



United States Department of Agriculture

# The Go-To Guide for Popular Hiking Trails



## in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests



Forest  
Service

Nez Perce-Clearwater  
National Forests

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## **Hiking Tips (The 10 Essentials)**

If you are a newcomer to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, a few words of caution: weather is unpredictable and can change rapidly. Your trip will be more pleasant if you are prepared for rain and temperature changes. Hazards along the trail can include, but are not limited to, poison ivy, ticks, and rattlesnakes. It is good practice to set a “turnaround time,” even if you have not reached your destination. Know the limits of your and your group’s abilities, and what qualifications each person has in case of emergency. Water found along the trail should always be treated.

The 10 Essentials you should carry include:

1. Map and compass.
2. Flashlight and extra batteries.
3. Matches, candle or fire starter – make sure matches are protected.
4. Knife.
5. First aid kit – carry items that take care of blisters, cuts, allergies, etc.
6. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and bug spray.
7. Mirror and whistle.
8. Raingear and extra clothing.
9. Water – Pack plenty of water. Figure one gallon per person per full day.
10. Extra food – High energy snacks such as granola bars and trail mix (Backpacking – 2 lb. food per person per day).

*Remember: You can’t count on cell phone coverage in remote areas!*

## **Hiking Trail Difficulty Rating System**

### **Easy**

The easiest hike you can take! Easy trails are clear and well-maintained paths, and have very little elevation gain. If there is elevation gain, it would be a long, gradual climb. They are often recommended for someone in fair hiking condition. Trails are generally free of any obstacles or tripping hazards. No route finding skills are needed. You may travel over bridges or bog bridging. Don’t be fooled by the simplicity. Easy hikes can be just as beautiful and rewarding as a more difficult hike.

### **Moderate**

Stepping up in the world! Moderate trails are defined as those that could pose slight difficulty. The trail could have some short, steep grades or steep switchbacks. It could also require some route-finding skills. They are often recommended for someone in good hiking condition. Although, the trail may be signed, it could be overgrown in some places, or there are well-established animal trails leading off that resemble the path you’re on. Also, the trail could have some minimal exposure. Exposure means you are hiking out in the open exposed to the elements (sun, wind, snow, rain, etc.). On a moderate trail, you may have to latch onto things to keep your balance, such as a rock or tree.

### **Difficult**

You’ve polished your skills and are seeking thrills! The trail will be steep and almost certainly require route finding skills over rough terrain. Expect to cross downed trees, streams, creeks, and scree where proper footing is essential. The big step up for this type of hiking is the use of your hand and foot holds. This type of trail is often recommended for someone in excellent hiking condition. While the rough, steep terrain may seem endless, the summits and secret places you’ll discover on these trails will make the challenge worthwhile.

### **Strenuous to Very Strenuous**

Time to mix some risk into the equation! A trail of this rating consists of a combination of steepness and extreme terrain (large rocks, scree, snow, etc.) for some of the best views imaginable. You should possess excellent to exceptional hiking fitness, skills and abilities. You may need to use your hands most of the time to for scrambling or bouldering up ridgelines. There is a strong possibility of sustained exposure to the elements. Elevation can play a role in the very strenuous rating if a hiker is unused to trails above 4500’.

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# LOCHSA/POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

## Lochsa Area

### CANYON CREEK TRAIL #107

Day Hike/Backpacking

The trail begins on Hwy 12, just below Apgar Campground at MP 103.5. This is an Easy-Moderate trail that is 7.6 miles long each way. You can find the trail's location at N-9 on the Clearwater Map. Though maintained as motorcycle trail, it is popularly known as a "lovely canyon" to hikers, and wildflowers are plentiful in the area, especially in the spring. Ferns and moss drape the rock wall on one side of this narrow canyon trail. One does not need to hike to the end to enjoy what this area has to offer, which is why it is also a great day hike. For more information, please contact Lochsa Ranger Station at 208-926-4274.

### LOCHSA RIVER NRT/DOWN RIVER TRAIL #2

Day Hike/Backpacking

This popular trail can be accessed from Split Creek Trailhead Parking (MP 111) or Sherman Creek Trailhead (MP 123) on Highway 12. It is an Easy, popular trail that is 12.0 miles in length each way and parallels the Lochsa River between Split Creek and Sherman Creek. There is little elevation gain on this trail, and it is possible to see one or two bicycles on this trail. You can find this trail's location at N-9 on the Clearwater Map. If it is to be a day hike, it is best to place one vehicle at each of the trailheads. For more information, please contact Lochsa Ranger Station at 208-926-4274.

# LOCHSA/POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

## Lochsa Area

### APGAR TRAIL #111

Day Hike/Backpacking

The trailhead is located on Highway 12 at MP 104.5 across from Apgar Campground. It is an Easy-Moderate trail that is 3.0 miles in length each way and begins at 1520' elevation and heads north toward Dry Point (4000') and continues on a little ways. You can find the trail's location at N-9 on the Clearwater Map. This trail is designated as a motorcycle trail, but is perfect for hiking. For more information, please contact Lochsa Ranger Station at 208-926-4274.

