



Forest Fire Lookout Association

North Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2022

NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

165 Current Paid Members (45 Plus)

Includes: 9 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net loss of members: 70 (11 New, 18 Dropped/transferred)

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

Chapter finances remained steady, with a healthy ending balance of \$10008.79. Over 70% of the chapter funds are earmarked donations.

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 Lookout Association (NWMTLA) 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. The group has their own 501c3 status, but remains associated with the FFLA.

ACTIVITIES:

No formal chapter activities took place in 2022, 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. Southern Idaho Director Luke Channer has continued his visits to Montana and Idaho lookouts, providing valuable status and condition information.

The chapter supported the completion of the Skookum Butte Lookout Restoration Project, a multi-year project led by Lolo NF Zone Archaeologist (and FFLA member) Sydney Bacon.

The chapter is monitoring proposed actions for the removal of two lookouts, Hogback Lookout on the Helena NF and Yager Butte Lookout on the Custer NF. After a site visit to Hogback and posting on social media, public comments were made to the agency, but there has still been no response. As mitigation for the proposed removal of Yager, the nearby Poker Jim Lookout was listed on the NRHP.

The Idaho Fire Lookouts website, www.idahofirelookouts.com, continues to have additional information posted.

Gary Weber and Kyle Stetler met with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks personnel for a site visit to Williams Peak Lookout, and will continue to assist as the agency makes a decision on the lookout's future.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

FFLA member Zach Whipple-Kilmer is working to develop local interest in the restoration and maintenance of Priscilla Peak Lookout, one of the few remaining L-2 cupola lookouts, and may look at creating a new local chapter.

The Chapter will host the 2023 FFLA Western Conference in July.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director