



Trio Lakes (Middle):

Hoodoo Pass Option:

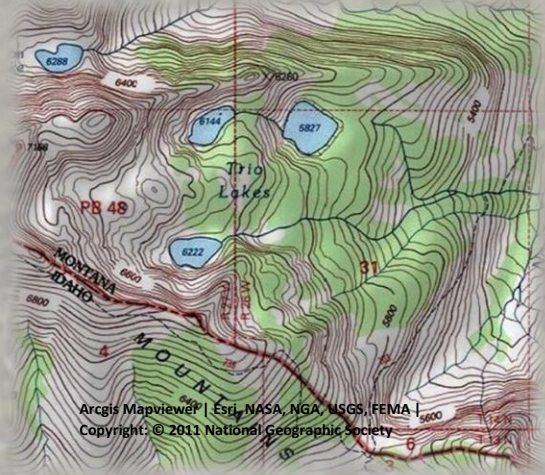
Difficulty: *Challenger*

Distance: *7.0 miles*

Trailhead Elevation: *5950 feet*; Trailhead Lat/Long: *46°58'30.52"N / 115° 1'32.60"W*

Lake Elevation: *6240 feet*; Lake Lat/Long: *46°56'5.81"N / 114°56'40.35"W*

Getting There: *At Superior, take Diamond Road east past the Town Pump Gas Station for 6 miles; passing the Bark mill and the Magone Ranches to the end of the pavement where the road changes to Trout Creek Road (#250). Continue up Trout Creek Road (~19 miles) until you top out on Hoodoo Pass on the Idaho/Montana border.*



Middle Trio Lake 1980

Take the stateline trail #738 for 4.5 miles to the split where the left fork heads down to the saddle between Pearl and Dalton Lake. Stay right on #738 as it passes above Dalton Lake and heads up to 7,250 feet and a view of the

Middle and Upper Trio's. Proceed down the trail for about 1/3 mile to another overlook of the Upper Trio Lake.

To your left is a marginal trail that angles down to the basin and stream that empties into the Middle Trio. The trail is well defined at the top but tends to fade out in the basin but follow the least path of resistance along the stream and once above the lake, work to the right side of the lake through the trees. Even though the distance is a bit over 7 miles, it is a hard route as there are significant elevation changes across the stateline trail and water is not readily available. If it is a hot day, the hike can be pretty hard.





Heart Lake Trailhead Option:

Difficulty: *Challenger*

Distance: *7.5 miles*

Trailhead Elevation: *4675 feet; Trailhead Lat/Long:* *46°59'0.91"N / 114°58'41.86"W*

Lake Elevation: *5780 feet; Lake Lat/Long:* *46°54'59.31"N / 114°56'10.57"W*



Getting There: *At Superior, take Diamond Road east past the Town Pump Gas Station for 6 miles; passing the Bark mill and the Magone Ranches to the end of the pavement where the road changes to Trout Creek Road (#250). Continue up Trout Creek Road (~14 miles) to the Heart Lake Trailhead. There is a vault toilet and parking for over 20 vehicles. Trail #171 takes off on the far side of the parking area. The trail wanders through the bottoms, gradually climbing up the valley for 2+ miles. Then the trail turns up the hill and climbs much steeper for the next 3/4 mile to Heart Lake. Cross the outlet onto trail #175 and continue around Heart Lake to the far end. The trail continues to climb and switchback up the hill for 1 mile to Pearl Lake.*

Continue around

Pearl Lake to the low saddle overlooking Dalton Lake. Turn right and follow the trail up the ridge to stateline trail #738. There is a little bit of a break above Dalton Lake but then the trail continues to climb to the high point of 7,250 ft. From this high point, proceed down the trail for about 1/3 mile to another overlook of the Upper Trio Lake.



To your left is a marginal trail that angles down to the basin and stream that empties into the Middle Trio. The trail is well defined at the top but tends to fade out in the basin but follow the least path of resistance along the stream and once above the lake, work to the right side of the lake through the trees. This route is a bit longer than the Hoodoo Pass route with water available at least to Pearl Lake but you are climbing steadily





(mostly) for 6 miles. Kind of a pick your poison when hiking from the Trout Creek side. The hike from Heart Lake to the high point is a bit of a grind if completing it in a day with a full pack.

At the Lake: *There are no fish in the lake, and I do not recall any campsites.*

The only time I have been to this lake is in early June 1980. Chuck & Jerry Bauer and I rode our motorcycles over to the high point and dropped straight down the hill into the basin and

followed the stream bed to the lake. Actually, Chuck slipped standing on edge of a big snowbank at the high point and slid 100 yards down the hill; that is why we went that route. We then climbed up to the dividing ridge above Dalton Lake and hiked it back to our motorcycles.

I wish I had taken more pictures that day as the ridgeline really provides a unique view of Dalton Lake and down Fletcher Gulch to the North Fork of Fish Creek. The climb up the ridge line was super steep in places. Maybe in the future I will be able to revisit the lake and take more pictures. There is a temptation to swing back off the ridge down to Dalton Lake. This is a bad idea as the brush is 10 feet tall and it is steep; it is definitely goat country. A friend from Superior had tried that route one time and from what he said, it was not a good route to go from Dalton to the Lower Trio.



Middle Trio Lake 1980

The Middle Trio can also be accessed via the North Fork of Fish Creek or Goose Creek, but I chose not to create full descriptions at this time.



From the Lower Trio Lake, I would hike to the Upper Lake and then over the low saddle. In 2025, I climbed to the dividing ridge with Fletcher Gulch, down the ridge and dropped into the Lower Lake. It is a tough climb out of the lake and route to the lower lake is full of brush and deadfall. A very hard go, just better to go the Upper Lake then cut across the low saddle.





Lakes of the Great Burn & More