### SPLIT CREEK RIDGE TRAIL #133

Day Hike/Backpacking

The trail begins across from the Split Creek parking area on highway 12 at milepost 112 and crosses the Lochsa River on a gorgeous wooden pack bridge that provides access to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This is an Easy-Moderate trail that is 4.0 miles each way. You can find the trail's location at P-9 on the Clearwater Map. You'll follow the river east for just under a mile, where you'll cross a few streams (more evident in spring), and pass through a temperate coniferous forest rich in mosses, lichens, and ferns. After you cross a second bridge, you'll begin to scale the canyon walls in a switchback style formation. Watch your footing in this area, and this may be a good area to wear pants since the trail, though visible, is overgrown with plants and grasses. As you reach the higher elevations you'll be greeted with an array of wildflowers and beargrass, and splendid views of the Split Creek and Lochsa River Valley. Louse Lake is a 5 hour hike in (11 miles). Whether you choose to continue on to Split Creek Point (5660') or travel a couple miles before turning around, you will have seen some pretty awesome views and the ridgeline you just came up. For more information, please contact Lochsa Ranger Station at 208-926-4274.

# LOCHSA/POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

## Lochsa Area

### Snowshoe Falls Trail #2A

Day Hike

You can access this trail just west of MP 118.0 on Hwy 12. It is an Easy hike that is 0.50 miles each way. Initially, it is a steep climb. Then the trail becomes gentle for the ¼-mile walk to the falls. For more information, please contact Lochsa Ranger Station at 208-926-4274.

### ELDORADO CREEK TRAIL #31

Day Hike

The trailhead for Eldorado Creek is accessed from FS Road #500. Follow FS #500 to FS #524 at Salmon Trout Camp. Follow #524 for 1.5 miles to the wide spot in the road where the trail can be found. This trail, which is an Easy-Moderate trail and 5.50 miles in length each way, mostly lies in the bottom of the canyon and stays somewhat away from the creek for the most part. You can find this trail's location at M-8 on the Clearwater Map. For more information, please contact Lochsa Ranger Station at 208-926-4274.

# LOCHSA/POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

## Powell Area

### SEVEN LAKES TRAILS #211, #219

Backpacking

The trailhead is accessed from the Wilderness Gateway area off of Highway 12. This is a Difficult-Strenuous hike that is 15.0 miles in length each way. This trail's location can be found at Q-8 on the Clearwater Map. Begin by following trail #211 to #219 for 15.0 miles. The first 5.0 miles is almost all up hill, on an open hillside with very little shade or water. Best to start early in the morning. There are some nice campsites along Boulder Creek. The scenic Seven Lakes and abundant wildlife make the hike well worthwhile. Please note that Seven Lakes is a "special restrictions" camping area. It would take about 2 days to hike in and perhaps 1 day out as it is mostly downhill. For more information, please contact Powell Ranger Station (Lolo Pass visitor center) at 208-942-3113.

### COLGATE LICKS NATURE TRAIL #1091

Day Hike

You can access this trail at MP 147.9 on Hwy 12 at the Colgate Licks rest stop. It is an Easy hike that is 1.0 miles roundtrip. The area was named for George Colgate, cook for the ill-fated Carlin hunting party of 1893, and for natural mineral deposits (or "Licks"). As you walk along, you'll be greeted by interpretive displays along the trail and pass by cedar snags, charred by fires decades ago. Its location can be found at T-7 on the Clearwater Map. For more information, please contact Powell Ranger Station (Lolo Pass visitor center) at 208-942-3113.

# LOCHSA/POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

## Powell Area

### WHITE SAND TRAIL #50

Day Hike/Backpacking

You can access this trail via the Beaver Ridge Rd #368 (near White Sand Campground). The Elk Summit Rd off of Hwy 12 will lead to #368. It is an Easy trail that is 26 miles long, ending at the junction of Bitterroot NF trail #11 and Packbox Pass. You can find its location at V-6 on the Clearwater Map. Most tend to turn around at mile 8. The trail follows Colt Killed Creek (formerly White Sand Creek) 12 miles to the old Colt Creek Cabin site. The creek is very large; almost a small river. This can be a good day hike, especially if one is interested in backcountry fishing. Good trout fishing has been reported in this area. There is little elevation gain, so it would be good for families with children. The trail receives frequent maintenance. For more information, please contact Powell Ranger Station (Lolo Pass visitor center) at 208-942-3113.

### POWELL COMPLEX TRAIL #25

Day Hike

The Powell Complex Trail, marked as part of the Lewis and Clark Trail connects to all four of Powell's Campgrounds. You can access this trail just across the highway from Wendover Campground on Hwy 12. It is an Easy-Moderate Trail that is 6.0 miles each direction. You can find its location at U-6 on the Clearwater Map. The trail travels past Wendover Cabin, crosses Legendary Bear Creek (formerly Papoose Creek) on a foot bridge, climbs up a ridge, drops down to Hwy 12, crosses the highway, and follows the Lochsa River to Powell Campground. It then turns up toward Lochsa Lodge, goes up the hill behind the Lodge, crosses Powell Creek and continues above the Lochsa River to White Sand Campground. For more information, please contact Powell Ranger Station (Lolo Pass visitor center) at 208-942-3113.



