by forest rangers throughout the year.

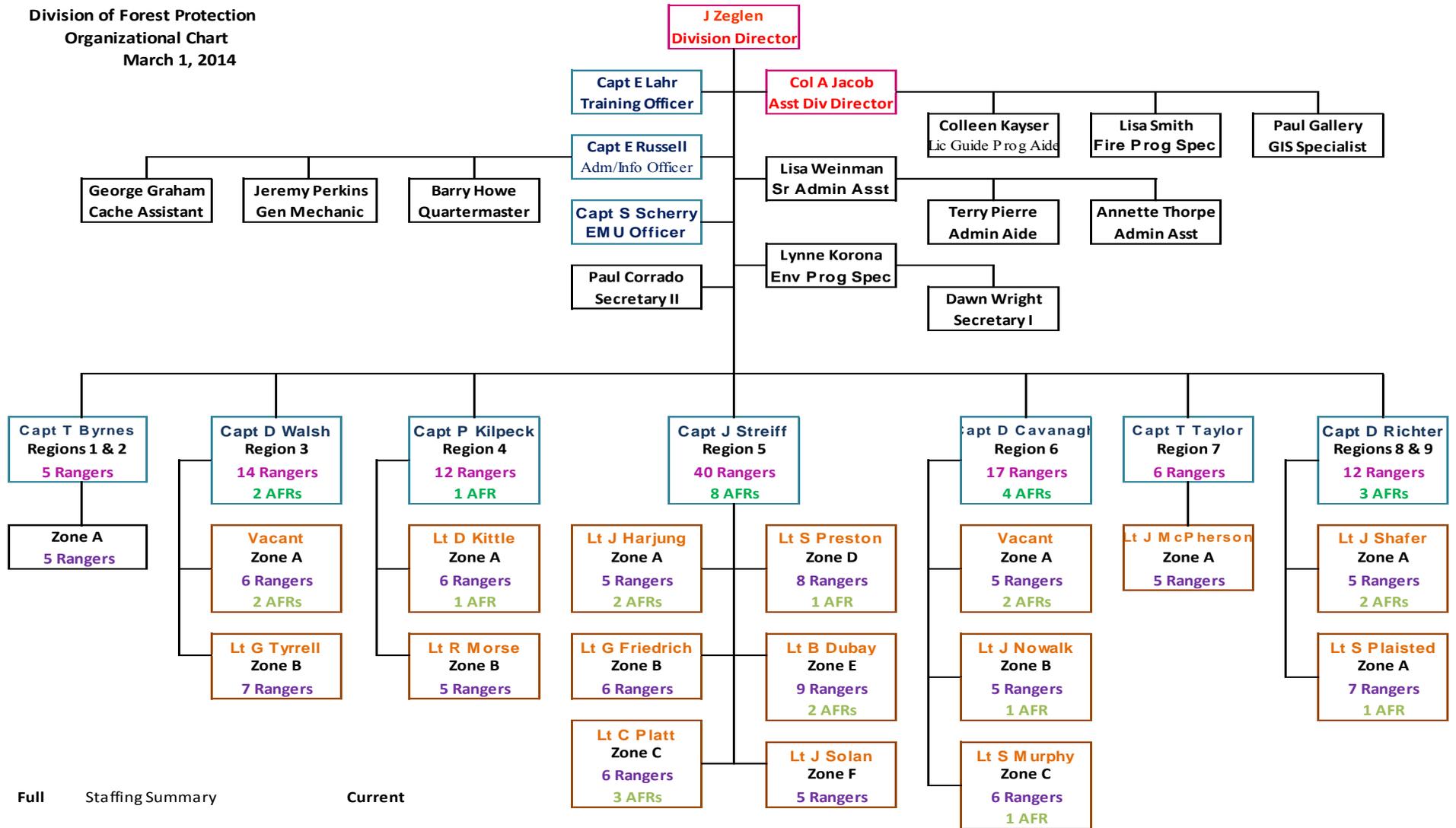
I thank our division members who dedicated time to the thorough and accurate collection of data and narratives presented herein, with special thanks to DEC's Office of Communication Services, which provided editing, graphics and publishing support.

The continued national economic downturn has brought unique challenges, but I am committed to 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
Division Director

**Division of Forest Protection
Organizational Chart
March 1, 2014**



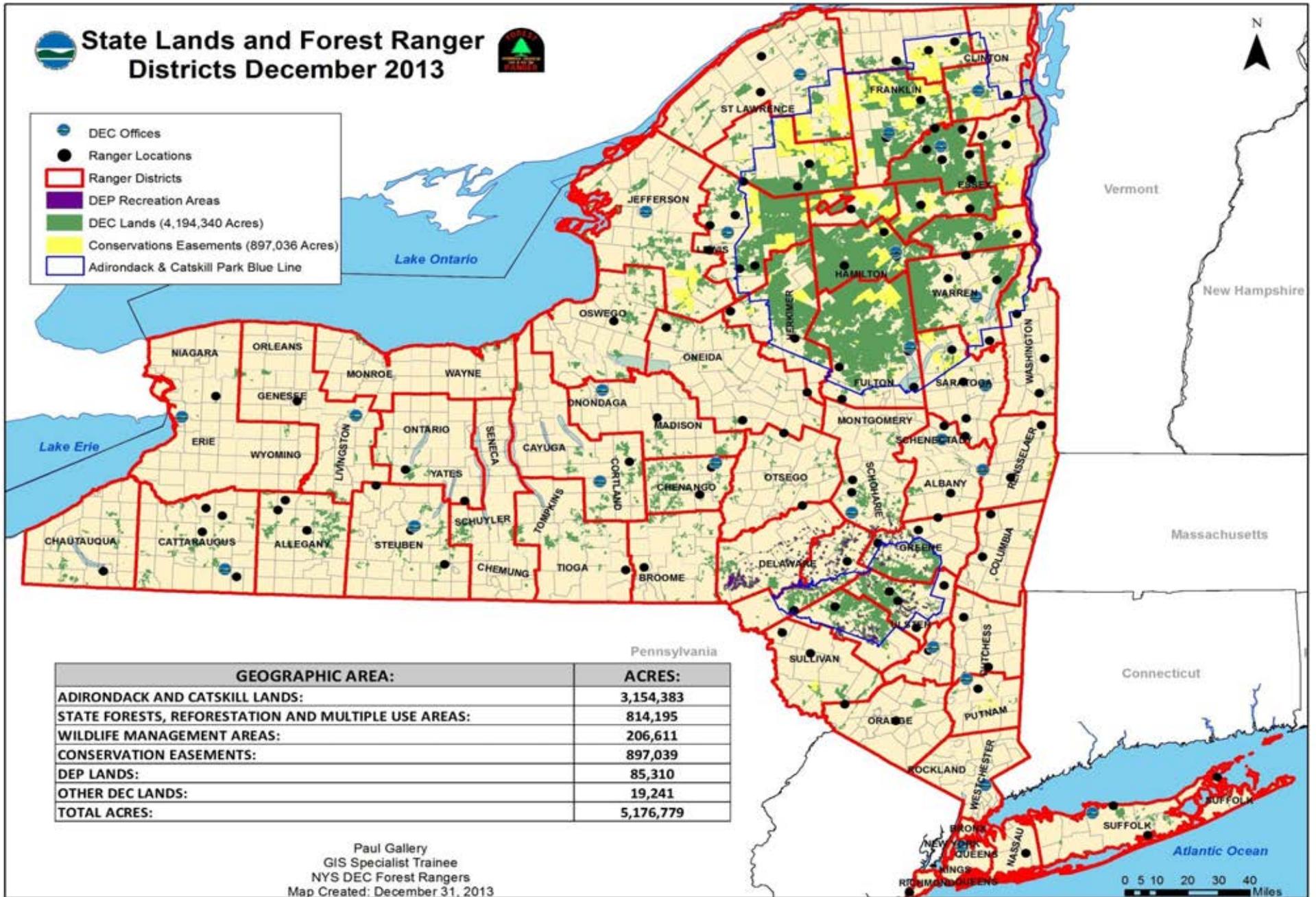
Full	Staffing Summary	Current
106	Forest Rangers	102
16	Lieutenant Forest Rangers	14
10	Captain Forest Rangers	10
2	Division Director/Assist. Div. Dir.	2
18	Asst. Forest Rangers (AFRs) (Seasonal)	18
152	Total Uniformed Forest Rangers	146



State Lands and Forest Ranger Districts December 2013



- DEC Offices
- Ranger Locations
- Ranger Districts
- DEP Recreation Areas
- DEC Lands (4,194,340 Acres)
- Conservations Easements (897,036 Acres)
- Adirondack & Catskill Park Blue Line



GEOGRAPHIC AREA:	ACRES:
ADIRONDACK AND CATSKILL LANDS:	3,154,383
STATE FORESTS, REFORESTATION AND MULTIPLE USE AREAS:	814,195
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS:	206,611
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:	897,039
DEP LANDS:	85,310
OTHER DEC LANDS:	19,241
TOTAL ACRES:	5,176,779

Paul Gallery
 GIS Specialist Trainee
 NYS DEC Forest Rangers
 Map Created: December 31, 2013



2013 Annual Report Statewide Highlights

Division Mission

The Division of Forest Protection protects five million acres of state-owned, department-managed lands and easements, as well as the people who use these lands. For 128 years, New York State Forest Rangers have extinguished wildfires, found and rescued the lost and injured, and enforced state land use and wildfire prevention laws. Over three million acres are in the Adirondack Park alone, but every region has substantial state land resources that support public recreational use.

24-Hour, 365-Day Responsibility

Forest rangers continue their historic tradition of providing police, wildland fire and wilderness search, rescue and emergency medical services to protect DEC state lands and the people using them. The direct professional contact rangers make with state land users is an essential service for both residents and visitors. Rangers provide information that enhances people's safety and enjoyment while protecting the land for the benefit of all. This is a 24-hour, 365-day responsibility. Historically, summer hiking/camping and fall hunting seasons were the primary periods of state-land use. In recent decades, however, the use of state lands has expanded through the entire year, with peak use during summer and fall weekends. Rangers use the nationally recognized Leave-No-Trace (LNT) Program to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation on public lands through education, research and partnerships. Rangers made 51 presentations about the proper use of state lands to 5,739 recreationists. In addition, they issued 2,004 camping permits to groups of 10 or more or to any group staying at one site for more than three nights. Throughout the year, rangers inspected or patrolled DEC's 52 public campgrounds 1,545 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during the off-season. Routine patrols included 69,699 inspections of trailhead access points and inspection of 1,743 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

Law Enforcement on State Lands



Rangers enforcing ATV prohibition on state lands

Offenses Related to State Land Use	843
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	89
Offenses Related to Fish and Wildlife Laws	155
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations	70
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	557
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State Lands	213
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	135
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	14
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking	86
Offenses Related to other EnCon Law, Rules or Regs	42
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	258
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	471

Number of Forest Ranger Tickets or Arrests by Category in 2013

Continuing a trend of the last two decades, the most problematic activity encountered by rangers was the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles on state land. In 2013, forest rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 557 violations involving ATVs and another 471 tickets or arrests for snowmobile offenses.

Another 213 violations involved the unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land. Rangers executed enforcement actions in response to 135 violations in DEC campgrounds and another 1,347 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in rangers making 86 arrests for illegal possession of alcohol by a person less than 21 years of age. Rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 155 fish and wildlife law offenses that occurred on or near state land and 300 tickets related to other environmental law offenses.

Search and Rescue Responsibility



Ranger John Scanlon assists a woman who was lost

An important part of protecting the people who use New York’s natural resources is wilderness search and rescue. The need often arises to find and rescue lost or injured people in wild or remote locations. Throughout 2013, 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 a remote area. In urban and suburban areas, local services are available but generally not trained or experienced in wilderness search or back-country rescue techniques. New York’s forest rangers are nationally known and respected for their search and rescue work

and are even asked to teach agencies and volunteer groups from other states.

Search and Rescue Missions

In 2013, forest rangers conducted 171 search missions, 105 rescues and 11 recoveries. Seventy-seven percent (220) of these incidents occurred on state lands. Most of them were resolved in one or two days, but some searches went on for several days, 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 often the most difficult to find. Rescue and recovery missions are frequently complicated by the nature of wildland recreational activity. Ice-climbing rescue requires special training and equipment. Whitewater boating requires 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.

Aircraft	2
Biking	3
Boating	6
Camping	11
Chainsaw	1
Climbing: Rock/Ice	2
Criminal	4
Despondent	12
Fishing	3
Flood Victim	1
Hiking	161
Hunting	26
Motor Vehicle	1
Off-Road Vehicle/ATV	3
Runaway	12
Skiing	1
Snowmobiling	6
Swimming	6
Walking	25
Whitewater	1
TOTAL # of INCIDENTS	287
STATE LAND INCIDENTS	220

Number of Forest Ranger Search and Rescue Missions by Category in 2013

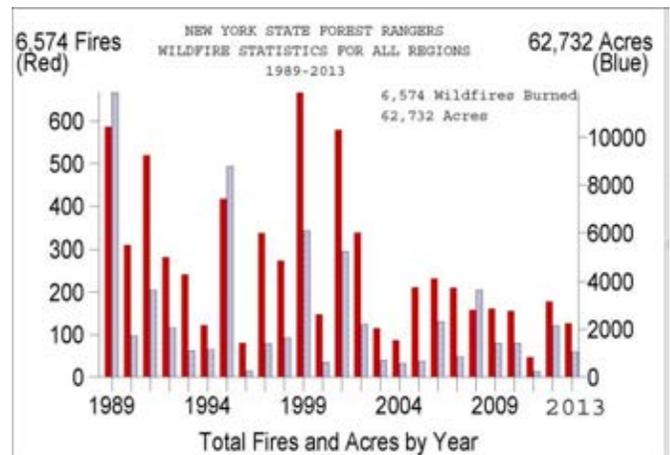
Search and Rescue Training

Considerable time and effort goes into preparing for search and rescue missions. Rangers train emergency service agencies and volunteer groups to support them during incidents. Together, they maintain positive relationships and continually improve the search and rescue program. In 2013, rangers presented 24 NYS Basic Wildland Search courses to 578 participants. Another 67 presentations, covering wilderness first aid, advanced search and rescue training and incident management were given to 1,768 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 2013, forest rangers reported 126 wildfires, which burned a total of 1,059 acres. During the last 25 years, rangers responded to an average of 263 wildfires per year, burning an average total of 2,509 acres annually. More than 1,700 volunteer and career fire departments are the primary first responders to wildfires throughout the state. Combined, fire departments and rangers responded to 3,211 wildfires that burned a total of 2,819 acres in 2013. The past ten-year average occurrence of wildfires in New York was 5,578 fires, which burned 4,443 acres per year.

In 2013, the largest wildfire to occur in New York was the 363-acre Orangeburg Fire in Rockland County that began on November 14. This fire occurred on county park land and was seen by hundreds of thousands of people as they crossed the Tappan Zee Bridge over the Hudson River, a few miles north of New York City. The only other fire in 2013 that burned more than 100 acres was the 147-acre Mount Eve fire in Orange County that began on October 21. Both fires were caused by unextinguished campfires that escaped after the campers left. In 2013, campfires accounted for 22% of all fires that rangers fought but burned 66% of the total acres scarred for the year.



