

# **BAKER LAKE HIKE #5634 & #234**

**(Moderate to Strenuous – walking sticks recommended)**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left on West Fork Road and drive about 1.3 miles (just past mile marker 7). You'll see a National Forest Access sign indicating Baker Lake on the right side of the road. Turn left here, onto Pierce Creek Road. At the intersection of Baker Lloyd Road and Pierce Creek Road, you will see signs to Baker Lake. Stay to the right on Pierce Creek Road. Drive another mile to a second junction. Take the right fork again and drive to the end, another 7.5 miles. This road gains a considerable amount of elevation, climbing the flank of the mountain via switchbacks. Follow this road until it ends at the trailhead. **Total driving distance 14 miles, which takes approximately 40 minutes from Triple Creek.** Note: ½ mile before the trailhead, you will come to an overlook. (There is no sign but there is a giant rock the size of a small house situated on a U-curve) Park on the right side of the rock and walk out for an incredible view of Trapper Creek Canyon and the Bitterroot Valley. A must see!

**ELEVATIONS:** (approx.) Trailhead 6,900 ft; Baker point 7,400 ft; Baker Lake 7885 ft; Middle Lake 8100 ft; Gem Lake 8360 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Wilderness Boundary to Baker Lake about 1 ¼ miles; Middle Lake 1 ¾ miles; Gem Lake - 2 miles

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** This trail is rough but well defined. Prepare for 20 to 40 minutes of vigorous hiking, uphill through Lodgepole pine forest (the amount of times depends on your hiking ability). This steep climb is over when you reach Baker Point, a large rock outcropping just to the left of the trail. Once you catch your breath, be sure and walk out between the two largest rocks and enjoy the panoramic view of Triple Creek Ranch and 50 miles in most directions of the valley below you. A must see! Continue on to Baker Lake. Keep in mind that you will be approaching the lake from below and thus will not see the lake until you almost step in it. (The small pond about the size of Triple Creek's dining room is not Baker Lake.) Although the trail is rough, it passes through attractive country. Some of the trail is in timber, but at several openings there are excellent views of Trapper Peak looming above to the west and of the Bitterroot Valley below. Every once in awhile, it's a good idea to stop and check your surroundings, especially when terrain seems to change slightly. Whenever you stop, completely turn around, surveying your surroundings. This is helpful when coming back down a trail and sights become familiar.

To reach Middle Lake, follow Baker Lake's south (left) shore to the creek inlet (climb down the fallen tree to your left to get to the lake edge). Some years there may be a more defined trail around the right side of the lake. Your goal whichever way you choose is to reach the stream feeding into Baker Lake. The trail is on the right side of the creek. The trail to Middle Lake is rough and poorly defined. Do not get discouraged. Just stay on the right side of the creek and follow it for .6 to Middle Lake. From Middle Lake you can actually see the rim of Gem Lake above it. The trail continues along the right side of Middle Lake and follows the stream up a short, steep, rocky canyon about .2 miles to Gem Lake. From Gem you can follow a stream to the flanks of Trapper Peak, where even in the heat of summer, "red snow" lies in long, steep fields.

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**

# Blodgett Canyon

Blodgett Canyon is one of the most picturesque and scenically varied of the Bitterroot Canyons. A good up & back trail which runs the entire length of Blodgett Creek offers excellent opportunities for hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The trail follows the creek and is relatively easy for the first four miles. There are excellent views of the sheer, towering rock walls of the canyon and good access to some deep wide pools in the creek. There are some charming waterfalls located 4.4 miles up the trail and Blodgett Lake is located 12.5 miles up the trail. Moose are commonly seen along the trail and Mountain Goats may be viewed high on the canyon walls.

