



Forest Fire Lookout Association

North Idaho/Montana Chapter

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

2024

NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

164 Current Paid Members (38 Plus)

Includes: 13 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net loss of members: 4 (12 New/transferred, 16 Dropped)

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

Chapter finances grew by almost \$5,000, in large part due to donations for the Lookout Mountain Restoration Project. A significant percentage of the ending balance of \$16,811.66 is earmarked donations.

LEADERSHIP:

The chapter continues to use Leif Haugen as a deputy 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 restoration and maintenance on the Flathead and Kootenai National Forests, Glacier National Park, and the Montana DNRC. The group has their own 501c3 status, but remains associated with the FFLA.

ACTIVITIES:

The chapter was involved in the planning to get the stalled Lookout Mountain cab replacement project moving again; it is anticipated that activity will begin in 2025.

The chapter participated in a planning/brainstorming session for Priscilla Peak Lookout, one of the few remaining L-2 cupola lookouts. Zach Whipple-Kilmer led the way for several members to receive authorization from Green Diamond Resource Company to cross their property to access the lookout for an assessment, but between the hot summer weather and gate key issues, the trip never materialized.

The chapter was invited to a presentation by University of Idaho Architecture students showing their futuristic lookout design projects. This has led to being asked to participate and partner with the University in holding an interdisciplinary conference in the coming spring.

The chapter continued coordinating with the principals behind the Idaho Fire Lookouts website, www.idahofirelookouts.com, who have continued fundraising efforts to support restoration efforts.

The chapter continues to monitor proposed actions for any removal of lookouts; Hogback Lookout on the Helena NF seems to be the primary one threatened. It was learned that Yager Butte Lookout on the Custer NF had been removed, however, that information came from the individual who ended up re-erecting the lookout on his nearby property, and becoming a new chapter member!

The chapter supported Leif Haugen's efforts at Grave Peak Lookout by funding the purchase of materials when the Forest was unable to.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

The chapter expects to continue with the aforementioned Lookout Mountain and Priscilla Peak projects, as well as supporting Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks with planning for the future of Williams Peak Lookout.

The chapter continues to be ready to support other projects, as agencies move forward with decisions; two that appear to be moving forward are restorations at Snow Peak and Little Guard lookouts.

It is hoped to hold one or two informal local gatherings during the summer, just to meet and greet, get acquainted, and talk lookouts.

Gary Weber

FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director