Ranger Mike Bodnar at the Hickory Hill Fire

Wildfire Training

The division's wildfire mitigation role requires considerably more time than that 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 15 occasions, teaching 284 volunteer firefighters the basics of wildfire suppression. On 4 occasions, rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 81 firefighters, state employees,

students and volunteers completed this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 30 training sessions to 573 firefighters, emergency service personnel and volunteers in advanced firefighting or incident command management. When needed, the division uses state Department of Correctional and Community Supervision (DOCCS) inmate crews for “mop-up” of controlled fires. Rangers gave one four-hour training session to 120 inmates.

Wildfire Prevention

The best way to reduce wildfire occurrence and loss is to prevent fires from starting. Rangers gave 67 prevention presentations to 17,971 people. Many of these events were large gatherings, such as the state and county fairs where Smokey Bear appears with a ranger. Smokey continues to be the most recognized symbol of fire prevention in the world. Of the 126 wildfires extinguished by the division in 2013, rangers only attributed six fires to the actions of children. This statistic stands as a tribute to the effectiveness of the 69-year Smokey Bear campaign at preventing wildfires started by children and adults.

Wildfire Prevention Enforcement

Debris burning, arson and unextinguished campfires are the three leading categories of human-caused wildfires in New York State over the past decade. As a means of preventing debris fires, rangers and their permit-issuing agents issued 2,794 burning permits as required by state Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 145 of the permitted burns to insure compliance with the terms of the permits. In addition, they issued tickets or made arrests for 103 violations of law related to fire prevention. The most frequent violation was burning without a permit in towns within the Adirondack and Catskill parks. DEC 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 last modification 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 370 arrests for those violating the state’s open burning regulations. As a result, upstate New Yorkers experienced a 75% reduction in the number of wildfires caused by debris burning during the spring ban period from 2010 through 2013, as compared to the previous ten-year record. Many rural fire departments supported the burn ban with public announcements.

National Response to Wildfires

In 2013, the division sent one 20-person initial attack firefighting crew for 14 days to the 11,000-acre Lolo Creek Fire in Montana on August 18 as part of its mutual aid agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. The division typically sends one or two crews each year. A crew consists of a forest ranger as crew boss and three other rangers as squad bosses. The other 16 members are forest rangers, other DEC employees and volunteer firefighters. The division did send 6 of its specially trained and experienced rangers to national wildfire incidents as single resources. In addition to the crew, one ranger travelled to Billings, Montana on August 21 and served as a resource unit leader on the 950-acre Rock Creek Fire in Custer National Forest.



Ranger Kevin Slade with New York firefighters in Montana

Prescribed Fire

In 2013, forest rangers maintained their working relationship with DEC's Division of Lands and Forests and Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources to use prescribed fire as an ecosystem management tool. Throughout the year, rangers supported 18 prescribed fires on state lands, burning a total of 438 acres. Rangers also assisted federal partners with one 15-acre prescribed burn on their property.

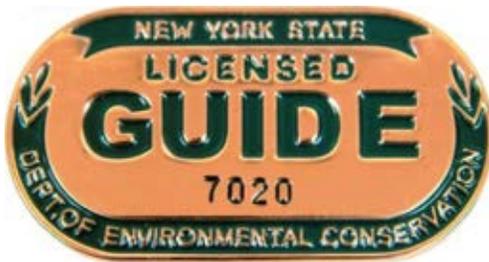
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

Each year, the division administers the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program, using funds provided by the U.S. Forest Service. VFA grants assist rural volunteer fire departments with the purchase of fire-suppression equipment and supplies. In 2013, 370 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 DEC, other state agencies and local governments throughout New York State. They assisted other agencies with emergency incidents on 523 occasions in 2013. Many were automobile accidents at which a ranger came upon the scene. Others included criminal and evidence searches, fire-scene traffic control, drownings and marijuana plantation eradication. Because rangers are considered experts in the National Incident Management System Incident Command Systems (NIMS ICS), they often are called upon to teach courses on these topics at police academies, county government centers and local fire departments.

Licensed Guide Program



The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2013, there were 2,196 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 210 new licenses and 428 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 624 licensed guide checks statewide, and three arrests were made for guiding without a license. Three guides had their licenses revoked for violations of the state Environmental Conservation Law.

Comprehensive Annual Report

The division's *2013 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 DEC 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 2013 forest ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

2013 Forest Ranger Division Fact Sheet

Division Members at Full Staffing

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

State Lands & Easements Acres

3,154,383	Adirondack & Catskill Forest Preserve
814,195	State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple Use Areas
206,611	Wildlife Management Areas
897,039	Conservation Easements
19,241	Other DEC Lands
+ 85,310	<u>NYC DEP Public Access Lands</u>
5,176,779	DEC Administered Lands

2013 Population (in millions)

19.7	New York State
32.6	Surrounding States (VT, MA, CT, NJ, PA)

Wildfire Management Program

85	Fires Suppressed in the Spring
10	Fires Suppressed in the Summer
28	Fires Suppressed in the Fall/Winter
1,059	Acres Burned
19	Prescribed Fires
453	Acres of Prescribed Fire
2,794	Burning Permits Issued
145	Burning Permits Inspected
50	Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events with 1,058 Participants
67	Fire Prevention Events with 17,971 Attendees
103	Fire Prevention Law Violations/Tickets
370	\$1,000 Grants to Rural VFDs

Search & Rescue Program

171	Search Missions
105	Rescue Missions
11	Recoveries
0	Fugitive Searches
91	Search & Rescue or First Aid Training Events with 2,346 Participants

Protection of State Lands & Resources

69,699	Inspections of Trailheads/Access Points
18,580	Miles of Trails Walked, Snowshoe, Ski
1,586	Hours of Boat Patrol
1,627	Navigation Law Safety Checks
12,722	Miles of Snowmobile Patrol
16,764	Snowmobile Law Safety Checks
9,942	Inspections of Occupied Campsites
2,004	State Land Camping Permits Issued
1,743	Miles of State Boundary Line Inspected
1,197	State Land Use Permits Inspected
1,545	Patrols of DEC Public Campgrounds
557	ATV Violation Tickets Issued
1,347	State Land Offense Tickets/Arrests
471	Offenses related to Snowmobile Use
155	Fish & Wildlife Offense Tickets
300	Other En Con or Other Law Offenses
432	DEC Permit Inspections
51	Outdoor Use Presentations to 5,739 Participants

Licensed Guide Program

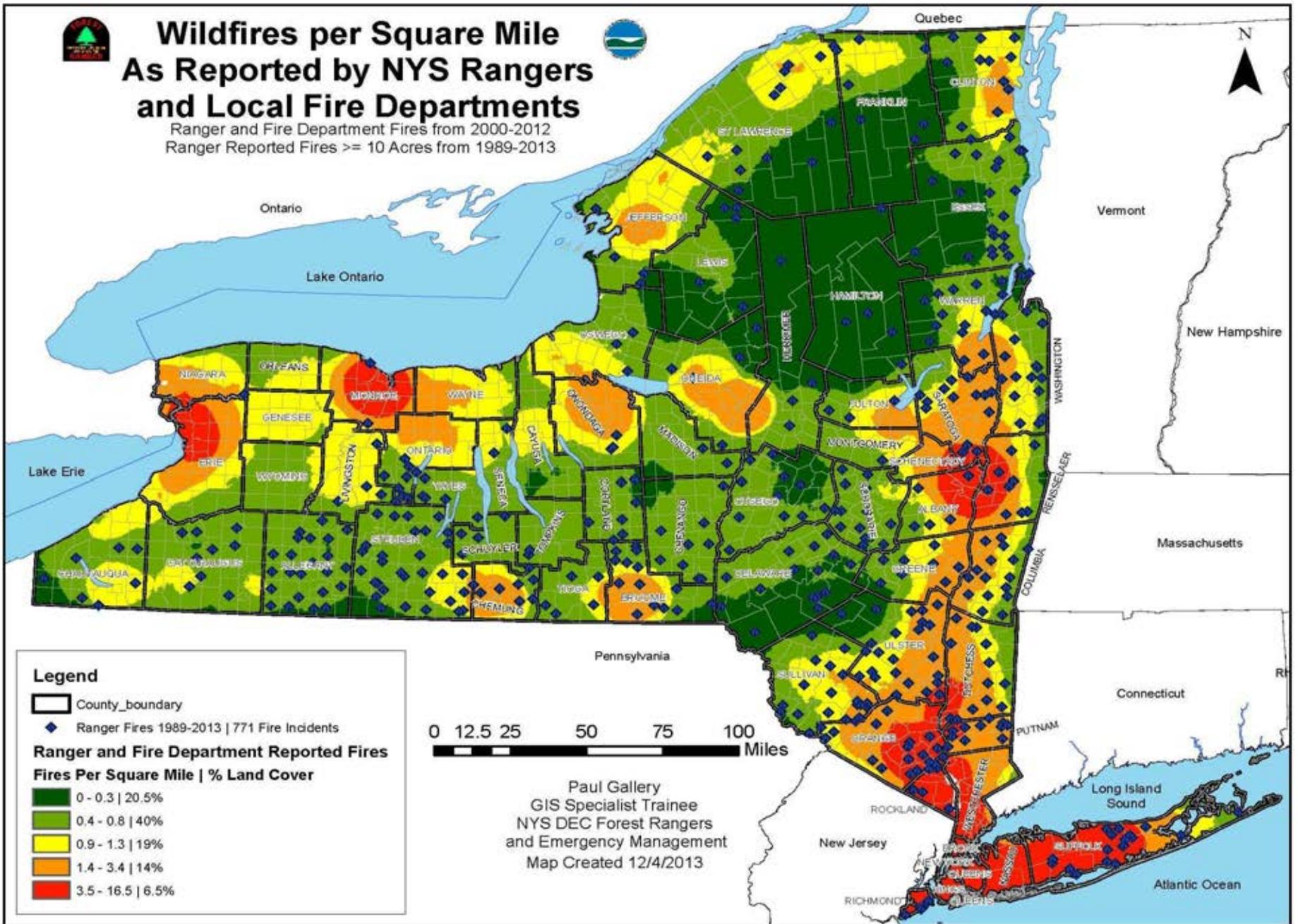
2,196	Licensed Guides on 12/31/13
210	New Guide Licenses Issued
428	Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated
3	Guide Licenses Revoked
624	Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials
3	License Guide Violations Ticketed

Other

1,661	Calls-for-service/Complaints
523	Incidents of Assisting other Agencies
99	Other Presentations, Fairs, Career Talks to 10,936 Attendees

How Rangers Spent their Time in 2013

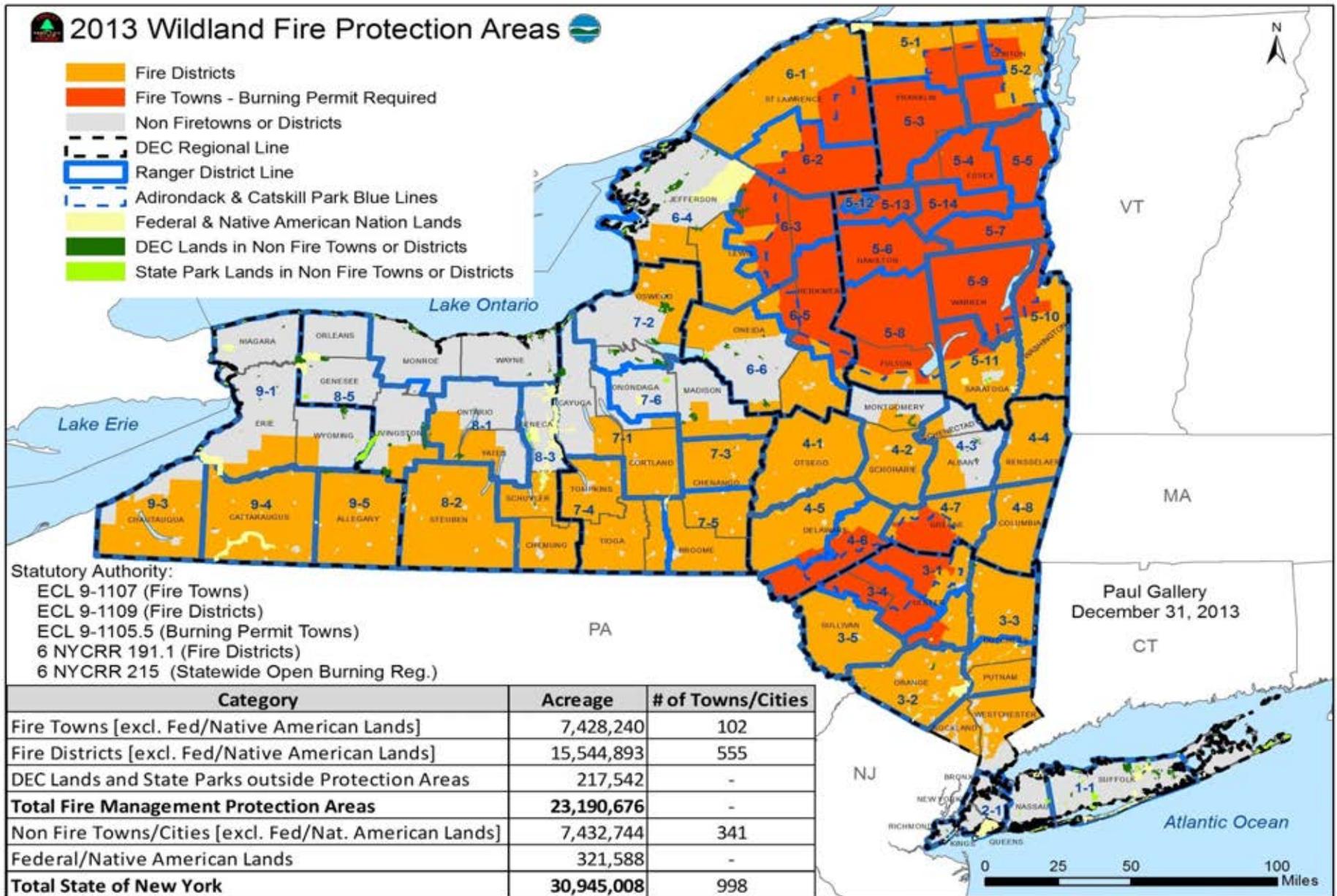
42%	State Land Patrol & Enforcement
9%	Fire Management Activities
10%	Search & Rescue Missions & Training
17%	Basic Academy and Police Training
20%	Administrative Responsibilities
2%	Support to Other Programs/Agencies





2013 Wildland Fire Protection Areas

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



Statutory Authority:

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

Category	Acreage	# of Towns/Cities
Fire Towns [excl. Fed/Native American Lands]	7,428,240	102
Fire Districts [excl. Fed/Native American Lands]	15,544,893	555
DEC Lands and State Parks outside Protection Areas	217,542	-
Total Fire Management Protection Areas	23,190,676	-
Non Fire Towns/Cities [excl. Fed/Nat. American Lands]	7,432,744	341
Federal/Native American Lands	321,588	-
Total State of New York	30,945,008	998

Paul Gallery
December 31, 2013

Region and Zone Narratives

Regions 1 & 2 by Captain Timothy Byrnes



Region 1 comprises Suffolk and Nassau counties, while 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. DEC owns 19,899 acres of land and easements throughout this area. The zone has five rangers, with four rangers assigned to Region 1 and one assigned to Region 2. One captain supervises the entire zone.