## Directions to the Trailhead:

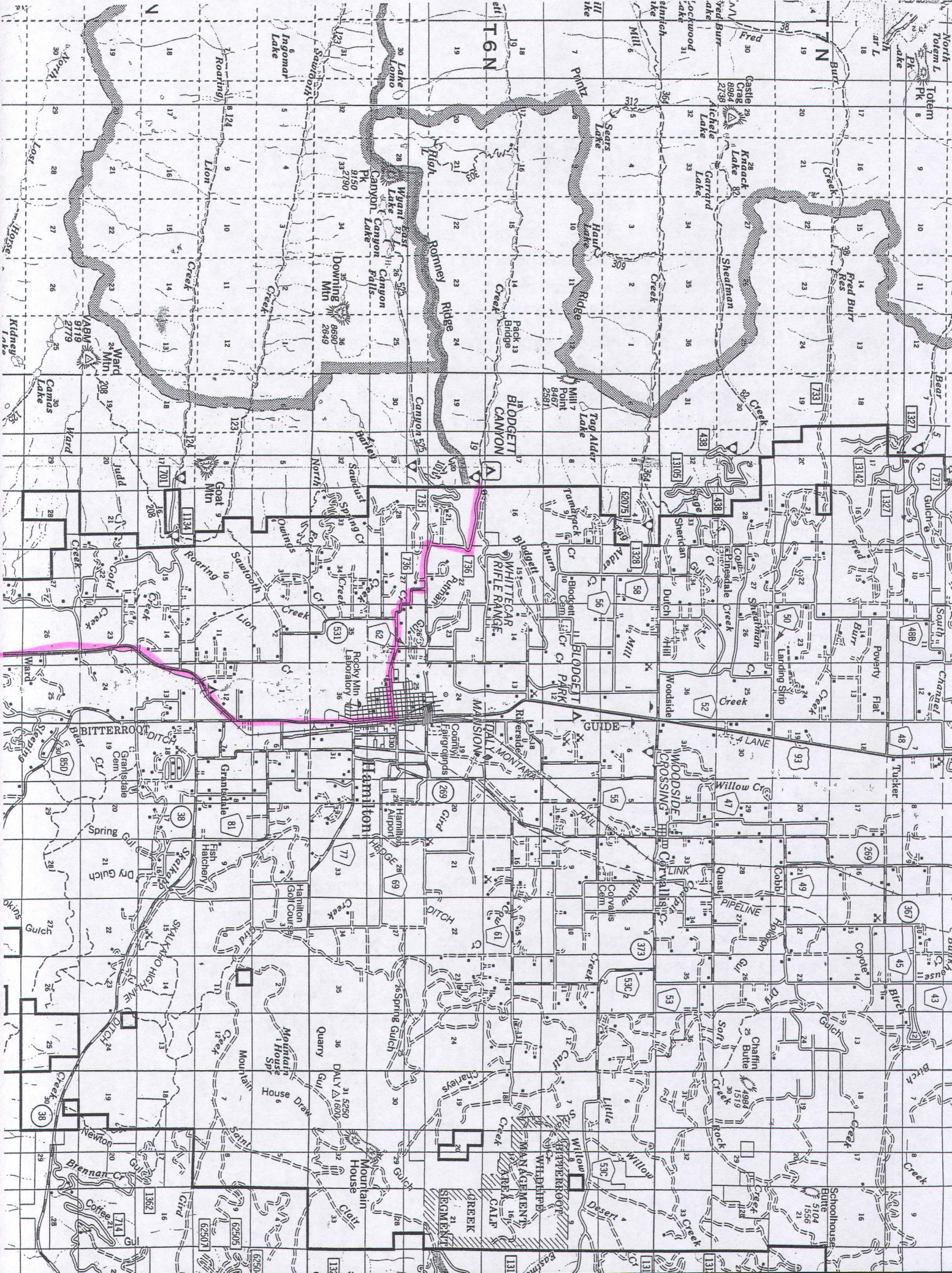
From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left and proceed to the Conner Cutoff. Turn right on the Conner Cutoff to Hwy. 93. Turn left onto Highway 93 and follow 93 for 24-miles until you come to Hamilton. At the second traffic light make a left onto Main Street. Continue down Main St. until you cross the bridge on the Bitterroot River. 1/4-mile past the bridge make a right onto Rickets Road. Drive 1/2-mile and make a left onto Blodgett Camp Road. Follow this road (it will turn to gravel following a 90° right hand turn after approx. 2-miles) and signs to the Blodgett Canyon Trailhead. There is a lovely campground and other facilities at the parking area.

## Trail Description:

The trail starts on the south side of the creek at the mouth of Blodgett Canyon. The first few miles are mostly in forest offering occasional views of the sheer, towering walls of the canyon. The grade is gradual with a few short, steep climbs. About 300 yards from the road there is a granite memorial next to the trail. The trail crosses the creek on a good bridge at about 3.1 miles. Looking to the south and slightly west from the bridge, one can see a natural stone arch on the ridge top. At about 4.4 miles the creek goes through a narrow canyon, creating a small waterfall and deep pool below there is a second waterfall about another  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile up stream. The trail continues up the canyon to Blodgett Pass 10.5 miles and to Blodgett Lake 12.5 miles from the trailhead.

*Have Fun and ENJOY!*







# Blodgett Overlook

This 1.5-mile hike provides you with an exceptional vista of the lower end of Blodgett Canyon with views of the Hamilton area and the Sapphire Mountains to the East as you hike the trail. The grade is not very steep and the trail is excellent.

## Directions to the Trailhead:

From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left onto the West Fork Road and drive 7.5-miles until you come to Highway 93. Turn left onto Highway 93 and follow 93 for 24-miles until you come to Hamilton. At the second traffic light make a left onto Main Street. Continue down Main St. until you cross the bridge over the Bitterroot River. 1/4-mile past the bridge make a right onto Ricketts Road. Drive 1/2-mile and make a left onto Blodgett Camp Road. Follow this road for 2.5-miles (it will turn to gravel after a 90° right hand turn after approx. 2-miles) where you will come to a junction. At this junction take a sharp left onto Canyon Creek Road and drive 2-miles to the parking area at the end of the road.

## Trail Description:

The trail starts just beyond the Forest Service Information Board. This is a combined trailhead for both Blodgett Overlook and Canyon Creek trails. Both share the same trail for the first 20 yards after which the Blodgett Overlook trail takes off to the right and the Canyon Creek trail continues straight. The Overlook trail then climbs gradually, through a series of switchbacks, up the north wall of Canyon Creek. You eventually climb over the ridge that divides Canyon Creek from Blodgett Canyon to the north.

There are numerous scenic resting spots some with benches constructed along the way. The views at the end of this relatively short 1.5-mile hike are spectacular. The overlook is located on an exposed rocky spire among big ponderosa pines. The views of the lower section of Blodgett Canyon and the immense rock faces are well worth the hike.

