

Proposed project:

Interpretive memorial sign for the 1931 Waldron Creek Fire

Location:

South Fork Waldron Creek Trailhead

Rationale:

Five individuals who were temporary employees for the US Forest Service died in the line of duty on the Waldron Creek Fire on August 25, 1931. This event has been forgotten to history; it has not been recognized by the US Forest Service or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group as a firefighter fatality incident. A book has been written documenting the incident.

There is currently a network of retired wildland firefighters and local Choteau community members interested in working together to remedy this oversight. This ad hoc team would like to tell the story of the forgotten five and honor them with a simple memorial sign. The team would also like to work in partnership with the US Forest Service.

Brief Description:

The suggested structure would be a plasma-cut metal plate sign, no larger than 4 feet high by 6 feet wide. The sign would be supported above the ground by two metal poles that would require minor excavation to set and anchor the structure.

The proposed location for this project is on US Forest Service land. If approved, the team working on this project believes there are resources available locally in the Choteau area to accomplish the project with minimal impact on the agency.