

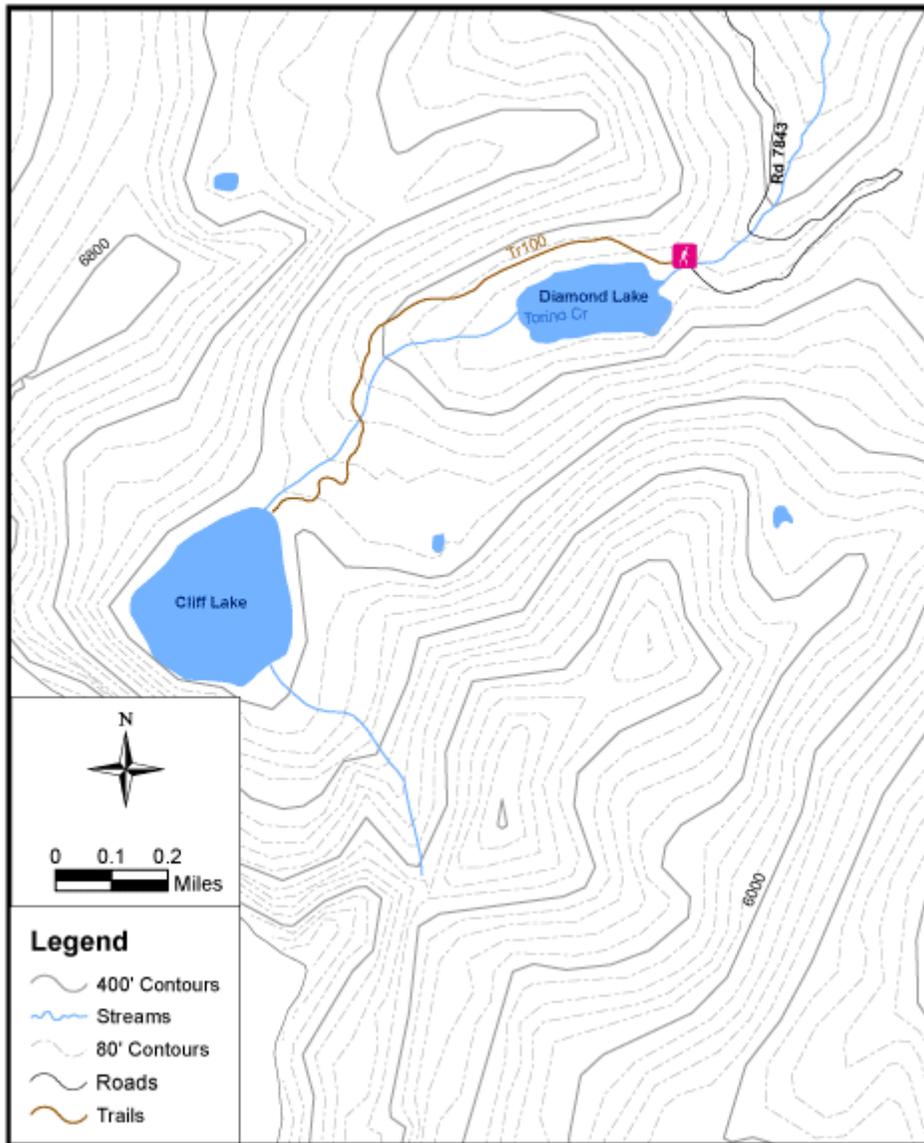
# Lolo National Forest Trails Superior Ranger District

