



Forest Fire Lookout Association
Eastern Washington Chapter
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EASTERN WASHINGTON 2010 CHAPTER REPORT

MEMBERSHIP: 48 members. 17 complimentary memberships received copies of the Lookout Network. 15 by email (PDF) and 2 by postal.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Ending Balance of \$590.02.

ACTIVITIES: A good number of Eastern Washington members attended the Western Regional Conference held at Grangeville, Idaho in June. Theme of the conference was the 100 year anniversary of the Great Fires of 1910. Members enjoyed a very interesting agenda that included historical background on those fires as well touring lookouts in the Grangeville area.

East and West Chapters got together in August for picnic/meeting held Mid-State at Swauk Creek Campground. Members enjoyed the camaraderie and topics discussed at the campground and the tours to Red Top Lookout and the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center.

The Colville Local Chapter manned the Free Coffee Booth at the Horn School Rest Stop in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation. FFLA exposure and donations raised for the Eastern Washington Chapter made this a very enjoyable event. Football fans from California, who were in route to a football game at Washington State University, were enthralled at both the free coffee and that there are still fire lookouts!

Several lookouts stewards answered Chairman Keith Argow's call to step up to the challenge of adopting a lookout: Member Mike Hiler and his "Friends of Jumpoff" became stewards of Jumpoff Lookout near Yakima. The lookout was in dire need of emergency repairs to survive the winter. Wasting no time, Mike contacted the Naches Ranger Station of his plans and along with Jo Miles, was able to patch the roof and repair shutters before winter.

Member Kathryn Arneson is working on stabilizing Spokane Mountain Lookout. A check of the structure's needs was made with the help of lookout expert Ray Kresek. Efforts continue on researching the lookout's history and coordinating with the Spokane Tribe of Indians a plan to preserve this lookout.

Members In The News: Mike Hiler released his book "Buckskin Larch and Bedrock" which is available on Amazon. Bill Moody made national news with his firefighting efforts in Israel with the 747 Super Tanker. He has also written a book about smoke jumping titled "Spittin in the Wind," available on Amazon.

LOOKOUTS: Lookout tower verification reports include; *Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests* with 18 lookouts. Six listed under priority fire use, five under intermittent use and one recreational. One is listed (Bonaparte Mountain Groundhouse) in the National Register of Historic Places. Six lookouts are eligible for listing. The rare L-5 Mebee Pass Lookout hangs on but the only CL-100 type lookout built in Washington, Cornell Butte, appears to have run out of time. Even though built like a tank, the 53 year old galvanized steel structure's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is not enough

to convince forest officials to reconsider its cabin rental potential. *Umatilla National Forest* (Washington) with 4 lookouts. Two staffed this year, one in service but not staffed and one recreation rental. *Colville National Forest* with 5 lookouts. One (South Baldy) was to be staffed by Idaho Panhandle National Forests but lightning protection was stolen and not replaced. Three sit waiting patiently for their entry into the cabin rental program. One restored by Passport In Time program (Columbia Mountain). *Mount Tolman Fire Center* / Colville Reservation with 9 lookouts. Five of the lookouts are proudly listed as manned. *Spokane Reservation* with 3 lookouts. Two staffed and one needing restoration. *Yakama Nation* with 3 lookouts. Two regularly staffed. *Gifford Pinchot National Forest* with 4 lookouts. Three lookouts are eligible for listing in National Register of Historic Places. One lookout restored by Passport In Time program (Red Mountain) and is waiting for toilet facilities to be constructed before entry into rental program. Lookout was used for feature film during 2010. One lookout used as communication site. One lookout (High Rock) now with expired volunteer agreement for maintenance and one lookout (Burley Mountain) restored by FFLA member Dick Morrison. Future use depends on status of lightning protection system. *Department of Natural Resources* Lookout tower verifications from FFLA members include; Flagstaff Lookout in good shape with the community of Northport working to adopt it as they have successfully adopted the nearby Sheep Creek Campground complex (DNR). Tunk Mountain continues under a lease agreement with Chairman Keith Argow. Ham radio enthusiasts are negotiating an agreement to place facilities on Buck Mountain, which could aid in its preservation. Franson Peak Lookout still there. *Bureau of Land Management* Lookout discovery made of previously unknown lookout on Horseshoe Mountain. Documentation and listing of former lookout site on Swede Pass was made. Suspected WWII balloon bomb explosion near Northport was reported from Swede Pass Lookout.

OBJECTIVES: Plans for the year include investigating reports of undocumented lookout sites. Monitor Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources actions that effect lookouts and former lookout sites.

Rod Fosback
Eastern Washington Director