

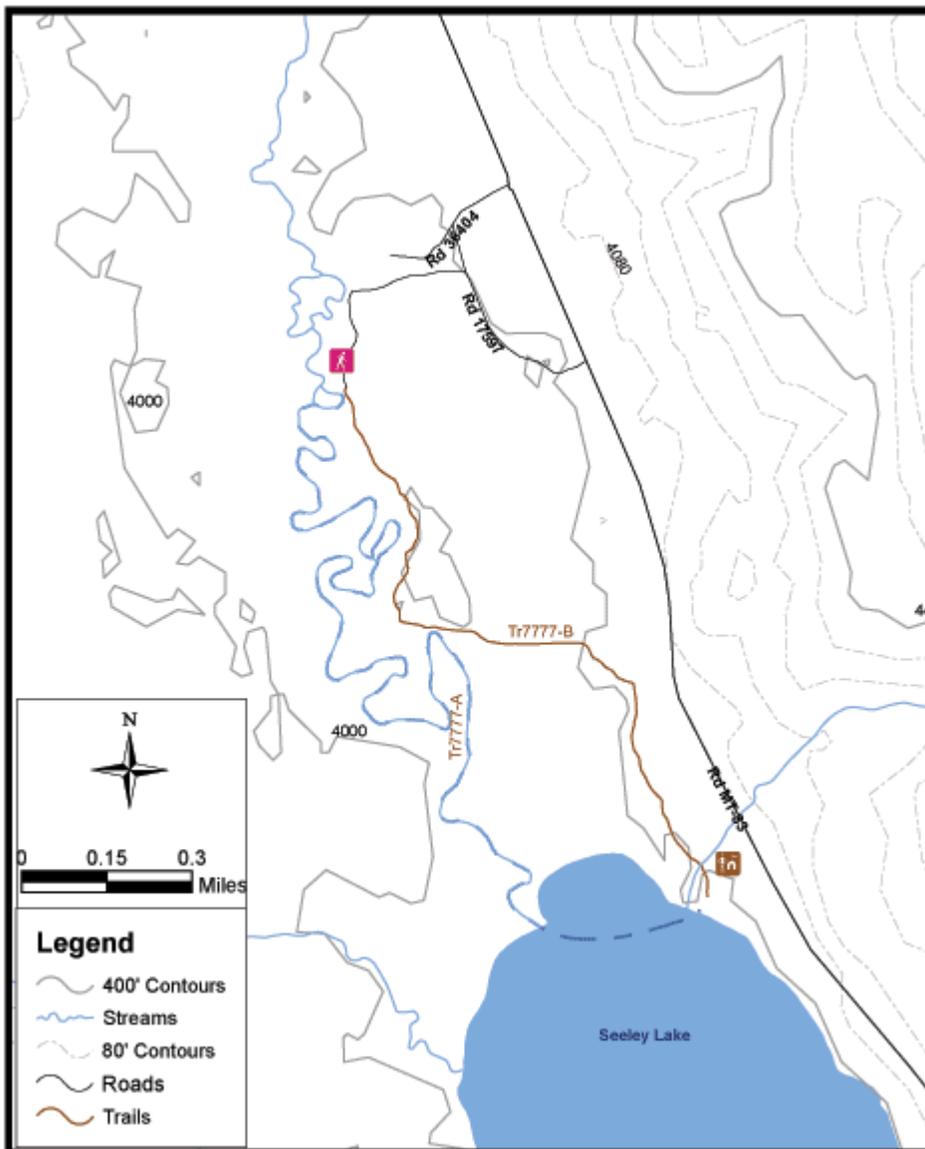
# Lolo National Forest Trails Seeley Lake Ranger District

## Clearwater River Canoe Trail #7777-A Extended Information

### Trail Attributes Table

Item	Remarks
Managed Use(s):	Canoe
Difficulty:	Easiest
Trail Length:	3.5 miles along canoe route (one-way); 1 mile hike to return to canoe launch.
Trail Termini:	Beginning - Canoe launch off of Forest Road #17597. Ending - Canoe landing at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station.
Trail Elevation:	At beginning/highest - 4000 ft. At end/lowest - 3993 ft.
Managed Use Seasons:	Late spring/summer/fall
Maintenance Frequency:	Yearly
Trip Type/Duration:	Short one-way canoe route going with current, takes about 2 hours; with 1 mile easy hike back to the canoe launch, or option for car shuttle back to the launch.
Trail Usage:	Moderate
Trailhead Facilities:	Parking for approximately 6 vehicles at the canoe launch and at the canoe landing; outhouses at the landing and the launch. Developed drinking water not available.
Trail Use Restrictions:	No-wake speed restriction for motorized watercraft.
Reference Maps:	Lolo NF Visitor Map, Seeley Lake Ranger District (East) Half. USGS Topographic Quadrangle: Seeley Lake West.
Map Location:	Section 17, T17N, R15W.
Associated Trails:	Canoe Trail Return #7777-B

