



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

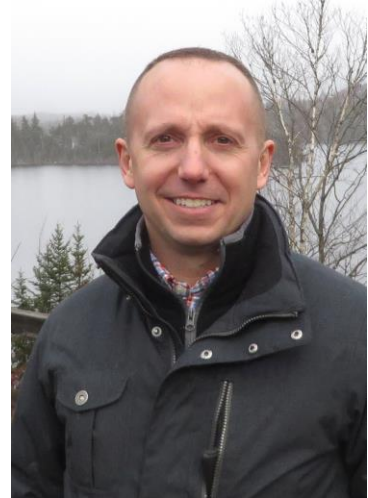
DIVISION OF
**FOREST
PROTECTION**
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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A Message from the Commissioner

Since 1885, the Department's Forest Rangers have worked to safeguard New York's natural resources and the visitors who enjoy hiking, camping, kayaking and an array of other outdoor activities on state lands. Today, DEC Forest Rangers patrol nearly five million acres of state lands and easements in all corners of New York State. From back country patrols to combatting wildfires and undertaking many significant rescues of lost and or injured hikers, our Forest Rangers are on the job 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. When called upon, Forest Rangers quickly respond to remote locations and get those in need to safety.



In 2017, Forest Rangers continued to provide emergency response to lost and injured persons throughout New York State. Last year Forest Rangers answered the call for help on state and private lands 346 times in responding to back country search and/or rescues.

Back country patrols resulted in the enforcement of over 2100 violations of law. Nearly half of these enforcement actions were related to public use regulations on state lands.

This past year Forest Rangers responded to the fewest number wildfires in recorded history--a fact attributable to a wetter than average spring and summer as well as a successful fire prevention campaign. That said, wildfire preparedness and suppression remain an important priority for the Division of Forest Protection.

Thanks to Governor Cuomo's leadership in promoting the safe and enjoyable use of our public lands, more people than ever are appreciating New York's great natural assets. With the Governor's support, we have increased the ranks of Forest Rangers over the past two years--a commitment to the valued role that Forest Rangers undertake on each and every shift and mission.

DEC's Forest Rangers are the true guardians of our public lands and easements, and the professionals you want responding when an emergency calls.

I hope that this annual report provides you with an understanding of the complex and demanding responsibilities that our Rangers undertake every day.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner

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Letter from the Director

I am pleased to have the distinct privilege to present the Division of Forest Protection 2017 Annual Report. For generations, our primary mission as New York State Forest Rangers has been to protect the state-owned land and the recreating public who enjoy visiting these natural scenic areas. This vital mission remains as true today as it has been since our beginnings in 1885.

Within these pages, brief narratives provide a glimpse into the courageous work performed by the men and women who respond day or night, regardless of the weather or terrain, to calls for help and assistance. This report honors their service!

In 2017, Forest Rangers responded to 346 wildland searches and rescues, 55 wildfires and enforced 2,100 violations of law. As in the previous years, about half of our time worked was dedicated to protecting for future generations the 5 million acres of state land.

Throughout the year, the rangers were again called in to service to apply their unique backcountry emergency response and incident management skills. Several noteworthy events kept Rangers busy. In March, Forest Rangers assisted with response efforts to Winter Storm Stella, a Category 3 snowstorm that dumped 3 to 5 feet of snow across portions of the state. Rangers responded to the fewest number of wildfires in state history. However, the Division filled this lull by answering the call for help from our western partners by sending the largest number of Rangers ever in a single year to devastating wildfires in Montana, California and Oregon. Rangers once again filled key roles on the state's incident management team that responded to Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. At home, heavy rains created unusually high waters along Lake Ontario shoreline and throughout the numerous waterways requiring Division airboat and swiftwater teams to respond at regular intervals. The year was also marked by the routine use of small unmanned aerial systems (drones) on several high-profile searches and technical rescues that are described in this report.

For their efforts in preparing this report, I wish to thank our Regional Captains and Lieutenants who dedicate their time to the thorough and accurate collection of information presented herein. I wish to also offer a special thank you to Dawn Wright, who for many years has assembled and edited these reports.

Finally, I commend the rangers who routinely dedicate and risk their lives under the most arduous conditions every day to helping others, their families who support them, our administrative support staff and community volunteers who aid us in achieving our goals. Only through their teamwork are we able to succeed and accomplish all that we do!

Sincerely,

Eric A. Lahr, Director
Division of Forest Protection

Professional

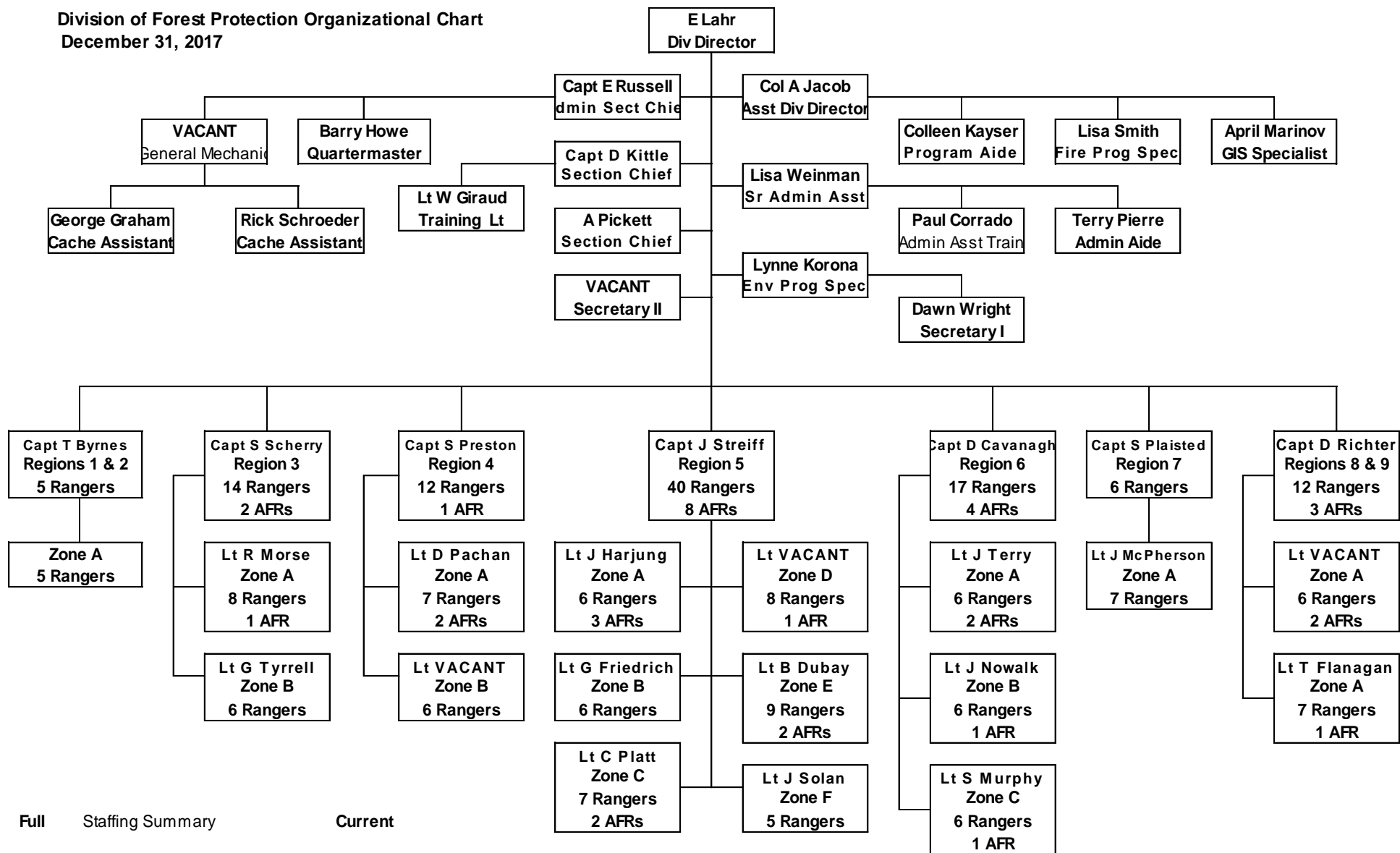
Respect

Integrity

Service

Excellence

Division of Forest Protection Organizational Chart
December 31, 2017

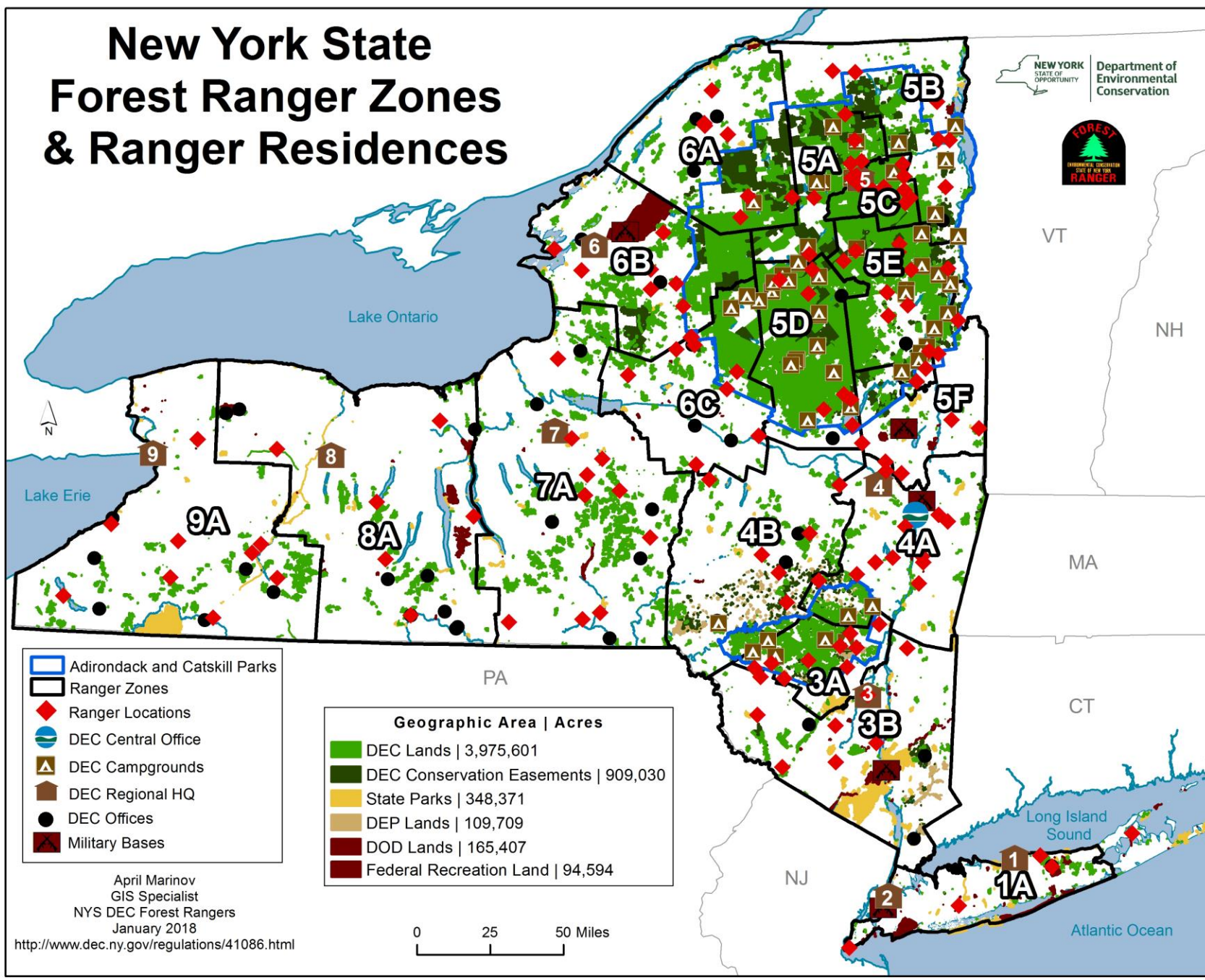


Full	Staffing Summary	Current
106	Forest Rangers	111
17	Lieutenant Forest Rangers	14
10	Captain Forest Rangers	10
2	Division Director/Assist. Div. Dir.	2
135	Total Uniformed Forest Rangers	137
18	Asst. Forest Rangers (AFRs) (Seasonal)	18

New York State Forest Ranger Zones & Ranger Residences

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2017 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 132 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 lands and easements managed by DEC are in the Adirondack Park, 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 DEC-managed 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. In 2017, Rangers made 34 presentations about the proper use of state lands to 2,800 recreationists. In addition, Rangers checked 11,635 occupied campsites and issued 2,446 camping permits to groups of 10 or more or to any group staying at one site for more than three nights. Throughout the year, Rangers inspected or patrolled the department's 52 public campgrounds 1,620 times to support campground staff or to check facilities during off season. Routine patrols included 88,963 inspections of trailhead access points and inspection of 3,264 miles of non-roadside state boundary lines.

Law Enforcement on State Lands

Continuing a trend of the last three decades, the most problematic activity encountered by Rangers was the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles on state land. In 2017, Forest Rangers made

Offenses Related to State Land Use	706
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	58
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	115
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations	8
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	353
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State	148
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	55
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	14
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking	56
Offenses Related to other Environmental Conservation Laws, Rules or Regulations	30
Offenses related to other Laws, Rules or Regulations	346
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	220
Total Number of Tickets and Arrests	2,109

arrests and issued 353 tickets and for violations involving ATVs. There were another 220 tickets for snowmobile offenses. Unauthorized use of traditional motor vehicles on state land accounted for another 148 violations. Rangers took enforcement actions to 55 violations in DEC campgrounds and another 706 violations of various regulations designed to protect state land. An increased emphasis on curbing underage alcohol consumption on state lands resulted in Rangers making 56 arrests for illegal possession of alcohol by people less than 21 years old. Rangers issued tickets or made arrests for 115 fish and wildlife law offenses that occurred on or near state land and 346 tickets related to other environmental law offenses.

Search-and-Rescue Responsibility

Wilderness search and rescue to protect people using New York's natural resources is an important and traditional role. Finding and rescuing lost or injured people in wild or remote locations is an almost-daily event in the state. In 2017, the division assisted, rescued and comforted 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 they are generally not trained or experienced in wilderness search or 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.

Number of Forest Ranger Search-and-Rescue Missions by Category in 2017

Aircraft	1
Biking	5
Boating	21
Camping	10
Climbing: Rock/Ice	9
Criminal	4
Despondent	10
Fishing	5
Hiking	358
Horseback Riding	3
Hunting	25
Motor Vehicle	7
Off Road vehicle/ATV	1
Other	0
Runaway	12
Skiing	10
Snowmobile	19
Swimming	5
Walking	15
Whitewater/Flooding	3
Total Number of Incidents	346
# of State Land Incidents	284

Search-and-Rescue Missions

In 2017, Forest Rangers conducted 177 search missions, 147 rescues and 22 recoveries. Eighty-two percent (284) of these incidents occurred on state lands. Most of them were resolved in one or two days, but several searches went on for many days, incurring thousands of hours of search time. Although hikers are the group most often reported lost or injured, people suffering from dementia, mental illness or fatal health



Forest Ranger hoisting injured person to State Police helicopter

conditions are often the most difficult to find. Rescue and recovery missions are frequently complicated by the nature of wildland recreational activity. Ice-climbing rescue requires special training and equipment. Whitewater boating requires Rangers to prepare for fast-moving water rescue, sometimes in the most remote and inaccessible areas of the state. Snowmobiling accidents require Rangers to be prepared to treat potentially serious injuries in cold weather and remote locations. The most dramatic mission that Rangers performed in 2017 began on September 2 for a lost lone hiker attempting to climb the Saranac Lake Six, a series of mountain peaks in the area. Five Rangers responded, as well as a State Police helicopter with night vision capability. Neither the trail nor air search found any sign of the hiker. By the next morning, 19 Rangers searched the area, however, heavy rains from Tropical Storm Harvey prevented helicopter flights. As the weather cleared on September 4, 26 Rangers were involved with the search, with efforts supported by the local fire department, search volunteers, State Police, and state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Shortly after starting, helicopter personnel spotted a person signaling for help. A Ranger was inserted to the location and helped secure the man for hoist. After hoisting him into the helicopter, the man was flown to Saranac Lake Adirondack Medical Center, evaluated, and released.

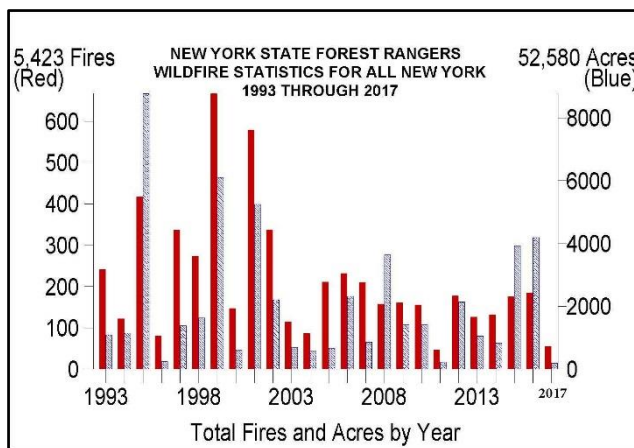
Search-and-Rescue Training

Considerable time and effort is spent 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 2017, Rangers presented 28 NYS Basic Wildland Search courses to 679 participants. Another 44 presentations covering wilderness first aid, advanced search-and-rescue training and incident management were given to 622 participants in support of local and division incidents statewide.

Wildfire Mitigation

An important part of protecting public 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 2017, Forest Rangers reported 55 wildfires, which burned a total of 191 acres, the lowest total acres in Ranger history. During the last 25 years, Rangers responded to an average of 209 wildfires per year, which burned an average of 2,001 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 1,401 wildfires that burned a total of 474 acres in 2017. The past 15-year average occurrence of wildfires in New York is 5,420 fires, burning 5,335 acres per year.

In 2017, the largest wildfire to occur in New York was a wildfire that spread into New York from Connecticut and burned 30 acres on May 18. This area had been under severe drought conditions since early 2016. The fire started along the Appalachian Trail and was investigated by Connecticut State Forestry fire investigators.



