

2013 Script for the 1910 Fire

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Introduction

1. Title

2. Title fade

3. Today, we can imagine the smoke – thick and suffocating.

4. We can fathom the flames – causing mountains and towns to glow red at midnight.

5. We can even imagine the heat, enough to peel paint off boxcars.

Yet there's one thing the survivors said was impossible for anyone to imagine: The roar.

6. A forest the size of Connecticut was exploding in a fearsome whoosh

– *generating, with fire, oxygen and wind, its own whirlwinds and cyclones.*

One survivor called it “the sound of a thousand trains rushing over a thousand steel trestles.”

Another said it could be compared only to the “roar of Niagara Falls.”

7. The noise was a deafening combination of 70 mph gales, colossal fire-driven updrafts, and the clamor of hundreds of trees cracking, snapping and slamming against earth.

One witness said it sounded like being in the midst of heavy cannon fire.

8. Another said, “The screeching, furious howl of the fire,

the heat and grandeur of it all, was suggestive of the infernal regions of hell, something unreal... unnatural... uncanny.”

It was a continuous staccato of rumblings, crashes and crackling sounds.

No let up whatsoever.”

9. Some came to call it The Big Blowup.

Others called it the Big Burn.

By any name, it was easily the biggest forest fire in the history of the Inland Northwest

10. – actually, the biggest forest fire in U.S. history.

I. The Conditions

11. Title

12. The Great Fire of 1910 had three main causes:

drought, scattered smaller fires, and wind.

13. 1910 began with a disastrously snowy winter.

It then turned into an ominously dry spring and summer – a drought.

After spring rains failed in April and May of 1910, the wildfire season got an early start.

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14. *The first wildfires in the Northern Rockies flared up in the month of April, normally unheard-of.*

The drought persisted into summer.

By late June and early July, crews were already patrolling the forest and putting out dozens of spot fires.

15. The Big Burn's second cause was the presence of smaller but active fires. These fires had three main ignition sources: lightning strikes, people, and railroads.

16. Heat lightning or dry lightning with no rain, was a frequent occurrence that summer.

17. Human caused fires were started by careless people consisting mainly of farmers, prospectors, and loggers *who were clearing land and burning slash.*

18. The railroad locomotives threw sparks like 'a Roman candle chugging down the tracks' as one man described.

19. An estimated 25 percent of the fires in 1910 were caused by lightning strikes. Comparably 75 percent of the fires were caused by people.

20. By late July, thousands of fires were smoldering deep in the mountains of Idaho, Montana and Washington.

21. Then came the wind.

On Aug. 20, 1910, an area of low pressure drifted south from Canada, creating counter-clockwise winds.

Old-timers called them "Palousers," because the winds appeared to blow from the southwest, the Palouse area of Washington and Idaho.

22. The winds whipped up the active fires, "already cooking" in the forest. Encountering tinder-dry terrain, the blazes spread quickly.

23. As the fires grew in intensity, they created their own winds. Those were the 70 mph gale-force blasts that uprooted trees and carried firebrands across canyons.

II. The Firefighters

24. Title

25. By mid-August, thousands of firefighters were out in the mountains trying to control the fires — including thousands of Army troops.

26. With forests in flames from the Clearwater National Forest to Glacier National Park, the Forest Service had 10,000 men on the fire lines in Idaho, Washington and Montana. *Their mission: Keep the blazes from devouring valuable stands of timber, and protect nearby towns.*

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27. Not surprisingly, much of the hot, dirty work fell to immigrants.

The fire crews contained Croats, Latvians, Italians, Greeks, Germans, Scandinavians and Japanese.

Some spoke no English.

Others had no woodland experience.

28. The men were plucked from hiring halls, lumber camps, mines, saloons, railroad depots and even jails.

As the wildfires grew in number and intensity, one ranger arranged to have 60 prisoners released from the Missoula jail.

29. Elers Koch, supervisor of the Lolo National Forest, hired hobos from trains, sending the sober ones out to fire camp the next morning.

