

Firesafe Flathead meeting, Wednesday, October 18th 9-11am

In attendance: Mike West, Toby Thompson, Ben Devall, Henry DeLuca, Marlee Ostheimer, Mark Newbold, Parker Olson, Karli Becher, Randy Brodehl, Carrie Johnson, Christy Cummings Dawson, Jeremy Pris, Dylan Kopitzke, Nick Aschenwald, Richard Hildner, Scott Countryman, Rick Trembath, Mike Frost, Randy Sundberg, Caleb Dietz.

Introductions

Rick Trembath – Dates set for the FVCC Fire History (Feb 22nd) and Pile Buring (March 2nd).

Ben Deval, Big Mtn Fire – Planning on doing an event in the winter, either in January or February. There is an arborist doing tree removal in the area for multiple landowners. Looking at options for notifying people of an emergency, sirens were talked about as an option, but might not be the best option.

Mike Frost, Elk Horn HOA – Tested out using both air horns and sirens as possible notification for their community, both didn't work very well. They put together a phone tree for their community.

Henry DeLuca, DNRC & Fire Adapted Montana – Working on a workbook on how to create a Firewise working group. The Short-Term Rental Guidebook is now available. Also working on a few more guides that will be coming out very soon. Helping to coordinate the Firesafe Swan meeting.

Mark Newbold, Glacier Hills HOA – Used an app this summer for their community for emergency notifications. Their community is having growing issues with fire insurance. Wants more information to send out about grants available in their area. Wants to have an event for their community in April of 2024 at the Martin City Firehall, possibly discussing insurance.

Marlee Ostheimer, National Forest Foundation – working on an agreement with the Flathead National Forest to bring more money for fuel reduction as well as hiring an NFF employee to assist with implementation.

Randy Sundberg, Many Lakes – Set a date for their Many Lakes HOA event, April 20th at the Creston Elementary School Gym.

Montana DNRC – Jeremy Pris, Fire crew is working with the GNA program up around Good Creek on the Flathead NF. Working on pile burning. Interviewing for the Fire Adapted Community Coordinator. The lawsuit on WUI definitions was brought up, may want to look into tying the CWPP definition to HFRA.
Dylan Kopitzke, working on possible grant funding in the Onley/Stillwater area. Working out the kinks in the new permit system. Also working on hiring for Ali's old position.

Caleb Dietz, Flathead Ridge Ranch – Working on a shaded fuel breaks.

Richard Hildner, North Fork – Flathead Families for Responsible Growth is interested in hosting another workshop at the O'Shaunessy. Molly Shephard is working on getting all the work done in the north fork quantified for the year. Brought up that it might be a good idea to stress test evacuation routes in Whitefish.

Carrie Johnson, MWED – Working on a Community Wildfire Defense Grant, which will probably be submitted soon. Working on completing the Foothills grant. Haven't started with JC due to some insurance carrier policy adjustments. Waiting to hear if 2 Hazardous Fuels proposals, Somers/Lakeside & South Lakeside, will be funded. **Christy Cummings Dawson**, Jill Duval is working on putting together an event for government agencies and contractors to discuss the government contract process.

Scott Countryman, Goosehead Insurance – home inspector training in the spring, possibly at Keller Williams.

Karli Becher, NRCS – Working on getting application for Joint Chiefs, Ashely Lake, Little Bitterroot Lake, and Wedge Canyon projects, the application deadline is October 27th for 2024 consideration, currently there are over 70 applicants throughout all NRCS programs. Thinking of where to move next for future projects as the Ashley Lake and Joint Chiefs projects will be done in 2024.

Mike West & Toby Thompson, Flathead NF – Unable to sell Frozen Moose sale again, will repackage for next year. Sold the Wild Saddle sale near Dayton. Had a short prescribed fire season. Currently working on burning piles. Planning a prescribed fire field tour at Tally Lake spring 2024. Looking for a willing homeowner to do a home risk/home ignition zone public event this spring 2024. Call Mike for any coordinating efforts with the Flathead National Forest.