

Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter Report 2011

MEMBERSHIP:

124 Current Paid Members (42 Plus)

Includes: 6 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net gain of members: 3 (12 New, 9 Dropped)

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

Chapter finances increased, with an ending balance of \$6101.36. This is an increase of over \$3,200 from the start of the year, but \$3,000 of that was an earmarked donation that is expected to be used next summer.

LEADERSHIP:

Leif Haugen continues to be active as deputy director for the Flathead-Glacier area.

ACTIVITIES:

The annual work party planned for Mallard Peak Lookout (St. Joe NF, ID) was cancelled due to access issues from the late snowmelt. The chapter is partnering in a restoration project for Spyglass Lookout (Coeur d'Alene NF, ID). Lutherhaven Ministries was awarded a \$20,000 grant for the project, but the late snowmelt precluded getting started on the project. The status of both projects for 2012 is uncertain, as the two IPNF Archaeologists involved have both retired/resigned; it is unknown when the vacancies will be filled.

No work took place on the restoration at Mineral Peak Lookout (Lolo NF, MT), but a \$3,000 donation was received to go toward re-roofing the lookout next summer.

Deputy Director Leif Haugen staffed and continued with restoration work on Thoma Lookout (Flathead NF, MT), as well as beginning work to restore Baptiste Lookout (also on the Flathead).

ARRA (Stimulus Program) funding continued to be used for lookout projects on the Kootenai and Clearwater forests, including the construction of the all-new replacement Minton Peak Lookout on the Kootenai, planned to be ready for the rental program by mid-summer. Restoration activities are expected to continue at several sites in 2011, with various levels of support from the chapter.

No more information has come out on the two excess lookouts on the St. Joe that were planned for removal, but communications equipment has been removed from at least one of them, as well as from at least one other St. Joe lookout that is being considered for restoration.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director