



Dalton Lake:

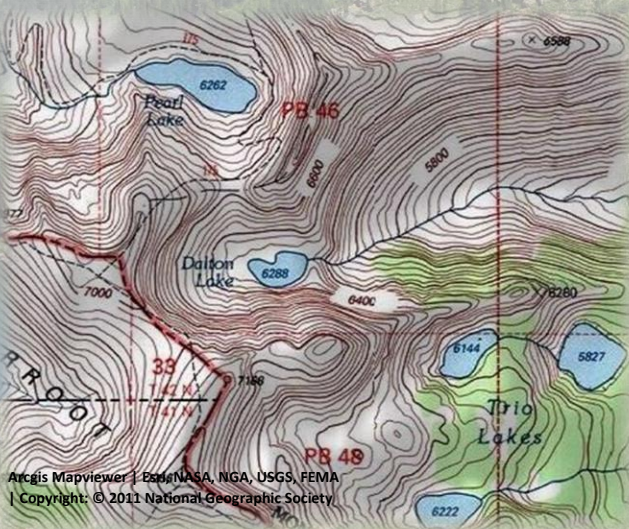
Hoodoo Pass Option:

Difficulty: Classic

Distance: 5.5 miles

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

Lake Elevation: 6280 feet; Lake Lat/Long: 46°56'16.62"N / 114°57'16.50"W

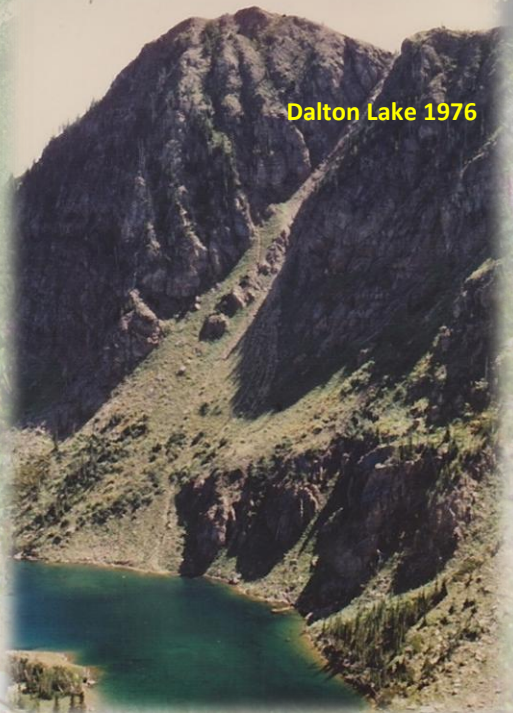


ArcGIS Mapviewer | Data: NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
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Getting There: At Superior, take Diamond Road east past the Town Pump Gas Station for 6 miles; passing the Bark mill and the Magone Ranches to the end of the pavement where the road changes to Trout

Creek Road (#250). Continue up Trout Creek Road (~19 miles) until you top out on Hoodoo Pass on the Idaho/Montana border. Take state line trail #738 for 4.5 miles to the split where the left fork (Trail #175) heads down to the saddle between Pearl and Dalton Lake then bear right down to Dalton Lake.

The total distance to the lake is 5.5 miles. There is no water along this route so plan accordingly. Early in the summer there are a few snowbanks available, but late in the summer they all but disappear.



Dalton Lake 1976





Colter, Dalton Lake 2009

Heart/Pearl Lake Option:

Distance: 5.0 miles

Trailhead Elevation: 4675 feet; **Trailhead**

Lat/Long: 46°59'0.91"N / 114°58'41.86"W

Lake Elevation: 6280 feet; **Lake Lat/Long:**

46°56'16.62"N / 114°57'16.50"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 there 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 ¾ 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 and over the low saddle between the 2 lakes for a total of 5 miles.



Dalton Lake 2024

Even though the distance on the Heart/Pearl Lake option is shorter, I still prefer hiking along the state line. This is the route we used to ride our motorcycles and the views are great. It only took us 20 minutes to ride from Hoodoo Pass to the drop into the saddle. I believe Rod Ebelt owned the record of less than 15 minutes to ride the single track back to Hoodoo.