Wildfire statistics of Forest Ranger reported wildfires

2017 saw a return to debris burning as the number one cause of wildfires reported by Rangers, in contrast to a five-year trend where campfires and arson were the most common fire cause. Debris fires caused 18 wildfires (33 percent), campfires caused 15 fires (27 percent) and smoking caused 6 fires (11 percent). The change in primary cause of wildfires was likely due to the second least number of wildfires in Ranger history that included a slightly higher number of fall fires than usual. However, the five-year trend of significant reductions of wildfires from debris burning is attributed to the well-supported annual burning ban (beginning in 2010) from March 16 through May 14. This ban has resulted in 37 percent fewer spring wildfires reported by Rangers and fire departments from 2010 through 2017 as compared to 2002 through 2009. That equates to a statewide average of 972 fewer wildfires each spring.

Wildfire Training



A seasonal home in Newcomb, Essex County was lost in a wildfire caused by powerlines in May 2015.

The division's wildfire mitigation role requires considerably more time than that spent extinguishing fires. Like the search-and-rescue program, significant time and energy is focused on preventing fires and preparing for fire suppression. During 2017, Forest Rangers instructed the 12-hour NYS Basic Wildland Fire Suppression Course on 14 occasions, teaching 295 volunteer firefighters the basics of wildfire suppression. On three occasions, Rangers taught the 44-hour Basic Federal Wildland Firefighting Course, commonly referred to as S130/190. A total of 54 firefighters, state employees, students and volunteers completed

this course, which is considered basic training for professional (non-volunteer) wildland firefighters. Rangers provided an additional 13 training sessions to 212 firefighters, emergency service personnel and volunteers in advanced firefighting or incident command management. When needed, the division uses state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision inmate crews for "mop-up" of controlled fires. Rangers gave one 4-hour training session to 139 inmates.

Wildfire Prevention

The best way to reduce wildfires is to prevent fires from starting. Rangers made 62 prevention presentations to 23,810 people. Many of these events were large gatherings such as the New York State Fair 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 55 wildfires extinguished by the division in 2017, Rangers attributed only one fire to the actions of children. This statistic stands as a tribute to the effectiveness of the 74-year Smokey Bear campaign at preventing wildfires started by children and adults.

Wildfire Prevention Enforcement

Over the past decade, debris burning, unextinguished campfires and intentional fires have been the three leading categories of human-caused wildfires in New York State. As a means of preventing debris fires outside of the spring burn ban, Rangers and their permit-issuing agents issued 2,642 burning permits as required by state Environmental Conservation Law. Rangers inspected 126 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.

National Response to Wildfires

In 2017, the division sent three 20-person initial attack firefighting crews to wildfires in Montana and California, each for 14 days as part of its mutual aid agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. Typically, one crew is sent 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. In addition, eight Rangers accepted national fire assignments as single subject-matter experts or resources to support medium and large incident management teams in Montana and Oregon. In total, 41 Rangers spent 698 work days assigned to eight different wildfires that burned a total of 469,000 acres in three states. This was the largest mobilization of New York's Forest Rangers to national wildfires in history.



NYS#2 at morning briefing on Gibraltar Ridge Fire, Montana.

Prescribed Fire

In 2017, Forest Rangers maintained their working relationship with DEC'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 29 prescribed fires on public lands, burning a total of 564 acres. This was the first time in Ranger history where the combined acres of prescribed fire outmatched the combined acres of wildfire (191 acres).

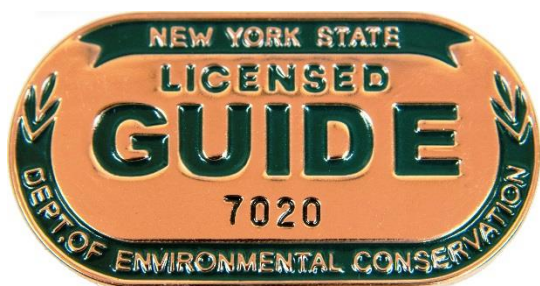
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

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 2017, 319 qualifying fire departments received VFA grants of \$1,500 each. Not only does this program place much-needed dollars in the hands of rural fire departments, it also furthers the solid working relationship between Forest Rangers and the volunteer firefighter service.

Support to Other Agencies

Forest Rangers provide a variety of support activities to other programs within DEC, other state agencies and local governments throughout New York State. They assisted other agencies with emergency incidents on 676 occasions in 2017. Many were automobile accidents where 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. Five Rangers joined the State Incident Management Team (IMT) that was sent to College Station, Texas as part of post-Hurricane Harvey support. Two Rangers brought their assigned unmanned aircraft system (UAS, or drones) to provide reconnaissance for the IMT.

Licensed Guide Program



New York State Licensed Guides are required to wear this badge when guiding.

The division manages the NYS Licensed Guide Program. By the end of 2017, there were a total of 2,309 licensed New York outdoor guides. Of that total, 221 new licenses and 315 license renewals or updates were processed throughout the year. Rangers made 292 license guide checks statewide, and one arrest was made for guiding without a license. In 2017, four guides had their license revoked for violations of the state Environmental Conservation Law.

Comprehensive Annual Report

The division's *2017 Annual Report* includes summary tables of reportable data on wildfire occurrence, prescribed fire, search-and-rescue missions, arrests or tickets issued, public presentations and general activities. Most summaries are reported at the division's "zone" level. A zone is identified as the smallest work group under the direct command of a division supervisor. There are 17 division zones in the state, each within a DEC region. Each zone supervisor has provided a narrative review of activities within their zone as part of the division's annual report. All summaries are substantiated by data reporting at the region, zone or individual Ranger level. A fact sheet on 2017 Forest Ranger accomplishments and statistics accompanies this summary.

2017 Forest Ranger Division Fact Sheet

Division Members at Full Staffing

106	Forest Rangers
29	Forest Ranger Lieutenants, Captains & Directors
18	Seasonal Assistant Forest Rangers
9	Administrative Support Staff
3	Fire Cache Equipment Specialists

State Lands & Easements Acres

2,963,306	Adirondack & Catskill Forest Preserve
803,315	State Forests, Reforestation and Multiple Use Areas
199,521	Wildlife Management Areas
909,030	Conservation Easements
9,459	Other DEC Lands
+ 59,730	<u>NYC DEP Public Access Lands</u>
4,944,361	DEC Administered Lands

2017 Population (in millions)

19.85	New York State
32.85	Surrounding States (VT, MA, CT, NJ, PA)

Wildfire Management Program

28	Fires Suppressed in the Spring
2	Fires Suppressed in the Summer
25	Fires Suppressed in the Fall/Winter
191	Acres Burned
29	Prescribed Fires
564	Acres of Prescribed Fire
2,642	Burning Permits Issued
126	Burning Permits Inspected
31	Wildfire Control/ICS Training Events with 700 Participants
62	Fire Prevention Events with 23,810 Attendees
58	Fire Prevention Law Violations/Tickets
319	\$1,500 Grants to Rural VFDs

Search & Rescue Program

176	Search Missions
147	Rescue Missions
22	Recoveries
1	Fugitive Searches
72	Search & Rescue or 1 st Aid Training Events with 1,301 Participants

Protection of State Lands & Resources

88,963	Inspections of Trailheads/Access Points
25,902	Miles of Trails Walked, Snowshoe, Ski
2,266	Hours of Boat Patrol
1,650	Navigation Law Safety Checks
14,565	Miles of Snowmobile Patrol
12,341	Snowmobile Law Safety Checks
11,635	Inspections of Occupied Campsites
2,446	State Land Camping Permits Issued
3,264	Miles of State Boundary Line Inspected
2,975	State Land Use Permits Inspected
1,620	Patrols of DEC Public Campgrounds
2,507	Conservation Easement Inspections
353	ATV Violation Tickets Issued
973	State Land Offense Tickets/Arrests
220	Offenses related to Snowmobile Use
115	Fish & Wildlife Offense Tickets
390	Other EnCon or Other Law Offenses
34	Outdoor Use Presentations to 2,800 Participants

Licensed Guide Program

2,309	Licensed Guides on 12/31/17
221	New Guide Licenses Issued
315	Guide Licenses Renewed or Updated
4	Guide Licenses Revoked
301	Checks of Licensed Guide Credentials
1	License Guide Violations Ticketed

Other

1,879	Calls-for-service/Complaints
676	Incidents of Assisting other Agencies
78	Other Presentations, Fairs, Career Talks to 171,714 Attendees

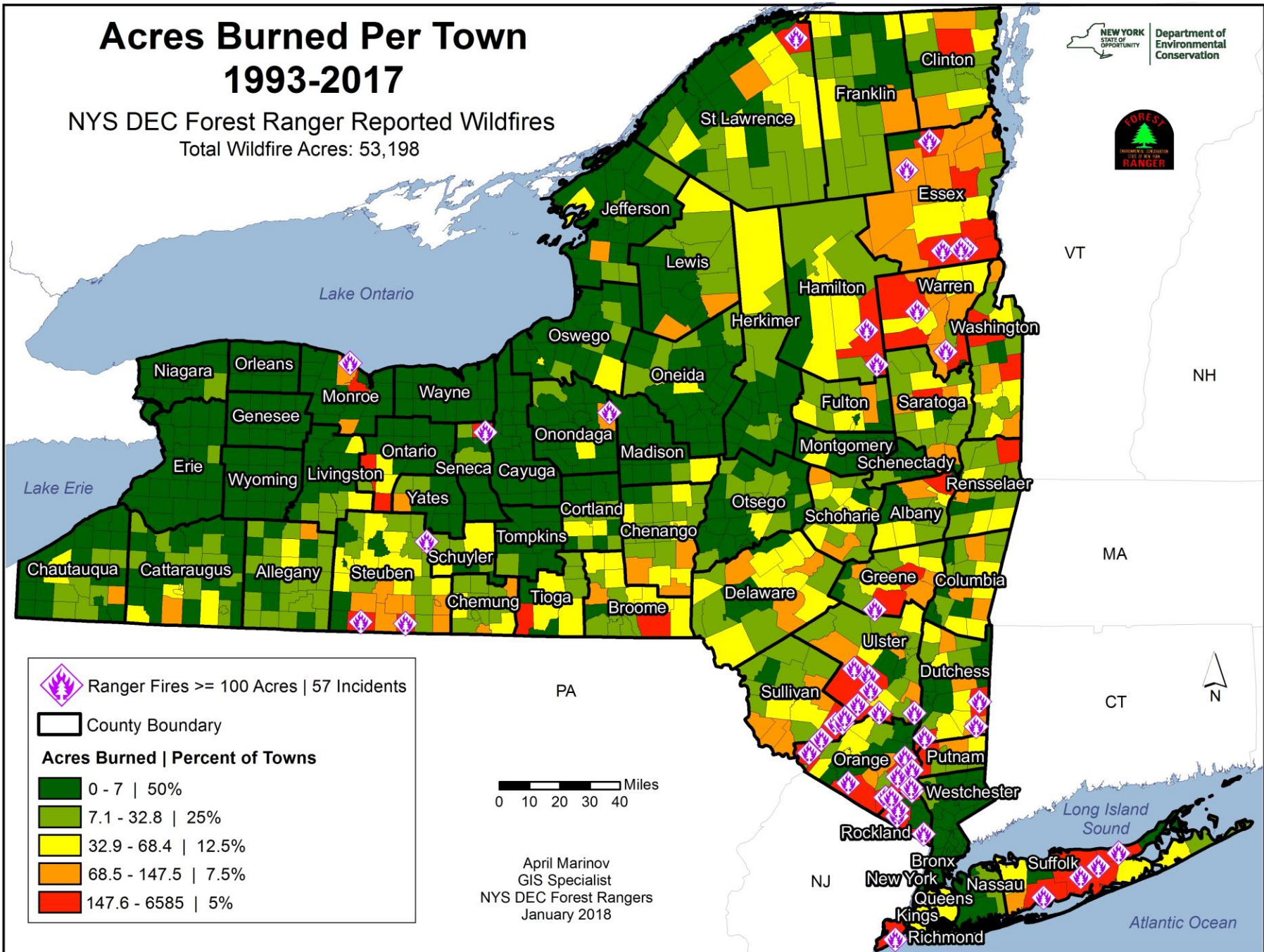
How Rangers Spent their Time in 2017

46%	State Land Patrol & Enforcement
13%	Fire Management Activities
14%	Search & Rescue Missions & Training
7%	Basic Academy Police Training
18%	Administrative Responsibilities
2%	Support to Other Programs/Agencies

Acres Burned Per Town 1993-2017

NYS DEC Forest Ranger Reported Wildfires
Total Wildfire Acres: 53,198

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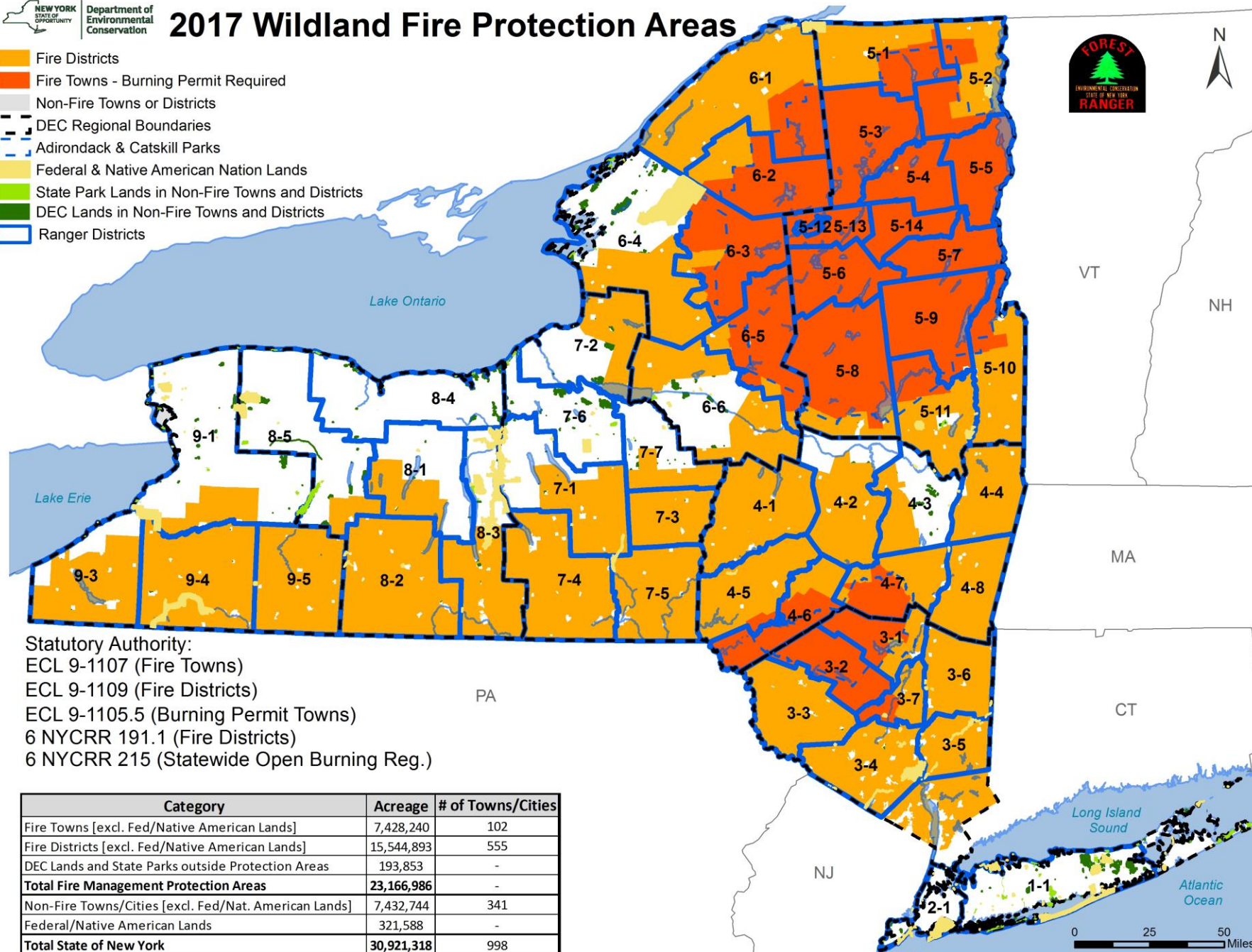




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2017 Wildland Fire Protection Areas

- Fire Districts
- Fire Towns - Burning Permit Required
- Non-Fire Towns or Districts
- DEC Regional Boundaries
- Adirondack & Catskill Parks
- Federal & Native American Nation Lands
- State Park Lands in Non-Fire Towns and Districts
- DEC Lands in Non-Fire Towns and Districts
- Ranger 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	193,853	-
Total Fire Management Protection Areas	23,166,986	-
Non-Fire Towns/Cities [excl. Fed/Nat. American Lands]	7,432,744	341
Federal/Native American Lands	321,588	-
Total State of New York	30,921,318	998

Region and Zone Narratives

Zone 1-2

Suffolk County, Town of Brookhaven: Prescribed Fires at Rocky Point Pine Barrens

Ranger Bryan Gallagher supervised two successful prescribed fires in Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest on May 8 and 9, 2017. Two Rangers and personnel from DEC Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albany Pine Bush Commission and DEC volunteers participated. On May 8, they successfully burned 32 acres of the Whiskey Field Unit. On May 9, they burned the 80-acre Currans Field Unit. Both burns were conducted to promote habitat for grassland birds, and forage and cover for native wildlife. These were the third and fourth prescribed burns conducted on DEC lands in Suffolk County in 2017. The total treatment area of all four burns was 191 acres.



Suffolk County, Town of Riverhead: State Land Encroachment



Ranger Joe Pries investigates state land encroachment.

On October 11, 2017, Rangers Joseph Pries, John Rusher IV, and Brandon Poulton responded to a complaint of a state land encroachment. They determined that the adjacent property owner had instructed a hired laborer to enter state land, cut down five trees and dig a large trench to dispose of tree stumps from the adjoining property. DEC filed both criminal and administrative charges against the perpetrators and the case will take considerable time to conclude. This is one of several dozen

state land encroachments Rangers documented in 2017.

