

Worden Lake



Description: Worden Lake is a small (9.1 acres), remote glacial cirque lake, located within designated Wilderness in the Rattlesnake Creek drainage near Missoula at ~ 6,700 ft elevation. To increase storage volume, the lake has been artificially impounded by a dam at the outlet. This structure elevates the normal surface water elevation, but may also increase annual water level fluctuations.

Location: T15N, R18W, Section 30; Latitude N47.0282°, Longitude W113.9260°; Nearest Town: Missoula, MT
Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Missoula Ranger District). Worden Lake lies near the center of the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area at the head of Lake Creek.

Access: Although this lake is geographically close to the city of Missoula, access is difficult. There are several USFS routes from which to choose. Route distance and difficulty vary, but all require non-motorized travel. Common starting points are the trailheads at West Fork Gold Creek (Trail # 52), Ravine Creek in lower Grant Creek (Trail # 34), or in lower Rattlesnake Creek at the main Rattlesnake National Recreation Area trailhead (Gated Road #99). Please refer to USFS maps for specific travel routes and connecting trail numbers. Total travel distance from trailheads to lake ranges from 8-16 miles.

Camp Sites and Use: Worden Lake lies in a remote setting that receives light use. There is an established trail to the lake, a trail around about half of the lake, and two fire-rings. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is essential, as this lake lies within designated Wilderness.

Angling Opportunity: Worden Lake supports a westslope cutthroat trout population that has abundant natural reproduction. Shoreline topography and access lend well to shoreline angling along most of the lake perimeter.

Stocking History: Worden Lake has been stocked several times with westslope cutthroat trout. The most recent plant was in 1978. Since the population is apparently self-sustaining, no future stocking is planned.

Angling Pressure: Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys in 2005-2009 was low and is estimated to be < 50 angler-days per year.

Other Nearby Lakes: There are four lakes in the immediate vicinity of Worden Lake. Carter Lake (~ 0.6 mi east) and McKinley Lake (~ 0.8 mi south) are both fish-bearing and can be reached via USFS Trail #534. Roosevelt Lake (~ 0.8 mi southeast) and Rattlesnake Lake #6 (~ 0.4 mi southeast) are both fishless. Rattlesnake Lake #6 lies just off USFS Trail #534, but access to Roosevelt Lake requires a ~0.2 mi, steep off-trail hike from this trail.



**Montana Fish,
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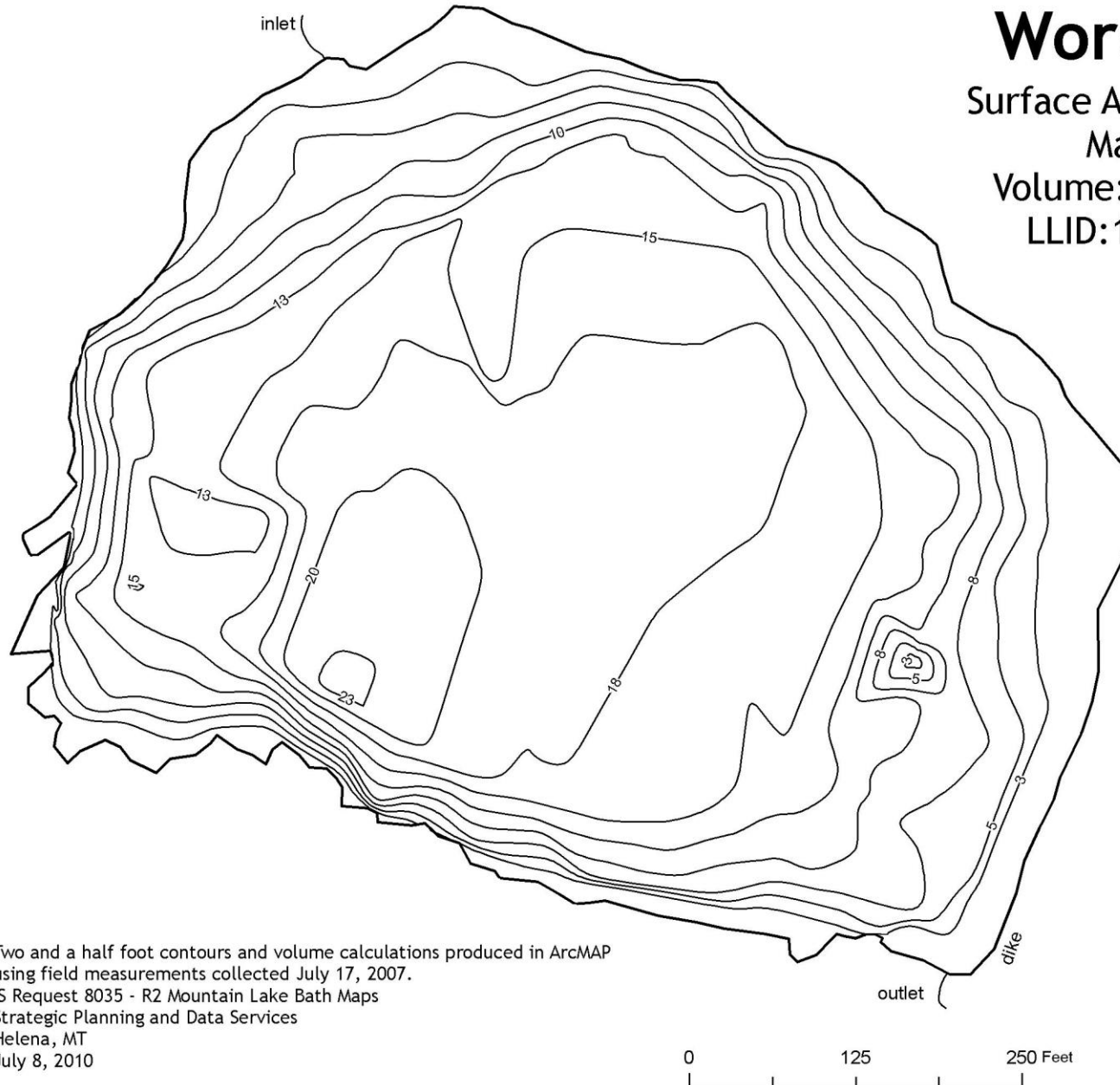
Worden Lake

Surface Area: 9.1 acres

Max Depth: 23 ft

Volume: 112 acre-feet

LLID:1139260470282



Two and a half foot contours and volume calculations produced in ArcMAP
using field measurements collected July 17, 2007.
IS Request 8035 - R2 Mountain Lake Bath Maps
Strategic Planning and Data Services
Helena, MT
July 8, 2010

