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Park Agency looks for way to save popular Adirondack fire towers



Hurricane Mountain fire tower (Source: Wikipedia)
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St. Regis fire tower (Source: Friends of St. Regis)

The Adirondack Park Agency is looking for legal ways to save two fire towers on St. Regis and Hurricane Mountains, but no final decisions have been made.

Some environmental groups say the towers should be removed so that the wild feel of the mountains can be restored. But many local residents and historic preservation groups say fire-towers are important landmarks and part of the North Country's history. As Brian Mann reports, the debate is tangled up in state law and a debate over what wilderness should look like.

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★ Bill Starr [✉](#)

Echo could not have said this any better.

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If there was a "true" wilderness tract somewhere, with a bald mountain summit, and someone proposed building an "observation tower" on it - I would certainly be opposed to that as unnecessary and obtrusive. But as many people have said, these 2 towers have been in place for nearly 100 years - almost as long as the Forest Preserve and certainly longer than the APA and the Land Use Master Plan. They do not intrude on the wilderness experience any more than the human built log bridges over mountain streams, or the rock steps built into some of the trails. The Adirondack Park certainly looks like a wilderness, but it is really a remarkable story of a land that once was wilderness, was heavily logged, burned, in places cleared for farming and settlements - and nature has reclaimed much of it - with help from us. Those towers are part of the story of this land and they deserve to remain. The Park is meant for people to experience - it is not fenced off, to be forever preserved as pristine. So let the "friends" groups help out with the towers and use them as educational historic sites - a place to share the wonderful history of this very special Park with the hiking public..