## MOOSE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

### O'HARA TRAIL #713

Day Hike

The trailhead is accessible by driving Hwy 12 to Road #223, and then Hamby Road FS #651 for 3.5 miles. This is an Easy trail that is 2.1 miles each way. You can find this trail's location at K-7 on the Nez Perce Map. The trailhead begins at 2490' and follows the creek for 2.1 miles to a fork where you can continue on the #713 trail along the East Fork of O'Hara or toward West Fork Point 6056' via #338 trail. O'Hara Creek was named in 1895 for prospector Pat O'Hara. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

### CCC TRAIL #734

Day Hike

This trail is accessed via Selway River Road FS #223 off of Hwy 12; just a short distance after the CCC Campground. It is a Difficult trail that is 6.0 miles each way. The trail's location can be found at K-7 on the Nez Perce Map. Named for the Civilian Conservation Corps, this trail begins at 1570' and ends on the Coolwater Rd #317. There were CCC camps in the vicinity at Glover Creek, O'Hara Creek, and Meadow Creek. CCC camps on the Nez Perce Forest were involved in fire depression and forest development. Members of the Glover Creek Camp built roads on Fog Mountain and Indian Hill. The O'Hara Camp constructed the Fenn Ranger Station. At approximately 3000', one is able to get a stunning view of the Selway River and O'Hara Creek confluence. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

## MOOSE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

### RACKLIFF RIDGE TRAIL #702

Day Hike

You can access the trailhead at Rackliff CG on FS Road #223, just a few miles east of Fenn Ranger Station on an annually maintained dirt road. It is Difficult-Strenuous and 6.0 miles each way. The trail's location can be found at L-7 on the Nez Perce Map. The trailhead begins at 1610' and continuously climbs to 6929' where it ends at the Coolwater Lookout. Along the way you'll find stunning vistas of the region and the Selway River, named for its smooth waters. Elevation gain is 5319'. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

### STILLMAN POINT TRAIL #335

Day Hike

Access via O'Hara Campground on FS Road #223 from Hwy 12. It is a Difficult trail that is 3.0 miles each way. This trail's location can be found at K-7 on the Nez Perce Map. The trailhead begins at 1580' and rises steeply to 5070' before dropping to 4840' at its end where you'll find an old fire lookout. Elevation gain is 3490'. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

## MOOSE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

### EAST BOYD-GLOVER ROUNDTOP NRT #703, #704

Backpacking

The trailhead is accessible via Boyd Creek Campground or Glover Creek Campground on FS Road #223 from Hwy 12. It is a Strenuous, 28.0 mile loop trail. Not recommended for the inexperienced. You can find this trail's location at L-7 on the Nez Perce Map. The national recreation trail begins with trail #703 at Boyd Creek Campground (1640') and climbs a steep grade 8.7 miles to Coolwater Road #317 (6500') in the saddle just before Round Top Mountain. Along the way you'll have spectacular views of the Selway Valley from higher elevations. You'll follow the #317 road for just a hair over a mile to the summit of Round Top Mountain (6807'). Continue on down trail #704, another steep grade where you'll find picturesque views of the surrounding mountains and canyons on the way to Glover Campground (1710'). Follow Road #223 West to Boyd Creek CG where you parked. Elevation gain is 5167'. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

### MEADOW CREEK TRAIL #726

Backpacking

The trailhead is located south of the Selway River near Slims Campground. It is an Easy-Moderate trail that is 15 miles each way. You can find the trail's location at M-7 on the Nez Perce Map. The trail follows the creek bottom through a lush cedar and grand fir forest. The creek has quiet stretches and cascading waterfalls. Good, easy family hike for the first 3 miles as there is little elevation gain. After which, it becomes moderate as the trail begins to climb up the hillside on its way to Meadow Creek Cabin. Mountain bikes and motorcycles may be seen within the first three miles. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

## MOOSE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

### SELWAY RIVER TRAIL #4

Backpacking

The trailhead begins at Race Creek Campground on FS Road #223. It is 50 miles roundtrip and a Moderate-Difficult hike. You can find this trail's location at M-7 on the Nez Perce Map. This is a good, well maintained trail that follows the Selway River for 25 miles to Moose Creek Ranger Station and many points beyond. The Wilderness boundary is approximately 2 miles from the trailhead. The trail has some steep grades. Be mindful of your footing. Watch for Rattlesnakes, too! The rattlers are a darker green. Stock handlers should be advised of bad spots where stock has been lost in the past. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

### GEDNEY TRAIL #708

Backpacking

You can access this trail at Gedney Creek Campground on FS Road #223. It is a Difficult-Strenuous trail that is 10.5 miles each way. You can find this trail's location at M-7 on the Nez Perce Map. The trail begins at the mouth of Gedney Creek at 1700' and continuously rises to the summit of Gedney Mountain (7360'). Elevation gain is 5660'. Watch for Rattlesnakes! The first 4 miles of the trail are well-maintained and the last 6.5 mi are not. Access to Wilderness from Gedney Mountain. For more information, please contact Fenn Ranger Station at 208-926-4258.

## NORTH FORK RANGER DISTRICT

### NORTH FORK DOWN RIVER TRAIL #297

Day Hike/Backpacking

The trailhead is accessible at the junction of FS Road #700 and Isabella Landing. Its location can be found at M-4 on the Clearwater Map. This Easy-Moderate, 7.0 mile mainline trail takes visitors into one of our Research Natural Areas, home to many rare plants, and through beautiful fern populations under old growth cedar trees. This trail is also shared with motorcycles, but not ATV's. The trail travels from the mouth of Isabelle Creek, following the North Fork of the Clearwater River, and ends near the lovely Salmon Creek. There are several pleasant streamside campsites along this route. Water may be seasonable high at Salmon Creek stream crossing making that section impassable. For more information, please contact the North Fork Ranger District at 208-476-4541.