30. Later, President William Howard Taft sent U.S. soldiers to assist the firefighting efforts.

31. Forest Service rangers used “guile, threats and enticements,” to staff their crews.

They gathered the willing, the able, the enfeebled, the derelict, those fleeing murky pasts and those fleeing to dim future.

Whatever the labor markets could flush out in Spokane, Missoula and Butte.

Many hired on for the wages.

The average American worker earned about \$13 for a 60-hour work week in 1910.

At 25 cents per hour, a firefighter could clear \$15 a week.

32. Each crew had roughly 20 men.

Their first task was to find the fires, often hiking several days to reach them.

After they located the fire, the firefighters had hardly anything to tackle them.

They have no training and little access to water.

33. They resorted to beating out the fire with a coat, a slicker, a sack, or even a saddle blanket. But they’ve still managed to control these scattered fires fairly well.

The men would create “firebreaks” or gaps in the dry vegetation.

They cut trails, dug trenches and removed dry undergrowth with shovels, axes and hoes.

They could build about a mile of fire line per day.

34. Desertion was common.

One crew walked off the job over rations,

complaining that each firefighter got only a small can of beans after a day of exhausting labor.

But firefighters also quit for petty reasons,

soured by the backbreaking physical work and isolation.

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35. Exasperated rangers wrote about the difficulty of keeping the men motivated. Managing the crews was more difficult than fighting the fires, complained one ranger. *“Time and again a whole crew would walk out at a critical time for some trivial reason,” he said.*
“If we were lucky, there would be enough good lumberjacks in a crew to fill the axe and saw gangs.
The punks and stew bums would be given a shovel or mattock to get the best they could out of it.”

36. Ranger William W. Morris was representative of the men in charge. He was an idealistic 29-year-old, a recent forestry graduate from the University of Michigan. Like other devotees of Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the Forest Service, Morris joined the cause of conservation when he was hired by the agency. *Many of the other rangers were also young, relatively untested leaders.*

37. In the end, the fires took the heaviest toll on the raw recruits pulled in to work the fire lines. Of the 78 firefighters who died that August, not a single one was a ranger or a soldier. Many of the bodies would never be identified.

38. The men were simply names, jotted down in the timekeeper’s record book.

III. Pulaski

39. Title

40. Pulaski is something of a mystery. *He was born in Ohio, and left school at about age 15.*
Letters from an adventurous uncle, Edwin Crockett,
who wrote vivid accounts of his life in mining camps,
fueled Pulaski’s own decision to head west.

41. Pulaski was in Murray, Idaho, in 1884 for the gold rush. *He worked as a packer, labored in mines and lumber camps,*
and picked up blacksmithing skills.
By the time the Forest Service hired him as an assistant ranger in Wallace,
Pulaski was 40 years old, a seasoned outdoorsman. (see page 40 Pyne also)

42. “Big Ed,” as he was called, stood 6 feet 4 inches. Despite the jocular nickname, photos of Pulaski show a serious man, dark-haired, dignified and somewhat enigmatic (mysterious).

43. Pulaski lived in Wallace, Idaho with his wife, Emma and daughter, Elsie.

44. Regarding Pulaski’s duties in his job as a forest ranger, the best first approximation may be that he did what other Forest Service field officers did – namely, he managed, controlled, protected, harvested, planted, and monitored the nearby national forest lands.

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45. Pulaski responded to questions about his “Results Accomplished” in the Forest Service with: “Built cabins, trails, Examined claims make reports. Planned things and fought fires since entering the service 1908. Put up telephone lines and installed telephones.”

Pulaski’s list is interesting.

It suggests that Pulaski, at this stage of his Forest Service career, was chiefly involved in work outdoors and in the field.

46. Pulaski list included mention that he built trails.

A retirement sketch described that Pulaski was allotted \$1,000 in 1909 to build 26 miles of trail “from Wallace into the St. Joe Big Creek.”

Here is evidenced Pulaski’s modesty and preference for understatement.

