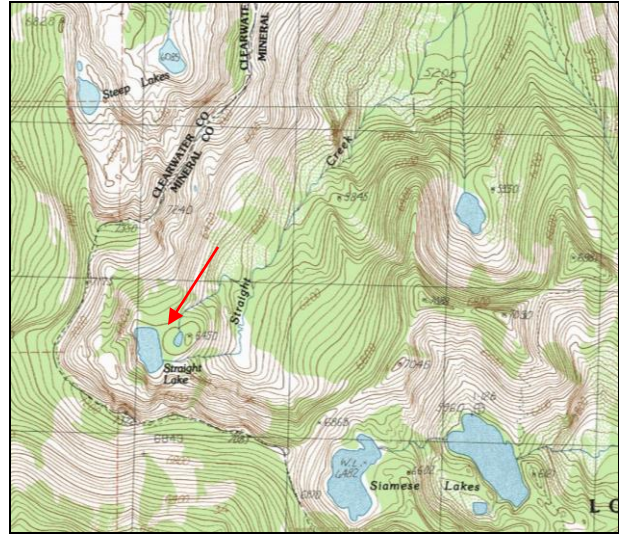


Straight Lake



Description: Straight Lake is a small (8.8 acre) remote glacial cirque lake located in the Straight Creek (North Fork Fish Creek) drainage at 6,390 ft elevation. The lake lies on the Lolo National Forest (Ninemile Ranger District) in the *proposed* Great Burn Wilderness Area.

Location: T13N, R26W, Section 30; Latitude N46.8610°, Longitude W114.9390°; Nearest Town: Alberton, MT

Access: Straight Lake is very remote lake with difficult access. One way to get there is to take Fish Creek Road (USFS road #343) from Interstate Highway 90, then proceed up the West Fork Fish Creek on USFS Road #7750 until you get to the campground and Forest Service outpost (Clearwater Crossing) at the end of the road. Take the North Fork Fish Creek Trail (#103) for ~ 0.7 miles, then Trail #99 (Straight Creek Trail) west-southwest for ~ 6 miles. Here, the trail will leave Straight Creek toward Chilcoat Pass. Continue up the Straight Creek drainage for about 2.3 miles on an old, unofficial trail. Straight Lake lies at the top of the drainage. Another option is to descend to Straight Lake from the Stateline National Recreation Trail (USFS Trail #738). There are several routes to reach the vicinity of the lake on this trail, but descending to the lake from the lake requires a very steep hike (no trail) that may be dangerous.

Campsites and Use: Straight Lake lies in a remote setting that sees light use. The lake has a light trail around it and one obvious campsite on the north end. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is essential in this area as it is proposed wilderness.

Angling Opportunity: Straight Lake supports a population of westslope cutthroat trout that has abundant natural reproduction. Shoreline topography and access lend well to shoreline angling on about half of the lake perimeter.

Stocking History: Straight Lake has been stocked only with westslope cutthroat trout (1989 & 2000). Stocking has been discontinued as the cutthroat trout population appears to be self-sustaining.

Angling Pressure: Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys in 1995-2005 was zero. Although the Straight Lake does receive occasional angling use, none of the anglers that responded to the survey had visited the lake.

Other Nearby Lakes: There are several other lakes near Straight Lake. Getting to them will require off-trail hiking over steep terrain. Harrington Lake is just 1.4 miles northeast of Straight Lake. The easiest way to get there is to travel down the Straight Creek drainage ~ 1.8 miles (back to Trail #99), then hike off-trail up the adjacent tributary drainage for ~ 1 mile to Harrington Lake. The Siamese Lakes lie about a mile east of Straight Lake. To get to them, ascend to the Stateline Trail (#738) and hike east ~ 1 mile. The descent to the lakes (visible from the trail) is moderately steep and off-trail.



