

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing to demolish the Black Hill Fire Tower (CE-1433) at Elk Neck State Forest and the Long Hill Fire Tower (AA-2394) in Pasadena and is consulting with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) to minimize the effect of the undertaking on historic properties. The Black Hill Fire Tower is located south of the Elk Neck Forestry Office at 130 McKinneytown Road, North East, Cecil County, Maryland. The Long Hill Fire Tower is located at 8023 Long Hill Road, Pasadena, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

The towers have deteriorated and are no longer functional for use. As abandoned structures they are also a safety risk.

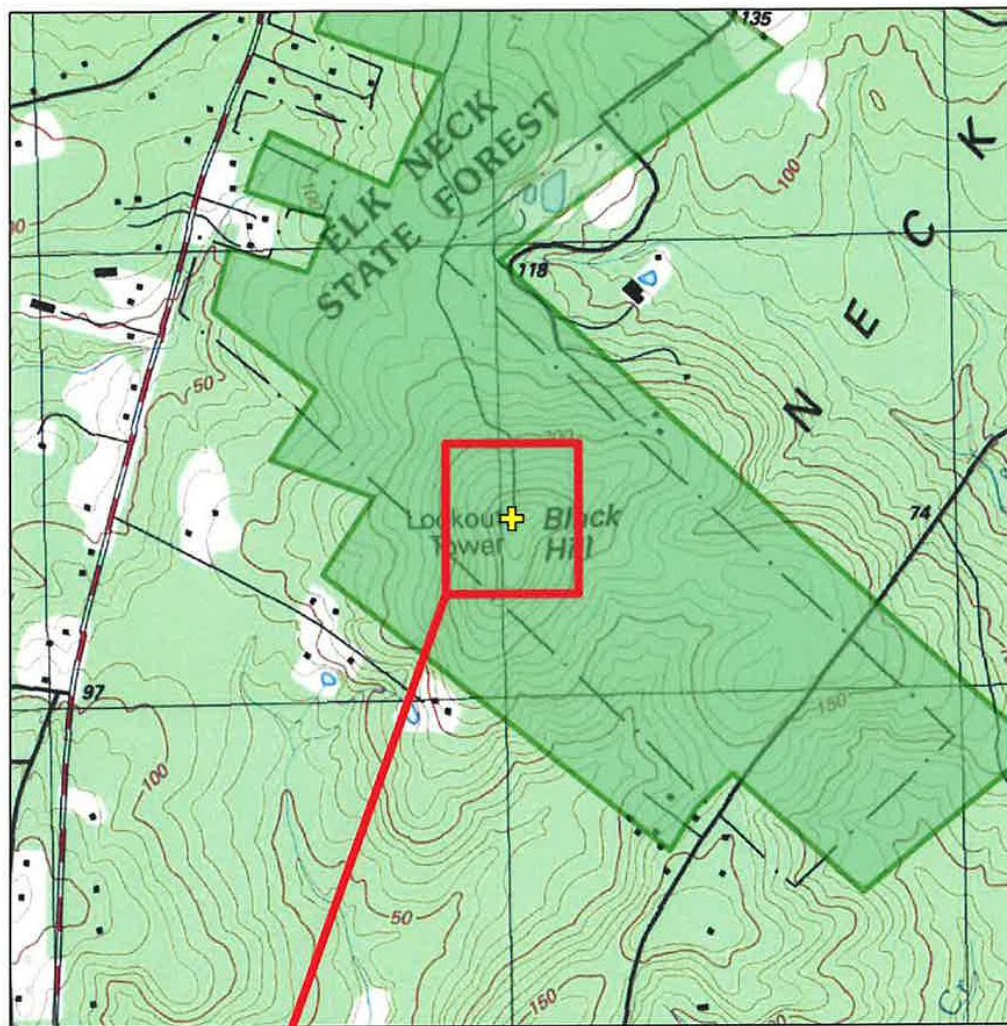
The Bureau of Forestry, which later became the Maryland Forest Service, built fire towers across the state of Maryland from 1915 to the mid-1940's. The Black Hill Fire Tower, a steel fire tower, was built in the 1940's. In the 1950's antennas and equipment were added along with a second cab by the Western Union Telegraph Company. This company used many towers in the central and eastern parts of the state. In consultation with MHT, DNR completed a study of existing fire towers and found that 16 Maryland DNR fire towers are in their original locations, and the Black Hill Fire Tower is the only one with two cabs. The Long Hill Fire Tower dates from 1923. It is associated with women's history in Maryland as Kitty Shortall, who was one of DNR's first female radio operators, worked on the site.

