



Forest Fire Lookout Association Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2021

NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

172 Current Paid Members (47 Plus)

Includes: 23 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net gain of members: 10 (13 New, 3 Dropped/transferred)

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

Chapter finances increased, with a healthy ending balance of \$12531.18; an increase of over \$5000 from the start of the year, in large part due to two significant donations. Over 70% 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 Lookout Association (NWMTLA) 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 their own 501c3 status, but remains associated with the FFLA.

ACTIVITIES:

No formal chapter activities took place in 2021, 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 left the chapter to become the director of the Southern Idaho Chapter, but 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 continued to support the Skookum Butte Lookout Restoration, a multi-year project led by Lolo NF Zone Archaeologist (and FFLA member) Sydney Bacon.

The chapter is monitoring proposed actions for the removal of two lookouts, Hogback Lookout on the Helena NF and Yager Butte Lookout on the Custer NF. No response has been received from comments on Hogback.

Montana and Idaho lookouts have been part of several media features highlighting the use of lookouts and the lifestyles of staffers.

Member Cat House has created an Idaho Fire Lookouts website, www.idahofirelookouts.com.

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.

The chapter is hoping to develop local interest in Priscilla Peak Lookout, one of the few remaining L-2 cupola lookouts.

Gary Weber
FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director