



Lost Peak:

Cascade Pass Option (Ridge Trail):

Difficulty: *Challenger*

Distance: *5.5 miles*

Trailhead Elevation: *6480 feet*; Trailhead Lat/Long: *47° 3'40.59"N / 115° 7'13.80"W*

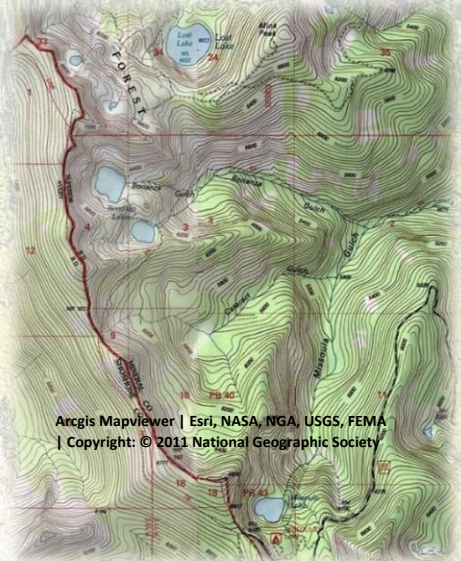
Summit Elevation: *7411 feet*; Summit Lat/Long: *47° 7'16.56"N / 115° 8'4.01"W*

Getting There: *From Superior, take Cedar Creek Road #320 and head toward Missoula Lake and Cascade Pass, a distance of 25 miles; stay on the main road as there are several other roads that connect. After coming off Miller Saddle, (about 20 mi) there will be an intersection at the*



Trail Marker at Intersection

bottom of the drainage. Stay straight crossing Oregon Creek. The right fork at this intersection (road #7763) heads down the hill to the Big Flat; the left fork will take you up to the Oregon Lakes trailhead (1/2 mi).



Continue past Missoula Lake to Cascade Pass (Missoula Lake saddle) take the stateline trail #738 north towards the Bonanza Lakes. Instead of dropping into the upper reaches of Cataract Gulch on trail #616 and eventually the Bonanza Lakes, continue north on the stateline trail.

After this junction the trail climbs intermittently until the high overlook to the Upper Bonanza Lake, a distance of 2.75 miles. If you haven't been this way before, there are great views of both Bonanza Lakes. Hiking up the ridge to the right leads to a outstanding high point view in all directions, well worth the effort.



Lost Lake from the Stateline





Back on trail #738, it heads downhill for a little over 1/2 mile where the unsigned & unnumbered trail to Lost Peak intersects. The intersection is at a point where the main trail heads straight down the hill and there is a blaze / arrow on a tree. The trail is blocked but heads directly uphill to a point where it crosses over into the Lost Creek drainage (3.5 mi). There is a nice view of Lost Lake of which you will see a lot of on this hike.



Start of Ridge Trail



Along Ridge Trail

As you approach the taller ridge the trail will swing over to the left side in the trees and climb moderately up to a saddle of sorts on the ridge. It is about a mile along the ridge top to this point for a total of 4.5 miles. The trail heads straight down the hill and across the hillside. It loses like 300 feet in a tenth of a mile and like me you will probably say something to the affect of "Oh Hell No, I'm not doing that" when you first look down the hill.

The ridgeline looks inviting but it's not the way to go. I hiked the ridge top to the left and that was a mistake. You eventually have to get off it and it is as steep as going down the trail, but without a trail. The trail isn't a picnic either as it has a lot of loose dirt and rocks, so traction is important and wait until you come back up it. After the "drop", the trail traverses around the hillside to the low saddle before the final push to the summit. The saddle has some great views both North and South. It's almost 600 feet to the summit from this point, so take a good break here.

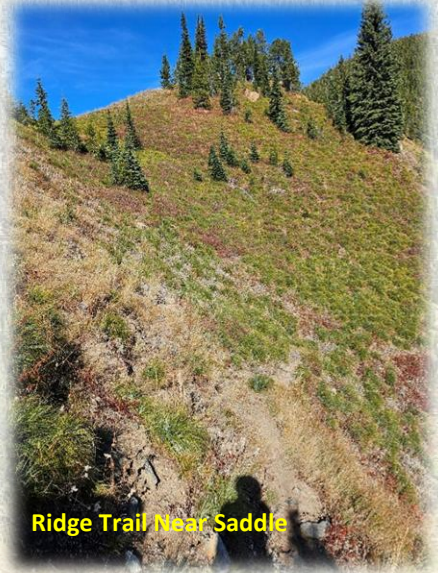


Lost Peak & at the "Drop"





From the Saddle there is a primitive trail that heads straight up the ridge for a bit but then disappears. It is best to stay center-left working your way up the ridge and not drift too far to the right. The ridge is not very brushy so going is good although steep. As you near the summit the left side of the ridge has a couple rock outcroppings that provide some great views to the North and Upper Dry Creek that are better than the summit itself. It is approximately 11.0 miles round trip that is totally dry if there are not any snow banks; I would plan on at least 8 hours for the round trip; this is not at all like the virtual stroll up to Illinois Peak. It's a lot of primitive trails with some very steep sections and some cross-country travel after leaving the stateline trail.



