

GREER RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Community Newsletter, Vol 5, Issue 2, June 2021



From the Fire Chief:

The station tent is up, the two trucks we own are full of fuel and water, and our firefighters are working out the challenges found operating them.

2021 promises to be an active fire season and we should be thankful that our level of preparedness is improving as well.

The reality is we live on the edge of a forest in an area prone to fires. It is up to each of us, as individuals to do our part to support the firefighters.

Prepare your homes, your yards and yourself for the coming season NOW so we can all enjoy our summer later.

Stay alert for call to come work on our new station. The tent is only going to last us a few seasons. We will begin to prepare foundations and efforts to erect basic pole frame and roof by years end.

Thanks, Matt

Annual Community Meeting and Potluck!

You and your family are invited to our annual meeting and potluck at our new fire station location on Gold Wagon Drive (between MM 3 & 4).

SATURDAY, June 26th at 4 pm.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided, as well as napkins, plates and utensils. We ask you to bring your own chairs, beverages and a dish to share with all.

We hope to have good weather, but with our mobile maintenance shelter, we can provide cover for extreme heat or rain! And with any luck we may have some new fund raising items for sale... it will be a surprise! :)

About Greer Rural Fire District:

Commissioners:

District 3 & Chairperson:
Linda Beard (208) 660-6261

District 2: Joe Chamberlayne
(208) 790-8025

District 1: Bill Miller
(208) 816-1041

Fire Chief:

Matt Turner
(208) 582-2809

Secretary:

Connie Miller
(208) 553-0484

Treasurer:

Volunteer Needed (see page 4)

Call any of us with your questions or concerns.

The next Commissioners meeting will be
September 28 - 10 am
at the Gold Wagon Fire Station.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF GREER RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

submitted by Connie Miller

Greer is one of those places in Idaho that thrived in its early years, recorded in 1898 as a townsite, but faded to a small village with time. It flourished as a connection point between the railway on the prairie to the south and the gold fields on the Palouse to the north. A ferry connected the two narrow, steep windy roads at the bottom of the Clearwater River canyon. A railway line connected Greer to the west and to the east.

In its early days Greer had a hotel, restaurant, 2 hardware stores, telephone exchange, post office, school, livery stable and other amenities to serve the town and gold fields. However, just before 1920, a fire broke out and destroyed about half the town. It started in the hay of the livery stable and spread via the cloth insulation on the phone wires.

By the mid 1990's, the people who had experienced the fire were nearly all gone, but the story lingered. Fortunately, the townsite and the surrounding homes up hill had not been threatened by fire again-- until one late night in the winter when an old cabin in the townsite caught fire from an overheated wood stove. By word of mouth the townspeople were alerted and came to help, but two garden hoses on a 5 gpm well were no match for the flames. Fortunately the night was still and the fire did not spread to surrounding buildings. However, the fire impressed people enough to take action.

In 1998, a meeting was called at the old hotel and café (a survivor of the Big Fire) to discuss forming a fire district. In the next election, the vote in favor of formation was nearly unanimous, with only 1 negative vote. There was much enthusiasm for the district, but also a dearth of able-bodied fire fighters. A proper fire truck was brought from California, but inadequate storage left it vulnerable to theft and to freezing. Self-contained breathing apparatus and boots were stolen off the truck. The pump froze and cracked. The district also had a tanker, and ultimately both truck were housed in private garages. In 2004, because of the difficulties of housing the trucks and having trained people to man them, Greer Rural Fire District decided in to contract for fire protection from two neighboring, highly functional fire departments, Orofino and Weippe, and to give up the trucks to other departments.

New housing up the canyon has brought new talent and energy to the Fire District, but also expanded the need for fire response. Two separate incidents, a house fire in a newly constructed home and an encroaching major wild fire, have rekindled interest in our fire protection. We now have a fire chief and volunteers to man the two trucks, which are stationed on the Highway 11 grade half way up the hill, but we need a permanent building to shelter the trucks, for a place to train and for a place for the community to meet.

Greer Rural Fire District annual budget report.

June 26, 2021

ASSETS

Checking	\$ 870.61
Savings	\$27,309.02
CD	\$10,000.00
Interest from CD 8/2021	\$ 40.00

BUDGET 2020-2021

Annual income

Tax receipts	\$ 6,587.00
from savings	\$ 2,354.00
Total	\$ 8,941.00

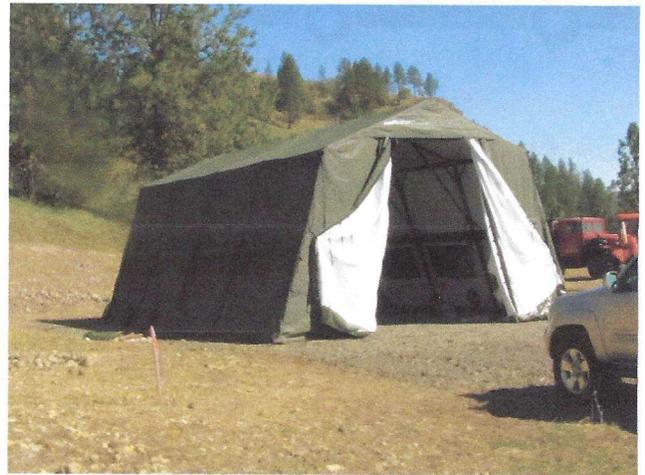
Budgeted Expenditures

Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00
Bond-treasurer	\$ 100.00
Advertising	\$ 80.00
Office/printing-postage	\$ 225.00
Training	\$ 500.00
Contract: Orofino	\$ 1,636.00
Contract: Weippe	\$ 600.00
Membership ISFCA	\$ 50.00
Park Rental	\$ 50.00
Insurance,	\$ 2,000.00
Personal Fire gear	\$ 1,000.00
Fuel (truck summer)	\$ 500.00
Legal	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ <u>200.00</u>
	\$ 8,941.00

#N/A

#REF!

April 17, 2021.. Gold Wagon Fire Station
And so it begins...some assembly required!



Job Well Done! THANK YOU to all those able to help that day!



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Annual Greer Community Meeting and Potluck!

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Saturday, June 26 at 4 pm

See inside for all the details!

Clearwater Valley Fire Districts Auxiliary!

This wonderful organization raises much needed money for all the fire districts in our area. We meet once a month, the first Thursday of each month.

\$15 annual membership.

At the moment, Greer District only has one member and it would be great to have some other volunteers. Not much time is required, its fun and a great way to meet new people and help out your community. Contact Pam White at 208-435-4612.

Help Wanted!

We are in need of a new Treasurer to join the Board of Greer Rural Fire District. This is a volunteer position, appointed by the Commissioners to support them in administering the affairs of the district. Experience in bookkeeping for a small business or non-profit would be beneficial. Contact any of the commissioners if you are interested.