



Division of Forest Protection

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from the Director

I am pleased to present the *Division of Forest Protection 2014 Annual Report*. Our role as protectors of state land and the people who use these lands is a critical responsibility and we offer this report to the public, supporting agencies and division members to highlight our achievements during the past year.

In 2014, the New York State's forest rangers completed 129 consecutive years of protecting forests from destructive wildfires and timber theft. Over this time, the role and responsibilities of the rangers have changed significantly. While still active in our wildfire and search & rescue programs, our police activities on five-million acres of state lands encompass 53 percent of our time.

In November the western part of the state experienced a severe lake effect snow storm. At times more than fifty percent of the ranger force was involved in the response. Rangers filled positions on the state incident management team, local emergency operation centers, and provided public safety and humanitarian relief. All four forest ranger airboats were activated for potential flooding from the snow melt after the storm.

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 also find a tabular record of statewide activity that has been conducted by forest rangers throughout the year.

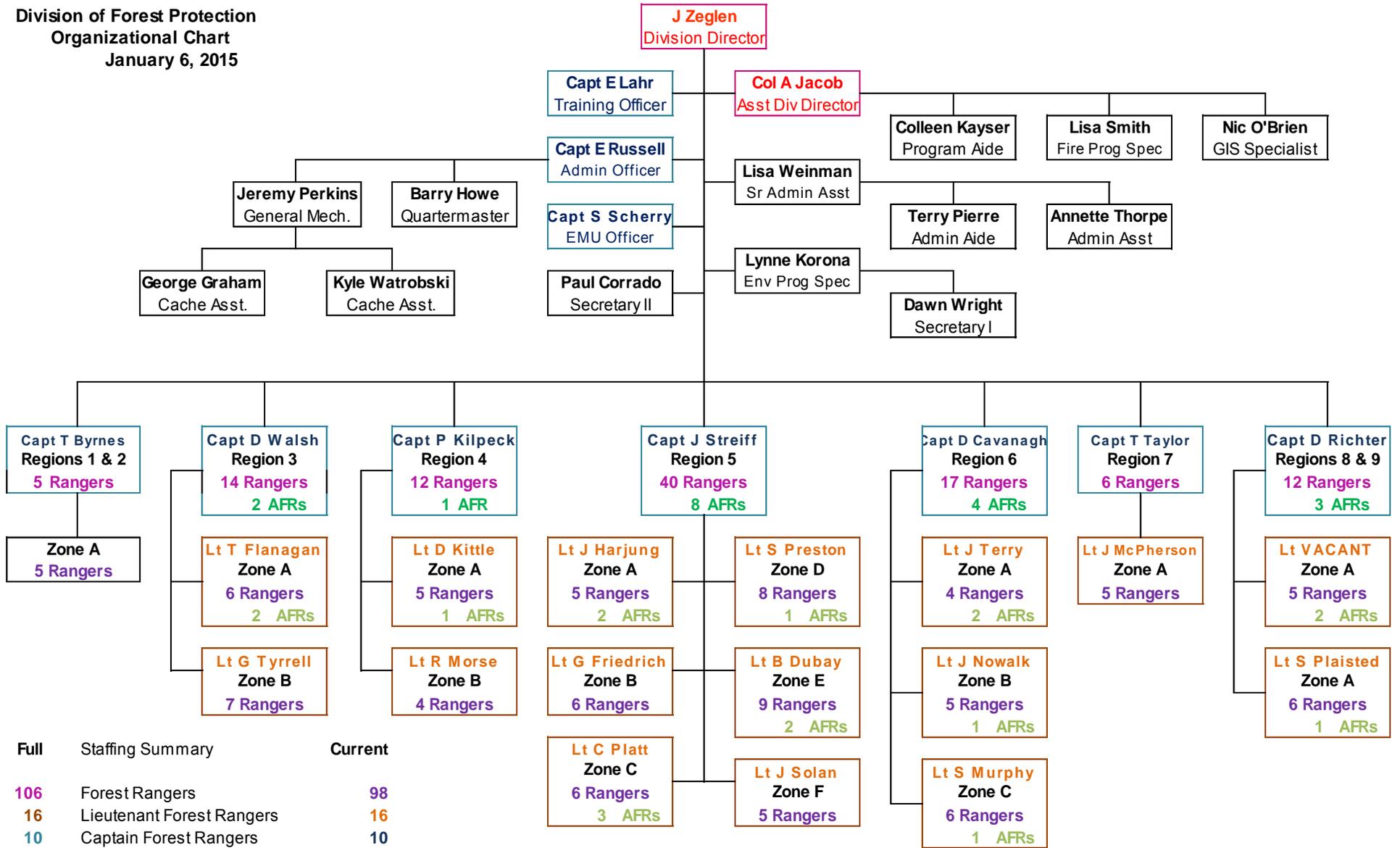
I thank our division members who dedicated time to the thorough and accurate collection of data and narratives presented herein with a special thanks to DEC's Division of Communication Services who provided editing, graphics and publishing support.

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. Without them, what we are able to accomplish would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Zeglen
Division Director

**Division of Forest Protection
Organizational Chart
January 6, 2015**

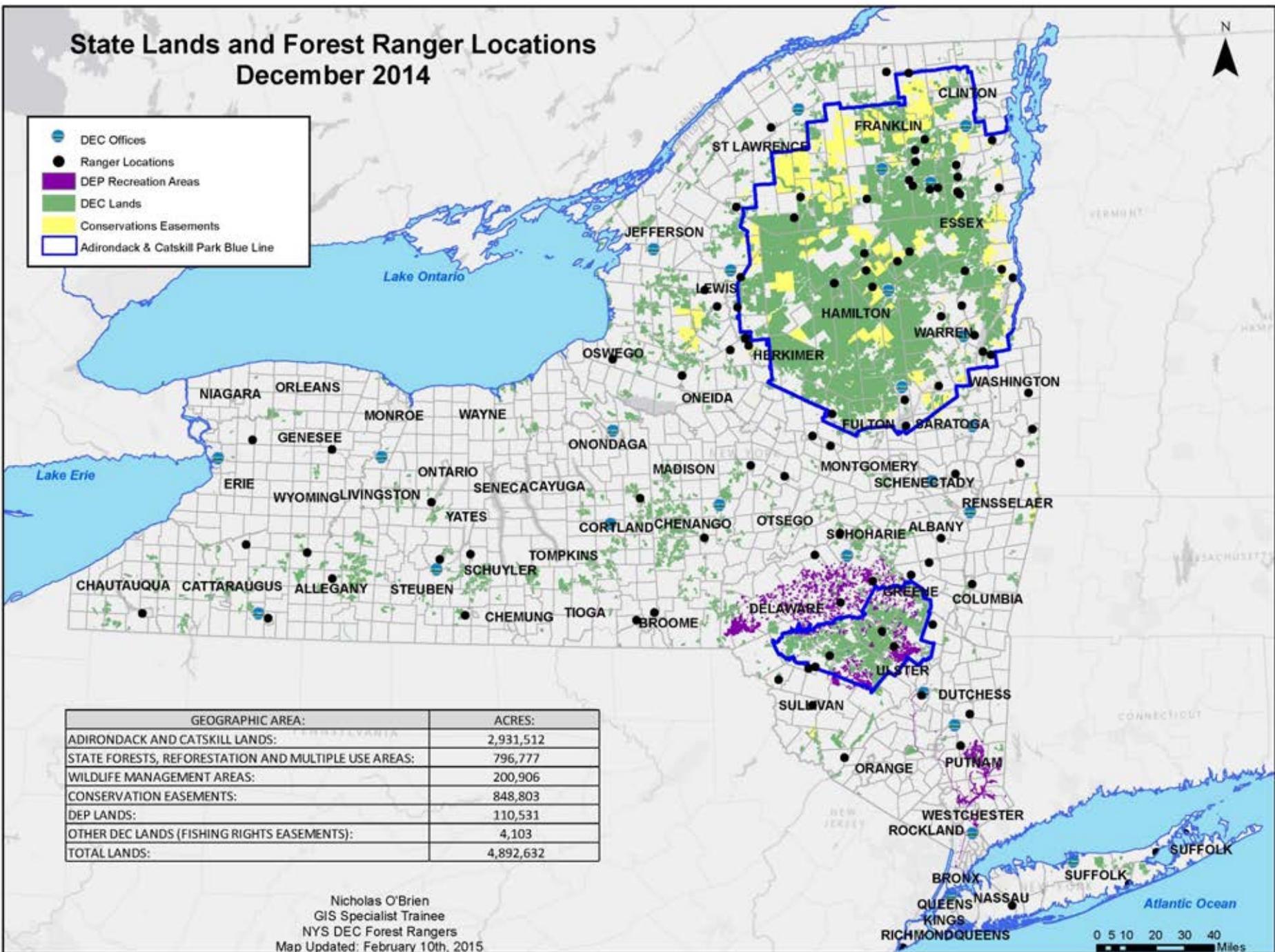


Full	Staffing Summary	Current
106	Forest Rangers	98
16	Lieutenant Forest Rangers	16
10	Captain Forest Rangers	10
2	Division Director/Assist. Div. Dir.	2
18	Asst. Forest Rangers (AFRs) (Seasonal)	18
152	Total Uniformed Forest Rangers	144

State Lands and Forest Ranger Locations December 2014



- DEC Offices
- Ranger Locations
- DEP Recreation Areas
- DEC Lands
- Conservations Easements
- Adirondack & Catskill Park Blue Line



GEOGRAPHIC AREA:	ACRES:
ADIRONDACK AND CATSKILL LANDS:	2,931,512
STATE FORESTS, REFORESTATION AND MULTIPLE USE AREAS:	796,777
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS:	200,906
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:	848,803
DEP LANDS:	110,531
OTHER DEC LANDS (FISHING RIGHTS EASEMENTS):	4,103
TOTAL LANDS:	4,892,632

Nicholas O'Brien
GIS Specialist Trainee
NYS DEC Forest Rangers
Map Updated: February 10th, 2015



2014 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 129 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 of department lands and easements are in the Adirondack Park alone, but every region has substantial state land resources that support public recreational use, habitat protection and open space.

365-Day by 24-Hour Responsibility

The division's forest rangers continue their historic tradition of providing police, wildfire and wilderness search, rescue and emergency medical services to protect department state lands and the people using these lands. Direct professional contact between rangers and state land users enhances people's safety and enjoyment while protecting the land for the benefit of all. This public service role is a 365-day responsibility. Historically, summer hiking and 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 as a means of promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation on public lands through education, research and partnerships. Rangers made 36 presentations about the proper use of state lands to 5,799 recreationists. In addition, rangers issued 2,176 camping permits to groups of 10 or more or to groups staying at one site for more than three nights. Throughout the year, rangers inspected or patrolled the department's 52 public campgrounds 1,543 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during the off-season. Routine patrols included 72,362 inspections of trailhead access points and inspection of 2,377 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

Law Enforcement on State Lands

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 2014, forest rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 457 violations involving ATVs and another 328 tickets or arrests for snowmobile offenses. Another 196 violations involved the unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land. Rangers executed enforcement actions in response to 95 violations in department campgrounds and

Offenses Related to State Land Use	705
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	58
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	120
Offenses Related to High Peaks Rules and Regulations	45
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	457
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State Land	196
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	95
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	12
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking	104
Offenses Related to other EnCon Laws, Rules or Regs	37
Offenses Related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	264
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	328

Number of Forest Ranger Tickets or Arrests by Category in 2014

another 750 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in rangers making 104 arrests for illegal possession of alcohol by a person less than 21 years of age. Rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 120 fish and wildlife law offenses that occurred on or near state land and 313 tickets related to other environmental law offenses.

Search-and-Rescue Responsibility

An important part of protecting the people who use New York’s natural resources is wilderness search and rescue. The need to find and rescue lost or injured people in wild or remote locations is almost a daily event. Throughout 2014, 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 2014, forest rangers conducted 164 search missions, 100 rescues and 9 recoveries. Eighty-two percent (224) of these incidents occurred on state lands. Most of them were resolved in one or two days, but several searches went on for several days, incurring thousands of hours of search time. Although hikers are the group most often reported lost or injured, people suffering from dementia or mental illness are often the most difficult to find. Rescue and recovery missions are frequently complicated by the nature of wildland recreational activity. Ice-climbing rescue requires special training and equipment. White-water boating 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 largest search-and-rescue event in 2014 was the response to the devastating snowfall in Buffalo in November. Forty rangers were assigned to the response, which included helping stranded motorists, welfare checks of shut-ins and repositioning airboats for possible flood recovery.

Aircraft	1
Biking	1
Boating	5
Camping	14
Climbing: Rock/Ice	2
Criminal	2
Despondent	16
Fishing	2
Hiking	173
Horseback Riding	1
Hunting	14
Motor Vehicle	2
Off Road vehicle/ATV	3
Runaway	1
Skiing	1
Snowmobile	6
Stranded	1
Swimming	7
Walking	21
TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS	273
STATE LAND INCIDENTS	224

Number of Forest Ranger Search-and-Rescue Missions by Category in 2014

Search-and-Rescue Training

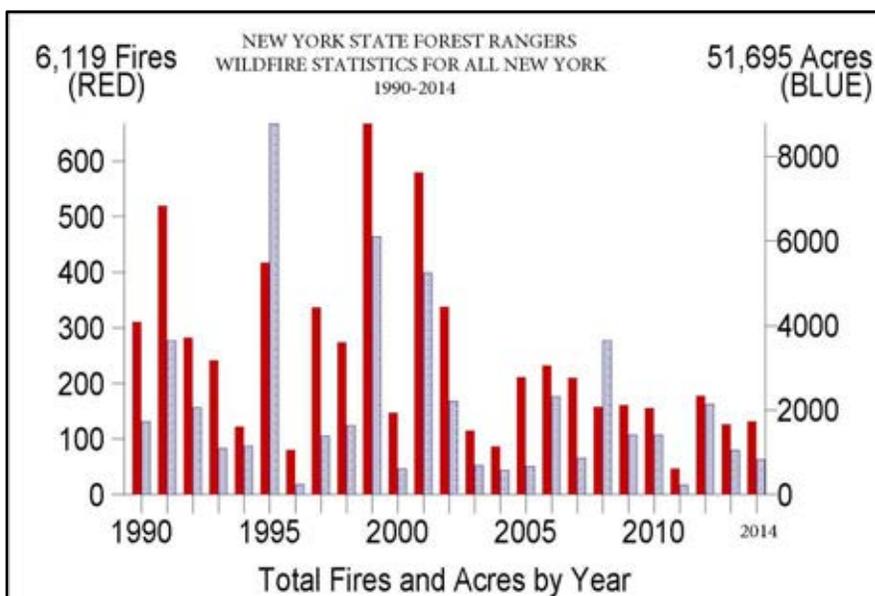
Considerable time and effort goes into preparing for search and rescue missions. Rangers train emergency service agencies and volunteer groups to support them during incidents. Together, they maintain positive relationships and continually improve the search-and-rescue program. In 2014, rangers presented 27 NYS Basic Wildland Search courses to 581 participants. Another 62 presentations, covering wilderness first aid, advanced search-and-rescue training and incident management were given to 1,309 participants in support of local and division response to incidents statewide.

Wildfire Mitigation

An important part of protecting publicly and privately owned open space is wildfire mitigation. New York State has 18.5 million acres of public and private forest lands that are susceptible to seasonal wildfires.

The division is the state's lead agency for the control and prevention of wildfires. In 2014, forest rangers reported 131 wildfires, which burned a total of 836 acres. During the last 25 years, rangers responded to an average of 245 wildfires per year, burning an average total of 2,068 acres per year. 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 1,269 wildfires that burned a total of 1,541 acres in 2014. The past 15-year average occurrence of wildfires in New York was 4,952 fires, which burned 4,279 acres per year.



Forest Ranger wildfire statistics from 1990 through 2014

In 2014, the largest wildfire to occur in New York State was the 173-acre Darling Mountain Fire in Warren County that began on November 4. This fire occurred on private land and spread quickly because of strong winds blowing fallen leaves. This fire was caused by hunters leaving an unextinguished campfire. Rangers in Suffolk County experienced 33 wildfires, with all but six classified as incendiary—that is, purposely caused by people other than children. In 2014, incendiary fires accounted for 31% of all fires that rangers fought, making it the primary cause for the year.

Wildfire Training



Rangers containing the Darling Mountain Fire

The division's wildfire mitigation role requires considerably more time than that which is spent extinguishing fires. Similar to the search-and-rescue program, significant time and energy focuses on preventing fires and preparing for fire suppression. Forest rangers instructed the 12-hour NYS Basic Wildland Fire Suppression Course on 19 occasions, teaching 352 volunteer firefighters the basics of wildfire suppression. On five occasions, rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 93 firefighters, state employees, students and volunteers completed this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 20 training sessions to 306 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 212 inmates.

Wildfire Prevention

The best way to reduce wildfires is to prevent fires from starting. Rangers made 65 prevention presentations to 10,834 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 131 wildfires extinguished by the division in 2014, rangers attributed only five fires to the actions of children. This statistic stands as a tribute to the effectiveness of the 70-year Smokey Bear campaign at preventing wildfires started by children and adults.

