Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association
2026-11-03 Minutes
Conservation Legacy Center, National Museum of Forest Service History

Tim Love called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. Those in attendance were Tom Blunn, Cherie and Fred Cooper, Larry Cron, Michael and Sue Cummings, Charlie Fudge, Barry Hicks, Rich Lasko, Don Latham, Tim Love, Ed Monnig, Bo Nelson, Mike Oliver, Jack Pluckett, Bill Ruediger, Dave Stack, Don Stevenson, Pat and Sharon Sweeney, Jack Walton, Jim Wickel, and Ben Johnson, Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest.

Amanda Wickel welcomed us to the Conservation Legacy Center. Amanda passed around a volunteer signup sheet for the upcoming Old Fashion Forest Service Christmas held on Saturday, November 28, from 11 am to 3 pm at the National Museum of Forest Service History. There will be horse drawn wagon rides, stories, cocoa, kid's crafts, a bonfire with smores, and appearances from Smokey Bear and photos with Santa Claus.

Michael Cummings gave the Treasurer's Report. Bank balance is at $7,864.68. September revenues were $0.00, expenses were $130.00, resulting in a net decrease of $130.00. Year to Date revenues are $2,790.00, expenses are $2,654.43, and a net gain of $135.57.

Tim gave a report from Vicky Maclean. Vicky almost has the fall newsletter ready. Vicky is requesting articles for the spring newsletter. Articles should be about 3 pages long, using Word format, and any photos to be in JPEG format.

Dave Stack gave a museum update, Jacob is on board, and Dave will retire as curator at the end of December. Dave mentioned they had a video call with the Washington Office and were able to view potential items for the Museum. An official transfer will be made for the items coming to the Museum. Washington Office has several pieces of original art work of Smokey Bear by Rudolph "Rudy" Wendelin. The Chief's desk will be going to Grey Towers.

Ben Johnson, Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest, gave an update about the Lolo. Forest Service is in a New Fiscal Year and is working under a Continuing Resolution. Appropriated funds are for 4 years. Carry over funds from last fiscal year are helping and are coming back to the unit. Lolo National Forest completed its assigned targets. Forest Service target was 3.2 bbf for timber. Lolo spent around $10,000,000 on infrastructure projects last year.

House Bill 1 proposes to increase Forest Service output by 25% for the next 5 years. Next year's target for the Lolo is about 56.7 mmbf. Currently, the Lolo has about 40 mmbf up for sale. Lolo's Helitack crew has been certified for short haul. This is using a long line and rappelling for rescue missions.

Timber sales on the west side of the Forest have been going to Idaho Forest Products.

Lolo National Forest Plan is expected to be released in December and will have a 90 day comment period. Final Plan proposed release sometime around September 2027.

Forest Service reorganization has a stay on the reorganization due to lawsuits by the union, and several cities and county governments.

Don Nelson requested that we change our meeting time to 12:00 noon, so that he would be able to attend our meeting. A vote was taken and approved the change from 11:30 am to 12:00 (noon).

Mike Oliver has prepared a draft Mission Statement for the Retirees Association. He passed around copies of the draft Mission Statement with comments being sent to Tim Love or Barry Hicks.

Meeting adjourned around 12:30 pm

Respectively Submitted

Jack Walton
Secretary