



# Salmon Region High Mountain Lake

## Angling Guide

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# How to use this guide

The information in this guide is meant to assist you with planning your next high mountain lake fishing adventure. Access information presented in this guide are only recommendations, as there may be several routes to access these lakes. The fish presence information in this guide for each lake is based on survey records from 2000 to 2017, but may not always be accurate. Fish species present in a lake can change over time. For example, we know that environmental stressors can cause fish-kills in high mountain lakes in some years, and stocking schedules may change to reflect fisheries management decisions. This guide does not guarantee you will catch fish in the selected lakes contained herein, but will improve your chances of having a memorable fishing adventure.



# Table of Contents

Intro to High Mountain Lakes in the Salmon Region .....3

High Mountain Lake Management..... 4

Stocking Information..... 6

Getting Started..... 9

Being Prepared.....10

Leave-No-Trace.....11

Other Useful Resources.....11

Lakes in the Bighorn Crag.....12

Lakes in the Salmon River Mountains – Salmon Area..... 21

Lakes in the Lemhi Range ..... 25

Lakes in the Lost River Range ..... 34

Lakes in the Salmon River Mountains – Challis Area ..... 37

Lakes in the Salmon River Mountains – Stanley Area.....42

Lakes in the Boulder-White Clouds Area .....54

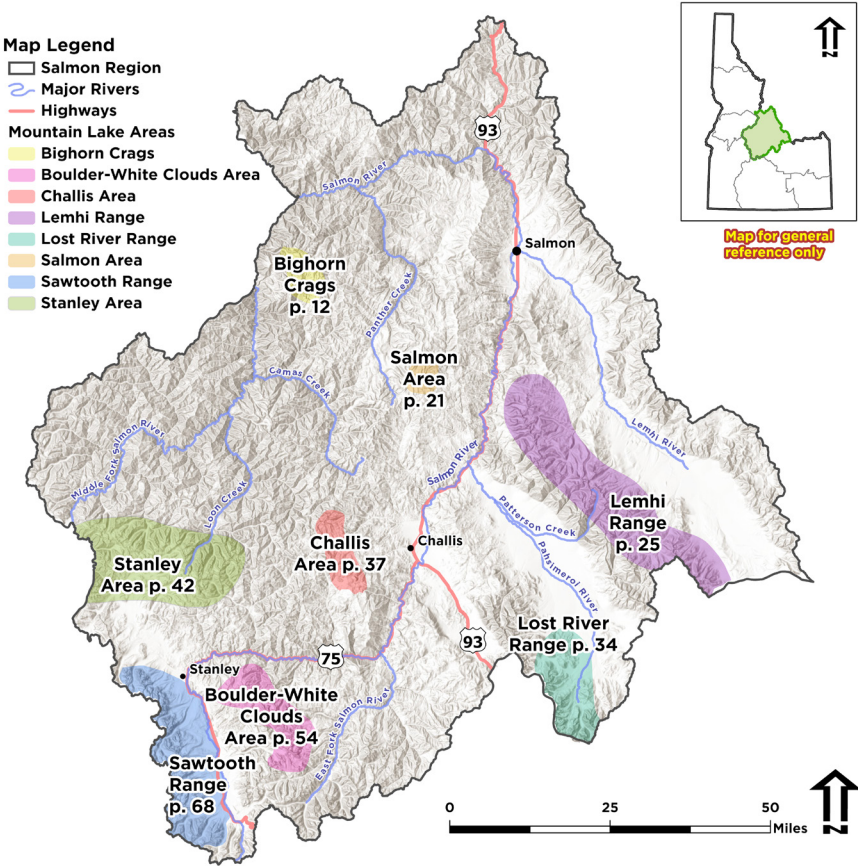
Lakes in the Sawtooth Range ..... 68

Lake/Species Index ..... 75

Lake/Difficulty Index ..... 78

Fish ID Guide ..... 79

IDFG Fishing Planner.....80







# Introduction

There are an estimated 1,200 high mountain lakes in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's "Salmon Region". These range from small ponds to large lakes that stretch for over a mile long (Ship Island Lake - Bighorn Crags), and range in elevation up to 10,438 ft. (Goat Lake - Sawtooth Mountains). The Salmon Region manages some of the most spectacular high mountain lake areas in the country, including areas like the Boulder-White Clouds, Sawtooth Mountains, and Bighorn Crags. Many high mountain lakes in the Salmon Region are located in remote backcountry areas, but some are also easier to access and enjoy. Regardless, these areas offer unbeatable scenery and solitude, and can offer outstanding fishing opportunities as well. Roughly 400 of the high mountain lakes in the Salmon Region currently provide fishing opportunity, either by occasional fish stocking or from naturally-reproducing fish populations.

# High Mountain Lake Management

The Department recognizes maintaining quality fisheries in high mountain lakes in the future will be influenced by our knowledge of these ecosystems and how fish stocking programs influence them. Historically, high lakes were managed to provide diverse angling opportunities. Wilderness areas were not designated at the time and little consideration was given to native fauna occurring in the lakes. Ecological and biological aspects of maintaining healthy amphibian populations are now considered in determining how alpine lakes are managed. Potential impacts to downstream native fish populations are also part of the decision process. The IDFG will consider the interests of anglers as well as the biological requirements of native aquatic species when developing HML management strategies. Therefore, management of HML fisheries should (1) strive to provide diverse recreational fishing opportunity, but also (2) be compatible with the long-term persistence of amphibians in these watersheds and (3) minimize impacts to native trout.

Fish and Game uses these guidelines for managing fisheries in high mountain lakes:

- **A diversity of suitable fish species will be maintained for the mountain lake management/stocking program**
- **Amphibian and natural fauna will be considered while managing fisheries. Where desirable and feasible, some lakes will be maintained as fishless.**
- **Management of mountain lakes in wilderness and national recreation areas will be closely coordinated with the appropriate land management agencies.**
- **Self-sustaining native trout populations will be maintained wherever possible.**
- **Non-native fish populations (i.e. Brook Trout) may be reduced or eliminated to reduce negative impacts on native fishes.**





Biologists use nets to survey fish populations in alpine lakes. Information from these surveys helps determine fish abundance, average size, species type and whether changes are needed to improve fishing.



Some lakes are left fishless in order to maintain natural conditions for native fauna like this Columbia Spotted Frog.

We survey fish populations to determine if they are meeting fishery goals. These surveys estimate how much traffic each lake gets, and determine what fish species are present, how many there are, and how well they grow. These surveys help inform whether management changes are needed to make fishing better. Survey information shows there is a strong relationship between the number of fish in high mountain lakes and the average size. In lakes with many fish, the trout don't grow as quickly because they are competing with each other for the limited food available. However, lakes with fewer fish have the potential to produce much larger trout. We have collected Cutthroat Trout in some of these lakes reaching up to 26" in length, but any trout over 12-14" in an alpine lake is a great catch.





# Fish Stocking

The majority of high mountain lakes in the Salmon Region were historically fishless prior to fish stocking, which began in the early 1900s. In those early days, fingerling Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Cutthroat Trout were carried in milk cans on horseback or by foot, and stocked into lakes in the high-country to provide diverse recreational angling opportunity. The earliest recorded stocking events for high mountain lakes in the Salmon Region were in Six Lake #1 and Fourth of July Lake, in 1920.

6



Transferring a load of fish from automobile transportation to pack-horse equipment.



Beginning in the 1940s, after WWII ended, fixed-wing aircraft began to be used for stocking, and the number of lakes stocked increased greatly. Today, many lakes support naturally-reproducing fish populations as a result of these historic stocking events. However, in some cases stocking is necessary to maintain fish populations, as not all lakes support sufficient natural reproduction to create adequate fishing opportunities. Approximately 40,000 fish are currently stocked in high mountain lakes in the Salmon Region each year to enhance fishing opportunities. The majority of the fish stocked are Rainbow Trout and Cutthroat Trout, but Golden Trout and Arctic Grayling are sometimes stocked in certain lakes to provide more diversity. Tiger trout and Tiger muskellunge are stocked in rare cases to meet specific management objectives.



Beginning in the 1940s, fixed-wing aircraft were used to stock fish; greatly increasing the number of lakes stocked each year.

In the early 1900s, fingerling Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Cutthroat Trout were carried in milk cans on horseback or by foot.





Grayling are stocked by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game stocks into select high mountain lakes.



Tiger trout (a sterile cross between Brook Trout and Brown Trout) are stocked into some Salmon Region lakes help to reduce overabundant species like Redside Shiners.

8

**Tip:**

To see stocking information for the entire Salmon Region in a given year, go to **[idfg.idaho.gov/fish/stocking](https://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/stocking)**.

To find stocking information for a specific lake, use the Idaho Fishing Planner. Scan this QR code with your smart phone, or use your computer to visit **[idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/](https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/)** and enter the lake name in the search box.







# Getting Started

You won't need a lot of equipment and experience to get started fishing high mountain lakes. There are a number of lakes that can be accessed in a matter of hours, and make for an easy day trip. Here's some essential equipment to get you started:

## Basic fishing tackle

Fishing license

Backpack

Headlamp

## Water bottle and purifier

First aid kit

Fire starter and knife

Compass, GPS

(or smartphone!)

## Map

Light rain jacket

Hat, sunscreen,  
sunglasses

Mosquito repellent

## Comfortable hiking boots

Wick-dry clothing (layers)

Backpacking stove and fuel

## Cooking kit

Tent

Sleeping bag and pad



## Being prepared

Alpine lakes are remote by nature, so it is important to be prepared for a variety of conditions when you're in the backcountry. Inclement weather, unforeseen hazards, and injury can alter your plans in a hurry. However, by taking steps to be prepared you can deal with these situations and make the best of them.

- Plan your trip out ahead of time and go over your plan with the group. Be sure to check with the Forest Service on road and trail conditions prior to your trip. This planning process will help you choose the best options for your trip, and promote good communication within your group.
- The most common hazards at high alpine lakes are dehydration, sun exposure and mosquitoes. These are easily avoidable with some basic equipment like water

filter, water bottle, hats, sunscreen and long-sleeve shirts. Bug spray is nice to have, especially early in summer when mosquitoes are more active.

- There are several advanced options for training relating to staying safe and being prepared in the backcountry. These include Wilderness First Aid (WFA), Wilderness First Responder (WFR), and Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC). At the very least, it is a good idea to have basic First Aid and CPR training. You are a long way from help in the backcountry, should something go wrong.
- Carry a satellite communication device. Options today include satellite phones, satellite texting devices, and emergency devices used only to contact the authorities in the event you need them.
- Notify a 'home contact' of your trip plans and when they can expect you to return. This contact will be able to notify the authorities if you do not return on time.
- Completely fill out the registration at the trailheads if available.





# Leave-no-trace

High mountain lakes are fragile ecosystems that are easily damaged by too many human visitors. When recreating in the backcountry, try to minimize your impact to the landscape which is habitat for many plants and animals. The concept behind 'Leave-no-Trace' is to leave wild places in the same condition as they were when you found them. There are 7 basic principles involved.

**Plan ahead and prepare**

**Travel and camp on durable surfaces**

**Dispose of waste properly**

**Leave what you find**

**Minimize campfire impacts**

**Respect wildlife**

**Be considerate of other visitors**

When you are traveling in the backcountry and are in awe of the beauty and wildness around you, remember to leave the resources intact and relatively undisturbed so everyone can have the same wild experiences.

# Other useful resources

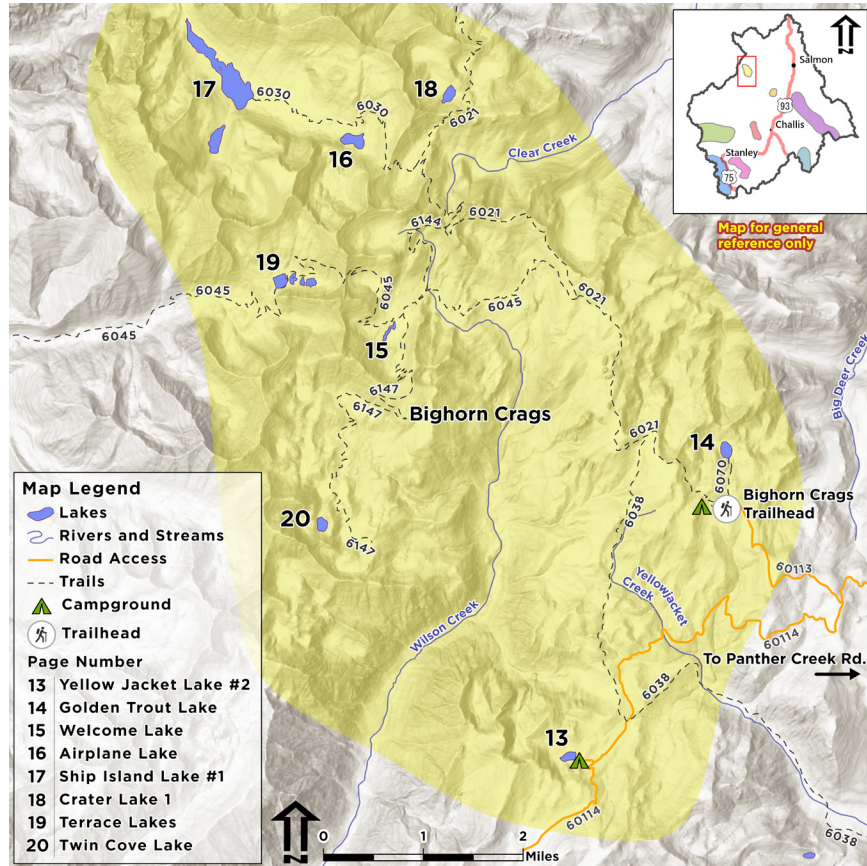
When getting ready for your trip, it's always a good idea to check in with the local US Forest Service office that manages the forest you plan to visit. The local Forest Service office can provide information on trail conditions, wilderness regulations, and camping locations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game website has many resources to help plan your fishing trip as well.

**Idaho Fishing Planner:** This advanced web tool can help you find lakes by fish species, provide maps, aerial photos, stocking information, fishing rules and more!  
[idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/](https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/)

**Fish stocking records:** Look up stocking records for any lake by name. [idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/stocking/](https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/stocking/)

**Fishing Seasons and Rules:** [idfg.idaho.gov/rules/fish](https://idfg.idaho.gov/rules/fish)

**Fishing Licenses:** How and where to get one  
[idfg.idaho.gov/licenses](https://idfg.idaho.gov/licenses)



# Selected Lakes in the Bighorn Craggs



## Yellow Jacket Lake #2 (Yellow Jacket Lake)

**Drainage:** Yellow Jacket Creek – Panther Creek

**Elevation:** 7,939 ft

**Location:** 45.06697° N - 114.5529° W

**Acreage:** 6.8

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** Approximately 60 miles, mostly on dirt road, from Challis or Salmon.

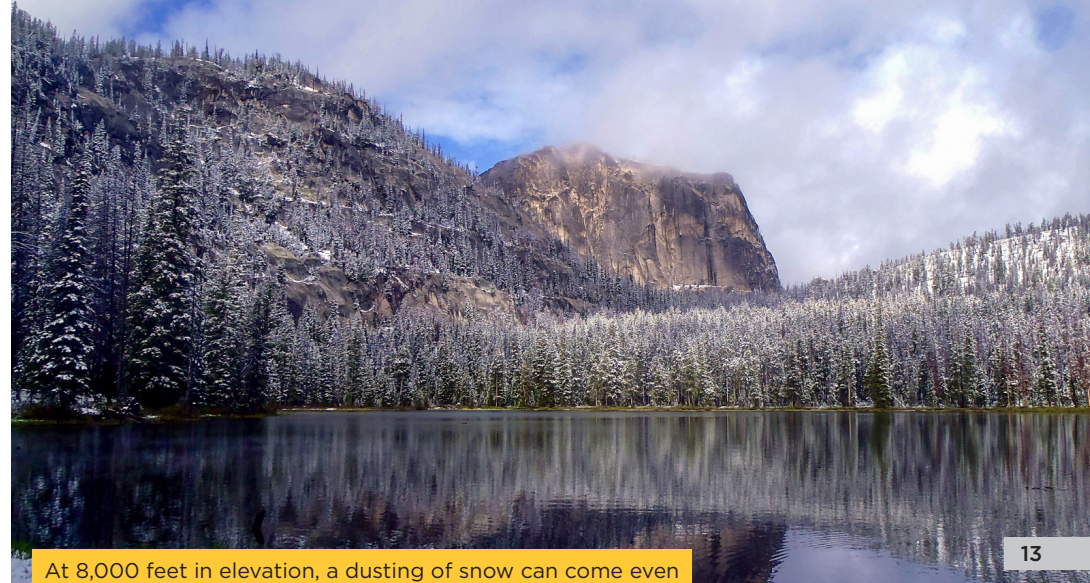


**Lake access:** Access is via Panther Creek Road (FS Rdr 60055). Panther Creek Road can be accessed from the town of Salmon via Williams Creek Road (FS Rd 60021) to Deep Creek Rd (FS Rd 60101), or by driving up Panther Creek from

its mouth, or by taking Morgan Cr/Panther Cr Rd (FS Rd 60055) from approximately 9 miles north of Challis on US-93. At mile 31 from the mouth of Panther Creek (or mile 33 coming from Challis), turn west onto Yellow Jacket Rd (FS Rd 60112). After 7 miles, take a sharp right onto Yellow Jacket Lake Road (FS Rd 60113). At 7.4 miles, stay left and continue for 6.1 miles. Turn right at the Yellow Jacket Lake Campground on FS Rd 60371 to the lake.

### **Species present:**

Rainbow Trout  
Cutthroat Trout

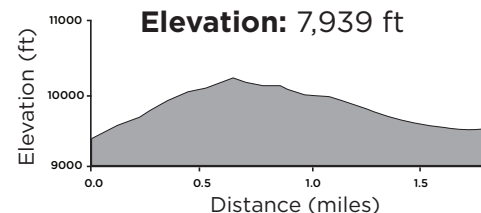


At 8,000 feet in elevation, a dusting of snow can come even during the summer. This photo was taken in June of 2013.

**Comments:** Cutthroat trout are stocked every year, and there is also a population of naturally reproducing Rainbow Trout.

**Use:** This lake receives high use and has a forest service campground with 7 sites. This lake is accessible by motor vehicles, though long RVs or

vehicles with trailers are not recommended due to difficult passing and slow travel.



## Golden Trout Lake

**Drainage:** Big Deer Creek -  
Panther Creek

**Elevation:** 8,149 ft

**Location:** 45.11105° N, -114.52204° W

**Acreage:** 9.4

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** 0.4 mile hike off-trail, down 300 feet in elevation.

**Trailhead access:** Access to the Bighorn Crags Campground/Trailhead is via Panther Creek Road (FS Rdr 60055). Panther Creek Road can be accessed from the town of Salmon via Williams Creek Road (FS Rd 60021) to Deep Creek Rd (FS Rd 60101), or by driving up Panther Creek from its mouth,

or by taking Morgan Cr/Panther Cr Rd (FS Rd 60055) from approximately 9 miles north of Challis on US-93.

At mile 31 from the mouth of Panther Creek (or mile 33 coming from Challis), turn west onto YellowJacket Rd (FS Rd 60112). After 7 miles, take a sharp right onto Yellowjacket Lake Road (FS Rd 60113). At 7.4 miles, stay left. After 1 more mile, take a right on Cathedral Rock Rd (FS Rd 60113) and continue for 2 miles to the Bighorn Crags Campground and trailhead.

**Lake access:** From the Bighorn Crags Campground and



Cutthroat trout are one of the species anglers might encounter at Golden Trout Lake.

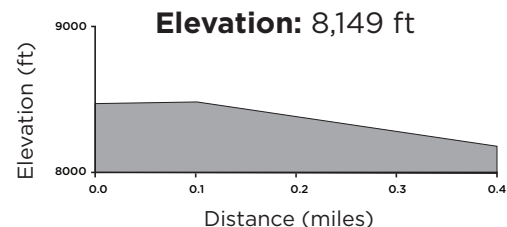
trailhead, hike north for 0.4 miles to Golden Trout Lake.

### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout  
Golden Trout

**Comments:** This lake is currently stocked with Golden Trout and has naturally-reproducing Cutthroat trout.

**Use:** Low. There is one campsite with a fire ring at this lake. This hike is off-trail, so motorized vehicles are not allowed.





# Welcome Lake

**Drainage:** Wilson Creek – Middle Fork Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,332 ft

**Location:** 45.12865° N, -114.59046° W

**Acreage:** 4.1

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** 7 mile hike with a net elevation loss of 130 feet.

**Trailhead access:** Bighorn Crag Trailhead. See info for Golden Trout Lake

**Lake access:** From the Bighorn Crag Trailhead, take the Bighorn Crag trail (6021) north for 3.5 miles, then stay left onto Waterfall Trail (6045) for 3.5 more miles, staying left at several trail junctions to stay

on 6045. Just before the lake, there will be a left turn onto 6147 towards Puddin Mountain. Make sure to stay right here and continue on the Waterfall Trail to Welcome Lake.

## Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

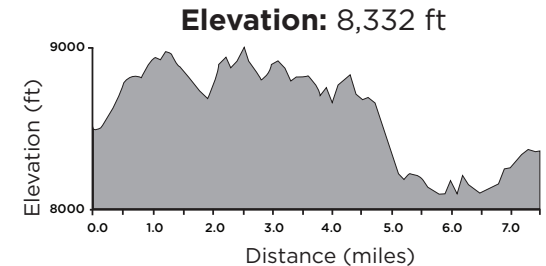
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** This lake gets its name by being the first lake you will likely encounter when you hike into the Bighorn Crag. It is surrounded by open, grassy vegetation that makes it easy to fish from shore. Lake is stocked once every 3 years with Cutthroat Trout.



Welcome Lake offers stunning views, typical of the Bighorn Crag.

**Use:** Low to moderate, with several campsites around the lake. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.



## Airplane Lake

**Drainage:** Ship Island Creek -  
Middle Fork Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,402 ft

**Location:** 45.15631° N, -114.59908° W

**Acreage:** 15.5

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Bighorn  
Crag Trailhead. See info for  
Golden Trout Lake.

**Lake access:** From Welcome  
Lake, head back down the trail  
northeast towards the trailhead  
for 0.4 miles, then make a  
left turn to head north on the  
Harbor Lake Trail (6144). Head  
north past Harbor and Wilson  
Lakes, eventually joining the  
Bighorn Crag Trail (6021)  
towards Gentian and Birdbill  
Lakes. At Gentian and Birdbill

lakes, take a left onto Ship  
Island Trail (6030) and continue  
for 1.2 miles to Airplane Lake.

### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

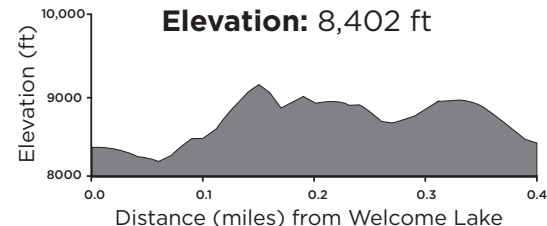
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** This lake gets its  
name by being the first lake  
you will likely encounter when  
you hike into the Bighorn  
Crag. It is surrounded by open,  
grassy vegetation that makes  
it easy to fish from shore. Lake  
is stocked once every 3 years  
with Cutthroat Trout.

**Use:** Low to moderate, with  
several campsites around the  
lake. The trail is limited to non-  
motorized use.



A healthy Rainbow Trout  
from Airplane Lake.





# Ship Island Lake #1

**Drainage:** Ship Island Creek -  
Middle Fork Salmon River

**Elevation:** 7,837 ft

**Location:** 45.16183° N, - 114.62133° W

**Acreage:** 87.9

**Max Depth:** Unknown

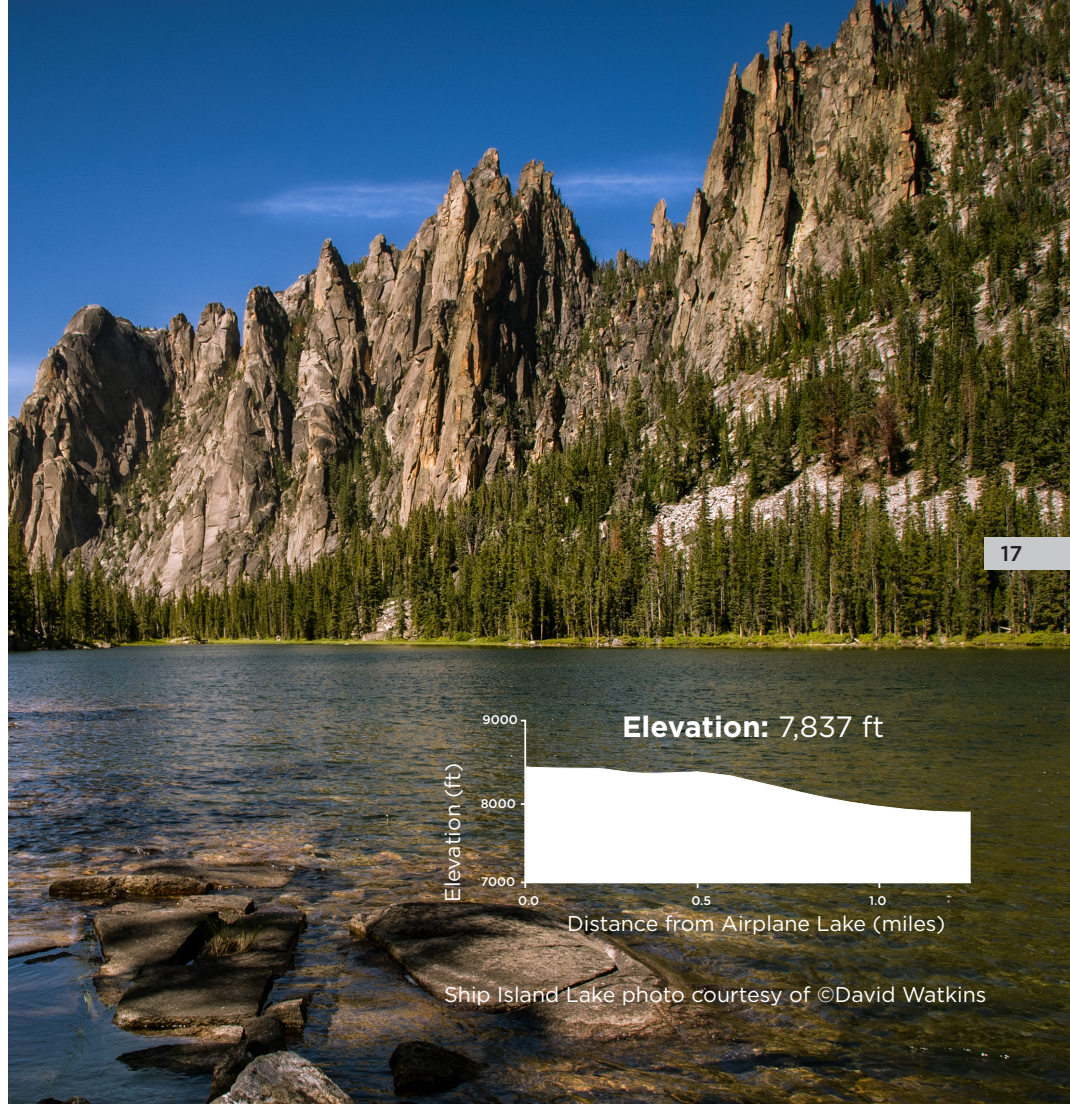
**Trailhead access:** Bighorn  
Crag Trailhead. See info for  
Golden Trout Lake.

**Lake access:** From Airplane  
Lake, continue down Ship  
Island Trail (6030) west for 1.25  
miles to Ship Island Lake #1.

**Species present:**  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** Ship Island Lake  
#1, commonly known just as  
“Ship Island Lake”, is the largest  
lake in the Bighorn Crag.  
It has a surface area of 87.9  
acres and is home to naturally-  
reproducing Cutthroat and  
Rainbow Trout. Ship Island  
Lake #2, just southwest of the  
larger Ship Island Lake, is home  
to Cutthroat Trout and Golden  
Trout, both of which are also  
reproducing naturally.

**Use:** This lake receives a lot of  
use due to its size and beauty,  
but has plenty of water to fish  
and plenty of camping sites.  
The trail is limited to non-  
motorized use.



Ship Island Lake photo courtesy of ©David Watkins



## Crater Lake

**Drainage:** Clear Creek - Panther Creek

**Elevation:** 8,707 ft

**Location:** 45.16281° N, -114.5791° W

**Acreage:** 9.2

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Bighorn Crags Trailhead. See info for Golden Trout Lake.

**Lake access:** From Welcome Lake, head back down the trail northeast towards the trailhead for 0.4 miles, then make a left turn to head north on the Harbor Lake Trail (6144). Stay on this trail past Harbor and Wilson Lakes, eventually taking the Bighorn Crags Trail (6021) towards Gentian and

Birdbill Lakes. When you arrive at the three-way intersection at Birdbill and Gentian Lakes, go right to stay on the Bighorn Crags Trail. Stay on this trail for 1.75 miles. When you arrive at Big Clear Lake, turn left off of the trail to follow the southern inlet up for 0.2 miles to Crater Lake.

**Species present:**

Golden Trout

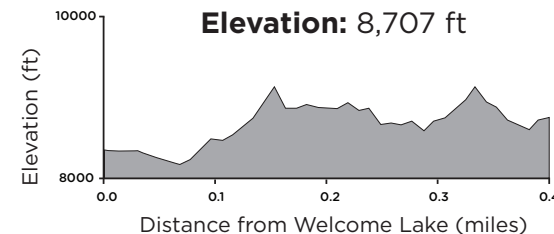
**Comments:** Golden Trout are stocked every three years in this lake as well as nearby Gooseneck and Glacier Lakes.



18

Golden Trout can be found in Crater Lake.

**Use:** This lake receives moderate use and there are several campsites around the lake. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.





## Terrace Lakes

**Drainage:** Waterfall Creek – Middle Fork Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,458 ft

**Location:** 45.13642° N, - 114.60773° W

**Acreage:** 5.6

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** 2 miles on-trail up and over a 700 foot tall ridge from Welcome Lake.

**Trailhead access:** Bighorn Craggs Trailhead. See info for Golden Trout Lake.

**Lake access:** From Welcome Lake, continue west on the Waterfall Trail (6045) past Heart Lake for 1.8 miles to Terrace Lakes.

### Species present:

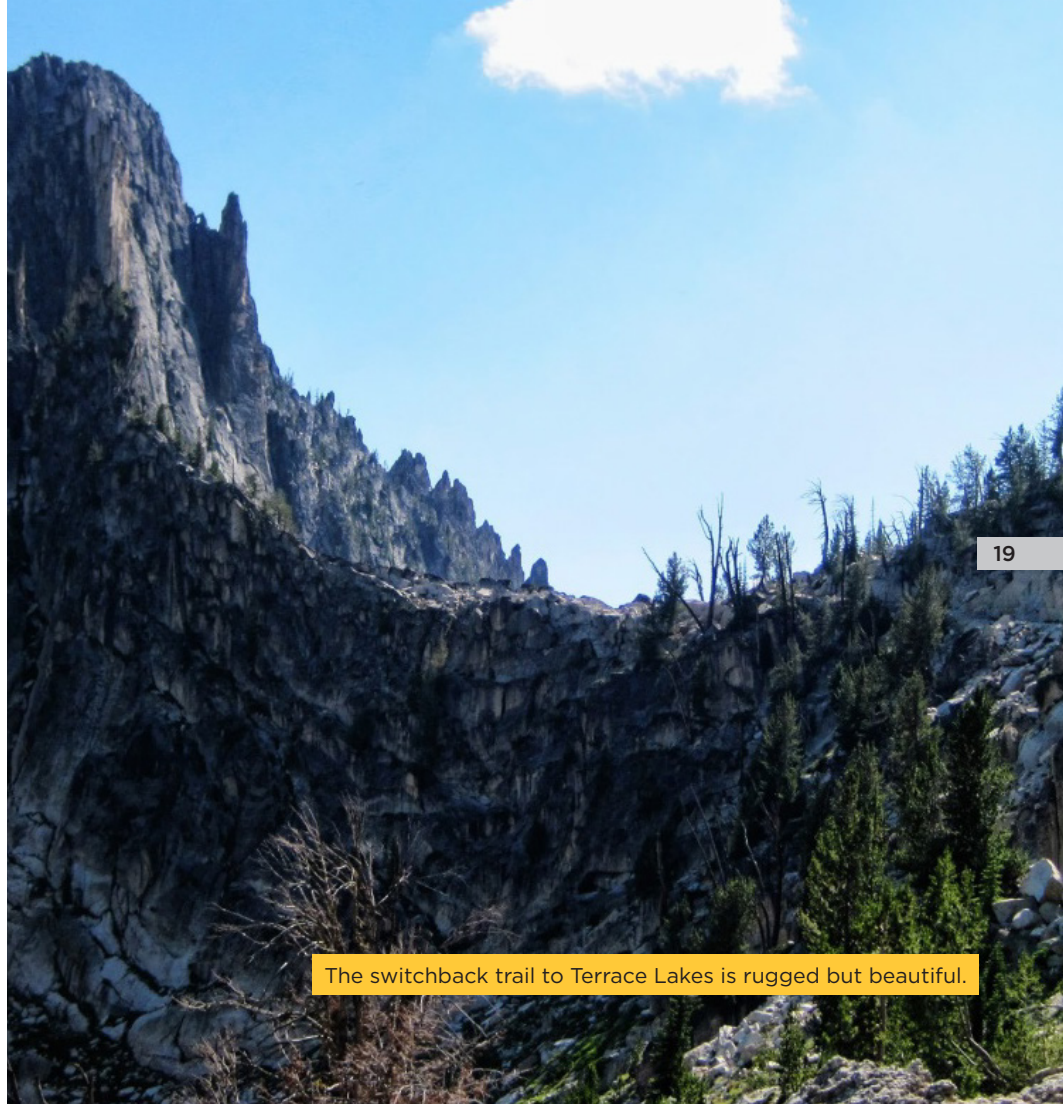
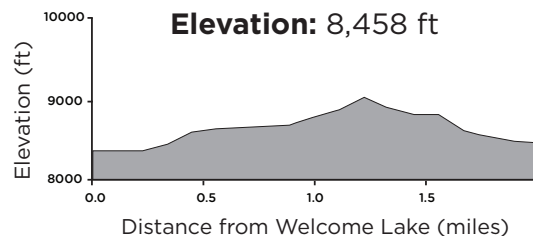
Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Reproduction occurs naturally in these lakes, with high abundances of several species.

**Use:** These lakes receive very little use. Campsites can be found at lakes #3 and #4. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.



## Twin Cove Lake (Puddin Mountain Lake #6)

**Drainage:** Wilson Creek – Middle Fork Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,364 ft

**Location:** 45.10054° N, -114.60427° W

**Acreage:** 7.8

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Bighorn Crag Trailhead. See info for Golden Trout Lake.

**Lake access:** From Welcome Lake, take the Puddin Mountain Trail (6147) south for approximately 5.5 miles to Reflection Lake. Follow the inlet of Reflection Lake up to Twin Cove Lake.

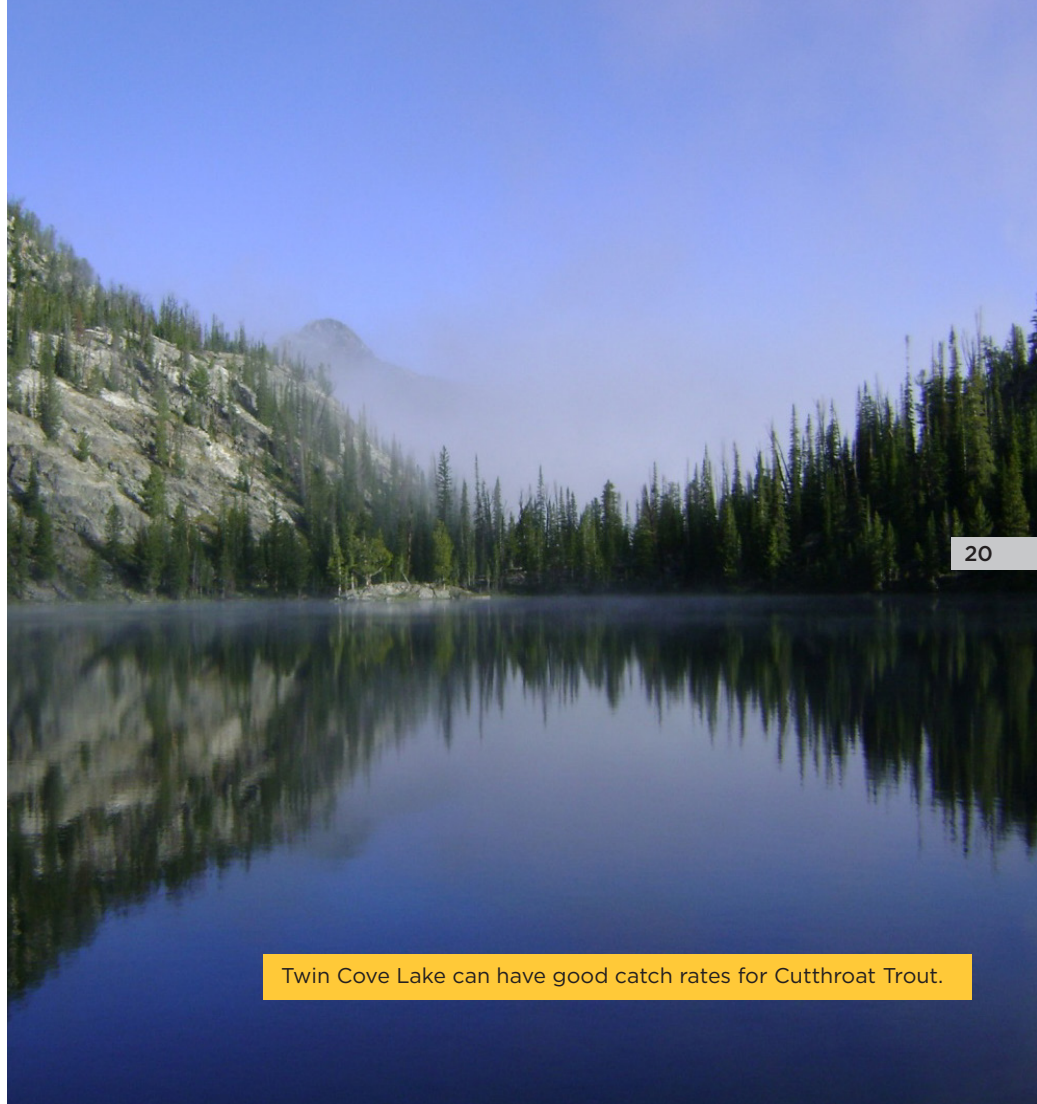
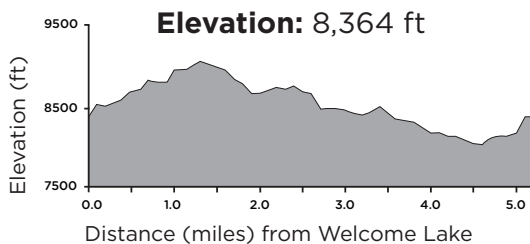
### Species present:

Rainbow Trout

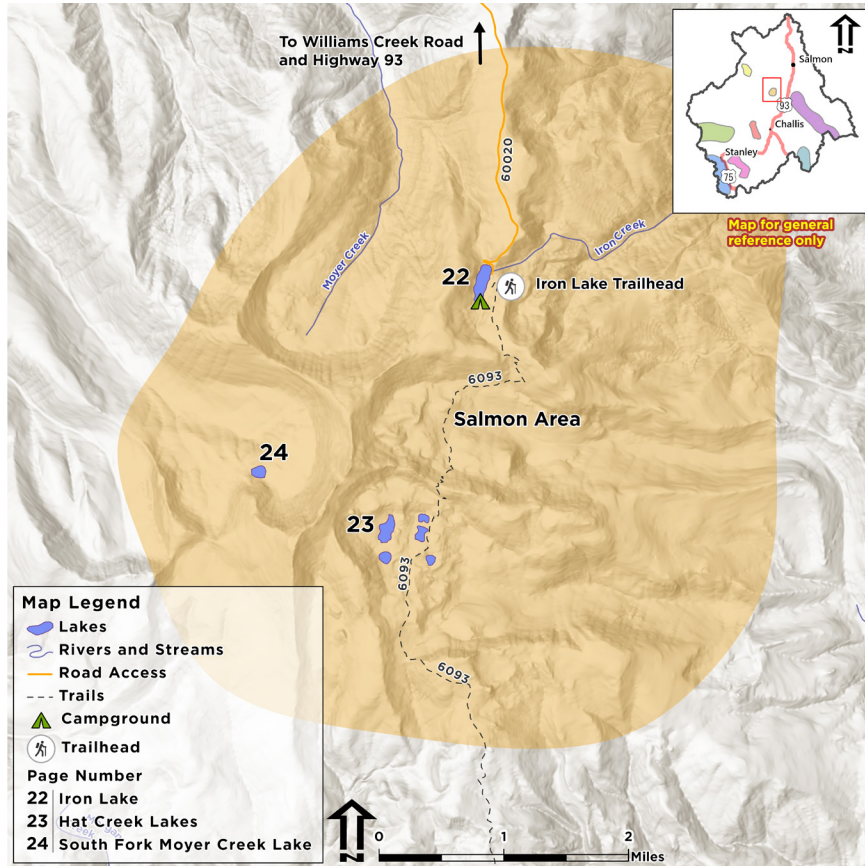
Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Rainbow Trout are stocked every three years in this lake.

**Use:** This lake receives moderate use and there are several campsites around the lake. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.







# Selected Lakes in the Salmon River Mountains – Salmon Area

## Iron Lake (Iron Lake #2)

**Drainage:** Iron Creek – Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,810 ft

**Location:** 44.90592° N, -114.19404° W

**Acreage:** 16.8

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** Accessible by full-sized vehicle, Iron Lake is approximately 40 miles from Salmon, mostly on dirt road.



