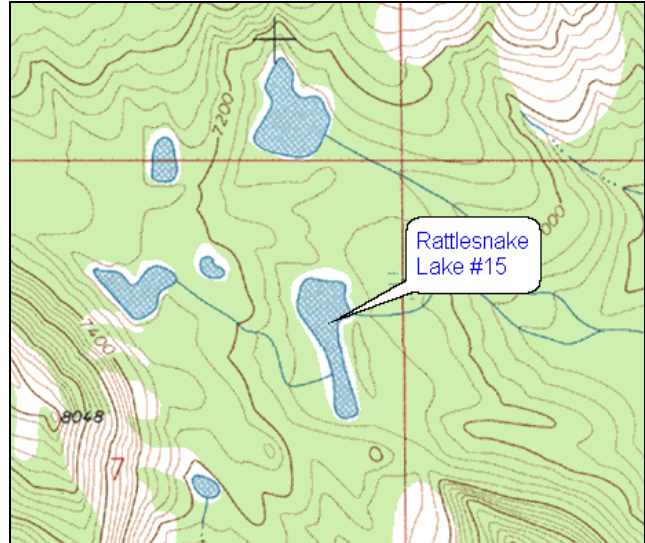


Rattlesnake Lake #15



Description: Rattlesnake Lake #15 is a small (5.6 acres), very remote, sub-alpine lake located within designated Wilderness in the Rattlesnake Creek drainage near Missoula at 7,102 ft elevation

Location: T15N, R18W, Section 7; Latitude N47.0764°, Longitude W113.9156°; Nearest Town: Missoula, MT. Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Missoula Ranger District). Rattlesnake Lake #15 lies within the “Five Lakes Basin” portion of the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area.

Access: Although the lake is geographically close to the city of Missoula, access is very difficult and requires substantial off-trail travel through steep terrain. 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 to reach the upper Rattlesnake basin on USFS Trail #515. From the end of this trail, access will require a ~ 2.5 mi off-trail climb of ~ 1,100 ft to reach the lake. Total travel distance from USFS trailheads ranges from 9-17 miles. There may also be shorter, alternative routes to this lake through the Flathead Indian Reservation from the northwest.

Camp Sites and Use: Rattlesnake Lake #15 lies in a remote setting that receives very light use. There are no established trails to the lake and no campsites. ‘Leave no trace’ camping and recreating is essential, as this lake lies within designated Wilderness.

Angling Opportunity: Rattlesnake Lake #15 supports an abundant westslope cutthroat trout population with consistent natural reproduction. Shoreline topography allows for angling along most of the lake perimeter.

Stocking History: This lake was historically stocked with westslope cutthroat trout, but has not been planted in recent decades. The lake supports an abundant, self-sustaining trout population, so no future stocking is planned.

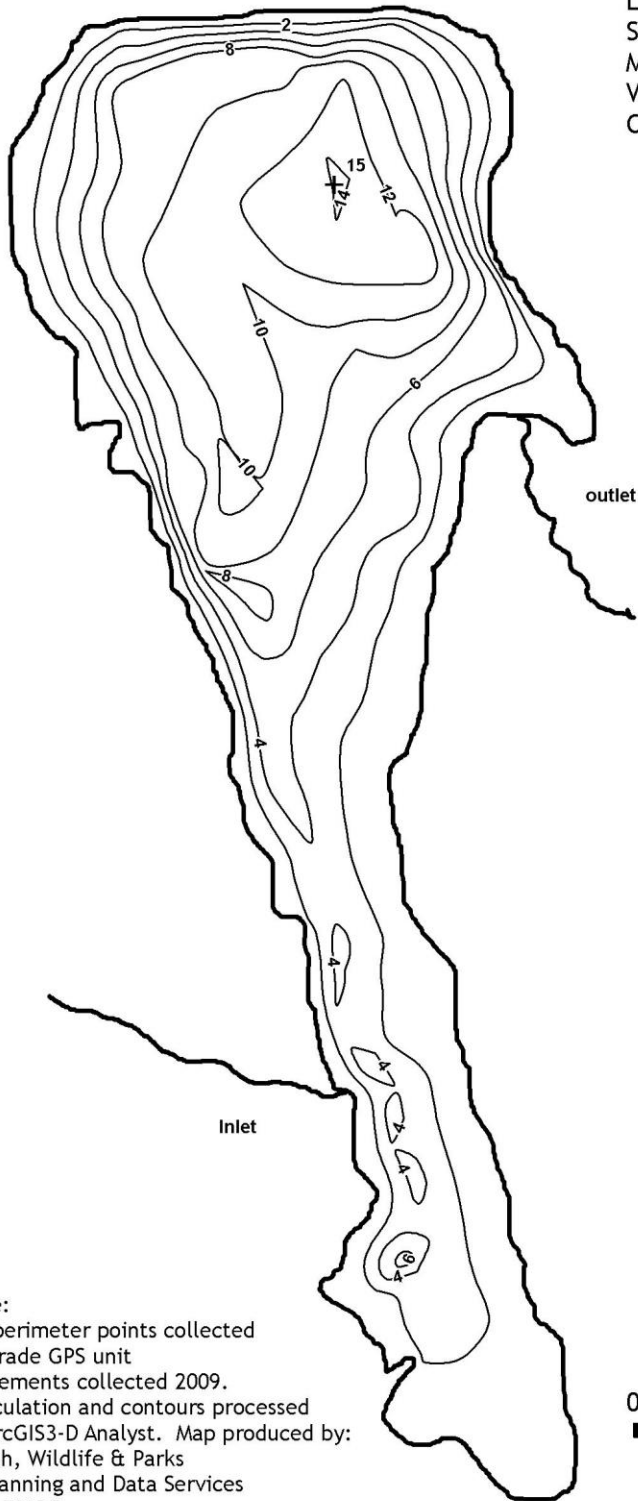
Angling Pressure: Due to difficult access, angling pressure is very light (likely < 20 angler-days per year).

Other Nearby Lakes: There are five other lakes (> 1 acre) within 0.75 mile in the “Five Lakes Basin” area where Rattlesnake Lake #15 lies. One of these, Rattlesnake Lake #17, supports a fish population. McLeod Lake (Rattlesnake Lake #22) also supports fish and lies ~ 1 mile to the north. Travel to these lakes will require off-trail hiking in steep terrain.

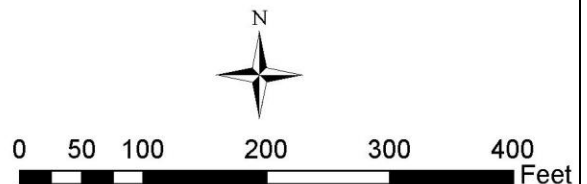


Rattlesnake Lake #15

LLID: 1139150470763
Surface Area: 5.58 acres
Max Depth: 15 feet
Volume: 31.4 acre-feet
Contour Interval: 2ft



Data Source:
Depth and perimeter points collected
with field grade GPS unit
and measurements collected 2009.
Volume calculation and contours processed
with ESRI ArcGIS3-D Analyst. Map produced by:
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Strategic Planning and Data Services
Helena, MT 59620
January 7, 2010 - ASP
IS Request 7756



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Wildlife & Parks**