### KELLY CREEK TRAIL #567

Backpacking

The trailhead is accessible at the Junction of FS Road #255 and FS Road #581, just east of Kelly Forks Work Center. The trail is an Easy-Moderate hike that is 22.5 miles. It crosses the creek at mile 15.0. Its location can be found at S-5 on the Clearwater Map. You may see a trail sign of #760, as this one forks off of #567 on its way to Little Moose Ridge. This is an easy river grade trail with the last 3 miles climbing steeply to the Bitterroot Divide. The trail follows Kelly Creek closely with very scenic meadows. For more information, please contact the North Fork Ranger District at 208-476-4541.

## NORTH FORK RANGER DISTRICT

### GOOSE LAKE TRAIL #414

Backpacking

From Pierce, follow French Mountain Road/FS Road #250 for about 40.0 miles. Continue past Kelly Forks Work Center and turn left to stay on FS #250. In the vicinity of Cedars Campground, turn onto FS Road #295. Stay on it for about 4 miles. At the fork, bear left onto FS Rd. #5450. Trailhead is 1.0 miles up the #5450 road. It is Moderate-Difficult and 11.0 mi roundtrip with 1500' elevation gain. It can be found at T-4 on the Clearwater Map. The trail starts out wide and narrows after one mile. There are several stream crossings, so you may want to pack your waterproof camp shoes on this trip! There is a waterfall at Steep Creek, and just beyond that is about the only real steep section on the trail. There is a sizeable meadow approximately 1.0 mi from Goose Lake. You may not see a goose at Goose Lake, but there's a good chance you'll see a moose! Perhaps in the morning, in the evening, or even one or two sloshing around at night while you're trying to sleep! For more information, please contact the North Fork Ranger District at 208-476-4541.

## PALOUSE RANGER DISTRICT

### ELK CREEK FALLS TRAIL #740

Day Hike

The trail is accessed via FS Road #4749 near town of Elk River. It is an Easy-Moderate trail that is 2.1 miles each way. This trail's location can be found at H-5 on the Clearwater Map. This area possesses the tallest waterfalls in the state of Idaho. Three separate waterfalls, totaling over 140 feet, carve a beautiful canyon filled with mesmerizing columnar basalt formations. This area is very rough terrain. The trail has lots of ups and downs. Area amenities include restroom facilities, picnic tables, pedestal grills, and trailhead information, all accessible by a developed forest trail. For more information, please contact the Palouse Ranger District at 208-875-1131.

### POTLATCH CANYON TRAIL #765

Day Hike

This trail can be accessed via FS Road #1963, east of Deary, south of Helmer, in the vicinity of Little Boulder Campground. It is an Easy hike that is a 5.0 mile loop. It's location can be found at F-4 on the Clearwater Map. What was once an old railroad bed just down the road from the town of Deary, is now the delightful Potlatch Canyon Hiking trail. This trail is an amazing place to experience colorful wildflower displays, take in views overlooking the canyon, stroll in and out of the shadows created by towering cedar trees and ponderosa pines, and experience the panoramic views awaiting you in wide open meadows. You might even catch a glimpse of a moose! For more information, please contact the Palouse Ranger District at 208-875-1131.

## PALOUSE RANGER DISTRICT

### WHITE PINE NRT #224, #224A, #224B

Day Hike

The trailhead is accessible via Hwy 6 north of Harvard. It is an Easy hike that is 0.7 to 5.30 out and back or loop. #224 (5.3 mi), #224A (1.0 mi), #224B (0.7 mi). You can find its location at D-2 on the Clearwater Map. Take this opportunity to travel north from the quaint town of Harvard to visit this special site. Named after an enormous, 600 year old white pine that has since been cut down due to disease (but still resides), this trail traverses through a lush forest. These trails are all within close proximity and intersect so a loop is possible amongst the tall, old growth pine and cedars. For more information, please contact the Palouse Ranger District at 208-875-1131.

### UPPER BASIN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL #747

Day Hike

Trailhead is accessible via FS Road #382 north of Elk River, ID. It is an Easy hike that is a 5.0 mile loop. You can find its location at H-3 on the Clearwater Map. The Upper Basin trail is a 5-mile loop in the Elk Creek basin. The trail was built as an interpretive trail with markers along the way, guiding you through old growth stands in a lush forested setting. The markers correspond to a brochure at the trailhead. The total elevation gain is about 400 feet and much of the trail runs along an old railroad grade which is flat and soft. For more information, please contact the Palouse Ranger District at 208-875-1131.



## PALOUSE RANGER DISTRICT

### FEATHER CREEK TRAIL #767

Day Hike

The trailhead is accessible via ID-3 to FS Road #377 to FS Road #789. It is an Easy hike that is a 5.0 mile loop. Its location can be found at F-3 on the Clearwater Map. The Feather Creek trail marks the beginning of a secluded hike through nature. Where it lacks in scenic views, it makes up for with a feeling of calm, yet enjoyable isolation deep in the wilderness. The whole path is in good condition, very gentle to walk on. There are bridges for stream crossings and a few benches along the way. Trail #767 is a 5.0 mile loop. If you choose to go right on the main trail and veer off to trail #768, please note it is a 10.0 trail that reconnects with #767 for an additional 2 or 3 miles back to the trailhead. For more information, please contact the Palouse Ranger District at 208-875-1131.

### GIANT RED CEDAR NRT #748

Day Hike

This trail is accessible via FS Road #382 to FS Road #4764, just north of Elk River town. It is an Easy day hike that is 1.0 mile out-and-back, and Accessible! You can find its location at J-3 on the Clearwater Map. Just 30 minutes north of the town of Elk River lies the Giant Cedar Grove. This trail is a fully-accessible, paved trail. Hikers can see the "Champion Tree of Idaho." It's more than 18 feet in diameter, 177 feet tall, and 3,000 years old. In the vicinity you'll also find many more old growth cedars. For more information, please contact the Palouse Ranger District at 208-875-1131.



