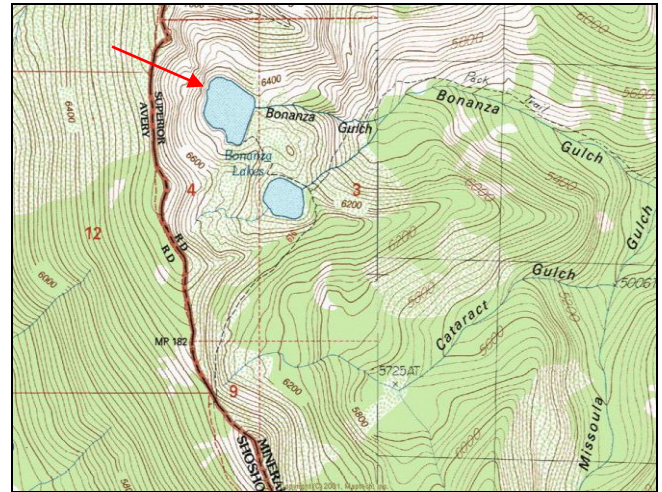


Upper Bonanza Lake



Description: Upper Bonanza Lake is a moderately sized (16.4 acres), remote glacial cirque lake located near the Idaho border in the Cedar Creek drainage at 6,315 ft elevation. The lake lies on the Lolo National Forest (Superior Ranger District).

Location: T15N, R28W, Section 4; Latitude N47.0909°, Longitude W 115.1360°; Nearest Town: Superior, MT

Access: Access to Upper Bonanza Lake can easily be obtained by either of two routes. One is by taking USFS Road #320 (Cedar Creek Road) from Superior, Montana approximately 19 miles. Turn right on USFS Road #7763 near the Oregon Lakes trailhead. Take Road #7763 north 1.7 miles to USFS Trail #616. Lower Bonanza Lake is located two miles up the trail. A trail goes northwest the remaining quarter-mile to Upper Bonanza Lake. The trail (#616) to Lower Bonanza Lake is moderately difficult with some steep stretches. The other option is to continue on USFS Road #320 to the Stateline National Recreation Trail (#738) and hike 1.5 miles northwest to Trail #616, then hike 0.8 miles down Trail #616 to Lower Bonanza Lake. Finally, take the short trail to Upper Bonanza Lake. This route is well-traveled and is relatively flat for the first two-thirds of the hike.

Campsites and Use: Upper Bonanza Lake lies in a remote setting that receives moderate use. However, there is a trail around much of the lake. There is also a campsite with a fire ring on the saddle between Upper and Lower Bonanza Lakes. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is encouraged.

Angling Opportunity: Upper Bonanza Lake supports a brook trout population that has a high rate of natural reproduction. Harvest of brook trout is encouraged. Shoreline topography and access generally lends well to shoreline angling, although some portions of the perimeter have steep cliffs that preclude access.

Stocking History: Upper Bonanza Lake has not been stocked in recent history. In fact, there is no record of it ever having been stocked. However, *Lower* Bonanza Lake was stocked with brook trout in 1933, and again in 1942. Given the proximity of the two lakes, brook trout may have been stocked in both lakes at those times, or brook trout may have been transported from Lower Bonanza Lake to Upper Bonanza Lake at a later date.

Angling Pressure: Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys in 1995-2005 was low and averaged 38 angler-days per year.

Other Nearby Lakes: There are several other lakes near Upper Bonanza Lake. Lower Bonanza Lake is less than one-quarter mile southeast of the upper lake and easily accessed from Upper Bonanza Lake by a trail. Missoula Lake is just a short hike down from a USFS campground located on USFS Road #320 near the Idaho border. The Oregon Lakes are less than one mile south of the junction of Roads #320 and #7763. A short (one-half mile) road going south from this junction takes you to the trailhead. Lost Lake is less than one mile north of Upper Bonanza Lake, although getting to it from here would require off-trail hiking over steep terrain.



