



Eagle Peak:

State Line Road 391 Option:

Difficulty: *Classic*

Distance: 2.5 miles

Trailhead Elevation: 6415 feet; Trailhead Lat/Long: 47°15'30.65"N / 115°22'35.83"W

Summit Elevation: 7333 feet; Summit Lat/Long: 47°16'59.44"N / 115°22'58.69"W

Getting There: *The best route to get to the trailhead is to take the Little Joe Road (#282) out of*

St. Regis and then take the state line road (#391) north at the Idaho / Montana summit. Follow this road for approximately 5.5 miles. The trailhead is about a mile past the Square Lake trailhead. The trailhead for trail #250 is on the shoulder of Ward Peak and has signage (maybe gone). There is a wide spot just back from that point or you can park at another pullout just down the road. There is another road from the Idaho side that connects just down from there to turn around. The state line road (#391) gets considerably narrower and rougher at that point.



Take the Ward Peak trail (#250) straight up the hill from the road. The trail is obvious as there has been motorized traffic up the first 100 yards or so in the past. At about the 1/2-mile mark there will be a primitive trail to the left that heads back down towards the road; stay right. Not long after there is another split; with the right (upper) trail heading up to Ward Peak.



Skye near summit



Trail sign at Saddle

The lower trail (#250) is the Up Up Mountain ridge trail that will take you down to the intersection of trail #280 coming out of Ward Creek, over to Eagle and Gold peaks and eventually to the road to Up Up Lookout. The trail drops moderately to the saddle between Eagle & Ward Peaks. You will intersect trail #280 coming out of Hub Lake. Stay straight and head up the hill. It is over 700 vertical feet to the summit with little relief along the way.





Ward Creek Trailhead Option:

Difficulty: *Challenger*

Distance: *5.0 miles*

Trailhead Elevation: *4015 feet*; **Trailhead Lat/Long:** *47°17'12.16"N / 115°20'19.52"W*

Summit Elevation: *7333 feet*; **Summit Lat/Long:** *47°16'59.44"N / 115°22'58.69"W*

Getting There: *Take the Ward Creek Road (#889) exit off I-90. The exit is only accessible from the East bound lanes and sits right on a sharp corner, if not paying attention you could miss it. Drive (~6 miles) to a switchback and bridge across Ward Creek where there is a sign for the trailhead and ample parking. Stay on the main road, you will pass the road that leads to Up Up Lookout at mile 3. The lookout is rentable, but not recommended for small children for safety reasons.*



Eagle Peak from Ward Peak



Up Up Lookout Tower

Trail (#262) starts out meandering through the bottoms and some cedar groves. The trail climbs moderately and after a mile or so you will get to a nice set of waterfalls. The trail splits at this point with trail #262 turning left steeply up the hill and back towards the state line; there is (was) a sign at the intersection. This is not a shortcut to Hazel Lake, nor does it go to Square Lake. Rather it ends up on the state line road (#391) about ¼ mile from the Square Lake trailhead. You can see portions of it along the hillside across the valley if you look closely.

Continue straight on trail #280 that heads back along the hillside to a couple of switchbacks before the trail lines out for Hazel Lake. The trail has plenty of water for your dog, so no need to carry extra. Hazel Lake is about 3 miles from the trailhead. From Hazel Lake continue up the main trail. It is less than a mile up to Hub Lake with an elevation gain of less than 400 feet. The trail takes a sharp dip for a couple hundred yards to cross the Hub Lake outlet creek and then immediately goes back up and then quickly arrives at the lake.



Skye on the Summit





Eagle Peak from Trail 262

Continue around the right side of Hub Lake for the tough climb up to the saddle between Ward and Eagle Peaks. It is less than a mile, but it is a steep and rocky trail. Don't forget to walk over to the old mine opening that is a couple hundred feet up the hill from Hub Lake. Once at the saddle where trail #280 intersects with trail #250 turn right and head up towards Eagle Peak. You are still over 700 vertical feet from the summit, so it is a bit of a slog after climbing up from Hub Lake. There is very little relief over the distance to the summit. This is a tough route.