He in effect tells that here was a man who wrote simply that he built trails and avoids also mentioning that one such trail covered 26 miles long through difficult terrain and over a mountain ridge.

47. William Weigle, supervisor of the Coeur d’Alene National Forest wrote

“Mr. Pulaski is a man of most excellent judgment; conservative, thoroughly acquainted with the region, having prospected through the region for over 25 years.

He is considered by the old timers as one of the best and safest men to be placed in charge of a crew of men in the hills.”

IV. The Wind

48. Title

49. By August, most of the fire fighters were already exhausted from cutting fire lines for miles through wilderness.

The rangers were only too aware that hundreds of small fires were still alive, creeping along through brush and smoldering in the duff.

The rangers’ biggest fear was that a big wind would whip all of these fires into flame simultaneously.

On Aug. 20, 1910, that’s exactly what happened.

50. Fire crews deep in the forests noticed with apprehension that the wind was freshening from the southwest.

By mid-day it was a full-blown gale on the mountain ridges

— the dreaded “Palouser,” named for the Palouse country to the southwest.

51. The chain reaction of a wildfire had begun.

Heated plant matter released hydrogen and carbon while drawing in oxygen, creating a weather system of its own.

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52. Thus, three small blazes in grass met six bigger ones in the lower forest and then merged with a dozen others before joining twenty or thirty more, until the mass was bundled into a single wall of yellow and orange moving upward at fifty miles an hour.

The fire was moving faster than a horse could run.

53. All at once, it burned at the scrub and limbs of the lower tier of the forest. It burned at thick mid-height; it burned large limbs, which broke away in the storm, huge cones popping in fireballs.

54. And it burned at the crowns, the highest tips of the trees exploding into the air, flying off to light the crowns of other tall trees.

In pops and cracks and snaps and gulps, in gasps and whistles, the fire spread - more clamorous with every fresh intake, charging ahead.

55. Any leftover little fire that might have smoldered was given new life by the wind, yanked from the ground, pitched into the river of flame, into the current of the now unrecognizable Palouser.

56. At the peak of its power, it found the Coeur d'Alene forest, leading with a punch of wind that knocked down thousands of trees before the flames took out the rest.

By now, the conscripted air was no longer a Palouser but a firestorm of hurricane-force winds, in excess of eighty miles an hour. What had been nearly three thousand small fires throughout a three-state region had grown to a single large burn.

57. The advance force of the firestorm, just ahead of the flame wall, was so strong it uprooted trees that had held to a piece of ground for three centuries. Entire sections of the forest were mowed down as if they were blades of grass.

58. Deer were trapped by falling timbers; some were crushed, others suffocated. Smaller animals emerged from shelter in the hollows of trees, driven out by heat and smoke, only to die in the collapsing forest.

59. Funnels, columns, and whirlwinds formed within the storm, each breaking out in a separate dance of gas and flames. Explosions and the charge of the wind brought a sound that shook any leaf or limb not consumed by flame.

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60. The crews knew the winds boded ill,
but it wasn't until that afternoon that they looked up to see a truly horrifying sight:
Huge black clouds, like giant inky thunderheads, blotting out the sun.
These were clouds of smoke, ash and cinders, carried high aloft by giant, roaring updrafts.
It meant that those hundreds of small fires across the Clearwater, St. Joe, Coeur d'Alene and
Bitterroot regions had flared, marched and in many cases, joined up together
and created a massive chain reaction of fuel, flame and oxygen.
It was a true firestorm, massive enough to create its own roaring vortexes.
Witnesses estimated clouds of smoke and ash 2,000 feet in the air.

61. Firebrands were tossed ten miles or more,
torching the ground ahead of the incendiary waves.
As the storm approached a piece of untouched ground,
it announced itself with a roar and a light on the horizon
and finished with a sea of flames, suffocating the woods.

62. If there was a river in the way, the fire leapt over water.
If there was a lake in the way, it rode its own wind to the other side
and alighted on fresh timber.