Montana Fish,
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Upper Straight Lake

Watercode: 05-9600

LLID: 1149390468610

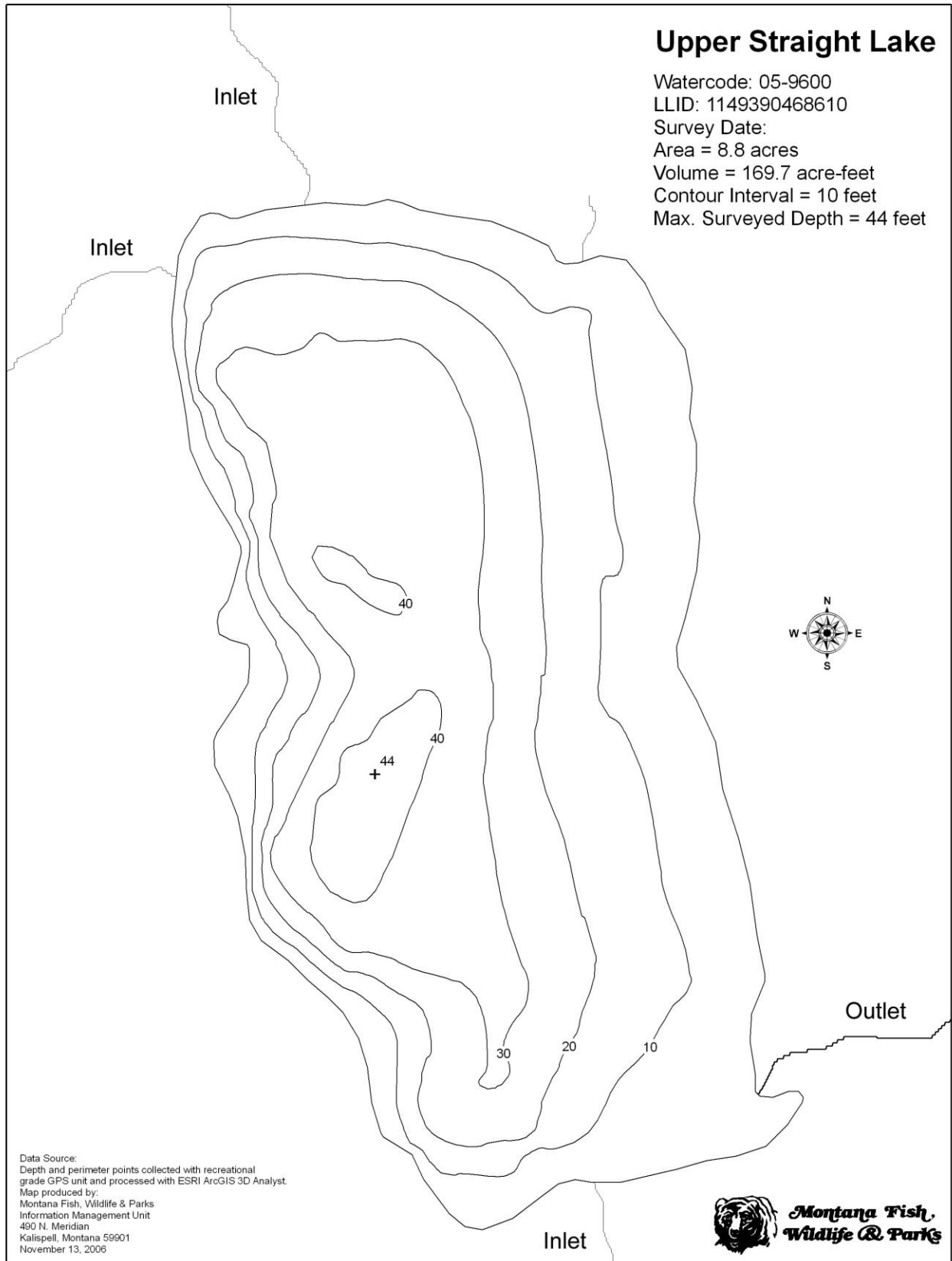
Survey Date:

Area = 8.8 acres

Volume = 169.7 acre-feet

Contour Interval = 10 feet

Max. Surveyed Depth = 44 feet



Data Source:
Depth and perimeter points collected with recreational
grade GPS unit and processed with ESRI ArcGIS 3D Analyst.
Map produced by:
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Information Management Unit
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, Montana 59901
November 13, 2006



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