

Old Men,

Here are my thoughts on prepping for the upcoming trip to north Idaho:

The single best read is Timothy Egan's The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America, published in 2009. Most libraries should have it or it's easy to get online. Egan grew up in Spokane and is a great storyteller. He tells the story of the fire season well and the historical changes it caused. Stephen Pyne also wrote about the 1910 fires, but I remember his book as being pretty dense and hard to read. There is also a pictorial history of the 1910 fires put together by Stan Collins. I will try to find a copy and bring it with me.

The PBS American Experience series did a one-hour documentary based on Egan's book, also called The Big Burn. I haven't seen it, but I intend to watch it before we go. I'm guessing it's easy to find to stream free or rent. Libraries will also have it in DVD or CD version.

This link will take you to the fire leadership staff ride library and its info on the 1910 fires and the staff ride associated with this event:
<https://www.nwcg.gov/wfldp/toolbox/staff-ride/library/1910-idaho-fire> We can use this guide to whatever degree we want to guide or assist us. Operative phrase: "We can do whatever we want."

Here is the link to Wikipedia's entry on Ed Pulaski: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Pulaski
In the references, you can click on Ed's retelling of his "most exciting experience as a Forest Ranger" as well as a number of other intriguing looking references.

If any of you know of any other valuable references let us all know. Feel free to forward this to anyone else invited to join us. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

Tom Boatner