

SHOSHONE NEWS-PRESS

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010

Great Fire of 1910 stories coming to Kellogg

Film series starts
at 1 p.m. Saturday
at Rena Theater

KELLOGG — Author Stan Cohen will introduce the Great Fire Stories film series this Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Rena Theater in Kellogg.

If you are looking for a good primer about the Great Fire of 1910, look no further than "The Big Burn: The Northwest's Great Forest Fire of 1910," by Cohen and co-author Don Miller.

Cohen will also be addressing the Inland Empire Society of American Foresters 2010 Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 21. Packed with pictures, news articles and fire stories, Cohen and Miller have compiled a great little book that covers the major aspects of the fire.

Cohen will display movie memorabilia and introduce the film "Red Skies of Montana." "Red Skies," a 1952 feature film, is the first of a series of Great Fire Stories sponsored by the 1910 Fire Committee as part of the 1910 fire commemoration.

Four additional films will be scheduled at the

Rena every third weekend on Saturdays at 1 p.m. Titles include: "Fire Wars," "The Greater Good," "Yellowstone Aflame" and "Smokejumpers: Firefighters From the Sky."

"Red Skies of Montana" is a 1952 adventure drama in which smoke jumper Cliff Mason (Richard Widmark) attempts to save his crew while being overrun by a forest fire — not only to save his men, but to redeem himself after his last fire, when he was the only survivor.

"Fire Wars" takes a look at the work of the Arrowhead Hotshots: How they fight fires, what equipment they use, what role fire plays in the ecosystem of a forest, and why some firefighters and environmentalists feel we need to take a new approach to dealing with fires.

From the timbered shores of the Pacific Northwest to the marble halls of Washington, D.C., the choices about how we use our rich natural heritage are filled with controversy. Whether it is the protection of endangered species or meeting the needs of a growing public, the fate of public lands is constantly chal-

lenged by the constraints of democracy.

Visionary foresters shaped the debate over land stewardship for a hundred years. Their journey has defined the evolution of the Forest Service and is presented in "The Greater Good."

Through footage taken during the 1988 fires, see and hear one of America's greatest forest fires.

Discover how it burned nearly a million acres of trees yet gave birth to a new cycle of growth. "Yellowstone Aflame" offers insight into the conditions that led to the fires and explores important ecological changes in the park.

"Smokejumpers: Firefighters From the Sky" offers two hours of action and history of the National Smokejumpers Association. These are the heroes of firefighting, jumping into remote wilderness and fighting the fires — man against nature. Action-packed and full of interesting historical information.

Mark your calendar and experience the heat. Suggested donation to 1910 Fire Memorials: \$3.

Contact: www.firecoop.org or 784-0821 for more information.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Hikers sought for 1910 fire commemoration

Applications are being accepted for an Aug. 14 hike that retraces the route that assistant Forest Service ranger Ed Pulaski and his crew took to find shelter in a mine shaft during the 1910 fires.

Forty-five volunteers are needed for the hike, which will be videotaped. The strenuous, seven-mile hike traverses terrain from above Lake Elsie down the Pulaski Tunnel Trail to Wallace.

The hike is sponsored by the 1910 Fire Commemoration Committee.

Applications are available online at www.recoop.org.

**1910 Fire Event
Timeline for May - August 2010
Silver Valley, Idaho**

May 1st - Wallace Mining Museum
Exhibit opens

May 1st - Mullan Museum
Exhibit opens

Film Festival at the Staff House
Museum, 820 McKinley Ave
Kellogg, Idaho - 1pm

July 3rd - The Greatest Good

July 24th - Yellowstone Aflame

August 14th - Smokejumper History

May 29th - Staff House Museum
Exhibit Opens - Kellogg

July 10th - Ghost Cedars Interpretation
- Art Zack, Ecologist - Wallace

July 2010 - Guided hikes on the
Pulaski Tunnel Trail begin Saturdays
at 10am and Sundays at 1pm
through August 22nd

August 4th thru 29th - Rustlers at the
Ranch or How Swift Can The Taylors
Run? Wednesdays thru Saturdays at
7pm, Sundays at 2pm -
Sixth Street Theater, Wallace

August 8th thru 31st - Voices of The
Big Burn - Sundays thru Tuesdays at
7pm - 6th Street Theater, Wallace

**1910 Fire Commemoration
August 20th - 21st, 2010
Wallace, Idaho**



**Events scheduled on the
Anniversary of the Big Blowup**

August 14th - Re-enactment Hike from
Lake Elsie to the Adit in West Placer
Creek - Pulaski's route

August 19th - Wallace Elks - 7pm.
An evening with author Stephen Pyne

August 20th - 9 Mile Cemetery,
Wallace - Forest Service Dedication at
mass grave site - Pulaski's Crew - 1pm

August 21st - Wallace Visitor Center -
Procession and Dedication of the Fire
Fighter Memorial

August 21st - Wallace Elks - 7pm.
An evening with author Timothy Egan

Great Fire Stories Film Festival

New Location

Commemoration
of the Great Fire of 1910

Selected Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.
Staff House Museum - Kellogg

Red Sky of Montana

May 22

An 1952 adventure drama in which smoke jumper Cliff Mason, Richard Widmark, attempts a save his crew while being over-run by a forest fire, not only to save his men, but to redeem himself after his last fire when he was the only survivor.

Fire Wars

June 12

Fire Wars takes a look at the work of the Arrowhead Hotshots, how they fight fires, what equipment they use, what role fire plays in the ecosystem of a forest, and why some firefighters and environmentalists feel we need to take a new approach to dealing with fires.

The Greatest Good

July 3

From the timbered shores of the Pacific Northwest to the marble halls of Washington DC, the choices about how we use our rich natural heritage are filled with controversy. Whether it is the protection of endangered species or meeting the needs of a growing public, the fate of public lands is constantly challenged by the constraints of democracy. Visionary foresters shaped the debate over land stewardship for a hundred years. Their journey has defined the evolution of the Forest Service.