Wildfire Prevention Enforcement

Debris burning, incendiary 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 3,542 burning permits as required by state Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 86 of the permitted burns to insure compliance with the terms of the permits. In addition, they issued tickets or made arrests for 58 violations of law related to fire prevention. The most frequent violation was burning without a permit in towns within the Adirondack and Catskill parks. Department burning permits are not required in other areas of the state. In October 2009, New York's open burning regulations were updated for the first time since their last modification in 1970. The new regulation generally prohibits burning anything other than tree branches and prohibits even 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 74% reduction in the number of wildfires caused by debris burning during the spring ban period from 2010 through 2014 as compared to the previous ten-year record. Many rural fire departments supported the burn ban with public announcements.

National Response to Wildfires

On July 25, the division sent one 20-person initial attack firefighting crew for 14 days to the 14,201-acre Chiwaukum Creek Fire in Washington 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 department volunteer firefighters. The division sent four of its specially trained and experienced rangers to national wildfire incidents as single resources. In addition to fire details, the division's fire prevention officer hosted a Fire Prevention Team Leader course for 15 international students and instructors in Albany during November.



New York State Fire Crew walking to fire assignment in Wenatchee National Forest, Washington

Prescribed Fire

In 2014, forest rangers maintained their working relationship with the department's Division of Lands and Forests and Division of Fish and Wildlife to use prescribed fire as an ecosystem management tool. Throughout the year, rangers supported 13 prescribed fires on public lands, burning a total of 349 acres.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

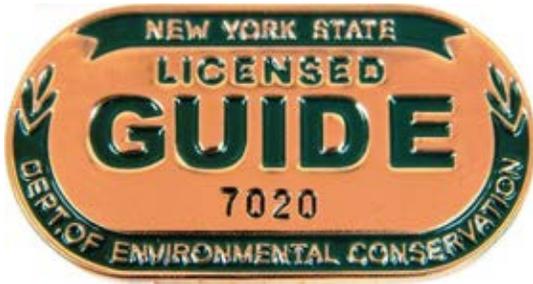
Each year, the division administers the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program, using funds provided by the U.S. Forest Service. VFA grants assist rural volunteer fire departments with the purchase of fire-suppression equipment and supplies. In 2014, 443 qualifying fire departments received VFA grants of \$1,000 each. Not only does this program place much needed dollars in the hands of rural fire departments, it also furthers the solid working relationship between forest rangers and the volunteer firefighter service.

Support to Other Agencies

Forest rangers provide a variety of support activities to other programs within the department, other state agencies and local governments throughout New York State. They assisted other agencies with emergency incidents on 584 occasions in 2014. Many were

automobile accidents after 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



New York State Licensed Guide badge that must be worn when guiding

The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2014, there was a total of 2,197 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 215 new licenses and 293 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 678 license guide checks statewide, and two arrests were made for guiding without a license. Two guides had their licenses revoked for violations of the state Environmental Conservation Law.

Comprehensive Annual Report

The division's *2014 Annual Report* includes summary tables of reportable data on wildfire occurrence, prescribed fire, search-and-rescue missions, arrests or tickets issued, public presentations and general activities. Most summaries are reported at the division's zone level. A zone is identified as the smallest work group under the direct command of a division supervisor. There are 17 division zones in the state, each within a department region. Each zone supervisor has provided a narrative review of activities within their zone as part of the division's annual report. All summaries are substantiated by data reporting at the region, zone or individual ranger level. A fact sheet on 2014 forest ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

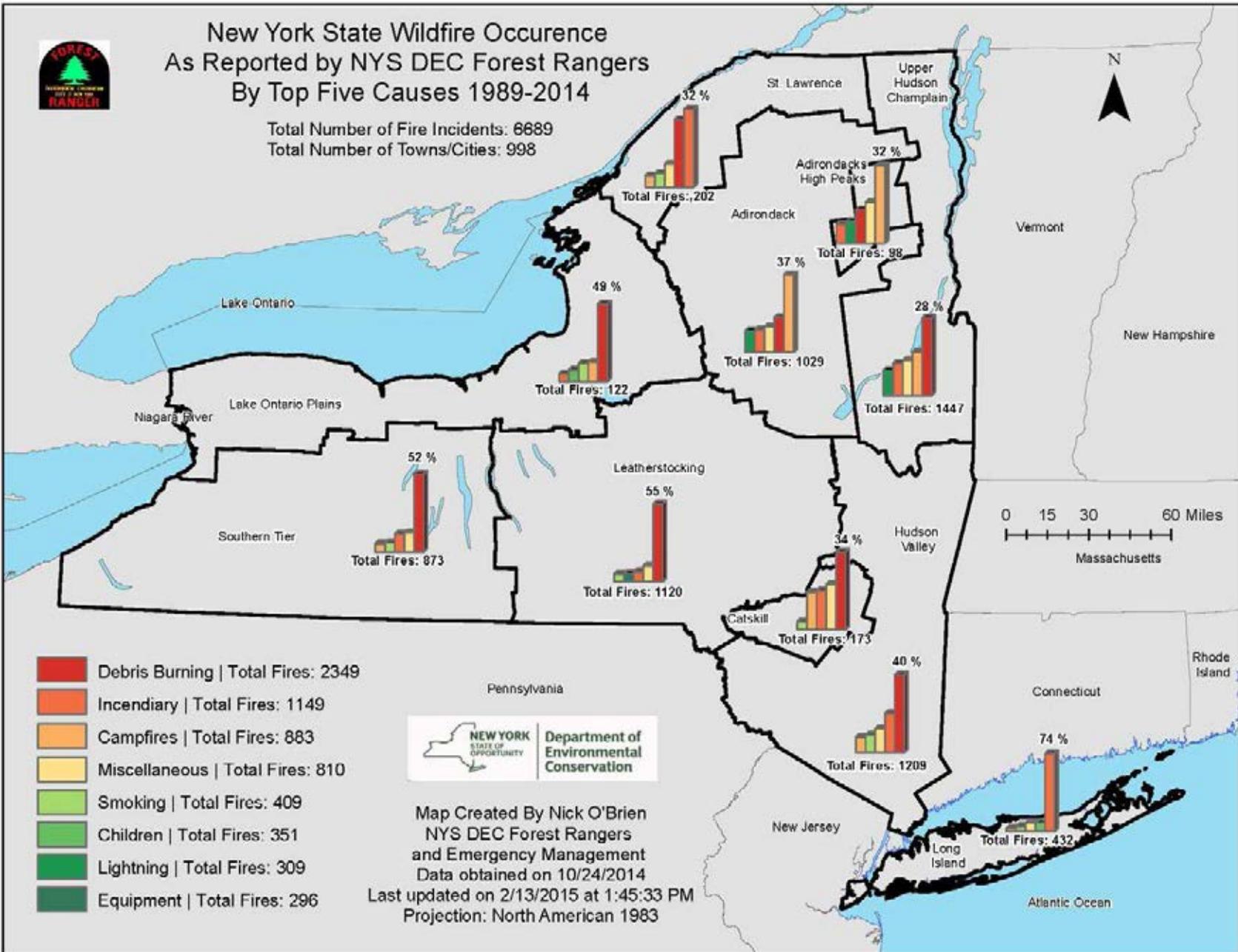
2014 FOREST RANGER DIVISION FACT SHEET

Division Members at Full Staffing		Protection of State Lands and Resources	
106	Forest Rangers	72,362	Inspections of Trailheads/Access Points
28	Forest Ranger Lieutenants, Captains and Directors	23,667	Miles of Trails Hiked, Snowshoed, Skied
9	Administrative Support Staff	2,136	Hours of Boat Patrol
3	Fire Cache Equipment Specialists	2,203	Navigation Law Safety Checks
State Lands & Easements Acres		17,553	Miles of Snowmobile Patrol
2,931,512	Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve	16,852	Snowmobile Law Safety Checks
796,777	State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple-Use Areas	10,641	Inspections of Occupied Campsites
200,906	Wildlife Management Areas	2,176	State Land Camping Permits Issued
848,803	Conservation Easements	2,377	Miles of State Boundary Inspected
4,103	Other DEC Lands	1,277	State Land Use Permits Inspected
<u>+ 110,531</u>	<u>NYC DEP Public Access Lands</u>	1,543	Patrols of DEC Public Campgrounds
4,892,632	DEC-Administered Lands	1,076	Conservation Easement Inspections
2014 Population (in millions)		457	ATV Violation Tickets Issued
19.7	New York State	1,145	State Land Offense Tickets/Arrests
32.7	Surrounding States (VT, MA, CT, NJ, PA)	328	Offenses related to Snowmobile Use
Wildfire Management Program		120	Fish and Wildlife Offense Tickets
91	Fires Suppressed in the Spring	301	Other EnCon or Other Law Offenses
10	Fires Suppressed in the Summer	36	Outdoor Use Presentations to 5,799 Participants
30	Fires Suppressed in the Fall/Winter	Licensed Guide Program	
836	Acres Burned	2,197	Licensed Guides on 12/31/14
13	Prescribed Fires	215	New Guide Licenses Issued
349	Acres of Prescribed Fire	293	Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated
3,542	Burning Permits Issued	2	Guide Licenses Revoked
86	Burning Permits Inspected	678	Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials
45	Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events with 963 Participants	2	License Guide Violations Ticketed
65	Fire Prevention Events with 10,834 Attendees	Other	
58	Fire Prevention Law Violations/Tickets	1,503	Calls-for-service/Complaints
443	\$1,000 Grants to Rural VFDs	584	Incidents of Assisting other Agencies
Search-and-Rescue Program		110	Other Presentations, Fairs, Career Talks to 6,878 Attendees
164	Search Missions	How Rangers Spent their Time in 2014	
100	Rescue Missions	53%	State Land Patrol and Enforcement
9	Recoveries	10%	Fire Management Activities
89	Search and Rescue or 1 st Aid Training Events with 1,890 Participants	12%	Search-and-Rescue Missions and Training
		0%	Basic Academy Police Training
		22%	Administrative Responsibilities
		3%	Support to Other Programs/Agencies



New York State Wildfire Occurrence As Reported by NYS DEC Forest Rangers By Top Five Causes 1989-2014

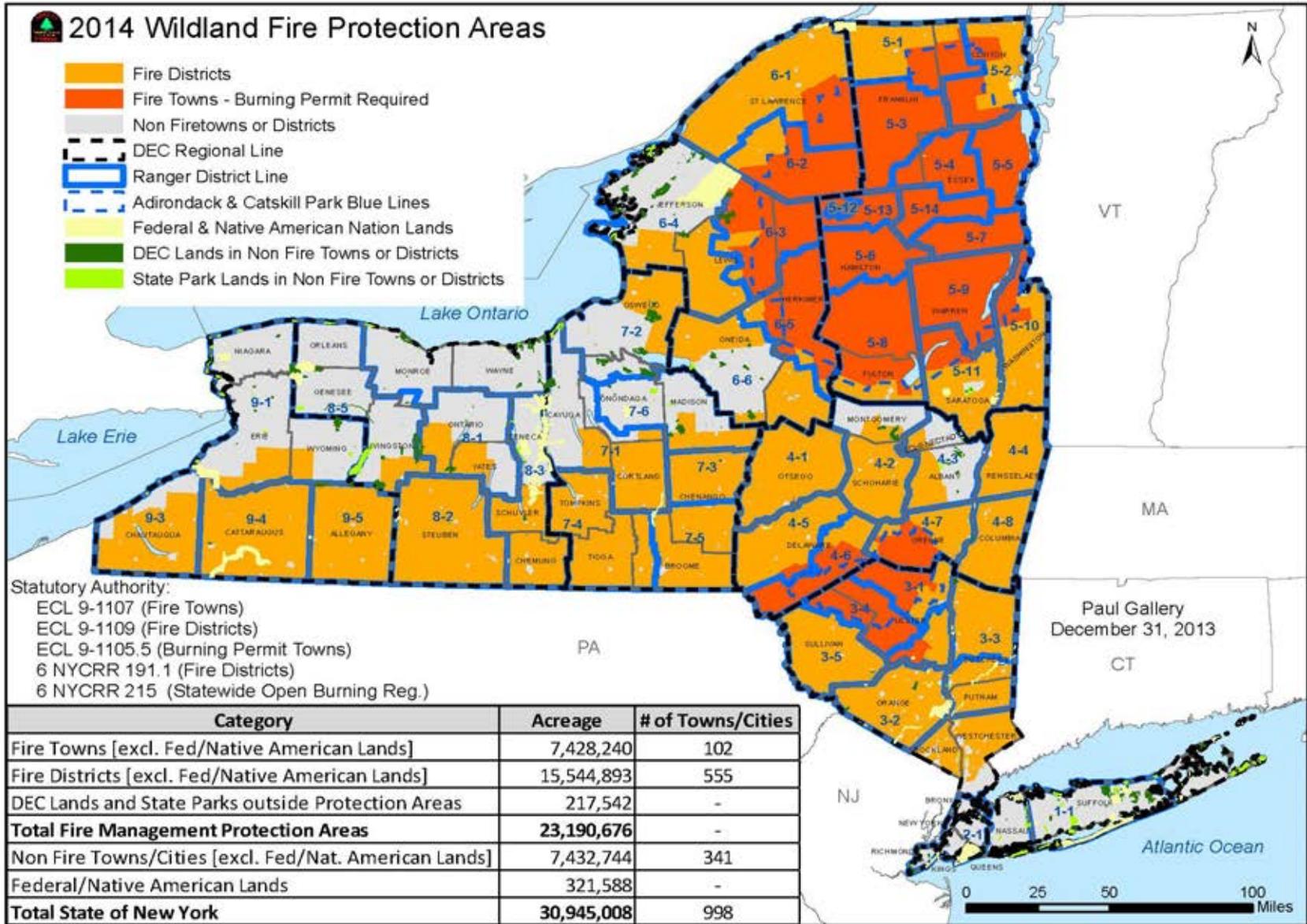
Total Number of Fire Incidents: 6689
Total Number of Towns/Cities: 998





2014 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 and 2 by Captain Timothy Byrnes



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

The year 2014 proved to be a successful, independent, first full year for the last training academy class of rangers to strike out on their own and become more adept at enforcement, wildland fire, and search and rescue. Each ranger found personal significance in daily patrol by enforcing rules and regulations, and maintaining familiarization in and on all their assigned state lands.

On April 5 and 6, veteran Ranger Bryan Gallagher coordinated a wildland search for a missing 82-year old Riverside woman. Family members reported to state police that the woman may have become lost while walking in nearby David Sarnoff State Forest. Gallagher directed rangers, environmental conservation officers, state police, county emergency management personnel and local search volunteers throughout the two-day search, which led to finding the woman deceased from natural causes.



Ranger Pries removing domestic goats from state land.

On April 13, Ranger Russell Martin received a report of a group of men carrying cases of beer to seashore state lands in Staten Island. Martin issued several summonses for underage drinking and disobeying posted notices. This action along with regular patrols has been welcomed by the local community as a means of reducing illegal drug and alcohol activity on state public lands.

On September 14, while patrolling Edgewood Preserve state land, Ranger Joseph Pries discovered an abandoned minivan stuck in a large mud puddle along a powerline right-of-way. Pries determined the vehicle was stolen and advised county police. The vehicle had been severely vandalized, and the owner was responsible for removing it from state land.



Ranger Russell Martin on tidal wetlands patrol.

During an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) enforcement detail on December 7 at Edgewood Preserve, Ranger Pries stopped two ATVs illegally operating on state lands. Pries determined that one of the subjects was riding an ATV stolen on October 2. While Pries processed the two riders, Ranger Gallagher apprehended four other illegal ATV riders at other locations on the preserve.

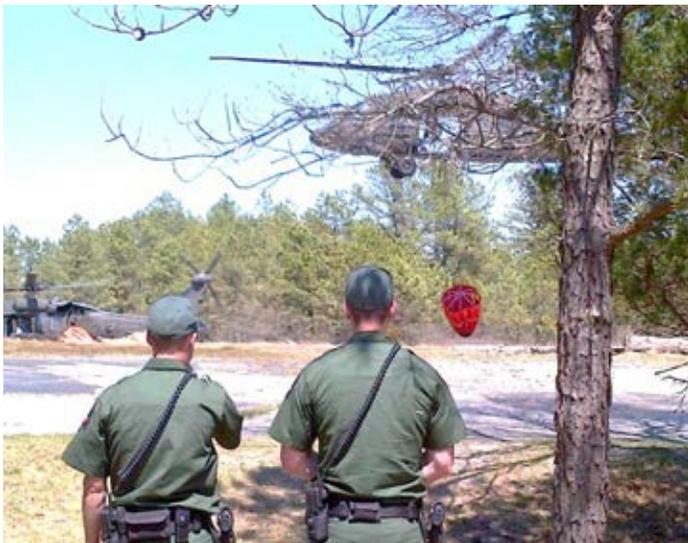
On August 11, Rangers Gallagher and Chester Lunt provided a Smokey Bear presentation to a group of special-needs children at a six-week summer school program. Because many of the children had little or no outdoor experience, both rangers set up a campsite and taught the group how to keep from getting lost in the woods.

