



# Forest Fire Lookout Association

## Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

2590 W Versailles Dr, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

**2018**

### **NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT**

#### MEMBERSHIP:

165 Current Paid Members (42 Plus)

Includes: 7 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net gain of members: 3 (14 New, 12 Dropped, 1 Transfer in)

51 Complimentary Memberships (agency personnel, etc.) varies by issue

Chapter finances decreased slightly, with a healthy ending balance of \$5817.88; a drop of about \$150 from the start of the year.

#### LEADERSHIP:

Leif Haugen continues to be active as deputy director for the Flathead-Glacier area and Samsara Duffey for Central Montana.

#### SUB-CHAPTER:

The Northwest Montana Chapter (NWMT-FFLA) has continued to be very active. Many members of the group have volunteered with the Flathead NF to provide staffing and maintenance for Baptiste, Cooney and Firefighter lookouts. Members participated in 8 restoration/maintenance projects, in spite of a very active fire season in Northwest Montana – Meadow Peak, Wam, and Northwest Peak lookouts on the Kootenai NF, Firefighter, Cyclone, and Mud Lake lookouts on the Flathead NF and Scalplock and Huckleberry lookouts in Glacier NP. The chapter has formal agreements with the Montana DNRC, Glacier NP, Kootenai NF, and Flathead NF, including a Challenge Cost Share with the Kootenai. Grants were received from the Whitefish Community Foundation and from Flathead Electric. Fundraising included non-profit brewery benefits at five area Craft Breweries.

#### ACTIVITIES:

No formal chapter activities took place in 2018, although members continued individual efforts

Leif Haugen continued to provide assistance with assessments and maintenance for other forests as part of his USFS job; his expertise has been recognized and put to good use. FFLA member Luke Channer has continued his visits to Montana and Idaho lookouts, providing valuable status and condition information. Member Rene Eustace has continued to volunteer with the Bitterroot NF, covering many of the same lookout coordination tasks that were part of his duties before retiring from the USFS.

With another busy severe fire season, several lookouts were wrapped as precautions against fires, but none were lost. Among those on the list were Gem Peak, Garver Mountain, Northwest Peak, and Moran Patrol Cabin.

While no lookouts were known to have been lost, one is in the process of being relocated and there are others that are dilapidated with their days running out.

The chapter provided an Osborne Firefinder for member Rod Bacon's *Lookouts in Fire Detection* exhibit that accompanied noted fire photographer Kari Greer's *Facing the Inferno* photography exhibit that ran for two months in Moscow, ID in the spring.

#### PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

Several potential projects have been discussed with the USFS, but as of yet, it is unknown if any will take place in 2019.

Gary Weber  
FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director