Richmond County: Electrofishing Survey on Staten Island

On October 12, 2017, Ranger John Franceschina and Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) Michael Hameline assisted DEC Region 2 Fisheries staff with an electrofishing survey of Clove Lakes, Staten Island. The officers assisted with netting, weighing and measuring each fish caught. These surveys help monitor the ecological health and relative abundance of local fish populations.

Suffolk County, Town of Brookhaven: Double Dumping on State Land

On November 16, 2017, Ranger John Rusher found the debris of an entire demolished bathroom dumped in Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest. Rusher found evidence at the scene which led him and Ranger John Gagne directly to the homeowner and source of the debris. The homeowners stated that they hired a contractor to do the work. A day after visiting the homeowner, Rusher obtained a confession from a 22-year-old Middle Island man and employee of the



homeowner's contractor. On November 20, Rusher found a different bathroom demolition debris pile along the same road, that was obviously older than the previous pile. He found evidence linking this older debris pile to the same contractor from the more recent pile. The same contractor's employee confessed to dumping both piles and was issued a ticket for dumping rubbish on state land. The contractor subsequently cleaned up both sites.

Zone 3A

Ulster County, Town of Shandaken: Big Indian Wilderness Wildland Search

On January 22, 2017 at 8:52 PM, DEC Central Dispatch received a call from Ulster County 911 reporting an overdue or lost hiker. A 45-year-old Accord man had been bushwhacking with a large group that made their way to Fir Mountain and then on to Big Indian Mountain. At Big Indian, the man became tired and remained behind the group at about 1:00 PM. The rest of the group exited by 5:00 PM at the McKinley Hollow Road trailhead, where the missing man's vehicle was parked. Four Rangers searched the Big Indian Wilderness area through the night with no success. Eight more Rangers from Regions 3 and 4 were requested to meet at the command post established at the Belleayre Mountain maintenance building the next day. Early on the morning of January 23, crews started searching, focusing on the trails and streambeds of Big Indian Mountain. A crew working from the McKinley Hollow Trailhead located the man hiking out and escorted him the rest of the way. He explained that he had hunkered down in a protected small valley for the night and began hiking out at daybreak. All crews were notified and released by 9:30 AM.

Sullivan County, Town of Rockland: Mongaup Pond Wildland Search and Rescue

On May 27, 2017, three young female campers at Mongaup Pond Campground planned a short hike to Frick Pond. The mother of one of the young women became concerned when the trio had not returned by 7:00 PM and contacted campground staff. Rangers David Meade and Alex Virkler began searching the trails with ATVs. The Rangers made a cell phone connection with one of the three to acquire their approximate location. By 9:30 PM, Virkler found them in the neighboring town of Hardenburgh. Apparently, they took a wrong trail and hiked seven miles in the wrong direction.

Ulster County, Town of Shandaken: Slide Mountain Wilderness Wildland Search and Rescue

On July 3, 2017, Ranger Kevin Slade received information about an injured hiker between Slide and Cornell Mountains in the Slide Mountain Wilderness. The people who reported the hiker contacted Ulster County 911 and used a cell phone to provide his coordinates. Rangers responded on foot and via state police helicopter. The helicopter crew located the hiker and lowered Ranger Chris DiCintio by hoist to evaluate his injuries and provide first aid. The crew then hoisted the hiker from the mountain and flew him to an ambulance at the Belleayre Ski Center staging area for transport to a local hospital.



Ranger DiCintio applies first aid to the injured hiker.

Ulster County, Town of Denning: Blue Hole State Land Enforcement

On a single day during the 2017 July 4th weekend, Rangers estimated nearly 1,200 people visited the popular Blue Hole on Rondout Creek. Several tickets were issued to individuals for violating the area's special regulations, including illegal open fires, possession of glass containers, and parking violations.

Ulster County, Town of Shandaken: Woodland Valley Campground Enforcement

On August 12, 2017 at 1:50 AM, the Woodland Valley Campground caretaker notified DEC Central Dispatch of a group of intoxicated, unruly campers. Ranger Kenneth Gierloff was dispatched and got them to quiet down. Later that morning, he issued them a ticket for violation of quiet hours and evicted them from the campground.

Zone 3B**Dutchess County, Town of Milan: Hiker Assistance on Stissing Mountain**

At around 7:30 PM on February 1, 2017, Dutchess County 911 notified DEC Central Dispatch that two hikers were requesting assistance on Stissing Mountain. The hikers got to the fire tower, but were having difficulty coming down the icy trail. Rangers Marie Arnold and Kevin Slade responded, located the pair at the fire tower, provided boot ice grips, and assisted them back to the trailhead by 10:30 PM.



DEC crews apply a prescribed fire in Bog Brook Unique Area.

Putnam County, Town of Southeast: Prescribed Fire at Bog Brook

On March 9, 2017, Rangers assisted with a successful prescribed fire at Bog Brook Unique Area. The burn removed nearly 70 percent of the area's dead phragmites biomass. This was part of a multi-faceted approach to address invasive plant species. Plants such as phragmites make habitat less suitable for endangered native species. The fire allowed

sunlight to reach the bog floor,

encouraging native species in the seed bank to sprout and grow. The interagency fire crew was led by Forest Rangers and included staff from DEC's Fish and Wildlife and Lands and Forests divisions, as well as the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission.

Dutchess County, Town of Dover: Connecticut Wildfire Assistance

On May 18, 2017, Connecticut State Forestry requested assistance from DEC Forest Rangers to contain a wildfire along the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. The fire threatened to spread into New York. Ranger Marie Arnold assisted Connecticut wildland firefighters, but the fire eventually burned 30 acres in New York. This area had been under severe drought conditions since early 2016.

Orange County, Town of Greenville: ATV Violation Turns into Fugitive Arrest

On May 26, 2017, Ranger Philip Parlier apprehended two minors illegally driving ATVs on Huckleberry Ridge State Forest. A third ATV driver fled the scene. As the two youths were being turned over to their parents, the driver who fled returned to the scene on foot and turned himself in. Parlier identified the 44-year-old Pond Eddy man as a fugitive from an outstanding warrant issued in Pike County, Pennsylvania and arrested him.

Putnam County, Town of Cold Spring: Victim Recovery at Breakneck Ridge

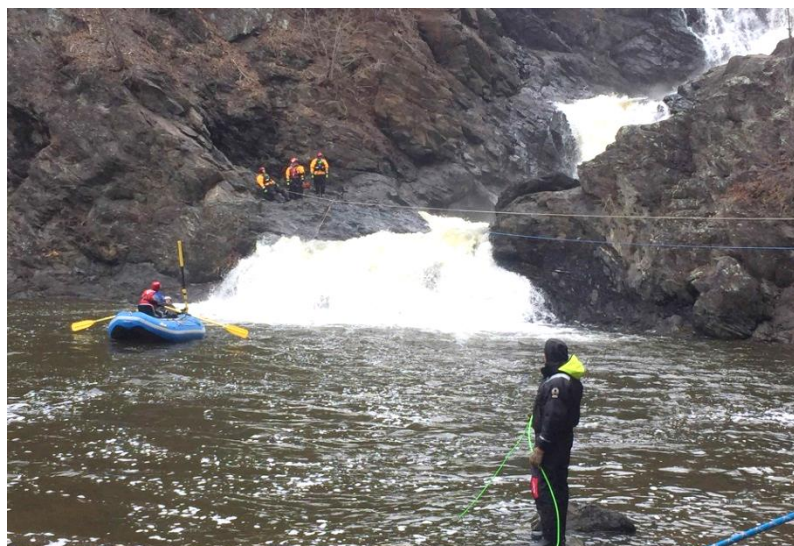
On July 16, 2017 around 6:53 PM, DEC Central Dispatch received a call from the New York State Park Police requesting ranger assistance with the recovery of a deceased man found by a hiker at the base of a cliff on Breakneck Ridge. In consideration of the hazardous terrain and the safety of the recovery team, the first responders decided to extract the victim the following morning. Rangers and park police set up a technical rope system to recover the body for the medical examiner. The medical examiner reported that the victim's death was accidental, resulting from multiple impacts.

Putnam County, Town of Philipstown: Wildfire on Beacon Mountain

On September 1, 2017, Rangers and North Highland firefighters responded to a small wildfire on Scofield Ridge near the top of Beacon Mountain. By 10:30 PM, Rangers had contained the fire to one acre and determined it was burning in Hudson Highlands State Park. On September 2, state park firefighters joined Rangers to ensure the fire would not escape the control line. Rain on September 3 did not completely extinguish the fire, which was burning deep into the organic soil. Patrol of the fire continued through September 5. State park staff determined that a campfire was the cause.

Zone 4A

Rensselaer County, Town of Poestenkill: Victim Search in Poestenkill Gorge



The search scene at Poestenkill Creek.

On February 25, 2017, a man was free climbing the rock wall just below The Cookie Factory on the Poestenkill Creek when a bystander witnessed him fall into the creek. He never surfaced. Water flow was high and turbulent due to warm weather and snow melt. The bystander called 911 and local fire and police department personnel responded. Turbulent conditions limited the scope of search operations until March 1. Troy Fire Department personnel surveyed the shoreline and

other first responders used underwater cameras without success. The state police and Troy Fire Department, who led the effort, requested Forest Ranger assistance. On March 2 and 3, Rangers set up a swift-water search and recovery raft, using a technical rope system to allow state police divers with an underwater camera to check two large pools immediately below the falls, where the man had fallen. Five Rangers and Troy Fire Department staff walked the creek from the second pool to the Hudson River. A state police helicopter flew over to search the Poestenkill Creek and the Hudson River. State police also used their boat with sonar to check the Hudson River. Despite everyone's heroic efforts, nothing was found. Forest Ranger involvement was suspended on March 3.

Albany County, City of Albany: Pine Bush Prescribed Burn

On April 9, 2017, Rangers David Nally and Hannah O'Connor participated in a seven-acre prescribed burn at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. The area, named the Palm Unit, consisted of light grass fuel. This was the first prescribed burn at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in 2017. Thirteen additional burns occurred at the preserve totaling 177.4 acres. Rangers have participated in prescribed burns at the preserve for more than 20 years, providing expertise, tools, pumps, and wildland fire engines. Prescribed burning is a tool used to manage fire-dependent ecosystems in a manner that develops balanced, desired vegetation and helps accomplish ecological goals.



Rangers Nally and O'Connor at the Palm Unit prescribed burn.

Greene County, Town of Jewett: Operation Lean-to Hoist



Rangers Dawson and Slade prepare the lean-to packages for hoist.

On May 16, 2017, Rangers from Regions 3, 4 and 5 and a state police helicopter moved supplies for a new Batavia Kill lean-to in the Windham-Blackhead Range Wilderness. Ground support at the Colgate Lake landing zone prepared the materials for eight flights to the lean-to location. During the summer, the lean-to was put together and is now in regular use.

Greene County, Town of Hunter: Enforcement at Kaaterskill Clove

Clove and has become a popular location for picnicking and swimming. The large number of users has resulted in many complaints about garbage and glass litter. Increased patrols led to 24 tickets for violations, including littering, underage alcohol possession, unlawful marijuana possession, and illegal parking. With increased patrols, littering was greatly reduced and regulations were more often followed.

Over the course of several summer weeks, Rangers focused patrols on the overuse and abuse of the Kaaterskill Clove. Kaaterskill Creek runs through the Kaaterskill



Kaaterskill Creek under Moores Bridge, showing the large number of users and trash left behind next to the creek.

Greene County, Town of Lexington: West Kill Mountain Helicopter Rescue

On June 25, 2017 at 2:00 PM, DEC Central Dispatch was contacted by Greene County 911 concerning an injured hiker on West Kill Mountain, in Hunter-West Kill Wilderness. The 27-year-old Oneonta woman was reported to have broken her leg. Rangers Chris DiCintio, Christine Nelson, Aimee Bills, Kevin Slade and Nancy Ganswindt responded along with members of the Lexington and Jewett Fire Departments. A state police helicopter was used to hoist the woman through the tree canopy and off the mountain. She was flown to a waiting ambulance and transported to an area hospital.



Subject being hoisted off West Kill Mountain.

Greene County, Town of Hunter: Rescue at Kaaterskill Falls



Ranger Nelson and firefighters carrying woman from Kaaterskill Falls.

On July 19, 2017 at 2:30 PM, Rangers overheard a county radio report of an injured 49-year-old woman at the middle pool of Kaaterskill Falls. She was wading and walking on some wet rocks when she slipped and fell two to three feet, resulting in an unstable ankle injury. Rangers Christine Nelson and Katie Fox stabilized the injury and packaged the woman into a stokes litter. Rangers David Nally, Joe Bink, Lieutenant David Pachan and local firefighters assisted with the carry out to the Route 23A trailhead, where a Town of Hunter ambulance transported her to Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Greene County, Town of Coxsackie: Vosburgh Swamp Wildland Search



Volunteers and search and rescue personnel are briefed at the command post by NYS Forest Rangers.

On September 6, 2017 at 4:30 PM, the state police asked Rangers to help search for a 51-year-old Earlton man believed to be in Vosburgh Swamp Wildlife Management Area. Four Rangers and three environmental conservation officers (ECOs) searched the wooded area around the parking lot and along Four-Mile Point Road. The next day, several Rangers checked Vosburgh Swamp by canoe, while ECOs checked the Hudson River shoreline by foot. State Troopers and K-9s, Greene County Sheriff's Deputies, Columbia County Sheriff's

Deputies, and Hudson Police assisted in the search. On September 8, the intensive

search continued and a state police helicopter searched by air. Through September 8, a total of 1,100 search hours covering 200 acres were expended by search teams. On September 9, the effort grew to 112 searchers, including volunteers, family members, and members of New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams. The man's body was discovered later that day about one mile south of the parking lot. A total of 889 acres were searched by 193 searchers, including staff from seven agencies and volunteers, over the four-day period. Foul play was not suspected as a cause of death.

Zone 4B

Montgomery County, Town of Glen: Wildland Search Rescues Elderly Woman

On July 6, 2017 at 11:01 AM, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office asked Ranger Melissa Milano to help locate a 75-year-old Glen woman with dementia last seen at 6:30 AM. Milano and three other Rangers began search efforts around the woman's residence. At 1:30 PM, as searchers were responding to a previous sighting, a Glen resident reported seeing the woman nearby. Local police responded to the new sighting, confirmed the subject's identity, and brought her to the search command post for evaluation. By 1:50 PM, she was released back to her family at her residence.

Delaware County, Town of Middletown: Wildland Search and Rescue in Big Indian

On August 1, 2017 around 11:00 AM, a 60-year-old Middletown man left his residence on Dry Brook Road to hike in Big Indian Wilderness. At 6:28 PM, Delaware County 911 reported the man had called for assistance after becoming lost. Two Rangers responded and conducted hasty searches around his cell phone coordinates through the night. Family members said he likely had enough supplies for a day or two in the woods, but was suffering from dementia. Rangers coordinated search and rescue efforts over the next five days. More than 319 responders spent over 3,700 search hours that included 34 DEC Forest Rangers, 86 New York Federation of Search and Rescue Teams volunteers, 199 volunteer firemen from multiple departments, state police, state police aviation, environmental conservation officers, Civil Air Patrol, members of the Belleayre Mountain rescue, state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services staff, and multiple K-9 units. On August 5 at about 1:00 PM, the caretaker of a private property located the man in the woods within the large search area. He was barefoot, but able to walk with assistance to a waiting ambulance. He was transported to Margaretville Community Hospital for further evaluation and monitoring for four days before being released to his family.

Schoharie County, Town of Conesville: South Mountain Marihuana Eradication

On September 21, 2017, Schoharie County Sheriff Anthony Desmond notified Ranger Melissa Milano that a hunter had discovered a small marijuana patch in a swamp on South Mountain State Forest. Milano, Desmond and Deputy Bever met the hunter and proceeded to the site where three separate plots of mature plants were discovered. Fifty-five plants were removed and transported to the Schoharie Sheriff's evidence lockup in Middleburgh by 7:40 PM. The next day, Milano and Lieutenant Wil Giraud searched the area more thoroughly for additional plants or evidence to identify a responsible party but found neither.



Mature marijuana plants on South Mountain State Forest.

Otsego County, Town of Decatur: Wildland Fire



The aftermath of the Otsego County fire.

On October 3, 2017 around 4:00 PM, Otsego County 911 requested ranger assistance for a structure fire that had spread into the surrounding woodlands. Rangers Jason Seeley and Hannah O'Connor assisted numerous local fire departments by containing the 8.2-acre fire. Rangers O'Connor, Seeley and Aimee Bills continued to mop up ground hot spots over the next three days. The fire was finally declared out on October 6.

Delaware County, Town of Harpersfield: Wildland Search for Hunter

On December 13, 2017, the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office asked Forest Rangers to help find a missing 77-year-old Cobleskill deer hunter who left his residence on December 10. His vehicle was parked at the intersection of Titus Lake and South Worcester Hill roads. Significant snow fell over the area from the time he began to hunt until searchers began to search. For seven days, Rangers managed the search with volunteers, police, firefighters and emergency managers. They used a unified command system with Schoharie and Delaware County Sheriffs, locating the command post at the Jefferson Fire Department



Ranger Jason Seeley briefs searchers at command post.

Station. On December 19, the hunter's body, partially covered with snow, was found 0.9 mile away from his parked truck. Earlier search efforts were likely unsuccessful because snow had fully covered his body. Over the seven days, 737 searchers and emergency managers expended 6,152 search-hours covering 2,415 acres, while helicopters and ranger-operated drones searched 4.5 square miles. Foul play was not suspected as a cause of death.

Zone 5A

Town of Tupper Lake, Franklin County: Wildland Search for Snowmobilers

On February 6, 2017, Rangers assisted state police in locating two Blasdell brothers, 63- and 67-years-old, who were reported missing after a night of



snowmobiling. Cell phone records indicated the men's phones were last used the night of February 4. Fifteen Rangers were dispatched to the scene. By 9:00 AM the next day, a state police helicopter with two Rangers located the bodies of both men fallen through the ice and into Raquette Pond, several hundred yards west of the Village of Tupper Lake. Rangers and state police used an airboat and dive team to recover the bodies. Severe cold and blowing snow made the operation long and dangerous.

Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County: Long Lake Snowmobiler Rescues

At 8:44 AM on February 17, 2017, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch was notified by Hamilton County 911 of a snowmobiler suspected of falling through the ice on Long Lake and a second snowmobile stranded on the ice near the scene. Rangers arrived within 10 minutes of the call and located the pair about halfway across the channel of Long Lake. Rescuers from Long Lake Rescue Squad, Blue Mountain Lake Fire Department, and the Tupper Lake Dive Team also responded. Hazardous ice conditions made the operation challenging for rescuers and airboat operators. One Ranger wearing ice rescue gear entered the water from the airboat to retrieve the first subject. That snowmobiler was then treated and transported to Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake. A canoe was used to extract the other snowmobiler and bring him back to shore, where he was treated and released.

Franklin County, Town of Duane: DWI Arrest at ATV Poker Run

On March 25, 2017, Ranger Scott Sabo was at the intersection of County Routes 30 and 26 monitoring an ATV poker run taking place in his area. While engaged in registration and safety checks, he observed an ATV travelling towards him at a high rate of speed. Initially, the ATV did not slow or acknowledge the patrol vehicles emergency

lights, but eventually skidded to a stop. After administering a standard field sobriety test, Sabo arrested the ATV operator, a 22-year-old Nicholville woman, for driving while intoxicated.

Franklin County, Town of Brighton: St. Regis Mountain Wildland Search

On September 2, 2017 at 7:15 PM, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch was notified of a lost lone hiker attempting to climb the Saranac Lake Six, a series of mountain peaks in the area. A family member reported she last spoke to the 40-year-old Natural Bridge resident at 11:00 AM, when he said he was lost and ill on St. Regis Mountain. Five Rangers responded, as well as a state police helicopter with night vision capability. Neither the trail nor air search found any sign of the hiker. By the next morning, 19 Rangers searched the area, however, heavy rains from Tropical Storm Harvey prevented helicopter flights. On September 4, as the weather cleared, 26 Rangers were involved with the search, with efforts supported by Paul Smiths-Gabriel Fire Department, local search volunteers, state police, and state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. At 8:40 AM, helicopter personnel spotted a person signaling for help. The helicopter lowered a Ranger into the location, who helped secure the man for hoist. After hoisting the hiker into the helicopter, he was flown to Saranac Lake Adirondack Medical Center, where he was evaluated and released.

Zone 5B

Town of Jay, Essex County: Technical Rescue on Ebenezer Mountain

On January 21, 2017 at 6:25 PM, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch received a call that a 16-year-old Wilmington girl had fallen 15 feet while hiking Ebenezer Mountain. She had possibly fractured her femur, couldn't move, and was stuck on a small ledge. Lieutenant Charles Platt and Rangers Rob Prackajlo, Chris Kostoss, Del Jeffery, and Jake Deslauriers reached her at 7:55 PM. They carefully prepared her for carry-out, while waiting for additional rescuers to arrive. At 9:30 PM, carry-out began. Three low angle rope belays were used to lower her down the steepest trail areas. By 10:30 PM, rescuers had carried her to the trailhead where they waited for an ambulance.



Clinton County, Town of Dannemora: Snowmobilers Rescued on Lyon Mountain

More than 80 Forest Ranger work-days were expended across the state to address potential searches, rescues, or calls associated with Winter Storm Stella on March 14 and 15, 2017. Twelve to 40 inches of snow were reported throughout Upstate New York. Rangers conducted several wellness checks of backpackers in the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains at the request of callers who were concerned for the safety of their family members. Two Rangers assisted the Lyon Mountain Fire Department in evacuating two snowmobilers that became stranded on Lyon Mountain.

Using cell phones, the 15- and 17-year-old Clinton County youths called for help when their snowmobiles became disabled. Rangers and fire rescue personnel located them in blizzard conditions and assisted them out uninjured.



Winter Storm Stella affects Lake Placid.

Clinton County, Town of Dannemora: Winter Rescue on Lyon Mountain in April

On April 15, 2017 at 2:52 PM, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch was notified by Clinton County 911 of three injured hikers on Lyon Mountain Trail. Coordinates obtained from the hikers' cell phone placed them 1,000 feet off the trail. They were in deep snow and moving slowly toward the trailhead. Rangers David Russell and Peter Evans intercepted the hikers and evaluate their condition. With assistance from Environmental Conservation Officer Matthew LaCroix and the Lyon Mountain Fire Department, the hikers were returned to the trailhead by 6:12 PM. Lyon Mountain Emergency Medical Technicians treated the two women and one man from New Jersey for minor injuries from inadequate clothing and gear and they were released.

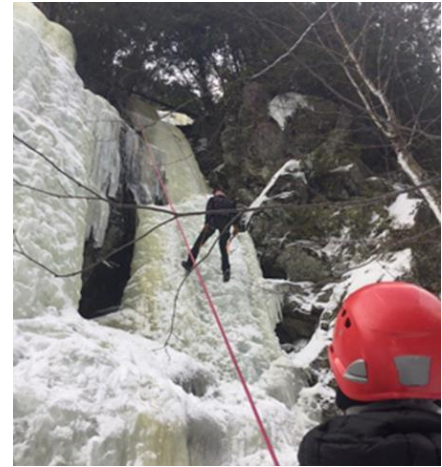
Franklin County, Town of Constable: Wildland Search and Rescue

On October 3, 2017 at 8:28 PM, state police asked Rangers to help locate a 58-year-old Constable woman who left her home at 9:30 AM earlier that day. Three Rangers began searching with troopers, K-9s and U.S. Border Patrol support. The woman was known to walk in the area of her family's dairy farm. Searchers worked through the night looking for any sign of where she may have traveled. Nine additional Rangers were added to the mission on October 4. She was found at 10:15 AM in fair condition and transported to Alice Hyde Hospital.

Zone 5C

Essex County, Town of Keene: Ice Climber Rescue

On February 8, 2017, Forest Ranger Robbi Mecus encountered a rock and ice climber that fell 50 feet at Rhiannon Climbing Route near Chapel Pond in the town of Keene. The 47-year-old climber was a licensed guide who was instructing another climber when he slipped and fell. The student assisted the instructor to the trailhead. Mecus administered first aid and transported the injured climber to a local hospital, where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.



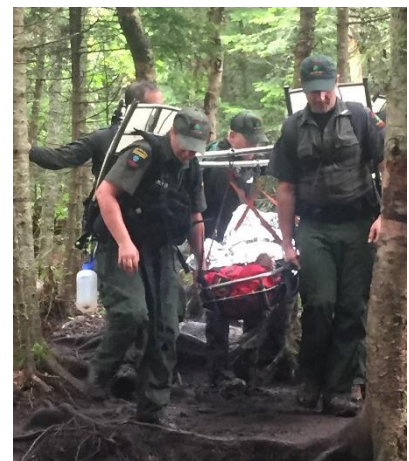
Franklin County, Town of Tupper Lake: Winter Hiker Rescue

On March 15, 2017, five Rangers rescued a 39-year-old Massachusetts man who was hiking the trails to Seymour and Seward Mountains. The man said he was dehydrated and unable to walk out. Within six hours, Rangers used snowmobiles to access the remote area and bring him out safely.



Essex County, Town of Keene: Rescue on Cascade

On June 13, 2017 at 2:06 PM, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch received a request for assistance with a 52-year-old Connecticut woman with a possible ankle fracture on Cascade Mountain. She was 1.7 miles from the roadside trailhead on one of the most popular High Peaks trails. Twelve Rangers were required to carry her on a backpack litter down to the trailhead. By 7:11 PM, she was enroute to a local hospital.



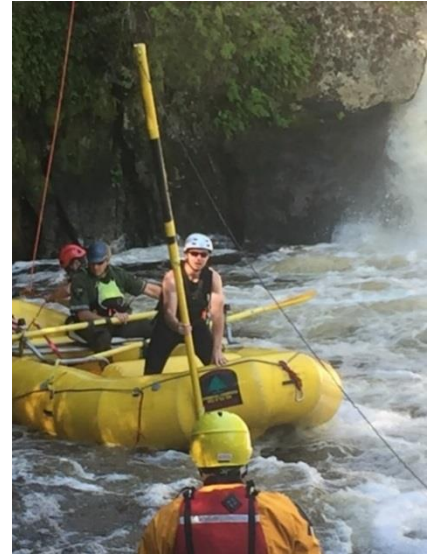
Rangers carry injured woman off Cascade Mountain.

Essex County, Town of Keene: Illegal Use of a Drone

On June 17, 2017, while on interior foot patrol in Johns Brook Valley, Ranger Scott vanLaer was notified by DEC Interior Caretaker Katie Tyler that an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), or drone, was being flown adjacent to the Johns Brook Outpost, where use of motorized equipment is prohibited. On arriving at the scene, vanLaer observed the drone in operation and ticketed a Canadian man for operation of motorized equipment on lands classified as primitive or wilderness—the first such enforcement action involving a drone in a primitive or wilderness area.

Town of Wilmington, Essex County: Recovery at the AuSable River Flume

On July 3, 2017, Essex County 911 requested Rangers to help find a missing swimmer at the AuSable River Flume. Rangers and Wilmington firefighters posted lookouts along the river in hope of finding the 31-year-old Ithaca man. Recent heavy rains had made the flume more dangerous than usual, with violent turbulence. Rangers specially trained in swift-water rescues and state police divers used a technical rope system across the flume to support recovery efforts. In the event the man was pushed down river by the currents, various techniques were used to locate him throughout the day and night. On July 4 at 2:16 PM, the man's body was found in the flume and lifted from the gorge with the technical rope system.

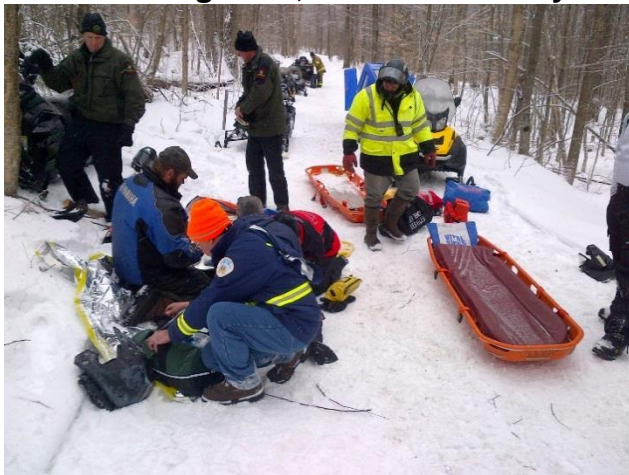


Franklin County, Town of Harrietstown: Marijuana Enforcement Leads to Arrest

On November 4, 2017, Rangers received a report of marijuana growing in the woods on state land. Three Rangers located the crop within 100 yards of an occupied illegal hunting camp. The three men in the camp denied any involvement with the marijuana activity. Upon further investigation, the Rangers determined that one of the men, a 46-year-old from Millerton, was a convicted felon. They also found that he had a 0.50 caliber muzzleloader firearm. The marijuana and firearm were seized and all three men were escorted to the roadside, where the felon was turned over to state police. The other men were issued tickets for the illegal camp. Twenty-five marijuana plants were turned over to state police investigators.

Zone 5D

Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County: Snowmobile Accident Rescue



At 3:00 AM on January 8, 2017, Raquette Lake Fire Department requested ranger assistance responding to a snowmobile accident at Browns Tract in Pigeon Lake Wilderness. A group of snowmobilers who had arrived at their destination realized the last member of their group was missing. Doubling back, they found their missing companion, a 54-year-old man from Honeoye Falls. He missed a turn and was ejected 150 feet from a 15-foot-high embankment, injuring himself. Amazingly, he did not hit a tree when ejected, which

would have compounded his injuries. The group called Hamilton County 911. Rangers Gary Miller and Jason Scott responded and were the first on the scene to administer

emergency medical care for the man's head trauma injuries. Raquette Lake EMS transported the man to a Utica hospital.

Town of Caroga, Fulton County: Bouldering Rescue at Ferris Lake Wild Forest

On July 1, 2017, Rangers Michael Thompson and John Ploss responded to a 911 call reporting a man with a head injury near Nine Corners Lake, Ferris Lake Wild Forest. As they worked with local rescue personnel to access the accident victim, they discovered that the 19-year-old Johnstown man had suffered a significant injury from a 10-foot fall. The teen was "bouldering," jumping from one boulder to the next, when he lost his balance and fell. The seriousness of his injuries required a helicopter Med Flight to a local hospital for further care.

Town of Wells, Hamilton County: Whitewater Recovery from the Sacandaga River

On July 3, 2017 at 2:55 PM, DEC Sacandaga Campground requested emergency assistance for an unconscious man in the Sacandaga River. DEC Ray Brook Dispatch advised the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and dispatched Forest Rangers Michael Thompson, Ian Kerr, David Kallen and Andrew Lewis. The Rangers responded with a DEC airboat and began searching the river upstream from the Northville boat launch. At 3:49 PM, the man was spotted in a Class 3 rapids area only accessible by water. The airboat responded and the Rangers entered the water, recovering the deceased 64-year-old Johnstown man. He had gone tubing without a personal floatation device (PFD). After riding strong currents for about 300 yards, he attempted to get to shore but was swept under and drowned.

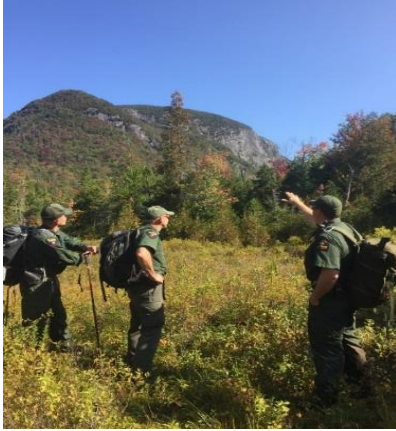
Zone 5E

Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County: Wildland Search and Rescue of a 10-year-old

On June 17, 2017, state police asked Rangers to help find a missing 10-year-old Ticonderoga boy in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness area. The boy was on a hike with his family group of 10 when he became separated. Six Rangers began by checking local trails. State police K-9s and a helicopter also searched without success, and ground searches continued through the night. By morning, 23 Rangers, State Police Special Operations personnel and Essex County Sheriff's deputies were involved with various search operations. On June 18 at 8:50 AM, Rangers James Waters and Jason Scott located the frightened boy in good health. He walked out with the Rangers and was returned to his family after being evaluated by Schroon Lake EMS.



The 10-year-old as he was reunited with his family.



Rangers discuss search plans near Wallface Mountain.

Essex County, Town of Newcomb: Wilderness Search and Recovery in the High Peaks

On September 10, 2017, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch received a call requesting assistance searching for an overdue hiker in the Upper Works area near Tahawus in the High Peaks. The 28-year-old New Jersey man had signed in at the trailhead on September 2, where Rangers found his vehicle. From September 10 until September 18, a total of 46 state police, rock climbing guide volunteers, and New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams volunteers searched the large and treacherous mountain area. More than 400 acres were intensely searched using various techniques. Searchers found multiple items belonging to the man, as well as his

campsite, however he was not found until September 18, when several Rangers found him deceased near the summit of Wallface. A medical examination concluded that he had died from pneumonia sometime during the search effort.

Essex County, Town of Newcomb: Wilderness Rescue in the Santanoni Range

On September 23, 2017 at 8:00 PM, Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) reported that one of their guides had sent an emergency alert from a spot locator beacon. A second call from a man in the guided group verified that an injury had occurred to one of their party in the Santanoni Range. A misplaced step on rough terrain caused a 54-year-old Cohoes woman to break her ankle. Coordinates from the spot locator placed the group just above Bradley Pond at 3,100 feet in elevation, deep in the backcountry of the High Peaks Wilderness. The group had previously spent the night at the Bradley Pond lean-to and were prepared to spend a second night before returning to Lake Placid. The ADK guide returned to the lean-to and retrieved sleeping bags and warm liquids for the woman, while others in the group stabilized the injury and got her comfortable. Rangers Benjamin Baldwin and Jacob Deslauriers hiked to the injury scene and were prepared to spend the night. Upon arrival, they found the woman resting comfortably, so they started a small fire to keep the party warm during cool overnight temperatures. At 9:15 the next morning, a state police helicopter picked up the injured woman and flew her to Adirondack Medical Center for further treatment.

Zone 5F

Washington County, Town of Fort Edward: Grasslands Habitat Protection

A new Ranger patrol priority quickly evolved at the Washington County Grasslands Wildlife Management Area in the first days of 2017. The unique Grassland habitat has been a traditional wintering area for short-eared owls migrating south from Canada. The owls roost on the ground during the day and emerge just before sunset to feed. Greater than normal numbers of owls arrived late in 2016 and word traveled quickly within the birding community. Up to 30 owls and several other grassland raptors could be observed feeding each evening. Bird enthusiasts from all over the Northeast traveled to the area to view the large number of owls and other raptors. At times, wildlife viewers overwhelmed the road and disturbed local residents. Consistent Ranger patrols kept conflicts between bird-watchers and neighbors to a minimum. Rangers also monitored reports of overzealous photographers who were sneaking into the area of the WMA that is closed to the public for exclusive photos.



Lieutenant Solan instructing students at Washington County Grasslands Wildlife Management Area about habitat protection.

Washington County, Town of Putnam: Search and Recovery of Snowmobilers

On February 11, 2017 at 1:55 PM, the New York State Police Dive Team asked for ranger assistance to find two missing snowmobilers from Vermont, off Chipman's Point, Lake Champlain. Three Rangers used a DEC airboat to assist New York and Vermont State Police on Lake Champlain in the Towns of Putnam and Ticonderoga. Vermont troopers used sonar to locate two snowmobiles and some debris that may have been from the missing snowmobilers. During the afternoon, Rangers plus New York and



Vermont State Police determined that the snowmobiles and debris were on the New York side of Lake Champlain and the search for further evidence continued. Due to an incoming storm, search efforts were suspended that day and continued the next. A search of the shoreline yielded nothing. On the afternoon of the fourth day, Vermont State Police divers who were operating sonar onboard the Ranger's airboat located the

body of a 23-year-old Vermont man. New York State Police divers retrieved him from the ice-covered water. The next morning, the body of the second snowmobiler, a 32-year-old Vermont man, was located and recovered by New York State Police divers.