Yellowstone Aflame

July 24

Through footage taken during the 1988 fires, see and hear America's greatest forest fire. Discover how it burned nearly a million acres of trees yet gave birth to a new cycle of growth. Yellowstone Aflame offers insight into the conditions that led to the fires and explores important ecological changes in the park.

Smokejumper History

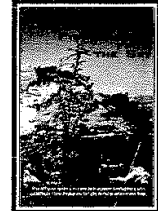
August 14

Two hours of action and history of the National Smokejumpers Association. These are the heroes of firefighting, jumping into remote wilderness and fighting the fires - man against nature. Action packed and full of interesting historical information.

Mark your calendar and experience the heat.

Suggested donation to 1910 Fire memorials: \$3.00

Contact: www.firecoop.org or 784-0821



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010



SPOTTY SHOWERS ▲ 58 ▼ 38

WWW.SPOKESMAN.COM

A century later, foresters look at the Big Burn and how combating wildfires has changed.



CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON chrisa@spokesman.com

Participants in a Society of American Forestry 1910 Fire Conference in Wallace take a field trip to the Pulaski Tunnel on Thursday. The two-mile uphill hike outside Wallace has interpretive signs and is being upgraded for the 100th anniversary.

Lessons in firefighting

By Becky Kramer

beckyk@spokesman.com, (208) 765-7122

WALLACE - Tom Tidwell, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, was a young recruit when he first heard the stories of the 1910 fire.

Fresh out of college, he'd been hired as a seasonal firefighter on the Boise National Forest. Within a week, "I heard the story of Ed Pulaski," he said.

The tale of how Pulaski, an assistant ranger, saved the majority of his 45 crew members by leading them into an abandoned mine shaft near Wallace is one of the enduring stories of the fire, which also includes narratives of crews hunkered down in creek bottoms while hurricane-force winds howled overhead.

The fire scorched 3 million acres across the Northern Rockies, razed frontier

Looking back

The sheer destruction of the 1910 fire changed public attitudes toward wildfires and the Forest Service. The fire caused nearly \$14 million worth of damage, killed seven civilians and 78 firefighters, and burned 7.5 billion board feet of timber, including valuable white pine intended for East Coast markets.

towns and took the lives of 78 firefighters. Its influence on the Forest Service can't be overestimated, Tidwell told about 200 people Friday at a Society of American Foresters meeting in Wallace.

The fire rallied public support for the newly minted Forest Service, which was under attack from timber and mining interests. Tales of courage and sacrifice from the fire inspired generations of agency officials, perpetuating firefighting as a key Forest Service mission.

"For many years, we used the 1910 burns as a rallying cry for putting out fires," Tidwell said. "We put them out, we put them all out and we put them out fast."

The mantra changed in the 1980s, when the agency acknowledged that fires can benefit ecosystems. The Forest Service now lets some fires burn to benefit wildlife habitat or clear out brush. But it remains a firefighting agency, Tidwell said, extinguishing 98

See FIRE, A4

"It was a disaster of such a scale that it grabbed the national attention."

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell

On the 1910 fire

Smoke from the fire drifted north to Saskatchewan, east to Denver and west to San Francisco.

"It was a disaster of such a scale that it grabbed the nation's attention," Tidwell said.

Congress doubled the Forest Service's budget the next year. The agency developed a military-style approach to fighting wildfires, including tankers and lookouts. Fires reported the night before were supposed to be out by 10 the next morning.

"We created this perception that firefighters could save your house - even when your house was in an area that was naturally programmed to burn," Tidwell said.

Bigger burns over the past three decades have challenged that thinking. Fire suppression has led to high fuel loads and higher rates of catastrophic burns.

In addition, climate change is "adding weeks to the fire season," Tidwell said. The average acreage of federal, state and private land burned each year shot up 28 percent between 2000 and 2007.

More people also live in the forest or at its edge. Over the past decade, nearly 28,000 homes and businesses have burned in wildfires.

"People ask about the Big Burn - could it happen again? I think it already has, at least today's version," Tidwell said.

Better firefighting techniques have helped blunt wildlife's destruction, and better communication leads to more orderly evacuation.

"When we have these large fires get established on the landscape, we can't suppress them, but we can get people out of the way," Tidwell said. "We'll continue to have these large fires, but they'll have less of a catastrophic effect."

FIRE

Continued from A1

percent of the wildfires that originate on federal forests each year.

In 1910, the idea of national forests was still controversial. Many Westerners were skeptical of federal forest reserves, considering them a "land grab" by the federal government, Tidwell said.

Wildfires were also an accepted part of the American landscape, said Stephen Pyne, an author and fire historian at Arizona State University, who also spoke at the conference. Farmers and miners set fires intentionally to clear land and expose mineral outcroppings, while sparks from railroad locomotives and logging slash piles set off accidental blazes.

"In many ways, the U.S. was like Brazil today," said Pyne, comparing the fires to the burning of the Amazon rainforest.

The sheer destruction of the 1910 fire changed public attitudes toward wildfires and the Forest Service. The fire caused nearly \$14 million worth of damage, killed seven civilians and burned 7.5 billion board feet of timber, including valuable white pine intended for East Coast markets.

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2010

SHOSHONE NEWS-PRESS

A tale of valor, tragedy

Survivor recalls wildfire that
raged through Mann Gulch

By NICK ROTUNNO
Staff writer

WALLACE — Sixty-one years ago, a young Smokejumper named Bob Sallee stepped out of an airplane, dangled beneath his parachute for a few moments and touched down — rather unceremoniously — in a hot, dry place called Mann Gulch.

Sallee was in Montana, alongside the Missouri River, not far from the Gates of the Mountains. It was Aug. 5, 1949, the height of the summer wildfire season, and Mann Gulch was ablaze.

