

December 19, 2013 FSC Minutes

Attendees: Kirby Maki, Libby Public Schools; Lisa Osborn, Forest Service; Lou Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Bruce Vincent, Provider Pals; Doug Turman, DNRC; Matt Bowser, Yaak Valley Forest Council; Mark Peck, DNRC; Ed Levert, Lincoln County.

Round Robin-

Maki- Grant approved for improving heating system at Elementary School. City's school enrollment increasing.

Burgess- New TFS Fire Board. Winter fireman wildland training ongoing. They have had one garage fire and two chimney fires. Fortine and Rexford FS districts looking at consolidation.

Osborn- 2014 county fire calendars are ready. FireWise trailer is ready to have graphics applied to outside. District priority project is the Buckhorn Sale.

Kuennen- 22 agreements have been completed in Libby grant area to treat 84 acres of fuel for a cost \$49,000. 7 agreements have been completed for Lake Creek to treat 64 acres for a cost of \$35,000. 8 agreements have been completed for West Kootenai to treat 48 acres for a cost of \$36,000.

Lauer- Secured 2 generators, one going to TFS. New fire truck delivered(used 93). Doing hospital checks currently. Involved in 100 vehicle accidents this year. Will start FireWise assessments in Pipe Cr. Area this spring.

Vincent- Planning school education programs and need help for school visits in March. Can handle after that. Suggested need for FireWise trailer and need to schedule it's use. Involved in training in Minnesota, Phoenix, etc. May do a kids program at Raven if they can raise funds.

Turman- Has pamphlets for trailer and Ready-Set-Go pamphlets. DNRC had a good prescribed fire season. Will be starting OU-3 planning and attack plans.

Bowser- Has been involved in Alvord Lake Community Forest grant. Helped with forest inventory on the property.

Peck- Discussed Lower McGinnis timber exchange with Stoltze Lumber, which has been approved by state land board. Good log prices have resulted in Harris Cr. Timber Sale still operating.

Levert- The Edgewater fuel reduction project has been awarded to Tom Horelick. Tom will start the first of January. I have been working on the AlvordProject.

Education Committee- Bruce started a discussion on the Ready-Set-Go program. Did we need to change our focus in our advertising to the evacuation stages? Would this result in homeowners getting the FireWise message? Discussed getting Crystal Beckman for our next meeting. Need to involve Emergency Management and sheriff's department in our efforts. Will want to present this subject at Coop meeting. *Action Item- Ed organize meeting with EM and sheriff's dept. to discuss.

Fireman's Rodeo- Mark led the discussion on this. Mark felt that from discussions he has had with Flathead County fire folks and others that Libby is still the best place to have this event. Mark felt that J.Neils Park would be preferable to the Riverbend. Last year's event raised \$13,000 for the Fireman's Fund that is used for helping fireman and their families in emergencies. Lisa said there is a chance we could get the Smoky hot air balloon. We also thought this would be a good opportunity to have a program the night before, possibly with the Ready-Set-Go theme. We felt that there was a need for a separate committee to work on this. Lisa and Mark would be on the committee, with anyone else that was interested. Mark was going to look into reserving a date for J.Neils Park of June 14th(?).

Next meeting is Jan 16th. The Fireman's Rodeo committee would meet prior to this meeting at 8AM.

Ed Levert, Chair