Saratoga County, Town of Galway: Woodlands Wildfire Extinguished

On April 11, 2017, three Rangers helped county volunteer firefighters extinguish a wildfire that burned through 19 acres of woodlands. The fire consumed an unknown quantity of firewood and was difficult to extinguish because stacks of logs burned intensely. The fire appeared to be caused by a jeep used for firewood gathering.

Saratoga County, Town of Greenfield: Wildland Search for Missing Girl



Ranger Ploss comforts missing child.

On October 21, 2017 at 11:08 PM, Saratoga County Sheriff's Investigators asked Rangers to help find a 12-year-old girl last seen at about 4:45 PM. Rangers began searching the immediate area. State police, Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue volunteers, and local fire departments joined the search effort. The next morning, a state trooper on road patrol observed the girl enter a swampy wooded area. Search efforts were focused on that area and Ranger John Ploss located her within an hour. Ploss reunited her with her family and she

received medical attention from a local ambulance service.

Zone 6A

St. Lawrence County, Town of Brasher: Custodial Arrest

On March 21, 2017, while on routine patrol of Brasher State Forest, Rangers Jared Booth and Joshua Hogan encountered a group of people camping in an unusual location. While they were checking the camp site and talking to the campers, Hogan recognized one of them from a previous encounter. Believing this individual gave a false name, Hogan checked the Massena Police Department social media page for outstanding warrants. The 21-year-old Massena man matched the description in an arrest warrant. Hogan and Booth took him into custody and transferred him to the Massena Police Department for processing and arraignment.

St. Lawrence County, Town of Clifton: Rescue of a Man and His Dog

On May 2, 2017 at 7:10 PM, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from the wife of a 41-year-old Michigan man who had sent her a distress text from his GPS unit. The text said that the man and his dog were wet, cold and in need of help. GPS coordinates placed him on the Burnt Bridge Pond Trail. By 7:24 PM, Rangers Corenne Black and Adam Baldwin were enroute to his location via all-terrain vehicle (ATV). They quickly found him and his dog and returned them to their vehicle without need of further care.

St. Lawrence County, Town of Fine: Meth Lab Evidence Found at Aldrich Pond



Meth lab paraphernalia.

On May 25, 2017, Rangers discovered evidence and debris associated with illegal methamphetamine production at a campsite in Aldrich Pond Wild Forest. State police processed the scene and disposed of the highly hazardous chemicals. This was the third occurrence of similar debris found on state lands in northern New York in three weeks.

St. Lawrence County, Town of Fine: Wildland Recovery at Cranberry Lake

On August 11, 2017 at 6:10 PM, Assistant Forest Ranger Anastasia Allwine received a call that a 51-year-old Texas man camping at Cranberry Lake collapsed while chopping wood. His fellow campers had to travel more than a mile to obtain cell service in the primitive camping area. Cranberry Lake Rescue responded first and tried to revive him as family members administered CPR. Rescue efforts continued for about an hour, but he remained unresponsive. By 7:10 PM, first responders ceased resuscitation efforts. Rangers secured the scene until the county coroner and state police arrived and removed the deceased.

St. Lawrence County, Town of Morristown: Wildland Search and Recovery at Black Lake

On August 23, 2017 at 5:15 PM, three Rangers and an environmental conservation officer responded to a report of an overturned boat on Black Lake. Two men from Lisbon, NY were aboard. The body of one of the missing boaters was located quickly. By sunset, the sheriff's department called off search efforts for the day. The next day, Rangers assisted search efforts by supporting scuba diving operations and searching the shoreline. Around 8:30 AM on August 25, the second man's body was located and recovered by Rangers.

Zone 6B

Lewis County: State Land ATV Enforcement on Tug Hill

The SNIRT ("snow & dirt") Run takes place each April on Tug Hill, Lewis County. The event attracts thousands of ATVs and participants who ride town and county roads legally open to ATVs. As in years past, Rangers were assigned to respond to emergencies and protect state land from unauthorized ATV use. This year, additional roads in the Town of Greig adjacent to Independence River Wild Forest were opened to ATVs. Rangers patrolled these areas before and after the event, resulting in multiple violations for crossing into Independence River. Twelve Forest Rangers, six Lewis County deputies, eight state park police, four environmental conservation officers and four state troopers were assigned to the event.

**Lewis County, Town of Greig:
Wildland Rescue of an Elderly
Horsewoman**

On May 12, 2017 at 3:25 PM, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch received a request to assist a 75-year-old Wolcott woman injured when she and her horse fell down a hill at Independence River Wild Forest. The woman suffered injuries to her extremities when the horse rolled on her. Three Rangers reached the woman at 4:41 PM, stabilized her injuries and transported to an ambulance by a rescue utility all-terrain vehicle (UTV) and Ranger patrol vehicle. She was taken to an area hospital for treatment and the incident concluded at 6:10 PM.



UTV and patrol vehicle used in horseback rider rescue.

**Jefferson County, Town of Orleans: Burning Hay Bales at Perch River Wildlife
Management Area**

On May 23, 2017, Jefferson County Fire Coordinators requested Rangers to assist the LaFargeville Fire Department in extinguishing a huge pile of burning hay bales on Perch River Wildlife Management Area. About 300 large square bales weighing 1,000 pounds each and stacked in a single row 100 feet-long and 12 feet-high had been stored in a hay field prior to being moved off-site. Firefighting efforts were difficult because the bales were inaccessible to fire engines. The following day, a DEC excavator was used to break apart the pile so water mixed with Class A foam could extinguish the fire. By May 25, their work, along with rain had extinguished the fire. DEC Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation staff were assigned to investigate how the fire began.



Burning Hay Bales at Perch River WMA.

Lewis County, Town of Diana: Wildland Search Over a Five-month Period



Rangers Luke Evans and Bruce Lomnitzer using a search drone.

On June 13, 2017, Rangers began to assist the Lewis County Sheriff's Office in a prolonged search for a missing 24-year-old Homer man believed to be on Jadwin Memorial State Forest. On June 26, five Rangers worked with two NYS Federation of Search and Rescue Teams K-9 units throughout the primary search area without success. DEC drones

(a.k.a., unmanned aerial systems, or UASs) were used to conduct an intense aerial search of areas judged to have a high probability of finding the missing man. On November 13, hunters found a backpack belonging to the man. The next day, ten Rangers and six deputies located the remains of the deceased man. State police and ECO investigators searched the scene for evidence of any wrong doing. A total of 51 searchers spent 1,200 hours on 13 days over the five-month search period.

Zone 6C

Oneida County, Town of Waterville: Water Rescue of Canoers at Tassell Hill

On April 10, 2017 at 1:30 PM, Ranger Robert Piersma responded to a county emergency radio call about three people who had overturned their canoe on Chittning Pond, Tassell Hill State Forest. A fourth person in the party who had remained on shore swam out and rescued one man. Suited in cold water rescue gear, Piersma swam to the other two men and brought them ashore. Once rescued, the two were unresponsive and required immediate hospital care. The three canoers had been in the frigid water for 30 minutes and only survived because they were wearing personal flotation devices (PFDs).

Herkimer County, Town of Russia: State Land Dumping at Hinckley State Forest

On April 16, 2017, Ranger Greg Hoag was patrolling Hinckley State Forest when he located a large quantity of household waste dumped along Hinckley Road. The waste included five 33-gallon black plastic bags containing household garbage such as baby diapers, baby food and plastics. Several empty cardboard boxes and plastic shopping bags containing food waste were also scattered in the area. Through diligent investigation and interviews with local people, Hoag identified a suspect. Once confronted with the evidence, the 50-year-old Barneveld man confessed to the dumping. Hoag charged him with unlawful disposal of solid waste and fined him \$100.

Herkimer County, Town of Russia: Disorderly Conduct on Hinckley State Forest

On May 27, 2017, a Hinckley State Forest bike trail volunteer reported to Ranger Greg Hoag that a section of recently cleared trail had been intentionally blocked to impede bicycling. Hoag documented tree debris that had been dragged onto about one-half mile of the trail. He then interviewed a 30-year-old Russia man who was a suspect in a similar incident the year before. During the interview, the man admitted he had blocked the trail to keep bicyclers away from his property, even though they were legally bicycling on state land and not trespassing. Hoag charged him with disorderly conduct.

Oneida County, Town of Sangerfield: Hazardous Waste found at Tassell Hill State Forest

On June 7, 2017, Ranger Robert Piersma came upon two black garbage bags that had been dumped in Tassell Hill State Forest. Upon inspection, Piersma observed contents consistent with the illegal production of methamphetamine. Due to the hazardous nature of the contents, the State Police Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT) was called to dispose of the potentially deadly material.



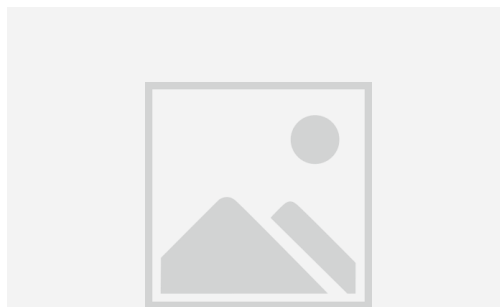
Meth lab waste found on state land.

Herkimer County, Town of Ohio: Water Rescue at Gull Lake

On June 9, 2017 at 2:30 PM, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch received a request for assistance for an overturned boat on Gull Lake. A 29-year-old Albany woman stated that her husband, 28, was stranded on a small rock island one mile off shore. Ranger Robert Coscomb, Lieutenant Scott Murphy, and Environmental Conservation Officer Shana Hutton hiked to Gull Lake with a canoe. They located the woman at Gull Lake lean-to. She explained that she, her husband and their beagle were paddling at the east end of Gull Lake and began taking on water from wind and choppy waves. When the canoe began to sink, they swam to a nearby rock outcropping on the lake. She continued swimming 600 yards across the lake to call for assistance. Coscomb and Murphy canoed to the man and dog and returned them to the lean-to by 5:00 PM. No further assistance or care was necessary.

Herkimer County, Town of Little Falls: River Claims Three Drowning Victims

On July 3, 2017, state police asked Rangers to help find three missing boaters on the Mohawk River. A witness said three men entered a boat launch closed to public use and launched a paddleboat without wearing personal flotation devices (PFDs). Rangers flew the river in a state police helicopter while other Rangers used a division airboat to search nearby shorelines. Eventually, Rangers added their department unmanned aerial system (drone) to closely



Ranger and state police airboats search the Mohawk River for three drowning victims.

search the river, shoreline and nearby fields. On July 4, a Ranger airboat found the body of one of the three Canajoharie men near the shore. On July 6, a state police airboat found the body of the second man. Later that day, a firefighter reported seeing the third man's body as the river level dropped from flood stage. The combination of raging water and lack of PFDs contributed to the loss of these three lives.

Herkimer County, Town of Ohio: Wildfire on Black River Wild Forest

On October 22, 2017, DEC Ray Brook Dispatch reported that an airplane observed a two-acre uncontrolled wildfire burning in the Black River Wild Forest between North Lake and Honnedaga Lake. Rangers Coscomb, Richardson, Hoag, Geesler and Savarie responded. Richardson flew with Payne's Air Service's float plane to better locate the wildfire and determine the best access. Rangers Coscomb and Hoag bushwhacked to the fire location and were joined by Geesler, Savarie and Richardson. The Rangers used portable pumps and hand tools for two days to get the fire contained and controlled and spent two more days putting out stubborn hot spots. After four days of wildfire suppression and two more days of patrol, the fire was declared out on October 29.



Aerial view of Town of Ohio wildfire.

Zone 7A

Chenango County, Town of Pharsalia: DWI Arrest on Pharsalia State Forest

On April 22, 2017, Ranger Michael Burkholder investigated a complaint of a vehicle driving across Pharsalia State Forest, causing damage to the land and trees. After questioning one driver, Burkholder saw another vehicle abruptly leave the area and pursued it with assistance from a Chenango County sheriff's deputy. Subsequently, the driver stopped his vehicle. After the two enforcement officers interviewed the driver, a 26-year-old Norwich man, he was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless endangerment, and unlawful fleeing.

Madison County, Town of Brookfield: Party Leads to Enforcement Call on Charles E. Baker State Forest

On April 29, 2017, an anonymous caller reported a number of vehicles driving into the Charles E. Baker State Forest to an area known for parties. Rangers coordinated with local police and located a large party in a quarry. A Ranger reported that some partygoers left when police arrived. Those that remained were cooperative. Many of them were from area colleges. Rangers directed the partygoers to clean the area of litter and a large fire was extinguished.

Chenango County, Town of Norwich: Wildland Search for Missing Boy

On April 29, 2017 around 5:00 PM, Rangers were notified by Chenango County Sheriff's Dispatch of a missing 12-year-old boy in Whaupaucau State Forest. Shortly after Rangers established a command post, the boy walked out of the woods, shaken up but uninjured. Rangers subsequently released him to his parents.

Oswego County, Town of Redfield: Meth Lab Evidence Found at Salmon River State Forest

On May 27, 2017, a Ranger on foot patrol in Salmon River State Forest discovered evidence and debris associated with illegal methamphetamine production. State police were called in to process the scene and dispose of the highly hazardous chemicals. This was the fourth occurrence of similar debris found on state lands in northern and central portions of the state within the past three weeks.

Oswego County, Town of Albion: ATV Accident at Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area

On June 11, 2017 at 1:15 PM, Ranger Scott Jackson was on routine patrol when he overheard a county radio call of an ATV accident near Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area. Jackson was the first person to arrive on the scene where he found a 16-year-old Oswego boy in the roadway conscious, alert and complaining of pain to his leg and shoulder. Jackson performed a patient assessment and monitored his condition until Altmar Fire Department Rescue crew and ambulance arrived. The accident investigation was turned over to Oswego County deputies. The accident occurred on a road where ATV use is allowed.

Chenango County, Town of Lincklaen: Search and Rescue of Missing Man

On June 27, 2017, Ranger Mike Burkholder assisted the Chenango County Sheriff's Department in finding a missing 20-year-old Lincklaen man last seen by his father the previous day. The man's vehicle had been located on his father's property near a pond where he was known to camp. Burkholder and Environmental Conservation Officer Brett Armstrong conducted preliminary searches and found the injured man in a wooded area not far from the pond. Burkholder prepared him for evacuation to a roadside ambulance, which transported him to Upstate Hospital.

Tioga County, Town of Owego: Rifle at Oakley Corners State Forest Secured

On November 21, 2017, Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd received information from DEC Forester Dan Little that a rifle had been found on the Oakley Corners State Forest. A snowmobile club member performing trail maintenance had noticed the rifle leaned against a tree the day before but did not report it until he returned the next day and noticed it was still there. Oldroyd responded and secured the unloaded firearm, which had not been reported as missing or stolen. Oldroyd notified the state police and Tioga County Sheriff's Office that the rifle had been taken into possession and it was subsequently processed as abandoned property.

Zone 8A

Livingston County, Town of Conesus: Search and Recovery of Drowned Snowmobilers on Conesus Lake

On February 22, 2017, three Rangers helped Livingston County sheriff's deputies successfully recover the bodies of two missing snowmobilers. A 40-year-old Lakeville man and a 40-year-old Rochester man had last been seen the evening of February 10, when they went snowmobiling on Conesus Lake. The sheriff's scuba diving teams began search operations on February 12, but were hampered by difficult and unsafe weather. The two men's helmets were recovered along the lake's shoreline and the search resumed on February 22, when lake and weather conditions improved. Vessels from Livingston, Monroe and Wayne Counties equipped with side scan sonar were deployed with Rangers onboard. Rangers provided GPS navigation and tracking to place the vessels over points of interest as indicated by the sonar. Additional support was provided by a Livonia Fire Department vessel. Dive teams from Livingston County and the state police recovered both victims and one of the snowmobiles.



Morning briefing at the search command post.

Monroe and Steuben Counties: Prescribed Fires in Region 8

On April 27, 2017, Rangers, other DEC employees and federal firefighters burned 27 acres of grassland with prescribed fire at the Rush Oak Opening Unique Area. Rush Oak Opening is managed to maintain a unique ecosystem of little bluestem, a native warm season grass. The ecosystem is fire dependent and annual burning helps invigorate native grasses and slow the spread of invasive species, such as Honeysuckle. In grasslands, thatch often accumulates faster than it can decompose, making it difficult for herbaceous species to sprout without annually burning off the thatch buildup. At Helmer Creek Wildlife Management Area in Steuben County, Rangers used drones to monitor and photograph the prescribed fire operation. In 2017, Rangers conducted



Wildland fire fighters begin burn operations at Helmer Creek in Steuben County. Note the drone in the sky at top left.

prescribed burns on 117 acres of Region 8 state land, assisting other DEC divisions with habitat management.

Yates County, Town of Italy: Rescue at Clark's Gully

On June 6, 2017 at 6:35 PM, Ontario County 911 contacted Ranger Patrick Dormer reporting a 32-year-old Bergen woman stranded but uninjured in Clark's Gully at High Tor Wildlife Management Area. She had climbed to a popular waterfall and could not descend the steep, slippery shale terrain. Dormer and an Ontario County rope rescue team responded to the rescue site, about one-half mile from the Sunnyside Road trailhead. Dormer helped organize the response and coordinate access, while rescue personnel got a rope and harness to the woman to safely belay her to the bottom of the gully. All personnel were clear of the scene by about 8:30 PM.



Rescue at Clark's Gully.

Livingston County, Town of Leicester: Missing Person Search for a Runaway

On October 24, 2017 at 7:40 PM, the Livingston County Sheriff's Department asked Lieutenant Tim Flanagan to help locate a runaway 21-year-old Leicester woman with a history of running away from home. Over the next three days,



Volunteers help search for missing Leicester woman.

