2016
NORTH IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:
161 Current Paid Members (42 Plus)
Includes: 8 Membership Renewal Past Due
Net gain of members: 4 (13 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 $5959.08. This is an increase of just
under $600 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 and assessments on several other Flathead NF, Kootenai NF, Glacier NP and
Montana DNRC lookouts.

ACTIVITIES:
Chapter activities were relatively minimal in 2016.
Plans had been made for continuing work on the Spyglass Lookout ground house (Coeur d'Alene NF, ID),
but never materialized due to other priorities of the primary partner, Lutherhaven. 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 forest plans to contract to have it removed from the site next summer, but FFLA has been given
permission to salvage parts/pieces from it. Some salvage work began in early November, but overall, the walls
and many other components of the cab were in much worse condition than expected with very little salvageable.

A fourth year Passport-in-Time restoration project was held at Big Hole Peak Lookout (Lolo NF, MT). The
project had been expected to be completed, but was interrupted by a fast-moving fire, causing evacuation of the
site and wrapping of the lookout. Plans are to finish the project next summer. FFLA member Libby Langston
again made a short video of this year’s project.

With a relatively mild fire season (compared to the previous year) only a few other lookouts were wrapped
as precautions against fires..
One historic lookout was lost to a structure fire in September; the 1930s Little Snowy Top Lookout was
totally consumed by a fire assumed to have started in connection with use of the wood stove by hikers staying
overnight on a cold, wet September night.
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