



Pear Lake:

Thompson Pass Option:

Difficulty: Classic

Distance: 5.25 miles

Trailhead Elevation: 4850 feet; Trailhead Lat/Long: 47°34'37.42"N / 115°43'0.10"W

Lake Elevation: 6180 feet; Lake Lat/Long: 47°32'26.95"N / 115°44'21.26"W



ArcGIS Mapviewer | Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
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Getting There: At the top of Thompson Pass trail #404 takes off just on the Montana side of the pass. There is an interpretive sign there where the trail takes off from the parking lot. The trail starts flat as you walk on the remnants of an old road and along the old canal. The canal used to bring water from Montana to the mining activities on the Idaho side of the crest. It is about a mile of good walking and then you turn up the hill into a series of switchbacks. After a bit the trail lines out at a good grade for about 1.5 miles before you top out and drop

down a grade for a bit before going uphill again; but not nearly at the same grade.

Except for a rocky outcrop and overlook, the entire trail is under the forest canopy and well shaded. There isn't any water along the entire route until just before Lower Blossum Lake, so bring enough water for yourself and your dog. Cross over the outlet and head along the lower lake on a good trail. Stay left on trail #404 at the half mile mark where



Pear Lake 2021





the left fork goes to Pear Lake and the right (trail #537) heads over to Upper Blossom Lake. The trail (#404) does climb a good bit with a couple of switchbacks as you pass over ridge from the Blossum Lake drainage into the upper portion of the Glidden Gulch but is still a pleasant hike. The trail eventually heads downhill to the lake. Pear Lake is a mile from the junction to Upper Blossom Lake. There is no water between Blossum and Pear Lake.

Cooper Pass Option:

Difficulty: *Classic*

Distance: *2.25 miles*

Trailhead Elevation: *5640 feet; Trailhead Lat/Long:*

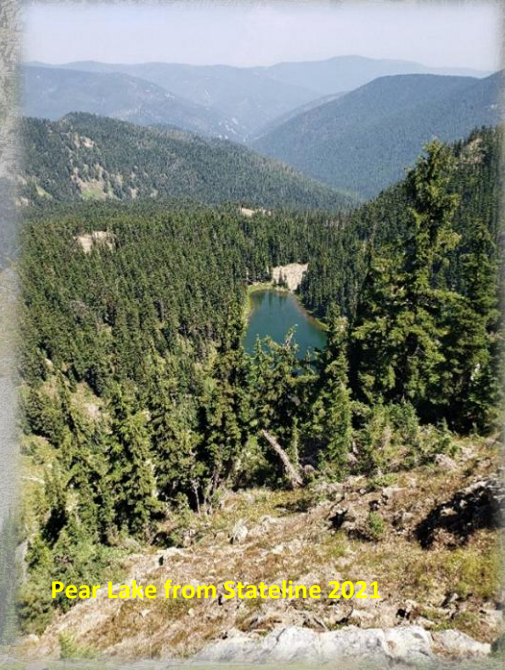
47°31'51.56"N / 115°42'55.12"W

Lake Elevation: *6180 feet; Lake Lat/Long:*

47°32'26.95"N / 115°44'21.26"W

Getting There: *At Head up past Burke towards Cooper*

Pass from Wallace, Idaho, stay on the main road #7623 on the right of the power station. The unmarked trailhead (with limited parking) is about 1/3 of a mile past the turn to Lower Glidden Lake. There is a 4x4 trail with a cement barrier that angles up from the main road. Head up this trail for about 1/4 mile to Glidden Pass, then hang a left and head west/northwest on trail #404. This intersection is unmarked, but obvious. Going to the right will take you over to Cooper Pass and Upper Glidden Lake; I have hiked this portion to Cooper Pass, and it traverses to the pass, but does not go to the top of the ridge as depicted on the topo maps.



Pear Lake from Stateline 2021



Pear Lake 2024

After a brief stroll, the trail will consistently climb for the next mile. You do get some good views of both Glidden Lakes with Stevens Peak in the background. After a mile or so the trail heads down the hill to give you a bit of a break, at the bottom you are close to the ridgeline and are able to walk over (Montana side) and view the small lake in that drainage before the trail heads back uphill. The trail then becomes a series of rollers for about a 1/3 mile before reaching the intersection leading down to Pear Lake. The intersection is marked by a

sign on the ground and a small red reflector on a snag. It is about a 300-foot descent down the trail to the lake.





NOTE: The trail from Cooper Pass is open to motorcycles, it appears to be a popular route to Granite Peak as I have met motorcycles on the trail a couple of times.



Pear Lake 2021

At the Lake: The lake is nice with at least 3 well established camping sites. Westslope Cutthroat are stocked every 5-7 years; but I have not fished this lake. I have been there a couple times with minimal other hikers, but it looks to get substantial traffic from Blossom Lakes or Cooper Pass as the campsites are well-worn. If you are planning on camping at the lake early in the summer, some of the campsites along the lakeshore will be underwater. I think the Cooper Pass trailhead gets more traffic to the lake than Thompson Pass due to half the hiking

distance. I have been over Cooper Pass a number of times and there are always vehicles at the trailhead.

Alternative Route 1 – Burke: I rode my motorcycle from the power station trailhead (parking area) near Burke up the extremely rocky road to the Stateline Trail in 2021. This was about 5.5 miles one way; the road will beat you up with all the rock. The lower sections of the road are basically all river rock, but the whole road is very rocky. I eventually rode for a mile on a nice single track when the road ended. I was stopped directly above Blossom Lakes by a very steep and rocky section that I couldn't make with the bike I had and my bad hip. It was then just a 1.25-mile hike to Pear Lake, connecting with trail #404.



Pear Lake 2023



Pear Lake 2024





Lakes of the Great Burn & More



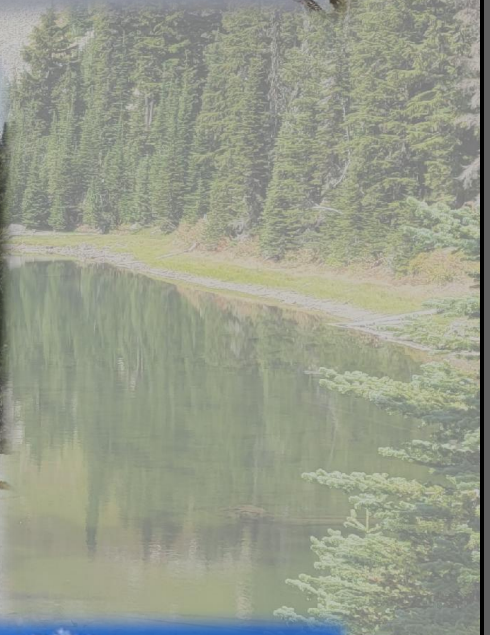
Pear Lake 2025



Pear Lake 2025



Pear Lake 2025



Pear Lake 2025



Pear Lake 2025