*Have Fun & ENJOY!*



# **BOULDER CREEK FALLS #5731 & #617**

## **(Moderate to Strenuous)**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek Ranch driveway, turn right and head up the West Fork Road for 5.4 miles to Sam Billings Memorial Campground. Turn right here and continue 1.4 miles on this unpaved road until it ends at the trailhead. Park on the left side of the trailhead to keep your vehicle in the shade.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead 4540 ft.; Boulder Falls 5480 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Wilderness Boundary - 2.5 miles; Boulder Falls - 5 miles

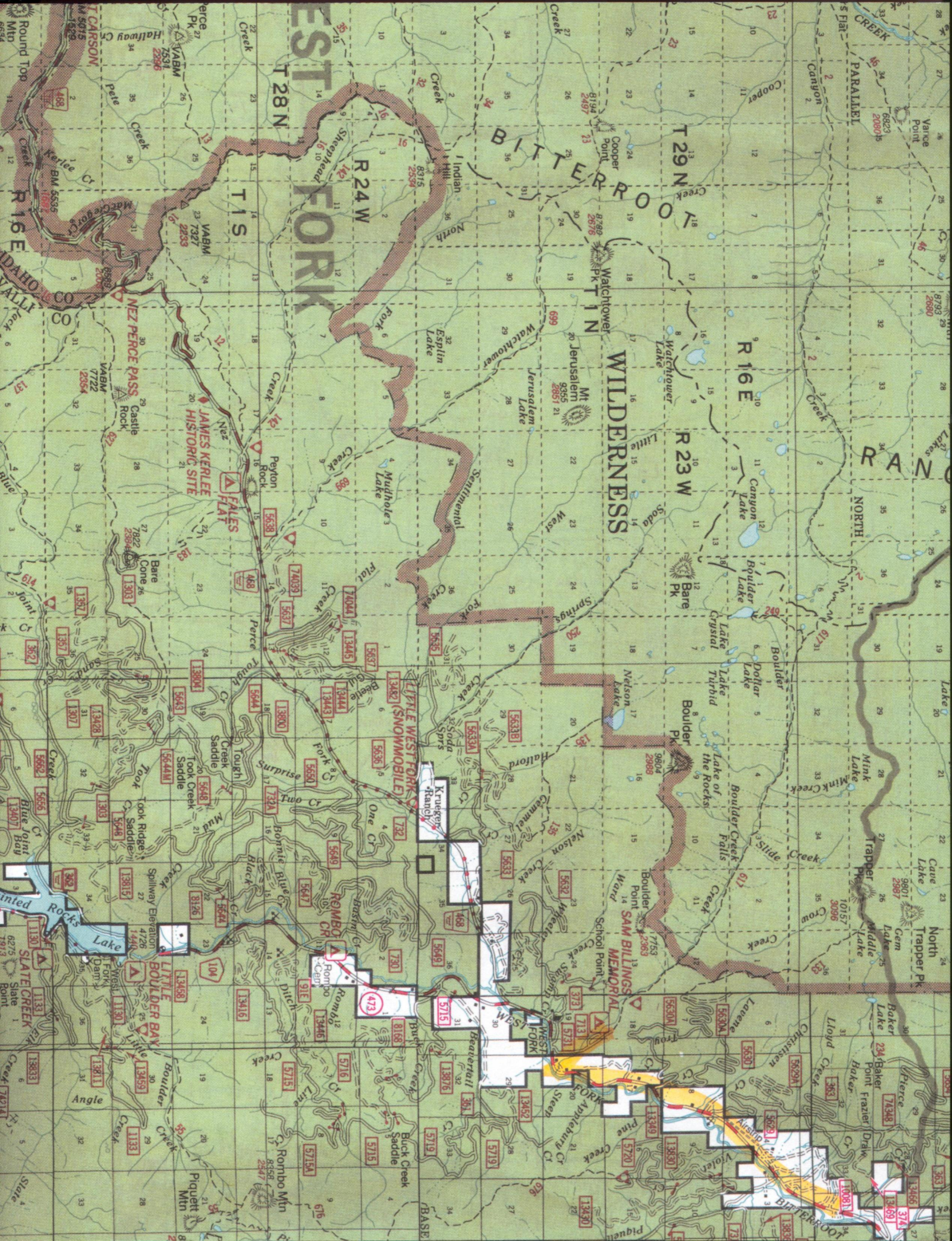
**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Excellent dirt trail beginning with a gentle grade, becoming steep later. The trail is well marked and starts in a stand of huge ponderosa pines and follows the east side of Boulder Creek. Please note that the trail is used often by horseback riders.

Boulder Creek Falls makes a wonderful day hike, reaching the falls in just 5 miles. The trail starts on smooth, springy dirt trail near the stream in a charming flower-filled woods. For the first 2 miles the trail is very easy, climbing quite gradually. It continues, sometimes in heavy forest, sometimes in the open, crossing several side drainages along the way, rarely right beside Boulder Creek. One noticeable side stream, Crow Creek, can be quite wide and deep (especially in the spring). A log footbridge just above the trail was placed for crossing in 2001 so you don't have to get your feet wet anymore (though in the heat of the summer, this is a great place to take a short break and cool off your feet). The trail slope begins to increase and becomes moderately steep at about three miles. Here the trail emerges onto an open slope and offers views of the towering steep canyon walls. Boulder Peak looms to the west.

As you hike closer you will be able to hear the falls, but not see them. Here you face a large switchback that seems to take you away from the falls on a steep uphill pull. Just after, you will emerge on a shelf next to the first of the waterfalls. You can hear the falls across the flat boulders to your left. Simply walk out over the boulders to see the falls. Walk along the edge a little higher to a second waterfall located 300 yards above the first, with a deep pool just below – perfect for a dip on a hot day and a great picnic area!