Community complaints of excessive off-road motor vehicle use on Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, Suffolk County became repetitive and difficult to handle alone. On January 12 and 13, rangers Michael Burkholder and Kevin Slade apprehended six violators and issued 14 tickets for operating unregistered and uninsured motor vehicles and operating motor vehicles on state lands. Two vehicles were impounded under Suffolk County local law for not being registered or insured.

On January 23, a 66-year-old Nassau County man was found by Ranger Bryan Gallagher on the Hither Hills State Park. The man and his son were deer hunting when they split up to hunt different areas. The elder man became disoriented and did not return on time. Within 45 minutes of arrival, Ranger Gallagher located him and assisted him out of the park.

On February 10, a severe winter storm dropped 20 inches of snow over Suffolk and Nassau counties. Rangers Gallagher, Burkholder and Michael Thompson were assigned to staff a local incident management team to coordinate a staging area for responding snow removal equipment and personnel. Due to the sheer volume of resources coming into the region, rangers set up a planning section resource unit and tracked 400 incoming and outgoing resources. This was a great help at getting the roads reopened by February 14.



Ranger Michael Thompson with NY Guard for wildland search training

On March 14, a 15-acre grassland prescribed burn was conducted at Otis Pike Preserve that included the New York National Guard Army Aviation Air Assault Battalion for the first time. The pilots practiced dropping water onto the fire using Bambi buckets that hang beneath each helicopter. Several local volunteer fire chiefs practiced ground-to-air communications, while some controlled strip fires were ignited by forest rangers to practice the skill of coordinating water drops. After conducting numerous patrols and electronic surveillance of Mount Loretto Unique Area in Staten Island, Ranger Thompson arrested a 65-year-old Staten Island man for criminal mischief in the fourth degree. The man, while walking his dog over the summer, had placed animal feces on state property locks, gates and buildings. As of the end of the year, this case was awaiting trial.

On September 30, rangers Gallagher, Slade and Thompson, were notified that five people were squatting at the David A. Sarnoff Preserve. Rangers discovered the illegal campsite, ordered the group to clean the site and ticketed each person for trespassing. While issuing the tickets, rangers determined one man had an outstanding warrant, and he was subsequently remanded to Suffolk County Probation. In mid-November, newly graduated rangers Chester Lunt, Russell Martin, David Nally and Joe Pries were quickly assigned to several small brush fires and law enforcement details, state land violations that required arrests, and additional training at the New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy. Life in Long Island and New York City is fast paced for residents, visitors and its forest rangers.

Region 3, Zone A by Captain Daniel Walsh



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, five rangers and two seasonal assistant forest rangers are assigned to this zone.

Policing the four department campgrounds kept Zone A rangers busy on summer weekend evenings. During these times, Zone B rangers were frequently assigned to supplement patrols. Campground staff often expressed their appreciation for ranger presence into the late hours to maintain quiet and compliance with campground rules. Lieutenant Jacob DesLauriers coordinated campground patrols, and, with the use of two speed-enforcement radar guns, the zone ensured compliant speed to keep the campgrounds safe. As a result, no traffic accident injuries were reported in the campgrounds, and only a few evictions were needed for noncompliance with campground regulations. In keeping with DEC's efforts in halting the spread of tree-damaging invasive insects, Lieutenant DesLauriers organized evening firewood transport enforcement details at

each of the four DEC campgrounds. Review of these efforts revealed that much of the public understands and cooperates with the relatively new DEC rules governing the transport of firewood. Only a small volume of firewood was confiscated, with a few tickets written for violators.

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, former site of the famous Coykendal Lodge. AFR Melissa Berger patrolled the Slide and Big Indian wilderness areas in the central Catskills. During their presence, there were no reports of lost hikers or serious incidents involving campers.



State Police helicopter dipping water for use on a wildfire

Rangers were busy with searches and rescues the past year, but in one such instance, ranger involvement proved to be invaluable for preventing permanent paralysis. On July 11, a 16-year-old Fairlawn, NJ man was hiking with friends in the Slide Mountain Wilderness, Ulster County when a fall left him with numbness and pain in his back and extremities. His friends remained with him overnight and then called for help after his condition worsened throughout the day. By late afternoon, Ranger David Meade led the rescue effort before the NJ man's condition further deteriorated. Meade recognized the severity of the situation and made arrangements for helicopter support and possible extrication. With nightfall, it would no longer be safe for a hoist evacuation, so additional personnel were inserted by helicopter to assist with the carryout. After several hours of carrying the man out on a rescue litter, he was then airlifted to a local hospital for treatment. He subsequently recovered from his injuries.

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 those commuting to the New York City metropolitan area. Most of the largest parcels of wildlands are owned by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), along with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute, Mohonk Preserve, and other such non-governmental organizations, and provide 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 DEC-administered state lands. While hunting activity remains consistent from year to year, mountain biking, hunting dog training, bird watching and horseback riding are popular state land activities. Four rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

Zone B experienced an unusually wet spring and, as a result, encountered few wildland fires during this typically active firefighting season. Summer rainfall levels returned to normal, but an unusually dry fall affected the lower Hudson Valley, resulting in a busy fall fire season. On October 21, the 147-acre Mount Eve Fire in Orange County began and burned the rugged hilltop for three weeks until heavy rains soaked the area. The eight newly graduated rangers assigned to Region 3 experienced some excellent ground firefighting, using dozer and hand lines, line firing and burnouts, and pumping operations. On November 14, two days before the opening weekend of the busy southern zone big game hunting season, the 363-acre Orangeburg Fire in Rockland County began. This fire burned rapidly over a county park in the heavily populated suburb of Orangetown. Much attention was directed at the fire as it was easily seen from the New York State Thruway Tappan Zee Bridge. Lieutenant Greg Tyrrell provided expert tactical advice to the hundreds of local firefighters that worked on this fire over a three-week period. Although firefighters controlled the spread of the fire within a few days, dry conditions enabled the fire to keep burning the organic soil until heavy rains put it out. Several smaller but stubborn fires burned in Harriman State Park during this time, requiring rangers to support state park firefighters. By Thanksgiving, rangers had fought seven significant late-season wildfires.

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. The department maintains a near daily presence with rangers, ECOs, local police and fire departments, providing public safety, regulation enforcement and emergency services. One such multi-agency response occurred on October 10 for a missing 77-year-old hunter from Congers. Local police, state police aviation, K-9 units and volunteers were quickly organized by Lt. Tyrrell, who had the most extensive knowledge of the area. Within a short time, the man was found deceased from an apparent heart attack. A similar tragedy occurred two days later when a 20-year-old New York City man drowned while waterfowl hunting.



Rangers Benjamin Baldwin and Robert Mecus on patrol at Stewart State Forest

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. There are also 1,851 acres of the Hudson River National Estuarine 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 patrol nearby state lands. Two land acquisitions occurred in the zone in 2013. The 815-acre Mount Hayden parcel, Town of Windham, Greene County, was purchased from NYCDEP and adjoins Elm Ridge Wild Forest. The second was a 295-acre acquisition from the Scenic Hudson Land Trust in the Town of Stuyvesant, Columbia County, which adjoins DEC lands south of Nutten Hook. Division personnel in the zone consist of six forest rangers and one lieutenant forest ranger.

Ranger Karen Glesmann was involved in two marijuana eradication efforts in early July. The first was located on the Albany Pine Bush Preserve within the City of Albany by the preserve's fire manager while preparing a unit for a prescribed burn. A dozen plants were removed in coordination with the Albany County Sheriff's Department. A second complaint of three marijuana plants was received from a wildlife technician on the Margaret Burke Wildlife Management Area, Town of Knox. In Schenectady County, illegal motor vehicle use resulted in damage to a snowmobile trail on Featherstonough State Forest. Ranger Glesmann and Investigator Jason DeAngelis, Division of Law Enforcement, issued two tickets to the responsible parties, resulting in a \$400 fine. In September, the Frontier Snowmobile Club replaced a damaged bridge and repaired the affected section of trail that had sustained deep ruts.



Ranger Jeff Breigle assisting horse team at Diamond Notch Bridge

In February, Rangers Chris DiCintio and Joe Hess provided flat ice rescue training to a State Park Police Academy recruit class.

DEC's North/South Lake Campground in Greene County was the venue for many enforcement actions. 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 June 7, resulting in one ticket for campfire wood originating in Pennsylvania. Within the campground, Ranger Christine Nelson conducted a number of speed enforcement details and issued a total of 36 vehicle

and traffic tickets. In an attempt to deal with some of the overuse problems in Kaaterskill Clove, several joint meetings were held with town, county and state highway officials. No-parking signs were installed, which reduced parking along Route 23A in Kaaterskill Clove. This resulted in a marked reduction of large groups and associated state land violations that have plagued the area in the past. Rangers participated with the Kaaterskill Scenic Byway Committee, which was created to coordinate, promote, and encourage tourism in the Kaaterskill

area. The committee, which includes local groups, town, county and state agencies, was successful at opening 1½ miles of Kaaterskill rail-trail, from Route 23A to the end of Laurel House Road.

A joint ranger-ECO detail was conducted on Bear Pen State Forest, Greene County in response to expected ATV damage during the Town of Prattsville’s “Mud Fest.” This second annual event served as a community building effort following devastation from Hurricane Irene in 2011. Rangers also worked with Lands and Forests and Operations to rebuild a key bridge on the Diamond Notch Hiking Trail that had been destroyed during Hurricane Irene. Due to the prohibition of motor vehicle use on forest preserve lands, a local team of work horses was contracted to haul the large amount of material needed to re-fabricate the bridge.

Rangers responded to three rescues at Kaaterskill Falls in August. Each rescue occurred at the bottom of the upper falls, known as the Amphitheater. On August 10, a 20-year-old Columbia County man who had been hiking the upper portion of the falls tumbled 30 feet down the embankment. Due to the seriousness of his injuries, he was extricated by a state police helicopter hoist operation. On August 17, a 31-year-old New York City woman fell and sustained a head injury but was able to walk out with help before rangers arrived. The following day, a 19-year-old Princeton, NJ woman also fell, sustaining a head injury and concussion. Rangers and EMS personnel performed a wilderness medical spinal assessment and determined she could walk out under her own power.

On November 17, state police, Rensselaer County Sheriff’s deputies, and three ECOs were searching for a 38-year-old man involved in a domestic disturbance in the Town of Berlin. The man reportedly fired a rifle at or in his home as he left and was believed to be armed. A pursuit led to the Taconic Ridge State Forest, where the man was confronted by two troopers and an ECO. After displaying threatening actions and failing to comply with the officers, the man was shot and subsequently died. For four days, rangers assisted state police in the search for missing firearms. Eventually, three long guns were located on the state forest. On November 22, Niskayuna Police asked rangers to help them find a 24-year-old Schenectady man missing for two days. His vehicle was located at a nature preserve near Lock 7 on the Mohawk River. The next day, eight rangers organized K-9, airboat and ground searches and recovered the man’s body late that morning.

Region 4, Zone B by Lieutenant Robert Morse



Zone B consists of Delaware, Otsego, Montgomery and Schoharie counties and encompasses 3,504 square miles. The zone comprises three wild forest areas totaling 34,810 acres, 14

state forest units covering 76,300 acres, 4 wildlife management areas totaling 7,352 acres, and 9 forest preserve parcels totaling 5,000 acres. The zone includes two DEC-administered public campgrounds and a ranger field station at the Huckleberry Brook Storage Facility. Zone B is currently assigned five forest rangers and one lieutenant.

On January 31, Ranger Bill Henry received a complaint about a stolen wooden state sign. With information obtained from the complainant, Ranger Henry obtained a search warrant for a home in Cobleskill. With the help of Cobleskill Police, he interviewed a 21-year-old resident there and located the sign. Henry



Ranger Bill Henry and Schoharie County Sheriff harvesting marijuana on state land

subsequently issued a ticket for illegal possession of stolen property. In February, the man pled guilty to a reduced charge of disorderly conduct and paid a \$125 fine plus \$100 in restitution to DEC.

On June 28, Montgomery County requested ranger assistance with searching for an 86-year-old Fort Plain woman who was washed away from her home by a flash flood. Rangers led crews in an intensive search of the banks of the Otsquago Creek and the Mohawk River. On June 30, Region 6 rangers used their airboat to search the Mohawk River from Otsquago Creek east to Lock 14, while Region 5 rangers Tom Edmunds and John Ploss searched the banks of the river. On July 1, Edmunds coordinated a search of the debris pile at Lock 14 on the Mohawk River. With two excavators sifting through the debris pile, the woman's body was found late that afternoon.

On August 10, Otsego County 911 requested ranger assistance at Glimmerglass State Park for a four-year-old girl who had been missing for 90 minutes. As more rangers responded, they supported extensive ground searches with K-9 units. A short time later, a state police K-9 picked up the girl's scent and located her. Troopers and rangers carried the girl out of the woods to her waiting parents.

On August 17, Ranger Bill Henry received a complaint from DEC biologist Paul Novak about marijuana plants growing on Mallet Pond State Forest. Ranger Henry investigated and located 12 plants. He and Schoharie County Sheriff's deputies removed the plants before they were harvested.

On September 4, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department requested ranger assistance with a search. Undersheriff Smith reported that a 44-year-old Mohawk man had written a suicide note and was last seen on September 3. His vehicle was located in the Town of Florida, and deputies with a K-9 unit searched the area without success. Rangers executed an extensive search around Yankee Hill Canal Lock and along the bike path. On September 5, 40 searchers from local police and fire departments were organized into 11 crews and assigned to search from the last known point out one-half mile. A K-9, ATVs and airboats along the Mohawk River were also used for searching. On September 6, crews were assigned to re-check priority areas and expand into new blocks on private and state park lands. While searching a piece of private land, a crew of rangers and firefighters located the deceased man approximately 4,400 feet from his last known point.

Region 5, Zone A by Lieutenant Julie Harjung



Region 5 Zone A covers the Towns of Duane, Waverly, Franklin, Brighton, Harrietstown and Tupper Lake in Franklin County and the

northern half of Long Lake, Hamilton County. Popular state land use includes canoeing, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Zone A contains the Saint Regis Canoe Area, William C. Whitney Wilderness, and the Saranac Lake and Debar Mountain wild forests, and parts of the western High Peaks, totaling 284,055 acres of forest preserve and 103,914 acres of conservation easements.

There are seven department campgrounds in this zone, including Fish Creek, Rollins Pond, Meachum Lake, Buck Pond, Saranac Islands, Lake Eaton and Forked Lake campgrounds. Zone A is assigned six forest rangers, two seasonal assistant forest rangers and one lieutenant.



Illegal structure found on state land at Round Pond



Assistant Forest Ranger Keith Hollenbeck and state police K-9 handler review maps during Moore search.

November 21 saw the conclusion of a lengthy and persistent investigation regarding an illegal structure located at Round Pond in the western High Peaks. During the past four years, Rangers Jim Waters, Bob Zurek, Jay Scott, Benjamin Baldwin and Del Jeffery and Lieutenant Brian Dubay periodically checked an illegal hunting camp structure occupying state land. A break came when one of the camp's occupants was encountered illegally crossing Huntington Forest. Rangers tracked the hunters by foot and canoe and eventually located an outfitter tent erected on state land without permit. On November 21, Rangers Scott and Waters apprehended two 50-year-old Middlebury, Vermont men at a second unpermitted camp as they were getting ready to leave for the season. After a thorough interview, the men were taken for immediate arraignment for failure to tag a deer,

failure to report a different deer within seven days that had been shot nine days prior, illegal structure on state land, storage of personal property on state land and camping without a permit. The defendants pled guilty to all charges and were fined a total of \$950. They have since removed the structure and personal property from state land.

