

Lower Twin Lake



Description: Lower Twin Lake is a moderate-sized (9.8 acres), glacial cirque lake located at the head of the High Falls Creek drainage (Rattlesnake Creek tributary) at ~ 7,065 ft elevation. To increase storage volume, the lake was artificially impounded by a dam at the outlet. The dam is no longer maintained. This structure elevates the normal surface water elevation, but also contribute to greater annual water level fluctuations. Lower Twin Lake is capable of supporting fish, but none are currently present.

Location: T15N, R18W, Section 31; Latitude N47.0106°, Longitude W113.9140°; Nearest Town: Missoula, MT
Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Missoula Ranger District). Lower Twin Lake lies within the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area.

Access: Although this lake is geographically very close to the city of Missoula, access is difficult. There are several USFS routes from which to choose. Route distance and difficulty varies, 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. Regardless of which route is chosen, the final trail segment will be USFS Trail #330. Total travel distance from trailheads to lake ranges from 9-17 miles.

Camp Sites and Use: Lower Twin Lake lies in a remote setting that receives light use. There is an established trail to the lake, and two campsites. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is essential, as this lake lies within the Rattlesnake Wilderness.

Angling Opportunity: None. No fish were observed or captured at the time of sampling in 2008.

Stocking History: The Twin Lakes were historically stocked with cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and arctic grayling. However, there are no records of stocking since 1951. There are no plans to stock Lower Twin Lake in the future.

Other Nearby Lakes: There are two other lakes in the immediate vicinity of Lower Twin Lake. Upper Twin Lake is less than 0.25 mile to the southwest and can be reached via an established trail (USFS Trail #330). This same trail leads past Farmers Lake #6, located ~ 0.5 mile to the east. Several pothole lakes and wetlands are also found within a mile of Lower Twin Lake.



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Inlet

Lower Twin Lake

Surface Area = 6.75 acres

Volume = 80.86 acre-feet

Max Depth = 31 feet

Contour Interval = 2 feet

LLID = 1139140470106

Note: Water level ~ 10 feet
below full pool when mapped.

Outlet Structure

Island

Inlet



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Map and 2 foot contours produced in ArcGIS
using 3-D Analyst from field data collected 08/03/2008.
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Helena, MT
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