63. If there was a town in the way, it engulfed it without blinking,
exploding a barrel of kerosene or a tank of oil, taking tents and timber,
taking shellacked houses and plank sidewalks and cedar-shake churches,
all ready for the burn.

64. Down on the ground, these winds and updrafts created crown fires
that moved faster than a man could run – faster than a locomotive could steam,
said some witnesses.
Entire mountainsides of trees were blown down like matchsticks.

VI. The Escape Run towards Wallace

65. Title

66. Pulaski was in charge of 200 firefighters between Wallace and Avery.
On the night of Aug. 19, he'd ridden into Wallace to gather up food
and first aid supplies for the crews.

67. He had dinner with his wife, Emma, and 10-year-old daughter, Elsie.
The fire would reach Wallace, he said, instructing them to take shelter
on a pile of mine tailings near the family's Burke Canyon home,
where the rocks would keep the fire from approaching.
On the morning of Aug. 20, he headed back up the mountain.
His last words to his wife: "I may never see you again."

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68. The wind was so strong that it almost lifted men out of their saddles,
and the canyons seemed to act as chimneys,
through which the wind and fires swept with the roar of a thousand freight trains.
The smoke and heat became so intense that it was difficult to breathe.

69. The men who were packing in supplies refused to go through to their destinations,
dumped their loads, and fled back to Wallace.
*Thousands of dollars' worth of blankets and supplies were thus lost.
Pulaski continued on to assist the firefighters and do what he could.*

70. Pulaski was with about 45 men on Striped Peak when the fire blew up.
“A terrific hurricane broke out over the mountains,” he later recalled.

71. Up near Striped Peak and Lake Elsie, the firefighting became futile.
“Boys, it’s no use,” Pulaski told the crew, according to one survivor’s account.
“We’ve got to dig out of here. We’ve got to try to make Wallace. It’s our only chance.”
*The men fled with the fire on their heels, a black bear racing alongside them.
Trees exploded into flame, then toppled under 70 mph winds.
One man fell by the trail, hit by a tree.*

72. Pulaski gave his horse to an ex-Texas Ranger, who was limping from rheumatism.
As they headed down the West Fork of Placer Creek, the fire surrounded them.

73. Pulaski contemplated taking shelter in the War Eagle Mine,
but discarded the plan when he realized the mine was still too far away.

74. Instead, he led the men to a shallow opening drilled by miners called an adit,
while he looked for a larger one – the Nicholson tunnel.

75. Assistant ranger, Robert Perry Stewart recalls the escape dash toward Wallace.
“While Pulaski scouted ahead, I went back for the crew. I will never forget that last run.
There was fire all around us.
*Big trees would break off high in the air and scatter fire all over us.
The steady screech and roar of fire was frightening, and the only thing that held the men
under control was the fact that they did not know the trail.
They knew that once off the trail, it would be the end.”*

76. “We found Pulaski a mile or so down the trail waiting for us.
He said that the fire had cut us off and that our only chance was to go into a nearby
abandoned mine tunnel for protection while the fire went on by.

*The men and two horses crowded into the Nicholson tunnel,
but their feeling of refuge was short-lived.
The tunnel was about 75 to 80 feet straight back into the side of the mountain,
and we had not been in the tunnel more than a few seconds when the fire struck us.”*

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77. “Within a few moments, the tunnel was full of choking smoke and the tunnel's mouth a raging furnace.

Over the next five hours, the fire raged.

Panicked men screamed, moaned, convulsed and retched.

One tried to strangle another.

The tunnel became a mad house, a hellhole where five men would die.

78. Pulaski kept the frantic men inside the tunnel at gunpoint.

He shouted, “The next man that tries to leave this tunnel, I will shoot!”

He did not have to use his gun.

79. Mine timbers near the entrance were smoldering, sucking oxygen out of the tunnel.

Pulaski wrapped wet blankets around the timbers

and used his hat to scoop muddy water out of puddles on the mine floor.

His hands and hair burned. The fire seared his eyes.

Finally, the tunnel was quiet.