Both fire towers have been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and MHT has determined their demolition will cause an adverse effect to historic properties through direct loss of these historic towers. As part of the mitigation process for the demolition MHT has requested that DNR complete a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the project and solicit comments from the public regarding our proposed plans, and investigate ways to avoid, reduce, or mitigate this adverse effect on the historic property. As part of the Section 106 process, we are seeking comments on this project from interested parties.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or have comments on the project please contact Charles Mazurek by September 30, 2025 at charles.mazurek@maryland.gov or 410-260-8932.

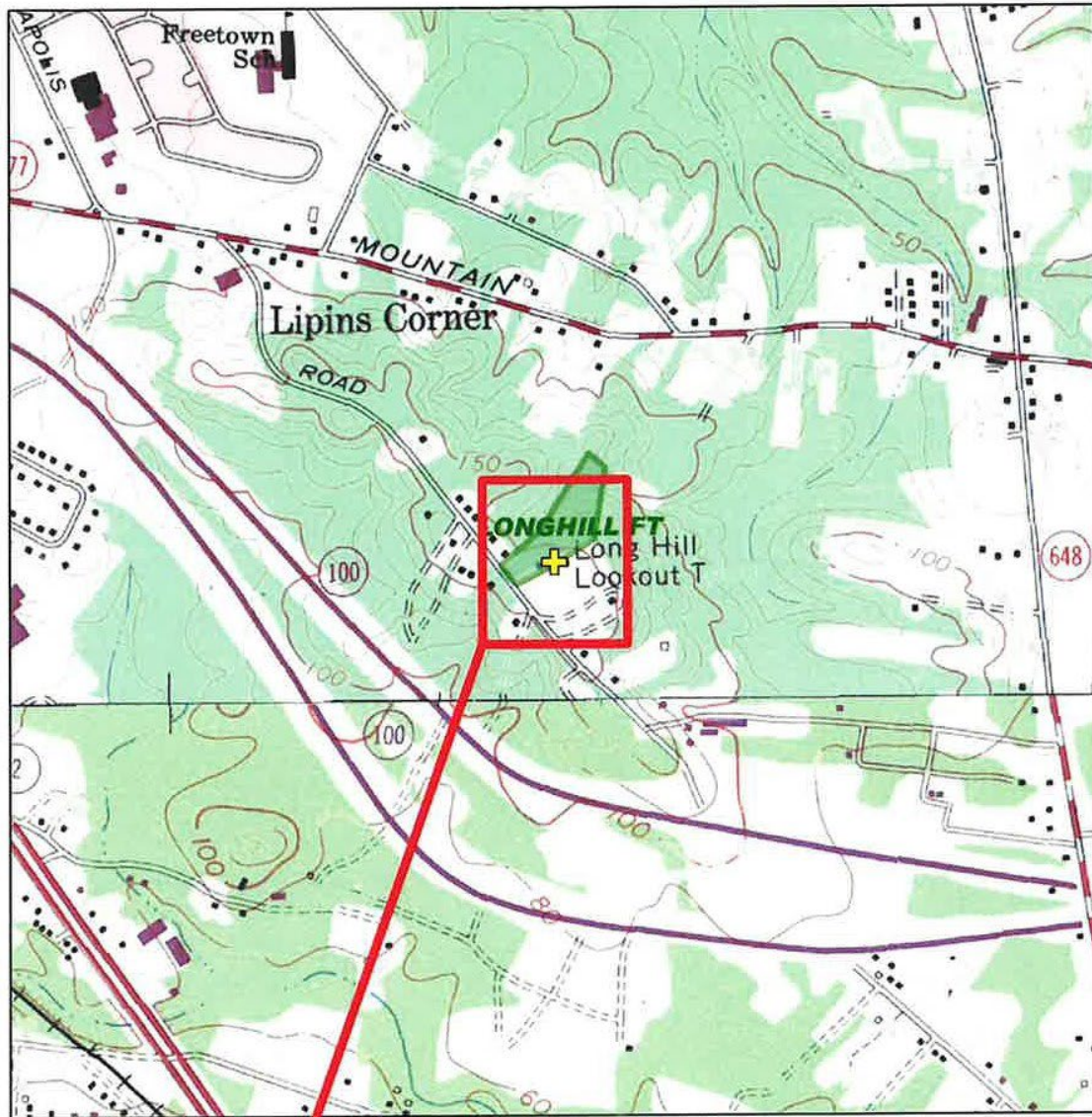
Location Maps

- A. Black Hill Fire Tower, Elk Neck State Forest
Cecil County, Maryland



B. Long Hill Fire Tower, Pasadena
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Photos

A. Black Hill Fire Tower, Elk Neck State Forest
Cecil County, Maryland



B. Long Hill Fire Tower, Pasadena
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

