

NORTHEAST WASHINGTON; THE LAND OF RESTORED, RELOCATED AND REMOVED LOOKOUTS

2012 FFLA Western Conference September 21st-23rd Itinerary

Conference to be held at the historic KP Cabin 6 miles North of Kettle Falls Bridge on HWY 395

Early Registration will be \$35 before September 7th. Late Registration will be \$40.

Thursday, September 20th

Early arrivals have several options including; making a 6 mile round trip hike to Columbia Mountain Lookout on the Kettle Crest (meet 9AM at KP Cabin) or stopping by Ray Kresek's Fire Lookout Museum in Spokane. We'll take in an afternoon visit at 4 PM to the relocated First Thot Lookout at the Orient City Park before dinner on your own at Boyds Country Inn. KP Cabin will open for setup during the afternoon and after dinner.

Friday, September 21st

8AM: Registration. 9AM Conference begins with introductions and your most memorable lookout experience. Silent Auction will begin. **Tammy McLeod:** Washington's Lookouts. **Leif Haugen:** "THE LOOKOUT" *Big Sky Award winner*. **Ray Kresek:** Fire Lookout Museum and its future. Tours will begin after the lunch break to Franson Peak Lookout, Cornell Butte Lookout (only CL-100 ever built in Washington) and the Growden CCC Camp. A potluck barbeque, with meat and condiments provided by the Eastern Washington Chapter on return to the KP Cabin. FFLA business meeting to follow at 7:30PM.

Saturday, September 22nd

8AM: Silent Auction will continue. **Keith Argow:** FFLA overview. **Forrest Clark:** Green Mountain update. Tours will begin before the lunch break. Guided tours will be given to the Graves Mountain Lookout at the Keller Heritage Center/Museum in Colville and to the Stranger Mountain Lookout at the NE Washington Fairgrounds also in Colville. The lunch break will follow at the Fairgrounds and will be provided. Following the lunch break, we will motor out to Timber Mountain Lookout (where the Lookout Ballad was penned in 1948) and Monumental Mountain Lookout. We will return in the early evening to the KP Cabin for a catered dinner, video presentation, storytelling and conclusion of the Silent Auction.

Sunday, September 23rd

7AM: "POV Lookout Tours" will begin with an 8AM departure from the KP Cabin. We will rendezvous at the Visitor Center in Kettle Falls and Safeway parking lot in Colville. This full day event will take us to Salmo Mountain Lookout and Sullivan Mountain Lookout. We will return to Colville where dinner on your own can be had at Acorn's Feeding Station in Colville.

Monday, September 24th

Those folks still in the area and wanting more have several options including; a short hike to a tree lookout on Electric Point, tour to South Baldy Lookout, visiting Ray Kresek's Fire Lookout Museum in Spokane or the Pend Oreille County Museum lookout in Newport. TBD.

Western Meeting Summary

September 21-23, 2012 - Boyds, WA

NORTHEAST WASHINGTON; THE LAND OF RESTORED, RELOCATED AND REMOVED LOOKOUTS

The 2012 FFLA Western Regional Conference, hosted by Rod and Vicki Fosback, drew over 50 people to Northeast Washington, the land of restored, relocated, and removed lookouts.

A handful of early arrivals took the opportunity to hike the three-mile trail to the historic Columbia Mountain lookout cabin on the Kettle Crest early in the day on Thursday, September 20th. As others arrived later in the day, people met for a visit to the relocated First Thought Lookout at the Orient City Park and to get re-acquainted with old friends, or in some cases, to get acquainted with new ones! Most of the group adjourned to Boyds Country Inn for dinner, after which those staying in Kettle Falls had to leave early to beat an untimely overnight bridge closure, while others camping nearby continued their socializing.

Several more showed up Friday morning as the conference got underway at the historic KP Cabin. As auction items were spread out and registrations completed, everyone enjoyed coffee and snacks until things got underway, beginning with the showing of the award-winning film, "The Lookout", featuring FFLA member Leif Haugen. The customary round of introductions included "most memorable lookout experiences" and was followed by Forrest Clark providing an update on the Green Mountain Lookout situation and efforts to save the lookout after the court decision ordering its removal. He also provided a sample letter that could be sent to US Senators and Representatives requesting support for the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act that has been introduced into the House. After a lunch break, the afternoon tour led to Franson Peak and its unused, but intact, 10-foot tower. The group then moved on to Cornell Butte, where the only CL-100 steel lookout tower built in Washington still stands, although heavily vandalized. On the way back to the KP Cabin, several made a quick stop at the Growden CCC Camp site and its interpretive displays. After the potluck barbecue, socializing continued while the twelve FFLA directors and officers present finished out the day with a short board meeting.

Saturday's session began with an address by Chairman Keith Argow, followed by a discussion led by Ray Kresek on the future of the Fire Lookout Museum. After additional discussion and more bidding at the silent auction tables, everyone headed to Colville for a tour of the

relocated Graves Mountain Lookout at the Keller Heritage Center and then moved down the street to the NE Washington Fairgrounds, home of the relocated Stranger Mountain Lookout. Following lunch at the fairgrounds, Timber Mountain Lookout was the afternoon destination, where the group was met by District FMO Candi Eighme and discussions took place on options for the partially-restored 41-foot R-6 flat top. Back at the KP Cabin, the group enjoyed the catered roast beef dinner before the evening activities. Chairman Keith Agow was presented with a plaque recognizing all his efforts for lookouts and the FFLA before powerpoint presentations were given on Washinton Lookouts by Tammy McLeod, Lincoln NF (New Mexico) Lookouts by Mark Gutzman, and Remote Idaho Lookout Trips by Luke Channer. All the while, spirited silent auction bidding continued with an end result of over \$750 being taken in.

The Sunday lookout tour left from a gathering point in Colville and headed to the Pend Oreille Valley and Salmo Mountain Lookout, where Candi had brought along District Ranger Gayne Sears and retired AFMO (and local lookout supporter) Chris DiRienz. Serious discussions took place on what would be needed to ready the partially-restored 10-foot R-6 flat top for the rental program. The afternoon stop was Sullivan Mountain, where Candi, Gayne, and Chris again met the group. The abandoned 20-foot tower appears to be in good condition, but its second flight of stairs was removed over 30 years ago, limiting access to the R-6 flat cab without other means. Discussions again ensued on what it might take to restore and save the lookout, since it is such an area landmark. As the group dwindled in numbers, the final lookout stop on the return to Colville was Rod and Vicki's relocated Monumental Lookout, where every last bit of daylight (and then some!) was used. After finding the one Colville restaurant still open for dinner at 8:30 on a Sunday night, the group finished off the day and another very enjoyable Western Conference was in the books. Of note, was that New Mexico Director Mark Gutzman was present; he will be hosting the 2013 Westrn Conference next September.

As people scattered after the conference, a small contingent ventured to the Spokane Indian Reservation on Monday and visited the Spokane Mountain, where local officials are expressing interest in restoring the D-6 cupola that has seen better days.

Conference Photos



After dark in Monumental



Columbia Mountain LO



Enjoying the day at Salmo



First shot in the park



For his many years of service



Franson Peak LO



Inside Graves Mountain LO



Lunch at Stranger



Group at Timber Mountain LO



Keith getting the job done on Salmo



Stopped cold on Sullivan



View from Cornell Butte LO