

Lincoln County Firesafe Council Meeting Notes

Location - LIBBY FIRE HALL 119 E 6th St

Date- September 19th, 2019

Time-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Note Taker: Logan Sandman

Introductions:

Round Robin:

Lue Kuennen –

- South Lincoln Grant through 2020 – 3 completions and 3 new agreements.
- 39 under the current grant that have not been completed.
- Some smaller parcels are having trouble getting contractors to complete the work.
- The Libby Air Shed is a part of the problem for 3-4 that haven't been completed.

Jeff Stevenson –

- 2019 Fire Season – 63 fires for a total of 57 acres. This seems more like a normal trend.
- There is 1 Type 2 IA crew and two Helicopters down in California.
- Currently developing the zone training schedule for next year.
- Seasonal FF recruitment is currently open.
- Fire hire is early in February.
- Fall Burns –
 - Trout Creek finished a 1,200 PSD burn.
 - There have been a few burns. We are just waiting for the right conditions to continue.

Jeremy Rank –

- He would like to invite everyone to take a field trip of the Clay Banks Timber Sale, after the meeting.

Doug Turman –

- Clay Banks 2/3 of the way completed.
- McKillop and Cripple Horse are done.
- Smoke Brulee is back on the market.
- NRCS – There will be a new service forester position through the DNRC that will help write management plans for NRCS grants. This position will be stationed in Eureka.
- GNA – Elk Gem is active, and Buick Divide is out for bid.

Nate Gassmann –

- Hoodoo is signed. 500 acres commercial and 900 acres pre-commercial.
- Salvage acres on Westfork almost done.
- 2 new timber sales coming out for the East Kootenai Reservoir.
- West Fisher started road work. There are some issues with access and grizzly bears.
- Cripple Horse burn to be completed this fall.
- West Surprise Timber Sale will be advertised shortly.
- 10 mile/Sterling salvage getting started soon.
- Ripley still has ongoing discussions on how that will work with GNA.
- Looking to have a decision in hand by January for Ripley.

Mike Sanders –

- Pretty quiet fire season in the Yaak.
- 1 chimney fire and 1 2-acre grass fire.
- A few medical calls.

Jennifer Nelson –

- Black Ram – The county has suspended the agreement with the Collaborative due to disagreements with letters submitted on the Black Ram Project.
- The county will not support the letter.

Steve Lauer –

- 75 calls this year.
- 8 mutual aid calls with the USFS.
- The Decontamination Trailer was used on 2 OU3 fires.
- The decon process seems to be getting better every time they do it.
- 5 management burns set up for this Fall.
- 2-3 burns possible near Flower Creek.

Trevor Pelling –

- Quite fire season for McCormick.
- 2 fires in the last few days.
- Trevor will be going up to test the repeater in the Yaak soon.
- He has been working with two land owners on KFRI.
- McCormick is looking to get another water tender.

Ed Levert –

- There will be a Tree Farm tour in Columbia Falls on October 5th.

Logan Sandman –

- 10 fires this year for a total of 2 acres.
- The seasonal workforce has been laid off for the season.
- The Libby Unit will have 5 pile burns to complete this Fall.
- The Libby Unit just received a new chipper. We have a few projects lined up and are still working through what we will require to lend the equipment out for use.

New/Old Business:

- Nate Gassmann – Skidale – 135 acres
 - Open house occurred a month ago.
 - Pre-commercial thinning identified mistletoe. The plan has been modified to harvest any Larch with mistletoe.
 - The fire crew will start this fall on a thin from below treatment.
 - Mastication has been part of the conversation. This turned out really well in the Flower Creek area.
 - Opportunity for a field trip this fall.
 - The next step is to have the Cat -X in hand.
 - Some land owners wanted the boundaries modified to sustain a timber buffer between private and USFS. They would like to keep the trail opportunities.
- KFRI – Jennifer Nelson – Fuels Reduction Agreement
 - \$430,000 grant opportunity.
 - Targeted marketing on most of Lincoln County.
 - The grant comes in two installments. The first being \$170,000 to come soon.
 - 75/25 cost share.
 - The DNRC office in Missoula is prioritizing the land owners to receive funding.
 - Jenn Coulter sends out a weekly spread sheet on where the land owners are in the process.
 - The county will have oversight on the work getting done.
 - Currently 50 fuels projects on 140 acres.
 - We are putting together a task group for the Pipe Creek area outreach. We are looking to do a fuels demonstration and possible pizza party at the Red Dog to help get people engaged in KFRI. We will be bringing our ideas to Erik Warrington and AFF. If anyone wants to help, contact Logan, Jeremy, or Jennifer.
 - AFF will be conducting outreach in the Clay Banks area.

- Western States – Jennifer Nelson
 - The last word Jennifer got was that it was a strong grant application.
 - Looking to receive around \$260,000 for Swede/McMillan fuels reduction.
 - 6 aerial miles for 14 subdivisions.
 - Proposed activities are to use targeted marketing on 130 property owners that own 1,800 acres.
 - 75/25 cost share.
 - Looking to treat at least 370 acres.

- CWPP – Jennifer Nelson
 - Steve Kimbel has contacted the county on the Local Government Assistance Grant.
 - Looking to use these funds to help develop the CWPP.
 - Jennifer will put in an application.
 - The next meeting will take place on October 15th.

Adjourned