



Forest Fire Lookout Association Eastern Washington Chapter

2018 CHAPTER REPORT

MEMBERSHIP: 61 members. 21 complimentary copies of the Lookout Network sent to agencies and donors.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Ending Balance of \$2034.90.

ACTIVITIES: The year started out and continued all summer organizing the FFLA 2018 Western Conference. The September summer meeting was a joint effort between the Eastern and Western Washington Chapters. The South Cascade Sub Chapter and the Friends of Jump Off also helped with planning the meeting with their knowledge of the area west of White Pass. Packwood became the location of choice and attending members had a good time socializing, networking and visiting area lookouts. A portion of conference proceeds were donated to the restoration of High Rock Lookout, a local icon. An excellent summary of the conference appears in the Summer 2018 edition of the Lookout Network.

The Eastern Washington Chapter continued active and financial involvement with the restoration of Salmo Mountain Lookout. The Friends of Salmo lead the effort that was intended to prepare the lookout for entry into the cabin rental program. Unfortunately, shortly before the planned work period, the lookout was vandalized. Much of the work schedule plan was revised to repair the 46 windows and 2 window frames that were destroyed. Work will continue into 2019 and 2020 that will include installing a suitable toilet and amenities.

The historic and standing ruins of the Paradise Peak Lookout were submitted and listed in the FFLOS Register.

A Ring of Fire Lookouts Tour by the Colville Local Chapter was made of the Priest Lake, Idaho area where two chapter members were stationed on active lookouts. Al Schlottman started the season on Gisborne Mountain but decided, after 30 years, to retire. Pam Aunan, still waiting on reconstruction of her Lookout Mountain Lookout, assumed staffing duties. Ray Kresek was again on Sundance Mountain Lookout and spotted a smoke during his first few hours on duty. Over on the Washington side, Buddy Washington, former Wyoming Director, was staffing Indian Mountain Lookout and sure has that lookout looking sharp. Up on Hughes Ridge Lookout, Carol Taylor has that lookout looking spiffy but was down with a day off. A close look at the abandoned Hughes Meadow Ranger Station revealed it needed some tender loving care. Fortunately for the historic structure, Region 1 Heritage Preservation staff indicates they are looking at restoring it during 2019. It would be a perfect cabin rental.

The local chapter also made visits to the Molson Museum where the L-4 Franson Peak Cab resides and to the Northport City Park where the town has the Flagstaff DNR Cab on display. NE Washington arguably has the highest number of saved and relocated lookouts in the country.

LOOKOUTS: 57 Eastern Washington lookout sites with standing structures; 33 were manned full time, intermittently or on standby. 2 lookouts involved in the rental program.

OBJECTIVES: Support and empower local groups such as the Colville Local Chapter, Friends of Salmo, Friends of Jumpoff and Friends of Blue Mountains Lookouts in their problematic efforts to save, preserve and utilize lookouts within their focus for the good of the public.

Rod Fosback
Eastern Washington Director