Region 3, Zone A by Captain Daniel Walsh



Region 3 Zone A is the more western 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, six rangers and one seasonal assistant forest ranger are assigned to this zone.

Policing the four Region 3 campgrounds kept rangers busy throughout summer weekends, and Zone B rangers were frequently assigned to supplement patrols. Campground staff appreciated ranger presence, especially during the late hours to maintain quiet and compliance with campground rules. Close relationships with campground staff also enabled rangers to more effectively find hikers that were reported missing.



Region 1 rangers working with National Guard helicopter.

On two occasions, rangers responded to Mongaup Pond Campground, Sullivan County to locate lost campers who had taken hikes in the surrounding Catskill Forest Preserve. On June 28, four campers from the Bronx, ages 12 through 18, had become lost when they missed trail junctions on their return to the campground.

On two occasions, rangers responded to Mongaup Pond Campground, Sullivan County to locate lost campers who had taken hikes in the surrounding Catskill Forest Preserve. On June 28, four campers from the Bronx, ages 12 through 18, had become lost when they missed trail junctions on their return to the campground.

Rangers Scott Sabo and Erik Stratton organized the search and returned the group to their families before dark. On September 6, Sabo and Stratton found three campers soon after dark who also had become lost in the surrounding state lands.

During the evening of April 16, Central Office Captain Stephen Scherry received a request from Ulster County 911 to help find a lost 21-year-old Commack man in the forest preserve in the Town of Rochester. Scherry, who lives nearby, assisted Ranger Sabo manage the response of rangers, state police and local firefighters. Sabo initiated sound attraction and a hasty search, which led to finding the man in good but shaken condition.

Ranger Kevin Slade helped plan two prescribed fires planned during the year with The Nature Conservancy, the Mohonk Preserve and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks). Weather conditions were not favorable for 2014, but fire plans are ready for 2015.

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 State Parks who, along with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute, Mohonk Preserve, and other such non-governmental organizations, provide significant public outdoor recreation opportunities. Forest rangers are present on most of these tracts through joint patrols, training and emergency response. In total, rangers protect 21,493 acres of department-administered state lands. While hunting activity remains consistent from year to year, mountain biking, hunting dog training, bird watching and horseback riding are popular state land activities. Seven rangers and one lieutenant are assigned to this zone.

Zone B experienced an unusually wet early spring and, as a result, encountered few wildfires during this typically busy season. On April 24, an unattended campfire ignited the Moodna Creek Fire in the Town of New Windsor, Orange County, which quickly spread into heavy fuels on the stream's banks and floodplains. Rangers Scott Sabo and Philip Parlier feverishly worked to contain the high-intensity fire to one side of the stream, but it jumped the stream and spread into additional heavy fuels. In the end, 76 acres burned, and extensive pumping operations continued for four days.

On May 6, a careless smoker started the 27-acre Chapin Road Fire on the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area, Town of Lumberland, Sullivan County. Ranger Logan Quinn led several other rangers and ten volunteer fire departments at containing and extinguishing the fire over several days. Given the location, terrain and nature of fuels, this fire had the potential to become a very large wildfire. On November 22, the 35-acre Cranberry Road Fire in the Town of Fallsburg, Sullivan County, began by unlawful debris burning and consumed two of the landowner's sheds before spreading into nearby woods.



Ranger Glesmann (right) with state troopers on marijuana eradication detail in Albany County.

On May 9, state police requested ranger assistance in the Town of Somers, Westchester County, to locate a 67-year old man who had been reported missing for several days. Several police agencies, K-9 teams and aircraft had unsuccessfully searched the general area. Shortly after Lieutenant Gregory Tyrrell and Ranger Philip Parlier coordinated a systematic search, the man was found deceased. On October 2, police from the Town of New Castle, Westchester County, asked rangers to help locate a missing suicidal 21-year old man. Once again, Lt. Tyrrell led rangers and search team members and found the deceased man within a few hours.

On November 29, Ranger Nancy Davey heard considerable all-terrain vehicle (ATV) noise while patrolling West Mountain State Forest, Dutchess County. By following the sounds, Davey apprehended nine ATVs unlawfully operating on state land but needed assistance to keep the group from escaping. Environmental Conservation Office (ECO) Beverly Whalen provided assistance, and the two officers wrote 16 tickets to the nine operators.

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 in scenic areas, 2,751 acres within the Albany Pine Bush Preserve (APB), 10,336 acres of wildlife management area property and a 435-acre environmental education center in Albany County. Through a cooperative agreement between the department and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), rangers are responsible for patrolling DEP parcels as they patrol nearby state lands.



AFR Fox extinguishing escaped campfire on state land.

Three land acquisitions occurred in 2014: a fishing rights easement along the Onesquethaw Creek in Albany County; a new driveway easement to the Brandow Point Unique Area, (T) Athens, Greene County; and a new 518-acre State Forest in (T) New Lebanon, Columbia County, commonly referred to as Hand Hollow. Division personnel in the zone consist of one seasonal assistant forest ranger (AFR), six forest rangers and one lieutenant forest ranger.

Rangers addressed a large garbage dumping problem near the popular swimming areas along State Route 23A in Kaaterskill Clove, Town of Hunter, Greene County. Following a clean-up effort by local high school girls, Town of Hunter officials asked DEC to further address the problem. Ranger Rob Dawson and Lieutenant Darryl Kittle participated in two volunteer clean-up events involving the NY-NJ Trail Conference, students and residents. In addition, DEC Operations spent several days removing litter and debris. In total, ten pickup loads of debris were removed.

Rangers continued to provide training, equipment and firefighters to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve prescribed fire program. 2014 was a very successful year, with five burns that treated 203 acres. Prescribed fire provides rangers with critical experience for advancing their national wildland firefighting credentials.

Two fatalities within 30 days at Kaaterskill Falls, Town of Hunter, dominated headlines and ranger attention through the remainder of the year. On June 30, a 54-year-old Beacon woman fell while hiking around the fall's amphitheater (bowl formation at the bottom of the upper falls). Rangers and local fire rescue personnel stabilized the woman for the half-mile carry-out to a waiting helicopter. She later died at an Albany hospital from her injuries. On July 29, a 23-year old Hopewell Junction woman who was wearing flip-flop sandals fell from the top of the upper falls 150 feet to her death. Unable to recover the woman's body that day, Ranger Christine Nelson secured the scene overnight until the recovery could be done safely the next day. In the aftermath of these accidents, several meetings and tours of Kaaterskill Falls were held involving DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, state senators, assemblymen and local fire and rescue personnel. Ranger Dawson spent considerable time through the summer and fall adding safety resources to the area, such as 350 feet of split rail fencing and a new portable forest ranger radio repeater, and the installation of rope-rescue anchors in the amphitheater. In addition to stepped-up patrols by Dawson, AFR Katie Fox and a trail steward intern were assigned to inform hikers of hazards and the need for appropriate footwear.

Captain Pat Kilpeck and Lieutenant Kittle made several search-and-rescue presentations at the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Missing Person Clearinghouse Toolbox workshops. Rangers also provided a basic Wildland Search Skills course at the Albany Pine Bush, which was attended by many local police departments. As a result, several of these municipal departments asked for ranger assistance to find missing persons. These searches often pose a set of challenges different from more traditional wildland settings due to the complexities of an urban landscape. In mid-April, rangers assisted the City of Schenectady Police in looking for a despondent 60-year-old Glensville woman missing for five days near Collins Park and the Mohawk River. Within two hours, rangers found her hiding about 100 yards from her last known location and in good health. A second search request came from the City of Albany Police in early September for a missing 86-year-old man with dementia. Within hours, Rangers Karen Glesmann and Michael Chappell located the man down an embankment, 100 feet from where he was last seen. Despite spending two nights outside, the man recovered from his severe exposure.

For the second consecutive year, rangers provided flat-ice rescue training to state park police recruits at their academy in Rensselaerville, Albany County. Following classroom instruction, recruits used cold-water suits to enter ice-covered Thompson Lake in a simulated cold-water rescue. Specialized cold-water suits were supplied by the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). In May, Lieutenant Kittle provided a lecture on the division's search-and-rescue program in a continuing effort to promote wildland search leadership among state agencies. Subsequently, Ranger Dawson, Lt. Kittle, and Captain Kilpeck were interviewed for an article in the NY-NJ Trail Conference publication, *Kaatskill Life*, to promote the role and importance of forest rangers in keeping people safe in the wildlands of New York.

Region 4, Zone B by Lieutenant Robert Morse



Zone B consists of Delaware, Otsego, Montgomery and Schoharie counties, encompassing 3,504 square miles. The zone comprises 3 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.

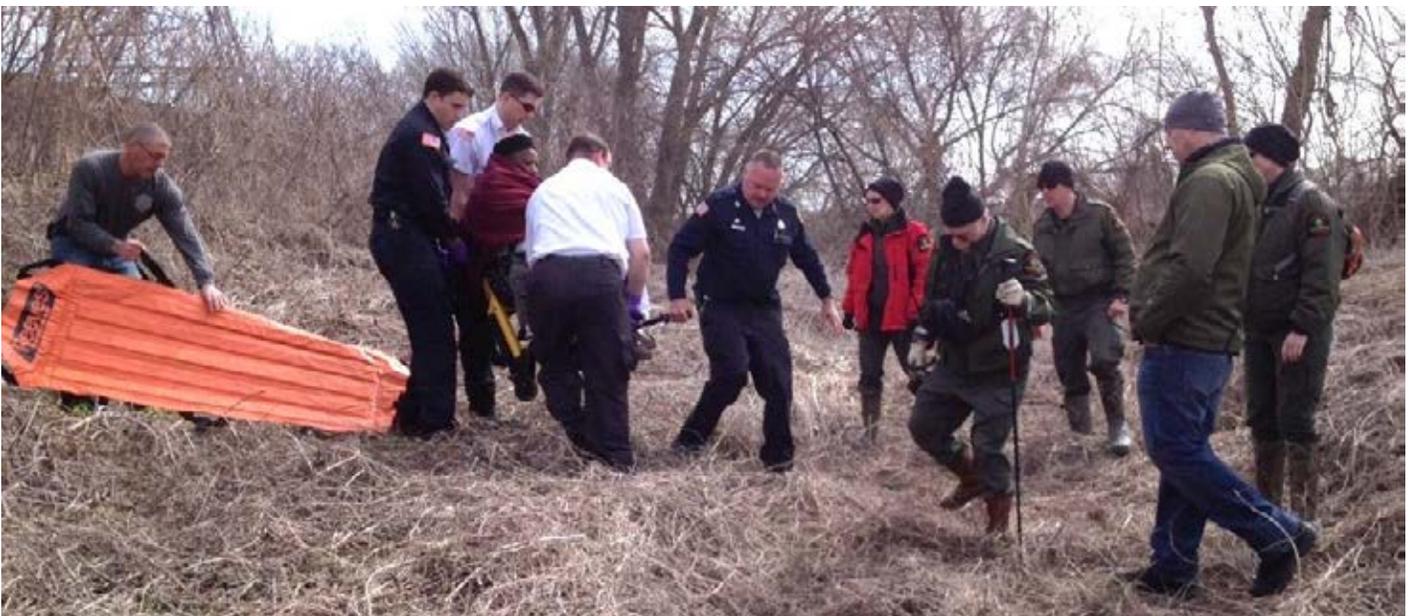
On September 11, Schoharie County dispatchers requested a forest ranger to find a missing 77-year-old Charlotteville man whose wife reported had left on his all-terrain vehicle (ATV) earlier that day. Rangers Jason Seeley and Michael Chappell coordinated local volunteers and Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) Keith Isles and his K-9 dog to search for the man. The next day, the search was expanded with five more rangers, sheriff's deputies and a state police helicopter. Shortly after the helicopter began its search, the man's ATV was found, and the man was spotted a short distance away. Within minutes, deputies found the man and began his transportation to the local hospital.



Escaped domestic pigs inhabiting state land in Schoharie County.

On October 2, 2014, Lt. Morse was notified that there was a website called Yik Yak that included blogs and related information posted by college students. Reference was made to parties on state land. Lieutenant Rob Morse assigned rangers Seeley, Chappell, Sarah Geesler and Bill Henry to a detail with ECOs, state police, Schoharie sheriff's deputies and SUNY Cobleskill Police. On November 12, the sheriff's

department reported complaints about mailboxes being destroyed along a road that leads to the state lands. Geesler, Seeley, deputies and state police responded to Mallet Pond State Forest and found a party of 50 people. Geesler issued four tickets for motorized vehicles on state land and one ticket for cutting trees. State police and deputies issued four tickets for underage drinking and four tickets for failure to wear seat-belts.



Region 4 Rangers assist City of Schenectady fire and EMS personnel with rescuing a lost woman.

Ranger Chappell was patrolling Hooker Mountain State Forest when he discovered a 50-year-old Cherry Valley man loading firewood into the back of his pickup. Chappell contacted DEC Forester Paul Wenner to determine whether the man had a valid permit to harvest wood. Wenner said no and that hundreds of dollars of wood had already been stolen from that part of state land over the last few months. Chappell charged the man with illegally taking firewood from state land.

On July 11, the caretaker of DEC Bear Spring Campground contacted Ranger Seeley to report that a group of ten campers was very loud and obnoxious. At 11:00 PM, Seeley found

the noisy and intoxicated group of 17 and 18-year-olds with a large amount of alcohol. Jason asked Town of Colchester Police to assist with the arrests, which included underage possession of alcohol and unlawful possession of marijuana. The following night, rangers Seeley, Bink and Geesler enforced an eviction of the same ten campers when they refused to comply with campground staff.

Region 5, Zone A by Lieutenant Julie Harjung



Region 5 Zone A includes the Towns of Duane, Waverly, Franklin, Brighton, Harrietstown and Tupper Lake in Franklin County, and the northern half of Long Lake, Hamilton County. Canoeing, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are very popular state land activities. Zone A contains the Saint Regis Canoe Area, the William C. Whitney Wilderness, 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 the 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 (AFRs) and one lieutenant.

On March 9, Governor Andrew Cuomo initiated an Adirondack Winter Challenge that included team competition in downhill skiing, curling and bobsledding. Prior to the event, Cuomo took a ranger-guided snowmobile ride in Franklin County. The invitation-only event required rangers to work closely with the governor's protective services unit. The ride included DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, State Park's Commissioner Rose Harvey and several state, county and local officials.



Captain Streiff and Governor Cuomo at snowmobile event.

Rangers, AFRs and Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns extinguished numerous small wildfires caused by unattended campfires or lightning strikes. Most of these were accessible only by canoes or motorboats.

On August 8, Ranger Jim Waters was notified of a serious injury at Buttermilk Falls, Town of Long Lake. The area is a popular swimming hole and was very busy with swimmers and onlookers. A 20-year-old Buffalo man was crossing the Raquette River when he slipped, fell over the falls and was pinned underwater. Rangers Waters and Del Jeffery and Lieutenant Julie Harjung, the Long Lake Fire Department, Tupper Lake Dive Team, Saranac Lake Rescue Team, Hamilton

County Sheriff's Department and state police worked together, but the river flow was too dangerous for rescuers. Jeffery and Waters coordinated a rope retrieval system using the many rescuers and their equipment. After three hours, the man's body was recovered.

Rangers Jeff Balerno, Megan Dominesey and ECOs made 300 boat safety checks resulting in 20 violations of no life preservers, unregistered motorboats and speeding, and one arrest for boating while intoxicated.

On November 22, rangers and environmental conservation officers (ECOs) completed a law enforcement detail on forest preserve and easement lands in southern Franklin County.



Region 5 Rangers and ECOs joint deer baiting enforcement detail.

Ranger Balerno and ECO Jim Cranker had mapped illegal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails and multiple baited tree stands. The joint detail was timed so as many hunters as possible could be encountered simultaneously before others could be warned over recreational radios. Three violations and two misdemeanors

were cited, including an untagged and an illegally taken doe. The easement landowner may impose fines or evictions on lessees because of these offenses.

Ranger Balerno continues to take an active role in the division's aviation program, working closely with hoist operators and the State Police Aviation Unit in Lake Clear. As training coordinator for northern Region 5, Balerno was instrumental in conducting 12 training sessions of hoist operations for rangers, assistant rangers, stewards, interior caretakers, trail crew, Life Flight medics, backcountry medics and Franklin County fire personnel. This training added four hoist operators for the region. As an aviation crew chief, Balerno completed 30 helicopter missions; 15 were search-and-rescue missions, 13 rescue-hoist missions, one recovery hoist and one utility mission. Balerno also supported 14 state police marijuana eradication missions that found 2,000 plants and resulted in 6 arrests. A joint mission with ECOs to detect deer baiting resulted in eight tickets and one arrest.

Region 5, Zone B by Lieutenant Gary Friedrich



Region 5, Zone B is in the northeastern corner of the state. The zone includes the Saint Lawrence Valley in northern Franklin County, all of Clinton County and the ten towns in the Champlain Valley, Essex County. Zone B has large areas of remote forests and agricultural farmland, plus state-owned forest preserve islands on Lake Champlain. Along with numerous wildlife management areas and state forests outside the Adirondack Park, Zone B includes all or portions of the Chazy Highlands, Hammond Pond, Split Rock and Taylor Pond wild forests, and Giant Mountain and Hurricane Mountain wilderness areas. Altogether, there are 149,031 acres of Adirondack Park forest preserve lands, 148,693 acres of conservation easements and 47,722 acres of state forest, wildlife management areas, unique areas, fishing access and trailways within Zone B. The zone includes six forest rangers and one lieutenant.