Ranger Jeff Balerno, a specialist with state police helicopters, participated in 40 missions this past year in support of Regions 5 and 6. These missions included 15 searches, 12 training sessions and 13 marijuana eradication flights, the latter resulting in six arrests and discovery of 1,000 plants. Balerno also led eight rescue hoist missions. One especially notable mission was on March 30 on Dix Mountain, where Ranger Kevin Burns was lowered to an injured woman, and then both the woman and Burns were hoisted to the helicopter. This mission saved many hours of carrying the woman out, when other injuries to her or rescuers would likely occur.

On April 26, Rangers Balerno and Burns were aerial searching for a lost child near Crown Point, Essex County with state police pilot Sergeant Adam Marciniak. The child was quickly located from the air, but while the crew was on their way back to the airport, they were assigned to find a vehicle involved with a kidnapping. In a short time, the rangers spotted the vehicle and directed troopers at making the stop and arrest.

On April 22, Adirondack Leadership Expeditions (ALE), a program for troubled youth, reported a missing 15-year-old boy who ran away from his group while camping on state lands in the Debar Mountain Wild Forest. Ranger Peter Evans organized a search party of seven rangers, state police and K-9 and ALE staff. The youth left the Sheep's Meadow campsite and traveled in a westerly direction, swam a portion of the Osgood River, acquired clothing by breaking into a cabin and eventually made his way to State Route 30. An ALE staff member spotted the boy and alerted state police, who took him into custody within eight hours of his running away.

Rangers Evans and Zurek, with the assistance of Wayne Lapierre from Search and Rescue of the Northern Adirondacks, conducted basic wildland search training for 28 students at Paul Smith's College. This annual training is offered to students and local fire and rescue personnel to bolster the search and rescue community in Franklin County. In addition, Ranger Evans sponsored the online federal basic wildland firefighting course for 17 students who traditionally use this skill in their jobs throughout the country.

Region 5, Zone B by Lt. 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, and 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. All together, there are 149,031 acres of Adirondack 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 spring of 2013 was unusually dry, resulting in numerous small wildfires requiring ranger response. Many of these fires were the result of debris burning. Six debris fires occurred during the spring burn ban (March 16 through May 14), and the responsible individuals were ticketed. Two other fires were intentionally set, and one was caused by an unknown careless smoker.



Ranger David Russell inspecting trail head access point

On May 29, state police requested ranger assistance in the Town of Dannemora to locate a missing 51-year-old Plattsburgh man who was dropped off on May 24 to go fishing through May 28. On May 29, family members contacted state police, who then found a suicide note. Captain John Streiff and Rangers Glen Bronson, David Russell and Rob Praczkajlo, along with ECOs, state police and Clinton County Sheriff's deputies, conducted a search and found the deceased man later that day.

On May 19, rangers responded to Owls Head Mountain, Franklin County to rescue a 19-year-old Malone woman who had fallen and injured her ankle. Ranger Tom Gliddi and 18 local firefighters found the woman near the summit, splinted her leg and carried her in a rescue litter to the trailhead.

On September 6, three Saranac women, ages 64, 66 and 68, called Essex County 911 by cell phone saying they were lost and needed assistance. 911 dispatchers determined the location coordinates of the phone call. Rangers Dan Fox and Rob Praczkajlo responded to Taylor Pond Campsite in Clinton County and directed the women to a location where Fox and Praczkajlo could transport them back to their vehicle.

On September 16, state police asked rangers to assist them in finding a missing 85-year-old Chazy woman diagnosed with dementia. Rangers Praczkajlo, Russell, Peter Evans, Kevin Burns and Jeff Balerno directed local firefighters in an intensive search. Late that day, searchers found the woman about one-quarter mile from her last known location. She was evacuated by an off-road utility vehicle due to her shortness of breath and hypothermia and transported to the hospital.

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 (AFRs) and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

On the evening of February 22, state police reported a plane crash in a wooded area near the Lake Placid Airport. Initial coordinates obtained by Essex County 911 and given to DEC Dispatch indicated the plane was near the summit of Nye Mt., just west of Adirondack Loj. State police initially dispatched their helicopter, but due to weather conditions and darkness, they were forced to return to the Lake Clear Airport. Seven rangers responded with snowmobiles and cold weather gear. The three New Jersey men in the plane spoke with Ranger Joe LaPierre by cell phone and advised they were uninjured. Rangers Scott vanLaer and Jim Giglinto snowshoed to the reported location, while Rangers Kevin Burns, Pete Evans and Dave Russell planned a second response with additional gear. Ranger LaPierre spoke again with the subjects and determined the initial coordinates were wrong; their actual location was four miles northwest on Big Burn Mountain. Once rangers recognized the error, the rescue was redirected to the correct location, with Rangers Chris Kostoss and Tom Gliddi joining the mission. The men were eventually located by Rangers Kostoss, Russell, Evans and Burns at 1:55 AM and evacuated by snowmobile to Whiteface Inn Road. They were evaluated and released by the Lake Placid Rescue Squad.

On March 30, Ray Brook dispatch received a call from a woman reporting that her friend, a 30-year-old Montreal woman, had injured her leg near the summit of Dix Mt. Ranger Burns was inserted by state police helicopter on Dix Mountain and hiked to the woman's location. Additional rangers began to hike to the location as backup if aviation evacuation was not possible. Burns evaluated and splinted the woman's leg and, with the assistance of other hikers and skiers, moved the woman to a location where she was hoisted into the helicopter and flown to Adirondack Medical Center for treatment.



Ranger Tom Gliddi on assignment during the Haworth search

While descending Dix Mountain on July 28, a 28-year-old New Jersey woman fell and severely injured her leg. Rangers Pete Evans, Tom Gliddi, Del Jeffery, Chuck Kabrehl, Gary Miller, Dave Russell, Mark St. Claire and Scott vanLaer

responded with members of the Keene Valley Backcountry Rescue Team. The rescue party reached the woman at 11:50 PM, splinted her leg and carried her in a rescue litter a distance of one mile for six hours. Rangers decided to spend the night, while other rangers were being assembled to assist in the remaining 6.8 mile carry-out. When dawn arrived and the sky cleared, state police sent their helicopter for the extraction.

The weekend of August 2 through 4 brought the annual Can-Am Rugby Tournament to Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. DEC's 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.

Rangers vanLaer, LaPierre and Russell, along with ECOs Kevin Riggs and Matt LaCroix issued numerous tickets for underage drinking and possession of marihuana. This resulted in better compliance with campground rules by most campers.

On September 9, a missing person report was issued by the Massachusetts State Police for a 46-year-old Chicopee man who had been missing since August 24. Later that day, Chicopee Police discovered the man had cashed a personal check in Keene Valley on September 3. The man was an avid hiker who had backpacked extensively in the High Peaks region in the past. His car was located by state police at the Round Pond trailhead on September 10. Search operations began immediately by rangers and state police and continued for 21 days. Total search efforts involved 20 forest rangers searching for 800 cumulative hours, as well as the use of four search teams, the Keene Valley Fire Department, and state police aviation. On October 12, the man's body was found by hikers near Round Pond. Rangers assisted state police with the investigation of the unattended death and recovery.

On September 24, Ray Brook Dispatch received a call transferred from Essex County 911 from two hikers who found the body of an unresponsive man floating in the water near Marcy Dam. A state police helicopter flew in Rangers Kevin Burns and Jim Giglinto and North Country Life Flight Physician's Assistant Chuck Pandolf to Marcy Dam. CPR was initiated by rangers and Marcy Dam Caretaker Katie Tyler. Captain John Streiff and Ranger Scott vanLaer were then flown in to assist with resuscitation. Unfortunately, their efforts were not successful.

Region 5, Zone D by Lt. Steve Preston



Region 5, Zone D comprises Fulton and Hamilton counties. Zone headquarters is located at DEC's sub-office in Northville, with an office at the Indian Lake DEC facility. State land unit management areas include all or parts of West Canada Lake, Blue Ridge, Pigeon Lake and the Siamese Ponds and Silver Lake wilderness areas; Moose River, Ferris Lake, Shaker Mountain, Blue Mountain Lake, and Jessup River wild forests; and West Canada Mountain and Hudson River Gorge primitive areas, totaling 809,929 acres. Within Zone D are 17 DEC campgrounds, 47,043 acres of conservation easements and 6,081 acres of state forests. Eight rangers, one seasonal assistant forest ranger and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

On May 4 through 6, state police once again conducted a search in the Town of Lake Pleasant, Hamilton County for Sara Ann Wood, who has been missing since 1993. State troopers, the Eagle Valley K-9 team and Hamilton County Sheriff's deputies were assigned to search a section of an old logging road. On May 6, areas that the K-9 teams showed interest in were searched by state police forensic teams, but no evidence was discovered. Ranger Jason Scott assisted the search operation with local knowledge of the area, developing search blocks for the K-9 teams and logistical support.

On May 24 at 5:35 PM, Ranger John Ploss reported that a small civilian air plane had crashed near the Royal Mountain Ski Center, Fulton County. Rangers Ian Kerr and David Russell were also dispatched to the scene to assist with search and



Lt. Steve Preston and Governor Cuomo at the Adirondack Challenge

recovery operations. During the first operational period, the 70-year-old Connecticut pilot and 58-year-old female passenger from Utica were found deceased north of Garoga Reservoir by volunteer firefighters. Rangers and Fulton County firefighters searched the long flight path for the 64-year-old husband of the female passenger. On May 25, state police divers raised the plane wreckage from Garoga Reservoir but did not locate the missing man. For the next six days, an intensive land search involving forest rangers, state police, firefighters and volunteer search and rescue teams was conducted. In addition to managing the search, rangers mapped the debris field for the National Transportation Safety Board. On May 30, search efforts were downscaled to ranger patrols after 3,079 search hours. On June 12, the man’s body was discovered in a discarded freezer behind a small seasonal business. Although the area had been previously searched, the man’s body had landed with such impact that the freezer was destroyed, leaving his remains unrecognizable.

On July 21 and 22, the Adirondack Challenge took place in Hamilton County. This event was promoted by Governor Cuomo to include various venues with a canoe race on Indian Lake and two whitewater raft races on the Indian River as highlights. The river race had many participants, including Governor Cuomo, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, members of the state legislature and other officials. Many hours of planning



Rangers assisting a helicopter hoist rescue on Crane Mountain

by rangers, ECOs and regional staff went into this event. The unified command of Captains John Streiff (rangers), Dan Darrah (ECO) and John Tibbitts (state police) managed security and public safety. Rangers Bruce Lomnitzer and Jason Scott developed an incident action plan for the raft race. During the two-day canoe race, 18 Region 5 rangers were assigned stations on and along the river. A member of the Governor’s staff was pitched out of a raft when it hit a rock near the finish line. Ranger John Ploss, who was assisting the Governor’s press corps, tossed his throw bag to the man and pulled him safely to shore.

On October 28, a 73-year-old North Creek man and owner of the Hudson River Rafting Company was tried by the New York State Attorney General’s Office on a contempt of court charge. The charge stemmed from a May 15 order by Supreme Court Judge Richard Giardino that the rafting company must not employ unlicensed guides. Ranger Jason Scott testified about the arrest of a rafting company employee for guiding without a license on August 1. On December 3, Judge Giardino found the owner guilty of contempt of court and ordered him to pay a \$25,000 fine. The judge’s decisions were largely based on the expert testimony of Ranger Scott.

Region 5, Zone E by Lieutenant Brian Dubay



Zone E comprises all of Warren County and the southern half of Essex County. The southern part of the zone is made up of the Lake George and Wilcox Lake wild forests, while the central and northern portions are the Pharaoh, Siamese, Hoffman, Dix and High Peaks wilderness areas. State lands total 440,000 acres and include six DEC-administered campgrounds. In October, the 14,000-acre Essex Chain Lakes property was added to the Adirondack Forest Preserve. This land was recently classified a mixture of wilderness, primitive and wild forest to allow multiple recreational uses, including new rafting opportunities on the Hudson River. Eight forest rangers, two seasonal assistant forest rangers (AFR) and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

In May, rangers and foresters worked with state police helicopters to fly lean-to repair materials into Pharoah Lake and then remove 12 illegally stored boats from around the lake. Storage of personal property such as boats on state land is illegal.

On September 1, a 52-year-old Wading River man was descending Crane Mountain on steep terrain, when he fell and fractured his leg. Rangers Art Perryman and Evan Donegan were the first to reach the man, who was in a lot of pain from an angulated fracture. The rangers prepared the man for a helicopter hoist rescue, which was accomplished at sunset.

On September 19 while acting on a tip, Ranger Rick Schroeder located 190 marijuana plants on a remote portion of Lake George Wild Forest. While assessing the plantation with Rangers Jaime Laczko and Mikefirst name Bodnar, two men were spotted running away. An immediate attempt to locate the men by rangers and ECOs was unsuccessful, and a state police helicopter was used to remove the plants to a site where they could be destroyed.

On October 7, rangers were notified of two stranded climbers on the face of Rogers Slide along the west shore of Lake George. It was night by the time nine rangers arrived to begin a rescue operation. The mission involved lowering one rescuer 600 feet to the 28-year-old man and 27-year-old woman, both from New York City, and then lowering them another 120 feet to a rescue boat. The couple had become stranded when their climbing rope became lodged in a crevice. This rescue system was one of the most complex rangers have used in many years.



Ranger Evan Donegan cutting a burning tree at the Sleeping Beauty Fire

Region 5, Zone F by Lt. John Solan



Region 5, Zone F includes Saratoga and Washington counties. Both counties combined have 36,636 acres of forest preserve, 1,056 acres of wildlife management areas (WMA), 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 Washington County. It offers the only drive-up forest preserve access to the Lake George Wild Forest and is a popular camping location for young people. In addition, both counties have land holdings of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Battenkill Conservancy and Lake George Conservancy that are generally adjacent to DEC-administered state lands. There are approximately 30 miles of snowmobile trails in Saratoga County on state lands and easements and approximately 50 miles of snowmobile trails in Washington County. Zone F consists of five forest rangers and one lieutenant.

The number of search, rescue and wildfire incidents was relatively low in 2013, and most incidents were routine in nature. All rangers have been managing trail projects that enhance public safety on their assigned state lands. Trail marking, strategic signage and blow-down removal are the usual projects that help keep people safe or expedite rescues on state lands.

The zone's summer priority continues to be the Shelving Rock Area of the Lake George Wild Forest. Stepped-up patrol efforts in recent years have led to a significant reduction of illegal activity and abuse of state land, which is visited by tens of thousands of people each year. Rangers are encountering numerous first-time

visitors to the area, and many of them are inexperienced or unprepared. While illegal late night activities, such as under-aged drinking, have been significantly reduced, legitimate recreational use of the area has greatly increased. Many of these visitors are vacationing in the Lake George area during the summer and fall from larger urban areas in the Northeast, such as Boston and New York City. It is not uncommon for a ranger to encounter hundreds of people on a given afternoon along the shoreline of Lake George, or on the trail system and mountain summits along the lake. It also is not uncommon to find that while not lost in the traditional sense, as many as a third to sometimes half of the visitors encountered on any given day have never hiked a mountain before and are not on the mountain or trail they intended to hike or visit.

