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Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Gary Weber FFLA; Keith Argow FFLA; Howard Verschoor FFLA; Kyle Stetler
Subject: FOBML Annual Report

To All -

2021 was another almost non-action year. As Director of Friends of Blue Mountains Lookouts, I spent much of the year contacting various offices in the four National Forests in the Blue Mountains of SE Washington and NE Oregon. I received notification from all four Forests that there was work to be done, but little money to do it and fewer staffers available to coordinate it.

One project that did come to fruition was work on Tamarack Mountain lookout in the Heppner District of the Umatilla National Forest. The work there involved removing and replacing all the wooden stair treads (132 total) and also removing and installing 2 window panes in the cab. With the help of two Engine Crews from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), we were able to replace all the stair treads and the window panes in 3 days. Cold, wet, windy work but we got it done. A big "Thank You" to ODF for their assistance. The lookout is owned by USFS but staffed by ODF.

The materials used to replace the stairs and window panes came from two material grants from Home Depot and Tractor Supply. Home Depot provided all the wood for the stairs and Tractor Supply provided galvanized fasteners, WD-40, putty knives, and glazing compound for the windows.

Another project I was contacted about was the leaking roof on the High Ridge lookout in the Walla Walla District of the Umatilla NF. I was asked if I could check the roof to determine where the leak was occurring. The lookout is close to Walla Walla so I drove up to take a look. With a ladder provided by the lookout I was able to access the top of the flat roof and used roof caulking to seal the sheet metal flashing on the roof edges 360 degrees around. Unfortunately that didn't solve the problem and the roof leaked during the next storm. The FS took the interior ceiling down and discovered that two roof boards (tongue-and-groove) had internal rot at the joint that was causing the leak. It will be repaired next spring. They later asked me for advice to provide a temporary cover and I suggested an industrial tarp with 1"x4" battens to cover the roof exterior.

A bank account for the FOBML was begun with a \$1000 donation (me) and a \$50 donation from a friend. That money has been used for miscellaneous expenses for repair materials and gas for the generator to recharge batteries for drills and drivers.

The Public Affairs office of the Umatilla National Forest is spearheading a combined MOU, Memorandums of Understanding, with the other NF's in the Blue Mountains to work with the FOBML volunteers on repair, removal, and renovation of Forest facilities. Hopefully we'll be able to field enough volunteers to work on more than one Forest this summer.

The Malheur National Forest has five lookout towers they want to demobilize, both wooden and galvanized. I've been in contact with the Forest and the Blue Mountain Land Trust on the possible movement and eutilization of the towers as observation platforms in the Conservation Easements of the Land Trust. The structures could be rebuilt at a lower overall height for animal, plant and forest studies and observation. I'm waiting to hear back from the Land Trust and know that the Forest is interested in the possibility.

Hopefully this will be a better year for people getting out to work on our Forests. We have much work to do!

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