Region 5 Rangers training with State Police Special Operations at Lake Clear helicopter hangar.

On April 6, Ray Brook Dispatch received a report of an 82-year old Plattsburgh man who became disorientated two-thirds of the way up Lyon Mountain, Franklin County. Rangers Glen Bronson and David Russell reached the man by snowmobile and determined he was exhibiting stroke-like symptoms. The state police helicopter assigned to the northern Adirondacks was called to hoist the man and transport him to a nearby landing zone, where a Life Flight helicopter flew him to Champlain Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh.

On April 14, Ray Brook Dispatch received a report of two hikers lost on Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain, Essex County. Ray Brook determined that cell phone coordinates put the two on the south side of the mountain in nearly vertical topography. Rangers Rob Mecus and Sarah Bode attempted to locate them from above the ledges, while Ranger Bronson looked from below. The hikers thought they were on an established trail but were in fact bushwhacking on a hunter's trail until they could move no further. Bronson was able to locate the two and safely guided them off the ledge and to the trailhead.

On April 25, Ranger Russell assisted the state police with a reported burglary in the Town of Dannemora, Clinton County. While checking trails in the area, the state police helicopter asked him to check a possible suspect in the area. Upon doing so, Russell took the 20-year-old Dannemora man into custody and then transferred him to state police for his subsequent arrest.



Rangers inspect submarine on Lake Champlain.

On June 14, Ray Brook Dispatch was contacted by the International Emergency Response Coordination Center regarding a personal locator beacon activation. The coordinates put the location of the activation in the swift-water section of the Saranac River, Town of Saranac, Clinton County. Ranger Prackajlo deployed a division cata-raft, while Lt. Harjung, Ranger Glen Bronson and Assistant Forest

Ranger Keith Hollenbeck began a shoreline search. Within ten minutes of rangers walking the shoreline, a 47-year-old Stow, Massachusetts man and his 18-year-old son were found along the river bank in good condition. The two were escorted back to a vehicle and taken to an ambulance for evaluation. Rangers Kostoss and Prackajlo located their overturned canoe pinned against rocks and retrieved it after the high water receded.

On August 31, Lieutenant Gary Friedrich overheard Clinton County dispatch multiple fire departments for a boat taking on water one mile east of Crab Island on Lake Champlain. Friedrich and Ranger Dan Fox responded to the location with the division's Lake Champlain boat in six-foot waves and found two boaters clinging to their capsized small aluminum boat. Both were rescued and treated for hypothermia and a laceration.

On September 27, Ray Brook Dispatch received a report of an injured 24-year-old Plattsburgh woman near the summit of Lyon Mountain. Rangers Fox, Megan Dominesey, Jim Giglinto and Jeff Balerno responded with a litter, backpack carriers and a six-wheel all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Rangers hiked two miles to assist Lyon Mountain firefighters in carrying the woman out to the ATV. It took rescuers six hours to evacuate the woman to a waiting ambulance.

In the early morning hours of July 26, Ranger Dave Russell received a complaint from State Park Police Officer Benware of an underage drinking party on Macomb Reservation State Forest, Town of Schuyler Falls, Clinton County. Russell and environmental conservation officers (ECOs) LaCroix and Hovey encountered 100 people and dozens of vehicles about to leave the party area. The three officers worked their way through the group and vehicles and issued numerous tickets for underage possession of alcohol and illegal possession of marihuana.

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.



Region 6 Rangers guide state police helicopter move lean-to supplies.

On December 29, 2013, a 31-year old Australian Army captain suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) flew to the U.S. and made his way to Saranac Lake by December 30. That night, he sent an e-mail to his father, who did not know of his son's travel. Alarmed, his father contacted the Saranac Lake Police Department. On January 4, Saranac Lake Police asked forest rangers to help find the captain. An intensive search of nearby trails and woods began on January 5

and continued until the captain's body was located on January 15 by Ranger Scott vanLaer on Scarface Mountain. The search involved four volunteer search teams working 1,000 hours and 20 rangers working 500 hours. State Police Aviation, special operations response team, and investigators assisted in the search, while the Saranac Lake Police Department conducted interviews that defined the general search area.

On June 26, Ray Brook Dispatch was notified by Essex County 911 of a double drowning at the Wilmington Flume, Essex County. Within an hour, one of the men's bodies was recovered approximately one mile downstream. The search for the second man's body required rangers setting up a rope and raft system where he was last seen. From the raft and ropes, state police divers and rangers searched the waters with an underwater pole camera. Kayaks and boats from assisting agencies patrolled eight miles of the river. On June 29, rangers and divers recovered the second man's body near the point where he was last seen.

On September 6, Rangers Chris Kostoss, Rob Mecus and Peter Evans responded to the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness Area for a hiker stranded on a cliff at the top of Cold Brook Pass. The 25-year-old Rochester man had climbed Mount Marshall the day before and then hiked down into Cold Brook Pass. Having run out of water, he heard a trickle of water off the trail but soon found himself trapped on a ledge. He spent a cold, rainy night on a small ledge but could not find a way of getting off the ledge. Fortunately, he heard two hikers on the trail below him and got their attention by shouting. The hikers told Lake Colden Interior Caretaker

Sean Platt, who then informed Ray Brook Dispatch. Platt located the man and kept him calm until Kostoss and Mecus used rope rescue techniques to rescue him. After the rescue, rangers hiked the man back to the Upper Works trailhead in Newcomb to meet with his party, which had never reported him missing!



Rangers search for drowning victims.

On October 25, Ranger Jim Giglinto responded to a 47-year-old Clinton man on Mount Marcy complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath. North Country Life Flight flew medics to Marcy Dam, who then hiked to the man's location. He was stabilized and carried by litter to the helicopter and airlifted to Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh.

Every year, the rangers from northern Region 5 coordinate the airlift of supplies and materials to the three interior High Peaks outposts. Under Ranger Kevin

Burns' direction, these missions allow the Divisions of Operations and Lands and Forests to stockpile resources needed to maintain trails, buildings, bridges and other structures.

Region 5, Zone D by Lieutenant Steve Preston



Region 5, Zone D comprises Fulton and Hamilton counties. The Zone headquarters is located at the DEC sub-office in Northville, and the Zone also maintains an office at the Indian Lake DEC facility. State land unit management areas include all or parts of the West Canada Lake, Blue Ridge, Pigeon Lake, 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, 73,993 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 the evening of July 4, Ranger Ian Kerr was patrolling DEC Northampton Beach Campground when he witnessed a 34-year-old Gloversville man operating a pickup in the campground. As the vehicle passed Kerr, the driver climbed out of the moving vehicle onto the roof while the passenger attempted to drive. Kerr stopped the pickup and determined the man was highly intoxicated. He was taken into custody and processed at the local state police station for having a blood alcohol content of 0.21%. The man was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, aggravated driving while intoxicated, and reckless operation of a motor vehicle.



Rangers and firemen search for lost swimmer in Hamilton County.

On July 5, Fulton County 911 reported to Ray Brook Dispatch that a 19-year-old Gloversville man and 17-year-old Gloversville woman had not returned to their Ferris Lake Wild Forest campsite after a day of hiking. Rangers Michael Thompson, David Kallen, John Ploss

and Lieutenant Steve Preston responded to the Hillabrandt Vly area and started searching, concentrating on the surrounding snowmobile trail network. Rangers Bruce Lomnitzer, Jay Scott, Tony Goetke, Chuck Kabrehl, Evan Donegan and Ian Kerr were added to the search effort the next morning. At noon, Kerr and Ploss flew in a state police helicopter to grid search the area. Kerr soon spotted a little smoke in the middle of a large beaver swamp and then he saw the 19-year-old man waving his arms. The helicopter could not land because of the water. As the helicopter hovered, Kerr jumped into knee deep water and was able to load the two hikers into the helicopter to be returned to their waiting families.

On July 8, the owner of the Hudson River Rafting Company appeared in State Supreme Court to answer accusations that he was operating his business in violation of a court order. Assistant State Attorney General G. Nicholas Garin asked Justice Richard Giardino to forbid the company from operating whitewater trips on rivers that require licensed guides until its owner replenishes a \$50,000 performance bond. In December 2013, when the owner was found guilty of contempt of court, a \$25,000 fine came from the posted \$50,000 bond, which was never replenished. Judge Giardino barred the owner from operating a rafting service on any river in New York State until the bond was replenished. Rangers Bruce Lomnitzer and Jason Scott assisted the Attorney General's Office with the case, providing valuable information on various trips that the company took on the Hudson River during the period when the bond was not sufficiently funded.

On July 20, the second annual Adirondack Challenge took place in Hamilton County. This event was promoted by Governor Andrew Cuomo to include various venues, with a hike into the newly acquired OK Slip Falls and a whitewater raft race on the Indian River. The river race had many participants, including Governor Cuomo, Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, members of the state legislature and local officials. Many hours of planning by rangers,

environmental conservation officers (ECOs) and regional DEC staff were necessary. Ranger Captain John Streiff and State Police Captain John Tibbitts were the unified incident commanders who managed event security and public safety, while Ranger Lomnitzer developed the incident action plan for the raft race. During the events, 14 Region 5 rangers were assigned stations on and along the river, while three rangers were assigned as hiking guides.

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 Wild Forest and the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest, while the central and northern portions are mostly wilderness, including Pharaoh, Siamese, and Hoffman in their entirety, and the southern portions of the High Peaks and Dix Wilderness areas. State lands total 440,000 acres and include six DEC-administered campgrounds. On July 1, public access to the recently purchased (2013) Chain

Lakes Tract was opened after much planning. This land was recently classified a mixture of wilderness, primitive and wild forest and has many different recreational opportunities. Zone E includes two seasonal assistant forest rangers (AFRs), nine forest rangers and one lieutenant.



Rangers fight wildfire on French Mountain.

In January, rangers hosted a winter preparedness drill for Region 5 rangers. Zone members created a downed-plane-in-a-remote-area scenario. Rangers were required to use land navigation, medical, rescue, and survival skills to

stabilize and extract a victim from the crash site. The training was well received in near zero temperatures that tested both rangers and evaluators.

During the busy Presidents Day weekend in February, Rangers Chuck Kabrehl and Rick Schroeder responded to a snowmobile accident at Riding Hy Ranch in Horicon. A 44-year-old Briar Cliff Manor woman had driven her snowmobile into a ravine and collided with a tree. Rangers arrived to assist local rescue personnel in establishing a steep-angle haul system to get the injured woman out of the ravine.

Ropes were again needed in May, when two hikers were stranded on a ledge near Dagget Pond Campground. Rangers Kabrehl and Evan Donegan located the two with the

assistance of the campground caretaker. A belay line was set up to bring the young uninjured couple to safety. Rangers then escorted the couple to their campsite, which is where they said they would stay for the remainder of their trip.

A man with a painful dislocated shoulder from swimming caused rangers to be dispatched to a pond near Crane Mountain. Rangers Donegan and Ben Baldwin found the 22-year old Ballston Lake man and attempted to reduce the fracture. Although they were not successful, traction and splinting of the shoulder reduced the young man's pain so he could walk to the trailhead and ambulance.

During the peak fall color period, a 37-year-old Mechanicville man and 64-year-old Cohoes man were reported overdue from a hike near the Boreas River in Minerva. Rangers Baldwin, Jacob Deslauriers and Art Perryman had no success finding the two the first night, even after they searched a popular caving site. On the second day, Perryman located both the men in good condition. They had become lost while searching for a pond but made a survival fire to stay comfortable for the unplanned night in the woods.



Ranger DesLauriers teaching water rescue.

Just when rangers believed the wildfire season was over, they responded to a running leaf fire on Darling Mountain on November 4. The fire was located during the night, and, by the time rangers had it sized up, it was over 100 acres and threatening two seasonal camps. Rangers protected the camps and contained the fire at 173 acres. Interestingly, smoke from the fire triggered automatic alarm systems six miles away in the City of Glens Falls. Little mop up was needed for this surface fire, and it was declared out three days later.

Region 5, Zone F by Lieutenant John Solan



Region 5, Zone F includes Saratoga and Washington counties. Combined, both counties 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. Shelving Rock offers the only drive-up forest preserve access to Lake George and is a popular camping location for young people. In addition, both counties have land holdings by 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.

In May, Vermont State Police contacted rangers to help find a missing 23-year-old West Pawlet, Vermont man last seen in Granville, New York after a night of drinking. Lieutenant John Solan and Rangers Michael Bodnar and Werner Schwab organized a search with state police of the Mettowee River and surrounding lands on the state border. Recruits from the New York State Police Academy made intensive search coverage along the riverbanks, while Ranger Art Perryman ferried Vermont State Troopers and a cadaver dog in a division raft down the river. No evidence of the man was found, and this remains an open missing person case with Vermont State Police.



Ranger Bodnar observing search operations on Mettowee River.

An annual July 4 anonymous Internet-advertised event has been steadily increasing on the Battenkill River. Approximately 1,000-1,200 people of all ages float down the river in tubes, canoes, homemade rafts and kayaks. Most people access the river at a highway rest area on State Route 313 at the Vermont state line and take out at Battenkill State Forest, just above

the Eagleville Covered Bridge in Washington County. Excessive and underage alcohol consumption, drug use, fighting, littering, and illegal motor vehicle use on state land have become significant problems. Rangers increased their patrols this year and saw a reduction in general offenses.

The last Monday of July is the traditional Log Bay Day on Lake George. Log Bay is surrounded by forest preserve within the Shelving Rock Special Management Area. Lieutenant John Solan led 16 rangers and another lieutenant during the 10:00 AM to midnight detail. Even with rain and thunderstorms all day, over 2,000 people attended, with many accessing the bay through state land. Rangers were assisted by sheriff's deputies, state police and West Fort Ann Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Over 100 tickets or arrests were made for violations of state land regulations, drug possession and driving while intoxicated, even though every car entering the area was stopped and informed of regulations and zero tolerance for underage alcohol and drug possession.

On August 23, State Police Aviation Commander Major Charles Guess invited forest rangers to participate in a helicopter hoist multi-agency exercise as part of a mass casualty drill around the Great Sacandaga Reservoir. Rangers Tony Goetke and Ian Kerr inserted and

extracted a simulated rescuer and victim from a hovering helicopter, while Ranger Kevin Burns was crew chief and landing zone manager. Lieutenant Solan monitored the exercise with Saratoga County Sheriff Mike Zurlo.

The zone's winter priority is to monitor and patrol 30 miles of snowmobile trails on conservation easements and forest preserve in northwest Saratoga County. These trails are heavily used when snow conditions allow. Rangers coordinate patrols with county, state and state park police. During peak weekends, more than 100 snowmobiles per hour will pass safety and compliance checkpoints. Saratoga Sand Plains Wildlife Management Area is the second winter priority, with several miles of groomed and ungroomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trails that connect state and public access properties. Once again, an increase of ranger patrols resulted in greater compliance and fewer enforcement actions.



Ranger Goetke checking the Camp Little Notch Fire.

Recreational use of the Shelving Rock Day Use Area and adjacent trails is dramatically increasing. Most of these visitors are from major urban areas in downstate NY and NJ with little or no outdoor experience. During nice weather, the influx of visitors usually exceeds the parking capacity of the area. Rangers routinely deal with parking problems that make Shelving Rock Road impassable. Inexperienced

hikers tend to overestimate their hiking plans and are less prepared to navigate at night. The result is that rangers made numerous responses to find overdue hikers throughout the year. One individual sustained serious injuries when he slid down Shelving Rock Falls. The victim was stabilized and evacuated by West Fort Ann Fire Department, Fort Ann EMS and rangers.

Region 6, Zone A by Lieutenant Jay Terry



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 the Cranberry Lake Campground, with 173 campsites. This zone includes one lieutenant, six forest rangers, and two assistant forest rangers (AFRs).

On June 27, evidence of a potential underage drinking party was found at High Flats State Forest, Town of Parishville. Ranger Joshua Hogan observed multiple vehicles drive into the area to a bonfire. Rangers Hogan, Will Benzel, and Corenne Black issued 18 tickets for possession of alcohol on state land by persons under the age of 21. Two other tickets were issued for resisting arrest and obstruction of governmental administration.

On August 14, rangers throughout Region 6 assisted the Heuvelton Fire Department and St. Lawrence County Sheriff's department with a search for two Amish girls who were abducted from their family vegetable stand the previous night. Rangers organized search efforts to check all road edges, trails and public lands within a five-mile radius of the point they were last seen. Aerial search patterns were planned and conducted. Eventually, rangers were managing all search volunteers, police and firefighters from the entire county. Late that day, the two girls were released by their abductors, who were subsequently arrested for kidnapping and assault.

On October 12, Ranger Will Benzel conducted a search for a 47-year-old Kingston, Ontario, Canada woman lost inside the Cranberry Lake Campground. A campground employee determined that she had wandered off the Bear Mountain Trail onto a trail leading to private land along Cranberry Lake. Benzel used the division boat to search the shoreline where he believed the woman had wandered, and eventually made voice contact. She had wandered about a mile off course when found by Benzel.