The zone's winter priority focuses on the network of snowmobile trails on DEC easements and forest preserve in northwestern Saratoga County. Over 30 miles of trails exist and are heavily used as snow conditions permit. In 2013, there were only a few days when the trail system was open and useable. Rangers coordinated their patrols with state police, state park police and sheriff's deputies. During peak weekend use, it is usual to observe 100 snowmobiles per hour passing through police checkpoints. Winter use of the Saratoga Sand Plains Wildlife Management Area is another important patrol venue for the zone. Several miles of groomed and ungroomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trails connect to trails on adjacent county, town and conservancy lands. This area is steadily busy, especially on pleasant winter afternoons.



State police helicopter dropping water on a fire near Fort Ann

Over the last several years, an Internet-promoted July 4 event, with no identified organizer or sponsor, has occurred on the Battenkill River. Approximately 1,200 people of all ages float down the river in tubes, canoes, homemade rafts and kayaks. Most people attending the event access the river at a state transportation rest area on State Route 313 at the Vermont state line and take-out at Battenkill State Forest. Underage alcohol consumption, drug use, littering, illegal motor vehicle use on state land and associated assaults and disorderly conduct have become annual problems. In 2013, very high rainfall and a near record-high summer river level shifted the emphasis from law enforcement detail to water rescues. Many inexperienced people with inadequate equipment were discouraged from entering the river. Several people were assisted out of the water by rangers who used throw bags to bring boaters to shore.

Once again, Lake George's Log Bay Day occurred on the last Monday of July. Log Bay is surrounded by Shelving Rock Special Management Area forest preserve lands. Lieutenant John Solan coordinated 16 rangers and another lieutenant for the security detail that included state police and sheriff's deputies. Over 2,000 people attended the event, with many gaining access to the bay via state land. Over 100 tickets and arrests were made by the three police agencies. Offenses included violations of state land regulations, illegal drug possession and driving while intoxicated. Every car entering the area was stopped and occupants informed of the rules and regulations governing state land and of a zero-tolerance policy for underage alcohol possession. Usually this event includes one or more serious medical emergencies, but this year was an exception.

Region 6 Zone A by Captain Robert Cavanagh



Region 6, Zone A consists entirely of Saint Lawrence County (2,842 square miles), geographically the largest county in New York. It includes 252,857 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 Cranberry Lake Campground, with 173 campsites. At full staffing, this zone includes one lieutenant, six forest rangers, and two assistant forest rangers (AFRs).

Rangers continue to act as adjunct instructors at the State University of New York (SUNY) Ranger School in Wanakena, teaching the S130-190 basic federal wildfire fighting course. The Ranger School includes this course as part of their curriculum and has an approved prescribed fire plan for a live-fire experience. Many graduates use these wildfire fighting skills on state-sponsored crews throughout their careers.

On February 10, Forest Ranger Wil Benzel was notified about a disabled hiker at the High Falls lean-to in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area in Saint Lawrence County. The subject, a 26-year-old Wisconsin man, was unable to walk after injuring his leg snowshoeing. His colleagues were unsure what to do and left him with an extra sleeping bag and supplies as they went for help. Rangers Jay Terry, Jim Waters and Bob Zurek cleared the trail of debris and reached the subject by snowmobile. He was treated for his injury, evacuated to a trailhead, and reunited with his party.

On April 18, Ranger Howard Thomes was patrolling Yellow Lake State Forest when he encountered two men sitting in a vehicle near a campsite. While they talked with Ranger Thomes, he observed they were drinking beer in their vehicle. After questioning the men, Thomes identified the 48-year-old Gouverneur man as wanted on multiple active warrants for larceny in Lewis and Jefferson counties.

On May 10, Ranger Benzel and Lieutenant Bob Barstow responded to a wildfire on private land in the Town of Colton. They located a lightning strike, which had burned through logging debris and developed into a stubborn smoldering ground fire. The seven-acre fire was contained with the assistance of more than 30 local volunteers. A lightning-scarred spruce tree located at a high spot in the interior of the burn was determined to be the point of ignition.

In October, Ranger Jay Terry was asked to check a timber harvesting operation adjacent to Brasher State Forest in the Town of Brasher. DEC foresters were concerned loggers may have felled trees across the state land boundary line. Rangers Terry and Joshua Hogan discovered a number of tree tops remaining on state lands and a number of trees illegally removed from state lands. A 68-year-old Norfolk man was charged with misdemeanor counts of removing timber from state lands as well as several other state land violations.

On November 9, Ranger Thomes stopped a vehicle traveling on a state road in the Town of Fine to advise the operator his trailer's lights were not functioning and that his registration was not visible. The driver, a 36-year-old North Carolina man, appeared sluggish and visibly intoxicated. After failing the Standard Field



Snowmobile compliance check by Ranger Wil Benzel

Sobriety Test, the subject was placed under arrest and transported to the state police station in Governor, where he was charged with operating a motor vehicle while ability impaired.

On November 13, Rangers Thomes and Benzel, Corenne Black, and Luke Evans were dispatched to search for a lost 28-year-old Canton man reported missing near Higley Flow State Park. Ranger Benzel made contact with the hunter by cell phone and advised him to stay in place. Using GPS coordinates from the cell phone, Benzel directed a search team led by ECO Joseph Munn to the man's location. Benzel and Black arrived on scene shortly thereafter, treated the hunter for dehydration and escorted him out of the woods.

On November 24, Ranger Thomes was on routine patrol of Toothaker Creek State Forest when he was stopped by the driver of a passing vehicle. Ranger Thomes observed two rifles in the front seat and upon inspection, found one rifle loaded. The 33-year-old Harrisville man was turned over to ECO Scott Atwood, who charged him with possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

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 types throughout the year, including the largest snowmobile trail system in the state. Cross-country ski trails are 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.



Ranger Martin Candee making an ATV compliance check at the SNIRT

On February 13, rangers directed a large-scale operation to move 80 tons of lime to Lyon Lake in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area to neutralize water acidity for improved brook trout habitat. Logistical planning among the Divisions of Fish and Wildlife, Operations and Lands and Forests, and state police was crucial to a successful mission. Rangers developed an incident action plan, provided landing zone safety on Stillwater Reservoir, directed communications, and pre-positioned safety equipment in the event of an emergency. Two state police helicopters were used to sling-load the lime and a 25-person crew to Lyon Lake. In addition, rangers created a winter trail to Lyon Lake in case helicopters could not evacuate crew members. To date, this was the largest and most successful department liming operation that used helicopters.

The annual SNIRT (“snow and dirt”) ATV Run is held in Lewis and Jefferson counties. Usually, some 4,000 participants ride designated town and county roads opened to ATVs. The event is a benefit for the local Sno-Pals Snowmobile Club. As in the past, rangers were assigned to provide public and rider safety, as well as protect state lands from illegal ATV use. Fourteen rangers coordinated their patrols with other state, county and local police agencies. Rangers issued 51 tickets, with half for illegal ATV operation on state land.



Ranger Luke Evans at Russian Lake plane crash site

On August 4, Ranger Luke Evans was notified of a plane crash at Russian Lake in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness. The report indicated the Piper Super Cub had crashed two days earlier without injuries. On August 5, Evans hiked to and verified the crash site. A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) investigator later determined the crash was caused by turbulence. Ranger John Scanlon assisted the salvage crew in preparing the crash site and rigging the plane for extraction. On August 17, Rangers Evans and Scanlon and Assistant Forest Ranger Bill Campeau assisted with the helicopter extraction of the plane.

and the Lewis County Sheriff’s Department with seizing 520 pounds of marijuana on the Tug Hill State Forest. On September 13, rangers supported the same agencies in seizing an additional 147 plants on Grant Powell State Forest.

On August 29, Rangers Scanlon, Martin Candee and Jennifer Snyder assisted the state police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET)

Region 6 Zone C by Lieutenant Scott Murphy



Zone C comprises all of Oneida County and the central and southern portions of Herkimer County. State land interests include 274,532 acres

divided among 29 state forests, portions of 4 wild forest preserve areas, 3 wilderness areas, 1 unique area, 3 fish and wildlife management areas, 2 campgrounds (Alger Island and Nicks Lake) and Hinckley Day Use Area. The zone also includes 21,949 acres of conservation easements. At full staffing, there are six forest rangers, one seasonal assistant forest ranger, and one lieutenant assigned to Zone C.



Ranger Adam Pickett assisting Herkimer County emergency managers with flood recovery

On March 13, a 64-year-old Mohawk man set his home on fire and then used a shotgun to kill or injure six people in the Villages of Mohawk and Herkimer. The man’s vehicle was abandoned near the Herkimer DEC sub-office. Captain Robert Cavanagh and Rangers Adam Pickett and David Cornell assisted at securing the DEC office. When officers from numerous agencies converged on the location where the vehicle was parked and the man was hiding, he fired on them. Rangers and ECOs evacuated civilian personnel from the

office and assisted the other agencies with containing the man to one building. In the early morning hours of March 14, a state and federal tactical team entered the building, resulting in the death of the wanted man and a police dog.

After several back-to-back near-record rainfalls in southern Herkimer County, heavy runoff caused massive landslides, with road and bridge washouts in the Mohawk Valley in the early morning of June 28. Rangers were immediately assigned to search, rescue and recovery operations, as well as to staff the Herkimer County Emergency Operations Center. In the days to come, rangers from Regions 5, 6, 7 and 9, as well as other department employees and local, state and national agencies, assisted the affected communities in their recovery efforts.

On July 10, two 46-year-old Rome men took flotation inner tubes down the East Branch of the Fish Creek in Oneida County. Neither man had experience on these waters, and when they encountered large rapids, both were separated from their tubes. One of the men made it to shore and called for help. Rangers Marty Candee, Greg Hoag and Chad Richardson, along with a Taberg firefighter, were tasked with searching the banks of Fish Creek. A fire department swiftwater rescue boat was sent downriver, and a helicopter flew overhead with thermal imaging. Early the next morning, the rescue boat crew found the other man on a rock ledge and took him to the next road intersection, where he was treated for hypothermia and a lower-leg injury.

Also in July, Utica Police asked rangers to assist them with a homicide investigation of a missing child from Utica. Rangers Mike Hubschmitt, John Scanlon, Bob Coscomb, Candee, Richardson and Hoag and Lieutenant Murphy organized FBI agents, police and detectives from several agencies to systematically search and document a large wooded area in the Town of Marcy. Although no evidence was found, the thoroughness of the search and mapping allowed detectives to discount this area from their investigation.

On September 1, rangers assisted state and local police with capturing an armed felon in Oneida County. The 30-year-old Syracuse man had unlawfully fled from a state trooper on Interstate 90, crashed his vehicle after passing through the Westmoreland toll booth and then fled on foot into nearby woods. Rangers Dave Cornell, Rob Piersma and Hoag, and Lieutenant Murphy were assigned observation posts in the immediate vicinity to create a containment area. The man was quickly located and taken into custody without further incident.

Region 7, Zone A by Lt. James L. McPherson



Region 7 functions as one large ranger administrative zone, stretching from the Pennsylvania border north to the eastern shore of Lake

Ontario, and from the Finger Lakes east to the Unadilla River. It includes nine counties in central New York. The total area exceeds 6,700 square miles. Forest ranger responsibility has expanded to include more than 261,000 acres of state forest lands, wildlife management areas, unique areas, conservation easements, and one multiple-use area. Six forest rangers, one lieutenant and one captain are assigned to this zone.



Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd destroying marijuana plants on state land

On May 5, a 24-acre wildfire occurred in the Town of Lafayette, Onondaga County, which caused extensive damage to several high-voltage power lines and poles. Rangers Jim McPherson and Wil Giraud's investigation narrowed the general point of origin and determined the fire was caused by human activity despite

extensive disturbance of the site. Although the responsible parties were never identified, unconfirmed reports indicated children were involved.

On Memorial Day weekend, Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd was called to a search for an 88-year-old man in the Town of Plymouth, Chenango County. The subject's son had reported his father as suffering from dementia and missing from the residence. As a result of Ranger Oldroyd's search management, Rangers Jackson and Giraud located the man the following morning, still wandering in the woods not far from his home.

On July 8, rangers assisted local and state police with a search for a missing 51-year-old Norwich woman in and along the rain-swollen Chenango River. Rangers Jeremy Oldroyd, Joan Oldroyd and James McPherson staffed the Region 7 airboat through hazardous waters. The missing woman's body was eventually located in the river by a City of Norwich Police K9 unit.

On August 8, Ranger Scott Jackson responded to the Salmon River Falls Unique Area in Oswego County with multiple emergency services units for the rescue and recovery operation of two teenagers who had fallen from the top of the falls. The 17-year-old Pulaski man was successfully rescued with severe injuries. The 19-year-old Parish man died at the scene as a result of his fall.

Ranger Joan Oldroyd delivered several search and rescue training events and hosted the regional search day program in Tompkins County this year. Search training serves not only to further educate and develop needed skills for volunteer searchers, but also fosters professional working relationships amongst rangers and the volunteer search and rescue community, resulting in safer, more effective and more efficient responses.

Law enforcement activities in the zone were also elevated this year. Ranger Giraud dealt with multiple incidents involving clandestine drug labs on state lands in Cortland County. These cases are not only a challenge for rangers to resolve, but also pose a serious danger to the public using state lands. Ranger Giraud successfully reported hazards to the public and worked closely with other law enforcement agencies to investigate the crimes.

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 evenly divided between state forests (49,301 acres) and wildlife management areas (39,398 acres). The region has a mix of urban and rural areas. Its largest metropolitan area is Rochester, in the northern county

of Monroe. Significant oil and gas deposits are located in the region, and some state land parcels have active wells. Region 8 often has a higher

incidence of wildfires than either Region 9 to the west or Region 7 to the east. Many state parks are located in the region, with the two largest being Watkins Glen and Letchworth. The region is also home to several federal properties, including the Finger Lakes National Forest and the Montezuma and Iroquois national wildlife



Ranger John Kennedy gives safety briefing prior to helicopter hoist training

refuges. At full staffing, Region 8 has one lieutenant, five forest rangers and two seasonal assistant forest rangers (AFRs).

A 48-year-old Wolcott man was reported missing in Wayne County on February 20, prompting local authorities to search for him. Because they were unable to locate the man within two days, rangers were asked to organize a much larger search. Rangers Tim Carpenter, Dan Cordell and Scott Jackson managed the search operation the next day, when many additional volunteers were expected. They reviewed all previous actions, established an incident command center, produced maps, and delineated field assignments for all searchers. Within 1½ hours of the organized search, the man's body was found adjacent to Lakeshore Marshes Wildlife Management Area.



Rangers Pat Dormer and Tim Carpenter on patrol on Hemlock-Canadice Lake

On March 30, Ranger Bill Meehan responded to a wildfire threatening structures in Schuyler County. Meehan arrived to a rapidly spreading two-acre grass fire and supported local firefighters with equipment and tactics. Their initial work was sufficient to protect the buildings from damage. The subsequent investigation determined the fire started from an unattended debris fire. The responsible party received a ticket for leaving a fire unattended.

On November 23, Ranger Cordell responded to a report of stranded hunters on Hemlock Lake at Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, Livingston County. Upon arrival, it became clear the hunting party was not stranded at all. In fact, both hunters were home warming up. The two hunters had dragged their fiberglass boat loaded with hunting gear across 150 feet of mud flats to the water's edge. Then, before they could get in the boat, the wind blew it out of their reach. Cordell used the division's motorboat docked at Hemlock Lake to retrieve the hunters' boat and hunting gear before the wind and waves would have destroyed both. Both hunters were very grateful to have their equipment saved and returned.

