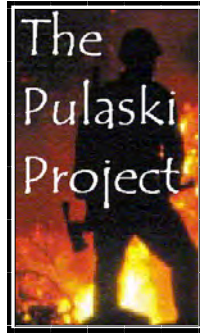


Pulaski Project

A Division of the Greater Wallace Community Development Corporation

Box 469, Wallace, ID 83873

Phone: 208-556-1707 Fax: 208-556-1707



The Vision

The Pulaski Project endeavors to:

- Educate the public about wildfires, fire fighting and fire prevention
- Educate the public about forest management theories and practices
- Recognize wildfire fighters
- Develop a recreational opportunity

The Mission

The Pulaski Project intends to generate support for the following developments:

- Creating an interpretive trail to the Pulaski Tunnel
- Creating a tribute to wildfire fighters, particularly the 1910 fire victims
- Facilitate a public discussion of forest management perspectives to promote healthy forests
- Building and operating the Pulaski Wildfire Education Center

Board of Directors:

James See, President; Robin Stanley, Vice President; Dennis O'Brien, Secretary/Treasurer;
Ron Roizen, Executive Director

Directors: Dale Lavigne, Jon Cantamessa, Karen Roetter, Dick Caron, John Amonson, Fred Traxler

Past Directors: Harry Magnuson, Dan Whiting, John Martin, Mike Alldredge

Funding

The Pulaski Project in concert with the U.S. Forest Service has been awarded twelve grants totaling in excess of \$567,000 for the trail reconstruction and development. Grants have been obtained from: a Congressional Appropriation sponsored by Senator Larry Craig, Idaho Humanities Council, Resource Advisory Council to USFS, U. S. Forest Service Centennial Grant, Idaho Community Foundation, Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation, Inland Northwest Community Foundation and Shoshone County Title III funds.

Trail Project Description

The Pulaski Tunnel Trail offers both the beauty and peace of a cool walk in a forested canyon by a cascading creek and an adventure into the past. The trail begins at a well-marked trailhead about a half-mile south of Wallace, soon after King Street leaves Wallace's city limits. The trail's two-mile course ultimately brings hikers to a spot across the creek from the historic Pulaski Tunnel, the abandoned mine where "Big Ed" Pulaski saved all but six of his 45-man firefighting crew in the Great Fire of 1910. The site's peaceful and idyllic setting belies the terrible events that etched this place into history almost a hundred years ago.

Until 2003, the trail was lost in overgrowth and erosion. The only signs of its former existence were two historical markers placed across the road from what is now the trailhead. A concerned citizens group organized to save the trail in October of 2002. Since 2003 the trail has been given new life. It has been cleared, graded, and where necessary, strengthened by durable engineering. It has also been equipped with twelve large-format porcelain interpretive signs and a number of bridges where the trail crosses the creek.

During the spring and summer of 2010, a trailhead sign was erected and development of the destination took place. At the overlook to the mine portal, a rock wall with three additional signs and a plaque and a pole fence was installed. The mine portal was recreated to represent the look of the mine just after the 1910 fire based on historical photographs. Other trail improvements are also completed.

Both the trail and the mine are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pulaski displayed considerable heroism in leading his crew to the haven of the mine and keeping them inside through the night. Eventually, everyone lost consciousness from the fire's smoke and fumes. Within the firefighting community, Pulaski is also remembered for refining the two-bladed tool that bears his name.

The interpretive aspect of the trail retells this history and also provides an historical foundation for the search for a new policy consensus for our national forests. The trail also honors the courage, dedication, and self-sacrifice of firefighters past, present, and future.