On December 1, rangers Benzel and Corenne Black received complaints about damaged gates on Conifer Conservation Easement, Town of Colton, and damaged snowmobile trail signs and port-a-potties on Massawepie Boy Scout Camp, Town of Piercefield. Several pieces of a motor vehicle grill were found near one of the gates. Black investigated the damage occurring at Massawepie and, in the process, found a motor vehicle license plate. Benzel and Black went to the residence of the registered owner and found the vehicle involved in the property damage. Benzel interviewed the 31-year-old Cranberry Lake man, who admitted to doing the damage. He was charged with two counts of criminal mischief and unauthorized motor vehicle use on a conservation easement. He also paid full restitution to the snowmobile club for damaging signs, as well as to the Boy Scout camp to repair their damages.

Region 6, Zone B by Lieutenant Joel Nowalk



Region 6, Zone B comprises Lewis and Jefferson counties and the northern portion of Herkimer County. It encompasses the Tug Hill Plateau, which annually receives the highest measured snowfall in the state, and the western portion of the Adirondack Park. Zone B has a diverse array of state land, ranging from 26,964 acres of wildlife management areas (WMAs) in Jefferson County, 104,893 acres of state forests managed for multiple use in Lewis and Jefferson counties, and 204,493 acres of forest preserve lands in eastern Lewis and northern Herkimer counties. With the addition of the 40,000-acre Fish Creek easement on the Tug Hill Plateau, there are now four large conservation easements in Zone B, totaling 104,957 acres. These diverse state lands host a variety of user groups throughout the year. With heavy snowfall, Zone B has the largest snowmobile trail system in the state. Cross-country ski trails have been developed in many state forests, and a network of horse trails has evolved in a portion of the Independence River

Wild Forest. The popularity of whitewater rafting and kayaking has brought users to the Beaver, Black and Moose rivers. Hunting and fishing still comprise a large portion of use on state land. Zone B includes one lieutenant, six forest rangers and two assistant forest rangers.



Region 6 staffing snowmobile checkpoint.

On March 5 and 6, rangers directed a large-scale helicopter operation to move 35 tons of lime to Hawk Pond 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, 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 and Hawk Pond, 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 move 25 staff to Hawk Pond. In addition, rangers developed a temporary winter trail to Hawk Pond in case helicopters could not evacuate crew members.

On the evening of July 2, a Port Leyden couple, along with their two-year old child, went for a drive on seasonal dirt roads on Tug Hill in their four-wheel-drive pickup. Shortly before midnight, they became stuck. After attempting to get the truck out, they decided to walk until they found an old camp. Once there, they noticed a faint cell phone signal and called for help. Rangers Marty Candee and Luke Evans responded at 2:30 AM and acquired cell phone GPS coordinates from county dispatch. Within a short time, the rangers found the family among the maze of old woods roads on Tug Hill and got them out using their patrol vehicles and an all-terrain vehicle.

On July 4, Ranger Luke Evans responded to Otter Creek Assembly Area, where a 33-year-old Altmar woman was injured from being thrown from her horse. Evans found the woman with severe lacerations and exposed internal organs. Apparently, the horse reared back and fell on the woman who was cut by the horn of the saddle. Evans requested Life Net helicopter to evacuate the woman from the remote horse trail, while administering basic first aid until local emergency medical services arrived. Evans and Lieutenant Joel Nowalk assisted medics until she could be safely evacuated by the helicopter.



Rangers Scanlon, Candee, L. Evans and Lt. Nowalk with Governor Cuomo.

On September 4, 2014, Ray Brook Dispatch was notified of a plane crash in Stillwater Reservoir, Herkimer County. Ranger Evans and Lt. Nowalk responded and found the plane partially submerged, with the pilot deceased inside. It was unknown whether there were any passengers. Evans and Nowalk initiated an aviation and vessel grid search around the aircraft with negative results. Using the

division's Stillwater boat, the aircraft was towed to shore and secured for further investigation. The following day, rangers, state police and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) investigators interviewed witnesses and determined there were no passengers. It was believed that the 76-year-old pilot from Sherrill was practicing water landings with his experimental pusher propeller seaplane when a front compartment of the aircraft opened and allowed water to enter, causing the plane to stop suddenly, crash and submerge.

Region 6, Zone C by Lieutenant Scott Murphy



Zone C comprises all of Oneida County and the southern four-fifths of Herkimer County. State land interests include 274,532 acres divided among 29 state forests, portions of four wild forest preserve areas, three wilderness areas, one unique area, three fish and wildlife management areas, two campgrounds (Alger Island and Nicks Lake) and Hinckley Day Use Area. The zone also includes 21,949 acres of conservation easements. Zone C includes six forest rangers, one seasonal assistant forest ranger and one lieutenant.

On the afternoon of Friday, July 4, Ranger Coscomb was stopped by campers on Black River Wild Forest North Lake easement lands, Town of Ohio, Herkimer County. The campers alleged that a man had entered their campsite by way of the lake and made several threats against them. Coscomb and Rangers Adam Pickett and Greg Hoag began interviewing witnesses and looking for the alleged perpetrator. Within minutes, Hoag located the highly intoxicated suspect sleeping in a tent. After interviewing more witnesses, rangers arrested the 24-year-old Utica man for disorderly conduct and transported him back to the City of Utica, where he was released into the custody of a friend.



Region 6 Rangers prepare State Police helicopter for liming of remote lakes.

On July 13, Herkimer County E911 reported a missing 84-year-old Saquoit man near Gull Lake in the Black River Wild Forest, Herkimer County. Family members had searched for three days the area where their father

intended to camp. For five days, rangers directed extensive air, ground and water searches over the large and remote wild forest. Rangers managed the assignment of hundreds of search volunteers, state police, environmental conservation officers and firefighters. On July 17, the man was found in critical condition 1.5 miles from his camp. A family member was subsequently fined \$250 for the illegal camp structure and unlawful storage of personal property on state lands.

On November 28, Ranger Hoag investigated an illegal and ongoing all-terrain vehicle (ATV) complaint in the Black River Wild Forest, Herkimer County. Hoag followed ATV tracks three miles and encountered three Herkimer County men taking down a tent camp, with one ATV parked in the trail. After observing the men for a short time, he stopped them as the three approached his location. The first ATV was pulling an off-road trailer loaded with camping and trapping supplies, and a second ATV carried the other two men. None of the men possessed helmets, and all were operating ATVs where prohibited. The subjects had camped and were trapping for several days before being apprehended. Tickets were issued for camping within 150 feet of a trail, 18 counts of tree cutting, and five ATV violations, with total fines of \$950.

Throughout 2014, Ranger Chad Richardson was routinely assigned to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in Oriskany as an instructor for various tactical operations and emergency medicine courses, training both patrol and tactical officers from law enforcement agencies all over the state as well as active and reserve military units. Richardson also continued as a physical training and defensive tactics instructor with the Mohawk Valley Police Academy.

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

On January 6, a suspected heroin addict broke into a local sporting goods store in the Town of Norwich, Chenango County, and stole 30 firearms, ammunition and clothing. Police unsuccessfully searched for the 29-year-old Afton man over the next two days. On January 10, Rangers Jeremy Oldroyd, William L. Giraud, Scott Jackson and Charles Richardson and Lieutenant James McPherson joined the search. Within hours, the man's body was located by a search team. It appeared he had succumbed from exposure to the subzero temperatures, and all stolen firearms were subsequently recovered.



Smokey Bear sign at Sherburne Office.

On April 13, the Tilbury Hill Wildfire in Tioga County spread over 20 acres on steep slopes north of the Susquehanna River. Fifteen fire departments, Rangers Joan and Jeremy Oldroyd, and two division fire wardens contained and extinguished the blaze. One firefighter was sent to the hospital for inhalation burns. Joan Oldroyd determined the fire was caused by debris burning during the state's burn ban by a 63-year-old Owego man, who had previously been charged for a similar offense.

On May 1 and 2, a search was resumed for a 57-year-old Chenango County man. It was suspected he had committed suicide by drowning in the Chenango River in December 2013.

Rangers William Giraud, Scott Jackson, Jeremy and Joan Oldroyd, and Michael Burkholder used the division airboat in coordination with a state police airboat to search miles of river from where the man was last seen. State Police located his body 13 miles downstream from where the search started.

On July 21, Oneida City Police asked Lt. McPherson to help them find an 83-year-old woman. According to police, the woman's son had reported his mother missing on July 18 but was not fully cooperating with the police investigation. A police and K-9 search of the area was unsuccessful. McPherson and Rangers Jeremy Oldroyd, Scott Jackson, Adam Pickett and Robert Piersma began their search. Within six hours, a team led by Piersma located the seriously ill woman in dense vegetation within the primary search area. Police later charged

her son with reckless endangerment and falsely reporting an incident for allegedly abandoning her in the woods.

On July 23, Ranger Jackson received a complaint from DEC foresters that a fledgling goshawk may have been taken from the Salmon River State Forest in violation of the terms of a permit issued for the bird's removal. Jackson determined that the permit holder, a 31-year-old Town of Philadelphia man, had removed a bird the day he received the permit. However, he had failed to notify a DEC biologist, cut branches off the nest tree and failed to place protective flashing on the tree, each a violation of his permit. The man admitted he had not read the permit conditions and was issued tickets by Jackson for the offenses.

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



Beaver dam blows out and destroys road in Schuyler County.

forests (49,301 acres) and wildlife management areas (39,398 acres). The region has a mix of urban and rural areas. Its largest metropolitan area is Rochester, in the northern county of Monroe. Significant oil and gas deposits are located in the region, and some state land parcels have active wells. Region 8 often has a higher incidence of wildfires than either Region 9 to the west or Region 7 to the east. Many state parks are located in the region, with the two largest being Watkins Glen and Letchworth. The region is also home to several federal properties, including the Finger Lakes National Forest and the Montezuma and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuges. Region 8 has one lieutenant, five forest rangers and two seasonal assistant forest rangers (AFRs).

On March 12, Geneseo Police asked rangers to help them locate a 37-year old woman who reportedly left her home intoxicated and despondent. Rangers, environmental conservation officers (ECOs) and local police searched during blizzard conditions. Man-tracking and K9 efforts indicated that the woman most likely went into the nearby Genesee

River. The ground search continued until March 16 but was then suspended until the river was safe for divers and K9 cadaver teams. On July 7, a K9 team located the woman's body one mile downstream from the village boat launch.



Rangers check on homeowners during the November Buffalo blizzard in Erie County.

On May 6, Steuben County 911 asked Ranger Patrick Dormer to find and rescue a seriously injured camper in the Town of Cohocton. Local first responders could not determine where the man was, and there was no answer to returning cell phone calls. State police estimated that the phone call came from within the Village of Cohocton. Dormer helped local fire and police establish an incident command management process to make the best attempt at locating the man. Eventually, the ground search was terminated and the call was considered a hoax.

Hemlock at 7:30 AM. At 7:00 PM, the two called rangers through Central Office Dispatch to help them get out before dark. Ranger Dormer and ECO Daniel Malloy used a division motor boat and cell phone GPS coordinates to find the pair. They were in very steep terrain along Hemlock Lake that made night travel very dangerous. Dormer directed the two to his boat and returned them to their group.

On June 30, a Boy Scout and his leader began a 20-mile hike around

Assistant Forest Ranger (AFR) Katelyn Almeter was very busy informing campers about invasive species. Over the summer, she inspected 865 occupied campsites on Sugar Hill State Forest, plus performed numerous inspections on nearby state lands. Her work documented that most camper firewood originated on the state forest or from nearby communities. This is critical at preventing invasive species from infesting state lands. In addition, Almeter extinguished 11 abandoned campfires that had the potential to cause damaging wildfires. AFR Kirsten Goranowski patrolled Hemlock Lake throughout the summer and discovered a concealed canoe illegally stored on the east shore. Ranger Dormer removed the canoe and initiated a boat seizure and disposal enforcement action.

Region 9 by Lieutenant Shawn Plaisted



Region 9 is considered one ranger division administrative zone and comprises the six western-most counties in New York; Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany. There are more than 102,490 acres of state forest lands located on approximately 75 parcels within the region. In addition, there are 17,739 acres of wildlife management areas located on nine parcels. Most of this state land experiences heavy public use due to its proximity to the Buffalo and

Rochester metropolitan areas. One notable example is the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area, which attracts hundreds of day-use recreationists in the warmer months. This area includes

Zoar Valley Gorge and Cattaraugus Creek, the region's only regulated whitewater river. Overall, 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



Ranger Thaine briefs searchers.

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.

On November 17 and 18, a record-breaking snowfall occurred in Erie County. Depending on location, anywhere from 50 to 88 inches of snow fell, often at five inches per hour. All of western New York felt the impact as major highways were closed. Thousands of cars were stranded on Interstate 90 and local roads from whiteout conditions. More than a third of the ranger force was sent to western New York as part of the department's response. Rangers conducted snowmobile patrols, rescued stranded motorists, transported medical workers, and delivered food and medicine to those in need. Within five days, temperatures rose to 70 degrees, accompanied by rain and high winds. Severe flooding was anticipated, and all four division airboats with 13 operators and crew were staged at Erie County Community College. In two days, the snow was gone, with the exception of snow banks, one of which in Buffalo was over 60 feet high. Fortunately, most creeks handled the rain and snowmelt, and only minor flooding occurred, along with some inundated basements.

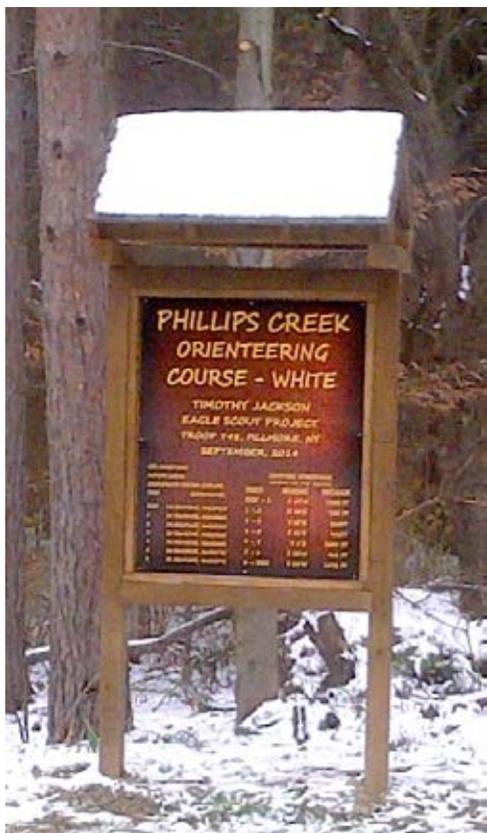
Rangers Justin Thaine and Peter Liebig continued to collaborate with the Allegany County Sheriff, and state and local police to prevent alcohol and drug abuse among youth through participation in Partners for Prevention in Allegany County (PPAC). In September, the two rangers intercepted more than 100 young people on Vandermark State Forest, near Alfred College. Numerous tickets for underage alcohol possession and other related charges were issued. They also assisted with several county multi-agency "Stop DWI" patrols coordinated by the sheriff's department. Public radio broadcasts spread the messages: "Don't drink and drive" and "Don't drink at all if you are under 21," because all police agencies in Allegany County were cracking down on this illegal activity.

In early November, Rangers Thaine and Wayne Krulish assisted state park police with suppression and investigation of a wildfire in an undeveloped corner of Allegany State Park. There were two fires in proximity to one another that burned 31 acres, mostly state park land, but also a small parcel of Seneca Nation property. Rangers located the origin of both fires and classified the cause as incendiary. Park police continued the investigation thereafter.



Ranger Thomes with airboat staged for Buffalo flooding.

Late on August 12, rangers assisted Chautauqua County fire departments with the rescue of five hikers in 300-foot-deep Chautauqua Gorge. The hikers were losing daylight and attempted to climb directly up the gorge to their vehicles. Halfway up, they realized that they could go no further, but it was unsafe to go back down the steep, loose rock wall. Rangers Bob Rogers and Tim Flanagan set up a rope system with fire department rescuers to reach and extract the hikers. The five were evaluated for injuries and then lowered to the creek basin at sunrise.



Eagle Scout kiosk.

Mudding in Chautauqua County is a bad idea! DEC Forester Keith Carrow received a phone call from someone who said their vehicle was stuck on Boutwell Hill State Forest. Soon after, Ranger David Pachan found a set of vehicle tracks on a closed forest road that eventually became a snowmobile trail. After 1/4 of a mile, Pachan found a Jeep partially sunk in mud. The driver told Pachan that he was just looking for a spot to go mudding. Pachan issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle on state lands and added administrative charges for damage to state land.

Ranger Pachan received a tip about a large pile of home remodeling debris dumped on Harris Hill State Forest. While inspecting the debris, he found an address to an apartment house in Jamestown. Pachan went to the address and noticed the front door and trim looked new, and one of the old doors matched one found on state land. The tenants told him the landlord had just completed renovations. The landlord subsequently told Pachan that he paid a handyman to dispose of the debris at the landfill. Pachan found the handyman, who immediately confessed to dumping the debris. When Pachan asked him why he

dumped the debris on state land, the man said the dump was closed that Sunday and he needed the truck empty for another job on Monday. Pachan issued a ticket for the unlawful disposal of solid waste. The man pled guilty, paid a \$300 fine and cleaned up the state land.