Region 9 by Lieutenant Shawn Plaisted



Region 9 is one ranger division administrative zone that comprises the six westernmost 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 (WMA) located on 9 parcels. Most of this state land experiences heavy public use due to its proximity to the Buffalo and Rochester metropolitan areas. One notable example is the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area, which attracts hundreds of day-use recreationists in the warmer months. This area includes Zoar Valley Gorge and Cattaraugus Creek, which provides the region's only regulated whitewater river. 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.



Ranger Martin Flanagan releasing pheasants



Ranger Peter Liebig on snowmobile patrol

While conducting a night patrol of Hanging Bog WMA in Allegany County on November 8, rangers Peter Liebig and Robert Rogers stopped a suspicious vehicle on the Stewart truck trail for operating off-road roof lights and failure to dim those headlights for an oncoming vehicle. The operator was a 16-year-old Rushford woman operating under a learners permit with her father as the passenger. Upon inspection of the vehicle, one open partially full beer can was recovered from behind the passenger seat. A small bag of marihuana and a prescription bottle for Hydrocodone was also found, prescribed to the father. This bottle contained Hydrocodone pills and a cellophane wrapper with two other pills he claimed were Tylenol, but they were later identified as Ritalin LA. The 45-year-old father was arrested for possession of a controlled substance outside original container, criminal possession of a controlled substance 7th, unlawful possession of marihuana and an open alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle. While Liebig was finishing writing these tickets, a second vehicle pulled up behind the patrol vehicle and stopped. Rogers approached the second vehicle and discovered a loaded a .22 rifle in the vehicle. The 23-year-old female operator was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and the 21-year-old male

passenger was charged with unlawful possession of marihuana and possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

While patrolling Mount Pleasant State Forest on June 28, Ranger David Pachan located an unoccupied motor vehicle parked on the side of Beck Road, Town of Chautauqua. When Pachan checked the vehicle, he saw a container of plant fertilizer and a bucket. He then looked for the operator and soon located two subjects who were hiding in the woods not far from the road. An interview of the subjects revealed they were in the process of planting some marijuana plants, and they panicked and hid when they heard a vehicle coming. They eventually took Pachan to six marijuana plants. A state police K9 unit searched the area for additional plants, but no further plants were located. A 25-year-old Lakewood man and a 25-year-old Jamestown man were both issued appearance tickets for unlawful possession of marijuana and for unlawful growing of cannabis.

On April 18, Rangers Robert Rogers, John Kennedy and Wayne Krulish were involved with the rescue of a 16-year-old Kenmore woman in Zoar Valley. Her companion called 911 after she lost her footing and slid down a gorge wall earlier that evening. Initial reports had placed the couple downstream or north of the DEC Forty Road parking lot. Later cell phone coordinates moved the location to just under a half-mile upstream from the parking area. This location was confirmed by Erie County helicopter Air-1, which was able to set down on the opposite bank of the creek. The young woman was treated for a compound fracture of her lower leg. Ranger Rogers set up a rope lowering system to enable a safe carry to creek level, where the victim was carried to the waiting helicopter and flown to a nearby hospital.

Wildland Fire Program by Lisa Smith, Fire Management Administrative Specialist

As part of maintaining the ability to control wildfires in New York and support other states with their fires, the division annually qualifies firefighters to state and national standards. In 2013, 125 firefighters submitted forms and records for their annual credentials. Current qualifications, experience and certifications are tracked for all firefighters using the national Incident Qualification System (IQS) database. The division qualified 44 department employees, 19 for out-of-state fires and 25 for only in-state fires. One-hundred-seven forest rangers participated in the annual fire refresher training, and 28 requested and qualified for out-of-state assignments. Twenty-eight fire wardens and 24 other volunteers qualified for in-state fires, while 11 volunteers qualified for out-of-state assignments.



Lisa Smith and Director Joseph Zeglen with fire crew headed to Montana

The year 2013 was below average for wildfires, with an unusually dry fall that contributed to two wildfires over 100 acres in the lower Hudson Valley. Rangers reported that 13 other fires were between 10 and 99 acres, with 86 of 126 fires having burned between .25 acre and 9.9 acres. Campfires were the number one cause of fires (22% of total) reported by rangers, surpassing debris-burning wildfires (20% of total) for the first time in division history. Arson or incendiary fires accounted for 16% (20 fires) of all ranger-reported fires, which is about equal to the past 25-year annual average. Fire reports from local volunteer and career fire departments were available earlier this year than in the past. Fire department and ranger combined reports indicated that 3,211 wildfires burned 2,819 acres throughout New York in 2013. The past 10-year average occurrence of wildfires in New York was 5,578 fires, which burned 4,443 acres per year.

On July 9, Region 1 Captain Timothy Byrnes attended the memorial service for the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshot firefighters who lost their lives at the Yarnell Hill Fire, near Phoenix, Arizona on June 30. The incredible loss of life at a single burn-over will be a safety reference for wildland firefighters for decades to come.

New York hosted the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection (“Compact”) Commissioner’s Annual Meeting on August 7 in Lake George. The mission of the Compact is to provide the means for its members (seven states, four provinces and three U.S. federal agencies) to cope with fires that might be beyond the capabilities of a single member, through information, technology and resource sharing (mutual aid) activities. Director Joe Zeglen and Colonel Andy Jacob attended, as did Ranger David Russell with the division’s FireWise trailer. Approximately 60 leaders of wildfire programs in New York, New England, eastern Canada and U.S. federal land agencies were in attendance. The commissioners were briefed on 2013 fire activity and approved the 2013-14 fiscal year budget and work plans for the Compact.

For the first time in five years, national wildfire preparedness reached the highest of five levels. New York sent one 20-firefighter Type 2 initial attack crew to Missoula, Montana on August 18. Ranger Bill Meehan led this crew, which was assigned to the 11,000-acre Lolo Creek Fire Complex. Their experience included initial response to several small fires that developed from lightning strikes. Extreme dry conditions, low humidity and rainless thunderstorms kept the crew busy over their 14-day assignment. In addition to the crew, Ranger Adam Pickett travelled to Billings, Montana on August 21 and served as a resource unit leader on the 950-acre Rock Creek Fire in Custer National Forest.

Aviation Program by Lieutenant Gary Friedrich

A long-standing and productive partnership with New York State Police has been to assign rangers as crew chiefs and/or hoist operators on state police helicopters. Rangers are valued for their special knowledge of remote wildlands, topography, search and rescue techniques and risk assessment. Helicopters and, to a lesser degree, fixed-wing aircraft are vital resources for successful wildfire control and search and rescue missions. The following 22 rangers have been trained as crew chiefs and hoist operators: Dave Meade, Region 3;

Chris DiCintio, Region 4; Jeff Balerno, Kevin Burns, Dan Fox, Jim Giglinto, Lieutenant Gary Friedrich,

Tony Goetke, Dave Kallen, Ian Kerr, Joe LaPierre, Bruce Lomnitzer, Ben Baldwin, Jenifer Temple, Lieutenant Charlie Platt, and Rick Schroeder, Region 5; Wil Benzel and Dave Cornell, Region 6; Scott Jackson, Region 7; Dan Cordell, Region 8; and Tim Flanagan and John Kennedy, Region 9. Rangers Robert Dawson and Joe Hess,



Region 5 rangers exit State Police helicopter

Region 4, are currently trainees, but all 24 rangers train monthly to maintain their credentials and expertise. In 2013, there were 35 training events that involved 336 work hours. Rangers conducted 22 search observation flights, 8 hoist rescue missions, 8 marijuana detection on state lands flights, 14 utility/resupply internal/external sling load transports, 2 fugitive search observation flights, 2 night vision goggles observation flights, 1 hoist recovery flight and 2 standbys for the Governor's Adirondack Challenge, for a total of 59 helicopter missions.

Emergency Management by Colonel Andrew Jacob

DEC's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) include 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, comprised 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. In 2012, Commissioner Joe Martens signed Commissioner Policy 54 as the first such department policy to define the EMU and its mission. It did not take long to implement the policy, as New York was affected by large wildfires and a historic superstorm later that year.



Ranger Karen Glesmann staffing the DEC desk at the state emergency operations center

Power Plant and an annual nuclear plant drill for the Nine-Mile Island facility involved a total of five days staffing at SEOC.

In December, Director Gatto and Colonel Jacob provided 24 DEC division directors and PERCs with training in incident command for executives. This course provided an understanding of how the incident command system works at on-scene incidents, as well as how executives are included in the support and decision making of incident management teams

Training and Development Report by Captain Eric Lahr

In 2013, training totaled 53,521 program hours of instruction, an increase of 26,454 hours from 2012 due to the 19th Basic School for 16 new forest rangers. The table below provides summary training data given and received within the division. This table does not include program hours or number of events related to presentations given at the basic school.

TRAINING PROGRAM	RANGER TRAINING RECEIVED			RANGER TRAINING GIVEN TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES			TOTAL TRAINEES	TOTAL CLASS HRS	TOTAL EVENTS
	Trainees	Hrs	Events	Trainees	Hrs	Events			
WS -Wildland Search & Rescue	106	227	16	1325	397	67	1431	624	83
WS - Helicopter & Aviation	160	141	33	43	17	3	203	158	36
WS - Airboat & Vessel Operation	125	165	22	0	0	0	125	165	22
LE - Law Enforcement	417	812	66	122	11	4	539	823	70
WF - Wildfire Management	165	290	21	856	397	42	1021	687	63
EM - Wilderness First Aid	142	267	17	23	12	2	165	279	19
HZ - Hazardous Materials	139	115	16	0	0	0	139	115	16
AR - All-risk & Other ICS	17	53	6	0	0	0	17	53	6
NR -Management	153	70	19	0	0	0	153	70	19
NR - General Training	3	1	1	353	29	13	356	30	14
TOTALS FOR ALL EVENTS	1427	2141	217	2722	863	131	4149	3004	348

Other Presentations: 227 Events; 986 Hours; 35,328 Attendees

19th Basic School for Uniformed Officers

On May 6, the 19th Basic School for Uniformed Officers began with a total of 50 officers. The school was jointly attended by forest ranger and environmental conservation officer (ECO) newly hired recruits. On October 18, family, friends and distinguished guests gathered to attend the graduation ceremony for 16 forest rangers and 31 ECOs who successfully completed the arduous 24-week basic school and subsequently entered into the field officer training program.

The following rangers successfully completed their basic school training: Michael Chappell, Corenne Black, Jamison Martin, Howard Kreft, Joshua Hogan, Robert Stratton, Chester Lunt, Nancy Ganswindt, Aimee Cunningham, Joseph Pries, Scott Sabo, Jr., Philip Parlier, Logan Quinn, David Nally, Alexander Virkler, and Russell Martin.

The success of the 19th Basic School is attributed to the continued dedication of basic school staff and instructors. It is through their tireless service that the graduates are among the most highly trained officers in the nation. Rangers Michael Burkholder, Howard Thomes and Jenifer Temple were a daily presence to the recruits and were instrumental in the success of the basic school.

In September, two sessions of the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Service (DCJS) Field Training Officer (FTO) course were attended by 15 experienced rangers. These rangers subsequently served as mentors



Class picture of the 19th Basic School

and coaches to the 16 probationary rangers during their four-week field training program. Each FTO worked one-to-one with a probationary ranger to prepare each to work independently as a state ranger and police officer. The following rangers were FTOs for the 19th Basic School graduates: Captain Tim Byrnes; Lieutenants Jacob Deslauriers and Robert Morse; and Rangers Jenifer Temple, Rob Mecus, Jason Seeley, Megan Dominesey, Chris DiCintio, Howard Thomes, Jay Terry, Wil Benzel, Mike Burkholder, Kevin Slade, Mike Thompson, Bryan Gallagher, and Mark St. Claire. Captain Steve Scherry, Lieutenant Greg Tyrrell, and Rangers Rob Dawson, David Meade, Joe Hess, and Joe Bink assisted with the FTO program.

Search and Rescue (SAR) Training

In 2013, the division participated in 141 training events related to its search and rescue program. Twenty-eight basic wildland search skills courses were taught to search volunteers and emergency response organizations. This course teaches the skills necessary to serve as a wildland searcher under the direction of a crew boss or forest ranger. In addition to the basic level course, a crew boss course was given for 13 trainees. This challenging course tests a trainee's ability to lead a search crew in unfamiliar terrain. Rangers also offered 19 basic search skills refresher courses and 13 flat ice rescue training programs to local volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers. Rangers attended a total of 33 helicopter training sessions and 22 airboat operator sessions. In addition, several rangers also received training in water rescue for first responders, basic rope rescue, managing the lost person incident and tracking awareness.



Whitewater rescue training on the Salmon River

Rangers Rob Mecus and Chris Kostoss attended an 11-day rope rescue training program held in the Shawangunk Mountains, Ulster County instructed by Ropes-That-Rescue from Sedona, Arizona. Mecus and Kostoss will now instruct other rangers and skill volunteers.

Police Officer Training

Rangers, other than the basic school graduates, attended a total of 66 law enforcement training events in 2013. These events included 28 firearms training sessions, 3 defensive tactics courses and 9 active shooter courses. In February, Scott Jackson and Rob Praczaklo attended the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation's 40-hour snowmobile law enforcement training course in Old Forge, the snowmobile capital of the east. Ranger supervisors helped teach the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing Persons Tool Box Course at ten events to numerous law enforcement officials across the state. This course focused on finding missing persons with special needs, such as autism, Alzheimer's disease or dementia, in rural, suburban and urban environments.



Firearms training at Camp Summit

Wildfire Management Training



Wildfire training at the 19th Basic Academy

In 2013, the division provided 63 wildfire training events with 21 events provided to rangers. These events included annual fireline safety refreshers, use of portable pumps and chainsaw operation. Fourteen NYS Basic Wildland Fire Suppression courses were provided to volunteer fire departments and four federal basic firefighter courses (S-130, S-190) to volunteers to attain national certification.

This year, the division once again supported the New York Wildfire Incident Management Academy on Long Island with both instructors and students. Six rangers attended a variety of courses, and 13 rangers served as instructors or staff support.

Wilderness First Responder

Wilderness First Responder lead instructors Lieutenant Julie Harjung and Rangers David Meade and Rob Dawson provided numerous training events to maintain wilderness first aid certificates for all rangers and seasonally employed assistant forest rangers. Rangers Rogers, Temple, Dominesey, Dawson and Burkholder attended wilderness emergency medical technician training.



Rope rescue training



Helicopter safety training at the Academy

Training and Development Summary

In 2013, the division provided 348 training events during 53,521 work hours. The search and rescue training program accounted for 9,310 hours (17%), wildfire training accounted for 6,532 hours (12%), and police officer training, including the 19th Basic School, accounted for 25,757 hours (48%). Basic Academy instruction accounted for 8,613 hours (16%) of total instruction work hours, and other training accounted for 3,309 work hours (6%). The following table is a summary of training activity.

