



# Forest Fire Lookout Association

## Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

**2017**

### **NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

162 Current Paid Members (41 Plus)

Includes: 5 Membership Renewal Past Due

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

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

Chapter finances increased very slightly, with an ending balance of \$5968.38; an increase of \$9.30 from the start of the year. Some funds earmarked for a specific lookout project were finally utilized.

#### **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) has continued to be very active. Many members of the group have volunteered with the Flathead NF to provide staffing and maintenance for Baptiste, Cooney and Firefighter lookouts on the Flathead NF and have participated in maintenance and assessments on several other Flathead NF, Kootenai NF, Glacier NP and Montana DNRC lookouts.

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

After a three year hiatus, work finally continued on the Spyglass Lookout ground house (Coeur d'Alene NF, ID), led by the primary partner, Lutherhaven. Significant accomplishments were achieved; painting and interior finish work are the primary tasks to be completed next summer. After it was determined that the Forest Service had no interest in reconstructing the cab that had been lowered from the tower, either onsite or elsewhere, the FFLA was given permission to salvage parts/pieces from it. The hip-roof framework and a few other items were salvaged and removed prior to a contractor being hired to remove the remains of the cab.

A fifth (and final) Passport-in-Time restoration project was held at Big Hole Peak Lookout (Lolo NF, MT). The project was completed in late June; the FFLA had planned to participate in the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony, but the project wrapped up early and an informal session was held. FFLA member Libby Langston has been contracted to make a short video of this year's project.

FFLA member Dave Eberle volunteered with the NezPerce-Clearwater NF to repaint Sourdough and Square Mountain lookouts.

With a severe fire season, several lookouts were wrapped as precautions against fires, but none were lost. Among those on the list were Hughes Ridge, Robinson Mountain, Mt. Brown, Cougar Peak, Sex Peak, Morrell, Jumbo, West Fork Butte, Skookum Butte, Shissler, Gardiner, and Spot Mountain lookouts.

#### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

In addition to the completion of the Spyglass Lookout ground house in 2018, the chapter has been invited to participate in a painting project at Cougar Peak Lookout (Lolo NF) and in painting and making repairs to Arid Peak Lookout (St. Joe NF), twenty years after it led the original restoration efforts there.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director