Rangers Liebig and Thaine helped Fillmore Boy Scout Troop 4748 build a land navigation orienteering course on Phillips Creek State Forest as an Eagle Scout project. The course has six waypoints, with an informational kiosk at the start. This project provided valuable leadership experience for the Eagle Scout and his troop by working directly with rangers and foresters. The project took several months to complete and included overnight campouts by the troop. The course is open to the public.

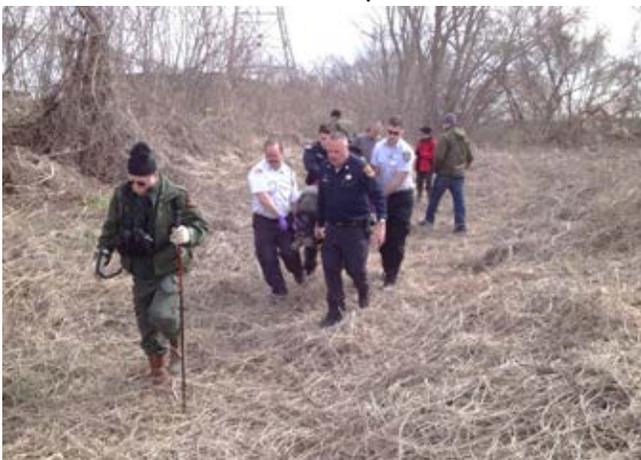
Forest Ranger Retirements in 2014

Karen Glesmann began her career with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in 1981 as a seasonal employee at the Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area in Herkimer County. Karen went back to college and obtained a forestry degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) Ranger School. After raising two daughters, she rejoined DEC in 1994 as a forestry technician assigned to the Herkimer Office. In 1996 and at the age of 44, she joined the 12th Basic Office of Public Protection Joint Forest Ranger-ECO Academy held at SUNY Oswego. Ranger Glesmann's first assignment was Nassau County, Long Island. While there, she joined the 13th Basic Academy staff as a counselor. Following three years on Long Island, she transferred to Schoharie County. In 2001, she moved to the Albany and Schenectady County Ranger District, where she worked for the remainder of her career. Karen had been the first ranger to fill that district since the late 1950s. Her career with DEC spanned 25 years, 18 of them as a forest ranger.



Forest Ranger Karen Glesmann.

Karen became a member of the division's honor guard, wildland fire investigation team, field training officer program, and a fire crew member sent to Idaho in 1994. She had been part of the division's response efforts to numerous natural and human-made disasters, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the northern ice storm of 1998, and Hurricane



Forest Ranger Bill Henry leads firefighters with rescue.

Irene in 2011. Karen also participated in hundreds of wildfire and search-and-rescue missions during her career. She made invaluable contributions to relation building among the 63 fire departments in her ranger district, the Albany Pine Bush Commission, and dozens of police agencies in Albany and Schenectady counties.

On November 29, Forest Ranger William "Bill" Henry of Summit, retired. Bill started his career at DEC as an engineering technician for environmental quality in 1986. In 1987, he worked for the Spill Response Unit, and in

February 1988, Bill began his forest ranger career in Orange County. In 1990, Bill transferred to Schoharie County, where he worked until his retirement. Bill was a member of the Summit Volunteer Fire Department and was well respected in the fire community.

Wildland Fire Program by Lisa Smith, Fire Management Administrative Specialist

As part of maintaining its ability to control wildfires in New York and support other states with their wildfire emergencies, the division annually qualifies wildland firefighters to state and national standards. In 2014, over 150 firefighters submitted forms and documentation for processing their annual credentials. This included in-state and out-of-state volunteers, fire wardens, other department employees and forest rangers. Current qualifications, experience and certifications are tracked for all firefighters in the national Incident Qualification System (IQS) database. The division had more than 700 individuals listed in IQS for fire-related support.

The division held a crew boss and single resource meeting at the Saratoga Cache on May 29 and 30 to discuss goals and expectations of the wildfire program. Attendees included Director Joe Zeglen, Colonel Andy Jacob, Captains Eric Lahr and Ed Russell, Rangers Will Giraud, Ian Kerr, Adam Pickett, Bill Meehan, David Kallen, Jamie Laczko, John Scanlon, Peter Liebig, Bob Rogers, Bryan Gallagher, Tim Carpenter, Art Perryman, and Lisa Smith.

New York participated in the Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC) Priority Trainee Program. This provides rangers with a priority assignment on national wildfire incidents to increase their certified skills. Rangers Gallagher, Kallen and Rogers each had one assignment.

On July 19, Ranger Carpenter was dispatched to the 14,201-acre Chiwaukum Creek Fire in the Wenatchee National Forest in Washington State as a strike team engine leader.



NYS-1 fire crew on assignment in Washington.

During this assignment, he also worked as a task force leader and oversaw six water tenders, two strike teams of type 6 engines and two hand crews.

On July 21, Ranger Laczko was dispatched as a task force leader to the 7,175-acre Sunflower Fire at Umatilla National Forest, Oregon. On July 24, he was transferred to the 22,700-acre Kitten Complex in Vale, Oregon. Due to effective fire containment, Laczko was released before his 14-day assignment ended.

On August 7, Ranger Pickett was dispatched as a Plans Section Chief-2 trainee to the 4,524-acre 5-Mile Fire at Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Oregon. This assignment resulted in Pickett completing his plans section chief task book.

On August 16, Ranger Gallagher was dispatched as a base camp manager trainee to the 35,302-acre Beaver Fire at Klamath National Forest. This assignment resulted in Gallagher completing his base camp manager task book.

On July 25, the 20-firefighter NY State Crew #1 was dispatched with four other Eastern Area initial attack crews to the Deschutes National Forest, Oregon. Upon arrival, they were re-assigned to the 14,201-acre Chiwaukum Creek Wildfire Complex at Wenatchee National Forest, Washington. Ranger Giraud was the crew boss for this team. This experience resulted in Rangers Rob Mecus and Charles Kabrehl qualifying as crew bosses and provided six newly hired (2013) rangers with their first experience on a national wildfire incident.

In November, Ranger Russell organized a Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission ("Compact") Prevention Working Team, P-410 Fire Prevention Team Leader course at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Fifteen individuals, wildfire prevention specialists from Arizona to Nova Scotia, participated in the course as either instructors or students. Russell was already qualified as a fire prevention team leader.

Emergency Management by Colonel Andrew Jacob

DEC's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) include representatives from DEC divisions and regions coordinated by Director Ronald Gatto. Colonel Andrew Jacob, Division of Forest



Colonel Jacob teaching Agency Representative course.

Protection, Major Michael St. Jeanos, Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) 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 to 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.

The year 2014 did not have historic emergency incidents as seen in 2011 and 2012; however, there were plenty of smaller incidents. Region 4 forest rangers were assigned to staff the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) for 11 activations and two drill exercises, involving 598 staff-hours. Eight activations were in preparation or response to winter weather events including a huge November snowfall in Buffalo. One short activation occurred in late April as wildfire danger was heightened due to seasonally dry weather. The two exercises were for a potential hostile action at the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plan.

The EMU developed a new, four-hour instructional course entitled “The Role and Responsibilities of Agency Representatives”. This course was presented to newly promoted DLE and forest ranger lieutenants in March and then to all regional managers at DEC offices in Avon, Cranberry Lake, New Paltz and Bethpage by summer. A 90-minute version of this course was also presented to all forest rangers and their fall inservice at the DEC Law Enforcement Academy in Pulaski. The course was designed to provide basic understanding of how DEC employees should represent the department at an emergency incident, a planned event or emergency operation center.

Training and Development Report by Captain Eric Lahr

In 2014, training activities for all forest ranger titles accounted for a total of 39,017 program hours of instruction. The table below provides summary data related to training either given or received to division members.

Training Program	Ranger Training Received			Training Given to Others			Total Students	Total Class Hours	Total Events
	Students	Hours	Events	Students	Hours	Events			
WS -Wildland Search & Rescue	247	221	21	1550	463	86	1797	684	107
WS - Helicopter & Aviation	233	197	46	70	56	10	303	253	56
WS - Airboat & Vessel Operation	99	80	22	0	0	0	99	80	22
LE - Law Enforcement	474	655	61	425	297	18	899	952	79
WF - Wildfire Management	239	433	24	836	353	39	1075	786	63
EM - Wilderness First Aid	152	133	15	63	11	4	215	144	19
HZ - Hazardous Materials	139	107	15	0	0	0	139	107	15
AR - All-risk & Other ICS	11	103	10	0	0	0	11	103	10
NR -Management	678	79	14	0	0	0	678	79	14
NR - General Training	0	0	0	4	4	1	4	4	1
Totals	2,272	2,008	228	2,948	1,184	158	5,220	3,192	386

Search and Rescue (SAR) Training

In 2014, rangers participated in a total of 185 training events related to search and rescue, a 31% increase from 2013. Most of this increase was for aviation support programs. Rangers taught 27 Basic Wildland Search Skills courses to search volunteers and emergency response organizations. This course teaches the skills necessary to serve as a wildland searcher under direct supervision of a qualified crew boss or forest ranger. Rangers also sponsored a crew boss course for 14 trainees. This challenging course tests a trainee's ability to lead a search crew in unfamiliar terrain. Rangers also offered 22 Basic Search Skills Refresher and 8 Flat Ice Rescue courses to local firefighters and search-and-rescue volunteers.

Due to the high risk associated with working with helicopters, rangers continually train with the State Police Aviation Unit throughout the year to maintain their skills. As the program coordinator, Lieutenant Gary Friedrich managed 56 helicopter training sessions. These sessions prepare rangers to serve as hoist operators and ground support for search, rescue, wildfire and law enforcement operations. The training covered rescue litter and personnel hoist operations, forward-looking infrared (FLIR) training, and ground operations. Currently, 21 rangers are qualified operators, and four are trainees.

Similarly, due to the hazards and risks associated with airboat operations, the rangers have a long-established training program for operating and working with airboats. These vessels are often used during flood, swiftwater and flat-ice rescues. Currently, the division has four airboats with 28 qualified airboat operators and one trainee. To maintain their skills, 22 refresher sessions were provided to operators.

In 2014, the division sponsored five Rope Rescue Refresher training sessions to maintain and improve a ranger's capability to perform high and low-angle rescue missions.

In August, 33 rangers attended the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Water Rescue for First Responders Course at the DEC Academy in Pulaski. These sessions completed the goal of training and equipping all rangers for swiftwater rescue. Instructors included Rangers Del Jeffery, Arthur Perryman, David Kallen, Jamie Laczko and Joe LaPierre.



Ranger operating the hoist on a state police helicopter



Ranger Del Jeffery instructs rangers on swiftwater rescue techniques.



Lt. Scott Murphy provides fugitive search training to five rangers at in-service.

During the fall, the division hosted six in-service sessions for all sworn members. Topics of study included wildland search policy, reporting, investigation and interviews, a case study about using cell phone coordinates, woodland fugitive search tactics, and agency representation. Instructors included Colonel Andy Jacob, Captains Eric Lahr, Steve Scherry and Pat Kilpeck, Lieutenants Shawn Plaisted, Scott Murphy and Tim Flanagan, and Rangers Kevin Burns, Jim Giglinto, David Cornell, Rob Mecus, Joe LaPierre, Chad Richardson and Ian Kerr.

Police Officer Training



Mountain bike training program graduates

Rangers attended a total of 61 law enforcement training events and provided an additional 18 events to other agencies. Much of the training was related to patrol rifle and shotgun handling and shooting skills. In February, Rangers Corenne Black and Wayne Krulish attended the 40-hour State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Basic Snowmobile Law Enforcement Training. In May, Rangers Jacob Deslauriers, Peter Evans, Jamison Martin, Joe Pries, Chester Lunt, Christine Nelson, Russell Martin, David Nally, and Ben Baldwin completed the division-sponsored

Mountain Bike Patrol Course taught by Ranger Mark St. Claire. In June, Ranger Joe LaPierre provided the state-certified Radar/Lidar Operator Speed Enforcement Course to eight rangers and three environmental conservation officers.

Wildfire Management Training

In 2014, rangers participated in 63 wildfire training events as either instructors or students. Events included five Annual Fireline Safety Refresher courses, three Chainsaw Operator courses, 19 Basic Wildland Fire Suppression courses, 12 Wildland Fire Suppression Refresher courses and five Basic Firefighter courses (S-130, S-190). In June, Lieutenant Gary Friedrich and Rangers Tim Flanagan, Kevin Burns and Ian Kerr attended a Northeastern Forest Fire Compact-sponsored Helicopter Manager Course. Helicopter managers coordinate multiple aircraft, flight plans, and load limitations for helicopters. In September, Captain Ed Russell and Rangers Joan Oldroyd, Wayne Krulish, Justin Thaine, Pat Dormer, Wil Giraud and Chuck Kabrehl attended the 40-hour Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Wildland Fire Investigation Course. This course taught the students how to identify cause and origin of wildfire ignitions.

Forty-one rangers attended three separate sessions of I-300 Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS) for Expanding Incidents so that all rangers and supervisors have this or high level training. Instructors for these courses were Captains Eric Lahr, Drew Cavanagh, Pat Kilpeck and John Streiff.



Captain Drew Cavanagh teaching I-300 to rangers at the DEC Law Enforcement Academy

Rangers once again supported the New York Wildfire Incident Management Academy on Long Island with both instructors and students. A total of 16 rangers attended five different wildfire courses. In addition to student participation, 11 other rangers provided either incident management staff support or served as instructors.

Wilderness First Responder

The division's first responder instructors provided five annual refresher training sessions to all rangers to maintain their wilderness first responder certification. During this training, each ranger received NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services training in the use of Law Enforcement Officer Survival Kits (LESK). Additionally, all rangers who graduated from the 19th Basic School in 2013 attended the 40-hour Wilderness First Responder Bridge Course as part of their continuing education. Instructors include Lieutenant Julie Harjung and Rangers Rob Dawson and David Meade.

Training and Development Summary

In 2014, the division provided 386 training events which accounted for 39,017 work hours. The search-and-rescue training program accounted for 13,665 hours (35%). Wildfire training accounted for 8,419 hours (22%). Police officer training accounted for 11,879 hours (30%). Other training programs accounted for 5,054 work hours (13%). The following table provides a breakdown of training activity by category for the division in 2014.

<i>Division of Forest Protection Work Hours by Training Program Category</i>				
Annual Program Hours Worked per Category				
CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	2012	2013	2014
Search-and-Rescue Training	Given	4,061	4,015	4,985
Search-and-Rescue Training	Received	4,012	5,295	8,680
Search-and-Rescue Training Total		8,073	9,310	13,665
Wildfire Training	Given	3,717	3,855	4,459
Wildfire Training	Received	2,262	2,677	3,960
Wildfire Training Total		5,979	6,532	8,419
Police Officer Training	Given	2,854	2,851	4,159
Police Officer Training	Received	7,050	22,906 ¹	7,720
Police Officer Training Total		9,904	25,757	11,879
Basic Academy Instruction	Given/Received	415	6,403	77
Basic Academy Training	Administration	62	2,210	64
Basic Academy Training Total		477	8,613	141
General Training	Given	542	503	717
General Training	Received	2,092	2,806	4,196
General Training Total		2,634	3,309	4,913
Grand Total		27,067	53,521	39,017

