

## **December 21, 2017 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees; Jeff Stevenson, USFS; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Louis Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Dawain Burgess, TFS and North end representative; Mike Sanders, Upper Yaak FSA; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Mark Peck, Lincoln Co. Commissioner; Doug Turman, DNRC**

### **Round Robin:**

Turman- Flower Creek Sale is down to one operator from three. About 60% complete. Still looking at slash disposal options on the sale. Smoke-Brulee project is being prepared. Steve Tiegen and Mike Justus are retiring.

Sanders- Calm in the Yaak although they have been dealing with a power outage the past couple of days above the community of Yaak.

Lauer- 33,000 gallon water tank at the airport installed. Working on the annexation in the Bobtail and Bighorn area. He has four assessments lined up for grant applications.

Burgess- Pink Meadows Project on hold because of salvage priorities.

Kuennen- Lou has written two new agreements and closed on two.

Stevenson- Major personnel moves in the forest's fire organization. Dean Whitney is the new Libby FMO, Jeff Munster is the new FMO at Trout Creek, Jamie Grant will be the new dispatch manager. Thirteen new permanent fire hires coming up in February. The forest now has a 3<sup>rd</sup> radio frequency and they are still working on other improvements such as repeaters, etc. Temporary hiring coming up soon.

The forest has a number of salvage projects entering the scoping stage of analysis including the W. Fk Quartz, Cub Creek and Caribou. Hiring is progressing for the OU-3 ten man crew in Rainy Creek. A test fire is planned for next spring. It appears at this time that most of the asbestos issues are in the fire ash.

Levert- I talked about the meeting in the county conducted by Angela Welles of the DNRC. The American Forest Foundation is looking for a targeted area in Lincoln County to attempt to get more non-industrial forest owners involved in the Tree Farm program. Other than that I have been working on a Firewise questionnaire and management burning guidelines which are on the agenda.

## **Old Business-**

### **FireWise Questionnaire**

I presented a revised questionnaire following suggestions I had received from Erik Warrington, DNRC. The intent is to mail this to a sample of the residents living in the WUI of Lincoln County. Erik had been able to come up with a random sample of 500 from the 3,000 ownerships in these areas. There were no concerns from our council and I said I would be working through the county to get this out.

### **Management Burns in the Libby Airshed**

Mark Peck led this discussion and told us that he has been having conversations with Montana DEQ and Patrick Holmes, Governor Bullocks natural resource advisor regarding management fuels burning in the Libby Air shed. Mark felt that there was support for burning between October and April when we had good air dispersion, provided we were doing all we could to manage the fuels. The discussion did not include prescribed burns, which need to be addressed. Based on the current efforts that I'm doing regarding guidelines for management fuel burning in the air shed Mark thought we should gather all of the players together in 2018 to discuss. Some of the other subjects needing discussion include the maximum number of days we could exceed the particulate levels and fines that might be leveled against the county.

**Next Meeting- January 18, 2018 9:00 AM**

Ed Levert, Chair