**Lake access:** 5 miles south of Salmon on Highway 93, turn west across Shoup Bridge onto Williams Creek Rd (NF Rd 60021). Stay on Williams Creek Rd for 13.7 miles, and then turn left at Williams Creek Summit onto Salmon River Mountain

Road NF Rd 60020 following signs towards Iron Lake. Stay on this road for 19 miles to the Iron Lake Campground.

### **Species present:**

Rainbow Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

### **Stocking information:**

Stocked annually with  
Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** Just 38 miles from Salmon, this is a great family fishing destination.

**Use:** Iron Lake receives moderate to high use due to vehicle access.



Iron Lake photo CCBY Silent7Seven on Flickr



# Hat Creek Lakes

**Drainage:** Hat Creek – Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,820 ft

**Location:** 44.87777° N, -114.20388° W

**Acreage:** 11.8 Acres (Hat Creek Lake #5)

**Max Depth:** 40 ft

**Access profile:** 2.7 mile hike with little net elevation change, but requires climbing over two ridges.

**Trailhead access:** Trailhead parking is located on the southeast end of Iron Lake. See information for Iron Lake.

**Lake access:** From Iron Lake, take the Big Hat Creek Trail (6093) for 2.7 miles south to

Hat Creek Lake #3 and #4. The rest of the Hat Creek Lakes are just a short walk from here.

## Species present:

Rainbow Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Arctic Grayling

## Comments:

At Hat Creek Lakes, you have the chance of catching all three species that are stocked in these lakes: Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Arctic Grayling.

**Use:** Low to moderate. Good dispersed campsites at several of the lakes. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trail from Iron Lake.



## South Fork Moyer Lake

**Drainage:** South Fork Moyer Creek  
– Panther Creek

**Elevation:** 8,723 ft

**Location:** 44.88402° N, -114.23091° W

**Acreage:** 5.7

**Max Depth:** 24 ft

**Access profile:** A 1.4 mile scramble over a 900 foot tall ridge from Hat Creek Lakes.

**Trailhead access:** Trailhead parking is located on the southeast end of Iron Lake. See information for Iron Lake and Hat Creek Lakes.

**Lake access:** From Hat Creek Lakes, head west up and scramble over the steep, rocky saddle that is just south of Taylor Mountain. From here,

descend 975 feet in elevation west to South Fork Moyer Lake.

**Species present:**

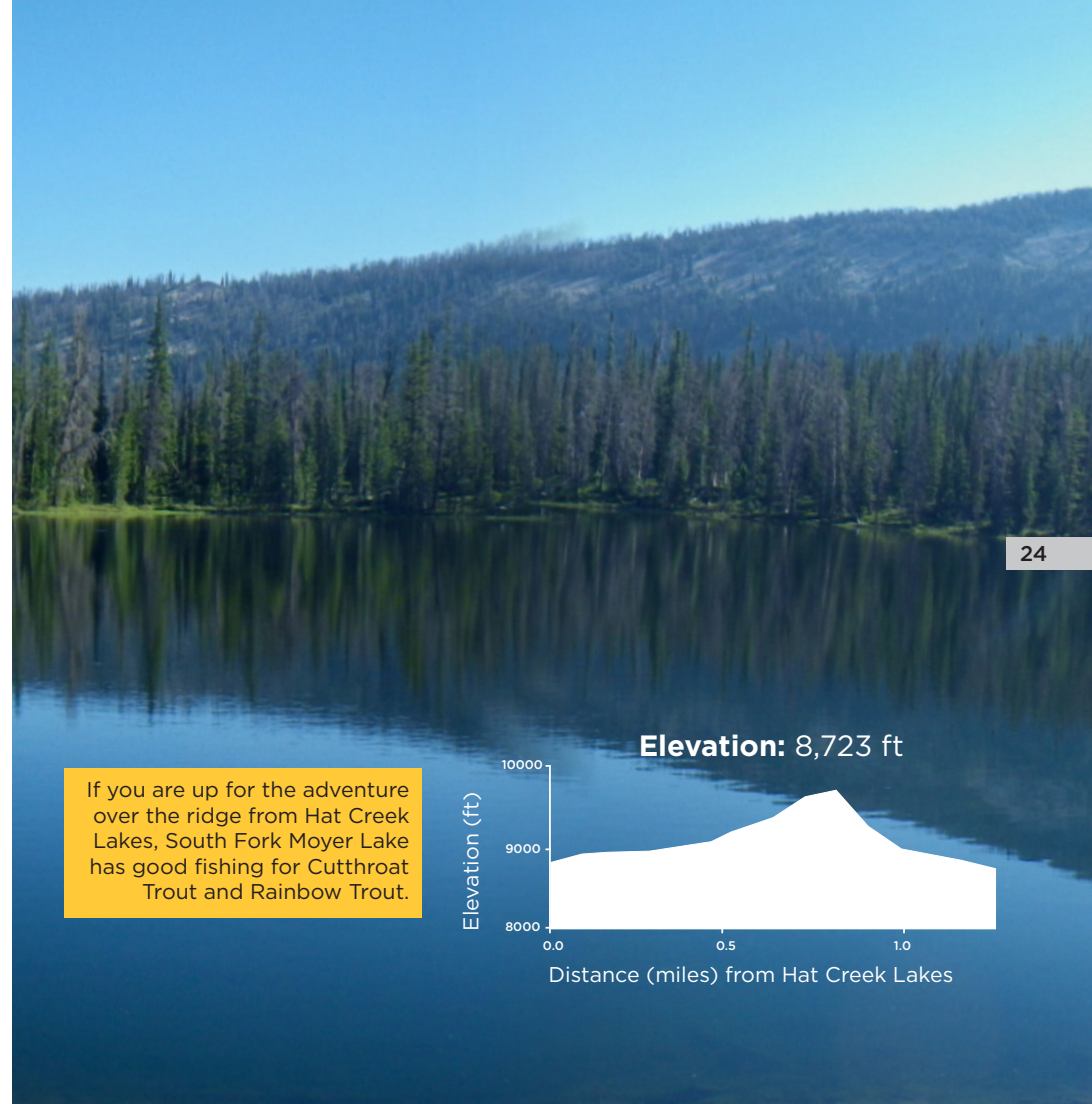
Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

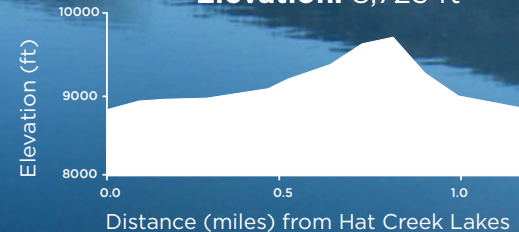
**Comments:** A total of 1.4 miles each way, this is an adventurous but doable day-hike from Hat Creek Lakes. Stocking of Arctic Grayling was discontinued in 2013 because Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout were abundant and reproducing naturally.

**Use:** Use here is low, but there are several good camping spots around the lake. Motorized vehicles are not allowed to this lake.



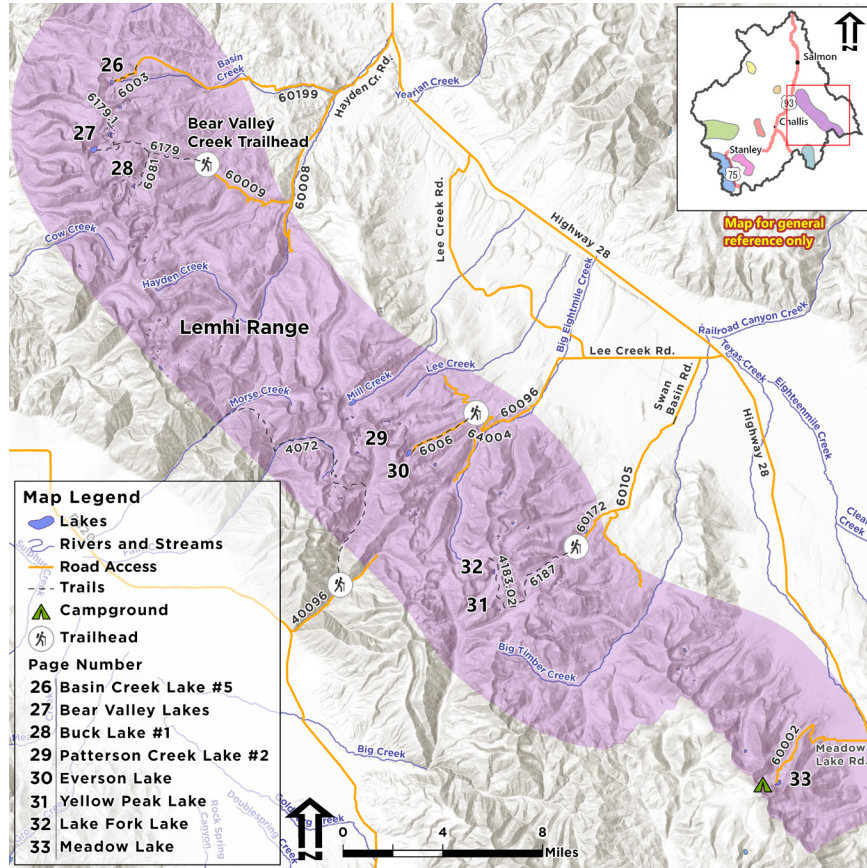
24

**Elevation:** 8,723 ft



If you are up for the adventure over the ridge from Hat Creek Lakes, South Fork Moyer Lake has good fishing for Cutthroat Trout and Rainbow Trout.





# Selected Lakes in the Lemhi Range

## Basin Creek Lake # 5

**Drainage:** Basin Creek

**Elevation:** 8,890 ft

**Location:** 44.84126° N, - 113.85563° W

**Acreage:** 13.4

**Max Depth:** Unknown



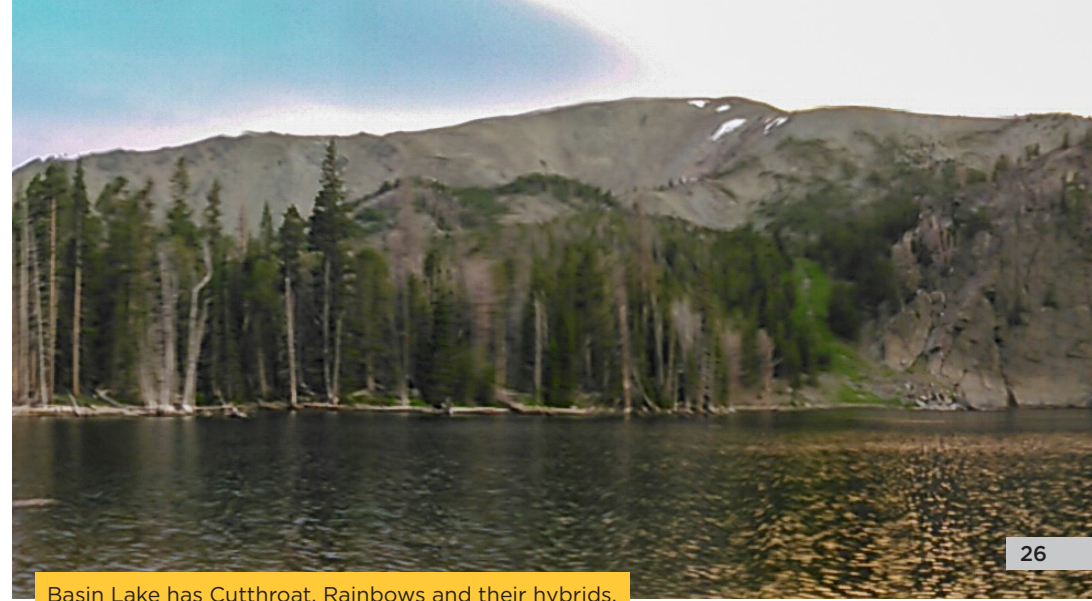
**Trailhead access:** This lake is accessible by Jeep, ATV, or motorbike, but can also be a good hike from where the road gets rough.

**Lake access:** From Highway 28 in the Lemhi Valley, turn west onto Hayden Creek Road. Go 3.4 miles before turning right onto Basin Creek Road (NFS Rd 60199). From here until the final turn, you will be passing through almost entirely private property. Stay on the main road. After 4 miles, Basin Creek

Rd turns to the left through a private ranch. Stay on the main road which makes a “Y” to the right of the private property onto Trail Creek Road for 0.6 miles, and then stay left to stay on main road. At the bottom of the hill, take a right towards Basin Lake. From here, the road to the lake gets rougher, so park before it gets too rough to turn around. Motorized vehicles such as Jeeps, ATVs, and dirt bikes are allowed all the way to the lake. Some sections are steep and rocky.

### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout  
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout



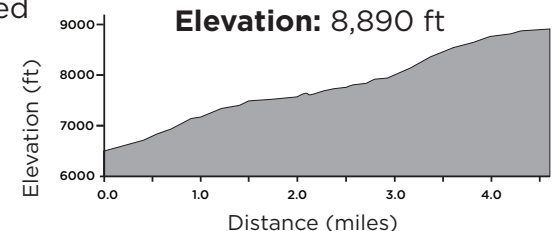
26

### Comments:

Naturally- reproducing Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, and hybrids were all observed during surveys since 2000.

**Use:** This lake is accessible by motorized vehicles and is therefore well-used, with several good campsites.

Despite being more heavily used, the fishing can be excellent.





## Bear Valley Lake #1

**Drainage:** Hayden Creek - Lemhi River

**Elevation:** 9,135 ft

**Location:** 44.8025° N, -113.87047° W

**Acreage:** 30.9

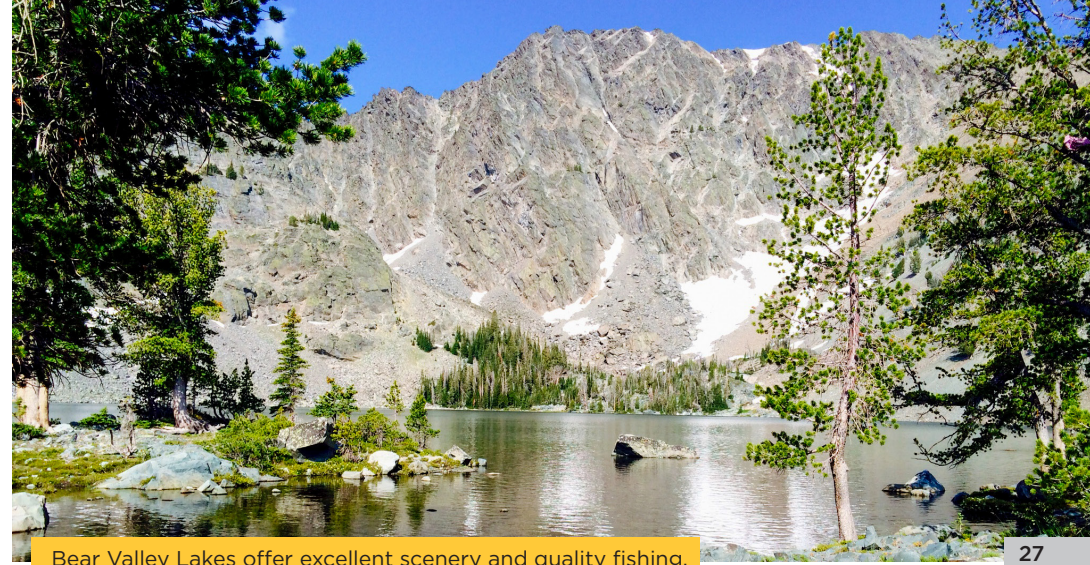
**Max Depth:** 125 ft

**Trailhead access:** From Highway 28 in the Lemhi Valley, take Hayden Creek Rd (USFS Rd 008) southwest for approximately 8.5 miles, passing Hayden Pond (which is stocked with rainbow trout from spring through summer). Turn right onto Bear Valley Creek Rd (USFS Rd 009). Travel west for 4.3 miles to the Bear Valley Creek Trailhead.

**Lake access:** Hike on USFS trail 6179 to access the lake. There are a few forks in the trail, but stay on USFS 6179 to arrive at Bear Valley Lake #1 (5.5 miles). Approximately 0.8 miles before you arrive at Bear Valley Lake #1 there is a right fork in the trail (USFS trail 6179.1)(north and west) that will access Bear Valley Lakes #2 (340 ft elevation gain over 0.5 miles) and #3 (600 ft elevation gain over 1.1 miles).

**Species present:**

Rainbow Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

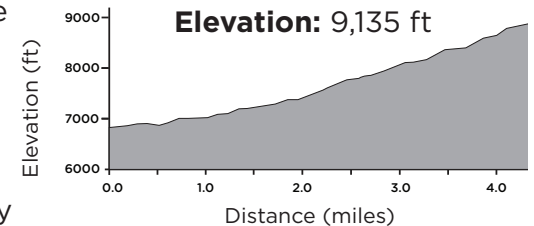


27

**Comments:** Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and Rainbow x Cutthroat hybrids can all be found in this basin. Natural reproduction occurs at all three of the Bear Valley Lakes.

**Use:** The Bear Valley Lakes receive moderate angler use. There are places to camp at each of the three lakes, and day

hiking between the three lakes is easy. The trail is open to motorcycle use.



# Buck Lake #1

**Drainage:** Hayden Creek - Lemhi River

**Elevation:** 8,495 ft

**Location:** 44.78091° N, -113.83807° W

**Acreage:** 5.2

**Max Depth:** 12 ft

**Trailhead access:** The Buck Lakes are accessed from the Bear Valley Creek Trailhead (see Bear Valley Lake #1).

**Lake access:** Hike on USFS trail 6179 towards Bear Valley Lakes for approximately 2.5 miles until the trail forks. Take USFS trail 6081 (left fork - south) to climb the remaining 2.0 miles to Buck Lake #1. Access from Buck Lake #1 to Buck Lakes #3 (500 ft elevation over

0.5 miles) and #4 (1,000 ft elevation over 0.8 miles) is by cross-country travel (north and west).

## Species present:

Buck Lakes #1 and #3  
Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and hybrids.

Buck Lake #4  
Arctic Grayling

## Comments:

Natural reproduction occurs at all three of the Buck Lakes listed above (Buck Lake #2 does not support fish over winter). Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and Cutthroat x Rainbow hybrids are common and abundant at Buck Lakes

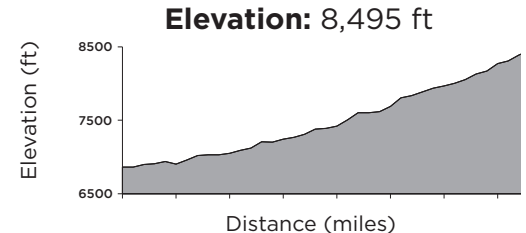


Buck Lake #1 is scenic and offers good fishing for Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout.

#1 and #3. Grayling were stocked once every three years in Buck Lake #4 up to 2013, when stocking was halted to determine whether natural reproduction is sufficient for maintaining their persistence.

**Use:** The Buck Lakes experience moderate angler use. There are a few nice camping areas at Buck Lake

#1, but camping areas can be tough to find at the upper lakes, especially for larger groups. The trail to Buck Lake #1 is non-motorized.





## Patterson Creek Lake #2

**Drainage:** Patterson Creek -  
Pahsimeroi River

**Elevation:** 9,186 ft

**Location:** 44.62585° N, -113.65602° W

**Acreage:** 3.8

**Max Depth:**

**Trailhead access:** From Ellis, ID on HWY 93, drive approximately 23 miles up the Pahsimeroi River Rd, to Patterson. Turn left on Patterson Creek Rd (USFS Rd 40096 headed northeast) and drive another 2.8 miles to the trailhead.

**Lake access:** Follow USFS trail 4072 up Patterson Creek (north then northeast) for approximately 4.3 miles until

the trail leaves the creek bottom to head west and up the mountain. At this point, the rest of the hike is cross country. Continue following Patterson Creek until you find the outlet stream for Patterson Creek Lake #2 (coming in from the west) (approximately 1.2 miles). Head up the outlet stream to the lake (approximately 0.8 miles straight distance).

### **Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout

### **Comments:**

This lake was stocked once every three years until 2013, when it was removed from the stocking rotation to determine



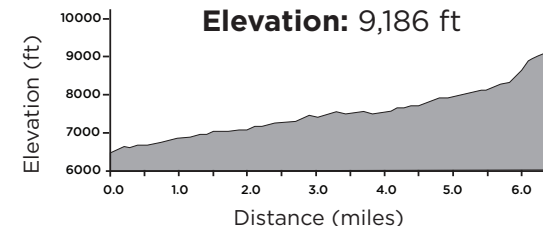
29

Cutthroat Trout reproduce naturally and are abundant in some of the Patterson Creek Lakes.

whether the fishery would be supported solely through natural reproduction. When it was last surveyed in 2015, Cutthroat Trout were very abundant.

**Use:** This lake receives low angler use, but there is room

for camping. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.



# Everson Lake

**Drainage:** Big Eightmile Creek - Lemhi River

**Elevation:** 8,902 ft

**Location:** 44.62575° N, -113.61375° W

**Acreage:** 26.2

**Max Depth:** 47 ft

**Trailhead access:** From the town of Leadore, take Lee Creek Rd west for 5.5 miles and merge onto Big Eightmile Rd (southwest). Continue slowly for 2.3 miles (through private property) until you come to a cattle gate. Go through the gate (close it behind you) and continue for 3.1 miles to USFS Rd 64004 (right turn). USFS Rd 64004 switchbacks up the ridge to the north. Follow this

road for 2.0 miles until USFS Rd 6006 takes off to the left, up Everson Creek. USFS Rd 6006 is open to all motorized vehicles, but should only be attempted with high clearance 4x4 vehicles. Alternatively, you can hike from here.

