



Forest Fire Lookout Association

Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2020

NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

162 Current Paid Members (40 Plus)

Includes: 11 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net loss of members: 2 (6 New, 8 Dropped/died)

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

Chapter finances increased, with a healthy ending balance of \$6835.63; an increase of over \$1000 from the start of the year. Over 50% of the chapter funds are earmarked donations.

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 continues to be very active supporting lookout activities on the Flathead and Kootenai National Forests, Glacier National Park, and the State of Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The group has acquired their own 501c3 status from the IRS and has updated their name to Northwest Montana Lookout Association (NWMTLA), but will remain associated with the FFLA.

ACTIVITIES:

No formal chapter activities took place in 2020, although the chapter supported several projects.

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.

The chapter provided an original hip-roof roof cap for the L-4 lookout at the National Museum of Forest Service History campus in Missoula. The chapter also matched the FFLA Restoration Grant for the project.

Leif continued on the second phase of restoration of Grave Peak D-6 Lookout on the Clearwater NF. The chapter had held the original cupola window frames for over 20 years; Leif now has them for restoration, with the cost of materials covered by the chapter.

The chapter also provided support for the Skookum Butte Lookout Restoration, a multi-year project led by Lolo NF Zone Archaeologist (and FFLA member) Sydney Bacon.

The chapter weighed in on the request for comments on a proposal to move the Priscilla Peak L-2 Cupola Lookout (Lolo NF) to a different road-accessible location; the proposal was withdrawn after several concerns were expressed.

A proposed action on the Helena NF includes the removal of Hogback Lookout, an R-6 Flat on a block base. One source indicated that Great American Outdoor Act funding might be used for this.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

The chapter will continue to provide support for the Grave Peak and Skookum Butte restoration projects, as well as any others that develop.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director