

Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association
2026 Minutes
Museum of Mountain Flying

Tim Love called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. He had everyone go around and introduce themselves. Those in attendance were Tom Blunn, Jim Christensen, Fred Cooper, Larry Cron, Michael and Sue Cummings, Willis Curdy, Charlie Fudge, Barry Hicks, Rich Lasko, Don Latham, Tim Love, Vicky Maclean, Ed Monnig, Don Nelson, Paula Nelson, Mike Oliver, Jack Puckett, Bill Ruediger, Dave Stack, Pat and Sharon Sweeney, Jack Walton, and Jim Wickel. Guest speakers were Ben Johnson, Lolo National Forest Supervisor, and Jeremy Casterson, Lolo National Forest Deputy Supervisor.

Michael Cummings gave the Treasurer's Report. Bank balance is \$7,315.92. January revenues were \$170.00 and expenses were \$553.19, with a net of -\$383.19.

Also, Michael share the proposed budget for 2026. Pat Sweeney made a motion to approve the 2026 budget and Jim Wickel seconded the motion. The motion carried and budget was approved.

Vicky Maclean shared that she is looking for articles for the spring newsletter and that articles along with accompanying material need to be as complete as possible.

Dave Stack gave an update on the Legacy Center. Construction will be substantially completed by March 17, 2026. Dave has put together a team to organize the move of artifacts out to the Legacy Center. A call for volunteers will be going out. Bob Cron will be the volunteer coordinator. The moving of artifacts will occur the week of April 20th.

Movable shelving has been installed in the Repository. Working with several groups designing the exhibits. Approximately 55,000 artifacts will be moved to the Legacy Center.

Ben Johnson, Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest, informed the group about the gathering of Forest Supervisors in Washington, D. C. It had been over 25 years since there was a gathering of Forest Supervisors in Washington, D. C. They worked on expectation setting. Idaho and Montana Forest Supervisors discussed accomplishing projects through shared stewardship.

Due to the retirement of several Regional Foresters, the remaining existing Regional Foresters have been assigned responsibility for another region. Also, regions are responsible for a different W O program area. Rocky Mountain Region has Minerals and Energy.

The Lolo does have a Public Affairs Specialist. Most activities are back to normal.

Roadless Rule issue is a Department level decision.

Interior and Related Agencies budget was 1 of 6 Appropriation bills to pass Congress. In the last year the Forest Service has lost about 5,000 positions.

Jeremy Casterson, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest shared that the Lolo met their timber target for the first time in several years. One of the biggest challenges is recreation and trails mainly due to not being able to hire seasonal positions other than fire.

The Chief has indicated hiring some seasonals for 2026 in recreation and trails to improve public service..

Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) Charter has expired. It is in the process of being renewed.

Lolo National Forest Plan revision is on going and is a National priority. It has received an extension and a draft plan and an EIS will be released in the near future. A National Team from Denver is working on the Draft Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Willis Curdy, Senator, Senate District 49 shared that the Homestead Extension requests need to be submitted before March 1st , otherwise individual will have to wait about a year to apply. Those that have submitted a request for the Property Tax rebate are automatically enrolled.

Rule 80 is a 2 year process in developing guidelines and qualifications for individuals to conduct prescribe fire on private lands.

The closure of the Pryamid Mill in Seeley Lake has affected managing timber on State Trust Lands. A group is stilling working to find a solution for processing timber from State Trust Lands.

Also, he mentioned the struggle home owner are having in obtaining fire insurance in fire prone location. The issue is being looked at on a State wide bases.

Next meeting is March 3, 2026 at the Museum of Mountain Flying.

Respectively Submitted

Jack Walton
Secretary