**Lake access:** Follow USFS Rd 6006 for 3.3 miles to Everson Lake.

**Species present:**

Rainbow Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow x Cutthroat hybrids

**Comments:**

Cutthroat Trout were stocked once every three years until 2013, when stocking was halted



Everson Lake can be accessed by motorized vehicles, which would make it a great lake to bring an inflatable boat to.

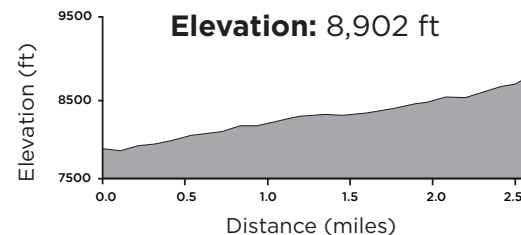
30

to determine whether natural reproduction is sufficient for maintaining fish persistence.

Rainbow Trout are the most common and abundant fish species at Everson Lake.

**Use:** Everson Lake receives low angler use, even though it is accessible to high clearance

motorized vehicles. There are several nice camping areas at the lake.





# Yellow Peak Lake

**Drainage:** North Fork Big Creek – Pahsimeroi River

**Elevation:** 9,293 ft

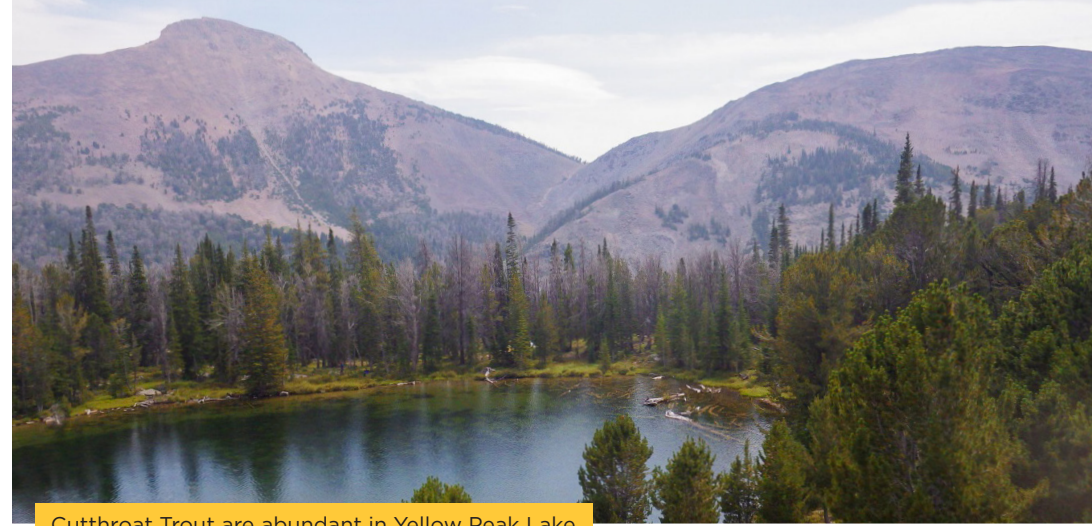
**Location:** 44.53405° N, -113.54070° W

**Acreage:** 1.4

**Max Depth:** 9 ft

**Trailhead access:** From the town of Leadore, take Lee Creek Road (west) for approximately 0.8 miles to Swan Basin Rd. Follow Swan Basin Rd (south) for 3.4 miles to a fork, and follow USFS Rd 60105 (left fork) for 6.0 more miles, just past Middle Fork Little Timber Creek Reservoir (Stone Reservoir), to the trailhead.

**Lake access:** The trail (USFS trail 6187) proceeds across Middle Fork Little Timber Creek and up to the top of the drainage for approximately 3.3 miles. Just after you cross over the pass and into the Park Fork drainage, the trail forks. Continue along the right fork (USFS trail 6187) down into the Park Fork drainage until the trail forks again (0.4 miles). Take the right fork again (USFS trail 4183.02). Continue along this trail to the north and west and just as begins a steep climb to a high saddle, leave the trail and head southwest cross-country to the above coordinates. Cross-country travel is only about 0.2 miles.



Cutthroat Trout are abundant in Yellow Peak Lake.

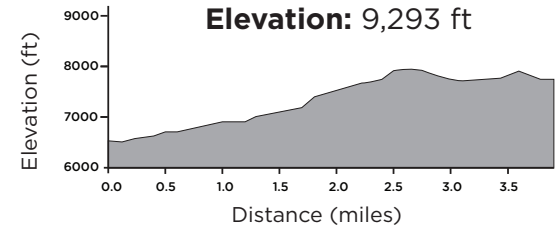
## Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

## Comments:

Cutthroat were stocked once every three years until 2013, when stocking was halted to determine whether natural reproduction is sufficient for maintaining fish persistence. Cutthroat Trout are common and abundant.

**Use:** This lake receives very little angler use. There are a few nice areas to camp at the lake. The trails used to access this lake are open to motorcycle use.



## Lake Fork Lake (Yellow Lake)

**Drainage:** Lake Fork Big Creek – Pahsimeroi River

**Elevation:** 9,536 ft

**Location:** 44.55519° N, -113.54565° W

**Acreage:** 5.6

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** see previous description for Yellow Peak Lake.

**Lake access:** From Yellow Peak Lake (see previous) head back up to the trail (USFS trail 4183.02) and continue north for 1.6 miles. At 1.6 miles, you will hit the outlet to Lake Fork Lake. Follow the outlet upstream for 0.1 miles to Lake Fork Lake.

### Species present:

Rainbow Trout

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow x Cutthroat hybrids

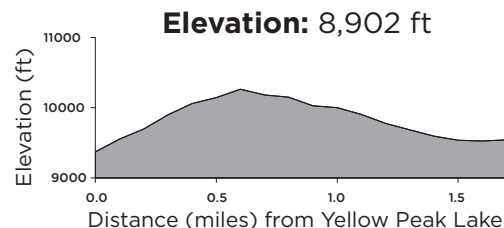
### Comments:

This lake has not been stocked since 1959, but fish persist solely through natural reproduction. Cutthroat Trout are the most common species caught, but Rainbow Trout and hybrids are also present.

**Use:** This lake, like Yellow Peak Lake, receives low angler use. There are a few nice areas to camp, and the views are outstanding. The trails used to access this lake are open to motorcycle use.



Yellow Lake, also known as Lake Fork Lake, has good fishing for several species and hybrid "Cutbows."





# Meadow Lake

**Drainage:** Meadow Lake Creek

**Elevation:** 9,143 ft

**Location:** 44.43251° N, - 113.31652° W

**Acreage:** 17.8

**Max Depth:** Unknown



**Lake access:** Roughly 22 miles south of Leadore on highway 28, turn west onto Gilmore/ Meadow Lake Road (becomes FS Rd 60002). Follow this road for 6.3 miles to Meadow Lake. This road is a well-maintained dirt road passable by full sized vehicles and the lake is home to a full campground with 17 sites and a day use area.

## Species present:

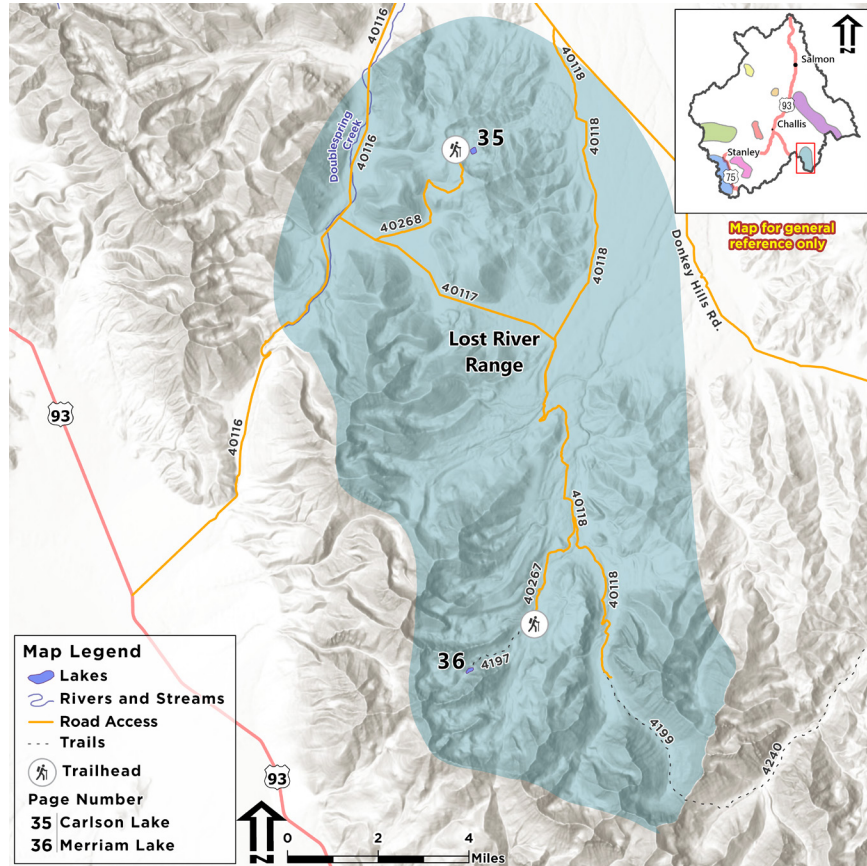
Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** Despite easy access and frequent use, this lake has good fishing for Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout. Natural reproduction for Cutthroat Trout is present and both species are also stocked annually. Due to the high elevation of the lake, access can be difficult even into June.

**Use:** Because this lake can be accessed by passenger cars, it receives heavy use.





# Selected Lakes in the Lost River Range



# Carlson Lake

**Drainage:** Pahsimeroi River

**Elevation:** 8,160 ft

**Location:** 44.28187° N, -113.75324° W

**Acreage:** 9.4

**Max Depth:** 34 ft

## Trailhead access:

Approximately 32 miles south of Challis on US-93, turn Northeast onto Double Springs Pass Road (FS Rd 40116). You can also access Double Springs Pass Rd from the Pahsimeroi Valley on the other side of the Lost River Range. Travel for 10.5 miles before heading south onto FS Rd 40117. After 1.3 miles, stay left onto FS Rd 40268. After another 1.3 miles, stay left to stay on FS Rd 40268. From here, 4WD, high

clearance vehicles are advised only. Follow this road for 2.5 miles to the top of the ridge, and park here.



**Lake access:** From the top of the ridge, it is a 0.65 mile hike down to Carlson Lake on a road that is also ATV/motorcycle accessible.

## Species present:

Brook Trout  
Tiger Muskie

**Comments:** Carlson Lake has a long history of Eastern Brook Trout naturally- reproducing in the lake. Brook Trout became overabundant in the 1980s and



Carlson Lake is located in the Lost River Range.

size declined as a result. Tiger Muskie, a sterile cross between Northern Pike and Muskellunge, have been stocked in the lake periodically to reduce Brook Trout abundance since 2002. The addition of Tiger Musky resulted in increased growth

of Brook Trout and provides additional sport fishing opportunity. Note: Tiger Muskie must be over 40" to harvest.

**Use:** Carlson Lake receives moderate use and is accessible by ATV/motorcycle.

# Merriam Lake

**Drainage:** West Fork Pahsimeroi River

**Elevation:** 9,610 ft

**Location:** 44.1154° N, - 113.75397° W

**Acreage:** 7.4

**Max Depth:** Unknown

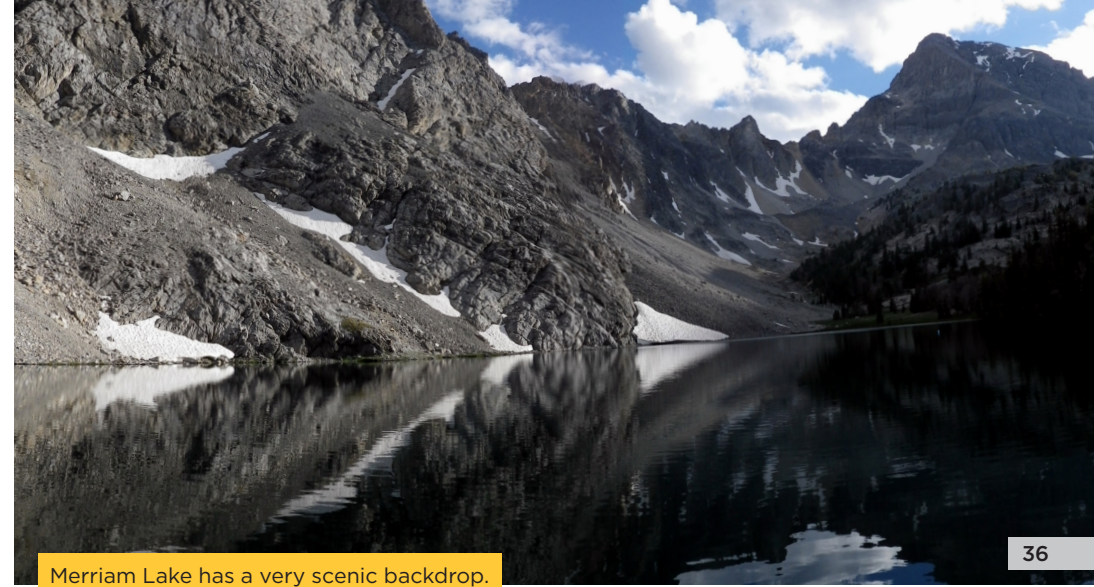
**Trailhead access:** The road to this trailhead requires 4WD and high clearance and can be quite rough. Access is from the Pahsimeroi Valley side of the Lost River Range, primarily from Pahsimeroi River Rd/ Farm to Market Rd/ County Rd. There are several options for driving out to the trailhead. One option is to turn west onto Double Springs Pass Rd. Stay on Double Springs Road

for 8.6 miles, then make a left onto Donkey Hills Rd. Stay on Donkey Hills Rd for 7.6 miles, then turn right to stay on Donkey Hills Rd. After 2.9 miles, turn left onto Upper Pahsimeroi Rd (FS Rd 40118). After 5 miles, stay right onto West Fork Pahsimeroi Rd (FS Rd 40267). The trailhead is 3 miles up this road.

**Lake access:** From the West Fork Upper Pahsimeroi Trailhead, take the Merriam Lake trail (4197) for 2 miles to Merriam Lake.

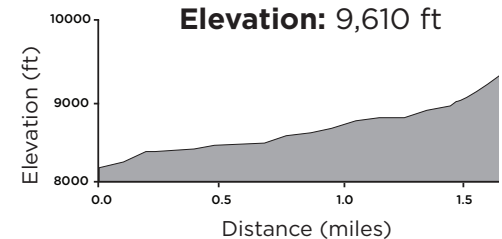
**Species present:**

Brook Trout  
Tiger Trout

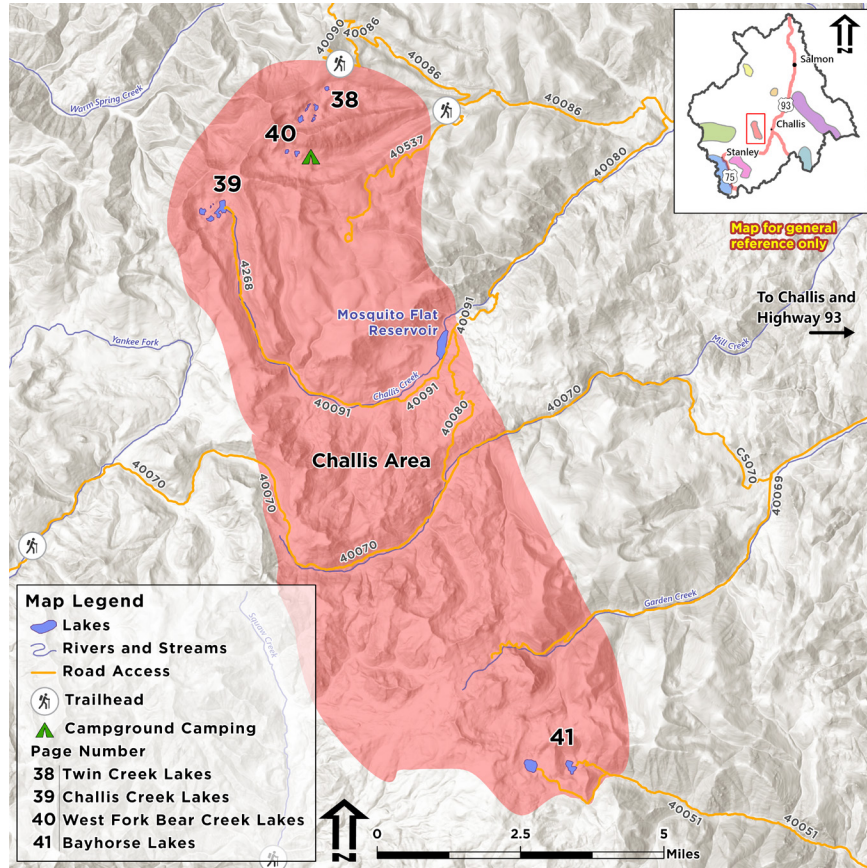


**Comments:** The driving directions to this trailhead are complicated and this trailhead can be accessed via several different routes. Plan out your route and bring a current map/ GPS. While the hike may look short, it can be quite steep and elevations are over 9,000' so pace yourself.

**Use:** Merriam Lake receives little human use and the trail is not open to motorized use.







# Selected Lakes in the Salmon River Mountains – Challis

## Twin Creek Lakes

**Drainage:** Twin Creek – Challis Creek

**Elevation:** 8,900 ft

**Location:** 44.583° N, - 114.4768° W

**Acreage:** 5 (Twin Creek Lake #6)

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** A short 0.8 mile, off-trail descent from the Twin Peaks Lookout Road (FS Rd 40090)

**Trailhead access:** From Challis, take Challis Creek Road north out of town. Continue for 15 miles to stay on Challis Creek Road (FS Rd 40086). At 15 miles, stay right at the Y to stay on Twin Peaks/Sleeping Deer Road (Fs Rd 40086). After 3.4 miles, take a left onto Twin Peaks Road (Fs Rd 40090).

Continue for 1.4 miles and park before the road switchbacks up to the lookout (44.59077, -114.4783).

**Lake access:** Hike 0.8 miles south from the road, down 900 feet in elevation to Twin Creek Lake # 2. The rest of the lakes are south from here.

**Species present:**

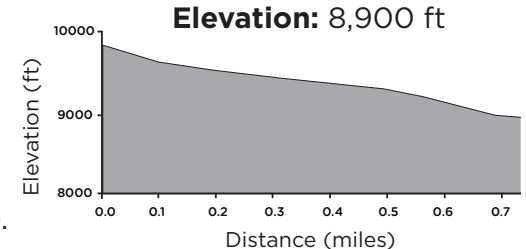
Rainbow Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Several of the Twin Creek Lakes are fishless, but others offer excellent fishing for Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout hybrids that naturally reproduce in the lakes.



Some of the Twin Creek Lakes have great fishing for Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and hybrids.

**Use:** Not many people use these lakes despite their relatively easy access from the road. Campsites are dispersed at several of the lakes. The off-trail hike into Twin Creek Lakes is limited to non-motorized use.





## Challis Creek Lakes

**Drainage:** Challis Creek – Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,973 ft

**Location:** 44.55274° N, - 114.51285° W

**Acreage:** 19.6 (lake #1)

**Max Depth:** Unknown



### Access profile:

Accessible by motorized vehicle via a rough road. Only recommend ATV, UTV, motorcycle, or small high-clearance 4WD trucks.

**Lake access:** From Challis, there are multiple routes to Mosquito Flat Reservoir, which you will pass to get to Challis Creek Lakes. One option is to turn west onto Main St in Challis and continue through town onto Garden Creek Rd

(FS Rd 40070). At 4.8 miles, stay right. At 6.1 miles you will reach a high point; stay on Custer Motor Way (Fs Rd 40070). Stay on 40070 for 6.5 miles, then take a right onto Challis Creek Road (FS Rd 40080). Follow this road to Mosquito Flat Reservoir. When you arrive at Mosquito Flat Reservoir, take a left onto Challis Cr Lakes Road (FS Rd 40091). Stay on 40091 for 7.2 miles to get to Challis Creek Lakes. After Mosquito Flat Reservoir, the road becomes rough, rocky, narrow, and steep.

### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

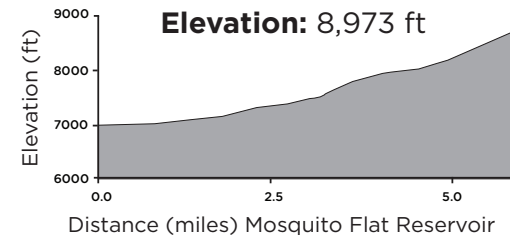


Challis Creek Lakes have good fishing for beautiful Cutthroat Trout and hybrids.

**Comments:** Only lakes #1 and #2 are known to have fish present. Last stocked in 2014, fish are reproducing naturally in these lakes.

