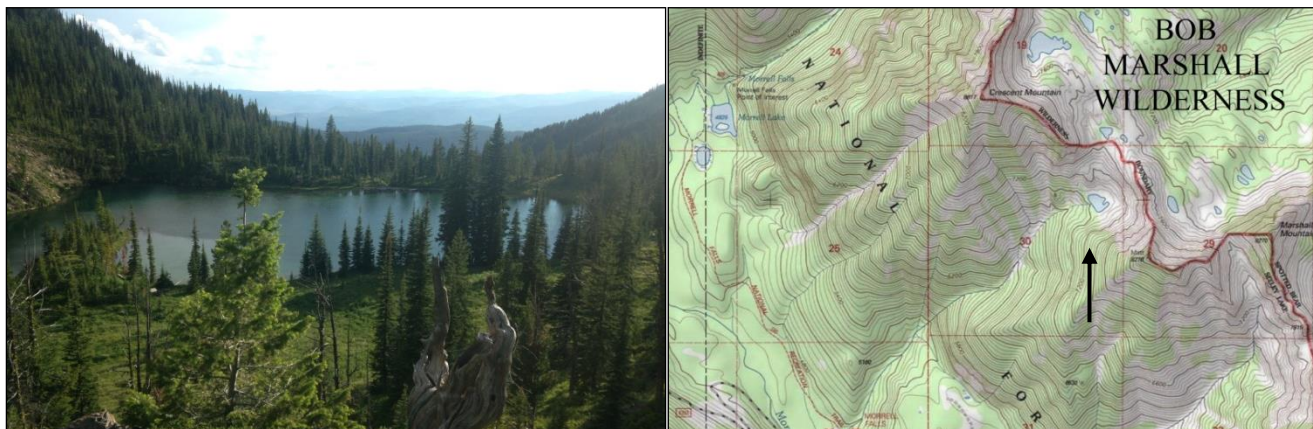


Crescent Lake



Description: Crescent Lake is a classic subalpine lake that lies within a small glacial cirque (3.7 acres) at the headwaters of an unnamed tributary of Morrell Creek at an elevation of 7,050 ft. The lake is located directly above Seeley Lake near Crescent Peak, just west of the Bob Marshall Wilderness boundary. Crescent lake supports a re-established westslope cutthroat trout fishery in a beautiful mountain lake setting.

Location: T18N, R14W, Section 30; Latitude N47.29126°, Longitude W113.42170°
Nearest Town: Seeley Lake, MT. Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Seeley Lake Ranger District)

Access: Access to the lake requires non-motorized travel, typically via a user-established trail that is not part of the official U.S. Forest Service trail network. The trail begins at an unmarked turnout near the Pyramid Pass trailhead near Seeley Lake and proceeds for approximately 2 miles up the ridge to the south end of the lake. The trail then drops into the cirque basin to the north, follows the lake perimeter, and continues over the Swan Mountain Range Divide into Marshall Creek in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Campsites and Use: Crescent Lake supports frequent use as it is a common stop and camping location for local outfitters and recreationists. There are two established camp sites along the lake perimeter: one large camp site on the southwest shoreline (near the outlet) and another smaller site on the north shoreline. There is also a trail along most of the lake perimeter.

Angling Opportunity: Crescent Lake was fishless at the time of our survey, but now supports westslope cutthroat trout that were re-stocked in fall 2015. A complete winter kill apparently occurred in 2014. However, the lake has historically provided a quality, self-sustaining trout fishery. Gentle topography and trail access facilitate shoreline angling along most of the lake perimeter.

Angling Pressure: No fishing pressure estimates are available for Crescent Lake. However, given the lake's remote location, overall fishing pressure is low (assumed < 200 angler-days per year).

Stocking History: Prior to 2014, Crescent Lake supported a self-sustaining westslope cutthroat trout population that was introduced in the 1980s. The lake presumably winter-killed in 2014 and genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout were re-introduced in fall 2015. No additional stocking is planned unless trout are unable to reproduce successfully or the population becomes extinct again.

Other nearby Lakes: There are no lakes in the immediate vicinity of Crescent Lake. However, several other high elevation lakes occur along the Swan Mountain Divide within the Bob Marshall Wilderness boundary. These include Pyramid Lake (~ 2.5 miles SE), Trail Lake (~ 3 miles SE) and several other mountain lakes in the headwaters of Youngs and Marshall Creek Basins within two miles to the east and north of Crescent Lake.

Crescent Lake: Biological & Physical Information

Date Sampled: 7/15/2015 **Fish Species Present:** None **Sampling Methods:** Sinking Gill Nets

Management Objectives: Self-sustaining Westslope Cutthroat Trout Fishery

Currently Stocked: No **Last Stocked:** 2015 **Recommended Frequency:** None (Self-sustaining)

Amphibians Observed: Long-toed Salamander (larvae)

Elevation: ~7,050 ft **Surface Area:** 3.7 acres

Volume: 29 acre-ft

Max Depth: 19 ft

Secchi Depth: Unlimited (Max Depth) **PH:** NA

Conductivity: NA

TDS: NA

Aspect: Southwest

Lake Bathymetry:

