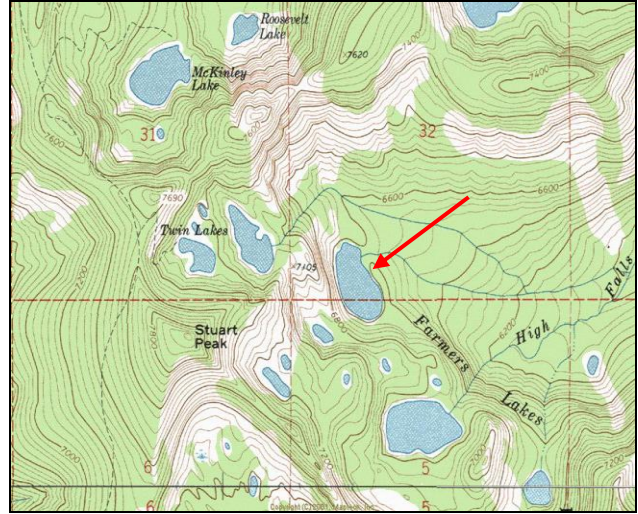


# Farmers Lake #6 (Cliff Lake)



**Description:** Farmer's Lake #6 (Cliff Lake) is a moderate-sized (13.7 acres), remote glacial cirque lake located within designated Wilderness in the Rattlesnake Creek drainage near Missoula at ~ 6,595 ft elevation. To increase storage volume, the lake was artificially impounded by a dam at the outlet in the early 1900s. This structure elevates the normal surface water elevation, but may also increase annual water level fluctuations.

**Location:** T15N, R18W, Section 32; Latitude N47.0087°, Longitude W113.9070°; Nearest Town: Missoula, MT Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Missoula Ranger District) Cliff Lake lies at the south end of the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area.

**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 7-19 miles.

**Camp Sites and Use:** Farmers Lake #6 lies in a remote setting that receives light use. There is an old, remnant trail to the lake, but there are no campsites. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is essential, as this area lies within designated Wilderness.

**Angling Opportunity:** Farmers Lake #6 supports a wild westslope cutthroat trout population that has abundant natural reproduction. Shoreline topography is very steep along the cirque headwall and is conducive to angling along about half of the lake perimeter.

**Stocking History:** Farmers Lake #6 was historically stocked with westslope cutthroat trout - most recently in 1975. The lake will not likely be stocked in the future as the population is self-sustaining.

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

**Other Nearby Lakes:** There are several other lakes in the vicinity Farmers Lake #6 and all are fishless. The Twin Lakes are less than 0.5 mile to the southwest and will likely be passed while accessing the lake from the Stuart Peak Trail (USFS Trail # 517). Farmers Lake #5 (Peterson Lake) lies less than 0.5 mile to the southeast and can be accessed on an unmaintained trail. Several additional, smaller lakes and ponds can be found to the west and southwest.



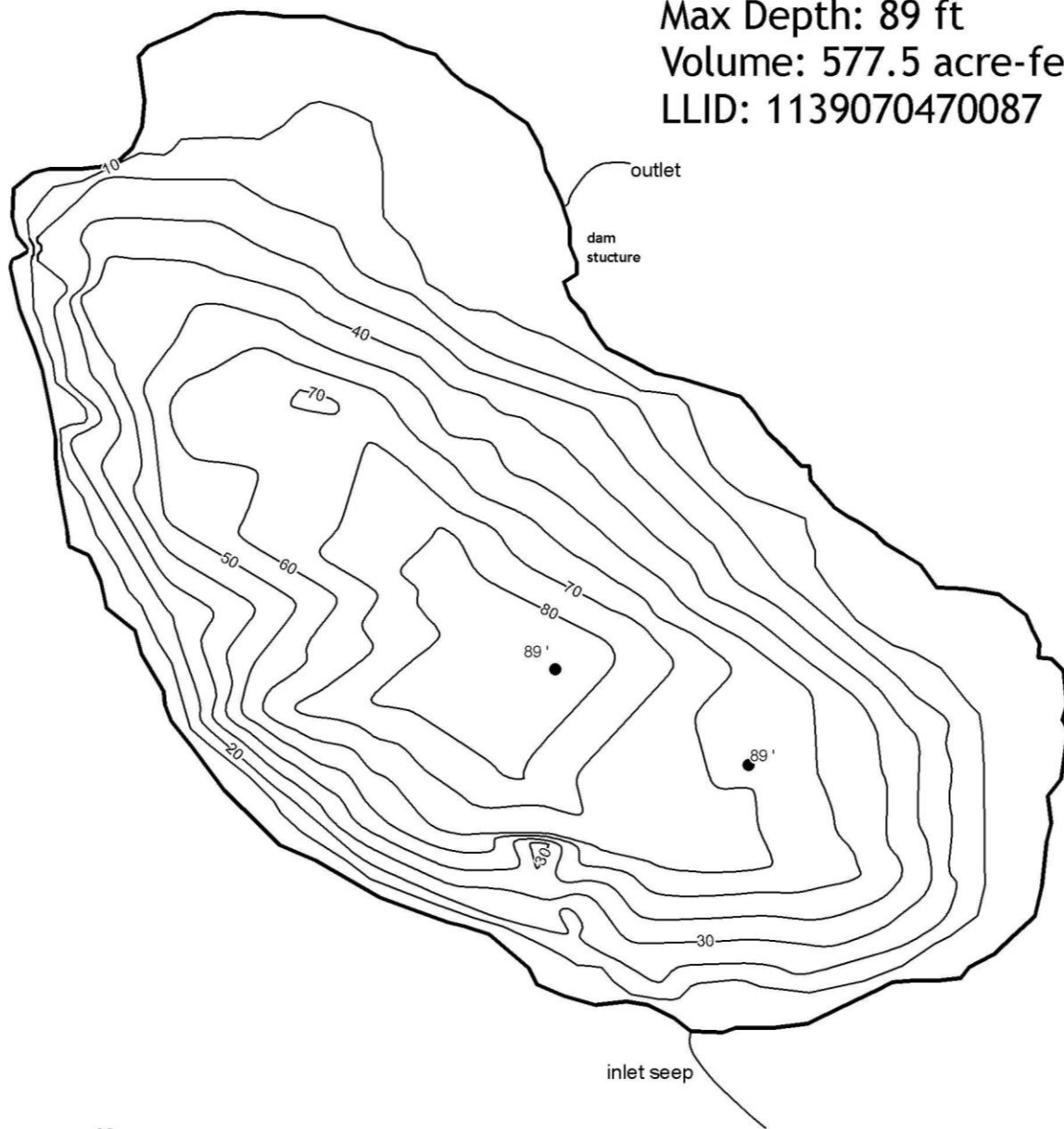
# Farmers Lake #6 (Cliff Lake)

Surface Area: 13.7 acres

Max Depth: 89 ft

Volume: 577.5 acre-feet

LLID: 1139070470087



0 130 260 520 Feet

Ten foot contours and volume calculations produced in ArcMAP  
using field measurements collected August 4, 2008.

IS Request 8035 - R2 Mountain Lake Bath Maps

Strategic Planning and Data Services

Helena, MT

July 8, 2010