Dalton Lake 1976

At the Lake: There are 2 good campsites at Dalton Lake, one by the outlet and then another by the prominent rock outcrop. I have seen a tent set up on the large snowfield on the West side of the





Lakes of the Great Burn & More



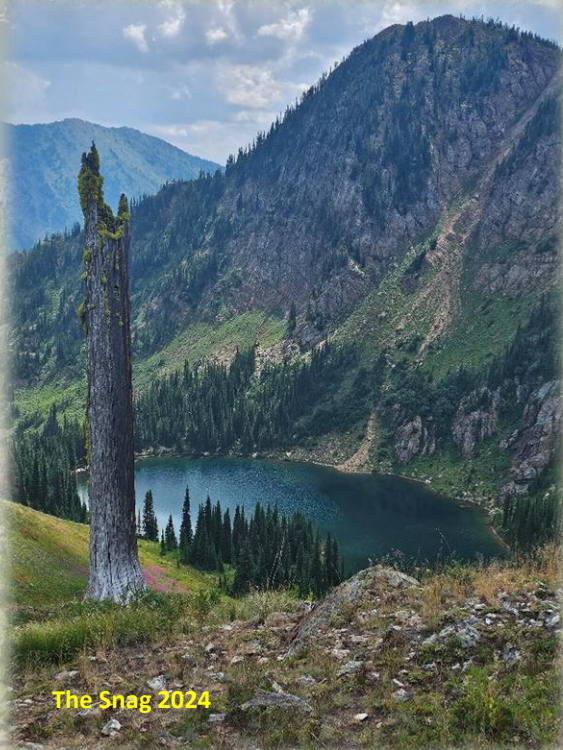
**Dalton Lake 1980,
Post Mt St Helens**

lake. Cutthroats are stocked every 7 or so years, but the last time I camped at the lake I only caught a single fish. As of 2023, there was some good fishing, another instance of looking at the stocking reports. Pearl / Dalton lakes are probably the most visited by me outside of the Bonanza Lakes.

Dalton Lake, like Pearl Lake, used to be one of the premier fishing lakes in the 70's and early 80's along the state line. It is not a very big lake but held quite a lot of fish at the time. It wasn't uncommon to limit out without a lot of effort. Usually, the fish were around 12 inches but 15+ inches were occasionally caught. In the 60's and 70's Fish & Game used to stock thousands of fish in these mountain lakes, but



The Snag 1987



The Snag 2024

nowadays it is only a couple hundred every 5-7 years.

Swimming is good in the lake and the rock outcrop provides a great place to jump or dive in. The entire shoreline is accessible for fishing. There are goats in the area so don't be surprised if some come down from the cliffs to hang out with you. I have found that these goats are a bit shyer than the ones at Heart/Pearl.

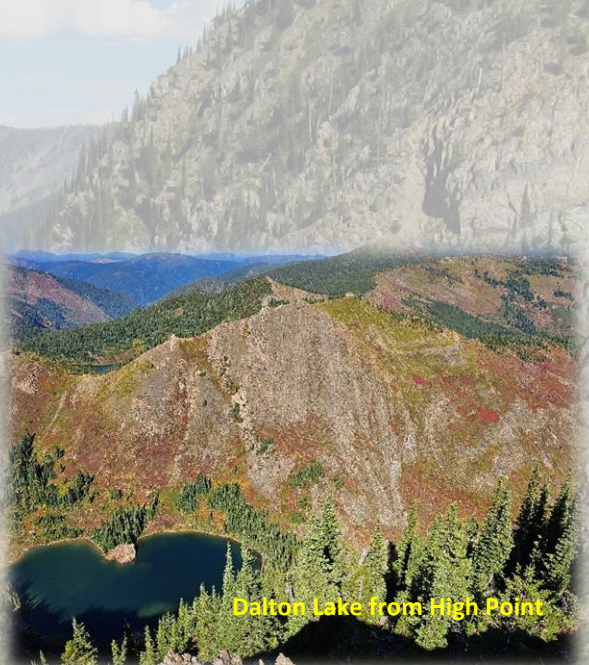




Lakes of the Great Burn & More



Dalton Lake from High Point 2024



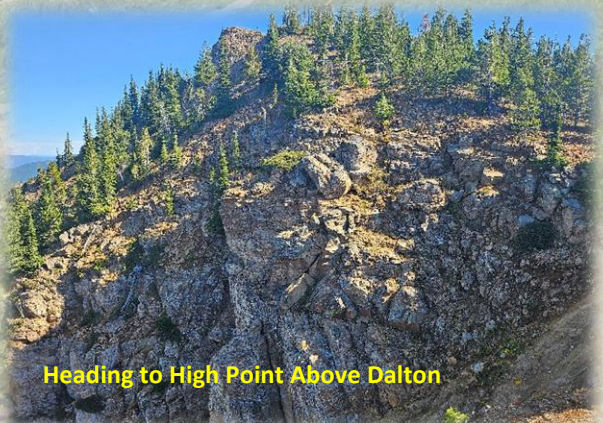
Dalton Lake from High Point



Dalton Lake 2024



Dalton Lake Oct 6, 2023



Heading to High Point Above Dalton



Dalton Lake 2016





Lakes of the Great Burn & More



Dalton Lake 2024



Dalton Lake 2024



Dalton Lake 2024



Dalton Lake 2024



Dalton Lake 2024