Just 17 years old, Sallee was part of a still-fledgling organization, the Smokejumpers, a brave group of men who dropped from the sky and battled the fiercest of fires. They were confident and boyish, really quite dashing, the pride of the United States Forest Service.

But Mann Gulch was a dangerous little canyon, windswept, dry

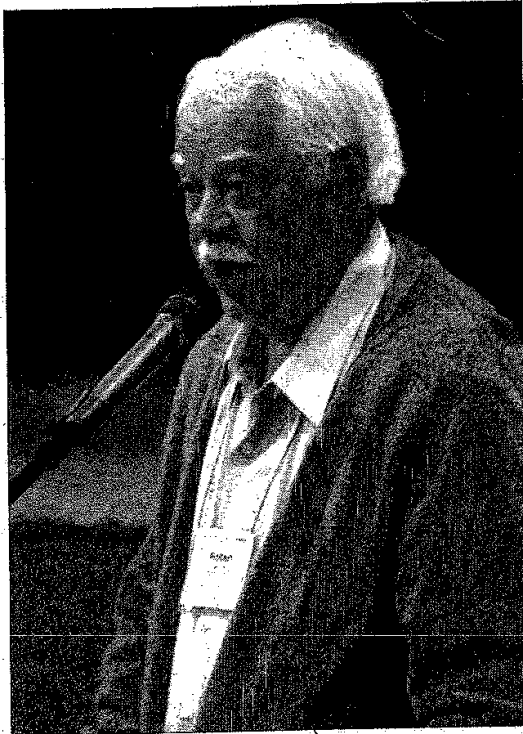
Smokejumpers didn't know — they had no way of knowing — that they had leapt into a deadly trap.

The fire exploded, engulfing the crew. When the tragedy was over, 13 firefighters had lost their lives. Sallee and two other men, including the crew's foreman, Wag Dodge, survived the inferno.

Last Friday at the Wallace Civic Auditorium, Sallee told his story of the Mann Gulch blaze. The onetime Smokejumper was a banquet speaker for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Inland Empire Society of American Foresters, and the crowd hung on every word as Sallee recounted that dreadful day in Montana.

At first, Sallee said, he thought the fire looked like "a piece of cake." But high winds scattered the men's tools, and their radio shattered when its parachute failed to open. It was not an auspicious start.

Moving down the



— Photo by NICK ROTUNNO

Bob Sallee, a survivor of the 1949 Mann Gulch fire, spoke at the Wallace Civic Auditorium last Friday.

gulch, the crew watched as the blaze grew into a monster. The wind swirled, whipping the fire into a frenzy. Spot fires blossomed in front of the main fire, and before long the conflagration was a full-on blowup, sweeping through the gulch and bearing down on the crew.

Foreman Wag Dodge ordered his men to drop their heavy tools and head up-gulch, away

from the advancing fire. They couldn't go straight for the top; the slope was at least 70 degrees, forcing the crew to angle its ascent.

"The view of the fire was incredible," Sallee remembered. "So I was in a hurry... but unfortunately, when you've got a slope like that, you're not running, you're just scrambling."

see SURVIVOR, A3

SURVIVOR from A1

Dodge realized the fire was moving too fast. He lit a small fire of his own, hoping to create a small burned-out refuge for his crew. But the men thought he had lost his mind, Sallee included, and they all continued upward. Dodge, lying in the ashes of his own fire as the main blaze roared past, was not harmed.

Close to the top of the gulch, Sallee and another crewman, Walter Rumsey, made a dash for the summit. They reached a wall of rocks high on the ridgeline and plunged through a small opening.

"My family didn't go to church when I was growing up, and I wasn't a religious person," Sallee said, "but I was praying."

The two men tumbled into another gulch and took shelter in a rock slide, where the fire could not reach them. After a

long night, Rumsey and Sallee evacuated by boat on Aug. 6.

Eleven firefighters died in Mann Gulch; they could not outrun the flames, hard as they tried. Two others, badly burned, died the next day in Helena, Mont.

Sallee spoke quietly on Friday; his voice never wavered. The memories were painful, but he was stoic to the very end.

"Every person involved in that story has a personal story," Sallee concluded. "I don't know the whole story myself."

Like the 1910 Fire 39 years before, Mann Gulch was a seminal event in Forest Service history. The tragedy inspired fundamental change: New training methods were developed, safety procedures were modified and additional wildfire research — extensive, highly-scientific research — began in earnest.

Largely because of the Mann Gulch fire, smoke-jumping today is a much

safer endeavor than it was six decades ago.

Author Norman Maclean immortalized the Mann Gulch catastrophe in his beautifully-crafted "Young Men and Fire." Sallee plays a prominent role in the book; so too does Dick Rothermel, a former fire behavior scientist who also spoke at the forester's banquet.

Rothermel described his relationship with Maclean, his cutting-edge analysis of the Mann Gulch fire and the interesting data he uncovered.

While Maclean was writing his book — a project that took many years — he often visited Rothermel at the fire laboratory in Missoula, Rothermel said. As

Maclean pieced together the Mann Gulch story, he relied on the scientist's information to explain what happened. "Young Men and Fire" offers a detailed analysis of the fire's behavior, made possible by Rothermel's work.

The banquet was the cornerstone of a long meeting. Foresters had gathered in Wallace to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the 1910 Fire, coming together from across the Inland Empire. They had enjoyed field trips, numerous presentations and various speakers.

It's doubtful, however, that any one program was more stirring, or more profoundly human, than Bob Sallee's on Friday night.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2010

SHOSHONE NEWS-PRESS

Commemorative 1910 Fire hike planned

WALLACE — On Saturday, Aug. 15, the 1910 Fire Committee will sponsor a reenactment hike as part of the centennial commemoration of the 1910 fire.

The committee is seeking 45 volunteers to participate in a hike from above Lake Elsie down the Pulaski Tunnel Trail to Wallace, Idaho. The route, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was the escape way taken by Pulaski and his crew of firefighters.