## RED RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

### ANDERSON BUTTE NRT #830, #835

Backpacking

The trail is accessible via County Road #1859 from Elk City. It turns into FS Road #443 on the way to Limber Luke Campground. It is a Moderate-Difficult trail that is 14.8 miles each way. Its location can be found at L-8 on the Nez Perce Map. The trail travels through stands of timber over much of its length, following an old road bed that has not been used for many years. The tread is wide in some spots, but reduced to trail width in many areas. There are some meadows along the way. The highest point along the trail is Anderson Butte 6847'. This trail can also be used to access the Meadow Creek NRT #726 via Horse Ridge trail #334. For more information, please contact Red River Ranger District at 208-842-2245.

### OTTERSON CREEK TRAIL #588

Day Hike

From Hwy 14 (road to Elk City), turn south onto Red River-Dixie Road #222. Follow road #222 for 14.0 miles to its junction with Red River Road #234 at the old Red River Ranger Station. Turn east onto road #234 and follow for 10.0 miles. The trailhead is just past the bridge over Shissler Creek, on the left side of the road. Its location can be found at N-9 on the Nez Perce Map. It is an Easy hike that is 2.50 miles each way. From the trailhead, Otterson Creek Trail crosses Red River and heads west along the base of a ridge for a quarter mile. It turns abruptly to the north, climbs to the end of the ridge, and levels off for 1/2 mile. Then it alternately climbs and levels into benches along the ridge to the divide between the Red River and Meadow Creek drainages. The trail ends in an open meadow at its junction with Divide Trail #505. Together with the Divide Trail #505, Hot Springs Trail #504, and Green Mountain Trail #541, the Otterson Trail offers several loop trips around the Bridge Creek Campground-Red River Hot Springs Area. For more information, please contact Red River Ranger District at 208-842-2245.

# SALMON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

## Fish Creek

### FISH CREEK TRAIL #480

Day Hike

The trailhead is accessible via FS Road #221 to Fish Creek Campground (7 mi south of Grangeville). This is an Easy trail system and you can choose from 1.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 7.0, and 11.0 mile loops. Its location can be found at G-9 on the Nez Perce Map. The trailhead has six well-maintained and popular loop trails. There are several spurs that jaunt off of the main trail, however, the main trail has a diverse track with several bridges and easy slopes. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

### MILNER TRAIL/OLD WAGON ROAD #641

Backpacking

Trailhead is accessible via FS Road #221 across from Fish Creek Campground (7 miles south of Grangeville). This is an Easy trail that is 14.5 miles one way. Its location can be found at F-9 on the Nez Perce Map. The Milner Trail was built in 1862 by Moses E. Milner, one of fifty-two men who had discovered gold in Elk City, Idaho the previous summer, and upon opening immediately eased transportation of goods to Florence. The trail has several scenic viewpoints along open ridges. It passes through or near private property in several locations. Please respect the landowner's rights by staying designated trails. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# SALMON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

## Nut Basin

### NUT BASIN TRAIL

Day Hike

Trailhead is accessible via the FS Road #441 from Slate Creek. It is an Easy hike that is 0.5 miles each way. Its location can be found at E-11 on the Nez Perce Map. The Nut Basin area provides great opportunities for solitude and some excellent scenic views of the Salmon River canyon. It is also the summer ranger for deer and elk. This half mile trail is maintained annually to the only mountain lake (6800') for miles around, where huckleberries are plentiful. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

## Little Slate Creek

### LITTLE SLATE CREEK TRAIL #309

Backpacking

Trail is accessible via U.S. 95 to Slate Creek FS Road #354. 12.6 miles to bridge and on up Little Slate Creek road #354G to turn around area, approximately 1.5 miles. It is an Easy-Moderate hike that is 11.0 miles one way to FS #221. Its location can be found at F-11 on the Nez Perce Map. This trail was historically used by ranchers and settlers travelling to Florence. Though regularly maintained, it still provides hikers with moderate challenges of stream crossings and some meadows in which the path may be difficult to see. The crossing of Boulder Creek, approximately two miles up from the trailhead, can present an early seasonal barrier. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# SALMON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

## Gilmore Ranch

### **SNOOSE CREEK TRAIL #407**

**Day Hike/Backpacking**

You can access this trail via the pack bridge at Johns Creek Trailhead on Hwy 14. The #407 trail is rated Moderate and is 10.6 miles one way. A trip of 2 to 4 days is recommended. Its location can be found at G-9 on the Nez Perce Map. The #407 trail travels south from the pack bridge up a grade for 10.6 miles. This is a popular route for accessing the Gilmore Ranch, a 450 acre remote homestead from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At its heyday, there was a bed & breakfast for gold rush prospectors. Today, only farming equipment and a cabin remain. From the end of the #407 you may continue east on Driveway Trail #431 to Sourdough Peak (6800') at the edge of the Gospel Hump Wilderness. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

### **FRANK BROWN TRAIL #401**

**Backpacking**

The trailhead is accessible via Johns Creek pack bridge on Hwy 14. This is a Moderate hike to that is 10.0 miles to Sourdough Peak. Its location can be found at H-9 on the Nez Perce Map. Begin your hike on trail #478 to access #401 for your trek up Sourdough Peak. Trail #478 begins about 0.05 miles from Johns Creek Trailhead on Trail #407. Once at Sourdough Peak, you can explore the old lookout and take the Driveway Trail #431 west to Snoose Creek Trail #407 to make a loop back to Johns Creek Trailhead, or continue on into the network of trails within the Gospel Hump Wilderness. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# SALMON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