**Use:** Use is moderate due to motorized access. Several good

campsites are dispersed around the lakes.



## West Fork Bear Creek Lakes

**Drainage:** West Fork Bear Creek – Challis Creek

**Elevation:** 8,950 ft

**Location:** 44.56687° N, -114.48746° W

**Acreage:** 3.7 (lake #1)

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** A 3 mile hike up 1,580 feet in elevation, mostly off trail through burnt forest.

**Trailhead access:** From Challis, take Challis Creek Road north out of town. Continue for 15 miles to stay on Challis Creek Road (FS Rd 40086). At 15 miles, you will arrive at a Y intersection, Sleeping Deer Road (FS Rd 40086) goes right, and South Fork of Twin Creek Road (FS Rd 40537) goes left. Make a left onto FS Rd 40537 and go

just 0.25 miles until you see a small, closed dirt road (Fs Rd 40536) on the right. Park here.

**Lake access:** Hike up closed Forest Service Road 40536 until it ends at approximately 0.9 miles. From here, continue to hike up the West Fork Bear Creek drainage for 2 more miles to West Fork Bear Creek Lakes. This area was part of a recent burn, so be prepared to hike over and around a lot of deadfall.

**Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** These lakes are a popular car camping destination and receive high

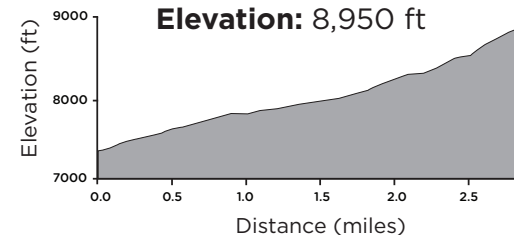


Some of the West Fork Bear Creek Lakes have highly abundant trout populations.

use during the summer months. There are several campgrounds and day-use areas with vault toilets. No drinking water available on site.

**Use:** These lakes offer great fishing due to annual stocking of catchable-sized Rainbow Trout. In 2015, Cutthroat Trout

fingerlings were stocked, so there is opportunity to catch both species.





## Bayhorse Lakes

**Drainage:** Bayhorse Creek –  
Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,584 ft

**Location:** 44.41203° N, -114.40269° W

**Acreage:** 25.0 (Big Bayhorse)

**Max Depth:** Unknown



### **Access profile:**

Accessible by full-sized vehicles. Large vehicles are not recommended to Little Bayhorse.

**Lake access:** From Challis, travel south on US-93 for 2.4 miles. Turn south onto Highway 75 and continue for 8.1 miles before turning north across the bridge, following signs towards Bayhorse Lakes. At 6.7 miles, stay left to access Big Bayhorse Lake, and stay right to access

Little Bayhorse Lake.

### **Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

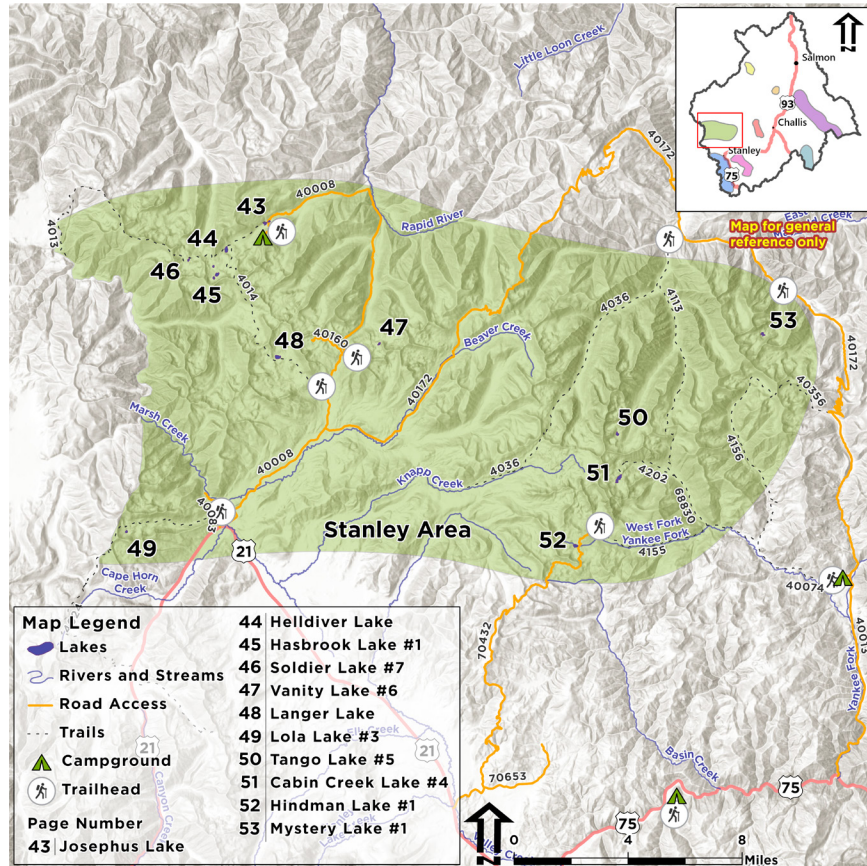
Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** These lakes are rarely used due to their off-trail access. There aren't any established campsites at these lakes but there are several flat areas that work for camping. The hike into these lakes is limited to non-motorized use.

**Use:** These lakes are heavily populated by naturally-reproducing Cutthroat and Rainbow trout and hybrids.



Rainbow/cutthroat hybrids are common in lakes that support natural spawning of both species.



# Selected Lakes in the Salmon River Mountains - Stanley



## Josephus Lake

**Drainage:** Float Creek – Rapid River

**Elevation:** 7,060 ft

**Location:** 44.5481° N, -115.14484° W

**Acreage:** 5.1

**Max Depth:** Unknown



**Lake access:** The road to Josephus Lake is only recommended for high clearance vehicles. From Stanley, head northwest on ID-21 for 18 miles. Turn right onto Beaver Creek/Cape Horn Rd (FS Rd 40008), and then immediately make another right turn to stay on Cape Horn Rd. After 0.4 miles, make a left turn to again stay on FS Rd 40008/Seafoam Rd. Continue for 19.1 miles to the Josephus Lake Campground.

**Species present:**  
Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** Josephus Lake is stocked multiple times throughout the summer with catchable-sized Rainbow Trout.

**Use:** This lake receives moderate to high use due to motorized access. There is a campground with a vault toilet and seven sites.



Rainbow Trout photo CCBY Jeff Jones on Flickr.



# Helldiver Lake

**Drainage:** Float Creek - Rapid River

**Elevation:** 7,709 ft

**Location:** 44.53498° N, -115.172385° W

**Acreage:** 10.9

**Max Depth:** 5.2 ft

**Access profile:** 713 ft elevation gain over 1.75 miles

**Trailhead access:** Access to Helldiver Lake is from the Josephus Lake Trailhead. See information for Josephus Lake.

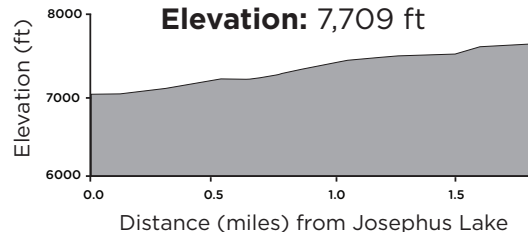
**Lake access:** From Josephus Lake, travel southwest on the Soldier Basin Trail (4013) for 1.75 miles to Helldiver Lake

**Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** This lake is easy and straightforward to access, making it a great lake for beginner high mountain lake anglers. Cutthroat trout are abundant and naturally reproduce here.

**Use:** Helldiver lake is heavily used by anglers due to ease of access. Three campsites are spaced out along north and east side of lake. One allows for big group camp. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.



Alpine lakes are often a great place to find cutthroat trout.



# Hasbrook Lake #1

**Drainage:** Float Creek – Rapid River

**Elevation:** 8,349 ft

**Location:** 44.522, -115.17907

**Acreage:** 7.5

**Max Depth:** 9 ft

**Trailhead access:** Access to the Hasbrook Lakes is from the Josephus Lake Trailhead. See information for Josephus Lake.

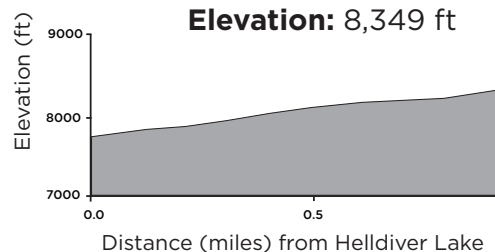
**Lake access:** Hasbrook Lakes are approximately 1 mile off-trail, south of Helldiver Lake. From Helldiver Lake, head south following the inlet that enters the west side of Helldiver. Stay left to follow the eastern fork of the inlet (2.75 miles total from Josephus Lake).

## Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Cutthroat Trout were stocked here every three years until 2015, when management decided to halt stocking due to the overabundant naturally-reproducing population.

**Use:** This lake receives very little use, but does have sites to pitch a tent. The hike is limited to non-motorized use.



Cutthroat Trout naturally reproduce in Hasbrook Lake #1.

## Solider Lake #7

**Drainage:** Soldier Creek – Middle Fork Salmon River

**Elevation:** 7,906 ft

**Location:** 44.52928° N, - 115.1986° W

**Acreage:** 2.9

**Max Depth:** 12 ft

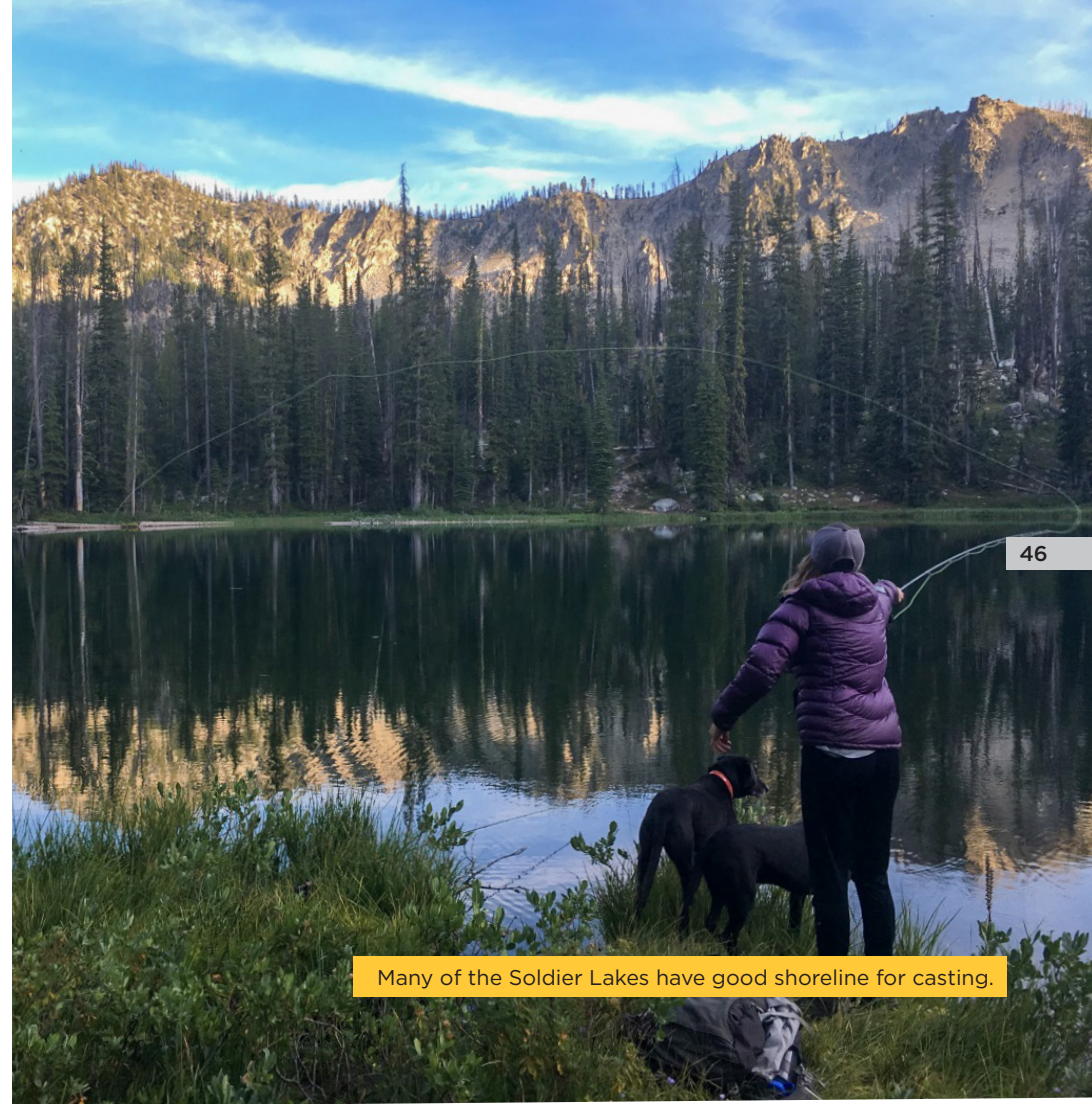
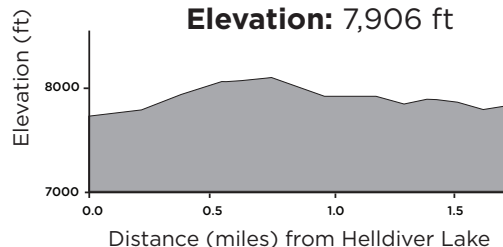
**Trailhead access:** Access to Soldier Lakes is from the Josephus Lake Campground Trailhead. See information for Helldiver Lake.

**Lake access:** From Helldiver Lake, continue on the Soldier Basin Trail (4013) for 1.8 miles to Soldier Lake #7 (3.5 miles total from Josephus Lake).

**Species present:**  
Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** This lake has been stocked every three years since 1969 and has a lot of fish. It is very central to the other Soldier Lakes, most of which are stocked every three years or have naturally- reproducing populations of fish.

**Use:** This lake is right on the trail and therefore receives moderate use. It has excellent camping areas for larger groups. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.



46

Many of the Soldier Lakes have good shoreline for casting.



## Vanity Lake #6

**Drainage:** Vanity Creek – Rapid River

**Elevation:** 7,975 ft

**Location:** 44.48798° N, -115.06288° W

**Acreage:** 3.2

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** The hiking route recommended is from Vanity Summit which is accessible via a dirt road that in some years requires high clearance, 4WD vehicles. From Stanley, head northwest on ID-21 for 18 miles. Turn right onto Beaver Creek/Cape Horn Rd (FS Rd 40008), and then immediately make another right turn to stay on Cape Horn Rd. After 0.4 miles, make a left turn to again stay on FS Rd 40008/Seafoam Rd. Continue for 8.4

miles to Vanity Summit. At the summit, you will see a left turn onto 40160 and a parking area on the right. Park on the right.

**Lake access:** This hike is mostly off-trail with an intermittent social trail in some places. From Vanity Summit, head northeast and try to keep your elevation while you skirt around the ridge that is visible to the northeast of the summit. At approximately 0.5 miles, once you have started to make your way around the ridge and are heading east, there is a steep section of rocks that should be crossed carefully. Find the social trail that goes across the rocks and it is much easier. From here, continue east for



Many of the Vanity Lakes are a short hike from Vanity #6 and can also offer good fishing.

one mile past Vanity Lake #10 (fishless) to Vanity Lake #6.

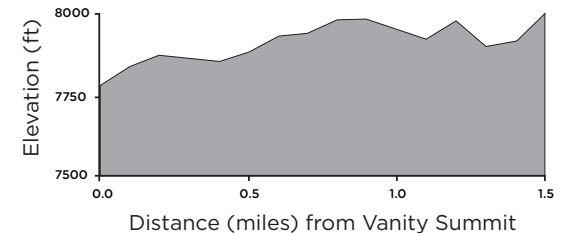
### Species present:

Rainbow Trout  
Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** This lake hasn't been stocked since 1999, but has an abundant population of naturally-reproducing fish. Several nearby Vanity Lakes are stocked with fish and/or have naturally reproducing populations.

**Use:** Not many people visit the Vanity Lakes because there is no trail to them, but people that do visit usually camp at lake #10 because it has several good camping sites. The hike in is limited to non-motorized use.

**Elevation:** 7,975ft



# Langer Lake

**Drainage:** Bear Creek – Beaver Creek

**Elevation:** 8,034 ft

**Location:** 44.480304° N, -115.134719° W

**Acreage:** 11.9

**Max Depth:** 27 ft

**Access profile:** A 2-mile hike up roughly 900 feet in elevation.

**Trailhead access:** From Stanley, head northwest on ID-21 for 18 miles. Turn right onto Beaver Creek/Cape Horn Rd (FS Rd 40008), and then immediately make another right turn to stay on Cape Horn Rd. After 0.4 miles, make a left turn to again stay on FS Rd 40008/Seafoam Rd. Continue for 6.8 miles until you see Langer Monument and parking on the right. The trailhead is on the left.

**Lake access:** Hike on the Langer Lake Trail (4014) trail west for 2 miles to Langer Lake.

**Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** There are many other lakes nearby with abundant trout populations. Although Rainbow Trout have been stocked most recently, Cutthroat Trout are the most common species present. Due to high fishing pressure, trout seem to be weary of fisherman and may be difficult to catch, but they can be of considerable size.

Nearby Ruffneck Lake has a population of Rainbow Trout



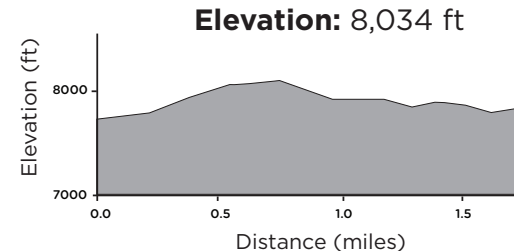
Nearby Ruffneck Lake (shown in picture) has good fishing for Rainbow Trout.

48

that are naturally reproducing, so trout of all sizes can be caught. Lower Island Lake is 0.25 miles southwest of Ruffneck Lake and has both Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout.

**Use:** This lake is heavily fished and sees a lot of traffic. There are three distinct campsites spread out around lake.

Campsite on SW end is large and adequate for large groups. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.





## Lola Lake #3

**Drainage:** Lola Creek – Marsh Creek

**Elevation:** 8,543 ft

**Location:** 44.390999° N, -115.224789° W

**Acreage:** 3.2

**Max Depth:** 19 ft

**Access profile:** A 4-mile hike mostly on-trail, up 2,500 feet in elevation.

**Trailhead access:** From Stanley drive 18 miles west on Hwy 21. Turn right (north) on Beaver Creek/Cape Horn Rd (FS Rd 40008). Immediately stay left at the fork and continue on Lola Creek Rd. (NFS 40083) for .6 miles to the Lola Creek trailhead. If you run into Lola Creek Campground you have gone too far.

**Lake access:** Hike west on Lola

Creek Trail (4024) for 3.75 miles. The trail does not lead directly to lake so after 3.75 miles hike south cross country for the remaining .25 miles to Lola Lake #3.

**Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

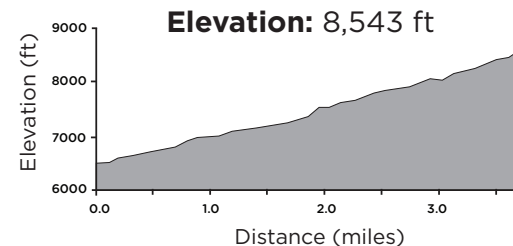
**Comments:** Cutthroat have been stocked in Lola Lake #3 since 1969. Their abundance has been steady and very healthy. A float tube would be a huge benefit at his lake, but shore fishing is also an option. Lola Lake #2 is also accessible from Lola Lake trail; it is located .75 miles east of lake #3 and has also been stocked since 1969.



49

Lola Lake #3 has good fishing for cutthroat trout.

**Use:** There are campsites available at both lakes. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.



## Tango Lake #5

**Drainage:** Tango Creek - Pioneer Creek

**Elevation:** 8,451 ft

**Location:** 44.443216° N, -114.893017° W

**Acreage:** 5.0

**Max Depth:** 11 ft

**Access profile:** A 9-mile hike with 4.5 miles off-trail.

**Trailhead access:** A 4WD vehicle with high clearance is necessary for Loon Creek Rd. From Stanley drive east on Hwy 75 for about 12.5 miles until you reach the town of Sunbeam. Turn left (north) onto Yankee Fork Rd (NFS 40013), and continue for 8.75 miles to a fork in the road at Loon Creek Rd (the fork will be .5 miles past Bonanza Guard Station). Turn left (north) onto Loon

Creek Rd (NFS 40172) after about 6.0 miles Loon Creek road turns right and will switch back up a ridge, continue for the remaining 13.5 miles to the Loon Creek Guard station, park here. (28.4 miles total from Hwy 75).

**Lake access:** From Loon Creek Guard Station hike south on Knapp/Loon Creek trail (4036) for 2.1 miles to a fork in the trail. Turn left and continue south on Cabin/Pioneer Creek trail (4113) for 2.25 miles up Pioneer Creek to Tango Creek, which drains from the southwest into Pioneer Creek. There is no trail leading to Tango Lakes, so cross-country hiking is necessary. Follow the Tango



Tango Lake #4, just 0.3 miles from Tango Lake #5, has fishing for Cutthroat Trout as well.