Transportation will be provided by Dave Smith Autos.

The hike starts with a steep third mile up the St. Joe Divide Trail.

"That's a tough climb," said committee member Jim See, who recommends that only experienced hikers attempt the journey.

The hike will then follow the St. Joe Divide along the ridge trail past Striped Peak and three miles down the Pulaski Tunnel Trail, and finishing up with one mile along Moon Pass Road from the Pulaski Tunnel

Trailhead to Wallace.

See said that the committee is working on making the site look like it would have in 1910. "We had logs carved to look like the logs left there after the fire," he said. They're also working on constructing a wall and a fence, which are scheduled to be finished by July 1.

After the hike a reception for the hikers is planned to be held at the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot in Wallace. The original fire fighters ended their harrowing trip at the hospital, which is now gone, said See.

Those interested in participating should fill out and mail in the form found on-line at www.firecoop.com. The deadline is Aug. 1. The hike is limited to the first 45 qualified hikers. Prospective hikers should consider their physical condition, medical conditions, and hiking experience as this will be a strenuous, all-day hike.

For further information see the Fire Committee website or contact Jim See at 752-7151.

Headin' out to explore with my sidekick

Newcomer's Nook

by NICOLE NOLAN

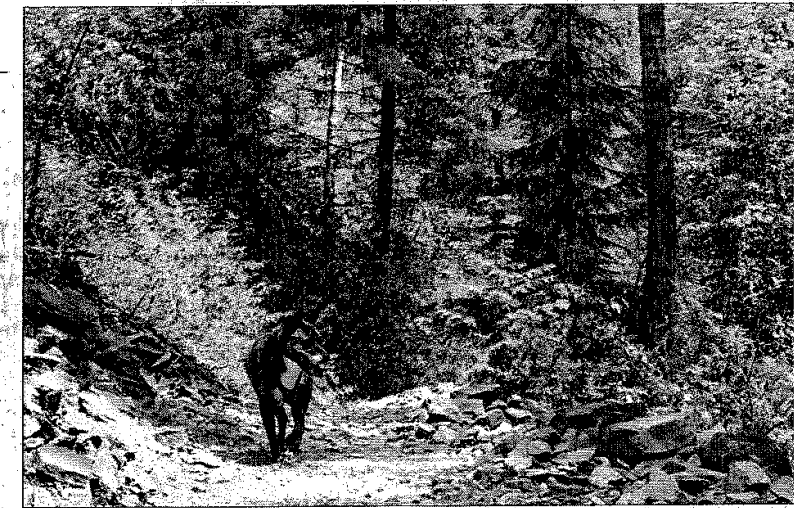
If you've never walked the Pulaski Trail, I highly suggest it. Following a dirt path through the wild and along a peacefully cascading creek, there is little that can clear the mind faster and relieve the tension of the work week better. Guinness was in his element, tail wagging and tongue hanging out as he investigated all the wonderful smells and splashed through the creek to cool off.

He made a habit of running ahead on the trail, then pausing to look back at me, eyes telling me to pick up the pace as I was evidently spending too much time enjoying the scenery, trying not to trip over rocks or walk off the side of the path into the creek as I snapped picture after picture of my surroundings.

Some may think Mother Nature is the same no matter where you are, but it's the little differences that really make each part of our country unique. It's the unique flowers, the way the water runs so clear

over the smooth rocks of a creek and the wide variety of green showcased by the numerous trees, shrubs and underbrush that coat the surrounding mountains that makes northern Idaho unmatched.

After taking, no joke, over 200 photographs of the area, Guinness and I returned to the Jeep to delve deeper into Moon Pass on four wheels. It was just as breathtaking as the previous adventure through the mountains with Nick Rotunno. This time, without the wisps of clouds clinging to the



— Photo by NICOLE NOLAN

Guinness explores the sights (and smells) of the Pulaski Trail.

mountainside there were rays of sunshine peering through the trees.

Feeling quite adventurous, I took a right onto a one-lane bridge leading to

a narrow, rocky path.

see NOOK, 1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2010

NOOK from A2

I just had to test the Jeep out. With his paws spread to maintain balance as we bumped along, he managed to continue his works of nose art on the windows on either side of him as he gazed outside. Unfortunately, the overgrown bushes kept scraping down the sides of my Jeep, so I pulled one of my ever-famous 10-point turns on the narrow drive and we made our way back out and onto Moon Pass.

Admittedly, it is difficult to stare out the window at the beauty while driving, which warranted frequent stops to let Guinness roam and take in the views. At one stop,

while taking pictures looking over the dirt roads we had just traversed, I ran into a group of three four-wheelers taking advantage of the prime weather. I couldn't help but think that four-wheeling will have to be one of the many experiences to add to my list of things to do while living in the Silver Valley.

It seems that my list keeps growing, even faster than I am able to tackle each adventure, but luckily this is a honey-do list that I don't mind working at. Each foray into the wilds of the Silver Valley leaves me with countless memories.

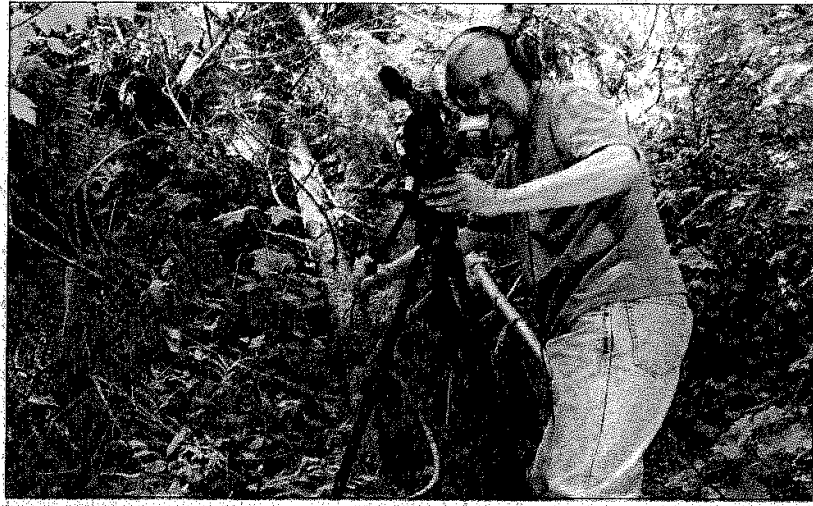
from the photographs I am able to collect to Guinness' enormous tongue hanging out in sheer joy as he splashes through the creek and bounds through the underbrush.

