

FireSafe Flathead Meeting Notes – Thursday, May 23. 0900-1030

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).



Next Meeting: *Thursday, June 27th, 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!*

Era of Megafires – As you remember, back in February we hosted a pre-screening of the film to fire chiefs in the area and invited them to bring the film and panel discussion to their communities. Now they are doing just that. We brought on an Outreach Coordinator to get this effort underway and we have had strong interagency representation at each event with discussions centering around what home and landowners can do to prepare for future fire seasons. Departments have been highly organized; they have taken the initiative to outreach with the communities; and have purchased or acquired donations of pruning saws, bow saws, leather gloves, pole saws, chainsaws, providing us the opportunity to say, “This is a partnership and your fire department wants you to get out there and get some work done!” Here is a poster of past and upcoming events:

ERA OF MEGAFIRES
A MULTIMEDIA LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Schedule of Local Events:

- Wednesday, May 8 at 7pm - Glacier Hills Firewise Day - Leitz Fire Hall in Martin City
- Saturday, May 11, 6-8pm at West Valley School Gym - Era of Megafires
- Sunday, May 19, 2-4pm at Lakeside School Gym - Era of Megafires & discussion
- Friday, May 24, 6-8pm at the Olney Fire Hall - Era of Megafires film & discussion
- Saturday, June 1, 3-5pm at the Marion Fire Hall - Era of Megafires film & discussion
- Thursday, June 6, 6:30pm - West Glacier Community Preparedness Talk- Montana House, Apgar
- Saturday, June 8, 11am - Smith Valley FD Chili Dog Feed & Era of Megafires
- Friday, June 14, 6:30pm at Whitefish City Hall - Era of Megafires film & discussion
- Tuesday, June 18, 3-5pm - Era of Megafires & follow-up presentations
Hosted by Eagle Bend HOA - St. John Paul II Catholic Church, Bigfork
- Wednesday, July 10, 9:30am
Era of Megafires Film and North Fork Firewise Day, Sonderson Hall, Polebridge

Website – Ali had Jess work on the website, so it is up and available to share. She will be working on continuing 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, which was incentive to make it happen!

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

Flathead National Forest, Mike West

- *Stone Mountain Estates/Meadow Mountain* area – Mike is working with Sean Johnson (NRCS) on a proposal for cost-share funding for a project initiated by a group of several landowners owning contiguous parcels.
- *Ottiker Creek/Star Meadow* area – A group of people own property adjacent to Flathead NF and DNRC lands and they are interested in cross-boundary mechanical treatment followed by prescribed fire across private, state, and federal lands. Mike is working on this with Allen Chrisman, Rick Moore, Mark Boardman (Stoltze), and keeping the NW MT haz fuels program informed. Plan for 2020.
- *Pilot Knob* – S Tally Lake RD (E of Tally Lake, S of Bootjack Lk) looking at commercial harvest and Rx fire.
- *Hany/Holbrook* agreement on Big Mountain Road – Cross-boundary (private/federal) veg treatment on 140-acres using the Wyden agreement.
- Taylor-Hellroaring is currently out for comment and closes today (May 23). This is the first large veg project under the new forest plan.
- Prescribed fire – 400-acres completed, more to complete in the Swan, and look for more this fall.

Flathead County OES, Lincoln Chute

- Lincoln or Rick Sacca have been attending each of the Era of Megafire presentations and are also using the opportunity to advertise and request public comment about the new version of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan that may be reviewed here:
- The DNRC is hosting the NFPA Assessing Ignition-Potential of Structures training to Kalispell this weekend, June 1 and 2. Twenty agency and department personnel will attend the training.

NW MT Haz Fuels, Deb Starling

- They are working with Erik Warrington on micro-grants for specific areas including:
 - Trail North (30-acres) with applications from the Red Mtn & Moose Creek areas
 - Overlook Ridge, Dick Haberkern and neighbors, plus 50-acres of Jim Watson's land (with NRCS?)
 - Also interested in the Rhoades Draw and Lakeside areas, and others... call volume is up, the wait list is long.
 - Looking at the Highlands Subdivision behind the Belton Chalet for the Western States WUI Grant next summer.
- Staffing update: Carol Daly, Deb Starling, Kari Johnson, Steve Penner, and Bill Swope (when not fishing)

Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Sean Johnson

- He hosted the local working group meeting on Wednesday, May 29th at the FNF conference rm. 20+ people were in attendance from across agencies, organizations, and disciplines. They are looking at how to prioritize projects in the shift toward targeted implementation.

Ben Devall, Chief of Big Mountain FD and resident of Bootjack Lake Community

- The community has continued to move forward with work on individual properties. Tally Lk RD will be completing a thinning project this fall at the beginning of their road. During that project they may use the opportunity to open up a road for a second exit route.

Thanks, and we'll see you in June!