



Forest Fire Lookout Association

Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2019

NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

164 Current Paid Members (45 Plus)

Includes: 6 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net loss of members: 1 (11 New, 13 Dropped, 1 Transfer in)

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

Chapter finances decreased slightly, with a healthy ending balance of \$5760.19; a drop of about \$50 from the start of the year.

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 Chapter (NWMT-FFLA) 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. While the chapter itself does not staff lookouts, many of its members volunteer to provide staffing for Flathead NF lookouts. Fundraising continues to include non-profit benefits at area craft breweries.

ACTIVITIES:

No formal chapter activities took place in 2019, 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 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 provided original hip-roof flashing for a re-roofing project on the 53-foot L-4 Bear Mountain Lookout (Clearwater NF) led by Leif Haugen.

Leif also took the lead on the first phase of restoration of Grave Peak Lookout, also on the Clearwater NF. The chapter matched the FFLA Restoration Grant for the project; together, this covered nearly all of the cost of roofing materials for the D-6 cupola lookout.

The chapter also provided support for the Skookum Butte Lookout Restoration, a multi-year Passport in Time project led by Lolo NF Zone Archaeologist (and FFLA member) Sydney Bacon.

The chapter provided materials for refurbishing the relocated Black Mountain Lookout (Kaniksu NF).

After 8 years, the restoration of the Spyglass Ground House Lookout (Coeur d'Alene NF) has been completed; the facility is now on the USFS cabin rental program.

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.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director