Creek drainage south for the remaining 4.5 miles to Tango Lake #5.

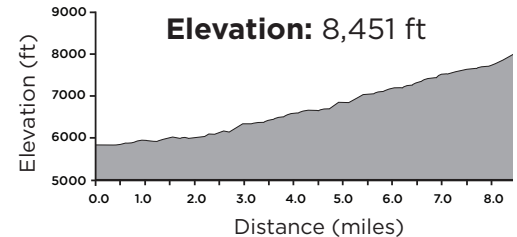
### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Tango Lakes are very remote and can be tricky to access due to cross country hiking. Tango Lake #6 lies just southwest of lake #5 and offers another chance at beautiful Cutthroat Trout. Natural reproduction occurs in both

lakes and provides opportunity for trout of all size classes.

**Use:** There are three campsites available at lake #5 and one at lake #6. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.





## Cabin Creek Lake #4 (Crimson Lake)

**Drainage:** Cabin Creek – Yankee Fork

**Elevation:** 8,333 ft

**Location:** 44.421036° N, -114.89164° W

**Acreage:** 15.8

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** A 9.5 mile hike on-trail, up 2,000 feet in elevation.

**Trailhead access:** From Stanley drive east on Hwy 75 for about 12.5 miles until you reach the town of Sunbeam. Turn left (north) onto Yankee Fork Rd. (NFS 40013) continue 8.25 miles to West Fork Yankee Fork Rd (NFS 40074). Turn left to park at West Fork Transfer Campground trailhead.

**Lake access:** From West Fork Transfer Camp trailhead hike west on West Fork Yankee Fork trail (4155) for 1.4 miles to a fork in the trail, stay right and continue another 1.1 miles to another fork in the trail, stay left and travel west for 2.1 miles to yet another fork in the trail, stay right and travel north on Cabin/Pioneer Creek trail (4113) for 2.4 miles to the last fork in the trail, stay left and continue on Crimson Lake trail (4202) for the remaining 2.4 miles to Cabin Creek Lake #4 (Crimson Lake), this last section of the trail will follow Cabin Creek.

Alternatively, access is possible from Hindman Lake via closed road 40032 and then off-trail

Crimson Creek Lake, near Yankee Fork.

hiking. See access to Hindman Lake on following page.

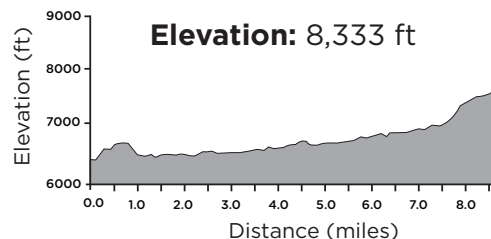
### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Cabin Creek Lakes are a beautiful collection of lakes that offer a remote fishing experience and beautiful views. Cabin Creek Lake #4 has been stocked since 1969 and has a thriving population of Cutthroat trout. Cabin Creek Lake #3 lies 0.4 miles west of lake #4, connected via Cabin Creek and has naturally-

reproducing Cutthroat. Cabin Creek Lake #7 is just south of lake #4 and has also been stocked since 1969.

**Use:** Cabin Creek Lakes are quite remote. There are two campsites available at lake #4. The trail is limited to non-motorized use.



# Hindman #1

**Drainage:** West Fork Yankee Fork

**Elevation:** 8,061 ft

**Location:** 44.390999° N, -115.224789° W

**Acreage:** 8.2

**Max Depth:** 32.5 ft



## Access profile:

Accessible by high-clearance, 4WD vehicle. Road is very rough.

**Lake access:** From Stanley, drive approximately 5 miles northwest on ID-21. Turn right on Stanley Creek Rd (FS Rd 70653) and drive east for 1.4 miles. Turn left to stay on FS Rd 70653 for 0.2 miles. Turn left onto Basin Butte Rd (NFS 70432). Continue on this road for 14.3 miles to Hindman Lake #1.

## Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Cutthroat Trout have been stocked annually since 1981 and were last stocked in 2017.

**Use:** This lake isn't used very much despite being accessible by road. There are two good campsites available.





# Mystery Lake #1

**Drainage:** Mystery Creek – Mayfield Creek

**Elevation:** 8,589 ft

**Location:** 44.495005° N, -114.790845° W

**Acreage:** 5.8

**Max Depth:** 40 ft

**Access profile:** A challenging, off-trail hike for 1.9 miles up 1,933 feet in elevation.

**Trailhead access:** A 4WD vehicle with high clearance is necessary for Loon Creek Rd. From Stanley, drive east on Hwy 75 for about 12.5 miles until you reach the town of Sunbeam. Turn left (north) onto Yankee Fork Rd (NFS 40013). Continue for 8.75 miles to a fork in the road at Loon Creek Rd (the fork will be .5 miles

past Bonanza Guard Station). Turn left (north) onto Loon Creek Rd (NFS 40172). From here, use your odometer to travel for 15.4 miles on Loon Creek Road to the mouth of Mystery Creek on the left side of the road, 1.4 miles past the mouth of China Creek. There is no sign designation for Mystery Creek, so look carefully for the drainage. If you have a GPS, coordinates for the mouth of Mystery Creek are 44.51819° N, -114.77551° W.

**Lake access:** Hike off-trail southwest following Mystery Creek for 1.9 miles to Mystery Lake #1. At 1.25 miles there will be a fork in the creek, so make sure to stay to your right



Nearby Mystery Lake #2 (AKA Mystery Lake) has good fishing for Golden Trout.

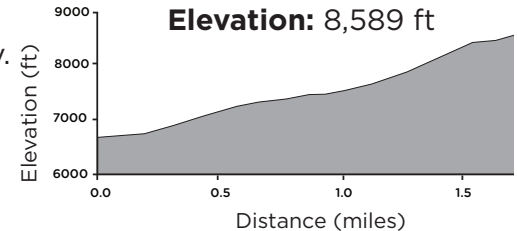
(west) and continue to hike up Mystery Creek drainage.

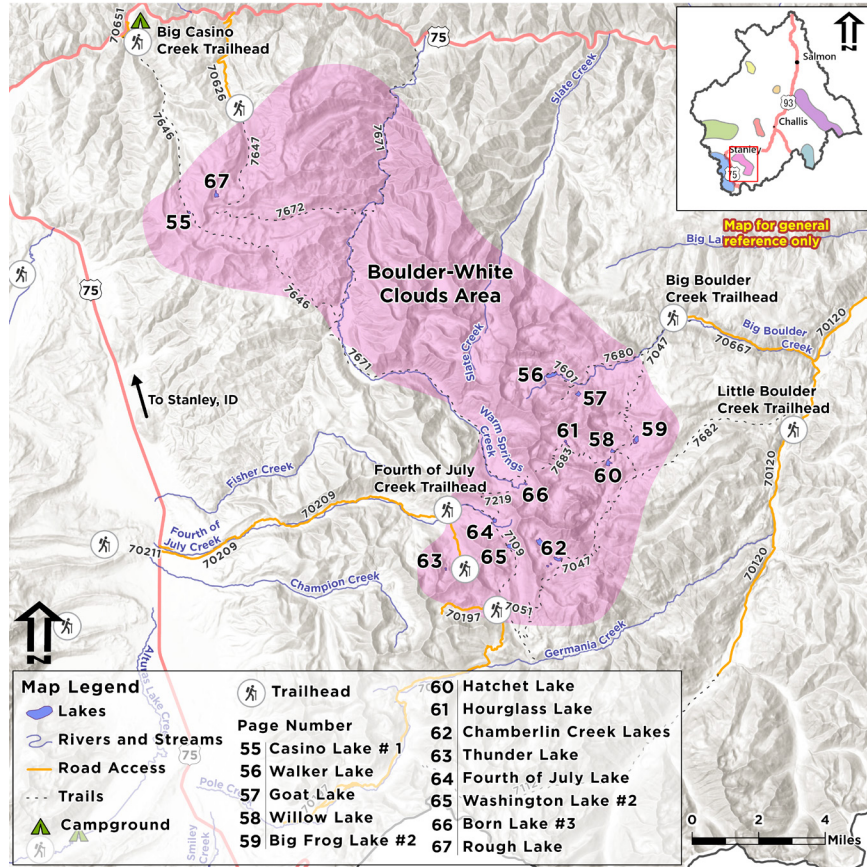
## Species present:

Cutthroat Trout  
Golden Trout

**Comments:** Golden Trout were last stocked in 2013. Cutthroat Trout have not been stocked since 1984, but the population has been reproducing naturally. Mystery Lake #2 and #3 also have naturally-reproducing trout populations and are in close proximity to lake #1.

**Use:** There are no trails leading to Mystery Lakes so topographic maps are recommended for navigation. Mystery Lakes all require cross-country hiking to access. There are two campsites available at Mystery Lake #1.





# Selected Lakes in the Boulder-White Clouds Area



# Casino Lake #1

**Drainage:** Big Casino Creek

**Elevation:** 8,625 ft

**Location:** 44.176341° N, -114.817393° W

**Acreage:** 2.3

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** From Stanley travel approximately 6 miles northeast on ID 75. Turn right, cross the bridge over the Salmon River and continue to Casino Creek Campground. Follow Little Casino Creek Rd. (70651) to the Big Casino Creek Trailhead (NFS 7646). Alternatively, these lakes can be reached from the Boundary Creek trailhead at 44.15655° N, -114.86759° W.

**Lake access:** Follow Big Casino Creek trail for 7 miles to Casino Lake #1. Casino Lake #2 is .25 miles further along the trail. Access to Casino Lake #3 is cross country SW for .4 miles

## Species present:

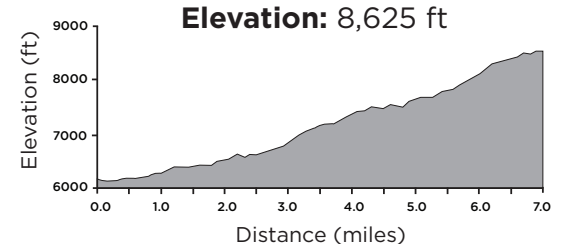
Brook Trout – Casino Lakes #1 and #3  
Cutthroat Trout – Casino Lake #2

**Comments:** Big Casino Creek trail is moderate to challenging. Casino Lake #1 and #3 have abundant naturally-reproducing Brook trout populations. Casino Lake #2 has very colorful naturally-reproducing Cutthroat of all sizes.



Casino Lake #2 has good fishing for Cutthroat Trout.

**Use:** Casino Lakes receive low angler use, there is room for camping at lakes 1 and 2. Garland Lakes are east of Casino Lakes and have very nice Cutthroat.



## Walker Lake (Walter Lake)

**Drainage:** Big Boulder Creek

**Elevation:** 9,242 ft

**Location:** 44.106466° N, -114.598187° W

**Acreage:** 20.0

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Big Boulder Creek Rd (70667) is located along the East Fork Salmon River Rd. To reach the East Fork of the Salmon River Rd. drive towards Salmon from Stanley on Hwy 75. A few miles past Clayton turn south on the East Fork of the Salmon River Rd. This road is paved for 13 miles and gravel and dirt for the last 4 miles to Big Boulder Creek Rd. After about 17 miles on East Fork Rd. turn right or west onto Big Boulder

Creek Rd. Drive on Big Boulder Creek road for 5.15 miles to the Livingston Mill trailhead. If you drive past the Livingston Mill you have gone too far. There is a parking loop at the Big Boulder Creek trailhead.

**Lake access:** From trailhead hike along Livingston Mill - Castle Divide trail (NFS 7047) for about 1.2 miles to a fork in the trail, take a right and head west on Big Boulder Creek trail (NFS 7680) for about 2.8 miles to another fork in the trail, turn right and continue northwest along Walker Lake trail (NFS 7601) for the remaining .75 miles to Walker Lake.



The view of Walker Lake from above, on the way to Cove and the other Big Boulder Lakes.

### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

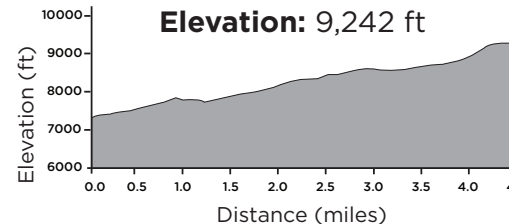
Rainbow Trout

Rainbow X Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Despite no stocking history Walker Lake has natural reproduction that is sufficient for maintaining fish persistence. Rainbow, Cutthroat and hybrid trout of varying and substantial sizes can be angled.

**Use:** Walker Lake receives moderate to heavy fishing

pressure. There are nine different campsites surrounding the lake. Passenger cars can make it safely up to the trailhead. Walker Lake is a common 'jump-off' point for multi-day trips in the Big Boulder Creek basin.





# Goat Lake

**Drainage:** Big Boulder Creek

**Elevation:** 8,940 ft

**Location:** 44.098419° N, -114.581454° W

**Acreage:** 8.7

**Max Depth:** 18 ft

**Trailhead access:** Big Boulder Creek trailhead. See info for Walker Lake.

**Lake access:** From trailhead hike along Livingston Mill - Castle Divide trail (NFS 7047) for about 1.2 miles to a fork in the trail, take a left and head west on Big Boulder Creek trail (NFS 7680) hike along this trail for 2.55 miles. There is no trail leading to Goat lake so after 2.55 miles on Big Boulder Creek trail take a right (north) and hike cross country up Goat Lake's outlet for .3 miles to

Goat Lake.

**Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** The hike up to Goat Lake requires cross country hiking and bushwhacking for a short .25 miles. There is no stocking history for Rainbow Trout but recent surveys have indicated that they are abundant in this lake. Cutthroat trout have been stocked every three years since 1970.

**Use:** Access requires some off trail cross-country hiking. Natural reproduction of the trout in this lake provides opportunity to catch fish of all size classes. There is one good campsite at this lake.



Naturally-reproducing Rainbow  
are abundant in Goat Lake.



## Willow Lake

**Drainage:** Boulder Chain Lakes Creek

**Elevation:** 8,733 ft

**Location:** 44.0738° N, -114.560217° W

**Acreage:** 5.5

**Max Depth:** 11 ft

**Trailhead access:** Little Boulder Creek trail (7682) is located along the East Fork Salmon River Rd. To reach East Fork Rd drive towards Salmon from Stanley on Hwy 75, a few miles past Clayton turn south on the East Fork of the Salmon River Rd. This road is paved for 13 miles and gravel and dirt for the last 6 miles. Little Boulder Creek trail begins at a transfer camp.

**Lake access:** Follow Little Boulder Creek Trail west then

southwest for about 6.25 miles, here there is junction for Boulder Chain lakes (7047), turn right (north). Continue on trail for the remaining 1.25 miles to Willow Lake.

### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout  
Rainbow X Cutthroat Trout  
Bull Trout

**Comments:** Willow Lake is the first lake in the set of Boulder Chain Lakes. It has an abundant Rainbow Trout population. This lake has no stocking history but natural reproduction is sufficient for maintaining fish persistence. There are Bull Trout in the lake,



Bull Trout can be found in addition to the very abundant Rainbow Trout, but cannot be harvested.

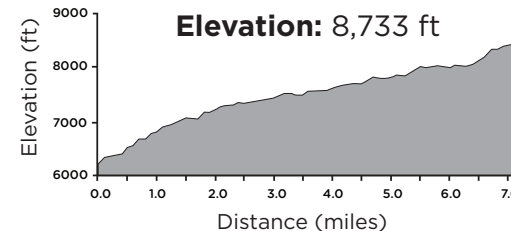
which anglers are not allowed to harvest.

**Use:** Since this is the first lake along the Boulder Chain it receives high angler pressure. There are two campsites available at this lake. Willow Lake is a common 'jump-off' point for multi-day trips in the Boulder Chain Lakes.



### Bull Trout

NO HARVEST ALLOWED. Olive green with brown above and on sides, shading to white on belly. Lacks wormlike markings as in BROOK TROUT. Upper body with yellow spots, sides with red or orange spots. No bluish halos around spots and white borders on fins less distinct than in BROOK TROUT. Tail is slightly forked. NATIVE.





## Big Frog Lake #2 (Big Frog Lake)

**Drainage:** Boulder Chain Lakes Creek

**Elevation:** 8,858 ft

**Location:** 44.079157° N, -114.545872° W

**Acreage:** 13.0

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Little Boulder Creek trailhead. See info for Willow Lake.

**Lake access:** From Willow Lake, there is a 3-way intersection in the trail. Head northeast and follow trail for .75 miles to Big Frog Lake #2

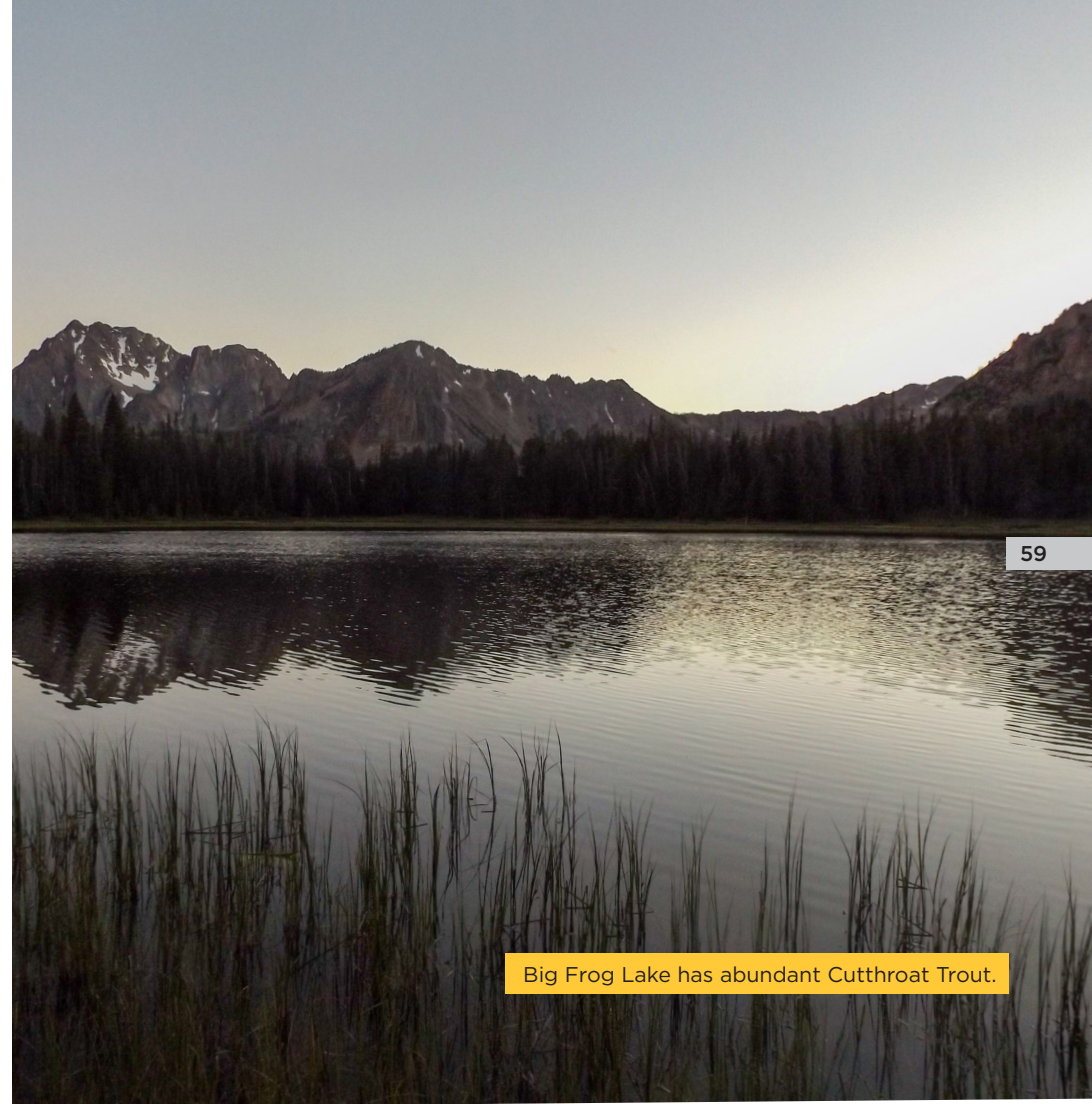
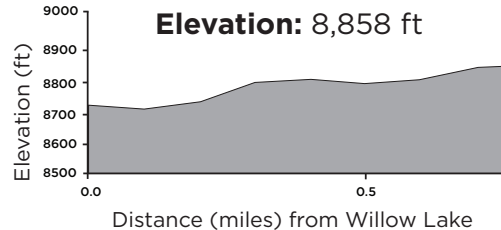
### Species present:

Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Big Frog Lake #2 has naturally- reproducing Cutthroat and is just .75 miles away from Willow Lake. Little

Frog Lake is only .3 miles east, it has not been stocked since 1987 but trout have populated it through the outlet of Big Frog Lake.

**Use:** Frog Lakes receive moderate angler pressure, there are campsites at both lakes.



# Hatchet Lake

**Drainage:** Boulder Chain Lakes Creek

**Elevation:** 8,887 ft

**Location:** 44.070539° N, -114.562767° W

**Acreage:** 12.4

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Little Boulder Creek trailhead. See info for Willow Lake.