## Gilmore Ranch

### BLUE RIDGE TRAIL #478

Day Hike/Backpacking

You can access this trail via Johns Creek Trailhead and pack bridge on Hwy 14. The trail is a Moderate Hike that is 4.0 miles one way. Its location can be found at H-9 on the Nez Perce Map. Trail #478 begins about 0.05 miles from Johns Creek Trailhead on Trail #407. It climbs up to some nice large open Ponderosa stands on the top of Blue Ridge and runs the ridge for 3 miles until its ending at the junction with Trail #401. From this point you can take the right at Trail #401 down to #407 at Gilmore Ranch and then loop back up #407 to Johns Creek Trailhead. This would be a 10.0 mile loop. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# SALMON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

## South Fork Corridor

### MCALLISTER TRAIL #481

Day Hike

The trail begins across from the McAllister Picnic Area on Hwy 14. It is a 2.2 mile out-and-back that is rated Easy-Moderate. Its location can be found at F-9 on the Nez Perce Map. The McAllister trail is an interpretive trail. Paper Guides should be available at the trailhead. It climbs in a switchback style formation into the Earthquake Basin for awesome views of the picturesque South Fork Clearwater Valley. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

### CASTLE CREEK TRAIL #420

Day Hike

This trail can be accessed via Hwy 14 across from Castle Creek CG (just 14 miles east of Grangeville). It is an Easy-Moderate hike that is 3.5 miles each way. This trail can be found at G-9 on the Nez Perce Map. The trail travels up the ridge in a switchback style formation toward FS Road #451. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# SALMON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

## South Fork Corridor

### WICKIUP TRAIL #429

Day Hike

This trail can be accessed via Hwy 14 at John's Creek Trailhead on the north side of the road. It is an Easy-Moderate hike that is 2.0 miles each way. It can be located at G-9 on the Nez Perce Map. The trail switchbacks up toward FS Road #648. The upper end passes through an old homestead site that offers opportunities to explore. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

### COUGAR CREEK TRAIL #413

Day Hike

This trail can be accessed via Hwy 14 at Cougar Creek Trailhead. It is an Easy-Moderate trail that is 3.0 miles in length each way. You can find its location at H-9 on the Nez Perce Map. This trail is also open to motorcycles and non-motorized users. It takes you up to FS Road #9401 where it junctions with trail #422 on its way to Cougar Mountain (5321') and Big Burn Point (5700'). For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.



# SALMON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

## Rapid River Wild and Scenic Area

### RAPID RIVER TRAIL #59

Backpacking

This trail can be accessed via FS Road #2114 off ID-95 just south of Riggins. It is an Easy-Moderate hike that is 7.0 miles in length if you include both #113 and #59 sections. It's location can be found at C-13 on the Nez Perce Map. Trail #59 (3.4 miles in length) is most commonly accessed via the #113 trail from the Rapid River trailhead. This annually maintained trail will lead you to Wyant Camp and on up the main river. Near Wyant Camp, there is access to Oxbow trail #71 and Rattlesnake trail #166. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

### WEST FORK RAPID RIVER TRAIL #113

Backpacking

This trail can be accessed by FS Road #2114 off of ID-95 just south of Riggins. It is an Easy-Moderate hike that is 11.0 miles length each way. Recommended 2 to 3 days, but can be done in less. You can find this trail's location at C-13 on the Nez Perce Map. The trail follows the west fork of Rapid River on its way to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Around 7 miles up the trail is the old McCrea Cabin which is a popular destination. This trail is maintained annually and provides access to many other trails in the area. About 0.5 miles from its end and junction with wilderness trails #191 and #192, is the Rankin Mill Site. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS

## Red River Ranger District

### DRY SADDLE TO SHEEP HILL LOOKOUT #575

Day Hike/Backpacking

Dry Saddle trailhead is one of the popular areas accessing the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, lying north of the Salmon River. It provides access to many high mountain lakes along the Sheep Hill Trail #575. Elevation of the trailhead is 7920'. To access this trail, follow Hwy 14 east, then turn south onto Red River-Dixie Road #222. Follow Road #222 past the old Red River Ranger Station to its junction with Nezperce Trail Road #468. Turn east onto Road #468 and follow approximately 33 miles to the trailhead. The road into Dry Saddle is not recommended for low-clearance vehicles, motor homes, and vehicles towing trailers.

This trail boasts a Moderate-Difficult hike in an area where many of the peaks are 8,000+ feet in elevation above the canyons, including Spread Feet Point (8190') which you'll pass over. The trail is only a 10-mile hike to Sheep Hill Fire Lookout (8405') from Dry Saddle, and offers hikers wildflower-painted ridges and spectacular views of Wilderness. Bighorn Sheep frequent the area around the summit. The trail passes many high mountain lakes, of which the Lake Creek Lakes are accessible via side trails from #575. Lake Creek Lakes are popular fishing holes. You can find this trail's location at Q-10 on the Nez Perce Map. For more information, please contact Red River Ranger District at 208-842-2245.

# FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS

## Red River Ranger District

### MACKAY BAR TRAIL #096

Day Hike/Backpacking

From Hwy 14 (road to Elk City) turn south on Red River-Dixie Road #222 and continue past the old Red River Ranger Station, through town of Dixie, past the Dixie Guard Station, and to the Salmon River (44 miles south of Elk City Ranger Station). Turn left and continue 0.5 miles to Mackay Bar Campground, where you can also access the trailhead. Access to this area is a very rough, winding road with many tight switchbacks. High clearance vehicles are recommended. Vehicles with trailers are not recommended.

This is an Easy-Moderate recreation area that is popularly known. It is approximately 16.0 miles from Mackay Bar to Whitewater Ranch. Its location can be found at L-12 on the Nez Perce Map. Please be aware of Rattlesnakes and poison ivy in this area. For more information, please contact Red River Ranger District at 208-842-2245.

# GOSPEL HUMP WILDERNESS

Salmon River Ranger District and Red River Ranger District

## CRYSTAL LAKE TRAIL #299

Day Hike/Backpacking

You can access this trail 8 mi west of Elk City on Hwy 14, turn South on Crooked River Rd #233. Follow #233 for 21 mi thru Orogrande Town, past junction with Road #311, and up to junction with Wildhorse Road #233-I at Orogrande Summit. Turn west onto Road #233-I and follow it for 3 mi to Wildhorse Campground. It is a Difficult-Strenuous trail at high altitude, and is 6.0 miles each way. You can find this trail location at J-10 on the Nez Perce Map. From the trailhead on the west edge of Wildhorse CG, the trail heads west on trail #800, gaining 900 feet in its first 1.50 miles, then continuing along a ridge just below North Pole Mtn (8818'). From North Pole, the trail switchbacks steeply down to a mine ruin and into a small valley. It crosses a ridge and drops into a large cirque basin dominated by Crystal Lake. This lake spans 41 acres, making it the largest lake in the Buffalo Hump region. Its water was once used to power a 20-stamp mill at Calendar. The dam and flume at the outlet of the lake can still be seen. Continuing south around the lake, the main trail climbs out of the basin for 1 mile, at first steeply, then finally leveling out. At mile 6, the trail passes Hump Lake, nestled below Buffalo Hump Mtn. (8938'). The trail ends on the south end of Hump Lake at its junction with Hump Trail #313. For more information, please contact Red River Ranger District at 208-842-2245.

# GOSPEL HUMP WILDERNESS

## Salmon River Ranger District and Red River Ranger District

### TEN MILE CREEK TRAIL #415

Day Hike

The trail is accessed via Santiam-Sourdough Rd #492 (15 mi west of Elk City off of Hwy 14). Follow it 11 mi to the bridge at Ten Mile Creek crossing. This is an Easy-Moderate hike that can be 2 or more miles, depending on what you're up for. You can find this trail's location at J-9 on the Nez Perce Map. Trail #415 lies on a steady, easy uphill grade for 2.2 miles. The tread is very close to the creek in some places and can be muddy in wet weather. The trail serves for day trips and for longer trips using connecting trails. Continues into Wilderness connecting to Hump Tr. #313. For more information, please contact Red River Ranger District at 208-842-2245.

### CROOKED CREEK TRAIL #215

Day Hike/Backpacking

From Hwy 14 (road to Elk City) turn south onto the Red River-Dixie Road #222. Follow road #222 past town of Dixie 5.0 miles to FS Road #311A. Turn onto road #311A and continue 1.5 miles to the Halfway House Campground that rests in tall timber with a small creek running through the area. From here, you can pick up the trailhead. This is a popular access site into the Wilderness. It is a Moderate trail that is 9.5 miles to privately-owned Shepp Ranch. Its location can be found at K-11 on the Nez Perce Map. One can hike in 2.3 miles to the intersection of trail #204 and turn around for a taste of what Wilderness has to offer. For more information, please contact Red River Ranger District at 208-842-2245.

# HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA & WILDERNESS

## Salmon River Ranger District

### **BOISE TRAIL #101, SEVEN DEVILS TRAIL #124**

**Backpacking**

You can access this trail via FS Road #517 south of Riggins. This is a Very Difficult-Strenuous trail at high altitude that is a 24.0 mile loop. Its location can be found at C-13 on the Nez Perce Map. You may begin on Boise trail #101 south. This trail straddles the divide between forest and wilderness and sports some pretty unique views. Once in the Wilderness, you will pick up Seven Devils trail #124, which loops back around to the trailhead, passing by several mountain lakes in the Devils region. For more information, please contact Slate Creek Ranger Station at 208-839-2211.

### **SEVEN DEVILS TRAIL #124, BERNARD LAKES TRAIL #57**

**Backpacking**

You can access this trail at Heaven's Gate Trailhead via FS Road #517 just south of Riggins. It is a Moderate hike at High Altitude, and 9.1 miles each way. Its location can be found at B-13 on the Nez Perce Map. Begin by following trail #124 to the intersection of trail #57, where you'll continue on #57 to Dry Diggins Lookout. Along the way you'll pass four mountain lakes on the way to the best view of Hells Canyon to be had. Dry Diggins Lookout is at 7826' elevation. For more information, please contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA & WILDERNESS

## Salmon River Ranger District

### SNAKE RIVER NRT #102

Day Hike/Backpacking

The trailhead is located just south of Pittsburg Landing (Upper Landing) on FS Road #493. This is a steep, narrow winding gravel road (paved first two miles). The last 6.0 miles into the canyon are the steepest. It is an Easy-Moderate hike, but there is some difficulty involved as this area heats up in the spring and summer. It is 21.0 miles in length, and only 6.0 miles to Kirkwood Historic Ranch, a popular destination. You can find its location at C-11 on the Nez Perce Map. This scenic trail winds its way along the Idaho side of the Wild and Scenic Snake River deep in the Hells Canyon NRA. Beginning at the Snake River Trailhead near Pittsburg Landing, the trail goes across rocky slopes, under cliffs, and along grassy canyons eventually ending at Brush Creek. There is a section that has quite a bit of tall poison ivy growing on the trail. The trail provides access to side trails that enter the Hells Canyon Wilderness.