80. The men, including Pulaski, had passed out, some never to awaken again.

V. Wallace

81. Title

82. Wallace had been hot all summer.

Residents’ eyes smarted from the smoke

generated by fires burning in the surrounding mountains.

In the swanky Samuel’s Hotel, patrons left sooty footprints on the lobby’s tile floors.

83. On August 13, firebrands rained down on the city, igniting an awning.

Two days later, the 25th Infantry was sent from Spokane to help defend Wallace.

84. Local residents thought the fire would follow the prevailing wind patterns from the south, flaming over the mountains and bursting out of the Placer Creek canyon toward town.

People planned accordingly.

85. “A heavy pall of smoke hung over the city,” one resident said.

“There was not a trace of the sun.

At 2:30 in the afternoon the electric lights were turned on.”

By 4 p.m. the winds died down and an eerie calm settled on the city.

An hour later, the winds picked up again.

Soon, they were gusting at 60 mph.

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86. One witness described the sound of the fire.

"At about six o'clock in the evening, the noise of the flames from up Placer Creek was so great that it was just a continual roar.

It was difficult to describe.

I could only think of the noise that might be made by a large number of heavy wagons being driven over a long wooden bridge by heavy galloping teams of horses.

It was a continuous staccato of rumblings, crashes and crackling sounds.

No let up whatsoever."

87. Trains lined up to evacuate women and children to Kellogg, Wardner and Spokane. At the mayor's orders, the soldiers threw men off of the trains.

88. The mayor marshaled volunteers and busily fought fires throughout the city.

89. When the Sunset Brewery succumbed to flames, 2,000 barrels of beer burst.

Firefighters waded through foam to their knees on the adjacent street.

It was a sad sight for the thirsty men.

Mayor Hanson ordered the remaining bars to stay open all night to serve beer and whisky to the dehydrated firefighters.

The town's water supply was no longer drinkable.

90. The next morning, Wallace residents took stock.

The east end of their town was leveled.

Many homes were gone, but the Seventh Street fire line had helped save other residences.

91. The steady work by the fire department, members of twenty-fifth infantry, colored volunteers and the forestry forces alone saved Wallace from total destruction.

The conflagration in the east was started shortly after 11 o'clock,

and back firing in adjoining hills to the west & south prevented new fires in those directions.

92. It is estimated that the loss in the city is about \$1,000,000.

93. The entire eastern section from Seventh street to Canyon street is destroyed, with three terraces of residences on the hillside.

94. About 150 residences are destroyed, and many other smaller business places.

95. Providence hospital and the Federal Land Company's big mills are the only buildings saved in the east end.

96. Two lives were lost.

James Boyd died of smoke inhalation when he returned to his house to retrieve a pet parrot.

An unidentified man died in a boarding house.

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VI. Danielson Crew near Mullan

97. Title

98. The words of James Danielson, 26, leader of the fire crew on Stevens Peak, written in a letter two years after the fire, *as quoted in "Year of the Fires," by Stephen J. Pyne:*

*"Try if you can to place yourself at the head of twenty green men ...
Picture yourself holding up a courage which was superficial to yourself,
but to the followers made you their leader.
Now picture yourself rushing at 11 p.m. to a shallow rock cut,
continually warning the men that there was no need for alarm,
when you knew that you might never see the break of the coming day.
I say picture again twenty men at the only haven for miles around,
gazing on a fire thirty miles wide, approaching at times with the speed of a train,
and as it came near men half mad with fright wishing to leave the place
in order to reach some fancied security, but the worst has not yet come."*

*"Imagine, if you can, the wind suddenly changing,
the rock cut filled with sparks more dense than any skyrocket that could be shot off
in your face, with a temperature that in an instant cooked every exposed part of one's body,
with only a moment to realize your condition and then fall down unconscious,
and then, as if this were not enough misfortune, awake to find your clothes half burned off,
men crazy with pain, some wanting to commit suicide,
some wishing to leave through fire and smoke and darkness for Mullan,
others throwing their arms around you begging for God's sake
that you better their condition."*