# Trail Map



## Attractions and Considerations

The Clearwater River Canoe Trail offers excellent opportunities for bird and wildlife watching, sight-seeing, and photography and is one of the most popular "trails" on the Seeley Lake Ranger District.

Early morning is typically the best time to observe wildlife. To help you identify birds, bring along a pair of binoculars and a field guide. Sightings may include osprey, bald eagles, belted kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, common loons, red-necked grebes, yellow warblers, and a variety of other ducks and birds. A local "bird list" is available at the ranger station.

Mammals common to the river environment include white-tailed deer, moose, mountain lion, mink, muskrat, beaver, and an occasional otter. The fish living in the river and Seeley Lake include introduced species such as northern pike, large-mouth bass, perch, rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon, and native species such as westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Also, keep an eye out for western painted turtles, spotted frogs, and red-sided garter snakes.

Please do not disturb the wildlife!

## Trail Description

The canoe trail follows a slow-moving, meandering stretch of the Clearwater River upstream of Seeley Lake. The 3.5 mile distance, going with the slight current, can be canoed at a leisurely pace in about 2 hours. There are no rapids, but be on the lookout for downfall trees. The river empties into the northern end of Seeley Lake. From the mouth of the river, travel east to the Seeley Lake Ranger Station and the canoe take-out. The trail is suitable for canoes and touring kayaks. Motorized watercraft are allowed, but a no-wake speed limit is in effect for the river portion of the trail.

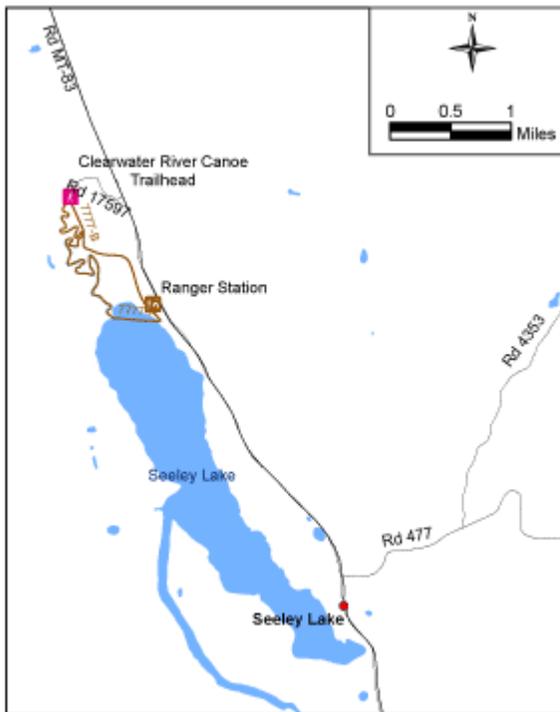
There is parking at the trailhead at the end of Forest Road #17597 and at the take-out area for approximately 6 vehicles; outdoor toilets are provided at both the launch and the take-out. Drinking water is not available.

You can take a one mile hiking trail back to the canoe trail trailhead, thus eliminating the need to shuttle vehicles.

## Access to Trail

Turn west off of Highway 83 approximately 3.7 miles north of the town of Seeley Lake onto Forest Road #17597; go 0.7 miles to the trailhead. (Road #17597 is about 1 mile north of the Seeley Lake Ranger Station). To access the take-out, turn into the Ranger Station compound and proceed to the south end of the Ranger Station building, then proceed east to the lake shore and take-out area.

## Access Map



## Reminders

Visitors are reminded to practice “Leave No Trace” techniques while canoeing, hiking and picnicking in the area. For details on this and other trail etiquette topics, visit our main trails page at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/recreation-trails>

## More Information

For current trail conditions and other trail information, contact the Seeley Lake Ranger Station at (406) 677-2233.

If you want to visit the ranger station, it is located off Highway 83, 3 miles north of the town of Seeley Lake, at mile marker 18. It is on the west side of the highway.