



Forest Fire Lookout Association

Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2014

NORTHERN IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

156 Current Paid Members (51 Plus)

Includes: 7 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net gain of members: 18 (20 New, 3 Dropped, 1 Transfer in)

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

Chapter finances increased, with an ending balance of \$5,288.78. This is an increase of over \$2,500 from the start of the year, in large part due to proceeds from the very successful western conference. It also includes funds earmarked for specific lookout projects.

LEADERSHIP:

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

SUB-CHAPTER:

The Northwest Montana Chapter (NWMT-FFLA) has continued to be very successful. The group currently provides volunteer staffing and maintenance for Baptiste, Cooney and Firefighter lookouts on the Flathead NF and participated in maintenance on Spotted Bear Lookout and Moran Patrol Cabin. NWMT-FFLA entered into a formal MOU with the FNF and is entering into discussions with Glacier NP and Montana DNRC regarding their lookouts. (see NWMT-FFLA report)

ACTIVITIES:

The chapter hosted the very successful 2014 Western Regional Conference in Darby, MT June 27-29; over 90 people attended, the best showing in several years.

Restoration, maintenance and staffing continued on many fronts, with considerable involvement by FFLA members, whether in volunteer roles, or as agency employees.

Balancing Rock Patrol Lookout, Clearwater NF, was restored by member Jerry Branning and other volunteers. It is the only known L-6 in Idaho.

Work continued on the Spyglass Lookout ground house (Coeur d'Alene NF, ID), but was suspended due to safety concerns until the cab was lifted off the nearby tower, at which time the project was closed for the season.

After finishing touches, Granite Butte Lookout (Helena NF, MT) is expected to be ready for rental in 2015.

Another Passport-in-Time restoration project was held at Big Hole Peak Lookout (Lolo NF, MT). FFLA member Libby Langston again made a short video of the project by.

Only one lookout was lost, but two others are expected to be removed in 2015:

Huckleberry Lookout, St. Joe NF, sold through a GSA auction late in 2013, was finally removed late in 2014. The new owners plan to re-erect it in North-Central Idaho.

Communications equipment is scheduled to be removed from Dunn Peak Lookout, St. Joe NF; the 20-foot R-6 flat is in planned for disposal/removal, having suffered from a lack of maintenance over the years.

Removal of Spades Lookout, Coeur d'Alene NF, was postponed late in 2014 and is expected to be acted upon in the spring of 2015.

Unused lookouts continue to be seen as easy targets by some National Forests looking to reduce their numbers of facilities.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director