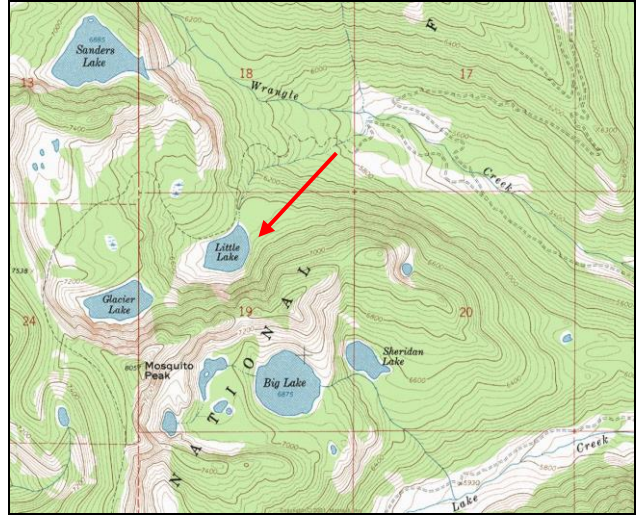


Little Lake



Description: Little Lake is a moderate-sized (~ 14 acre), remote glacial cirque lake, located within designated Wilderness in the Rattlesnake Creek drainage near Missoula at ~ 6,425 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 contribute to greater annual water level fluctuations.

Location: T15N, R18W, Section 19; Latitude N47.0478°, Longitude W113.9240°; Nearest Town: Missoula, MT
Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Missoula Ranger District). Little Lake lies in the Wrangle Creek drainage within the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area.

Access: Although Little 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: Little Lake lies in a remote setting that receives light use. There is an established trail to the lake and a campsite near the north end of the dam embankment. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is essential, as the lake lies within designated Wilderness.

Angling Opportunity: Little Lake supports a wild Yellowstone cutthroat trout population that has abundant natural reproduction. Shoreline topography lends well to angling along most of the lake perimeter.

Stocking History: Although there are no records of stocking, Little lake was apparently planted with Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the mid-1900s. No stocking has been reported since that time and no future stocking is anticipated as the cutthroat trout population is self-sustaining.

Angling Pressure: Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys in 2005-2009 was low and averaged less than 25 angler-days per year.

Other Nearby Lakes: There are two other lakes in the immediate vicinity of Little Lake. Glacier Lake is less than 0.5 mi to the west and Sanders Lake lies ~ 0.8 mi to the northwest. Both lakes are easily accessible via established trails from Little Lake (USFS Trails #502 & #517). Big Lake and Sheridan Lake are also less than 1 mile southeast of Little Lake, but accessing them directly would be difficult as they lie on the opposite side of a steep ridge.



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Little Lake

Surface Area: 13.9 acres

Max Depth: 51.7 ft

Volume: 309.2 acre-feet

LLID: 1139240470478