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**





**WEST FORK**

**BITTERROOT**

**WILDERNESS**

**RANGE**

**IDAHO**

**JAMES KERLEE HISTORIC SITE**

**SAM BILLINGS MEMORIAL**

T 28 N

T 29 N

T 1 S

R 24 W

R 23 W

IDAHO

CO

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CO

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NEZ PERCE PASS

CASTLE ROCK

PEYTON ROCK

BARE CORNE

TOOK CREEK

TOOK RIDGE

SPILLWAY ELEVATION

WEST FORK

BOULDER BAY

ANGLE CREEK

PIQUETT MOUNTAIN

ROMBO MOUNTAIN

BUCK CREEK

NEZ PERCE PASS

CASTLE ROCK

PEYTON ROCK

BARE CORNE

TOOK CREEK

TOOK RIDGE

SPILLWAY ELEVATION

WEST FORK

BOULDER BAY

ANGLE CREEK

PIQUETT MOUNTAIN

ROMBO MOUNTAIN

BUCK CREEK

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BUCK CREEK

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CASTLE ROCK

PEYTON ROCK

BARE CORNE

TOOK CREEK

TOOK RIDGE

SPILLWAY ELEVATION

WEST FORK

BOULDER BAY

ANGLE CREEK

PIQUETT MOUNTAIN

ROMBO MOUNTAIN

BUCK CREEK



# *CHAFFIN CREEK TRAIL #374 & 528*

(Easy to moderate)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left and proceed to the Conner Cutoff. At Hwy. 93 turn left (towards Darby). Approximately 3 miles on the 93 you will cross the river and take an immediate left. This is the beginning of West Fork Road (and the original detour). Less than a 100 yards you will turn right onto Tin Cup-Chaffin Creek Road (this is right before the detour). Drive west 2.8 miles to a junction and take the right fork, where a sign indicates the "Tin Cup-Chaffin Road." Drive 1.1 miles to the trailhead sign for Chaffin Creek, located on the turn of a switchback. There are no facilities at the trailhead and there is parking space for only a few vehicles along the roadside.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead 4735 ft; Wilderness Boundary 5800 ft; Hart Lake 7336 ft; Tamarack Lake 7425 ft; Chaffin Lake 7505 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Wilderness Boundary - 3.5 miles; Hart Lake – 6 miles; Tamarack Lake – 6.5 miles and Chaffin Lake – 7 miles

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Chaffin Creek Trail is well marked and has a refreshingly gentle grade (nearly flat) for the first 2 to 3 miles. It then gains elevation rather steadily, with a final steep climb just before the lakes. In the summer it endears itself to hikers by beginning in the luxurious open forest with abundant wildflowers, huckleberries and wild strawberries. The trail follows the north side of the stream and though mostly in trees, does offer occasional views of the canyon walls and nearby peaks. The path crosses the creek at the headwall at about five miles. Beyond the headwall, the creek crossing the trail appears to end abruptly at a solid rock wall. A large waterfall is located on the north side of the rock wall. To find the trail again follow the base of the rock face to the south (the left side as you face upstream). This will lead to a steep, rough trail that skirts the south side of the rock face and reaches Hart Lake. The elevation gain from the trailhead to Hart Lake (elevation 7,336 feet) is about 2,600 feet. Hart Lake has a dam at the lower end and is marshy. To continue on to Tamarack Lake follow the trail around the south side of Hart Lake and then walk upstream about one-half mile. Tamarack Lake (elevation 7,425) is an exceptionally beautiful, high mountain lake with excellent views, good fishing and the largest of the Chaffin Creek trail lakes. There is an old rock and mortar dam at its outlet. Cross the dam to access the north side of Tamarack Lake and follow the stream to Chaffin Lake. Chaffin Lake (elevation 7,505) lies about one-half mile upstream from Tamarack Lake. Chaffin Lake is a small, high alpine lake sitting at the upper end of the canyon. Steep rock walls and high bare peaks to the west and north provide a lovely backdrop.

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**

# **NELSON LAKE HIKE #5633 & #135**

**(Moderate to Strenuous – walking sticks recommended)**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek Ranch driveway, turn right and head up the West Fork Road for approximately 8 miles and take the right fork at the “Magruder-Elk City, Idaho” sign. Proceed 3 miles and turn right at the “Gemmel Creek-Nelson Lake” sign. Go 2.7 miles and turn right. Drive .3 miles to the Nelson Lake sign. Again turn right and drive 2.4 miles to the Nelson Lake trailhead sign. This is a good road. Trailhead parking is limited, however, and there are no facilities.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead – 5900 ft.      Lake – 7300 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Nelson Lake – 5 ½ miles

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** At first the trail follows an old skid road, climbing steadily. Then it forks left and continues to climb through tree-shaded huckleberry patches. An invigorating (steep) two-mile uphill walk leads to the ridge crest.

