

TIN CUP CREEK TRAIL #639 & #96

(Easy to moderate to strenuous)

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD: From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left and proceed to the Conner Cutoff. Turn right on the Conner Cutoff to Hwy. 93. Turn left (north) onto Highway 93, towards Darby. Once in Darby, turn left on Tin Cup Road (there is a large sign on the left for Tin Cup Lodge). Follow the signed road west. About 100 yards beyond the end of the pavement, Tin Cup Road takes a sharp left turn and climbs a hill. It is a 3.5 mile drive from Highway 93 to the trailhead. When you reach the junction with road 639B, turn left and cross the bridge to the trailhead. There is a large parking area.

MILEAGE: 1st Creek Crossing (to northside) - 3 miles; Waterfall – 4 miles; 2nd Creek Crossing (to southside) – 6 miles; Tin Cup Lake – 11 miles; Pass into Idaho – 13 miles
Total Length of hike is 13 miles.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION: The trail starts on the west-side of the road and follows the south side of Tin cup creek for the first three miles. The trail through heavy forest is well maintained and relatively easy. For the first three miles, the grade is very gradual. At about 1.5 miles the trail becomes noticeably wider. The trail follows an old bulldozer road for most of the distance to tin Cup Lake. At three miles, the trail crosses to the north side of the creek. There is a single log that serves as a scary foot-bridge just above a horse crossing. After crossing to the creek's north side, the trail begins to climb a little more steeply. The canyon begins to open up at this point and is no longer enclosed by heavy forest. The trees are more widely spaced and there are numerous clearings along the creek. About one mile past the crossing is a lovely cascade with a very pleasant clearing next to the creek, a delightful place for a picnic. As the trail climbs, the canyon walls spread farther apart offering lovely views of the towering ridge tops on both sides of the canyon, while the creek rushes below. At about six miles, the trail crosses back to the south side of the creek. There is a convenient single log foot-bridge available here. The trail continues to climb gradually, but steadily, along this wide part of the canyon. There is good access to the creek offering tempting fishing opportunities throughout most of its length. There is an exceptionally nice clearing next to the creek about one mile past the second crossing. Here the creek is squeezed tightly between narrow rock walls. This is a very picturesque spot for a camp, or a break from hiking. The trail continues to climb gradually until reaching about one mile below the lake. Here the trail crosses the creek for a third time and then climbs steeply up the north wall of the canyon to Tin Cup Lake. The lake is about a mile long and is located in a high steep walled basin.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!