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Upper Bonanza Lake

Watercode: 05-8465

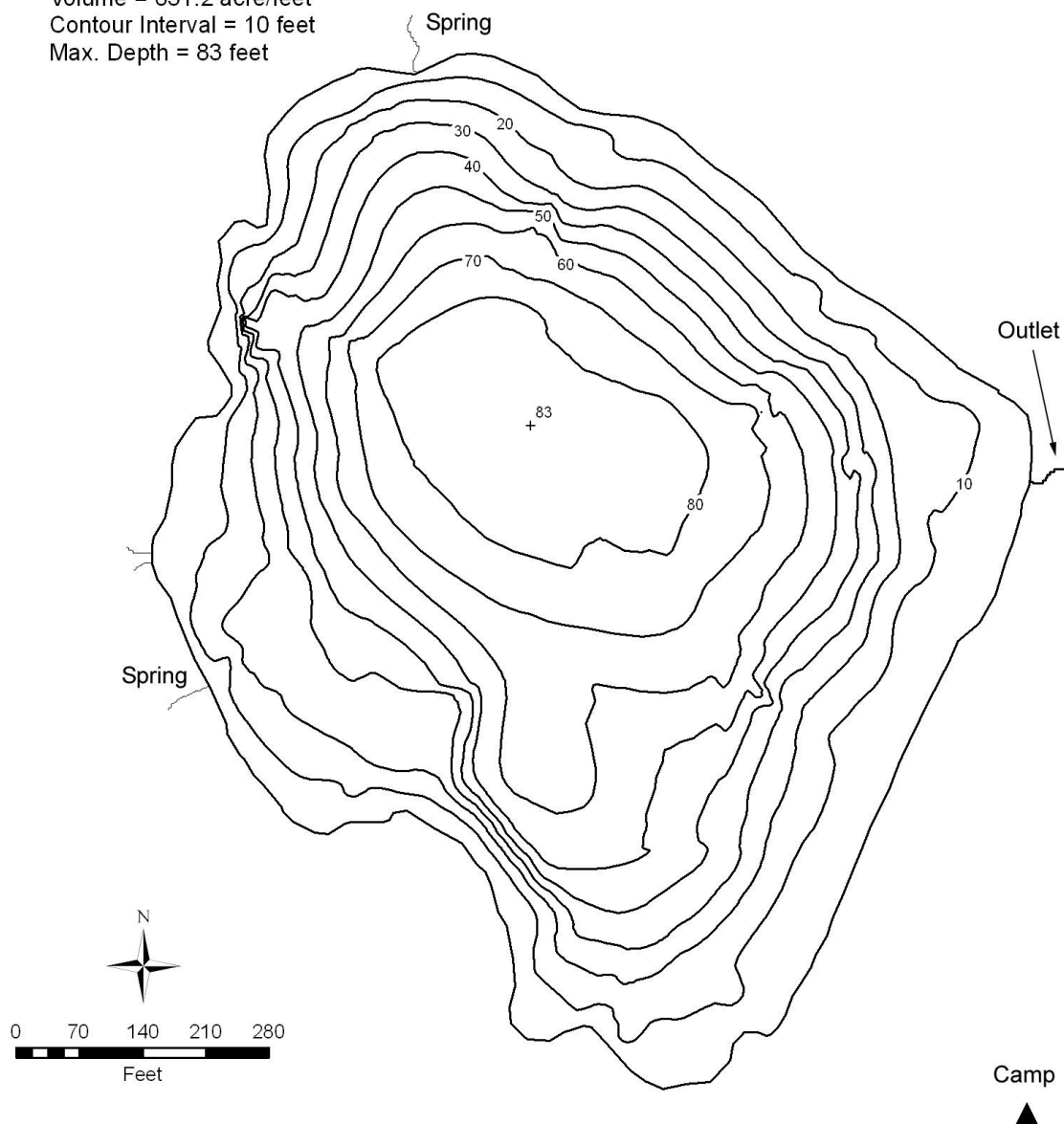
LLID: 1151360470909

Area = 16.4 acres

Volume = 631.2 acre/feet

Contour Interval = 10 feet

Max. Depth = 83 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
June 14, 2006