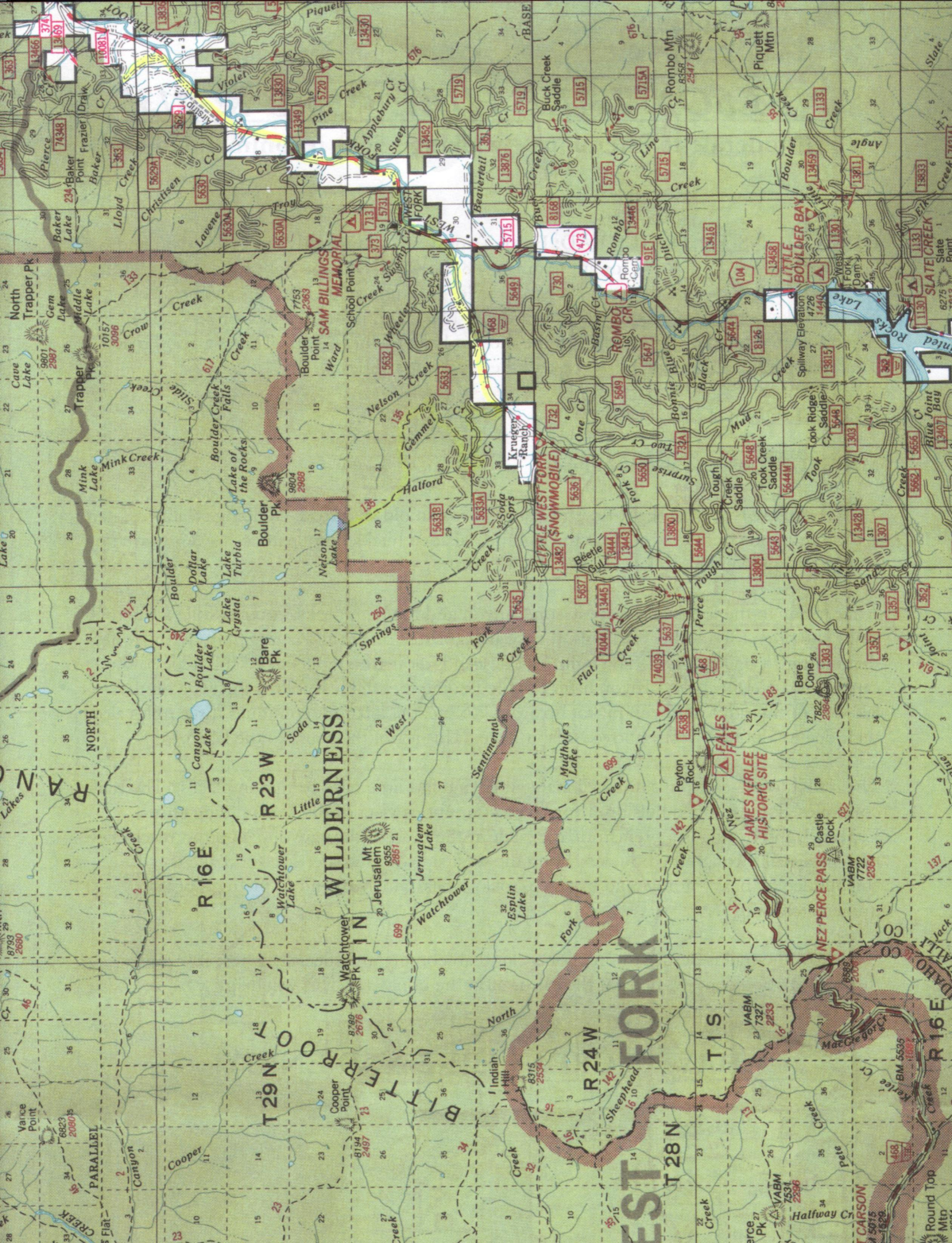
After taking in the lovely view of Nelson Canyon and the high peaks, you can follow the trail along the ridge for another half mile, then watch for tree blazes and cairns (mound of stones) that indicate a trail junction. The right fork descends along the right side of the ridge to the canyon and Nelson Lake - If you have trouble finding the trail just follow the edge on the lakeside of the ridge until you pick it up again. (Note: the left fork continues three miles along the ridge to a point directly above Nelson Lake. This is not the route to the lake!).

The trail into the canyon is not well maintained and is a little hard to find in places. The trail continues along an open hillside, affording a continuous vista of the surrounding area. Especially interesting is a prehistoric rockslide at the head of the canyon. You can reach the lake via a trail through the boulders along the west side of the slide. Nelson Lake is surrounded by heavy timber and by steep, rocky walls, which ascend to the high peaks immediately above.

Somehow the trail is harder to find going out than coming in, especially where it threads through the boulders. Watch for the cairns atop the boulders! This will help.