Now I am left to plan my next adventure, with Guinness at my side. Now that the weather has improved, I'm thinking a ride along the Route of the Hiawatha will soon be in store.

Nicole Nolan is a staff writer for the Shoshone News-Press who, unfortunately for area businesses that develop film, likes to shoot with a digital camera. E-mail her at nnolan@shoshonenewspress.com.

Shoshone County

Filmmaker visits Silver Valley



Florida filmmaker George Sibley recently visited the Silver Valley, recording the Pulaski Trail and the Nine-Mile Cemetery to include in his new film "Ordeal by Fire." The documentary will feature the Great Fire of 1910 and will be the featured film on Friday, Aug. 20, for the commemorative film series.

— Courtesy photo

Hecla donates \$5,000



— Courtesy photo

From left to right: Lucky Friday General Manager Mike Dexter, Forest VanDorn, President and CEO Phillips Baker Jr., Assistant Fire Warden of the Idaho Department of Lands Cataldo Supervisory Area Kjell Truesdell, Shawn Pearson and John Specht stand together as the Hecla Charitable Foundation donated \$5,000 to the 1910 Fire Commemoration Committee on Monday.

1910 commemorative field trip is Saturday

As part of the 1910 commemoration, a field trip and presentation about the 1910 Fire cedar snags is scheduled for Saturday July 10. U.S. Forest Service Ecologist/Forest Silviculturist Art C. Zack will host this event at the headwaters of the Little St. Joe on the south side of Moon Pass.

This interpretation of the "Cedar Graveyard" or "Ghost Cedars" will present information about the ecology of the area, how the cedars snags remained after the Big Burn and other signs of the big burn that are on the landscape. This will be a learning experience for those not familiar with the effects of the 1910 fire as well as

interpretation of the landscape today, 100 years later.

Interested participants can register by logging on to www.firecoop.org. Follow the direction given there.

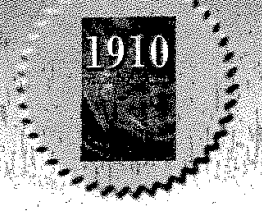
A school bus will leave the Wallace Jr./Sr. High School at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday for a 15 mile, one hour ride to the "Land of the Giants." The first 40 people to register will be eligible for the bus ride. A \$3 donation is suggested. If there is enough interest, a second bus may be available at a later time on the same day.

Photo Courtesy of Wallace District Mining Museum



1020159-0527

Valley Burns
- Fresh from the Printer and only
401 Main st
Kellogg, ID 83837
208-783-1107
\$5.00

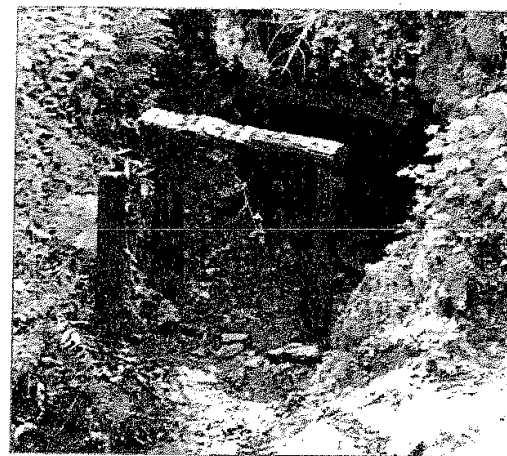


Name _____
Mailing address _____
Phone w/area code _____
VISA / MC / DISCOVER # _____
Expiration date _____
Total cost \$6 (includes shipping and handling)

Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Intermountain Region USDA Forest Service

Reconstruction of the Nicholson Adit

A Pictorial Summary of the 2010 Effort on the Pulaski Tunnel Trail



Stephan E. Matz
7/12/2010

Reconstruction of the Nicholson Adit

The reconstruction of the mine portal at the Nicholson Adit where Ed Pulaski, 40 plus men and two horses sought refuge from the 1910 Fire has been completed. The purpose of the reconstruction was to provide the public with a better sense of the adit's post-1910 Fire condition. Since the original portal structure had decayed into nothing, reconstruction of the structure as it looked immediately after the fire was considered an important aspect of the site's interpretive value. The design was checked against historic photos and fitted to the existing portal condition to be as accurate as possible. The project was a cooperative effort by the Pulaski Project, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, and Coeur d'Alene Office of the Bureau of Land Management for the 1910 Centennial commemoration.

The inspiration, funding, design, materials and construction were sponsored by the Pulaski Project, a local Silver Valley group dedicated to the development of the *Pulaski Tunnel Trail*. The Inland Northwest Community Foundation, Recreation Advisory Committee, State of Idaho and Forest Service provided funding for the project. The project proposal and design were put together by a local mining engineer, Alan Gilda, and reviewed by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. The logs were carved and charred by Hal Payne, artist and sculptor, according to post burn historic photos of the adit. The size of the sets (i.e., two upright posts and one horizontal cross beam or cap equal one set) were based on measurements of the interior of the adit (i.e., four feet wide by five feet high). Each of the two full sets and one post were placed about four feet apart, which is the same distance as the sets were wide. Prior to placement of the posts and caps the Forest Archaeologist, Steve Matz, troweled the entire outer surface of the portal looking for signs of artifacts from Pulaski's crew. While only a couple of scraps of heavy, flat iron were found, Dwight Clift, the contractor that assembled the posts and caps for the reconstruction, said he found several scraps of horse tack near the entrance of the adit during the construction of the interpretive trail several years ago. This is one more piece of evidence that confirms the Nicholson Adit is the proper location of the "Pulaski Tunnel".

