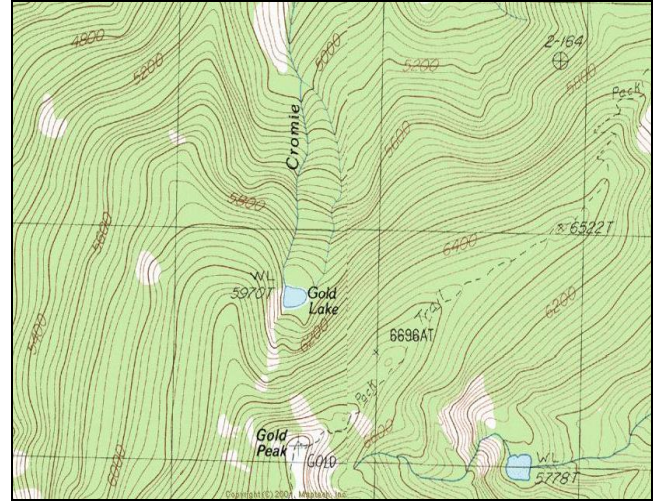


# Gold Lake



**Description:** Gold Lake is a very small (1.9 acres), remote forested cirque lake located in the Deer Creek drainage (St. Regis River) at 5,970 ft elevation. The lake lies on the Lolo National Forest (Superior Ranger District).

**Location:** T18N, R30W, Section 23; Latitude N47.3013°, Longitude W115.3780°; Nearest Town: St. Regis, MT.

**Access:** Access to Gold Lake can most easily be obtained by taking the DeBorgia exit from Interstate Highway 90, west of St. Regis. Take USFS Road #236 (Deer Creek Road) southwest ~ 5.5 miles, then go left onto USFS Road #3818. Take this road for ~ 1.1 miles to the end (gate). Hike the gated road another ~ 0.25 mile and it will cross a small, densely wooded drainage. Gold Lake can be reached by hiking (off trail) up the drainage for ~ 1.2 miles.

**Campsites and Use:** Gold Lake lies in a remote setting that receives light use. There is no known trail to the lake, nor is there is a campsite or fire ring. However, there is ample room to camp. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is encouraged in this area.

**Angling Opportunity:** Gold Lake supports a westslope cutthroat/rainbow trout population that has abundant natural reproduction and apparent hybridization. Shoreline topography and forest canopy lends well to shoreline angling on about half of the lake.

**Stocking History:** Stocking records indicate that Gold Lake has only been stocked with westslope cutthroat trout in 2000. There is no record of the rainbow trout plant or any other stocking that occurred prior to 2000.

**Angling Pressure:** Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys in 1995-2005 was zero. Although the lake is known to receive occasional angling use, no respondents in the random survey claimed to have fished the lake.

**Other Nearby Lakes:** Gold Lake is somewhat isolated from other lakes. Crystal Lake is less than 2 miles west-southwest of Gold Lake, but getting there will be most easily achieved by returning to USFS Road #236, driving southwest another 1.2 miles, and hiking USFS Trail #269 ~1.4 miles. Rudie Lake is ~ 0.5 mile south-southeast of Crystal Lake. Accessing Rudie Lake (from Crystal Lake) requires either hiking off-trail over steep, densely forested terrain, or by hiking Trail #269 another 1.5 miles and descending to the lake via an unofficial and unimproved trail.



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

## Gold Lake (St. Regis)

Watercode: 05-8864

LLID: 1153780473013

Survey Date:

Area = 1.9 acres

Volume = 10.7 acre-feet

Contour Interval = 2 feet

Max. Surveyed Depth = 12.7 feet