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**





# WILDERNESS

# LITTLE WEST FORK

NORTH  
R 16 E  
R 20 W  
R 23 W  
R 24 W

T 28 N  
T 29 N

WILDERNESS  
WILDERNESS  
WILDERNESS

LITTLE WEST FORK  
LITTLE WEST FORK  
LITTLE WEST FORK

NEZ PERCE PASS  
NEZ PERCE PASS  
NEZ PERCE PASS

JAMES KERLEE HISTORIC SITE  
JAMES KERLEE HISTORIC SITE  
JAMES KERLEE HISTORIC SITE

FALES FLAT  
FALES FLAT  
FALES FLAT

PARALLEL CANYON  
PARALLEL CANYON  
PARALLEL CANYON

COOPER CREEK  
COOPER CREEK  
COOPER CREEK

WATCHTOWER CREEK  
WATCHTOWER CREEK  
WATCHTOWER CREEK

SENTIMENTAL CREEK  
SENTIMENTAL CREEK  
SENTIMENTAL CREEK

PERCE CREEK  
PERCE CREEK  
PERCE CREEK

NEZ CREEK  
NEZ CREEK  
NEZ CREEK

WATCHTOWER CREEK  
WATCHTOWER CREEK  
WATCHTOWER CREEK

TRAPPER PK  
TRAPPER PK  
TRAPPER PK

BOULDER PK  
BOULDER PK  
BOULDER PK

BEATERTAIL CREEK  
BEATERTAIL CREEK  
BEATERTAIL CREEK

ROMBO CREEK  
ROMBO CREEK  
ROMBO CREEK

BEATERTAIL CREEK  
BEATERTAIL CREEK  
BEATERTAIL CREEK

BOULDER CREEK  
BOULDER CREEK  
BOULDER CREEK

SLATE CREEK  
SLATE CREEK  
SLATE CREEK



## **SHOOK MOUNTAIN TRAIL #731 & 601**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek Ranch driveway, turn right onto the West Fork Road. After approximately 1 mile, you will see the Piquette Creek Road sign. Take a left and cross the bridge. Continue up for 1.5 miles. At this point, you will notice a sign that indicates the road to Shook Mountain. Take the sharp left here and head up the mountain. This is a narrow road with steep banks. Just past the 3 mile marker, you will come to a "Y" in the road; take the left fork. There is another "Y" shortly after you pass the 7 mile marker. You will find the trail on the left fork of the road, but look carefully as the road does not end at the trailhead. After you have found the trail, you will see a Shook Mountain sign about 20 yards beyond the trailhead.

**ELEVATIONS:** Shook Peak 7561 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Approximately 2 miles in length.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** The Shook Mountain trail moves east and south around a bowl. At about the 601 marker on the trail, you will start a good pull up to Shook Mountain. The muscular strain will last for about 25-30 minutes, going at about a 40 degree slant.

At the top of the mountain, you will find yourself in pine thickets, and the trail may seem to disappear. Walk straight through the thickets. When you reach the other side of the thickets, the trail will be a short distance below you. You may choose to head back to TCR, or if you are a hearty hiker, hit the trail and continue on to Rocky Knob and Medicine Point Fire Lookout.



# **STATE LINE TRAIL #16**

**(Easy to Moderate)**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek Ranch Driveway, turn right onto the West Fork Road. Proceed on the paved road about 5 ½ miles. Turn right onto the Nez Perce Road just past the US Forest Service Ranger Station. Signs will say Nez Perce Road - Elk City, Idaho. Drive 16 miles to the top of the pass. There is a generous parking area here. The trail starts across the highway on the north side of the Nez Perce Road. The restrooms and horse ramps are on the south side of the road.

**ELEVATIONS :** Nez Perce Pass (trailhead) 6587 ft.; fork in trail 3 miles from trailhead, 7160 ft.

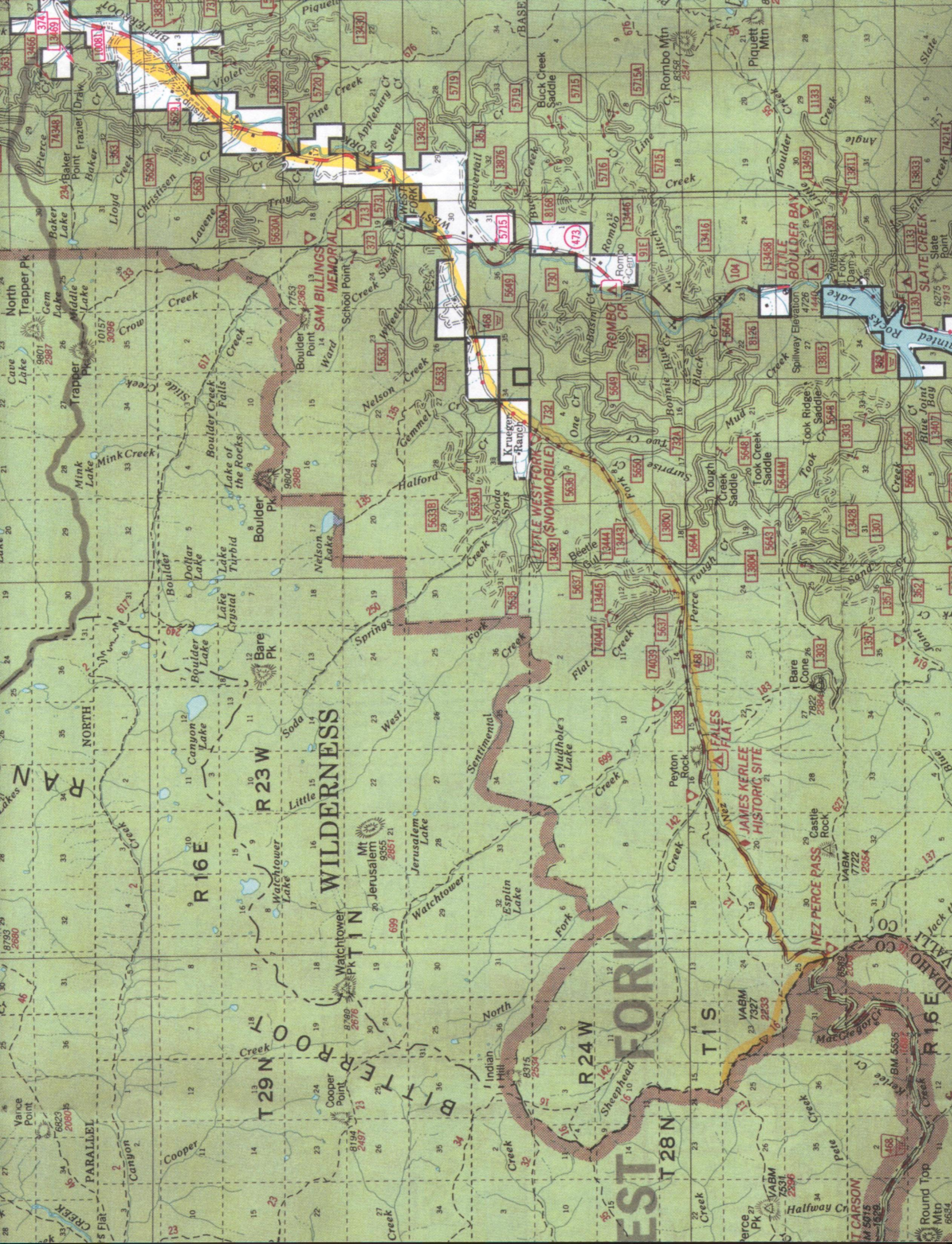
**MILEAGE:** Indian grave – 0.7 miles; Fork in trail leading to Nez Perce Peak- 3 miles.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Excellent trail with gentle grade--except for short, steep section at beginning. Underfoot is mostly dirt and decomposed granite rock.