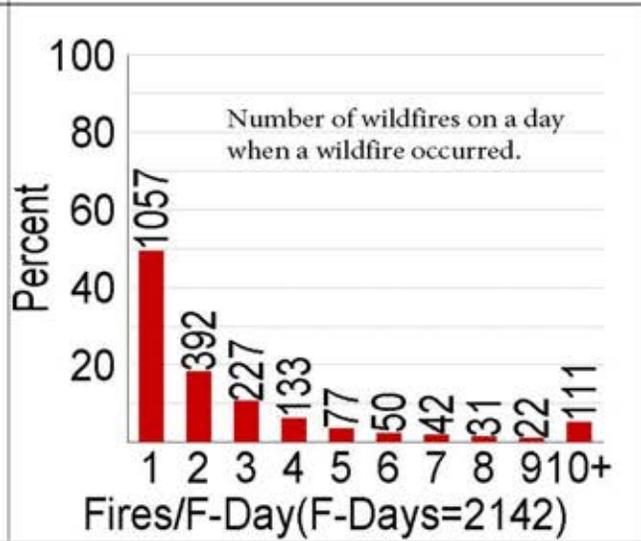
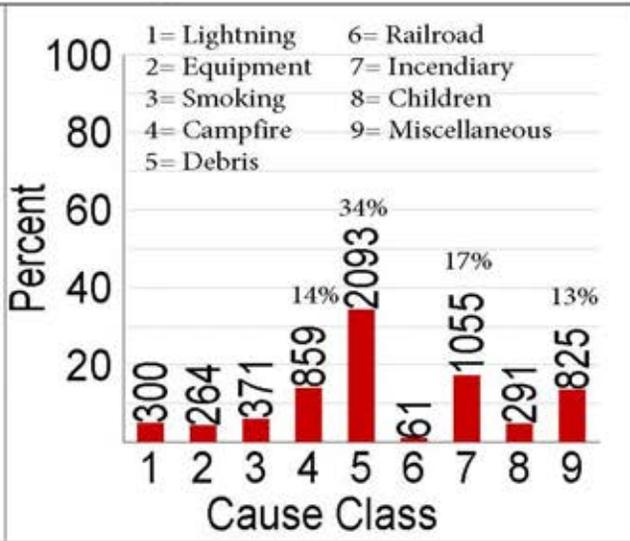
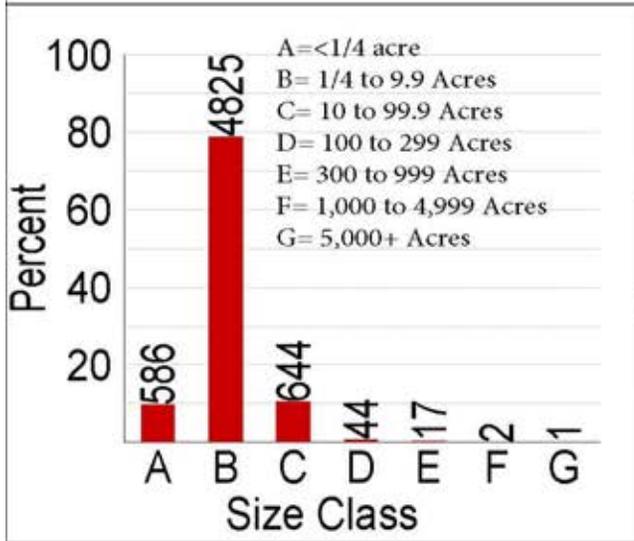
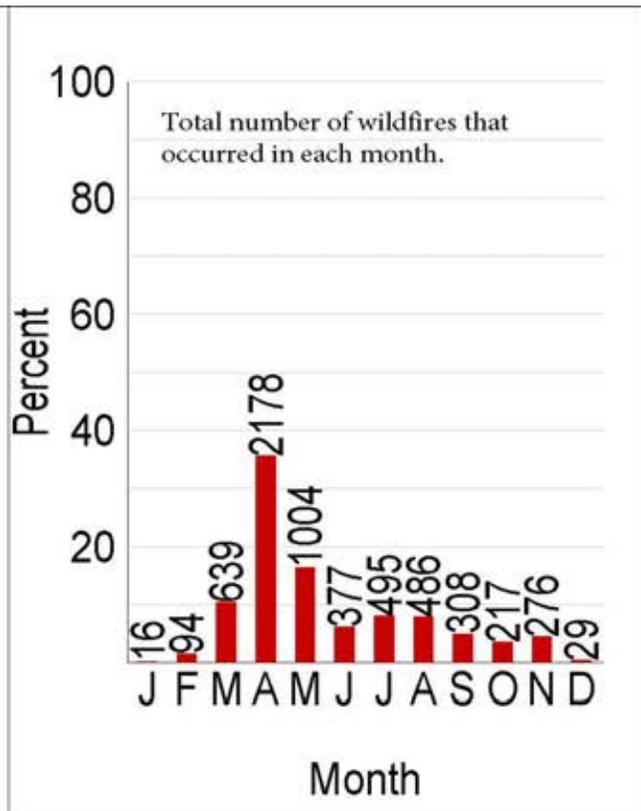
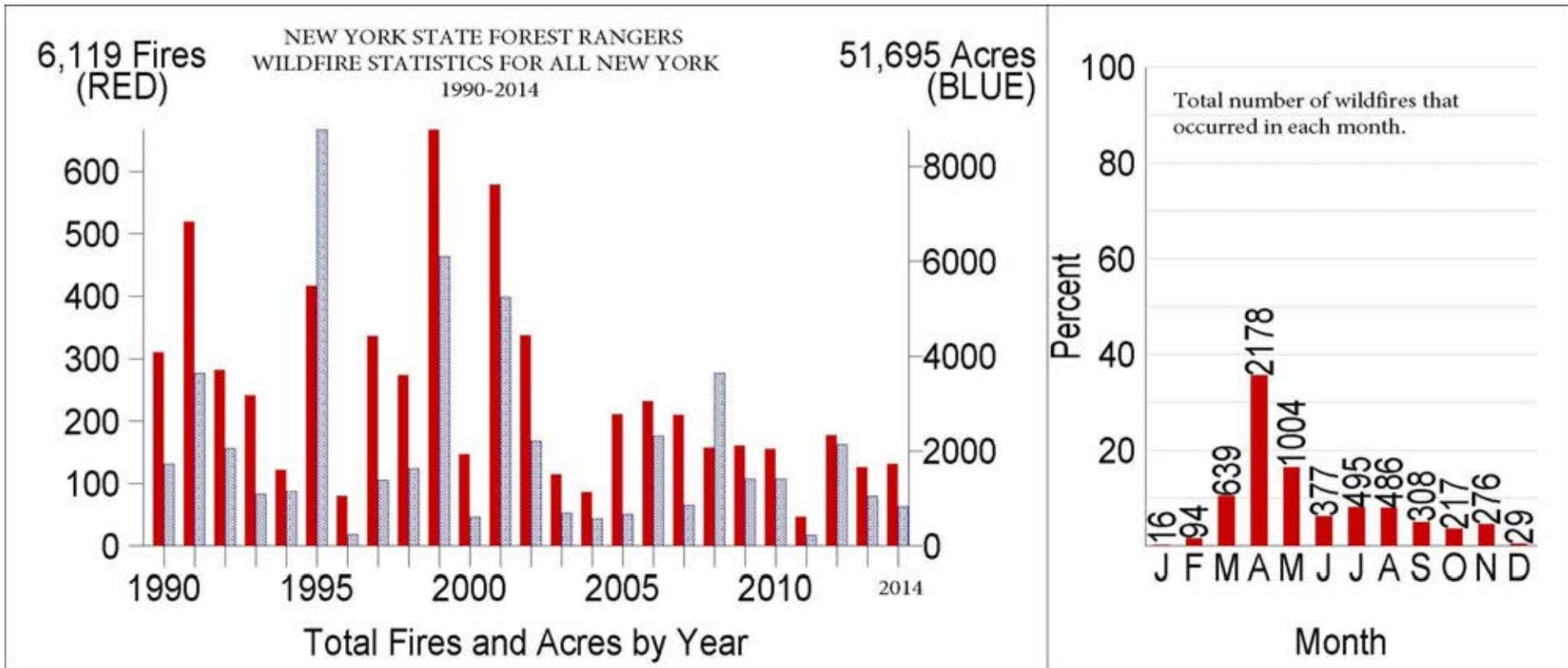
Annual Training Hours by Forest Rangers	
Year	Total Training Hours Worked
2005	31,616
2006	30,118
2007	52,654 ¹
2008	23,264
2009	24,648
2010	23,000
2011	22,835
2012	27,067
2013	53,521 ¹
2014	39,017

¹Includes Basic School Training for Recruits



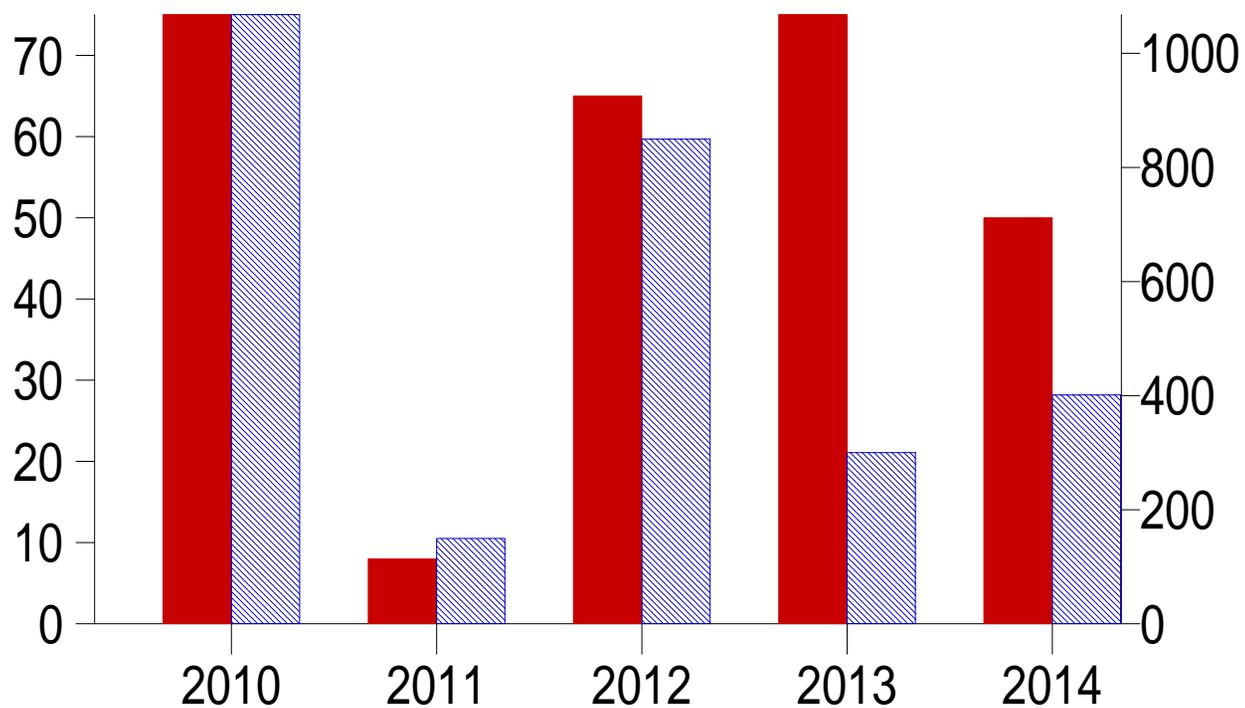
Region 5 rangers conducting winter survival training.

2014 Summary of Wildfires by Forest Ranger Zone																		
DEC Region and Zone	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	TOTAL
# of Debris Caused Fires	1	2	6	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	27
# of Campfire Caused Fires	0	1	3	0	0	6	0	1	1	4	2	2	1	0	2	0	1	24
# of Lightning Caused Fires	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
# of Incendiary Caused Fires	27	0	3	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	41
# of Other Caused Fires	8	2	11	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	1	3	1	38
Total Number of Wildfires	36	5	23	13	5	9	0	1	2	6	6	2	3	0	6	4	10	131
# of Fires < 0.25 acres	18	0	3	3	1	6	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	42
# of Fires 0.25 to 9.9 Acres	14	5	14	9	3	3	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	4	3	7	70
# of Fires 10 to 99.9 Acres	4	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	17
# of Fires 100 Acres or larger	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total Acres of Wildfires	128.4	20.7	239.0	25.6	45.2	1.6	0.0	0.1	4.0	176.7	27.2	0.2	26.2	0.0	61.7	31.8	47.3	835.7
# of State Land Fires	16	1	2	5	0	7	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	44
# of Private and Other Government Land Fires	20	4	21	8	5	2	0	0	1	4	4	0	1	0	6	3	8	87
# of Spring Fires	31	5	17	10	4	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	2	0	4	3	8	91
# of Summer Fires	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
# of Fall-Winter Fires	1	0	5	2	1	7	0	1	0	4	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	30
Total Cost of Wildfires	\$0	\$0	\$782	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$72	\$36	\$0	\$890

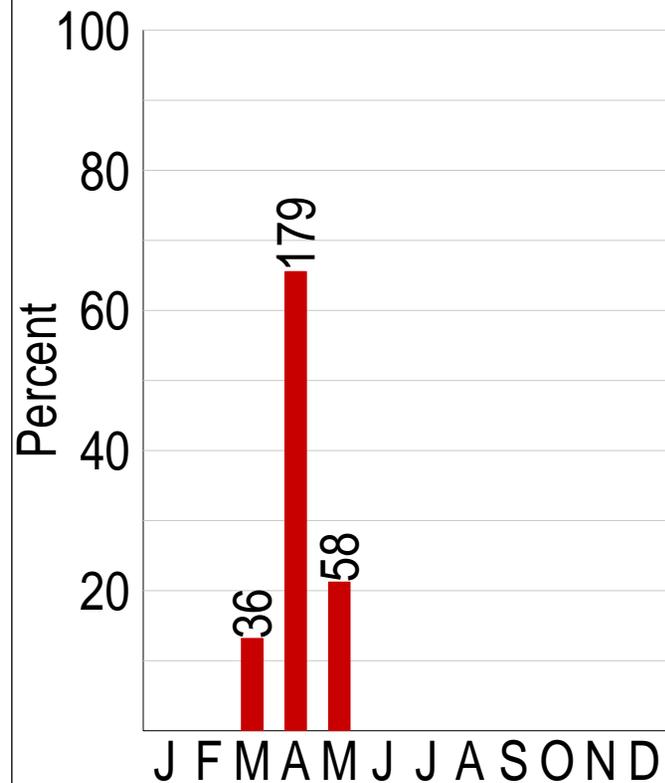


Fires (273)
(Solid)

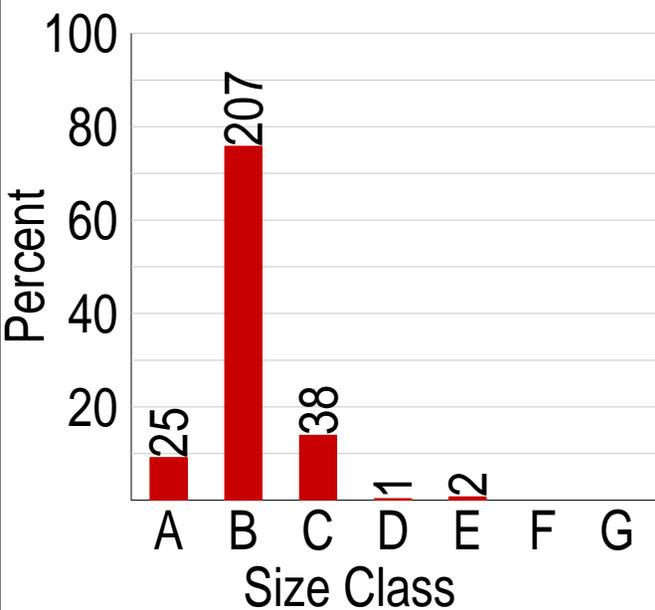
Acres (2769)
(Hatch)



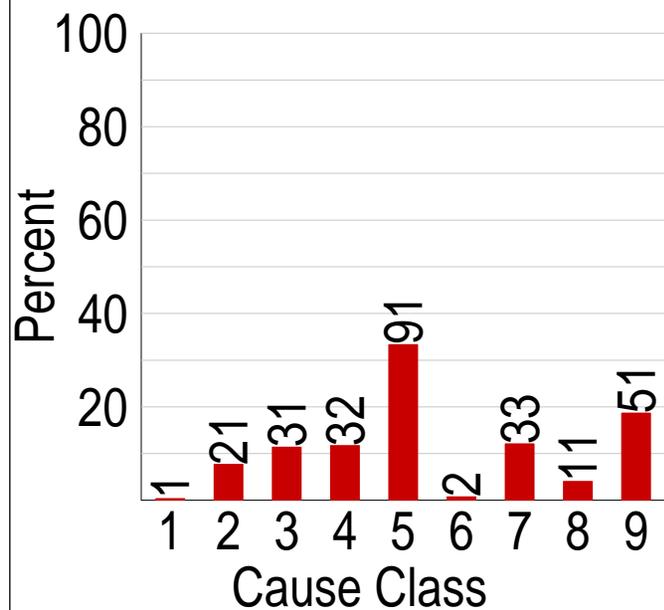
Total Fires and Acres by Year



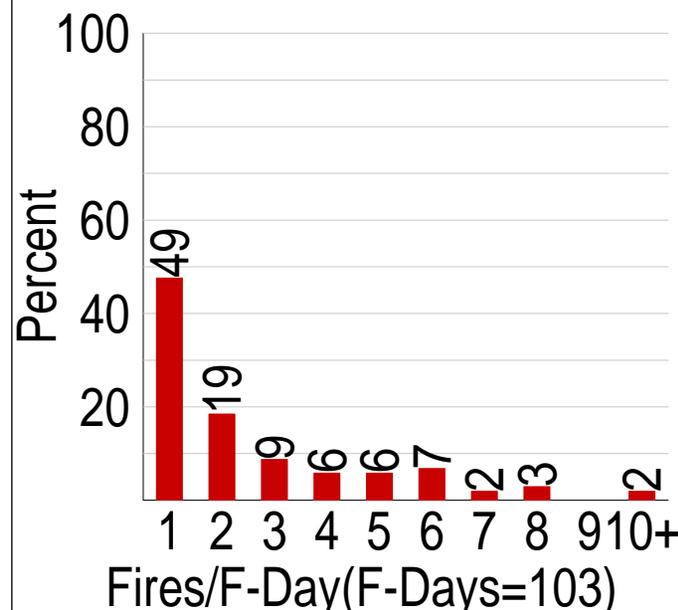
Month



Size Class



Cause Class



Fires/F-Day (F-Days=103)