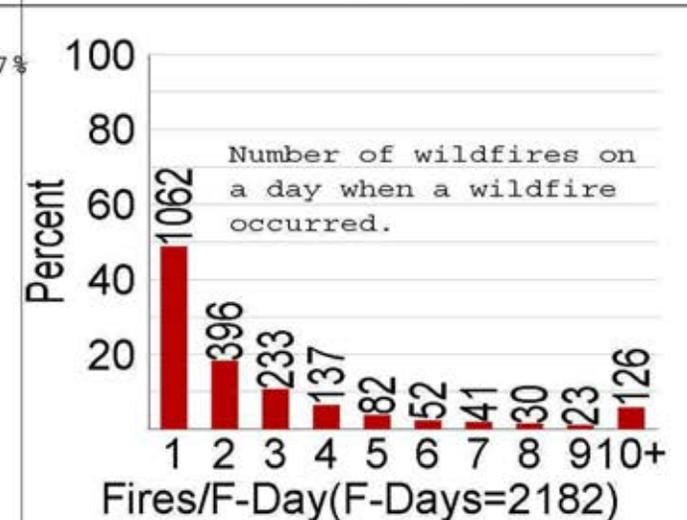
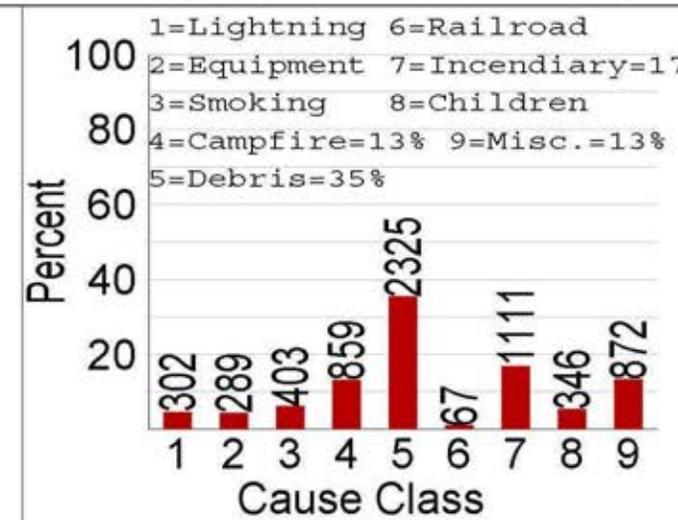
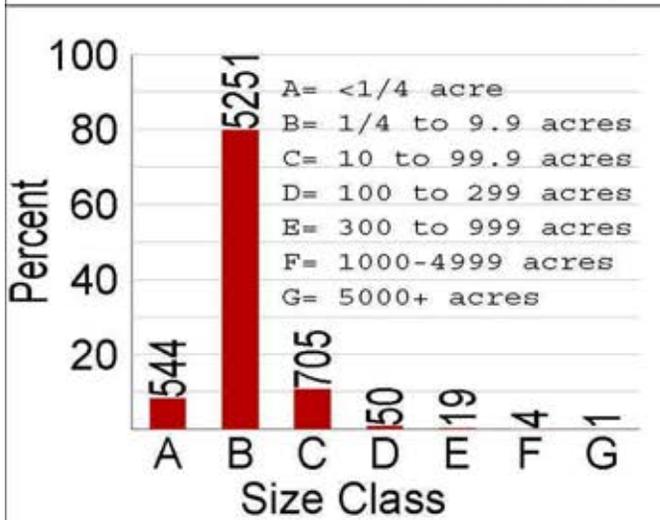
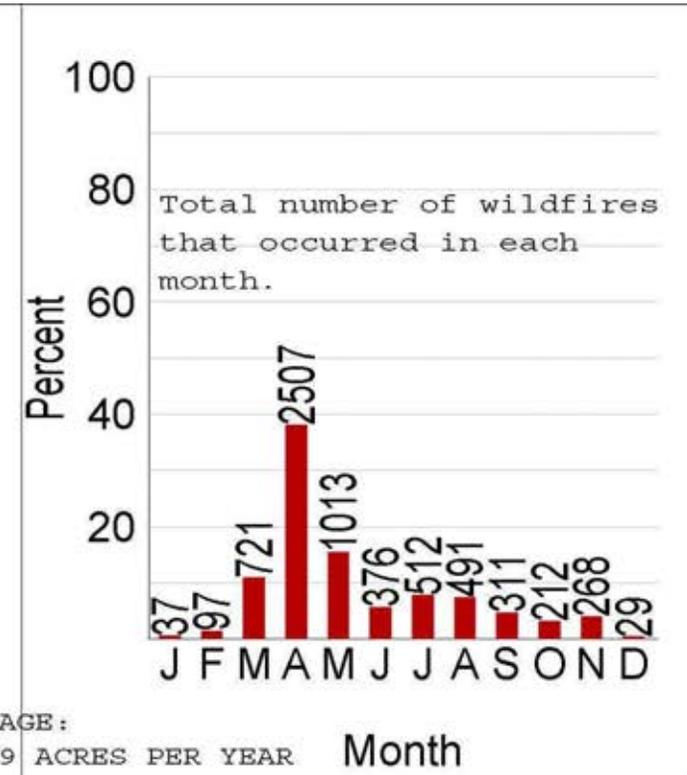
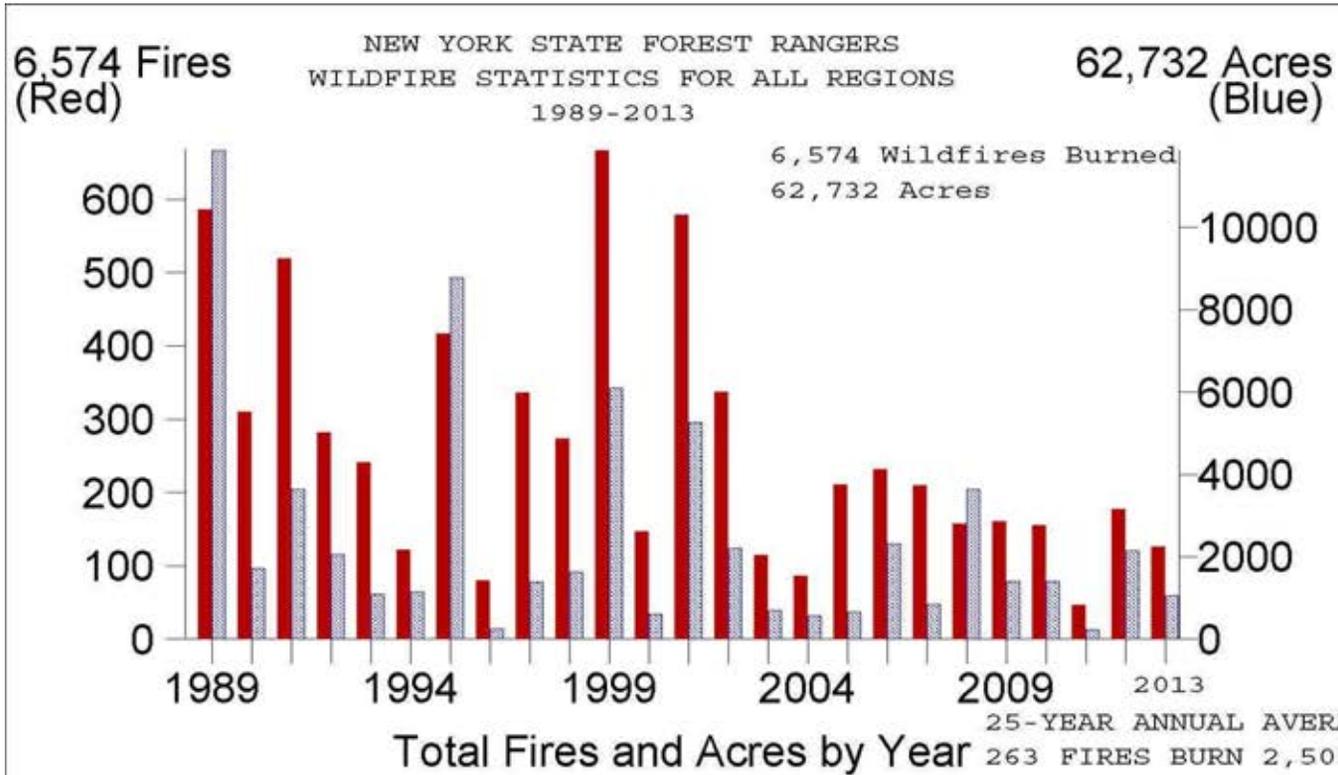
DIVISION of FOREST PROTECTION
Table of Hours Worked in the Training Program by Category

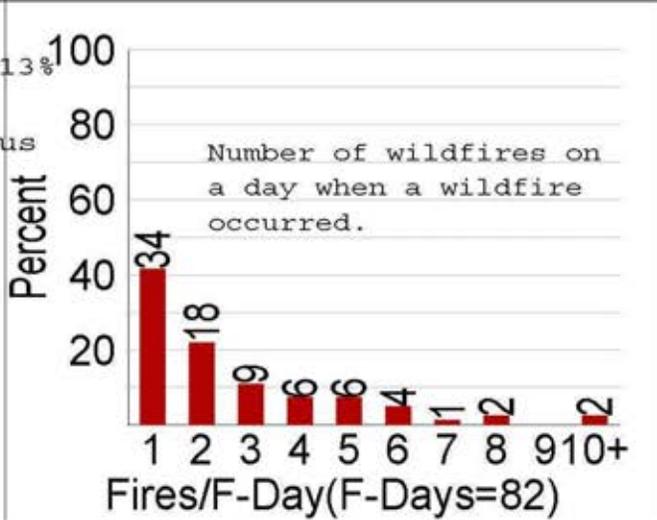
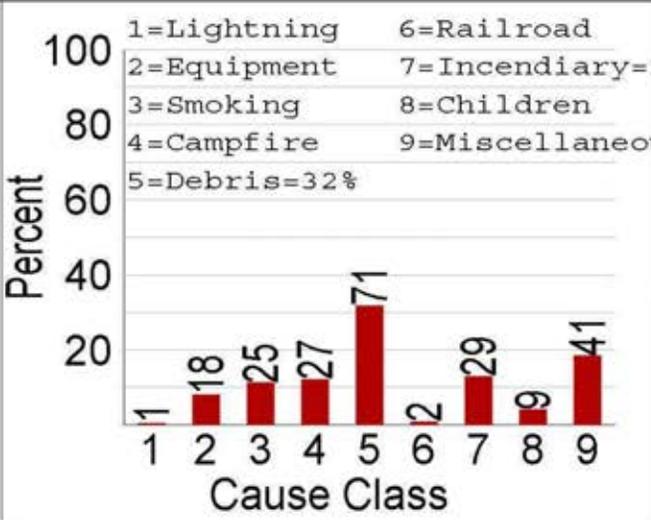
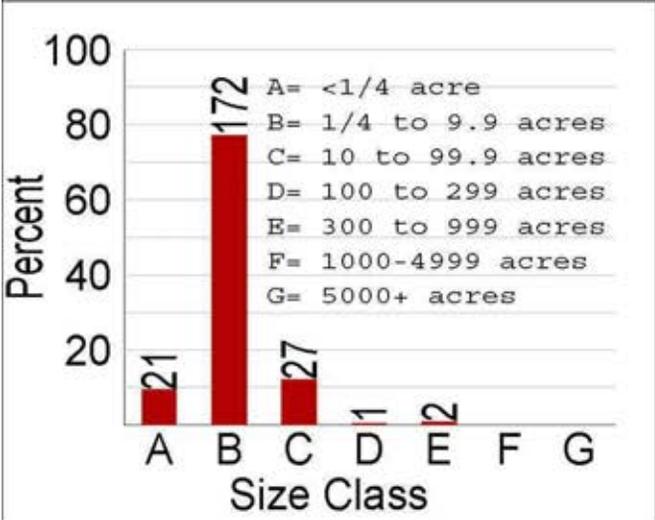
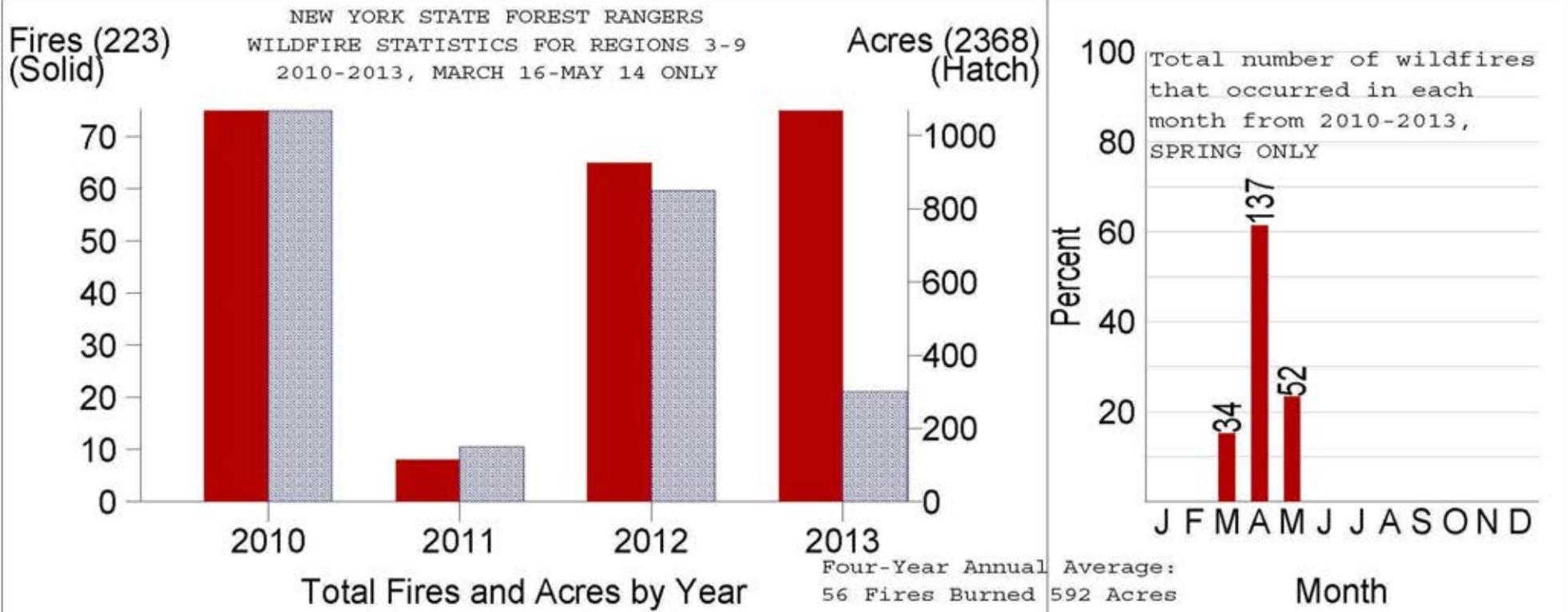
Annual Program Hours Worked per Category

CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	2011	2012	2013
Search and rescue Training	Given	3,502	4,061	4,015
Search and rescue Training	Received	4,470	4,012	5,295
Search and rescue Training Total		7,972	8,073	9,310
Wildfire Training	Given	3,427	3,717	3,855
Wildfire Training	Received	2,733	2,262	2,677
Wildfire Training Total		6,160	5,979	6,532
Police Officer Training	Given	1,617	2,854	2,851
Police Officer Training	Received	4,170	7,050	22,906 ¹
Police Officer Training Total		5,787	9,904	25,757
Basic Academy Instruction	Given/Received	0	415	6,403
Basic Academy Training	Administration	59	62	2,210
Basic Academy Training Total		59	477	8,613
General Training	Given	522	542	503
General Training	Received	2,308	2,070	2,766
General Training	OSHA	27	22	40
General Training Total		2,857	2,634	3,309
Grand Total		22,835	27,067	53,521