State Line Trail #16 follows a ridge that doesn't vary much in elevation from the Nez Perce Pass, so you can enjoy being "on top", looking down on mountains in Idaho and Montana, without climbing a mountain on foot. The trail stays in open woods most of the time, often yellow pine, lodgepole pine or whitebark pine. Its alpine vegetation includes tiny dark blue Larkspur growing only 3" high.

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**







# **STATE LINE NORTH & NEZ PERCE TRAIL #16 & #13**

## **(Moderate)**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek Ranch Driveway, turn right onto the West Fork Road. Proceed on the paved road about 5 ½ miles. Turn right onto the Nez Perce Road just past the US Forest Service Ranger Station. Signs will say Nez Perce Road - Elk City, Idaho. Drive 16 miles to the top of the Nez Perce Pass. There is a generous parking area at the pass. The trail starts across the highway on the north side of the Nez Perce Road. The restrooms and horse ramps are on the south side of the road.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead - 6587 ft.; fork in trailhead - 7160 ft.; Nez Perce Peak – 8,387 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Indian grave – 0.7 miles; Fork in trail - 3 miles; Nez Perce Peak – 6 miles

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Cross the road to the north side. The well-defined trail climbs steeply through a grove of widely spaced trees for 0.6 miles and then emerges in a large, open, hillside meadow. The route levels out a bit in the meadow. A very unobtrusive sign for Fales Flat trail junction is located at the northern end of the clearing. Stay left and continue hiking north. About 300 yards past the junction, on the left side of the trail, is an Indian grave with a marble headstone. This is the final resting-place of Francis Adams, Salish Indian, who died at age 80 in 1900. The grave is outlined with small rocks. I have been told that there are other Indian graves nearby, however this is the only one with a marker. The route climbs for another 0.2 miles beyond the gravesite and then follows more gentle rolling terrain. It continues through a series of open hillside meadows with grand views in every direction. When the Beargrass plumes are in season the white flowers dominate the landscape. From this area Nez Perce Peak is clearly visible to the west.

The trail enters a wooded segment for 0.7 miles before reaching a signed trail junction. Turn left for Nez Perce Peak and follow the Nez Perce Trail west through the lodgepole forest. This trail follows a spur ridge leading all the way to the peak. The route winds through some trees and then crosses a large open hillside meadow and makes a steep descent through a grove of trees. At 5.2 miles a steep climb leads to a saddle at the lower end of an open hillside. There is a campsite on the north side of the trail at the saddle. The view of the peak is blocked by the steep hill. A good spring is located about 400 yards southwest of the campsite on the south-facing hillside. The trail from the campsite to the spring is quite dim and hard to find. The route to Nez Perce Peak leads up the ridge past the campsite and then climbs through a hillside meadow where a 50-foot segment of the trail is not clearly defined. Just head uphill facing west and watch for the trail on the left. The remaining 0.7 miles segment is very easy to find as it climbs through an open grassy hillside. At the top are the remains of an old lookout tower.

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**

# *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; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!**

# **TRAPPER PEAK HIKE #5630(&A) & #133** (Strenuous - walking sticks recommended)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn right and head up the West Fork Road. At the sign for Trapper Peak, turn right on Lavene Creek Road. The sign here indicates the trailhead is 4 miles from this point, but it is actually about 6.5 miles. Follow this good gravel road for .6 miles to a junction. Take the left fork and follow the sign pointing to Troy Creek and Trapper Peak. Continue climbing on this road four miles to the trailhead, which lies just past a switchback and is marked by a sign. There is a wide spot in the road for parking just before the trailhead.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead – 6,360 ft.; Trapper Peak – 10,157 ft.