*"This I say with the three hours' wait until daylight came and the long tramp to Mullan
over burned debris is enough to weaken any man's mental as well as physical conditions.
Many times I could hardly withhold the cries of pain which came from my whole system.
Many times men nearly parted from the rest of the crew,
but with my utmost power was able to keep the crew together."*

*One man died,
but Danielson and the rest of his men were able to stagger into Mullan the next morning.
Danielson was scarred from his burns.*

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99. The words of a correspondent for the Daily Idaho Press (printed Aug. 27, 1910), describing the scene in Mullan, Idaho on Aug. 21, when James Danielson and his crew arrived:

The most pitiful sight ever witnessed in Mullan occurred Sunday morning when the fifteen survivors of the Boulder Creek near Stevens Peak, fire limped into town. All were staggering and all carried their arms in the air. They were badly burned and the only relief that could be obtained was by holding their arms up. Some of the men were blind from the flames that had burned them, and they held on to the men in front of them. They walked in single file and made a most distressing spectacle. They were so overcome they could not at first give a coherent account of what had happened.

VII. Pulaski's Crew

100. Title

101. Around 5 o'clock the next morning, the men started to stir. Pulaski's body lay motionless near the entrance. "Come outside boys, the boss is dead," one of the survivors called out. "Like hell he is," Pulaski replied.

"I raised myself up and felt fresh air circulating through the mine. The men were all becoming conscious," he wrote in an account of the fire.

Five men and both horses had perished in the tunnel.

102. As quick as daylight came, we found that those of us who had tried to fight the fire at the tunnel's mouth were suffering burned eyes." "We remained outside the tunnel until almost morning and then started our grueling trip for Wallace.

103. The survivors hobbled painfully back to Wallace, their path strewn with smoking logs and burning debris. Pulaski had to be led down the mountain. They were parched, but the creek water was too hot and ashy to drink.

104. Actually, we were only four miles from town, but that last hike seemed like a hundred miles. *When we were almost to town, we were met by some men coming to our aid, but we told them to go on to get the men we left at the tunnel.*

105. The hands and faces of some of the men were very badly blistered and some of the men had their fingers completely burned off. Pulaski's hands quite badly burned and his face looked like it was covered with large freckles.

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106. “We went directly to the hospital when we reached Wallace,
and the nurses had a real time getting the black off us.

After we had been cleaned up, we were put to bed.

Those of us with burned eyes were bandaged tightly for several days.

Pulaski was temporarily blinded, and spent two months in the hospital with pneumonia.

He and his wife exhausted their savings paying for other firefighters’ medical bills.

107. From William W. Morris, a 29-year-old ranger, who was in charge of firefighters on the North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River, *as quoted in “When the Mountains Roared.”*

“On the night of September fourth raindrops on our faces awakened us.

First only a few fell, and then, increasing, it soon began to come down quite heavily.

We lay there and enjoyed it.

We were glad to get wet, for we knew our long fight was over.

The next day the rain continued, so we broke up our camp,

and I bid an affectionate farewell to the faithful crew,

the men going on their various ways, most of them never to see each other again.

*I returned to Wallace, where the people were just recovering from the effects of the fire,
which had burned a large part of the town.*

*The hills surrounding the city, which formerly had been so green and beautiful,
were now bare and black.”*

VIII. Forest Resource Loss

108. Title

109. The 1910 fire burned three million acres

and killed enough timber to fill a freight train 2,400 miles long.

Merchantable timber destroyed was estimated to be eight billion board feet,

or enough wood to build 800,000 houses.

110. The entire east end of the town of Wallace was burned down.

Railroad towns, like Falcon and Adar were burned to ashes.

Railroad trestles were set afire.

111. In all directions there was nothing left but the burning stumps of once-beautiful trees.

The downed monarchs of the forest, fallen to the ground, fed the fire along its entire length.

There were hot ash-heaps where trees had criss-crossed in failing

and met hot destruction together.

Appalling desolation was everywhere.