The Pulaski Project, and especially Ron Roizen and Jim See, put a lot of time and effort into seeking grant money for this project so that the public can more fully experience this important 1910 Fire site for the Centennial commemoration. The Pulaski Project and everyone involved in the reconstruction should be congratulated on a job well done.

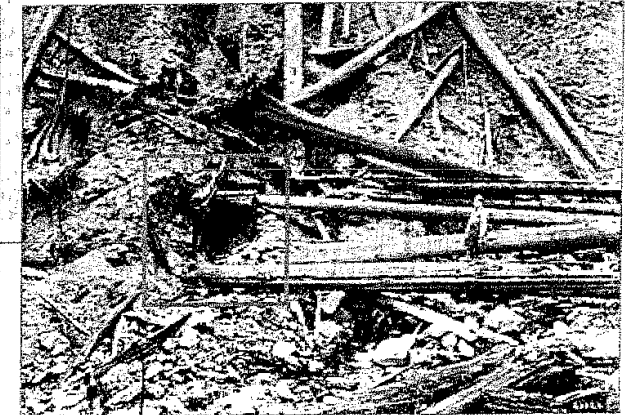


Figure 1. Post fire photograph of W.W. Morris by R.H. McKay of the Nicholson Adit on right and enlarged view of adit portal from same photo on left (photo courtesy of Northern Region Forest Service Archives).

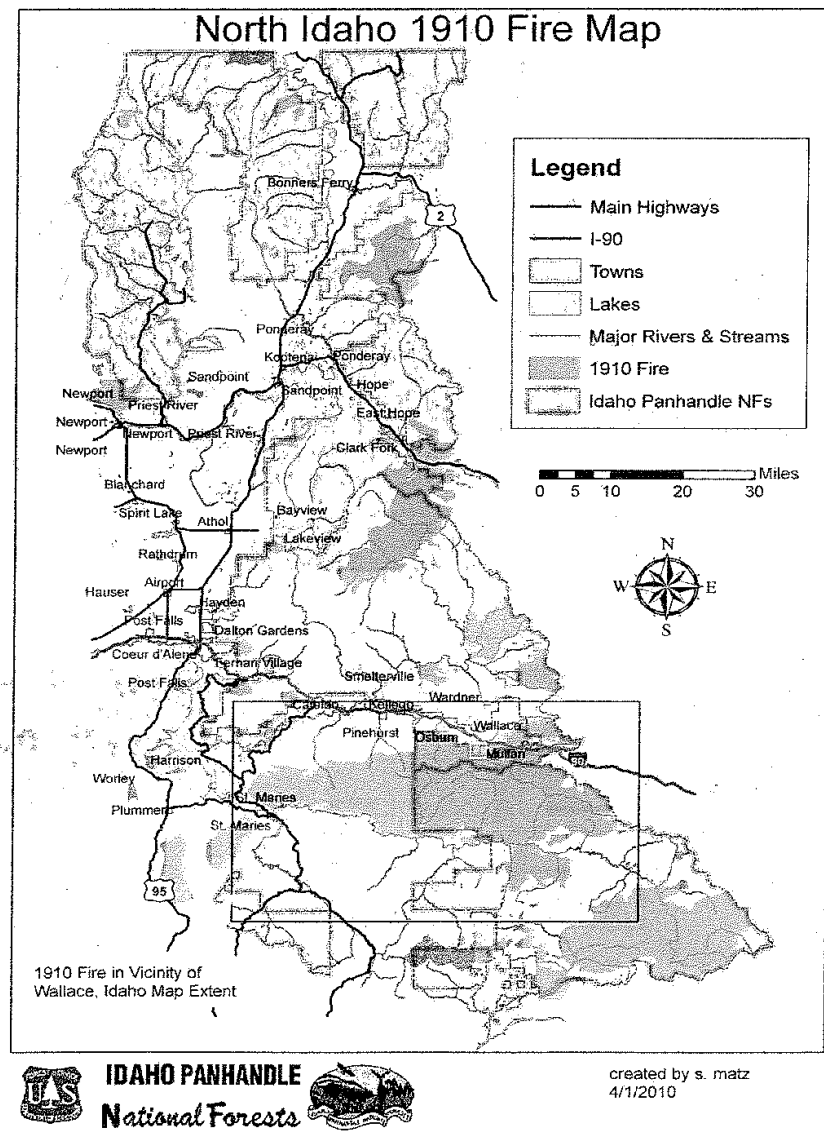


Figure 2. Overview map of the 1910 Fire on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The black rectangle indicates the area shown on Figure 3 detailing fire affected areas near Wallace, while the yellow rectangle shows the location of Pulaski Tunnel Trail.

