



Forest Fire Lookout Association

Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2015

NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

157 Current Paid Members (48 Plus)

Includes: 4 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net gain of members: 1 (10 New, 9 Dropped, 1 Transfer in, 1 Transfer out)

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

Chapter finances increased slightly, with an ending balance of \$5375.89. This is an increase of under \$100 from the start of the year. It also includes funds earmarked for specific lookout projects.

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. The group currently provides volunteer staffing and maintenance for Baptiste, Cooney and Firefighter lookouts on the Flathead NF and participated in maintenance on several other Flathead Lookouts. NWMT-FFLA has also been engaged in lookout assessment, restoration, and maintenance projects with the Kootenai NF, Glacier NP and Montana DNRC. (see NWMT-FFLA report)

ACTIVITIES:

Chapter activities were relatively minimal in 2015, in large part due to extreme fire conditions in much of North Idaho, not seen in nearly 90 years.

Plans had been made for continuing work on the Spyglass Lookout ground house (Coeur d'Alene NF, ID), but it ended up being wrapped as protection from nearby fires.

A third Passport-in-Time restoration project was held at Big Hole Peak Lookout (Lolo NF, MT). FFLA member Libby Langston again made a short video of the project.

One lookout was removed and another lost to fire in 2015:

Spades Lookout, (Coeur d'Alene NF), was removed in July through a demolition contract; the FFLA was not given prior notification of the contract and no effort was made to salvage any materials.

Jay Point Lookout (Clearwater NF) was lost to the Jay Point Fire. Retardant drops were unable to save the lookout; it had been used for several decades. Many other lookouts were threatened by wildfires, one had an extremely close call with lower crossmembers being burned.

Unused lookouts continue to be seen as easy targets by some National Forests looking to reduce their numbers of facilities.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director