



FireSafe Flathead Meeting Notes, March 25, 2021

Next meeting: Thursday, April 22, 2021 9-11am. Stay tuned for updates on whether we meet via Zoom, in person, or both!

Attendance: Deb Starling (NW MT Hazardous Fuels program), Sean Johnson and Karli Becher (District Conservationist, NRCS), Lincoln Chute (Flathead County Fire Services Area Manager), Allen Chrisman (North Fork Fire Mitigation, MT Tree Farm and more), Ali Ulwelling (Forestry Assistance, DNRC), Eric Hoberg (Northwest Management), Ernie Nace (Community Preparedness, Kalispell Unit), Hailey Graf (Flathead Conservation District, Resource Conservationist), Mike Kopitzke (Lake 5 & DNRC FMO retired), Randy Sundberg (Many Lakes HOA President), Tye Sundt (Weyerhaeuser Forester).

"It's not always about what or how much you know, so much as it is about connecting the right people, at the right time, in the right place." -Richard Parrish, Bureau of Land Management

Upcoming Dates and Events:

- **Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network** tours. Space is limited so email Mike West to register: michael.b.west@usda.gov
 - April 27th 12-4pm Oettiker Creek Ranch
 - April 28th from 9-1pm Big Mountain / Whitefish
- **Prescribed Fire Learning Exchange** – Hosted by Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network
 - April 21st 9:30 – 3:30 via Zoom register [HERE](#)
- **Forest Landowner Conference** hosted by MT Forest Stewardship Foundation & Northwest Management, Inc. - April 22-23 [AGENDA](#) (registration deadline April 16)
- **FireSafe Marin Webinar Series** [HERE](#) and Living with Fire publication [HERE](#) **Please check this out and let me know what you think. Is this publication too much or is it something that we would like to customize and create for our area? Something that would be hosted digitally on the website but also available to print. Action: Provide feedback to Ali**
- **Women in the Woods** – Lubrecht, May 22-23 Contact Ashley Juran for more: 406-542-4280
- **North Fork Fire Wise Events:**
 - June 24, 9:30am at Sonderson Community Hall – Basic wildland fire training with Gary Mahugh and others.
 - July 14, 9:30 am at Sonderson – FireWise (morning) / Interlocal (afternoon) presentations. Todd Lando from Marin County, CA may be there to present on the Paradise Fire, if not they will be showing the Big Burn and hosting discussion afterwards.
- **KGEZ Forestry Plus Series!** Tune in the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:20am!
- **The Smoke Column in the Flathead Beacon** – We are always looking for topics & writers!
- **Land Stewardship Seminar Series** – recordings on **Forest Pests and Disease, Preparing for Wildfire, and more** can be found [HERE](#).

0900 – Welcome & Introductions

Ali – Updates on the events and community outreach taking place (see above)

Flathead Conservation District – Hailey: The Conservation Grant Program is accepting applications through April 30th. Call 752-4220 with any questions or find out more [HERE](#).

NRCS – Karli Becher & Sean Johnson: In the process of ranking the 2021 applications (Ashley Lake area) and working on the final edits for the 2022 TIPs (Little Bitterroot Lake & North Fork).

NW Montana Hazardous Fuels – Deb Starling: Finished up and submitted the 2022 Western States WUI draft proposal and will see if it is supported for further development to be submitted at the national level. Will cover Foothill Road from Lake Blaine Rd to Echo Lake, Hwy 35 to the Flathead NF Boundary. That process initiated a conversation with the Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation who are happy to support, to share wildfire-related information, who would like for the DNRC to replace the portal sign at a new location near the Mountain Brook library intersection. **Action: Ali and Ernie will follow up on this.**

Working on a Hazardous Fuels grant at Little Bitterroot for the smaller acreages, Stone Mountain Estates, Highland Meadows, and Ashley Lake in coordination with the NRCS. Continuing work in Many Lakes & Rolling Ridge road, Ferndale, but out of money now. Has been working on an overgrown scotch pine Christmas tree plantation and it is now a good example to share on how those can be managed. Also coordinating with Lincoln Chute and the County on a subdivision near Belton and adjacent County park land. Jed Fisher is retiring.

DNRC, Community Preparedness for the Kalispell Unit – Ernie Nace: Wrapping up the Keep Montana Green art contest with 260 contestants this year! Working on the Certified Mitigation Specialist training. Kalispell Unit has had 4 escaped debris burns so far (.25 to .45 acre) so Ernie is working on a handout for those who have “lost” their fires. Ernie has 6 home assessments lined up so far for April and this would be a good opportunity to get some of the filming captured to share. **Action: Ernie and Ali will coordinate schedules to get out to record**

Many Lakes HOA, Randy Sundberg – That 3rd exit that they had been talking about on Kaufman Lane is not going to happen. Rather than host the annual fire event/conversation, he’s looking to coordinate with agency reps & responders (Creston Chief Mahugh, Jeremy Pris, Lincoln Chute, Sheriff’s Department) to come up with an evacuation plan. Randy will make the contacts and invite to discussion. **Action: Randy will contact all and schedule a time to meet up at Many Lakes**

Flathead County Fire Warden, Lincoln Chute – Last week they hosted the last CWPP public meeting and there is one more day for public comment. It will then go to the Commissioners for signatures. The intent from the beginning was that this update would be a “living document” that we can use to guide, track progress, and add to when we find new & better resources to share. So nice to see this through to the finish—nice work, Lincoln!

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10:05 meeting adjourn
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