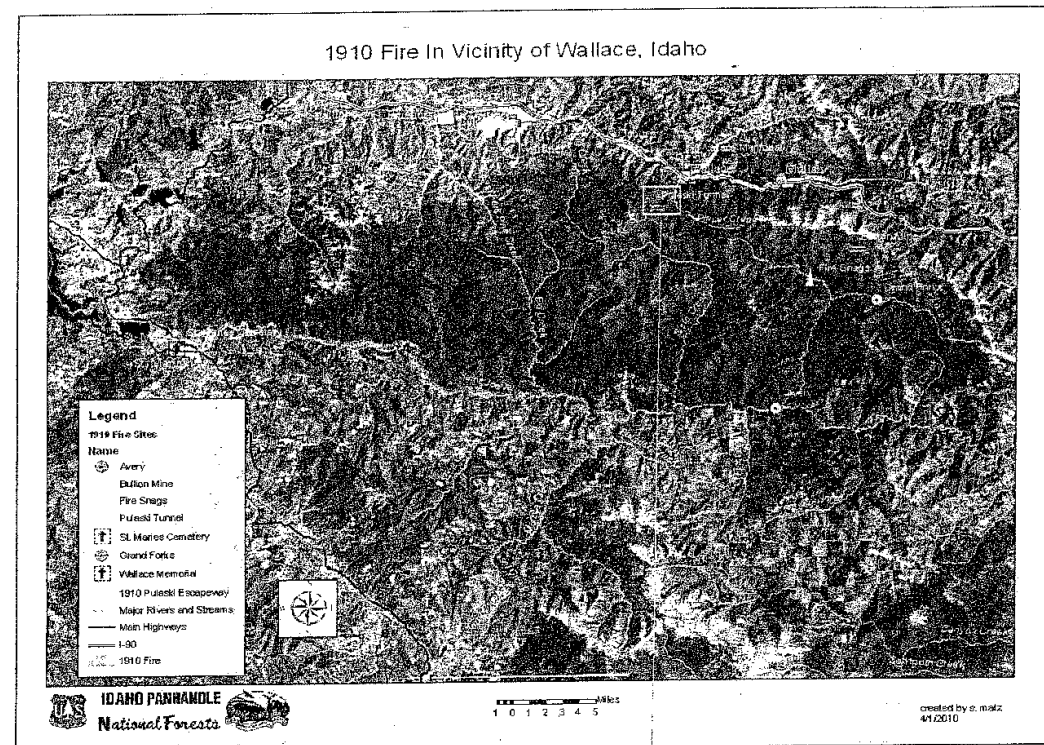


Figure 3. Close-up of 1910 Fire affected areas near Wallace overlain on 2008 orthophoto. Yellow rectangle indicates location of Pulaski Tunnel Trail on inset.

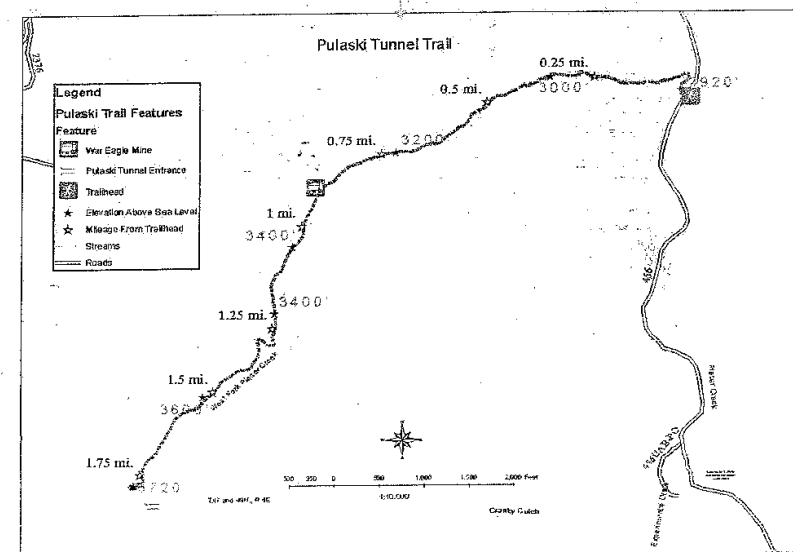




Figure 4. Hal Payne creating posts and caps for Nicholson Adit portal. From left to right: Shaping the log from historic photos, charring the outside of the log to give it the correct color and putting on the finishing touches.

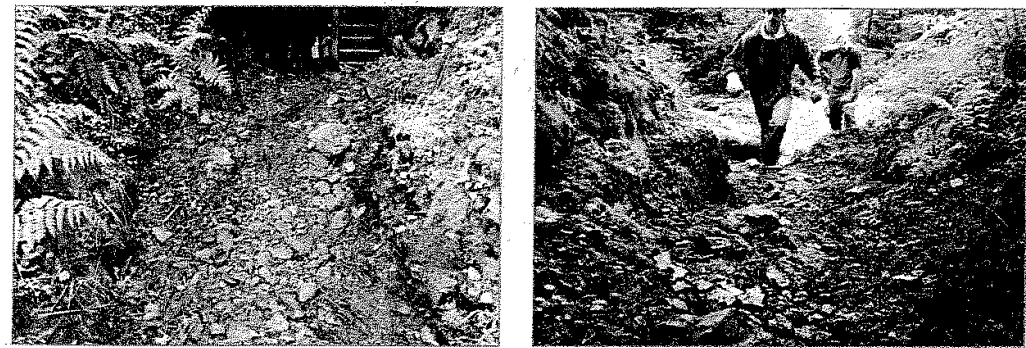


Figure 5. Initial view of the portal area. On the left is the portal from the exterior, while on the right is the portal area from the interior. A large amount of material had caved in since the 1910 Fire, partially closing the tunnel entrance. This material had to be removed in order to place the posts appropriately.



Figure 6. Prior to setting the posts and caps Forest Archaeologist, Steve Matz, systematically removed the material from in front of the portal with a trowel looking for artifacts. Since the material was so wet and rocky it couldn't be screened, but had to be removed very carefully so that any pieces of horse tack or other artifacts associated with the Pulaski crew could be found. All fill material in the area of the posts was removed by trowel down to where clean, undisturbed rock was found. Once troweled the fill was placed back into the mouth of the portal near the metal gate. While only three pieces of heavy sheet metal were found in the fill, contractor Dwight Clift said he had seen decayed pieces of horse tack in the area only several years before.