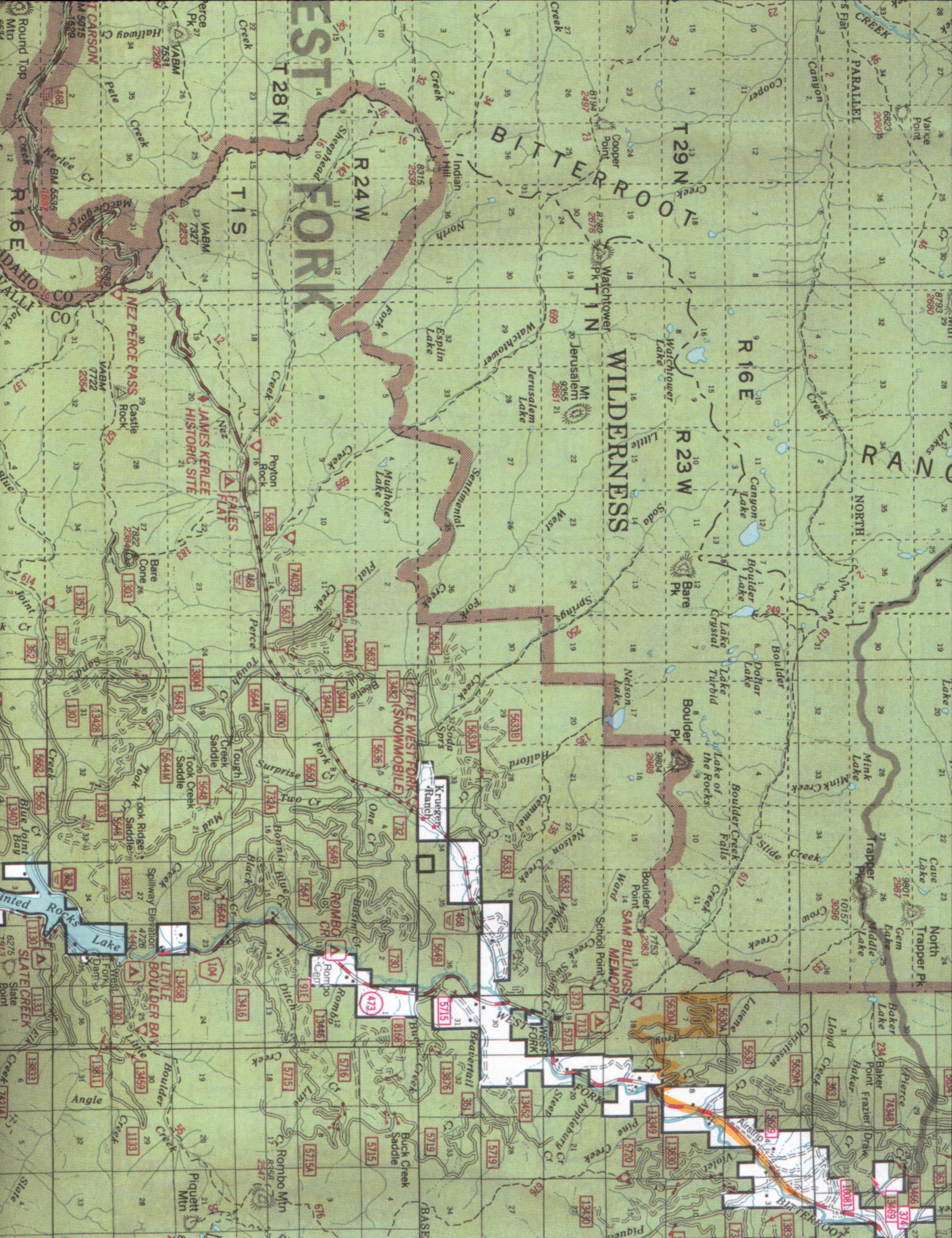
**MILEAGE:** 5 miles to peak.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** This hike is not suited for everyone, as the high elevation and rough terrain make it quite difficult. It is very steep in places and is always a steady ascent. The trail starts high on a ridge overlooking Boulder Creek to the west and the West Fork of the Bitterroot River to the south. For the most part, it winds through the trees, but does offer occasional views of the Boulder drainage, Boulder Peak and Trapper Peak itself. The size of the trees gradually diminishes with altitude, at about 3 miles. The trail then emerges from a group of stunted, windswept trees onto an open boulder field. For the last few miles, the trail winds toward a saddle among the boulders above the timberline and is well marked by rock piles. The actual peak lies just to the left of this saddle. The final ascent to the peak follows an easily traversed ridge.

Scramble over the last of these boulders and enjoy the view from above 10,000 feet! To the north, the view is a sheer drop. Thousands of feet down lies picturesque, glacial Cave Lake surrounded by bare, jagged peaks. This spectacular view is definitely well worth the effort it takes to get there!

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**







# WATCHTOWER CREEK TRAIL

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD : From Triple Creek's driveway turn right. Stay on the Westfork Road for approximately 7 miles. You will see a gravel road veering off to the right just before the bridge crosses the river. Turn onto this road (Nez Perce Road). Check your odometer at this junction, as it is almost exactly 9 miles to Watchtower Creek's signed turnoff. Trailhead is within ¼ mile of the turnoff.

NOTE : The turnoff is easy to miss; if you reach Fales Flat, you have gone nearly 2 miles too far!

ELEVATIONS : Trailhead 5080 ft ; stream crossing 6100 ft ; Watchtower Peak 8780 ft.

INFORMATION FROM TRAIL SIGNS : Closed to all vehicles, Map of area, Watchtower Creek Trail info # 699

MILEAGE : Wilderness Boundary- 3.3 miles ; State line 10 miles.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION : There are rest facilities and a large parking lot at the trailhead. The trail is excellent – soft under foot most of the time, with a gentle grade. The bridge near the trailhead is wide and solid.

*Wildflowers are outstanding!* Flowers grow in such profusion along this trail that the huge rock faces, the clear stream and the sight of Watchtower Peak shrink to secondary importance by comparison. Contributing to the trail is the easy access and the gentle trail grade. The trail is seldom right beside the stream, but neither does it go to far from it.

An unusual flower is found here, the Woolly-Headed Clover. It is found nowhere else in this state, its range being limited to the Blue Mountains of Washington and Oregon, through Utah and western Idaho to this one site in Montana. Its feature is a pink to reddish flower head with petals sharply bent down.

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY !**