

Depot Report of August 2026

We have accepted two new members to our Steering Committee: Maddie Farnsworth and Nicole Dumas. Brandon Burch has stepped away.

Several steps have been taken to clear the area around the train cars. First the tent structure was removed free of cost; then Me & My Truck packed up over 60 5-gallon buckets of blasting sand, followed by volunteers carting off lumber to the dump. AirTech spent three days clearing blasting material from the ground and other debris. Some lumber remains to be taken to the dump.

Allied Rail Corporation men arrive on August 18th and will spend 3 days assessing the condition of the train cars and provided recommendations going forward. Their report will include cost estimates which will enable the Steering Committee to decide on a course of action. Materials for a fundraising campaign have been prepared and are ready to be mailed.

Outside work continues. Trees have been removed from the hillside in preparation for the completion of a rock retaining wall which will be finished in late August. Window wells are being revised to accept the light vaults which will be ordered. The removal of dangerous curbing and final paving is soon to be completed.

Design West architects have meticulously measured the entire interior of the building in preparation for our next restoration effort to coincide with a new HCP grant we hope will be awarded soon.

We will be hosting the Chamber of Commerce's Walk of Fame induction on August 20th and inviting the public to our annual Depot Days on August 20th.

An interesting aside: Val forwarded an inquiry to me from a man in Grangeville. As it turns out his 89-yr-old dad worked for the NP/BN and has the upperpart of a semaphore that extended from above the ticket window and will bring it to us. We'll try to interview the dad and learn how he found and saved this artifact.

Directors Report

Helped Krista round up some volunteers for the fair, but we could use more. If anyone could spare a couple hours to sit at the school that would surely help. Krista has a shared drive, and you can sign up online. Also, during the fair week, I will not be working my normal hours. I will be out there to help as much as I can.

If anyone has ideas on a lead for Perkins house let me know. I have talked to all the current volunteers, and nobody wants the job. I am struggling with a volunteer who won't follow the rules at the Perkins House, even though she clearly states that she knows the rules in an email. Jeff sent her an email explaining the rules and our procedures about 3 months ago. She hired a sprinkler company to come and do work but did not get approval or even tell us what was wrong. She didn't get a quote, they are sending us the bill, and we have no idea how much it is. I reminded her that I can only pay bills under \$500 and if it is over \$500, she will need to address the board personally. I will keep everyone posted.