

FireSafe Flathead Meeting Notes for Thursday, June 27th. 0900-1100 at OES



Present: Ali Ulwelling (DNRC), Deb Starling (NW MT Haz Fuels), Jan Cronin (concerned citizen), Lincoln Chute (Flathead County OES), Sean Johnson (NRCS), Mike West (FNF Fuels AFMO), Ben Devall (Chief of Big Mountain FD), Wendy and Shane Wilson (landowners on Conn Road, student at Ernie Nace (KU Prevention Spec), Rick Trembath (all around fire guy).

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 25th, 0900-1100 in the DNRC Conference Room. Mark your calendar for meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month. Please send updates, events, articles, agenda items! We are planning for Ashley Juran (DNRC Forest Stewardship) and Wyatt Frampton (Forest Action Plan Project Manager) to share at our next meeting.

Era of Megafires – The conversation continues... We had a successful push this spring and will be throwing around some ideas on how to maintain and grow traction. We are still getting requests and **truly appreciate the team effort that has accompanied each of these engagements!**

West Glacier is following their 2 presentations with a 3rd: Rick Trembath speaking on fire history in the area.

Ashley Lake, Columbia Falls, and West Valley will host this summer/fall and I will keep you posted.

Rick Trembath would like to see us using the fires themselves to talk to the public. There is a Wilderness Fire Workshop on Choteau, July 9-11.

Mike West would be willing to host a chat at the Tally Lake Campground and use the loop trail to talk about prescribed fire, wildland fire, fuels reduction, forest management. We are also looking at hosting another field trip.

Lincoln Chute recommends and will assist in getting media out on fires and prescribed fires, during and after. This has been happening but we can always use more:

https://www.hungryhorsenews.com/glacier_park/20190612/hotter_summers_mean_larger_more_destructive_fires

https://www.dailyinterlake.com/local_news/20190626/now_is_the_time_to_prepare_for_wildfires

Rich Blaney suggested getting the local and congressional leadership out on fires as well when the opportunities allow.

Fuels Mapping Project – This was initiated years ago but shelved because it is BIG. There a mapping project out there currently (<https://arcg.is/1nXGS1>) and there will be another through the Forest Action Plan. Until we see where these higher-level projects are going, we will not continue working on a NW Montana-specific fuels map.

Tree Farm – Allen Chrisman's field trip (Friday, June 28th) will be a great opportunity to learn about forest management and processes.

NW MT Haz Fuels Program – Deb Starling – Targeted approach is affecting program grants and perception of purpose. Ali is following up with Bureau programs and requesting clarity.

Are we coordinating efforts? In place of (NOT in addition to) an October meeting, looking at host an area-wide meeting this fall to talk about projects currently on the ground and future planning.

Haskill Basin – Rx fire still planned for the fall. Revisit the conversation about providing a viewing point with binos, a radio, and explanation of what is going on during ignition. Potential for some engagement with homeowners in the area.

Pile-burning Workshop with Peter Kolb– **Thursday, November 21st** – Once this date is confirmed with Dr. Kolb, we (along with SAF) will start the outreach, registration, logistics plan. Will include taking videos and capturing snippets to share on website and social media. Rick Trembath is helping coordinate. Piles are located at Flathead Lake Lodge; indoor portion will be near Bigfork. Considerations: contingency plan, air quality, back-up date?

Social Media – Talk with Jordan Koppen (DNRC Missoula) and Dax VanFossen about assisting with quality videos and editing for messaging pre, during, and after fire season. Dax is willing to participate, we just need to share the vision!

Website – Up and available to share. Please take a look and bring forward changes you would suggest. Ali will continue to update the calendar and using it to share meeting notes and agendas. We have had decals made with the FireSafe Flathead logo and web address.


Publications - An assortment of new and old publications has been ordered to share at presentations and events. If anyone has ideas or needs anything for engagements, please let Ali know.

Smokey Signs - We have a design and price for the Smokey signs from the MCE! They are about \$2360/ea. with no cost for shipping, which is substantially less than ordering through the shop in Colorado. We are looking at the cost of materials for mounting as well as finalizing the locations for the first couple of signs. Considering the feedback from the last meeting, they are tweaking the design slightly and we will order once the changes are made.

MCE Design Department
350 Conley Lake Rd.
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
(406) 846-1320 Ext. 2271

One piece of 0.125" aluminum, 34" x 9",
with printed graphics
interchangeable addendum with locking mechanism.

Working on the
body color.



Double sided 60" x 9" bolted & padlock addendum.

Customer: DNRC	Item: Smokey Sign	Contact: Alicia Ulwelling	Date: 6/18/19
Comments/Changes: 90¾" x 58½"			

That's all and we'll see you in July!