

2020 Year-End Report

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

Northwest Montana Lookout Association (NWMTLA) – Local Chapter
MONTANA / IDAHO NORTH CHAPTER

Gary Weber, Director

LOCAL NWMTLA CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Chuck Manning, Board Chair

Deb Starling, Vice-Chair

Nancy Manning, Secretary

Cathy Calloway, Treasurer

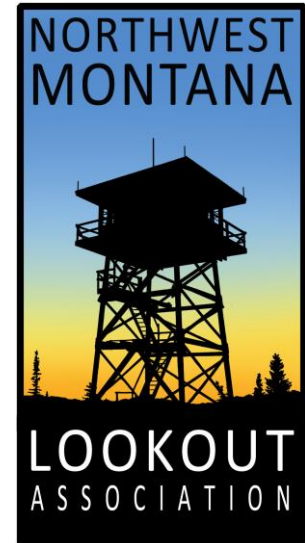
2020 MOUs and/or Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Agreements:

Flathead National Forest

Kootenai National Forest

Glacier National Park

Montana DNRC



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. **Mount Wam LO Window Restoration** – Windows from Mount Wam Lookout were flown down to the Murphy Lake Ranger Station to be restored over the winter months of 2019-20. Included in the process was a glazing workshop which was attended by 12 NWMTLA members. In-kind contribution value was over \$18,000.



2. **Mount Wam LO (Kootenai NF/Fortine RD)** – This project started in 2017 after conducting a condition assessment in 2016. This year’s phase consisted of replacing window sills and headers, installing the refurbished windows and residing exterior walls. All supplies were transported in by NWMTLA volunteers, Kootenai Forest and area Youth Education Treatment Centers. In-kind volunteer support to this phase of the project was in excess of \$17,000 bringing the total 2020 Wam Lookout project volunteer value over \$36,000.



3. **Meadow Peak LO (Kootenai NF/Libby RD)** – This lookout is scheduled to go into Recreation.gov rental program in 2021. Summer tasks consisted primarily of extending the catwalk handrailing to meet OSHA requirements and installing shutter security hardware. In-kind value of work done in 2020 was close to \$5,000.



4. **Mount Brown LO (Glacier NP)** – This is the third year working on this LO. The entire exterior was scraped and painted along with some minor interior touchup painting that was done in 2019. The NWMTLA will be back in 2021 to rebuild the stairs and replace needed siding. In-kind value for work done on Mount Brown LO in 2020 was \$4,500.



5. **Mud Lake LO (Flathead NF/Spotted Bear RD)**

– Located in the Bob Marshal Wilderness, NWMTLA volunteers completed the restoration of this LO in August which began in 2015. Final structural deficiencies were addressed along with window and door repairs not to mention the application of some much-needed paint. In-kind value donated was over \$7,800.



6. **Werner Peak LO (Montana DNRC/Stillwater Unit)** – This lookout is a popular rental lookout on the Whitefish Mountain Range. NWMTLA volunteers scraped and painted the exterior of this LO. In-kind value donated was \$3,600.



7. **Heavens Peak LO (Glacier NP)** – A condition assessment was conducted on this remote LO by NWMTLA volunteers in early September. Through an agreement between the National Park Service and the NWMTLA, this lookout is scheduled to be assessed on a three-year cycle. In-kind value donation was \$2,500



8. **McGuire Mountain LO (Kootenai NF/Rexford RD)** – A condition assessment was conducted in preparation for an extensive restoration project taking place in 2021. This lookout is in the Recreation.gov rental program and will be taken out of service for the majority of the summer. In-kind Value donation was \$1,000.



9. **Blue Mountain, Big Sweede, Big Creek Baldy, Ziegler Lookouts (Kootenai NF/Libby RD)** – These lookouts were assessed for the Libby Ranger District to help determine restoration priorities for 2021. The in-kind value donated was \$3,000.



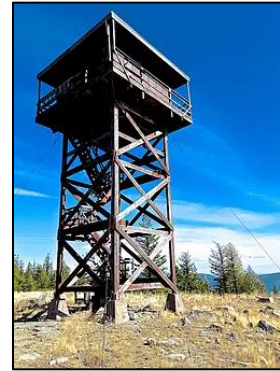
Blue Mountain LO



Big Sweede LO



Big Creek Baldy LO



Ziegler LO

OBJECTIVES FOR 2020:

- Continue membership and donor campaign - 2020 members and donors are ~150.
- Continue to increase our outreach – 2020 contact list are ~700.
- Continue updating our website with current information and maintain our social media platforms.
- Continue to develop positive relationships with agency personnel.
- Work with agencies to mitigate project efficiency during 2020 COVID restrictions.
- Meet restoration and assessment commitments with agencies.
- Continue to signup qualified volunteers with skills necessary to accomplish required tasks.
- Finalize the stand-alone 501(c)(3) nonprofit requirements to simplify grant writing requirements and agency CCS requirements – completed.

2020 NWMTLA Lookout Statistics:

- 50 - Total standing lookouts and support structures in service area
- 15 - Lookouts in active service
- 12 - Lookouts in rental program
- 4 - Lookouts maintained as shelters
- 22 - Lookouts on inventory – use not specified
- 0 - Lookouts converted to alternate function
- 0 - Lookouts schedule to be removed
- 0 - New lookouts under construction

Respectfully submitted on 1/4/2021,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles R. Manning".

Board Chair