



Forest Fire Lookout Association

Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2012

NORTHERN IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

129 Current Paid Members (45 Plus)

Includes: 6 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net gain of members: 5 (14 New, 8 Dropped, 1 Transfer)

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

Chapter finances decreased, with an ending balance of \$3302.32. This is a decrease of about \$2,800 from the start of the year, but a \$3,000 earmarked donation was used during 2012.

LEADERSHIP:

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

ACTIVITIES:

The chapter has partnered on several lookout projects:

Work began on the Spyglass Lookout Project (Coeur d'Alene NF, ID). Lutherhaven Ministries provided most of the volunteer support during the summer, but FFLA volunteers participated during a September session, and an FFLA Restoration Grant has been awarded for future work on the project.

Re-roofing of Mineral Peak Lookout (Lolo NF, MT) was completed in August, coordinated by FFLA member Libby Langston. In addition to earmarked donations received for the project, the chapter also made a significant financial contribution.

Work began on Granite Butte Lookout (Helena NF, MT) with Montana Wilderness Association and National Smokejumper Association volunteers. The chapter is involved with fundraising for the completion of the project; an FFLA Restoration Grant has been awarded.

No work took place at Mallard Peak Lookout (St. Joe NF, ID), as the FS leadership for the project was in flux due to personnel changes. It is hoped that work on the project can resume during 2013.

Deputy Director Leif Haugen staffed and continued with restoration work on Thoma Lookout (Flathead NF, MT), and played a large part in bringing Baptiste Lookout and Firefighter Lookout (both also on the Flathead) back into shape and initiating a volunteer staffing program.

In addition to staffing Patrol Lookout and being involved with the Granite Butte project, Deputy Director Sam Chapman has been working with the Gallatin NF to support the refurbishing of Horse Butte Lookout for potential future staffing.

Member Rene Eustace was instrumental in lookout-wrapping activities (Bitterroot NF, MT/ID), providing protection from active wildfires, including one lookout on the bordering Salmon NF.

Member Bill Moore initiated and coordinated a successful volunteer staffing program for Diablo Lookout (Clearwater NF, ID), in spite of fires that caused the evacuation of the lookout for part of the summer.

Other restoration activities (not directly involving the chapter) took place at several other sites in 2012; activities are expected to continue at additional sites in 2013, with various levels of support from the chapter.

Unused lookouts are again being targeted by some National Forests as opportunities to reduce their numbers of facilities; however, budget shortfalls that preclude maintenance work may also preclude the contracting for the removal of lookouts.

The chapter has offered to host the 2014 Western Regional Conference in the Bitterroot area of Montana.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director