15 Rangers used the incident command system to organize search efforts, involving more than 150 searchers. DEC environmental conservation officers (ECOs) and K-9 units, Livingston County Sheriff's deputies, numerous area fire departments, state police, NY Federation of Search and Rescue, and community volunteers helped with a variety of missions. Deputies and investigators conducted an intensive investigation, involving door-to-door interviews and issuing a Missing and Vulnerable Alert. Crews searched wooded areas outward from the residence, without success. At 7:20 PM on October 26, the woman returned to her residence on her own.

Zone 9A

Cattaraugus County, Town of Machias: Rescue at Bear Creek State Forest

On February 6, 2017 at 3:42 PM, Ranger Bob Rogers assisted Cattaraugus County sheriff's deputies, fire departments and EMS personnel with the rescue of a 28-year-old Warsaw woman who was snowmobiling in Bear Creek State Forest. She was riding with a companion when she went off the trail and hit a tree. Her injuries were severe and required a medical flight to Erie County Medical Center. State police conducted the accident investigation and DEC's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI) unit investigators conducted a serious injury on state lands investigation.



Crashed Snowmobile at Bear Creek.

Allegany County, Town of Amity: DWI and Heroin Arrest

On March 3, 2017 around 9:30 PM, Ranger Justin Thaine aided an individual with a vehicle stuck in a ditch. Shortly after clearing that motorist, Thaine encountered another vehicle partially obstructing the roadway with the operator asleep at the wheel. Thaine engaged the man, who appeared intoxicated. State police arrived and searched the man's vehicle, finding ten bags of heroin and arresting the 27-year-old Belfast man.

Chautauqua County, Town of Chautauqua: State Land Arrests at Chautauqua Gorge State Forest

On May 19, 2017 around 11:00 PM, Rangers Nathan Sprague and Zachary Robitaille were patrolling Chautauqua Gorge State Forest when they spotted about 30 parked cars. The Rangers hiked into the woods and observed 30 to 40 people, a large bonfire, alcoholic beverages and garbage strewn about. Rangers asked Chautauqua County sheriff's deputies for assistance and determined that most of the partygoers were under 21 years of age. The alcohol at the scene was seized and disposed of. About one pound of marijuana was also found. Several summonses were issued, one person arrested, and the marijuana secured by deputies.

Cattaraugus County, Town of Persia: Rescue at Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area

On July 15, 2017 around 4:00 PM, a 25-year-old West Seneca woman and her companion left the Valentine Flats parking area to hike Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area. After spending a short time in the gorge, the two attempted to hike back to the parking area. The steep incline and exhaustion from an illness prevented the woman from finishing the climb. Searching for another exit from the gorge without success, they called 911. Ranger Bob Rogers and a member of the Gowanda Rescue Squad climbed down to the pair. After a quick assessment, it was determined that high water from recent rains made a hike out too difficult. A technical rope system was set up to extract the woman. After applying a harness to the woman, the woman, Rogers and the

Gowanda firefighter were raised out of the gorge with the rope system operated by Gowanda and Eden rescue personnel. The incident concluded at 10:20 PM.

Erie County, Town of Collins: Wildland Rescue and Recovery of an Entire Family who fell into Zoar Valley Gorge

On August 20, 2017, Cattaraugus County 911 reported to DEC Central Dispatch that three people had fallen at Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area. Assistant Forest Ranger Jennifer Greis was the first DEC responder to the scene. She found two deceased adults and a severely injured boy. Other Rangers and first responders arrived and the 4-year-old child was airlifted for medical treatment. The responders determined that a second child was likely with the other three. After a short search, the responders found a severely injured 7-year-old boy who had moved to seek help. The mother, father and two sons from Buffalo had fallen about 200 feet to the creek bed from the woodlands above the Zoar Valley Gorge. Though there were no trails near the edge of the gorge, the family had apparently hiked too close to the edge and fell. Both boys recovered from their injuries and are being cared for by relatives.

Allegany County, Town of Allen: Wildland Search and Rescue of Epileptic Woman

On November 29, 2017 at 6:00 PM, Allegany County Dispatch notified Ranger Justin Thaine that a 34-year-old Allen woman with epilepsy was missing from her home. Her husband had searched 45 minutes for her without success. Ranger Peter Liebig and Thaine along with state troopers began a search along routes the woman had frequented. During the search, she made a phone call to Allegheny 911 but was unable to speak. The dispatcher pinged her phone and obtained GPS coordinates. Liebig, troopers and family members searched the area of the cell phone coordinates and found her and her service dog about one-quarter mile from her residence. She was breathing, but unresponsive and shivering. Liebig warmed her by building a fire. Thaine and troopers escorted the ambulance crew to the woman who was then carried by EMS personnel to a waiting ambulance. By 9:15 PM, she was enroute to the Wellsville area hospital.

Aviation Program



A long standing and productive partnership with New York State Police has been to assign rangers as crew chief and/or hoist operators on state police helicopters. Rangers are valued as crew chiefs and hoist operators because of their specialized knowledge of remote wildlands, topography, search-and-rescue techniques and risk assessment. Helicopters, and to a lesser degree fixed wing aircraft, are vital resources for successful wildfire control, law enforcement and search-and-rescue missions. 23 Rangers have been trained as crew chiefs and hoist operators. All 23 Rangers train monthly to maintain their currency and expertise. In 2017, there were 75 training events that involved 1504 work-hours. Rangers conducted 59 search observation flights, 14 hoist rescue missions, 8 marijuana detection, 16 utility/resupply internal/external sling load transports and 2-night vision goggle flights.

In June, the Senior Hoist Operators, Rangers Burns, Kerr, Fox LaPierre and Balerno, in conjunction with New York State Police, conducted a hoist training school at the Adirondack Regional Airport in Lake Clear, NY. Training consisted of 4 days of ground school instruction and live hoist cycles. Upon completion of the initial trainings, trainees were asked to demonstrate ability to instruct litter packaging, personnel rigging, and conduct proficient hoist cycles without procedural error.

Rangers successfully completed the initial 4-day training and will continue with the training program at their respective regional stations.

Assistant Forest Ranger Program

In 2018, the Division continued its program of hiring seasonally employed Assistant Forest Rangers (AFRs) that began in the mid-1970s. Eighteen AFRs began their season in mid-May with one week of training at DEC Pack Forest Summer Camp, Warren County. Their training focused on state land protection and etiquette, wildfire prevention and campfire safety, safe patrol tactics and wilderness first aid. While some of the AFRs have returned for more than 20 years, half the group were new to the role. The week-long residential training allowed the AFRs to know each other, share experiences with new AFRs and network with those working nearby. The training also included DEC Lands and Forests Student Conservation Association (SCA) Interns, who often worked the same venue as an AFR. AFRs were assigned to Catskill, Adirondack and western New York state land management units with the goal of meeting state land users in the backcountry to provide the most direct help at keeping safe, enjoying the experience and protecting the natural resources. AFR seasons end between Labor Day and Columbus Day weekends.



AFRs practice rescue techniques at annual training.

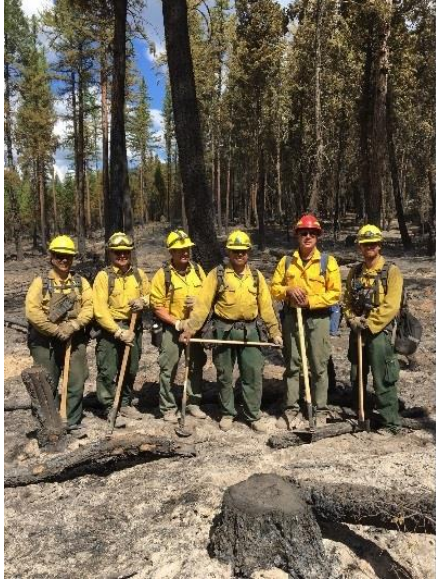
Wildland Fire and Incident Management Team Program

National Wildfire Response

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 2017, 202 firefighters submitted forms and documentation for processing their annual credentials. This included in-state and out-of-state volunteers, fire wardens, other department employees, as well as Forest Rangers. Current qualifications, experience and certifications are tracked for all firefighters in the national Incident Qualification System (IQS) data base. The division had more than 700 individuals listed in IQS for fire related missions. Lisa Smith is the Division's Fire Management Administrative Specialist and, singlehandedly, processes the volumes of administrative work that prepares New York to assist other states, agencies and Canada.



NYS #1 on Sunrise Fire, Montana



NYS#2 squad on Gibraltar Ridge Fire, Montana

New York participated in the Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC) Priority Trainee Program. This provides rangers with a priority assignment on national wildfire assignments in order to increase their certified skills. Rangers Bryan Gallagher, Michael Burkholder, Ian Kerr and Peter Liebig participated and each had a national mobilization assignment.

This year, the national wildfire season reached Preparedness Level 5 on August 10 and continued for more than 5 weeks. Adding to the lack of available wildfire resources, were

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria which required federal and state resources common to wildfire to be sent to the storm devastated areas. The lack of nationally available wildfire fighting resources resulted in larger fires that were uncontrolled for longer periods. The following table lists national wildfire assignments filled by 41 Rangers. In addition, DEC sent 16 employees and 8 volunteers to national wildfires as part of the state's Type 2IA (initial attack) crews. These crews consist of 20 firefighters that can work as three independent squads. Each crew has a crew boss, three squad bosses, three sawyers (chainsaw operators) and at least one emergency medical technician. Twelve crew members must have had at least one season of previous experience. All must meet national qualification for their position including an annual work capacity test to determine fitness. Usually, New York sends two Type 2IA crews to national fires but three were sent in 2017.

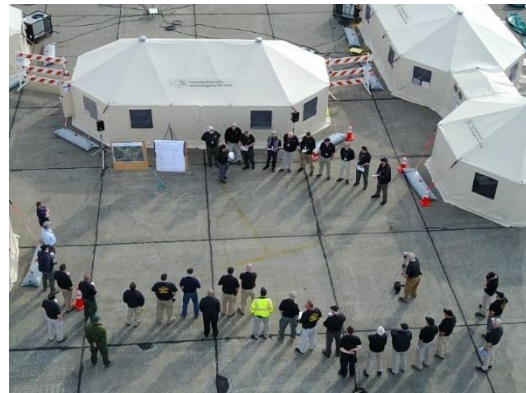


NYS#3 saves a house from wildfire in Sonoma County, California

2017 Summary of Forest Ranger Out-of-State Wildfire Assignments					
Ranger Name	Fire Name	Acres	State	Dates	Position
Bryan Gallagher	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	Jul 21-Aug 8	Facilities Unit Leader
Charles Kabrehl (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Type 2IA Crew Boss
Robert Praczkajlo (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Justin Thaine (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Joseph Hess (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Patrick Dormer (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Firefighter
Joseph Bink (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Firefighter
Corenne Black (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Firefighter
Howard Thomes (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Firefighter
David Nally (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Firefighter
Chester Lunt (NYS#1)	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 22-Aug 8	Firefighter
David Kallen	Sunrise Fire	26,310	MT	July 25-Aug 13	Task Force Leader
Timothy Carpenter	Rice Ridge Fire	160,187	MT	Aug 5-Aug 20	Task Force Leader
Jamie Laczko	Sapphire Complex	43,733	MT	Aug 6-Aug 21	Task Force Leader
Jeremy Oldroyd (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Type 2IA Crew Boss
Robert Stratton (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Christopher DiCintio (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Aimee Bills (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Joseph Pries (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Firefighter
Russell Martin (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Firefighter
Jason Scott (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Firefighter
Arthur Perryman (NYS#2)	Gibraltar Ridge	12,938	MT	Aug 7-Aug 24	Firefighter
Adam Pickett	Shan Creek/Anderson	400	OR	Aug 11-Aug 27	Situation Unit Leader
Ian Kerr	Chetco Bar Fire	191,090	OR	Aug 14-Aug 29	Helicopter Mgr Trainee
Robbi Mecus	North Pelican	3,450	OR	Aug 21-Sep 13	Resource Unit Leader
Robert Rogers	Rice Ridge Fire	160,187	MT	Sept 8-Sep 24	Resource Unit Leader
Michael Thompson (NH-WMF#2)	Moose Peak Fire	13,903	MT	Sept 15-Oct 1	Crew Boss
Evan Donegan (NH-WMF#2)	Moose Peak Fire	13,903	MT	Sept 15-Oct 1	Squad Boss
David Kallen (NYS #3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Type 2IA Crew Boss
Nancy Ganswindt (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Scott Sabo (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Charles Kabrehl (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Type 2IA Squad Boss
Joseph Hess (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Hannah O'Connor (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Zachary Robitaille (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Adam Baldwin (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Andrew Lewis (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Howard Kreft (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Jared Booth (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Nathan Sprague (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
Gary Miller (NYS#3)	Central LNU Complex	17,357	CA	Oct 14-Oct 28	Firefighter
41	8	469,368	3	698	8
Forest Rangers	Fire Incidents	Acres	States	Work-days	Fire Positions

Incident Management Teams

Forest Rangers have supported New York's Office of Emergency Management New York State Type 2 All-Hazard Incident Management Team (AH-IMT) for more than 20 years. The team is designed to assist command personnel and emergency managers with prompt, efficient and organized response to complex, multi-operational period incidents and disasters. This team is highly trained at using the National Incident Command System to assist state and local governments with



DHSES IMT briefing at NYS PTC in Oriskany.

emergency or planned events. The team is comprised of personnel from various state, county, and local agencies representing a variety of disciplines. Team members are technical experts in their disciplines or functions. Five Rangers are members of this team. During May 22 to 25, the team trained and exercised their skills the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany. The exercise simulated a large flooding event in Oneida County. Team members exercised communications and emerging technologies as well as advancing their emergency management skill sets.

On September 1, Rangers Kevin Burns, Peter Liebig, Bruce Lomnitzer, Scott Jackson and Captain Adam Pickett accompanied the state's IMT to College Station, Texas, where the IMT supported local agencies with recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey. Four Rangers served in key IMT positions with training and experience gained over decades of managing wildfires, wildland searches, rescue missions, and all-hazard response incidents. Ranger Lomnitzer operated a DEC unmanned aircraft system (UAS, or drone) to provide reconnaissance to the IMT. The team returned to New York on September 19.

2017 Division of Forest Protection Training Highlights

21st Basic School

On February 12, the Division hired nine new Forest Rangers to undergo a 27-week basic school for police officers at the Department's Law Enforcement training facility in Pulaski. These new rangers received basic training in topics expected of forest rangers such as state mandated basic police officer skills, Laws of

21st BASIC SCHOOL	
COURSE TOPIC	HOURS
Wildland Fire	183
Wildland Search	121
Firearms	80
Emerg Vehicle Ops	80
DT/PT	140
Wilderness First Aid	50
Law/Police	508
TOTAL	1162

New York, search and rescue management and techniques, wildland fire management, emergency vehicle operation, and

firearms. Upon graduating on August 25, the new rangers then completed 320 hours of mandatory field training, where they shadowed a veteran ranger to

prepare them to work alone. One year after entering the academy, these nine new Division members completed their probation and began serving in DEC Regions 1(two), 3 (six) and 8 (one).



Forest Ranger recruits at DEC Brownsville Firearms Range.

Swiftwater Instructor Training

In May, fourteen Rangers participated in one of two American Canoe Association (ACA) certification programs; Oar Frame Raft Operation and Swiftwater Rescue. Leader ACA instructor, Aaron Peeler, is one of the nation's leading swiftwater rescue instructors and these courses certified six Rangers as Level 4 Oar Frame Raft instructors and ten as Level 4 Swiftwater Rescue instructors. In partnership with the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Rangers are designated the state's subject matter experts in swiftwater rescue.

New York has more miles of streams and rivers that can support kayaks and rafts than any other state. As a core component of the Division's search and rescue mission, all rangers are trained and equipped to respond to swiftwater or flood rescue missions.



Swiftwater Instructor Training Class

Assistant Forest Ranger Training

The Division hired 18 seasonal Assistant Forest Rangers (AFRs) to support Forest Ranger staff in six DEC regions. One week of basic AFR training was provided in mid-May at the DEC Pack Forest Summer Camp facility while a two-day wildfire training was provided at the Albany Pine Bush in June. The Pack forest training included basic wilderness first aid and patrol technique training while the Albany training completed the national Basic Wildland Firefighting Training on-line program. AFRs are expected to assist Rangers with preventing and containing wildfires on remote state lands.



Rangers teaching AFRs and Forestry seasonal employees wildland firefighting techniques.

Large Wildland Fire Engine Operator Training

In September, 15 Rangers participated in a Large Wildland Fire Engine Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training program at the DEC EVOC Training Facility located at Oswego County Airport EVOC track. The course was developed by a committee of Rangers with extensive large truck driving experience and possessing Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). The training concentrated on preparing the Rangers to complete the requirements for obtaining a CDL Class B license and emergency vehicle operation in variable conditions. The objective of this program was to provide a core group of engine operators across the State for the Division's larger Type 3 and 4 wildland engines. The 16-hour course consisted of a classroom safety orientation, hands on pre- and post-trip mechanical inspections of the vehicles in preparation of a road test, operation on the EVOC track, skills course, off-road and over the road operation. The Division has one Type 3 and three Type 4 wildland engines for response to wildfire emergencies and prescribe burn operations throughout the State.



Division's Type 4 Wildland Fire Engine

New York Wildfire Incident Management Academy

In October, 29 Division members participated in the 10-day New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) at Brookhaven National Lab, Suffolk County. This was the nineteenth consecutive year the academy has been held, which is intended to enhance the training opportunities available to Northeast Fire Compact members; and draw instructor expertise from around the country to provide courses that would normally involve significant travel expense. Seventeen rangers participated in Division/Group Supervisor, Fire in the Wildland Urban Interface, Firing Operations, Fire Investigation, or Crew Boss courses. Additionally, twelve rangers helped either instruct the wildland fire chainsaw course or filled organization overhead positions. These opportunities provide valuable incident management experience for emergency incidents.



NYWIMA instructors and incident management team.

