



THE COEUR D' ALENE & ST. JOE

In 1910, the territory now in the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Forests was under direction of Supervisor W.G.Weigle, with headquarters at Wallace. Owing to proximity to settlements and the large number of fire crews out at the time of the big blow-up, the Coeur d'Alene suffered more in loss of life and property than any other Forest.

Through May, June, and the first half of July, numerous fires were started from lightning, campers, and from the two railroads which traversed the Forest. Most of these were put under control. Outside the Forest, the Pine Creek fire to the west, burned all through the latter part of July and was a continue threat. On July 23, a severe electric storm passed over, and set numerous fires. These were manned as rapidly as possible but, with new fires starting daily and continued high winds which threw brands to a great distance, conditions got steadily worse. On August 13, even though the nearest fire was six miles from Wallace, numerous pieces of burning bark as large as a man's hand fell in the streets, setting awnings on fire in three different cases. By this time there were eighteen hundred men fighting fire on the Coeur d'Alene, besides two companies of soldiers.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 10-11) USDA Forest Service