Up Up Mountain Trailhead Option:

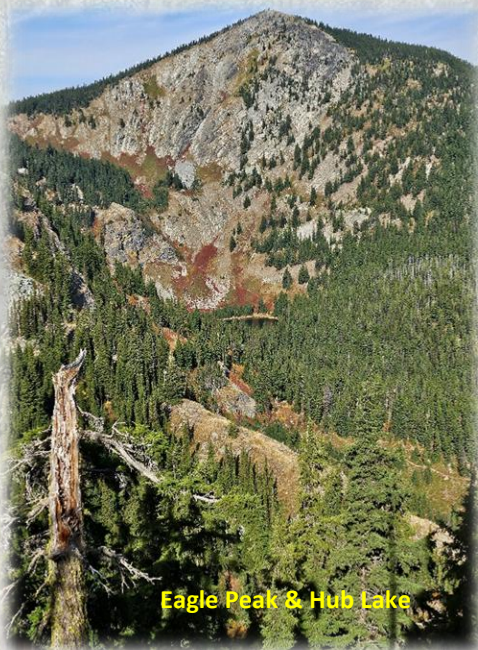
Difficulty: Classic

Distance: 4.0 miles

Trailhead Elevation: 5700 feet; **Trailhead Lat/Long:** 47°18'43.03"N / 115°21'9.10"W

Summit Elevation: 7333 feet; **Summit Lat/Long:** 47°16'59.44"N / 115°22'58.69"W

Getting There: Take the Ward Creek Road (# 889) exit off I-90. The exit is only accessible from the East bound lanes and sits right on a sharp corner, if not paying attention you could miss it. Drive (~3 miles) to Road 3816. There is signage for the lookout. Stay on this decent road for about 11 miles to the trailhead for Trail #250, there is a hiking marker in addition to a lookout marker. The trailhead is a small level pull/back in with room for a tent and vehicle.



Eagle Peak & Hub Lake



Trail Sign at Saddle





The trail immediately heads steeply up the ridge for a couple hundred yards before easing up a bit as it switchbacks up the ridge for about a mile. The trail then flattens out and follows along the ridgeline for another 3/4 miles, staying mostly on the right side. As the trail approaches Gold Peak, it swings over to the left side of the ridge and descends into the upper part of the small basin below Gold Peak. There is a small pond and water source there at mile 2.75. This is the only water source that I am aware of between the trailhead and the state line road #391.



Clear Lake in the Distance

The trail then climbs back up to the gentle ridge between Gold and Eagle Peaks. Take the time to climb to the top of Gold Peak. The trail to the summit takes off to the right of the meadow on the ridge top. It is a decent trail that takes you directly to the summit, a distance of 1 1/4 mile. From that meadow, follow the ridge trail toward Eagle Peak. It is only about half the vertical distance for the final push up as opposed to the coming up from saddle between Ward and Eagle Peaks.

On the Summit: *The summit has a large rock cairn, but haven't found a USGS Survey marker or benchmark. Much like Ward Peak, the views in all directions are outstanding with the North Side of Ward Peak being very prominent. You can also see Hub, Mary and Hazel Lakes from the summit, but not Square or Ward Peak Lakes. In addition, Clear Lake to the right of Ward Peak is also visible. Eagle Peak is about 20 feet taller than Ward Peak.*

Bonus Route – Climb Ward, Eagle & Gold Peaks: *It is possible to make all three summits starting at the Ward Creek Trailhead (Hazel Lake Trailhead) in a day. Hike past Hazel and Hub Lakes to the saddle connecting in with trail #250. I would climb Ward Peak first and then Eagle and Gold. You still have to climb Eagle Peak twice but coming from Gold Peak the elevation gain is half as from the saddle. This is more than 15 miles with over 4,600 one-way vertical gain during the day, with a good chunk of the trail without any water sources. A very tough go at best.*

An alternative route when coming back from Gold Peak is to head to Eagle Peak Lake then climb up over the low ridge that is the East Ridge of Eagle Peak and make your way down to Hub Lake. You would get to visit a lake that most don't and avoid the climb over Eagle Peak. This cut-off to Hub Lake is all cross-country with steep slopes and some brush & deadfall.