SUMMARY OF TRAINING EVENTS, HOURS AND STUDENT NUMBERS									
Training Program Category	Internal Training Received			External Training Provided			TOTAL Number of Trainees	TOTAL Class Hours	TOTAL Events
	Trainees	Hrs	Events	Trainees	Hrs	Events			
Wildland Search & Rescue	425	343	40	1,249	376	63	1,674	719	103
Helicopter & Aviation	566	244	75	0	0	0	566	244	75
Airboat & Vessel Operation	84	56	12	0	0	0	84	56	12
Law Enforcement	237	495	36	270	101	10	507	596	46
Wildfire Management	414	438	36	561	166	23	975	604	59
Wilderness First Aid	157	93	7	24	72	1	181	165	8
Hazardous Materials	141	88	11	0	0	0	141	88	11
All-risk & Other ICS	7	29	6	24	4	2	31	33	8
Other Training	4	4	2	48	29	5	52	33	7
TOTALS	2,035	1,790	225	2,176	748	104	4,211	2,538	329

TRAINING PROGRAM HOURS FOR YEARS 2013 THROUGH 2017						
Total of All Forest Ranger-1 Work Hours by Training Program Category and Year						
		Annual Program Hours Worked per Category				
CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Search-and-Rescue Training	Given	4,015	4,985	8,030	4,857	4,716
Search-and-Rescue Training	Received	5,295	8,680	11,598	6,834	9,094
Search-and-Rescue Training	Total	9,310	13,665	19,628	11,691	13,810
Wildfire Training	Given	3,855	4,459	4,712	3,986	6,094
Wildfire Training	Received	2,677	3,960	3,305	3,901	6,826
Wildfire Training	Total	6,532	8,419	8,017	7,887	12,920
Police Officer Training	Given	2,851	4,159	2,898	2,945	2,348
Police Officer Training	Received	5,121	7,720	4,099	5,093	5,079
Police Officer Training	Total	7,972	11,879	6,997	8,038	7,427
Basic Academy Training	Given	6,403	0	0	8,800	3,947
Basic Academy Training	Received	19,055	0	0	19,483	11,442
Basic Academy Training	Administration	941	69	178	559	1,764
Basic Academy Training	Total	19,996	69	178	20,042	17,153
General Training	Given	503	717	508	578	410
General Training	Received	2,806	4,196	2,098	2,104	2,442
General Training Total	Total	3,309	4,913	2,606	2,682	2,852
Grand Total of ALL Training		47,119	38,945	37,426	50,340	54,162
Grand Total of ALL Work Hours		246,074	246,779	262,700	275,303	249,097
Percentage of Training to ALL Work Hours		19.1%	15.8%	14.2%	18.3%	21.7%

ANNUAL TOTAL TRAINING HOURS WORKED BY FOREST RANGERS FROM
2002 THROUGH 2017

Annual Training Hours Worked by Forest Rangers	
Year	Total Training Hours Worked
2002*	37,462
2003	26,082
2004*	34,710
2005	31,616
2006	30,118
2007*	52,654
2008	23,264
2009	24,648
2010	23,000
2011	22,835
2012	27,067
2013*	47,119
2014	38,945
2015	37,426
2016*	50,340
2017*	54,162
*Includes Basic School Training for Recruits	

2017 Forest Ranger Memorials, Awards, Retirements and Passings

Memorials

On April 30, Region 5 Rangers honored the memory of deceased **Forest Ranger James Ahern** at Pine Ridge Cemetery, Saranac Lake. Ahern is believed to be the first Ranger to die from work-related injuries. On April 26, 1917, Ahern was near Ray Brook in Essex County checking state boundary lines for timber theft when he slipped on ice, fell off a ledge and became seriously injured. With help, he walked the five miles to the local hospital, however, he died from his injuries on April 30. Ranger Scott vanLaer did the research and collected the documentation so that Ranger Ahern's legacy will always be remembered.



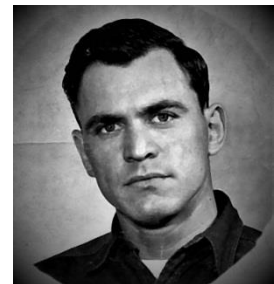
Captain John Streiff presides over the Ahern Memorial.

On October 10, deceased **Forest Ranger Raymond L. Murray's** name was added to the New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial granite wall dedicated to firefighters who died in the line of



Murray's fire tower and cabin replicas

duty throughout the long history of New York State. Murray was killed instantly when the forest fire detection airplane he was a passenger in crashed near the Village of Hammondsport, Steuben County on October 9, 1970. District Forest Ranger Robert Roche was severely injured and recovered but the contracted pilot eventually died from his injuries. Murray's two daughters, Christine and Pamela, along with two grandchildren and two great grandchildren attended the ceremony. The Ranger Division created a private display for the Murray family to view of Forest Ranger memorabilia along with the scaled replica of the Prattsburg Fire Tower and cabin that Murray had built for the 1956 State Fair. The Ranger Division's highest award for bravery is named in honor of Ranger Murray.



*NYS Forest Ranger
Raymond L. Murray, 1970*

Awards

Ranger Ian Kerr was presented a letter of appreciation by State Police Superintendent George P. Beach II on May 18 at the annual State Police Awards Day Ceremony. Kerr was given the award because he was the crew chief and hoist operator for the daring Algonquin Mountain, Essex County helicopter hoist rescue of two Niskayuna teenagers on December 11, 2016



Superintendent Beach, Ranger Kerr, Captain Streiff, Director Lahr and Major Tibbits.

Rangers Lieutenant Brian Dubay, Andrew Lewis, Charles Kabrehl, Jamison Martin, Robbi Mecus, Chris Kostoss, Jacob DesLauriers, Evan Donegan and Chris DiCintio received Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) Accreditation on June 24, 2017. These rangers proved that they are highly skilled and trained in advanced technical rope rescue techniques after passing an evaluation by MRA to receive accreditation. The group was evaluated on their rescue knowledge, teamwork, efficiency and safety techniques as a high angle rescue team. The evaluation occurred on some challenging terrain located on steep cliffs requiring a 600-foot vertical descent near the summit of Whiteface Mountain.



Rangers performing technical mountain rescue.

The **Division's Swift Water Committee** was recognized during the International Association of Water Rescue Professionals Conference in South Bend, Indiana on



Rangers Art Perryman, Del Jeffery and Chairman Stephen Miller.

September 21. Rangers Art Perryman and Del Jeffery received the international award on behalf of the Division from the Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards Committee. The award recognizes preparedness, teamwork, and a job well done, often under extreme conditions, where training is vital to the success of rescue missions, as well as the safety of rescue personnel. The Program Development Award is presented to individuals or agencies that commit time, resources and training for successful swiftwater rescue program

development. Programs must reflect a level of excellence that defines state of the art deployment for swiftwater and flood rescue, and can be considered international models for the science. Teams from Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Australia and Fire and Rescue, New South Wales, Australia also received the award.

On October 11, Division Director Eric Lahr presented **Larry Gordon** with a plaque of appreciation from the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission or “Compact”. This award was in recognition of Larry’s ten years as the Governor’s appointed



Compact Commissioner Larry Gordon and Director Eric Lahr.

Commissioner to the Compact to represent New York’s interest with the international forest fire compact. Larry’s wildland firefighting career began as a teenager fighting fire in Saratoga County. At 18, he spent four weeks fighting fire in New Hampshire and was probably the first New Yorker to mobilize as part of the newly established (1949) Compact. Larry has been a DEC Fire Warden for 64 years and worked 33 years as Saratoga County’s Director of Planning. The presentation was made at the restored Cornell Hill Fire Tower located at Camp Saratoga, Town of Wilton, Saratoga County.

On October 28, the **Division of Forest Protection** and several current and retired Rangers received special recognition for supporting the 9-day New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy since its inception in 1998. The academy is held each year at the Brookhaven National Laboratory facility and trains hundreds of firefighters and emergency managers from all over the country as well as a few foreign nations. Most DEC Forest Rangers over this period have attended



Retired Ranger Dave Brooks, Ranger Bryan Gallagher, Director Eric Lahr and Ranger Peter Liebig.

the academy at least once and several are there annually to teach or provide academy management through use of the national Incident Command System.



Rangers Bills, Black, Ganswindt and O'Connor.

Glamour Magazine’s 27th Women of the Year Awards honored New York State’s women firefighters, who bravely fought the wildfires in California and Montana over the summer and fall. **Rangers Aimee Bills, Corene Black, Nancy Ganswindt and Hannah O’Connor** attend the ceremony at Kings Theatre, Brooklyn on November 13. **Ranger Robbi Mecus** and DEC **Biologist Stephanie Larkin** were also recognized but were unable to attend.

Retirements



Ranger John Scanlon

Ranger John Scanlon began his service as a Ranger in Region 3 as a member of the 1988 Forest Ranger Academy Class. In 1993 he transferred to Region 6 where he was stationed in Oneida, Lewis and Herkimer Counties. Much of John's career was defined by his service as Forest Ranger for the area around Stillwater Reservoir. John excelled in fire management and served on a number of high-profile assignments both in-state and nationally. John is qualified as a Crew Boss and Strike Team Leader and directed a number of teams of state and federal resources in these capacities. He also certified Rangers and volunteers as firefighters and taught at many fire safety refresher events. Recognized for

his incident management skills, John assisted on countless state and federal emergencies that varied from hurricane responses to the groundwater contamination incident at Hoosick Falls. John has always brought his skills and his calm and steady demeanor to every situation.



Ranger John Ploss

Ranger John Ploss began his DEC career as a forestry technician working from the Herkimer office. In August 1994, John joined the ranger force and was assigned to the Stafford Ranger District in Fulton County for his entire tenure. John participated in the out-of-state fire program for many seasons. He was a member of the cadre for instructing chainsaw operations as well as an airboat operator. John took great pride in mentoring newer rangers transferring into Zone D. John will be remembered as a well-rounded ranger with excellent woodsman skills needed as a ranger in the Adirondacks. He is best known for his tracking skills and his ability to track those who find themselves lost. His pleasant demeanor and willingness to help others and get the job done will be missed.



Ranger David Slingerland

Ranger David Slingerland began his DEC career as a seasonal Assistant Forest Ranger in the Adirondack High Peaks in the summers of 1983 and 84. After working at the Department of Transportation as a surveying technician, he was hired in 1985 by DEC as a Senior Engineering Technician for the Spills Program in Region 3 New Paltz. In August 1988, David was hired as a Forest Ranger and his only geographical assignment has been eastern Ulster County. During his career, he

served as a firearms instructor, armorer and police bicycle operator.



Ranger Delbert Jeffery

Ranger Delbert Jeffery became a Forest Ranger with the 15th Basic Uniformed Officers Academy in December 2004 after completing a career as a US Army officer. “Dell” first worked in Region 3 and eventually transferred to Region 5. Dell was instrumental in developing the Division’s swift water program to a nationally recognized standard. He was very engaged in the transition of the former Finch Pruyn lands to state-owned forest preserve that includes Essex Chain

Lakes and Boreas Ponds. Dell could always be counted on to answer the call for emergencies, often accomplishing what seemed to be the work of two or three rangers, earning him the nickname “Super Dell”.

Annette Thorpe began her state service at the Department of Transportation in August 1977. She came to DEC Central Office in 1988 and worked in the Division of Minerals and the Division of Management and Budget before coming to the Office of Public Protection in January 2006 as the Administrative Assistant.



Annette Thorpe

Passings:

Retired **Forest Ranger Lester Rosa**, age 98, of Dry Brook, died February 27. In 1944 he was appointed a New York State Forest Ranger. He served in that capacity with distinction until he retired in 1974. Lester was the oldest retired NYS Forest Ranger at the time of his passing.

Retired **Forest Ranger Wilber Peters**, age 76, of Homer, died Saturday, May 13. He was with the DEC for **38 years**, a long career in which he was very proud.

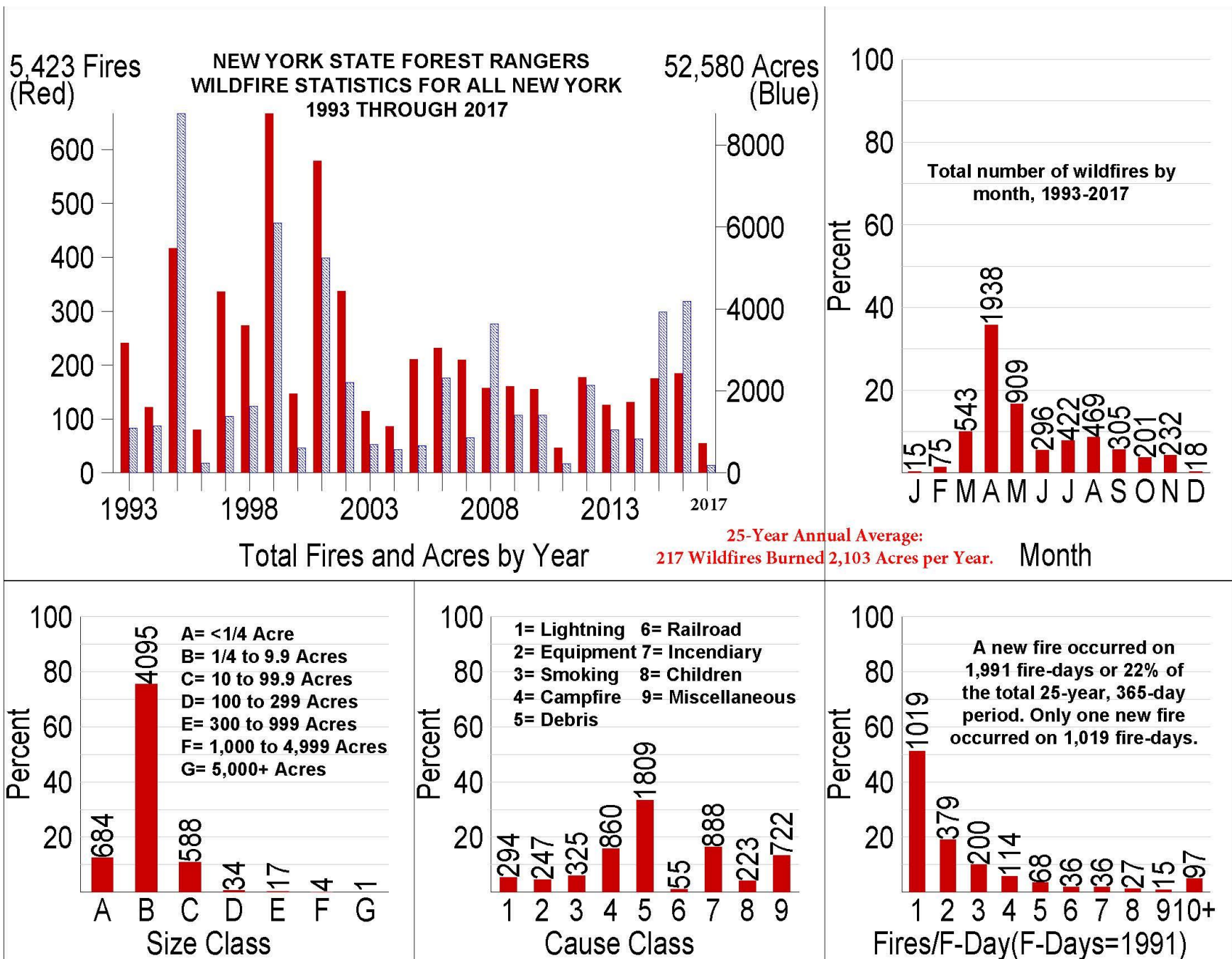
Retired **Forest Ranger Richard Requa**, age 69, of Ballston Spa passed away suddenly on July 6. Rick became a NYS Forest Ranger in 1977 and retired in 2004.

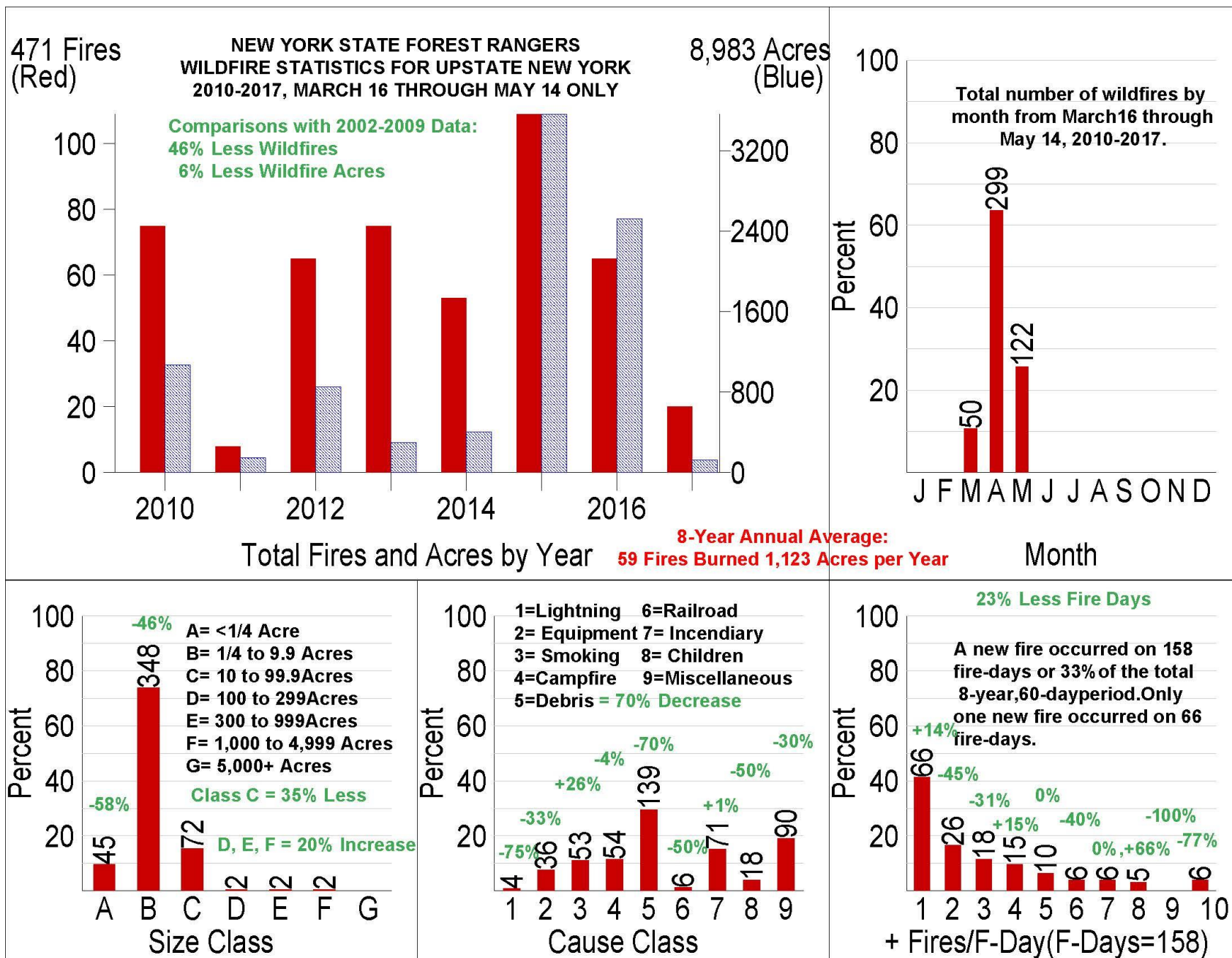
Retired **District Ranger (Captain) Gerald Hamm**, 84, of Cobleskill, died Wednesday, July 26. His last assignment was District Ranger at Millbrook, Region 3.