**Lake access:** From Willow Lake, at the 3-way intersection, take the southwest trail (7683) and continue for .4 miles southwest to Hatchet Lake

## Species present:

Rainbow Trout

Rainbow X Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Hatchet Lake is the second lake in the Boulder Chain Lakes and has no

history of stocking but has a highly abundant population of Rainbow Trout. Continuing along Boulder Chain Lakes trail past Hatchet Lake will bring you to Shelf, Sliderock, and Lodgepole Lakes. All three of these lakes have naturally-reproducing Rainbow Trout as well.

**Use:** Angler use decreases as you hike further along Boulder Chain Lakes trail. Hatchet Lake still receives moderate to high angler pressure. There are multiple campsites at each lake along the chain providing many options based on hiking ability.





# Hourglass Lake

**Drainage:** Boulder Chain Lakes Creek

**Elevation:** 9,511 ft

**Location:** 44.077705° N, -114.588362° W

**Acreage:** 4.1

**Max Depth:** 15 ft

**Trailhead access:** Little Boulder Creek trailhead. See info for Willow Lake.

**Lake access:** From Willow Lake, at the 3-way intersection take a left (SE) and continue past Hatchet, Shelf, Sliderock, and Lodgepole Lakes (8.7 miles). Hourglass lake is 1.0 mile past Lodgepole Lake (9.7 miles total)

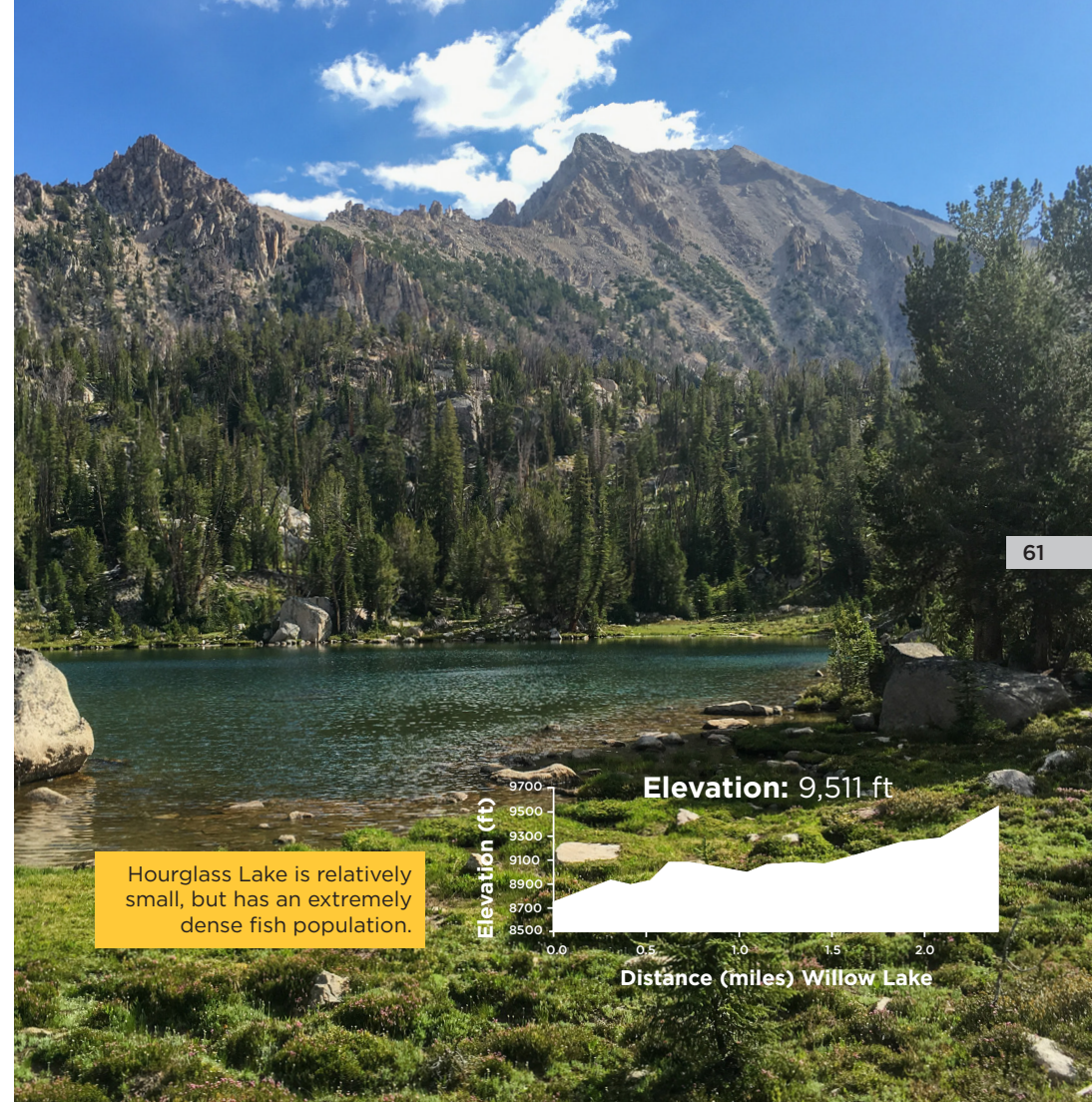
**Species present:**

Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** Hourglass lake is the 6th lake in the Boulder chain and offers close access to Hummock, Hidden and Scoop Lakes. This group of lakes has minimal to no stocking history but natural reproduction is sufficient for maintaining fish persistence. Rainbow trout are very abundant. Scoop Lake has naturally- reproducing Cutthroat Trout.

**Use:** Angler pressure is moderate, though catch rates are extremely high. There are multiple campsites at each lake along the chain providing many options based on hiking ability.

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Hourglass Lake is relatively small, but has an extremely dense fish population.



# Chamberlain Creek Lakes

**Drainage:** Chamberlain Creek

**Elevation:** 9,481 ft

**Location:** 44.033995° N, -114.603935° W

**Acreage:** 18.4

**Max Depth:** 37 ft

**Trailhead access:** From Stanley, drive south on highway 75 for 24.4 miles, then turn left (east) onto Pole Rd/Pole Creek Rd (becomes FS Rd 70197). Follow for 14.4 miles to the trailhead, on right.

**Lake access:** Take the Washington Basin trail (7051) for 0.3 miles, then stay right onto the Washington Lake trail (7109). Follow this for 0.7 miles, then turn left onto the Livingston Mill – Castle Divide Trail (7047). Follow this for 3.25

miles to Chamberlain Lake #7. Here, turn left and follow the inlet up to Heart Lake, passing several ponds along the way.

Alternative access is from Fourth of July Trailhead (see Fourth of July Lake access), or up from the Germania Creek trail on E Fork Road.

## Species present:

Cutthroat Trout – Heart and Honey

Golden Trout – Hope Lake

Arctic Grayling – Hope Lake

**Comments:** This group of lakes offers the opportunity to catch multiple species of fish. All of the lakes support natural reproduction and contain various size classes

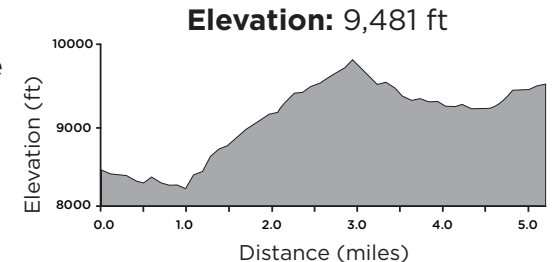


Heart Lake (right) and Honey Lake (left) both have excellent fishing for Cutthroat Trout. This picture is taken from above the lakes, on the way up to Hope Lake, which has fishing for Golden Trout and Arctic Grayling.

of fish. There is also fishing opportunity at Chamberlain Lake #7 that you pass on your way in. If campsites are full at Heart and Honey Lake, Chamberlain Lake #7 has five campsites spread out around the lake.

**Use:** There are campsites available at both Heart and

Honey Lakes. Chamberlain #7 has several campsites around it as well.





# Thunder Lake

**Drainage:** Fourth of July Creek

**Elevation:** 9,176 ft

**Location:** 44.022038° N, -114.660427° W

**Acreage:** 2.2

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Travel 15 miles south on Hwy 75 from Stanley, turn left or east onto Fourth of July Creek Rd. This road requires high clearance and 4WD. Continue on Fourth of July Creek Rd. for 10.1 miles, drive past the parking loop for Fourth of July Creek trailhead and turn right onto Phyllis Lake Rd. (NFS 70053). Drive for 1.65 miles to the Phyllis Lake trailhead, park here.

**Lake access:** From Phyllis Lake trailhead hike southwest along

trail (away from Phyllis Lake). The trail will switch back up a ridge to the east of Thunder Lake. Continue hiking over ridge and down to Thunder Lake, the lake is only .75 miles away from Phyllis Lake trailhead. Lightning Lake lies just south of Thunder Lake, hike up inlet and over a small ridge for .35 miles to access it.

## Species present:

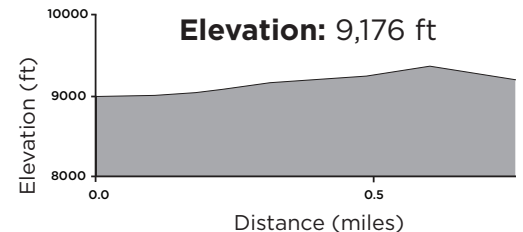
Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Access is easy, short and straightforward, these may be good lakes for beginner anglers. If Phyllis Lake Rd. is in poor condition you can park at the Fourth of July Creek trailhead and hike along road.



Anglers can find Cutthroat Trout at Thunder Lake.

**Use:** Due to the swampy habitat surrounding the lakes there are no campsites available.



## Fourth of July Lake

**Drainage:** Fourth of July Creek

**Elevation:** 9,370 ft

**Location:** 44.04336° N, -114.631243° W

**Acreage:** 7.6

**Max Depth:** 7 ft

**Trailhead access:** Travel 15 miles south on Hwy 75 from Stanley, turn left or east onto Fourth of July Creek Rd. This road requires high clearance and 4WD. Continue on Fourth of July Creek Rd. for 10 miles to the Fourth of July Creek trailhead. There is a parking loop at the Fourth of July Creek trailhead.

**Lake access:** From the trailhead take the Washington Lake trail (NFS 7109), it will follow Fourth of July Creek. Hike on this trail for 1.4 miles to Fourth of July Lake.

**Species present:**

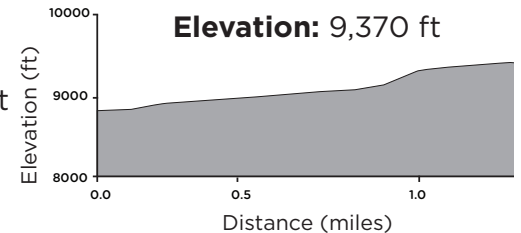
Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Fourth of July Lake is easy and straight forward to access. The hike is easy with little elevation gain. This lake has been stocked on a three year rotation since 1970 but natural reproduction also occurs, providing opportunity to catch Cutthroat of many different size classes.



Cutthroat Trout are stocked about every three years.

**Use:** Due to ease of access this lake receives a lot of fishing pressure. There are five campsites spread out around the lake. Fourth of July Creek Rd. can be extremely muddy at certain times of the year. Pay close attention to weather and road conditions.





## Washington Lake #2

**Drainage:** Washington Lake Creek

**Elevation:** 9,366 ft

**Location:** 4.031979° N, -114.621386° W

**Acreage:** 17.8

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Fourth of July Creek trailhead. See info for Fourth of July Lake.

**Lake access:** From Fourth of July Lake it is approximately 1.0 mile to Washington Lake #2.

**Species present:**

Brook Trout

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** The hike to Washington Lake #2 is mild with little elevation gain. Despite being stocked most recently with Cutthroat and

Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout are the most abundant species and have a very dense population which out-competes the other trout species.

**Use:** Washington Lake #2 receives heavy angler pressure due to ease of access and good fishing opportunity. There are numerous campsites spread out around the lake. Fourth of July Creek Rd. can be extremely muddy at certain times of the year, pay close attention to weather and road conditions.



65

Washington Lake #2 has great fishing for Brook Trout.





## Born Lake #3

**Drainage:** Warm Springs Creek

**Elevation:** 9,540 ft

**Location:** 44.059571° N, -114.612894° W

**Acreage:** 3.1

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Fourth of July Creek trailhead. See info for Fourth of July Lake.

**Lake access:** From Fourth of July Lake, there is a fork in the trail that heads north up to the top of the ridge (NFS 7219). Follow this trail 2.25 miles into Warm Springs Creek, then turn right to hike up the creek for 0.2 miles past Born Lakes #1 and #2 to Born Lake #3.

**Species present:**

Cutthroat Trout

**Comments:** Despite having no recent stocking, natural reproduction has been sufficient for maintaining fish persistence. Born Lake #3 has abundant Cutthroat of substantial size. Fish have populated Born Lakes #1,#2,#2A and #4 from lake #3. Trout populations in these smaller lakes are not as dense as lake #3 but have sustained fish for years even without continual stocking.

**Use:** There are a couple campsites available at lakes #2 and #3.

Multiple lakes in the area provide lots of fishing options.





# Rough Lake

**Drainage:** Rough Creek-Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,900 ft

**Location:** 44.1837° N, -114.7995° W

**Acreage:** 9.7

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** 3.6 miles on a dirt road to the trailhead, then an approximately 4.0-mile hike with 1,900 ft elevation gain that requires a little off-trail navigation.

**Lake access:** From Stanley, travel approximately 9.5 mile northeast on HWY 75. Turn south on NF Road 70626 and cross the bridge over the Salmon River (about 2.8 miles downstream of Mormon Bend Campground). Follow NF70626

about 4.1 miles to the Rough Creek Trailhead. Hike the Rough Creek/Skyline Trail #7647 about 3.7 miles to the top of the ridge. From the top of the ridge, leave the trail and head about 0.35 miles northwest cross-country to descend down to the lake.

## Species present:

Brook Trout

**Comments:** Anglers could extend their trip further by cresting the ridge to the south and exploring the Garland Lakes and Casino Lakes.

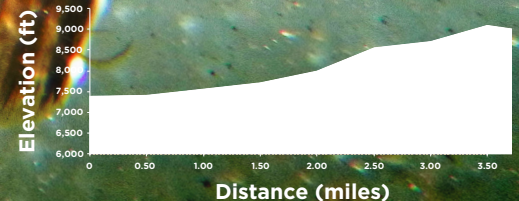
**Use:** Expect to see moderate traffic at this popular lake.

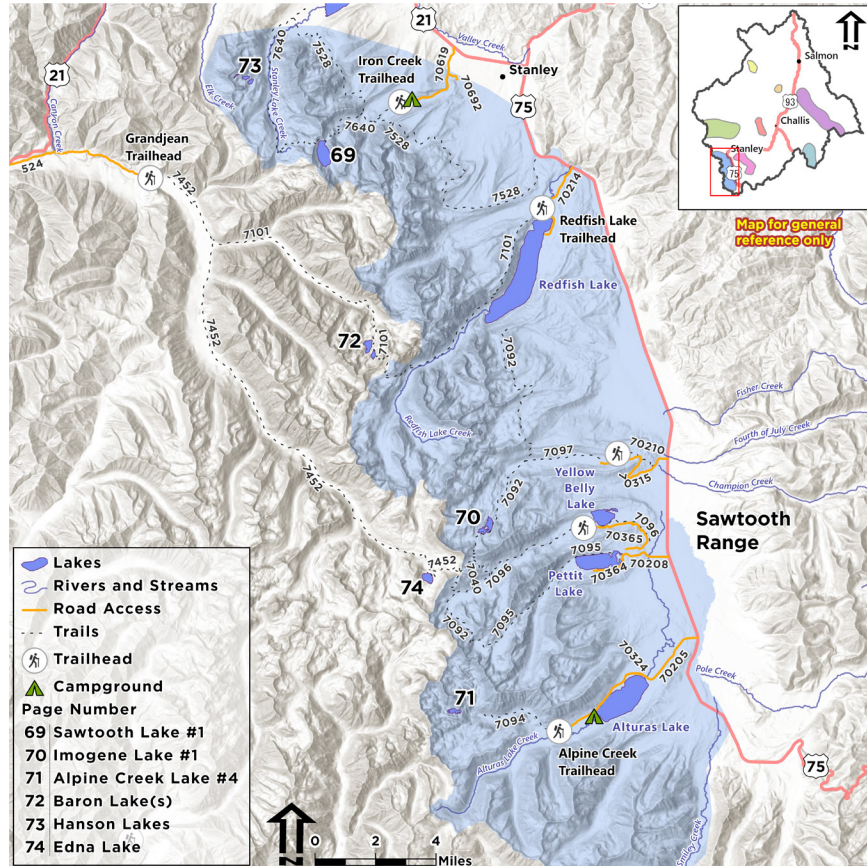


67

Elevation: 8,900 ft

Anglers are likely to find Brook Trout at Rough Lake.





# Selected Lakes in the Sawtooth Range



# Sawtooth Lake #1

**Drainage:** Iron Creek – Valley Creek

**Elevation:** 8,435 ft

**Location:** 44.17276° N, -115.06364° W

**Acreage:** 173.1

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Trailhead access:** Access is from Iron Creek Trailhead. From Stanley, take Highway 21 west for about 2 miles, and then turn left towards the Iron Creek Campground on FS Rd 70619. Follow this for 3.2 miles to the trailhead and campground.

**Lake access:** Take the Iron Creek/Stanley Lake Trail (7640) for 1.25 miles, and then stay right to stay on 7640. After 0.6 more miles, stay left to again stay on 7640.

## Species present:

Brook Trout

Sunapee x Brook Trout hybrids

**Comments:** Sawtooth Lake has a lot of steep shoreline that makes it difficult to bank fish in some places. We recommend hiking 0.8 miles on the trail down the east side of the lake to fish near the inlet, which comes in on the south end of the lake. A float tube or inflatable kayak would be an excellent tool for this lake, as the entire west shore is too steep to walk on and therefore gets very little fishing pressure. Sunapee Trout, also commonly called Blueback Trout, a char native to the northeast



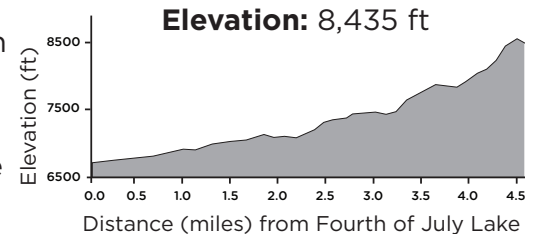
Eastern Brook Trout and Sunapee Trout have hybridized in the lake.

United States, were stocked into several Idaho lakes more than 50 years ago, including Sawtooth Lake. They readily hybridize with Eastern Brook Trout and can sometimes be caught in Sawtooth Lake.

At 3.5 miles from the trailhead, you will pass Alpine Lake which is stocked with Golden Trout every three years.

**Use:** The trail to Sawtooth Lake is one of the more heavily used

trails in the Sawtooths and the lake sees a lot of visitors. The fishing, however, can be excellent, and there are many options for day-hikes to nearby remote lakes if you set up camp at Sawtooth lake.



# Imogene Lake #1

**Drainage:** Hell Roaring Creek – Upper Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,436 ft

**Location:** 43.99835° N, -114.95085° W

**Acreage:** 72.2

**Max Depth:** 120 ft

**Access profile:** 4.4 miles up 1,240 feet from the upper trailhead, or 7.8 miles up 1,700 feet from the lower trailhead.

**Trailhead access:** From Stanley, drive 14.8 miles south on Highway 75. Turn right onto Decker Flats Rd (FS Rd 70210) and go 0.3 miles. Turn left onto Hell Roaring Creek Rd (FS Rd 70315). If you do not have a 4WD, high clearance vehicle, park at lower trailhead 0.3 miles on the right side of the road.

If you do, follow Hell Roaring Creek Rd (FS Rd 70315) 4.5 miles to upper trailhead.

**Lake access:** From either trailhead, take the Hell Roaring Trail (7097) to Hell Roaring Lake. Here, make a left onto the Alice Lake/Redfish Lake Trail (7092). Take this trail south to Imogene Lake.

This elevation profile shows the entire hike from the lower trailhead. If starting from the upper trailhead, start at mile 3.4 on the elevation profile.

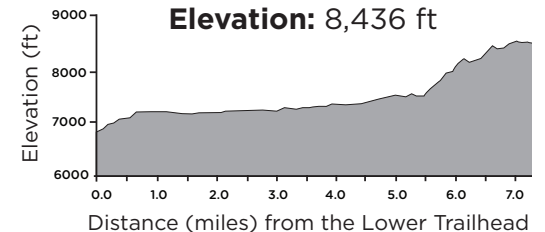
## Species present:

Brook Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout



**Comments:** At 72.2 acres, Imogene Lake # 1 is a very large backcountry lake, which makes it a great place to set up a fishing base camp. From Imogene #1, there are more than 10 other lakes within the immediate drainage, many of which are stocked with fish. Lakes #1-#6 were last stocked in 2015. On this route, you

will pass Hell Roaring Lake which has fishing for Rainbow, Cutthroat, and Brook Trout.





