

The PINECONE REVIEW

Winter – March 2014

News and Views from Pine Forest

Hello again, it has been a long long time since we communicated and we ask your forgiveness for being so tardy, and let's hope that we don't repeat.

On the plus side, there have not been any major issues that would alert all of us. We have several new members since last we conversed, and a couple of new permanent residents have moved in or will be in a short time.

This winter started out as a major disappointment for the skiers, snowmobilers, and eventually all of us, in that we have had so little snow. Then everything changed. The snow came in waves and ended up with nearly normal snow on the ground and it looks like there will be enough water for this summer. As a result of the low snow early, our plowing bills will likely come in around budget, and that our road maintenance might be a little less due to lower runoff. Again, caution is advised, especially with the heavy snows of recent weeks. As of Today, March 21, our roads are in great shape. A few wet spots, but for the most part they are drying out and we will not have any repeat of the old days "mud season" mess,

We finally rebuilt the lower well house that had been sagging for these last several years. That was done in late summer.

If you have piled up brush or other wood material, now is the time to burn it, while temperatures are low, humidity is high and the possibility of fire spreading is at a minimum. As always however, please contact the manager, Andy Oosterhof, of your intention to burn and supply him with dates.

Garbage

We have a garbage dumpster for normal household garbage. This does NOT include cardboard boxes, aluminum cans, bottles, old shelves, broken chairs, metal shelves or junk of that sort, much of which is re-cycle able. We have a very good re-cycle center in Twisp that is open 3 days a week; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12-4PM. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this facility to properly dispose of ALL recyclable material. In addition, you may not have paid notice to the drop-off center near Winthrop that may be even more convenient for many. It is open 24-7 across from Cascade Concrete at Horizon Flats and the center will accept Aluminum cans, Flattened Cardboard, newsprint, phone books, white paper and clear plastic bottles. You should take advantage of this station – remember 24/7.

We need new Board members. Currently, we are short both two board of directors and a Treasurer. We don't ask too much of board members, but it is important to have individuals willing to take a small amount of time during the course of the year to work on behalf of our organization. We ask – if not plead with you to come forth and let us know your interest in working together for the good of Pine Forest.

Lynn Lewicki is our designated point person in dealing with the Forest Health initiatives and has been working with various government agencies including the USFS and the Dept of Natural Resources (DNR). who are the principal agencies working to both keep our forests healthy and fire-safe. She has recently submitted a grant request to the Forest Service that has a small chance of approval, but it shows that we remain committed to working with any and all agencies in the battle to minimize the danger of fires through the reduction of fuels. We will be holding in reserve monies to expend for work within Pine Forest to assist in this non-ending struggle to keep ahead of the growth in fire fuels which threaten our community. More will be forthcoming on the subject in the next couple of newsletters.

For now, that is all, but please note that this newsletter and ALL subsequent newsletters will be published on our website and not mailed to you directly. This will result in more timely information coming your way, but will save us considerable money on postage, which as you all know is increasing once again.

We ask you to go to our website pine-forest.org to find all information you will need and for any new information that will be made available to you. Make sure you also see our year-end financial results, also posted on our site.

Remember – this will be the LAST MAILING to the membership (other than invoices). All future correspondence will be delivered electronically via our website shown above.

Finally, check the website for our next newsletter and announcements about the Annual Owners Meeting, held over the Memorial Day Holiday as usual. That should be posted around the 1st of May.

Cheers,