2013 Summary of Wildfires by Forest Ranger Zone

Region & Zone	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	TOTAL
# of Debris Caused Fires	0	0	0	3	2	0	7	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	3	4	0	25
# of Campfire Caused Fires	2	2	5	1	0	1	1	2	4	2	3	0	1	2	0	2	0	28
# of Lightning Caused Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
# of Arson Caused Fires	9	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	20
# of Other Caused Fires	5	2	5	5	2	2	3	1	0	7	5	1	0	1	3	6	2	50
TOTAL # OF FIRES	16	4	11	10	4	4	14	3	5	12	10	4	2	4	6	13	4	126
# of Fires < 0.25 acres	6	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	25
# of Fires 0.25 to 9.9 Acres	10	4	5	5	3	2	12	1	2	10	8	4	1	4	2	9	4	86
# of Fires 10 to 99.9 Acres	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	13
# of Fires 100 Acres or larger	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL ACRES OF FIRES	31.3	11.6	672.6	52.4	9.7	2.0	33.3	1.2	1.8	35.9	24.8	16.6	2.8	6.7	25.0	119.5	11.3	1,058.5
# of State Land Fires	8	1	5	5	1	3	1	2	4	5	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	44
# of Private and Other Government Land Fires	8	3	6	2	3	1	13	1	1	7	9	3	0	2	5	11	4	79
# of Spring Fires	5	4	4	3	3	3	12	1	2	7	9	4	2	4	6	12	4	85
# of Summer Fires	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
# of Fall-Winter Fires	10	0	7	3	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	28
TOTAL COST OF FIRES	\$0	\$0	\$2,338	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$162	\$0	\$2,600								





Wildland Fires and Acres Burned in New York State 1961-2013

Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire
1961	663	4,440	6.7
1962	1,532	19,549	12.8
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	5.3
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	8.5
1982	610	3,389	5.6
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	6.5
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	8.8
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
2013	126	1,059	8.4
53-Year Average	533	4,138	7.8

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

2013 Summary of All Search and Rescue Missions Reported by Forest Rangers

Activity of Subject(s)	Total #	% Total	Searches	Rescues	Recoveries	Costs
Biking	3	1	3			
Boating	6	2.1	3	2	1	
Camping	11	3.8	5	5	1	
Climbing (Rock/Ice)	2	0.7		2		
Fishing	3	1	1	2		\$195
Hiking	162	56.4	85	74	3	\$85
Hunting	26	9.1	19	3	4	
Runaway/Fugitive	12	4.2	12			
Skiing/Snowshoeing	1	0.3		1		
Snowmobile/ATV	9	3.1	4	5		
Swimming	6	2.1	1	4	1	\$65
Walking/Walkaway	36	12.5	31	4	1	\$1,233
White water/Flood	2	0.3	1	1		
Other***	8	3.1	6	2		
Totals	287	100	171	105	11	\$1,578

Number of Incidents by Day of Week

Event	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
Search	22	24	24	26	17	29	29	171
Rescue	9	8	13	9	13	31	22	105
Recovery		2	1		2	3	3	11
Total	31	34	38	35	32	63	54	287

Number and Percentage of Incidents by Month

Month	# of Incidents	% of Total	Month	# of Total	% of Total
January	11	3.8	July	39	13.6
February	6	2.1	August	55	19.2
March	7	2.4	September	43	15
April	14	4.9	October	32	11.1
May	16	5.6	November	21	7.3
June	26	9.1	December	17	5.9
			TOTAL	287	100%

2013 Summary of Search and Rescue Incidents by Forest Ranger Zone

SEARCH ACTIVITY	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	TOTAL
Aircraft								1	1									2
Biking				1				1									1	3
Boating		1				2			1	1		1						6
Camping		1				2	1	1	2	2			1	1				11
Chainsaw									1									1
Climbing: Rock/Ice								1		1								2
Criminal	1	1													1		1	4
Despondent	2	2	2	1	1			1							2		1	12
Fishing						2					1							3
Flood Victim					1													1
Hiking		8	5	16	3	4	3	65	13	22	10	1	3			3	5	161
Hunting	1	3	2		2	1	1		3	2	1	4			1	2	3	26
Motor Vehicle													1					1
Off Road vehicle/ATV						1				1	1							3
Runaway		1	1				2			2			2		2	1	1	12
Skiing															1			1
Snowmobile									3	1			2					6
Swimming	1	1		1				1		1	1							6
Walking		3		1	1		2		2	1	1	3		2	5	2	2	25
White water														1				1
TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS	5	21	10	20	8	12	9	71	26	34	15	9	9	4	12	8	14	287
STATE LAND INCIDENTS	5	13	5	18	5	12	3	69	23	27	9	7	5	1	4	6	8	220
TOTAL COST						\$195		\$665			\$65	\$85			\$380		\$188	\$1,578

**Wildland Search and Rescue Missions
New York State
1963-2013**

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	2013	287	6,727
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

2013 Summary of Public Presentations and Training Given by Forest Rangers

DEC Region-Zone	1&2	3-A	3-B	4-A	4-B	5-A	5-B	5-C	5-D	5-E	5-F	6-A	6-B	6-C	7	8	9	ALL
Number of S130/190 Training Events				1					1			1				2		4
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above				12					18			23				28		81
Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events		2	3	1			1		1			2			2	3		15
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		30	58	15			12		17			54			32	66		284
Number of 4-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events							1											1
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above							120											120
Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events		2	3	3				2	1		2				4	11	2	30
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		45	55	21				25	20		35				72	232	68	573
Number of Fire Prevention Events		5		6	10		7		1	5	3		1	5	6	6	12	67
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		1380		965	1,785		1,060		300	626	154		1,500	177	2,617	1,105	6,302	17,971
Number of Basic Wildland Search Course Events		1	3	2	2	1	1		1		1	1		3		3	5	24
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		33	79	28	30	17	12		20		29	26		89		53	162	578
Number of Other S&R or 1st Aid Course Events		1	7	4	2	2	3		9		2				25		12	67
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		10	82	133	500	29	56		206		37				402		313	1,768
# of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations	1	5	2	4			3		1	8	5		10	2	1	2	7	51
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	30	530	43	227			170		25	385	566		842	117	1,500	1,000	304	5,739
Number of Career Information Events		4	3	18	3	3	6	1	4	2		5	1	7		4	9	70
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		245	534	2554	31	145	675	50	1,577	45		170	30	111		285	600	7,052
Number of Other Presentations or Training Events				3		1	2	1	2		5	1	5	5	1	3		29
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above				155		2	24	2	100		1,699	40	574	845	15	428		3,884
Total # of Presentations & Training Events	1	20	21	41	17	7	24	4	21	15	18	10	17	22	39	34	47	358
Total Hours of Presentations & Training Events	1	77	129	261	86	35	177	15	104	31	80	108	56	114	180	215	180	1,849
Total Number of Attendees at Events	30	2,273	851	4,110	2,346	193	2,129	77	2,283	1,056	2,520	313	2,946	1,339	4,638	3,197	7,749	38,050

2013 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	56	29	20	33	15	57	24	19	62	13	7	11	49	61	15	17	35	523
# of Defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment	3	43	0	3	0	10	7	1	15	3	0	4	0	0	2	0	5	96
# of Article 9 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger	0	122	0	75	120	65	334	236	261	4	137	32	9	31	0	0	0	1,426
# of Open Burning Inspections	0	10	4	7	32	7	18	4	18	1	12	4	1	6	12	0	9	145
# of Article 9 Burning Permits issued by Agent	0	100	0	0	160	37	396	1	155	230	233	0	0	56	0	0	0	1,368
# of Camping Permits Issued	0	112	3	69	44	248	23	81	525	154	54	153	78	67	94	233	66	2,004
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected	0	891	557	258	174	269	510	1,635	1,270	566	116	226	944	463	699	803	561	9,942
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds	0	127	3	82	69	324	251	52	293	156	15	43	54	72	4	0	0	1,545
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	26	4	17	18	25	1	4	0	39	0	12	4	10	278	283	265	211	1,197
# of Responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)	7	1	0	1	4	2	13	1	7	0	3	5	5	3	3	9	5	69
# of Guides Checked for License Compliance	0	0	0	1	2	22	0	3	541	36	1	0	0	1	0	0	17	624
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	14	0	7	0	6	1	0	0	1	35
# of Stream Crossing or Wetland Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	2	24	0	44	0	12	1	0	1	0	0	2	86
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections	151	0	1	4	1	15	4	3	16	3	8	1	0	0	10	23	0	240
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	3,513	2,648	2,560	2,437	3,454	2,523	4,034	3,472	3,304	3,437	2,973	2,645	2,405	7,319	5,831	9,079	8,065	69,699
# of CP-3 Compliance Checks	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	21	0	0	20	9	22	12	10	106
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	171	58	72	227	136	24	224	9	173	29	48	35	12	132	146	104	143	1,743
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Foot/Snowshoe/Sk	722	1,124	1,021	1,460	430	1,235	1,670	2,230	1,574	2,442	627	169	321	989	596	599	1,371	18,580
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Motor Vehicle	2,197	273	753	13	1,284	179	414	40	1,284	388	216	1,814	67	974	2,291	1,673	3,946	17,806
Miles of Snowmobile Patrol	3	31	107	0	149	336	630	153	4,458	557	40	520	2,075	2,633	174	206	650	12,722
# of Snowmobile Safety/Compliance Checks	0	0	261	21	38	1,058	334	1,009	7,339	897	3	2,038	1,910	540	607	92	617	16,764
Hours of Motorboat/Canoe/Kayak/Raft Patrol	0	0	16	29	0	313	203	95	324	205	3	75	95	39	34	150	5	1,586
# of Navigation Law Checks	0	0	0	58	0	287	152	64	89	9	0	40	11	17	101	740	59	1,627
Miles of Bicycle Patrol	86	0	0	0	10	13	23	12	20	172	0	0	0	83	2	61	195	677
# of Conservation Easement Inspections	3	0	0	0	0	75	236	11	181	29	0	111	26	188	2	0	0	862
# of NYC DEP Property Inspections	0	21	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22

2013 Summary of Tickets or Arrests Made by Forest Ranger Zone

DEC Region-Zone	1&2	3-A	3-B	4-A	4-B	5-A	5-B	5-C	5-D	5-E	5-F	6-A	6-B	6-C	7	8	9	ALL
Environmental Conservation Law Rules and Regulations	41	129	78	242	38	59	48	92	165	109	43	27	65	43	50	88	216	1,533
NYS Vehicle & Traffic Offenses	22	11	17	80	19	13	60	48	48	28	14	71	76	173	42	43	87	852
Parks & Recreation (Snowmobile & Navigation)			6	7		9	15	32	42	10	2	35	74	130	4	10	13	389
Arrests Turned over to Another Agency				7			16	6	14	4	2						6	55
Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests)	29		1	3	1		6	6	11	3	7		3	2	3	1	28	104
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	92	140	102	339	58	81	145	184	280	154	68	133	218	348	99	142	350	2,933
Offenses Related to State Land Use	22	101	54	173	23	2	17	16	65	73	28	18	43	39	10	49	110	843
Offenses Related to Fire Laws		4	3	11	3	3	9	1	3	6	7	1	7	2	8	8	13	89
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	1	4	4	6	4	14	18	13	10	6	3		1	2	7	13	49	155
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations								70										70
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	47	11	5	24	18	3	39	3	40	8	4	57	70	148	27	24	29	557
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State	9	2	11	58	3	8	4	7	3	15	5	14	6	25	11	5	27	213
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds				43	5	17	10	6	39	13	2							135
Offenses Related to Air Pollution		2	3								1				4	4		14
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State Lands		13	7			1	1	4	11	1	5		11		7	6	19	86
Offenses Related to other EnCon Law, Rules or Regs	3	3		4	1	12	1	7				8	2				1	42
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	10		7	11	1	7	27	27	12	18	11		4	2	13	24	84	258
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation			8	9		14	19	30	97	14	2	35	74	130	12	9	18	471
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	92	140	102	339	58	81	145	184	280	154	68	133	218	348	99	142	350	2,933

Total of Forest Ranger Work Activities per Category and Year

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Protection of State Lands										
Inspections of trailheads/access points	62,632	65,015	74,524	78,843	82,429	78,188	63,228	69,923	65,701	69,699
Miles of trails walked , snowshoe, ski	21,108	20,023	20,682	20,398	24,502	23,160	23,669	21,514	18,172	18,580
Inspections of occupied campsites	14,888	12,564	13,501	15,319	14,006	13,873	12,074	11,279	13,762	9,942
State land camping permits issued	2,627	2,037	1,958	2,123	2,204	2,207	1,968	2,093	2,030	2,004
Miles of state boundary line inspected	2,528	2,462	2,544	2,134	2,728	2,692	2,580	3,428	2,079	1,743
Patrols of DEC public campgrounds	1,092	1,097	1,581	2,379	2,228	2,297	2,105	2,034	1,823	1,545
ATV violation tickets issued	529	520	620	745	763	680	369	449	483	557
State land offense tickets/arrests	650	936	903	1,006	1,300	1,279	958	1,142	1,733	1,347
Fish and wildlife offense tickets	236	246	242	316	319	328	177	178	205	155
Outdoor safety and state land use presentations	149	140	125	109	125	116	49	44	60	51
State land use permits inspected	1,609	1,173	1,197	1,123	1,229	1,294	961	744	1,113	1,197
Offenses related to snowmobile use	62	74	29	192	333	480	445	614	298	471
Other EnCon or other law offenses	160	132	196	201	265	283	276	481	325	300
DEC permit inspections	2385	1256	1677	1076	760	753	492	335	322	432
Wildfire Management Program										
Fires suppressed in the spring	63	160	211	131	133	140	98	18	85	85
Fires suppressed in the summer	15	48	11	65	15	2	49	19	67	10
Fires suppressed in the fall			9	15	9	17	8	10	25	28
Acres burned	473	669	2,323	855	3,634	1,404	1,413	232	2,146	1,058
Prescribed fires	15	23	30	13	21	13	9	9	11	19
Acres of prescribed fire	149	273	330	301	211	228	122	172	267	452
Burning permits issued	20,947	27,277	26,447	19,055	11,998	11,163	3,785	3,543	3,681	2,794
Burning permits inspected	2,299	1,825	1,147	1,002	622	713	425	176	142	145
Wildfire control/ICS training events	90	71	119	91	75	104	57	38	63	50
Fire prevention events	126	95	98	112	100	135	65	60	53	67
Fire prevention law violations/tickets	153	126	155	115	112	119	70	33	107	103
\$1,000 Grants to rural VFDs	357	339	346	365	401	401	466	475	386	370
Search and Rescue Program										
Search missions	152	151	144	153	149	144	140	173	162	171
Rescue missions	60	72	76	67	92	84	65	102	101	105
Recoveries	8	6	6	3	4	6	5	6	11	11
Search and rescue or First aid training events	92	117	132	147	117	116	78	117	109	91
Licensed Guide Program										
Licensed guides	2,218	2,190	2,182	2,090	2,066	2,099	2,074	2,101	2,159	2,196
New guide licenses issued	236	262	185	164	207	188	202	191	220	210
Guide licenses renewed or updated	195	406	232	277	312	240	254	303	327	428
Guide licenses revoked	0	0	4	11	0	0	0	0	3	3
Checks of licensed guide credentials	454	764	135	306	338	301	619	134	254	624
Licensed guide violations ticketed	0	2	0	8	3	1	7	2	5	3