Retired **Captain Martin A. Hanna**, age 79, a resident of Northville died September 12, in Amsterdam following a long illness. His last assignment was District Ranger at Northville, Region 5.

2017 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	0	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	18
# of Campfire Caused Fires	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
# of Lightning Caused Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
# of Arson Caused Fires	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
# of Other Caused Fires	0	2	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	19
Total Number of Wildfires	0	2	13	4	4	3	1	1	4	4	12	2	1	1	2	0	1	55
# of Fires < 0.25 acres	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
# of Fires 0.25 to 9.9 Acres	0	2	9	2	3	2	1	1	1	0	7	1	1	1	1	0	1	33
# of Fires 10 to 99.9 Acres	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
# of Fires 100 Acres or larger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres of Wildfires	0.0	1.5	72.7	26.6	10.5	0.9	0.9	8	0.8	0.5	29.1	20.3	0.6	2.8	14.7	0	1	191
# of State Land Fires	0	1	4	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	17
# of Private and Other Government Land Fires	0	1	9	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	11	0	1	0	2	0	1	38
# of Spring Fires	0	2	9	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	5	1	1	0	2	0	1	28
# of Summer Fires	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
# of Fall-Winter Fires	0	0	3	2	3	3	1	0	2	2	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	25
Non-Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500





New York State Forest Rangers Number of Wildfires and Acres Burned in New York State 1968-2017

Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire		Year	Number of Wildfires	Acres Burned	Average Size of Fire
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	669	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
1990	322	1,589	4.9		2015	175	3,924	22.4
1991	535	3,453	6.5		2016	185	4,191	22.7
1992	292	2,014	6.9		2017	55	191	3.5
25 Years	15,223	104,909	6.9	Summary	25 Years	5,228	50,019	9.6
Annual Average	609	4,196			Annual Average	209	2,001	

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

2017 Summary of Forest Ranger Search and Rescue Missions

Activity of Subjects	Total Number of Incidents	Percent of Total	Searches	Rescues	Recoveries	Total Costs
Biking	4	1.2%	4			\$231
Boating	10	2.9%	1	5	4	\$91
Camping	4	1.2%	1	2	1	\$0
Climbing (Rock/Ice)	8	2.3%		8		\$0
Fishing	2	0.6%		1	1	\$0
Hiking	220	63.6%	106	110	4	\$6,623
Hunting	23	6.6%	21	2		\$4,549
Runaway/Fugitive	15	4.3%	13		2	\$307
Skiing/Snowshoeing	7	2.0%	4	3		\$0
Snowmobile/ATV	13	3.8%	1	8	4	\$8
Swimming	5	1.4%		4	1	\$0
Walking/Walkaway	24	6.9%	22		2	\$1,910
Whitewater/Flood	2	0.6%	1		1	\$220
Other*	9	2.6%	3	4	2	\$866
Totals	346	100%	177	147	22	\$14,805

Other* : Aircraft, Criminal, Horseback Riding, Motor Vehicle, ATV

Number of Incidents by Day of the Week

Event	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
Search	17	24	21	20	21	43	31	177
Rescue	15	13	14	15	21	44	25	147
Recovery	2	1	2	3	4	5	5	22
Total	34	38	37	38	46	92	61	346

Number and Percentage of Incidents by Month

Month	#	%		Month	#	%
January	16	4.6%		July	56	16.2%
February	25	7.2%		August	45	13.0%
March	17	4.9%		September	39	11.3%
April	25	7.2%		October	35	10.1%
May	24	6.9%		November	21	6.1%
June	29	8.4%		December	14	4.0%
				TOTAL	346	100.0%

2017 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									2						2			4
Boating						1		1	2	2		1		3				10
Camping					1	1						2						4
Climbing: Rock/Ice				2				3	1	2								8
Criminal		1	1	1									1					4
Despondent				2		1	2	1					1	1	2			10
Fishing										2								2
Hiking	1	14	4	20	1	6	12	85	13	28	15	5	1	7	1	3	4	220
Horseback													2				1	3
Hunting	1	1			3		1	1	5	3			4	3	1			23
Motor Vehicle										2	1						1	4
Off Road vehicle/ATV							1											1
Runaway								1	1	1	2	1	1		1	1	1	10
Skiing								5		2								7
Snowmobile						2	1		3		1		3	1		1	1	13
Swimming				1			2	1	1									5
Walking		3	3	1	2		1	1			1				1		2	15
Whitewater								1			1							2
Total # of Incidents	2	19	9	27	7	11	20	100	28	42	21	9	13	15	8	5	10	346
State Land Incidents	2	18	4	26	2	9	14	98	26	33	15	7	8	11	3	3	5	284
Non-Personnel Costs	\$14,805																	

New York State Forest Rangers Search and Rescue Mission Annual Statistics 1968-2017

Year	# of Missions	Total Ranger Hours	Average Hours per Mission		Year	# of Missions	Total Ranger Hours	Average Hours per Mission
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	15,941	89.6		1998	209	7,049	33.7
1974	144	15,941	110.7		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
1990	259	7,804	30.1		2015	341	20,606	60.4
1991	252	4,290	17.0		2016	357	9,159	25.7
1992	244	11,282	46.2		2017	346	14,706	42.5
25 Years	4,603	163,723	35.6	Summary	25 Years	6,374	231,883	36.4
Annual Average	184	6,549			Annual Average	255	9,275	

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

2017 Summary of Forest Ranger Training and Presentations to Others																		
DEC Region-Zone	1&2	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	6A	6B	6C	7	8	9	Total
Number of S130/190 Training Events												1				2		3
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above												32				22		54
Number of NYS BWFSC Training Events			3	2		1						1		1	2	4		14
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above			71	31		8						28		21	40	96		295
# of 4-Hour DOCS Inmate Training Events							1											1
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above							139											139
Number of Other Fire or ICS Training Events	1	1	1	2		1					3			1	1	2		13
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	14	23	20	24		6					75			6	18	26		212
Number of Fire Prevention Events	5	4		8	7	5	3		1	1	1	2	3		9	5	8	62
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	5,798	360		1,942	460	2,331	292		50	12	75	255	2,320		1,831	742	7,342	23,810
# of Basic Wildland Search Course Events	1	2	2	2	1	3	3				4	1	1	1	3	3	1	28
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	6	69	55	63	16	82	108				106	32	8	15	60	58	1	679
Number of Other S&R or 1st Aid Course Events	1	1		4	2	5					1				24	1	5	44
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	7	34		45	19	65					18				347	9	78	622
# of State Land or Outdoor Use Presentations	1	4		6		6					5		5			3	4	34
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	100	181		1,188		275					183		700			36	137	2,800
Number of Career Information Events		1	5	8	8	8	4			1	2	1	4		7	4	10	63
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above		40	1,495	338	610	320	225			75	115	192	90		530	90	1,895	6,015
# of Other Presentations or Training Events	1	1		1							1		1		4	1	5	15
Total Number of Attendees at Events Above	30	46		150							50		150		164,517	90	666	165,699
Total # of Presentations & Training Events	10	14	11	33	18	29	11	0	1	2	17	6	14	3	50	25	33	277
Hours of Presentations & Training Events	62	108	56	179	96	175	112	0	15	87	136	25	41	22	410	132	245	1,901
Total Number of Attendees at Events	5,955	753	1,641	3,781	1,105	3,087	764	0	50	87	622	539	3,268	42	167,343	1,169	10,119	200,325

2017 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	3	27	17	64	38	34	53	4	64	37	34	73	33	70	20	22	83	676
# of Defendants requiring Immediate Arraignment	0	7	1	0	0	1	0	3	7	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	26
# of Article 9 Burning Permits Issued by Ranger	0	3	0	62	121	62	310	130	174	54	5	11	17	43	0	0	0	992
# of Open Burning Inspections	0	8	1	5	6	3	26	0	52	2	2	2	0	7	0	0	12	126
# of Article 9 Burning Permits issued by Agent	0	300	0	17	142	47	335	120	181	235	272	1	0	0	0	0	0	1,650
# of Camping Permits Issued	0	134	13	33	32	311	36	78	378	95	75	179	45	66	717	200	54	2,446
# of Occupied Camping Sites Inspected	0	671	362	154	267	2,548	560	1,550	1,864	620	221	816	241	517	458	144	642	11,635
# of Patrols of DEC Campgrounds	0	166	5	154	71	285	179	2	384	193	0	118	1	62	0	0	0	1,620
# of Inspections of TRP's, Harvests, Adopt-A-Resource	52	4	28	21	15	3	3	0	10	1	4	1	9	330	57	148	2,289	2,975
# of Responses to Wildlife Incidents (Car-Deer, etc.)	5	2	2	1	5	1	22	0	26	1	0	5	5	1	0	2	12	90
# of Guides Checked for License Compliance	0	7	2	2	0	4	11	4	158	102	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	292
# of Stream Crossing Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
# of Stream Crossing or Wetland Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	22	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	3	39
# of Other ECL Permit Inspections	78	6	0	5	0	15	12	0	17	0	2	0	36	0	0	1	11	183
# of Trail Head or Access Point Inspections	5,791	6,488	5,155	4,389	6,065	4,119	3,851	2,644	4,656	5,142	2,901	7,020	2,761	7,299	4,059	8,384	8,239	88,963
# of CP-3 Compliance Checks	10	0	11	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	18	1	2	60
Miles of Non-Roadside State Boundary Line Inspected	527	272	142	264	137	80	321	2	307	28	62	47	167	249	150	67	442	3,264
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Foot/Snoeshoe/Sk	1,465	2,268	1,466	2,115	1,142	1,654	1,201	1,736	1,983	3,791	890	705	1,110	913	810	787	1,866	25,902
Miles of Trails or State Land Patrol by Motor Vehicle	1,852	419	2,966	700	2,509	1,760	336	0	2,272	636	123	4,966	6,742	136	2,422	1,563	6,780	36,182
Miles of Snowmobile Patrol	100	220	60	44	496	517	2,878	86	5,318	332	77	1,201	1,277	1,088	247	213	411	14,565
# of Snowmobile Safety/Compliance Checks	0	75	198	16	231	741	391	0	6,595	145	261	998	774	363	329	18	1,206	12,341
Hours of Motorboat/Canoe/Kayak/Raft Patrol	0	12	11	11	1	425	118	20	485	374	22	192	100	147	19	320	9	2,266
# of Navigation Law Checks	0	5	154	4	57	284	47	53	62	16	0	116	0	335	133	186	198	1,650
Miles of Bicycle Patrol	0	25	66	0	0	0	1	0	84	484	26	0	0	0	0	0	103	789
# of Conservation Easement Inspections	41	0	0	144	1	184	214	0	123	5	44	386	27	213	2	0	0	1,384
# of NYC DEP Property Inspections	169	50	0	900	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,123

2017 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 and Regulations	21	139	120	159	64	36	29	19	80	16	57	25	54	51	66	35	77	1,048
NYS Vehicle & Traffic Offenses	8	17	39	43	35	13	27	4	40	6	27	23	103	102	37	29	48	601
Parks & Recreation (Snowmobile & Navigation)	0	1	4	6	1	10	26	8	79	1	8	0	4	31	0	12	3	194
Arrests Turned over to Another Agency	0	0	0	2	6	0	16	3	21	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	20	74
Other (Appearance Tickets or Arrests)	6	54	28	4	3	2	0	0	4	0	66	2	0	7	2	2	12	192
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	35	211	191	214	109	61	98	34	224	23	159	50	161	196	105	78	160	2,109
Offenses Related to State Land Use	5	107	79	129	43	16	8	6	30	14	105	16	32	17	29	26	44	706
Offenses Related to Fire Laws	0	8	4	13	4	0	1	1	4	0	5	0	2	8	5	1	2	58
Offenses Related to Fish & Wildlife Laws	0	8	20	2	2	9	10	6	16	0	3	0	4	5	9	1	20	115
Offenses of High Peaks Rules and Regulations	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Offenses Related to Illegal ATV Operation	7	12	16	26	33	2	16	0	3	4	22	12	71	61	22	21	25	353
Offenses Related to Illegal Motor Vehicles on State	12	7	28	1	7	5	17	0	11	1	2	6	8	16	9	8	10	148
Offenses Related to DEC Campgrounds	0	2	0	12	13	8	0	0	13	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	55
Offenses Related to Air Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14
Offenses Related to Under-age Drinking on State Lands	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	3	6	0	9	0	6	2	13	0	11	56
Offenses Related to other EnCon Law, Rules or Regs	6	0	0	7	0	0	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	30
Offenses related to Other Laws, Rules or Regulations	5	65	42	14	7	16	15	9	22	2	7	11	23	36	15	17	40	346
Offenses Related to Illegal Snowmobile Operation	0	2	1	6	0	4	24	0	106	2	6	1	15	42	1	4	6	220
Total Number of Tickets or Arrests	35	211	191	214	109	61	98	34	224	23	159	50	161	196	105	78	160	2,109

Total of Forest Ranger Work Activities per Category and Year											
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	10-Year
Protection of State Lands											Average
Inspections of trailheads/access points	82,429	78,188	63,228	69,923	65,701	69,699	72,362	70,439	72,905	88,963	73,384
Miles of trails walked, snowshoe, ski	24,502	23,160	23,669	21,514	18,172	18,580	23,667	21,262	20,355	25,902	22,078
Inspections of occupied campsites	14,006	13,873	12,074	11,279	13,762	9,942	10,641	11,046	10,893	11,635	11,915
State land camping permits issued	2,204	2,207	1,968	2,093	2,030	2,004	2,176	1,807	1,851	2,446	2,079
Miles of state boundary line inspected	2,728	2,692	2,580	3,428	2,079	1,743	2,377	2,645	2,082	3,264	2,562
Patrols of DEC public campgrounds	2,228	2,297	2,105	2,034	1,823	1,545	1,543	1,496	1,463	1,620	1,815
Off-Road Vehicle violation tickets issued	763	680	369	449	483	557	457	258	345	501	486
State land offense tickets/arrests	1,300	1,279	958	1,142	1,733	1,347	1,145	1,767	1,230	825	1,273
Fish and wildlife offense tickets	319	328	177	178	205	155	120	133	125	115	186
Outdoor safety, state land use presentations	125	116	49	44	60	51	36	25	18	34	56
State land use permits inspected	1,229	1,294	961	744	1,113	1,197	1,277	1,137	1,261	2,975	1,319
Offenses related to snowmobile use	333	480	445	614	298	471	328	345	149	220	368
Other EnCon or other law offenses	265	283	276	481	325	300	301	271	631	610	374
DEC permit inspections	760	753	492	335	322	432	364	549	397	183	459
Wildfire Management Program											
Fires suppressed in the spring	133	140	98	18	85	85	91	127	86	28	89
Fires suppressed in the summer	15	2	49	19	67	10	10	36	54	2	26
Fires suppressed in the fall	9	17	8	10	25	28	30	12	45	25	21
Acres burned	3,634	1,404	1,413	232	2,146	1,058	836	3,924	4,191	191	1,903
Prescribed fires	21	13	9	9	11	19	13	11	13	29	15
Acres of prescribed fire	211	228	122	172	267	452	349	268	352	564	299
Burning permits issued	11,998	11,163	3,785	3,543	3,681	2,794	3,542	3,287	2,547	2,642	4,898
Burning permits inspected	622	713	425	176	142	145	86	117	102	126	265
Wildfire control/ICS training events	75	104	57	38	63	50	45	37	23	31	52
Fire prevention events	100	135	65	60	53	67	65	24	35	62	67
Fire prevention law violations/tickets	112	119	70	33	107	103	58	73	81	58	81
\$1,000/\$1500 Grants to rural VFDs	401	401	466	475	386	370	443	262	289	319	381
Search and Rescue Program											
Search missions	149	144	140	173	162	171	164	179	217	176	168
Rescue missions	92	84	65	102	101	105	100	149	131	147	108
Recoveries	4	6	5	6	11	11	9	13	9	22	10
Search, rescue or first aid training events	117	116	78	117	109	91	89	84	53	72	93
Licensed Guide Program											
Licensed guides	2,066	2,099	2,074	2,101	2,159	2,196	2,197	2,288	2,317	2309	2,181
New guide licenses issued	207	188	202	191	220	210	215	242	222	221	212
Guide licenses renewed or updated	312	240	254	303	327	428	293	330	288	314	309
Guide licenses revoked	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	1	4	1
Checks of licensed guide credentials	338	301	619	134	254	624	678	710	264	301	422
Licensed guide violations ticketed	3	1	7	2	5	3	2	2	1	1	3