



Forest Fire Lookout Association Western Region

2004 Western Region Annual Report

MEMBERSHIP:

There are 534 current paid members in the Western Region, a little over 62% of the total FFLA membership. This is an increase of 48 new members, up from 484 last year.

CHAPTERS:

Two new chapters were created during 2004 - Southern Idaho, with Jill Osborn as director, and Western Washington, with Forrest Clark as director.

CONFERENCE:

The 2004 Western Region Conference was held October 8th to 10th in Truckee, CA. It was superbly hosted by Kathy Ball (Central California/Nevada chapter director) and Marie Hall (Northern California chapter director). Despite the comparatively late date, beautiful weather held and the event was well attended. Many interesting programs, speakers, and exhibits were presented. There were so many lookouts in the area to visit, that attendees had to choose which tour to go on. As always, the conference ended much too quickly. The 2005 conference will be held at McCall, Idaho in September, sometime after Labor Day, with the precise dates and facility yet to be announced.

LOOKOUTS:

Restoration projects are underway (and being successfully completed) in nearly every Western Region chapter. However, the challenges remain. There are still many more lookouts in need of help, as weather, neglect, vandalism, wildfire, and "safety" inspections continue to take their toll. Even though 2004 had an overall somewhat slower fire season than recent years past, several western lookouts were threatened and damaged, and one lookout (Berryessa LO in northern California) was completely lost to wildfire.

Dave Bula
Western Deputy Chairman, FFLA