Vann Lake

(West Fork Fish Creek Lake #1)





Description: Vann Lake (also known as "West Fork Fish Creek Lake #1") is a small (4.7 acres), remote glacial cirque lake located near the Idaho border in the West Fork Fish Creek drainage at 6,079 ft elevation. The lake lies on the Lolo National Forest (Ninemile Ranger District) in the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area.

Location: T12N, R26W, Section 8; Latitude N46.8110°, Longitude W114.8910°; Nearest Town: Alberton, MT

Access: Access to Vann Lake is difficult. One option is to travel from Schley Mountain on USFS Trail #110 for 3.5 miles to Trail #738, then west on Trail #738 for ~ 7 miles. Another option is to drive to Clearwater Crossing via Fish Creek Road and USFS Road #7750, then take Trail #101 for ~ 10.5 miles to Trail #738 (at Fish Lake, Idaho). Travel southeast on Trail #738 another 1.8 miles to the lake. A third option is to drive to the head of Trail #419 (Lake Creek, Idaho) and take Trail #419 southeast 5.3 miles to Fish Lake (Idaho) and the intersection with #738, then southeast on #738 1.8 miles to Vann Lake.

Campsites and Use: Vann Lake lies in a remote setting that receives light use. There is no established trail around the lake, but there is a campsite at the outlet. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is essential in this area as it is proposed wilderness.

Angling Opportunity: Vann Lake supports a westslope cutthroat trout population that has limited natural reproduction and is supplemented with stocking. Shoreline topography and access lends well to shoreline angling.

Stocking History: Vann Lake has been stocked only with westslope cutthroat trout since 1982. There is no record of stocking at Vann Lake prior to 1982. Stocking with westslope cutthroat trout every 7-10 years will likely continue in the future.

Angling Pressure: Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys in 1995-2005 was zero. Although the lake is known to receive some angling pressure, none of the randomly selected survey respondents indicated that they had fished the lake.

Other Nearby Lakes: There are few alpine lakes near Vann Lake. Fish Lake, Idaho is < 1 mile northwest of Vann Lake and easily accessed via USFS Trail #738. The Cedar Log Lakes are ~ 3 miles east-southeast of Vann Lake and can be accessed by traveling 3.5-6 miles on Trail #738.