**New York State Forest Rangers
Number of Wildfires and Acres Burned in New York State
1965-2014**

Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire		Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire
1965	1,200	8,469	7.1		1990	322	1,589	4.9
1966	1,131	5,856	5.2		1991	535	3,453	6.5
1967	657	4,218	6.4		1992	292	2,014	6.9
1968	1,458	11,413	7.8		1993	243	992	4.1
1969	894	5,135	5.7		1994	129	1,177	9.1
1970	631	2,262	3.6		1995	379	7,334	19.4
1971	596	2,203	3.7		1996	79	211	2.7
1972	508	2,693	5.3		1997	309	1,218	3.9
1973	670	3,300	4.9		1998	346	2,569	7.4
1974	558	2,268	4.1		1999	629	5,557	8.8
1975	795	2,968	3.7		2000	134	451	3.4
1976	484	6,140	12.7		2001	460	4,545	9.9
1977	895	7,016	7.8		2002	324	2,062	6.4
1978	792	7,143	9.0		2003	106	594	5.6
1979	552	2,593	4.7		2004	73	431	5.9
1980	772	5,391	7.0		2005	208	669	3.2
1981	655	5,540	8.5		2006	231	2,323	10.1
1982	610	3,389	5.6		2007	211	855	4.1
1983	356	1,585	4.5		2008	157	3,634	23.1
1984	319	1,516	4.8		2009	159	1,405	8.8
1985	644	3,666	5.7		2010	155	1,413	9.1
1986	460	3,799	8.3		2011	47	232	4.9
1987	267	1,072	4.0		2012	177	2,146	12.1
1988	556	5,031	9.0		2013	126	1,059	8.4
1989	603	11,730	19.5		2014	131	836	6.4
25 Years	17,063	116,396	6.8		25 Years	5,962	48,769	8.2
Annual Average	683	4,656		Summary	Annual Average	238	1,951	

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

2014 Summary of Forest Ranger Search and Rescue Missions

Activity of Subjects	Total Number of Incidents	Percent of Total	Searches	Rescues	Recoveries	Total Costs
Biking	1	0.4%	1			
Boating	5	1.8%		5		
Camping	14	5.1%	6	8		\$1,320
Climbing (Rock/Ice)	2	0.7%	1	1		
Fishing	2	0.7%	2			\$147
Hiking	173	63.4%	96	74	3	
Hunting	14	5.1%	13	1		
Runaway/Fugitive	2	0.7%	2			
Skiing/Snowshoeing	1	0.4%		1		
Snowmobile/ATV	6	2.2%	2	4		
Swimming	7	2.6%		3	4	\$880
Walking/Walkaway	37	13.6%	37			\$446
Whitewater/Flood	0	0.0%				
Other*	9	3.3%	4	3	2	
Totals	273	100%	164	100	9	\$2,793

Number of Incidents by Day of the Week

Event	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
Search	20	16	19	27	16	36	30	164
Rescue	9	11	4	11	14	32	19	100
Recovery	0	1	0	2	2	3	1	9
Total	29	28	23	40	32	71	50	273

Number and Percentage of Incidents by Month

Month	#	%	Month	#	%
January	10	3.7%	July	39	14.3%
February	7	2.6%	August	46	16.8%
March	12	4.4%	September	27	9.9%
April	18	6.6%	October	28	10.3%
May	24	8.8%	November	15	5.5%
June	39	14.3%	December	8	2.9%
			TOTAL	273	100.0%

Other* : Aircraft, Criminal, Horseback Riding, Motor Vehicle, Off-road, Stranded

2014 Summary of Search-and-Rescue Incidents by Forest Ranger Zone

Activity of Subjects	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	TOTAL
Aircraft													1					1
Biking									1									1
Boating						1	2	1					1					5
Camping		2				4		2	2			1	1	1			1	14
Climbing: Rock/Ice				1				1										2
Criminal											1				1			2
Despondent	1	1	1	2			1	1	1		1				2	2	3	16
Fishing					1										1			2
Hiking		9	3	23		4	9	58	14	21	16	2		6		3	5	173
Horseback Riding													1					1
Hunting	1		1	1			2		3			2		2	1		1	14
Motor Vehicle										1			1					2
Off Road vehicle/ATV	1				2													3
Runaway				1														1
Skiing									1									1
Snowmobile						1			3	1							1	6
Stranded										1								1
Swimming				1		2		1		1	1	1						7
Walking	1		3	1		2	1	1	2	2			1	1	3	3		21
Total # of Incidents	4	12	8	30	3	14	15	65	27	27	19	6	6	10	8	8	11	273
State Land Incidents	4	11	6	26	1	11	11	63	24	24	15	6	4	8	2	3	5	224
Total Costs								\$1,326						\$1,320	\$147			\$2,793

**New York State Forest Rangers
Search and Rescue Mission Annual Statistics
1965-2014**

Year	# of Missions	Total Ranger Hours	Average Hours per Mission		Year	# of Missions	Total Ranger Hours	Average Hours per Mission
1965	106	3,050	28.8		1990	259	7,804	30.1
1966	116	1,877	16.2		1991	252	4,290	17.0
1967	130	2,447	18.8		1992	244	11,282	46.2
1968	100	1,805	18.1		1993	241	8,907	37.0
1969	113	4,028	35.6		1994	208	5,100	24.5
1970	116	1,320	11.4		1995	212	6,200	29.2
1971	104	9,255	89.0		1996	236	7,700	32.6
1972	138	8,604	62.3		1997	251	6,494	25.9
1973	178	4,192	23.6		1998	209	7,049	33.7
1974	144	4,345	30.2		1999	228	4,130	18.1
1975	162	4,049	25.0		2000	286	10,725	37.5
1976	211	6,741	31.9		2001	261	8,768	33.6
1977	202	5,324	26.4		2002	257	10,313	40.1
1978	156	3,334	21.4		2003	237	9,382	39.6
1979	163	4,445	27.3		2004	220	7,209	32.8
1980	164	4,382	26.7		2005	229	10,378	45.3
1981	163	5,300	32.5		2006	226	15,708	69.5
1982	184	6,858	37.3		2007	223	8,964	40.2
1983	215	7,003	32.6		2008	245	14,094	57.5
1984	188	5,381	28.6		2009	234	6,587	28.1
1985	201	5,698	28.3		2010	210	13,175	62.7
1986	211	5,730	27.2		2011	283	7,977	28.2
1987	253	5,064	20.0		2012	274	6,347	23.2
1988	223	8,063	36.2		2013	287	6,727	23.4
1989	259	6,081	23.5		2014	273	5,478	20.1
25 Years	4,200	124,376	29.6		25 Years	6,085	210,788	34.6
Annual Average	168	4,975		Summary	Annual Average	243	8,432	

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

2014 Summary of Forest Ranger Training and Presentations to Others

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	Total
Number of S130/190 Training Events		1		1		1							2					5
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		15		18		10							50					93
Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events		1	3	1					2	1	1		1	2	4	2	1	19
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		21	52	14					22	12	18		25	47	79	42	20	352
# of 4-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events							1											1
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above							212											212
Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events				5	1		1				4				3	6		20
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above				47	20		18				43				57	121		306
Number of Fire Prevention Events		2	3	8	14	3	3		5	3	1	5	3	2	3	6	4	65
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		45	335	2,063	2,180	826	673		1,916	259	40	320	98	580	424	835	240	10,834
# of Basic Wildland Search Course Events	6	3	1		1	1			2	1					3	5	4	27
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	121	68	25		10	19			27	12					58	120	121	581
Number of Other S&R or 1st Aid Course Events		2		11	1	1	1	1	6	4	5			1	25	2	2	62
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		61		207	50	18	15	7	184	164	95			20	326	88	74	1,309
# of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations		5	2	6	2			1	3	6	2	1	4	2		2		36
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		504	980	1,196	35			50	81	325	25	13	1,290	300		1,000		5,799
Number of Career Information Events				7	12	2	1		2		2		5	2	1	7	3	44
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above				344	193	34	15		55		24		215	252	20	107	2,298	3,557
# of Other Presentations or Training Events		4		3	5	11			7		21	1	5	3	3	1	2	66
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		45		58	990	137			276		867	10	543	187	29	25	154	3,321
Total # of Presentations & Training Events	6	18	9	42	36	19	7	2	27	15	36	7	20	12	42	31	16	345
Total Hours of Presentations & Training Events	48	88	61	258	223	83	25	12	95	60	332	21	113	84	201	156	79	1,939
Total Number of Attendees at Events	121	759	1,392	3,947	3,478	1,044	933	57	2,561	772	1,112	343	2,221	1,386	993	2,338	2,907	26,364

2014 Summary of Activities by Forest Ranger Zones

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	Total
# of Assists to Other Agencies at Emergency Incidents	60	8	22	52	28	49	32	17	53	31	22	8	22	82	19	36	43	584
# of Defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment	0	0	0	7	6	4	1	0	7	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	29
# of Article 9 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger	0	14	0	80	125	53	360	93	242	49	207	14	13	21	0	0	0	1,271
# of Open Burning Inspections	0	4	6	5	1	4	29	1	15	5	4	0	4	3	0	3	2	86
# of Article 9 Burning Permits issued by Agent	0	1,111	0	46	221	18	435	64	153	34	186	3	0	0	0	0	0	2,271
# of Camping Permits Issued	0	142	23	82	48	329	44	52	636	178	105	134	61	91	102	86	63	2,176
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected	1	724	637	281	135	641	474	1,843	1,874	847	123	469	244	435	419	935	559	10,641
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds	0	195	4	109	55	283	189	13	407	148	1	78	7	54	0	0	0	1,543
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	1	28	58	39	79	0	7	0	14	7	2	3	16	185	78	191	154	862
# of Responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)	5	0	3	1	3	2	5	5	12	2	6	2	6	3	3	6	6	70
# of Guides Checked for License Compliance	128	0	0	2	0	2	0	29	437	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	678
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
# of Stream Crossing or Wetland Inspections	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	48	0	9	0	2	0	0	0	3	65
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections	133	2	12	10	0	0	0	30	24	31	19	0	0	0	0	5	7	273
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	5,538	2,537	6,010	2,841	3,086	2,667	3,749	3,149	3,972	4,042	3,092	4,450	3,031	5,525	4,519	7,385	6,769	72,362
# of CP-3 Compliance Checks	0	1	12	0	2	2	0	0	12	7	0	0	2	1	15	14	9	77
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	445	120	185	179	273	19	315	18	296	31	41	70	51	86	61	62	126	2,377
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Foot/Snoeshoe/Sk	1,656	1,382	1,779	1,596	861	1,289	1,401	3,271	2,589	3,516	519	358	563	768	631	485	1,006	23,667
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Motor Vehicle	2,244	182	3,885	18	403	99	129	19	2,772	780	195	5,975	95	1,143	3,437	1,460	3,043	25,876
Miles of Snowmobile Patrol	0	295	384	34	451	412	2,166	282	6,566	752	354	1,479	1,510	1,444	353	597	474	17,553
# of Snowmobile Safety/Compliance Checks	0	10	393	77	295	854	456	251	9,105	400	718	1,420	1,221	320	496	182	654	16,852
Hours of Motorboat/Canoe/Kayak/Raft Patrol	8	8	15	19	0	364	119	84	571	550	13	137	75	54	30	85	5	2,136
# of Navigation Law Checks	0	56	160	50	28	366	139	59	117	75	251	11	18	81	108	576	108	2,203
Miles of Bicycle Patrol	75	44	0	17	0	29	90	27	10	327	0	0	0	75	0	18	119	830
# of Conservation Easement Inspections	63	2	0	0	0	37	271	11	140	51	6	218	42	170	3	0	0	1,014
# of NYC DEP Property Inspections	0	50	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62

2014 Summary of Tickets or Arrests by Forest Ranger Zone

DEC Region and 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	Total
Environmental Conservation Law, Rules, Regulations	53	71	126	148	71	24	60	112	153	68	23	41	24	39	48	85	188	1,334
NYS Vehicle & Traffic Offenses	49	8	82	29	24	7	35	2	58	42	29	58	31	54	55	47	115	725
Parks & Recreation (Snowmobile & Navigation)	0	0	10	0	0	13	26	4	46	3	12	5	28	29	3	13	9	201
Arrests Turned over to Another Agency	1	1	0	0	0	34	19	3	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	24	90
Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests)	32	0	2	0	0	5	1	0	6	5	0	5	3	4	1	2	5	71
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	135	80	220	177	95	83	141	121	263	121	65	113	86	126	107	147	341	2,421
Offenses Related to State Land Use	18	61	103	97	25	13	22	34	62	51	25	12	19	20	15	44	84	705
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	0	1	3	12	8	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	10	7	9	58
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	0	2	15	1	3	17	20	4	6	1	2	11	3	0	6	11	18	120
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	88	7	39	9	24	7	16	0	25	10	5	35	28	39	35	32	58	457
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State	15	3	38	22	8	2	20	0	1	16	1	0	3	9	7	15	36	196
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	0	1	0	35	21	8	4	0	20	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	95
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	12
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State Land	1	4	0	0	6	0	2	2	7	1	7	20	1	4	3	0	46	104
Offenses Related to other EnCon Law, Rules or Regs	9	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	1	2	1	7	3	5	1	37
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	3	0	15	0	0	12	25	35	1	14	15	23	3	5	18	26	69	264
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	1	0	6	0	0	24	24	6	139	15	9	10	28	35	6	6	19	328
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	135	80	220	177	95	83	141	121	263	121	65	113	86	126	107	147	341	2,421

Total of Forest Ranger Work Activities per Category and Year											10-Year
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average
Protection of State Lands											
Inspections of trailheads/access points	65,015	74,524	78,843	82,429	78,188	63,228	69,923	65,701	69,699	72,362	71,991
Miles of trails walked, snowshoe, ski	20,023	20,682	20,398	24,502	23,160	23,669	21,514	18,172	18,580	23,667	21,437
Inspections of occupied campsites	12,564	13,501	15,319	14,006	13,873	12,074	11,279	13,762	9,942	10,641	12,696
State land camping permits issued	2,037	1,958	2,123	2,204	2,207	1,968	2,093	2,030	2,004	2,176	2,080
Miles of state boundary line inspected	2,462	2,544	2,134	2,728	2,692	2,580	3,428	2,079	1,743	2,377	2,477
Patrols of DEC public campgrounds	1,097	1,581	2,379	2,228	2,297	2,105	2,034	1,823	1,545	1,543	1,863
ATV violation tickets issued	520	620	745	763	680	369	449	483	557	457	564
State land offense tickets/arrests	936	903	1,006	1,300	1,279	958	1,142	1,733	1,347	1,145	1,175
Fish and wildlife offense tickets	246	242	316	319	328	177	178	205	155	120	229
Outdoor safety and state land use presentations	140	125	109	125	116	49	44	60	51	36	86
State land use permits inspected	1,173	1,197	1,123	1,229	1,294	961	744	1,113	1,197	1,277	1,131
Offenses related to snowmobile use	74	29	192	333	480	445	614	298	471	328	326
Other EnCon or other law offenses	132	196	201	265	283	276	481	325	300	301	276
DEC permit inspections	1,256	1,677	1,076	760	753	492	335	322	432	364	747
Wildfire Management Program											
Fires suppressed in the spring	160	211	131	133	140	98	18	85	85	91	115
Fires suppressed in the summer	48	11	65	15	2	49	19	67	10	10	30
Fires suppressed in the fall		9	15	9	17	8	10	25	28	30	15
Acres burned	669	2,323	855	3,634	1,404	1,413	232	2,146	1,058	836	1,457
Prescribed fires	23	30	13	21	13	9	9	11	19	13	16
Acres of prescribed fire	273	330	301	211	228	122	172	267	452	349	271
Burning permits issued	27,277	26,447	19,055	11,998	11,163	3,785	3,543	3,681	2,794	3,542	11,329
Burning permits inspected	1,825	1,147	1,002	622	713	425	176	142	145	86	628
Wildfire control/ICS training events	71	119	91	75	104	57	38	63	50	45	71
Fire prevention events	95	98	112	100	135	65	60	53	67	65	85
Fire prevention law violations/tickets	126	155	115	112	119	70	33	107	103	58	100
\$1,000 Grants to rural VFDs	339	346	365	401	401	466	475	386	370	443	399
Search and Rescue Program											
Search missions	151	144	153	149	144	140	173	162	171	164	155
Rescue missions	72	76	67	92	84	65	102	101	105	100	86
Recoveries	6	6	3	4	6	5	6	11	11	9	7
Search and rescue or First aid training events	117	132	147	117	116	78	117	109	91	89	111
Licensed Guide Program											
Licensed guides	2,190	2,182	2,090	2,066	2,099	2,074	2,101	2,159	2,196	2,197	2,135
New guide licenses issued	262	185	164	207	188	202	191	220	210	215	204
Guide licenses renewed or updated	406	232	277	312	240	254	303	327	428	293	307
Guide licenses revoked	0	4	11	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	2
Checks of licensed guide credentials	764	135	306	338	301	619	134	254	624	678	415
Licensed guide violations ticketed	2	0	8	3	1	7	2	5	3	2	3