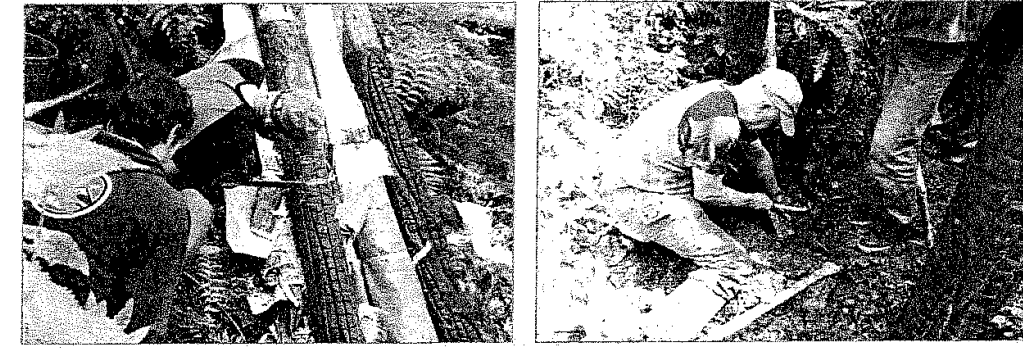


Figure 4. Initial construction of the adit portal sets. Dwight Clift and grandson Steele cut the posts to length with an electric chainsaw (left photo), while Steele steadied the post for Dwight to nail brace into place (right photo).



Figure 8. Dwight and Steele level posts in order to set cap log in the left photo, while the right photo shows the two sets nearly finished and the uncut final post lying on the ground.



Figure 9. Finished adit reconstruction viewed from Pulaski Tunnel Trail overlook.

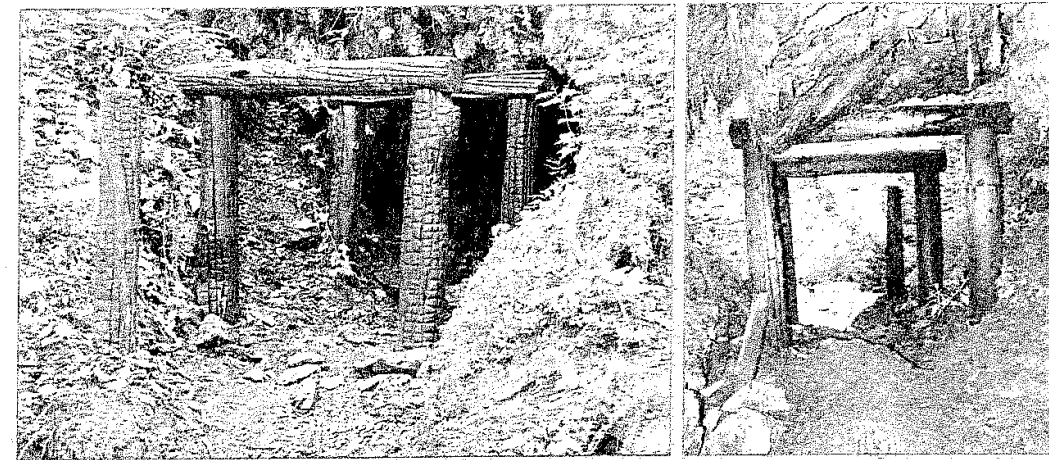


Figure 10. Finished portal reconstruction, viewed from both the exterior (left) and the interior (right) of the adit. Note the brace made of treated 2x4" lumber in the left photo. Each post had a horizontal foot nailed to the bottom that was set in a trench excavated perpendicular to the post. A brace was then nailed to the foot and the post to provide additional support. The braces were covered with soil if they were visible from outside. The braces on the left side as you look out of the portal were set toward the back of the adit, while the braces on the right side were faced toward the adjacent post of the same set (see Figure 7 right). The cap logs were placed in a saddle carved in the top of each post and drilled and fastened with rebar to secure them in place. A marine grade water proofing agent was used on the outside and cut ends of each log to reduce natural deterioration. It is expected that the structure will last about 10 years, which is pretty good considering sets in the Coeur d'Alene mines were generally replaced every three to five years.

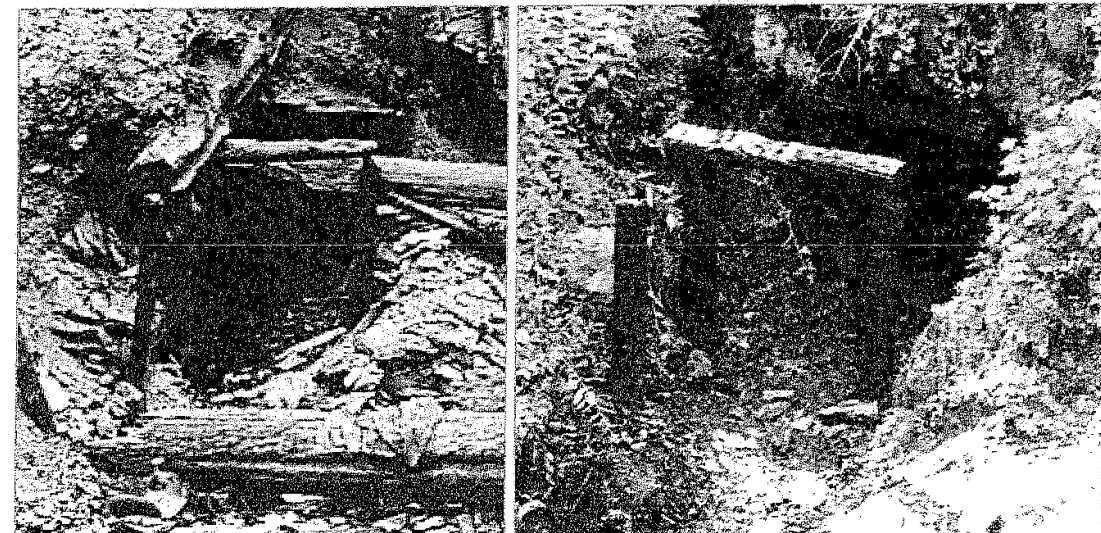


Figure 11. Enlargement of portal section of 1910 McKay photo on left showing original post fire condition and post reconstruction photo taken upon completion of project in 2010 on right.