



You're Invited...

Commemorating 50 years since historic Sundance Fire in North Idaho

The Sundance Fire burned nearly 56,000 acres in August and September of 1967.

The lightning-caused fire ignited near the Sundance Mountain Lookout tower overlooking Priest Lake.

Strong winds on September 1 created a firestorm that blew the fire across the Selkirk Divide and into the Pack River drainage.

In a matter of eight hours the fire consumed a swath of timber eight miles wide and 16 miles in length.

Two firefighters were killed near Fault Lake while seeking to escape the fast moving fire. A young man on the Roman Nose Lookout narrowly escaped death as he sought refuge in a snow bank just below the tower.

More than 2,000 firefighters spent nearly a month suppressing the fire.

Fire rehabilitation efforts to reduce soil erosion began before the fire was out, and reforestation projects continued for more than a decade.

The effects of the fire are still visible half a century later.

JOIN US FOR A FIELD TRIP TO COMMEMORATE 50 YEARS SINCE THE SUNDANCE FIRE

DATE: Saturday, September 2, 2017

TIME: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

LOCATION: USFS Pack River Bridge

From Sandpoint, drive north on U.S. Highway 95 approximately 10 miles. Near mile marker 486, turn west at the Samuels Store/Conoco. Proceed 13 miles on Upper Pack River Road to a large gravel lot on the left. Parking available in the gravel lot.

No RSVP required

Field trip will include presentations on the weather conditions and fire behavior leading to the blow-up. Fire rehabilitation and reforestation efforts will be viewed during a short walking tour.

Luther Rodarte (age 36) and Lee Collins (age 50) were killed in the Sundance Fire. A marker and interpretive sign will be placed nearby during a private event with the fallen firefighters' families on Friday.

Participants must provide their own transportation to event site. Bring food, beverages and lawn chairs. Portable restrooms available on site. Dress appropriately. A short walk on roads will cover about one-half mile.

SPONSORS

- Sandpoint Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Society of American Foresters
- Local museums in Sandpoint, Bonners Ferry and Priest Lake

T-SHIRTS

Sundance Fire 50th Commemoration t-shirts can be purchased from the Idaho Department of Lands office in Bonners Ferry.

Idaho Department of Lands
6327 Main St.
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5577 Phone

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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