## Alpine Creek Lake #4

**Drainage:** Alpine Creek – Upper Salmon River

**Elevation:** 8,523 ft

**Location:** 43.90773° N, -114.97363° W

**Acreage:** 31.3

**Max Depth:** 15.2 ft

**Access profile:** 1,431 foot elevation gain over 3.6 miles that requires steep, off-trail hiking for the last 0.7 – 1.25 miles.

**Trailhead access:** Take US Hwy 75 South from Stanley for roughly 21 miles, turn west onto Alturas Lake Rd. (NFS road 70205) for 6 miles past Alturas Lake to the Alpine Creek Trailhead.

**Lake access:** For lakes #4-7, hike on USFS trail 7094 (Alpine

Creek trail) for about 3 miles. Stay left and travel west along social trail for the last .7 miles up 900 feet in elevation to Alpine Creek Lake #4. For lakes #11-15, turn north at 3 miles and follow the creek that comes down from the north.

### Species present:

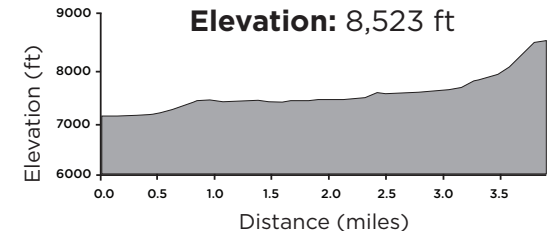
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout  
Rainbow X Cutthroat Trout  
Golden Trout  
Arctic Grayling

**Comments:** Alpine Lakes #4-7 and #11-15 are all stocked every three years, and several other lakes in these drainages have naturally- reproducing fish populations.



Alpine Creek Lake #5 has Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout hybrids.

**Use:** Lake #4 receives moderate angler use and offers multiple camping sites around the lake. Angler use decreases with distance hiked.



## Baron Lake(s)

**Drainage:** Baron Creek (South Fork Payette River)

**Elevation:** 8,312 ft

**Location:** 44.0841° N, -115.0305° W

**Acreage:** 49

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** Start at Grandjean followed by a steady 3,400-foot climb over 9.5-miles, or easy access to trailheads via Redfish Lake (Stanley) with a 12-mile moderately strenuous hike.

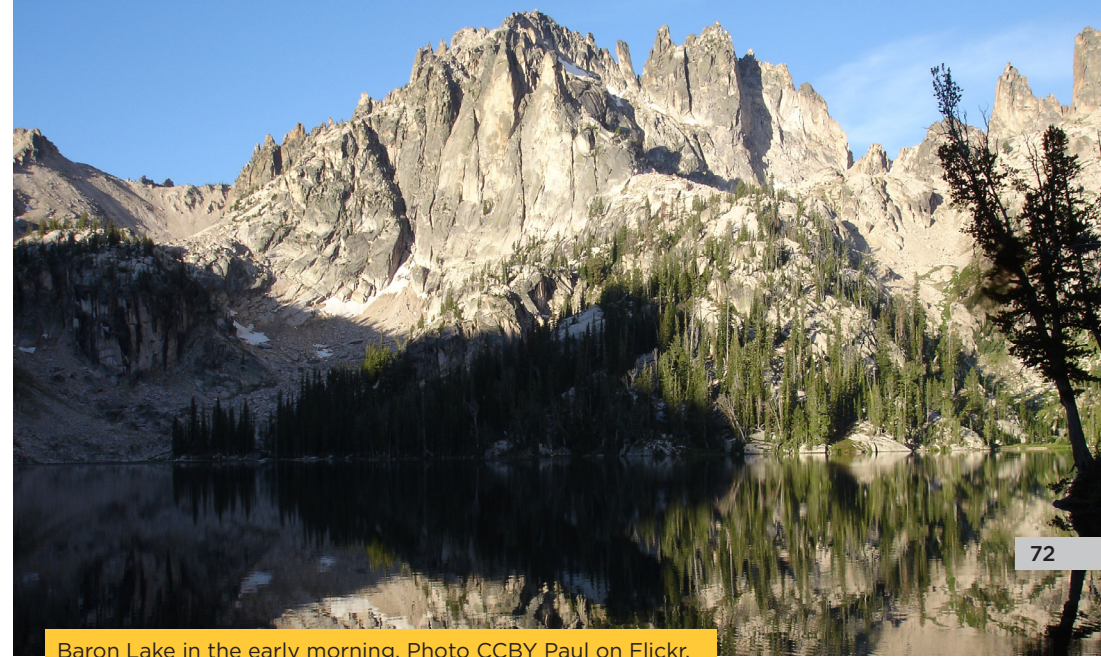
From Grandjean. Follow HW21 northeast from Lowman, take the NF Road 524 turnoff and travel about 7 miles to the Grandjean Trailhead. Hike south along Trail 7452 about 1.3 miles to the tail junction, heading left

(southeast) on Trail 7101 along Baron Creek. Continue 2.1 miles, staying right at the junction. Continue another 6.1 miles up Baron Creek to Baron Lake.

**Trailhead Access:** The Baron Lakes are accessible from Stanley via the Redfish Trailhead. This 12-mile route follows Redfish Lake and up Redfish Lake Creek towards Alpine Lake. From there, continue on the trail another 3 miles over the pass and descend into Baron Lakes.

**Species present:**

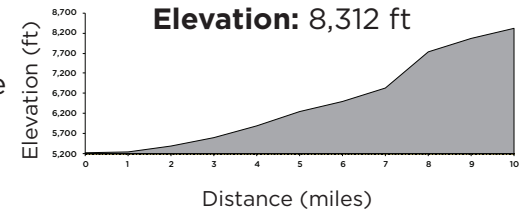
Brook Trout  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout



Baron Lake in the early morning. Photo CCBY Paul on Flickr.

**Comments:** Baron Lake (and Upper Baron nearby) offer good chances to find Brook Trout in spectacular scenery below Warbonnet and Monte Verita peaks. Anglers also have a chance to explore other lakes nearby.

**Use:** Moderate use due to the popularity of the Redfish and Grandjean trailheads.





## Hanson Lakes (Hanson Lakes #2, #3, #4)

**Drainage:** Stanley Lake  
(Salmon River)

**Elevation:** 8,102 ft

**Location:** 44.2088° N, -115.1121° W

**Acreage:** 14 acres each

**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** Easy driving access to the Stanley Lake trailhead north of Stanley, followed by a 4.25 mile hike, with a short but strenuous cross-country climb to these scenic lakes. Intermediate backpacking skills recommended.

**Lake access:** From Stanley, head 5 miles northwest on HWY 21. Turn west on NF Road 70455/Stanley Lake Rd and travel 3.6 miles to the

Stanley Lake trailhead on the far west side of Stanley Lake. Hike the Iron Creek/Stanley Lake Trail #7640 about 3.5 miles following Stanley Lake Creek. At this point, (about 44.212096°, -115.100999°) you'll need to leave the trail and ascend the remaining 0.75 miles about 1,100 feet crosscountry. Cross Stanley Lake Creek heading west towards Bridal Veil Falls. Continue past Bridal Veil Falls, following the creek up to the lakes.

**Species present:**  
Cutthroat Trout

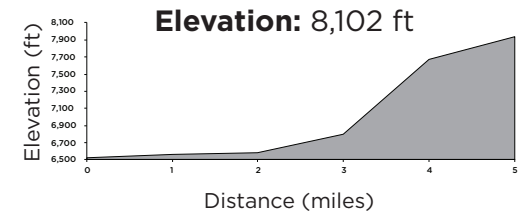
**Comments:** These scenic lakes require some effort to reach,



Hanson Lakes. Aerial photo courtesy of ©Jason Bosley.

but offer great scenery with 3 lakes to choose from. A short hike south to Hanson lake #5 offers additional opportunity for cutthroat trout.

**Use:** Expect to see moderate usage.



# Edna Lake

**Drainage:** South Fork Payette River  
**Elevation:** 8,404 ft  
**Location:** 43.9718° N, -114.9888° W  
**Acreage:** 57  
**Max Depth:** Unknown

**Access profile:** Dirt road for at least 1.6 mi to Tin Cup Hiker Trailhead, or additional 3.3 miles on rough road to Yellowbelly Trailhead. This is a long 8.7-mile hike over a mountain pass. It can be broken up into several days depending on hiking ability. Intermediate to advanced backpacking skills are recommended for this extended trip.

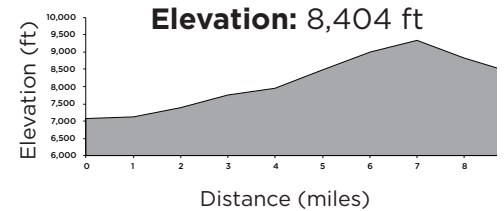
**Lake access:** From Stanley – travel 18 miles south on HWY 75, turn west on NF road 70208. Travel 1.6 miles to Petit Lake and a large intersection. Turn right and to the NF road 362/70365 split and turn right on NF road 70365 for about 3.3 miles to the Yellow Belly Trailhead. This road is rough and is not suitable for passenger cars. Starting at the Tin Cup Trailhead is a good alternative, but slightly increases the hiking length. From the Yellow Belly trail head, hike west on Trail 7096 towards Farley Lake 4.5 miles to junction with Trail 7040. Turn right onto Trail 7040,

and hike 1.4 miles up a steep grade past Edith Lake to the junction with Trail 7092. Turn left (south) on 7092 and go 1.3 miles to the top of the ridge. Turn right and head west along Trail 7452 1.6 miles to the lake. Alternately, from the NF road 362/70365 split at Petit Lake, turn left on 362 and go about 0.5 miles to the Tin Cup Hiker Trailhead. Follow the trail west along Pettit Lake, then take the split to the right (Trail 041) and head northwest over a ridge about 1.8 miles and turn left onto Trail 7096 coming from Yellow Belly.

**Species present:**  
Cutthroat Trout  
Rainbow Trout

**Comments:** Edna Lake is a large lake surrounded by several other nearby lakes and puts anglers in the heart of the Sawtooth Mountains. The diversity of fishing opportunities in the area makes this a great option for extended multi-day trips.

**Use:** Despite the distance and steady climb, Edna Lake sees moderate to heavy use. There is room to spread out and give others solitude.





# Index of lake by fish species



## Rainbow Trout

Yellow Jacket Lake  
Airplane Lake  
Ship Island Lake  
Terrace Lakes  
Twin Cove Lake  
Iron Lake  
Hat Creek Lakes

South Fork Moyer Lake  
Basin Creek Lake #5  
Bear Valley Lake #1  
Buck Lakes  
Everson Lake  
Lake Fork Lake  
Meadow Lake



75

Twin Creek Lakes  
West Fork Bear Creek Lakes  
Bayhorse Lakes  
Josephus Lake  
Helldiver Lake  
Vanity Lakes  
Langer Lake  
Lola Lakes  
Walker Lake

Goat Lake  
Willow Lake  
Hatchet Lake  
Hourglass Lake  
Washington Lake  
Imogene Lake  
Alpine Creek Lakes  
Baron Lakes  
Edna Lake



## Cutthroat Trout

Yellow Jacket Lake  
 Welcome Lake  
 Golden Trout Lake  
 Airplane Lake  
 Ship Island Lake  
 Terrace Lakes  
 Twin Cove Lake  
 Iron Lake  
 Hat Creek Lakes  
 South Fork Moyer Lake  
 Basin Creek Lake #5  
 Bear Valley Lake #1

Buck Lakes  
 Patterson Creek Lake #2  
 Everson Lake  
 Yellow Peak Lake  
 Lake Fork Lake  
 Meadow Lake  
 Challis Creek Lakes  
 West Fork Bear Creek Lakes  
 Bayhorse Lakes  
 Helldiver Lake  
 Hasbrook Lake #1  
 Soldier Lakes



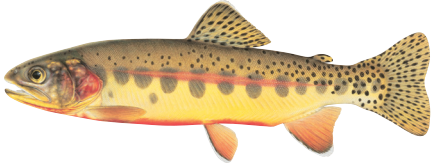
Vanity Lakes  
 Langer Lake  
 Lola Lakes  
 Tango Lakes  
 Cabin Creek Lakes  
 Hindman Lake  
 Mystery Lake  
 Casino Lakes  
 Walker Lake  
 Goat Lake  
 Willow Lake  
 Big Frog Lake

Chamberlain Creek Lakes  
 Thunder Lake  
 Fourth of July Lake  
 Twin Creek Lake  
 Washington Lakes  
 Born Lakes  
 Imogene Lakes  
 Alpine Creek Lakes  
 Baron Lakes  
 Hanson Lakes  
 Edna Lake

Illustration ©Joseph Tomelleri



## Golden Trout



Golden Trout Lake  
Mystery Lake  
Chamberlain Creek Lakes  
Crater Lake  
Alpine Creek Lake(s)

## Arctic Grayling



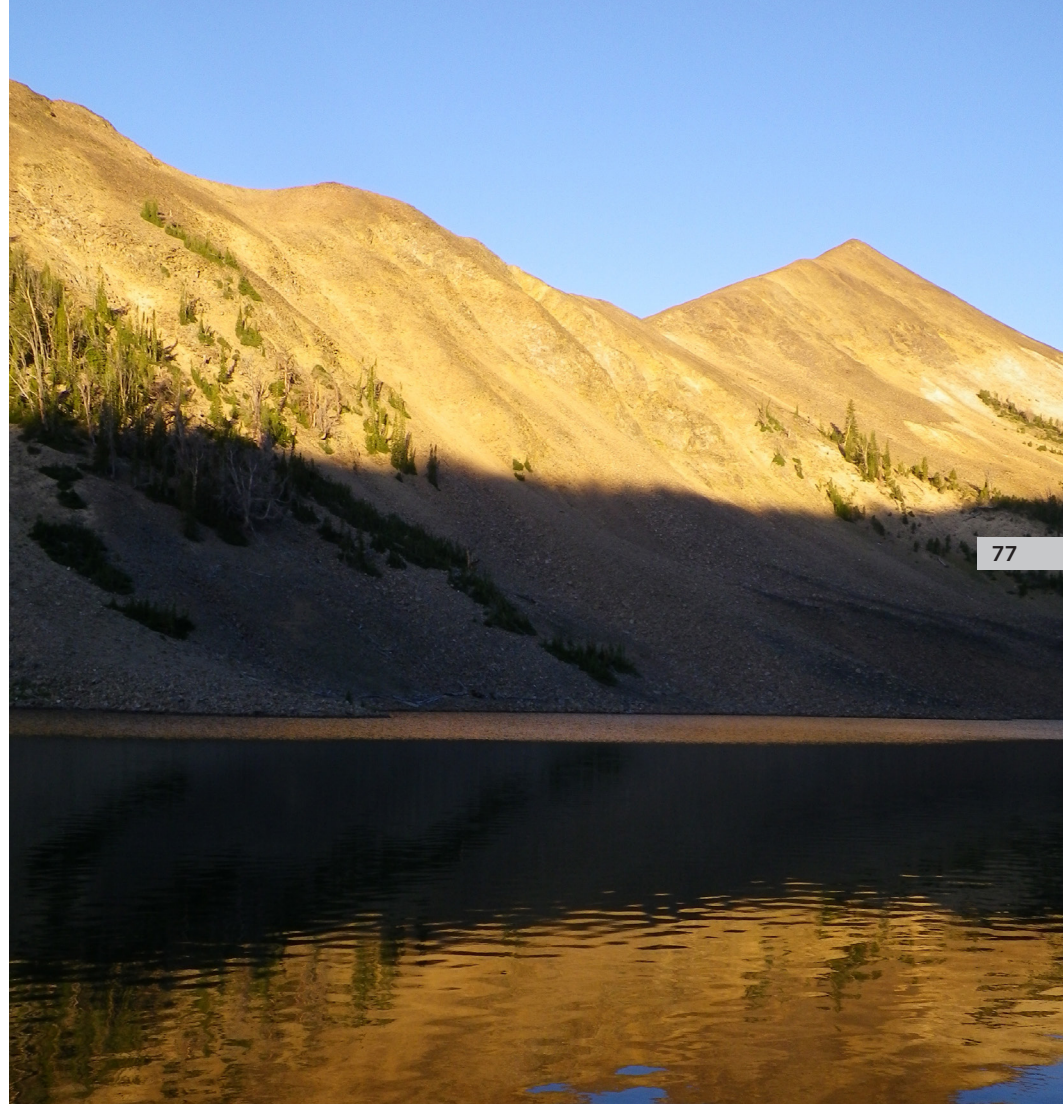
Hat Creek Lakes  
Buck Lakes  
Chamberlain Creek Lakes  
Alpine Creek Lakes

## Brook Trout



Carlson Lake  
Merriam Lake  
Casino Lakes  
Rough Lake #1  
Washington Lake #2  
Sawtooth Lake #2  
Imogene Lakes  
Baron Lake(s)

Illustrations ©Joseph Tomelleri



# Index of lakes by hike difficulty

## Easy (0.0 to 2 miles)

Yellow Jacket Lake  
Golden Trout Lake  
Iron Lake  
Basin Creek Lake #5  
Meadow Lake  
Carlson Lake  
Twin Creek Lakes  
Bayhorse Lakes  
Josephus Lake  
Helldiver Lake  
Langer Lake  
Hindman Lake  
Thunder Lake  
Fourth of July Lake

## Moderate (2 to 5 miles)

Hat Creek Lakes  
South Fork Moyer Lake  
Bear Valley Lake #1  
Buck Lakes  
Everson Lake  
Hasbrook Lake #1  
Yellow Peak Lake  
Merriam Lake  
West Fork Bear Creek Lakes  
Soldier Lakes  
Vanity Lakes  
Lola Lakes  
Mystery Lake  
Walker Lake  
Goat Lake  
Hanson Lakes  
Sawtooth Lake  
Alpine Creek Lakes  
Rough Lake  
Washington Lake



## Difficult (5 miles plus)

Welcome Lake  
Airplane Lake  
Ship Island Lake  
Terrace Lakes  
Twin Cove Lake  
Patterson Creek Lake #2  
Lake Fork Lake  
Challis Creek Lakes  
Tango Lakes  
Cabin Creek Lakes  
Casino Lakes

Willow Lake  
Big Frog Lake  
Hatchet Lake  
Hourglass Lake  
Chamberlain Creek Lakes  
Born Lakes  
Imogene Lakes  
Crater Lake  
Edna Lake  
Baron Lakes



# Fish Identification Guide



## Rainbow Trout

Body color variable. May be silvery in lakes and reservoirs. Back olive to greenish blue, belly white to silvery. Sides may show red or pink streak, white tip on pelvic (belly) and anal fin usually evident. Irregular spots on back, sides, head, dorsal fin and tail. Spots are more evenly distributed from head to tail on rainbow trout than Cutthroat Trout. NATIVE.



## Cutthroat Trout

Red to orange slashes on underside of lower jaw. Body color variable. Back steel gray to olive green. Sides may be yellow brown with red or pink along belly. Spotting more closely grouped toward tail. May spawn in wild with rainbow. NATIVE.



## Brook Trout

Dark green or blue black on back, to white on belly. Belly and lower fins may turn brilliant red in spawning males. Upper body and dorsal fin with mottled or wormlike markings. Sides with pale spots and reddish spots which may have bluish rings around them. Lower fins, including tail. Have distinct white leading edge. Tail square, or only slightly forked. INTRODUCED.



## Golden Trout

Golden Trout, a close cousin to the Rainbow Trout are native to the southern Sierra Nevada mountains of California. They are characterized by distinct parr marks along its flanks with a red horizontal band along the lateral line. The underside of the Golden Trout is often red while fin tips have a white leading edge. INTRODUCED.



## Arctic Grayling

Arctic Grayling, a member of the salmonid family, are characterized by their sail-like dorsal fin which has colorful purple and pink iridescent markings. Arctic Grayling are often mistaken for Mountain Whitefish until inspection of the dorsal fin. INTRODUCED.



## Tiger Trout

A hybrid or cross between a Brown Trout and Brook Trout. Very pronounced dark vermiculations (tiger like stripes) all over a brownish, gray body and dorsal fin. Adipose fin and tail with spots and/or vermiculations. INTRODUCED.

# IDFG Fishing Planner

The Idaho Fishing Planner is an advanced mobile-friendly website tool to help you explore fishing opportunities in Idaho. You can access the Idaho Fishing Planner from your computer or smartphone at:

**<https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/>**



The IDFG Fishing Planner has powerful features that make it a great tool to help anglers plan alpine lake fishing trips. Use the Idaho Fishing Planner to look up individual waterbodies (in the search box), or view an interactive map that allows you to view a variety of waters at once (in the Fishing Planner Map Center).

Some of the features include:

- Search and filter for waters by species or geographic area
- Detailed stocking records by waterbody
- Fishing rules for each waterbody
- Interactive maps with topo and satellite imagery
- Species found during Fish and Game surveys
- Land ownership boundaries
- Recommended Fishing Waters

- Family Fishing Waters
- Facility information including camping and restroom services
- Wildfire and closure related information

A basic 'How To Use the Fishing Planner' tutorial can be found on YouTube by searching "Idaho Fishing Planner" in the YouTube search bar to learn more.







# Salmon Region High Mountain Lake Angling Guide



[idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)