## Cliff Lake Trail #100 Extended Information

### Trail Attributes Table

Item	Remarks
Managed Use(s):	Hiker
Difficulty:	Moderate due to uphill grades at higher elevation.
Trail Length:	1.2 miles (one-way).
Trail Termini:	Beginning - North side of Diamond Lake at old road bridge adjacent to parking area. Ending - Cliff lake.
Trail Elevation:	At beginning/lowest - 5400 ft. At end/highest - 6000 ft.
Managed Use Seasons:	Late spring/summer/fall
Maintenance Frequency:	Yearly
Trip Type/Duration:	Short day hike to Cliff Lake and back to trailhead at Diamond Lake. An undeveloped campsite is available at Cliff Lake for those desiring an overnight stay.
Trail Usage:	Moderate
Trailhead Facilities:	Parking for 5 to 6 cars; outhouse and undeveloped camp site at trailhead. Developed drinking water is not available.
Trail Use Restrictions:	Closed to all motorized vehicles; stock use is discouraged.
Reference Maps:	Lolo NF Visitor Map, West Half USGS Topographic Quadrangle: Torino Peak
Map Location:	Section 17, T16N, R28W
Associated Trails:	Diamond Lake Trail #56 - short lake access trail.

# Trail Map



## Attractions and Considerations

The Cliff Lake trail provides relatively quick access into one of the most picturesque alpine cirques on the Superior Ranger District. The scenic attractions include unobstructed views of Diamond Lake, Torino Peak, and Eagle Cliff Mountain from an open avalanche point at the west end of Diamond Lake. The stark, rugged scenery at Cliff Lake is stunning; Cliff Lake (42 acres in size) also provides fishing opportunities. There are undeveloped campsites located at both Diamond Lake (the starting point for the Cliff Lake Trail) and at Cliff Lake. Drinking water is not provided.

## Trail Description

The Cliff Lake Trail actually starts near the waterfall at the outlet of Diamond Lake. From the outlet at Diamond Lake, the trail follows an old logging road which parallels above the north side of Diamond Lake. At the end of this road, the actual foot trail becomes evident as it leaves the road and descends to a viewpoint at the western end of Diamond Lake.

From this point, the trail begins a steady, gradual climb towards the Cliff Lake basin. The trail proceeds through an avalanche path typified by dwarfed and younger trees. Vegetation along this portion of the route is characterized by subalpine and alpine species. A variety of wildflowers adds to the beauty of this area.

The trail contains several short, steep rocky sections as it climbs from the west end of Diamond Lake. Because portions of the trail parallel the outlet stream from Cliff Lake, some of these rocky areas are likely to be wet and slippery. Several marshy sections have been covered with boardwalk planking and should pose no serious problem to foot travelers.

The trail terminates at a campsite along the northern shore of Cliff Lake. From this vantage point, a large snowfield can be viewed along the southern slope of the lake. It is not unusual for this snowfield to persist through the summer months without completely melting. The lake is flanked on three sides by steep slopes. Eagle-Cliff Mountain, the second highest mountain in Mineral County, can be readily distinguished from the surrounding peaks with the help of a topographic map.

Because of the accessibility of both Diamond Lake and Cliff Lake, it is a popular trip for hikers and backpackers. Remember that the fragile soils and vegetation of these alpine regions are easily damaged. Travel lightly in the backcountry and "pack out" whatever refuse you "pack in."

## Access to Trail

Travel due west of the Superior interchange on the Southside Frontage Road 69 for 4.9 miles to the junction of Dry Creek Road 342. Turn west onto the Dry Creek Road and drive 9.5 miles to the junction of Diamond Lake Road 7843. Turn south and drive 4.1 miles to Diamond Lake. There is ample parking in this area. Trail #100 starts on the west side of the bridge.

## Access Map



## Reminders

Visitors are reminded to practice “Leave No Trace” and “Leave No Weeds” techniques. 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 Superior Ranger Station at (406) 822-4233, located at 209 West Riverside Avenue in Superior, Montana.

To visit the ranger station:

**Driving from the west on I-90**, take the Superior off-ramp, take a left at the stop sign and drive into town a few blocks. Just before the bridge, turn left onto West Riverside Avenue, go two blocks down and the ranger station is on the left hand side.

**Driving from the east on I-90**, take the Superior off-ramp, take a left at the stop sign. At the next stop sign, turn right. Just before the bridge, turn left onto West Riverside Avenue, go two blocks down and the ranger station is on the left hand side.