Most of the trails in Hells Canyon are in rattlesnake and poison ivy country. Many sections of the trail are more difficult due to short steep sections, uneven rocky surfaces, and narrow sections against rock outcrops. At mile 6 on the trail, you will reach the Historic Kirkwood Ranch. Take the time to explore the ranch and take in everything this beautiful region and ranch history this area has to offer. For more information, contact Salmon River Ranger District at 208-839-2211.

# SELWAY – BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

Lochsa/Powell Ranger District and Moose Creek Ranger District

## SNAKE LAKES TRAIL #211

Backpacking

The trailhead is accessible via Wilderness Gateway off of Hwy 12. It is a Difficult-Strenuous hike that is 13.0 miles each way. Its location can be found at Q-8 on the Clearwater Map. The trail to Fish Lake, within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, is approximately 13.0 miles. It can be reached in one day, but two days are recommended. Trail #211 is a well maintained trail with some amazing views of Boulder Creek. The first 5 miles is almost all up hill, on an open hillside with very little shade or water. It is suggested to start early in the morning. Fish Lake is a large lake with an airstrip and well established camp sites. Take time to enjoy the view from Fish Lake saddle. There are some nice campsites along Boulder Creek. For more information, please contact the Powell Ranger Station/ Lolo Pass Visitor Center at 208-942-3113.



# SELWAY – BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

Lochsa/Powell Ranger District and Moose Creek Ranger District

## BIG SAND LAKE TRAIL #4

Backpacking

Take the Elk Summit Road/FS Road #360 from Hwy 12 (between Powell and Devoto Memorial Cedar Grove). Drive it until you've reached the trailhead parking. The trailhead is on the left before the end of the road, near a small cabin.

Big Sand Lake derives its name from the beaches near its inlet. Trail #4 offers access to Big Sand Lake, Elk Summit's single most popular destination. It is a Moderate-Difficult trail that is 7.6 miles in length (15.2 mi roundtrip). You can find the trailhead at V-8 on the Clearwater Map. The lake is a popular stopover for moose, hikers, anglers, and huckleberry enthusiasts! The trail from Elk Summit runs east, climbing gently through woodland with pockets of meadow. On the way down there are glimpses of the Bitterroot Divide and Big Sand Lake. Side trails will lead you into Horse Heaven Meadows, but the main route continues on into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The route fords and crosses the creeks many times, so it may be a good idea to bring your waterproof camp shoes just in case. The mountains around Big Sand Lake provide splendid background scenery, and the trail that continues on to Blodgett Pass, offers good access to the shoreline and several dispersed campsites in the area. For more information, please contact Powell Ranger Station (Lolo Pass visitor center) at 208-942-3113.

# SELWAY – BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

Lochsa/Powell Ranger District and Moose Creek Ranger District

**GRAVES PEAK LOOKOUT & WIND LAKES TRAILS #7, #24, #45**

Day Hike  
Backpacking

You can access this trail by FS Road #362 via the Elk Summit Road off of Hwy 12 between Powell and Devoto Memorial Cedar Grove. This is an Easy-Moderate-Strenuous trail that is 8.0 miles in length each way. The trip out and back can be completed in a day, however, 2 to 3 days is popularly recommended. You can find this trail's location at V-7 on the Clearwater Map. The trailhead is accessible via FS Road #362. Leave from the Tom Beale Trailhead (aka Wind Lakes Trailhead). Begin on Trail #7 and turn left on #24. About 5.0 miles in you will have reached the Wind Lakes area. Continue from the upper lake approximately 3.0 miles to the lookout. Please note that Wind Lakes is a "special restrictions" camping area. The hike to the wind lakes is easy to moderate. The hike up to the lookout is more strenuous. For more information, please contact Powell Ranger Station (Lolo Pass visitor center) at 208-942-3113.

For more information, please contact the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Supervisor's Office, 903 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Kamiah, ID 83536; 208-935-2513, or one of our many other offices. And our website url: [www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater).

**Grangeville Office**

104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
208-983-1950

**North Fork Ranger District**

12730 Hwy 12  
Orofino, ID 83544  
208-476-4541

**Lochsa/Powell Ranger District**

Kooskia Ranger Station  
502 Lowry Street  
Kooskia, ID 83539  
208-926-4274

**Palouse Ranger District**

Potlatch Ranger Station  
1700 Hwy 6  
Potlatch, ID 83855  
208-875-1131

**Lochsa/Powell Ranger District**

Powell Ranger Station at Lolo Pass  
21200 Hwy 12 West  
Lolo, MT 59847  
208-942-3113

**Red River Ranger District**

Elk City Ranger Station  
300 American Road  
Elk City, ID 83525  
208-842-2245

**Moose Creek Ranger District**

Fenn Ranger Station  
831 Selway Road  
Kooskia, ID  
208-926-4258

**Salmon River Ranger District**

Slate Creek Ranger Station  
304 Slate Creek Road  
White Bird, ID 83554  
208-839-2211

Zone Trail updates can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nezperceclearwater/alerts-notice>

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