



Lower Stevens Lake:

Difficulty: *Classic*

Distance: 2.0 miles

Trailhead Elevation: 3950 feet; **Trailhead Lat/Long:** 47°27'15.58"N / 115°45'58.43"W

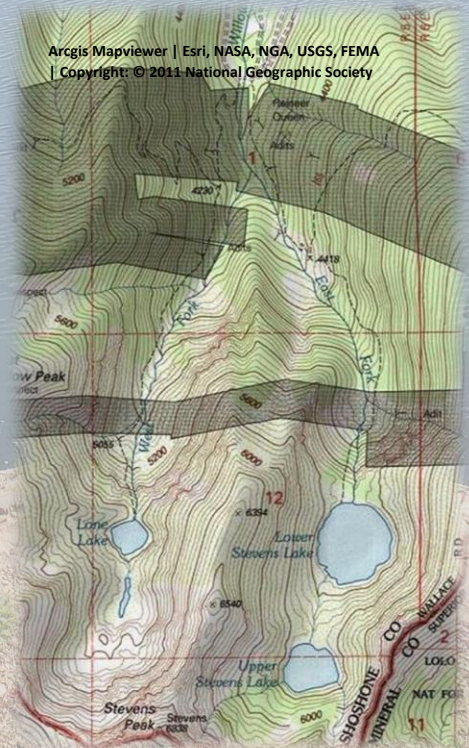
Lake Elevation: 5550 feet; **Lake Lat/Long:** 47°26'7.49"N / 115°45'34.98"W



Getting There: Take the Willow Creek Road out of Mullan to the Stevens Lakes trailhead. Willow Creek Road crosses over I-90 just east of Mullan and the Stevens Lake Trailhead is just a mile from the interstate overpass. The road is a bit rough and narrow but easily car passable. Turn left at the junction for the trailhead, there is a vault toilet available and parking for 10-20 vehicles. You can continue up the road past the trailhead which is an old railroad grade (Northern Pacific) to Lookout Pass.

The trail (#165) starts up an old road for a 1/4 mile, stay straight at the old tailings landing. This portion of the trail is accessible for motorcycles and side by side but turns left back toward lookout at the tailings landing.

Skye, Lower Stevens Lake 2021





Lakes of the Great Burn & More

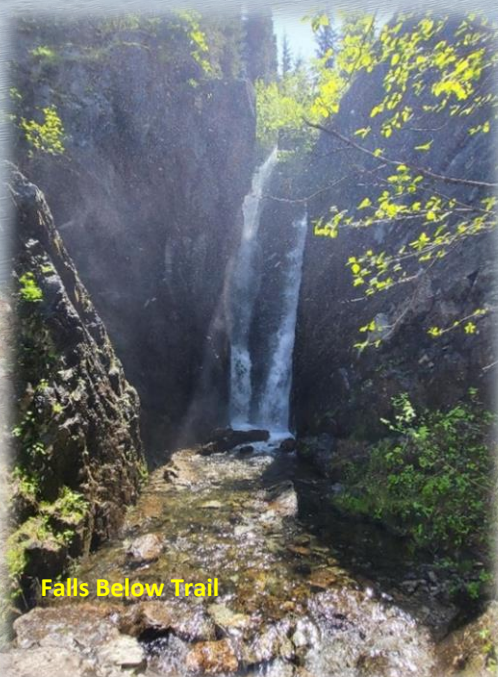
Continue straight on a lesser old road/trail for another ¼ mile or so where you make a hard right onto a single track after a switchback; there is a trail number sign here at this intersection. The trail continues up with several switchbacks for about a mile. At the 1.5-mile mark you come to



Kathy at Lower Stevens Lake 2013

the only creek crossing on the way to the lake. This crossing can be very slick on the logs set across the span and could be problematic if there is too much water, so be careful. It is not a good place to take a fall. On the other side of the crossing there is an obvious trail to the left that takes off straight up the hill. This is a cutoff trail and not the main trail. It is very steep and used to be in poor condition, but it is now almost as good as the main trail due to the amount of traffic on it; so yes I have hiked it a couple times.

The main trail is on the right of that and can be hidden by brush. This trail takes you across the prominent rockslide, a couple switchbacks and then lines out to Lower Stevens Lake. Don't miss out on the falls on one of the switchbacks, it is a steep climb down to get a closer look, but worth it. It is about 2 miles to the lower lake.



Falls Below Trail

At the Lake: There are several well-defined and beaten down campsites by the outlet; a couple to the right and a couple higher on the bench to the left. There is also a campsite on the other side of the lake near the rock outcrops. This is a very well used lake; one time I hiked in on a Friday and saw at least 4 camping parties coming in and I was out before 2 pm. All the parties had dogs, with the last group carrying

their lap dogs as they were barking at everything and were not well behaved. If a person was looking for some solitude and quiet, that was probably



Lower Stevens Lake 2013





Lakes of the Great Burn & More

not the weekend for it. The first couple times I hiked to this lake; I never saw a single fish nor any rising. However, in 2023 Kathy and I revisited the lake and people were doing very well fishing, with lots of risers. This is where the timing of stocking is important as I obviously missed the stocking on the previous visits. In 2024, there was a guy fishing, and he wasn't having much luck. This lake gets a ton of traffic, so if they only stock a few hundred fish every 6-7 years then it won't take long for it to get fished out.



Kathy at Lower Stevens Lake 2023



Karve, Lower Stevens Lake 2013



Lower Stevens Lake 2024