112. There is no complete record of how much dead timber was salvaged.

The best estimate is about 300 million board feet, less than 10 percent of what was killed.

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113. It took years to clear away dead timber that clogged trails.
A CCC crew in the 1930s recalled walking across narrow canyons on the backs of huge logs left behind by winds *so powerful trees were sucked from the ground, roots and all, and tossed into the bottoms of canyons.*
In one place he estimated the wreckage was 50 feet deep, with a creek running beneath it.

114. Erosion was also a problem.
"The fall rains brought down a vast amount of sheet erosion and many steep gullies were scoured out to bedrock,"
To make matters worse,
"nearly all of the scorched trees were immediately attacked by bark beetles."

IX. Effects on Pulaski

115. Title

116. "A mystique developed around the rugged outdoorsman who had firsthand experience on the land, and who used it to save his crew."
But there was no glorious ride into the sunset for Pulaski.
After the fire, he was a broken, bitter man.

117. Pulaski returned to work with damaged lungs and blindness in one eye.
A colleague, Roscoe Haines, tried to get the Forest Service to compensate Pulaski for his health problems.
When that failed, Haines tricked Pulaski into submitting an account of the night in the tunnel to the Carnegie Commission, hoping its Hero Fund would reward him for saving the firefighters' lives.
The commission also turned Pulaski down.

118. In perhaps the most painful blow, the Forest Service refused to fund a granite memorial that Pulaski designed for the fallen firefighters.
The \$435 cost would require "an act of Congress," the Forest Service said.
Note: During the 100 year commemoration of the Big Burn a granite memorial based on Pulaski's drawing was placed at the grave site of the 1910 Fire's victims.

He really felt that the government abandoned him.
He felt that the government owed these firefighters a huge debt of gratitude.
Some received remuneration, but it wasn't consistent across the board.
That offended him.

119. A year after the fire, Pulaski perfected a fire fighting tool that bears his name. The pulaski is still used as a primary tool when battling wildfire.

120. Pulaski retired from the Forest Service in 1929.
He died two years later in Coeur d'Alene,
of complications from the injuries he received in a automobile accident.

121. He is buried in Forest Cemetery in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

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X. National Effects

122. Title

123. Researchers have studied the 1910 Fire as a history-shaping event. Photos of ruined landscapes and ashy streams rallied public support for the Forest Service, which was a relatively unpopular federal agency at the time of the fires. *Established just five years earlier, it was under attack from Western congressmen, who didn't support government ownership of choice timber lands.*

124. The Big Burn also became the Forest Service's defining narrative. Tales of firefighters' sacrifices and widespread destruction turned the agency into one of the world's largest firefighting organizations, *with 10,500 firefighters, a \$1.6 billion annual fire suppression budget and a successful track record for putting out fires.*

Conclusion

125. The Great Fire of 1910, the story of Ed Pulaski, and the sacrifice of those who died *will be remembered, retold and honored throughout the ages in wildland firefighting lore.*

126. Lessons learned will forge a new generation of young firefighters willing to risk their very lives for the safety and well-being of others.

127. *The Great Fire of 1910 will always be remembered by the descriptions of the overwhelming sound created by the fire storm . . .*
WHEN THE MOUNTAINS ROARED!

128. *Publications of the Great Fire of 1910*
1. Forest Service documents
2. Two of the best books on the fires
3. A good Primer and an early book about the fire
4. A teen novel and a good youth resource
5. The fire centennial commemoration logos and the Spokeman's Series

129. The End

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Acknowledgements

This script was compiled by Jim See, Pulaski Project President from a number of sources including by not limited to the following.

Flame and Ruin Series, Spokesman Review August 2010

The Big Burn, by Timothy Egan

When Mountains Roared, by Ehlers Koch

Surrounded by Forest Fire, by Ed Pulaski

“The Fire was on all Sides of Us” A Ranger’s Reminiscence in Idaho Yesterdays

“Big Ed” Pulaski: Some Biographical Notes, by Ron Roizen and Jim See