Ridge Trail Near Saddle

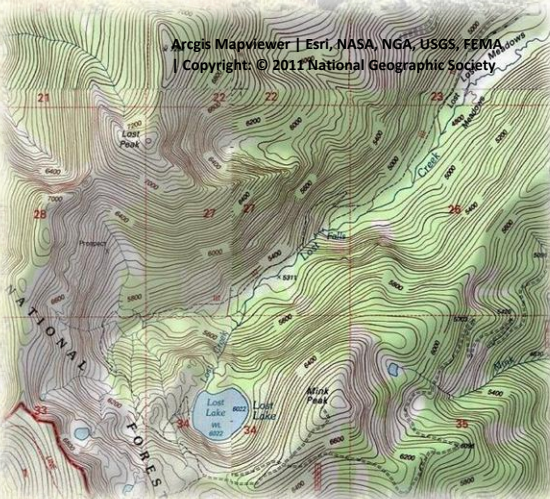
Lost Creek Meadow Route:

Difficulty: Challenger / Grinder

Distance: 4.0 miles

Trailhead Elevation: 4825 feet; **Trailhead Lat/Long:** 47° 7'39.29"N / 115° 6'6.89"W

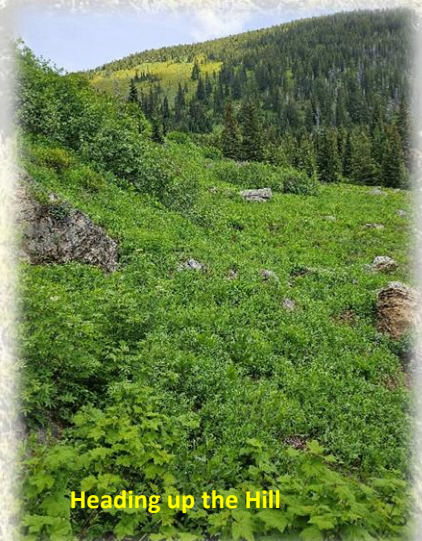
Summit Elevation: 6050 feet; **Summit Lat/Long:** 47° 6'15.10"N / 115° 7'43.26"W



Getting There: From Superior, take Cedar Creek Road #320 and bear right at the bridge and head up Lost Creek Road #7865 for almost 8 miles. The road can be a bit rocky and rough in places and muddy near the end early in the summer. Stay on the main road that hugs the creek bottom until you get to the meadows and a switchback with a gate on the other side.

The trail (#112) takes off right on the corner (there is a

sign). This is a good trail most of the way with no other side trails to negotiate, other than to the falls. The first mile is a gentle path through the woods with several small creek crossings. You turn up the hill to the right and switchback up and past the falls to a nice meadow and a view of the stateline. Don't forget to visit the falls before heading up the switchback, they are not far. The trail continues moderately up the valley; there are a couple switchbacks but not that steep. At about 2.75 miles you will break out of the trees. The



Heading up the Hill





trail climbs around the basin below the stateline, back towards Lost Lake. To your right are the relatively open slopes heading up the drainage to the pair of saddles and Lost Peak; this is your taking off point.

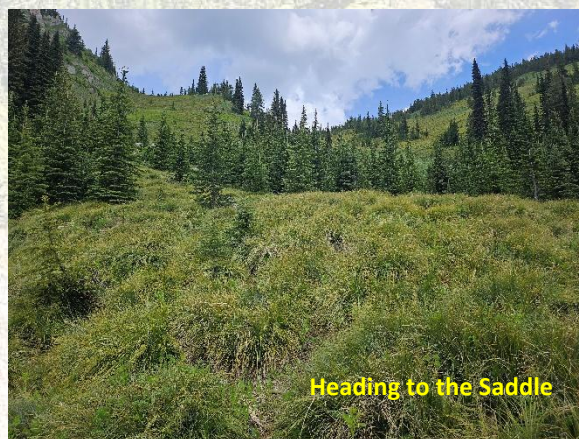


Near Old Mine

You can see some open slopes over to the right but it is very brushy getting there. Stay to the left and pick your way up the slope. After a couple hundred feet you can see mining tailings above you, head there as there are some rails and equipment. After visiting the mine site, head over to the other side of the basin. There is a game trail past the waterway that will take you all the way to the saddle. This trail is straight up the hill, some double poling may be required, but it is a trail. The saddle has some great views both North and South. It's almost 600

feet to the summit from this point, so take a good break here.

"Trail" sign at the junction. The trail climbs gently around the shoulder of the mountain before dropping into Lost Lake. There is plenty of water available along the way and no major creek crossings that require any wading.



Heading to the Saddle

From the Saddle there is a primitive trail that heads straight up the ridge for a bit but then disappears. It is best to stay center-left working your way up the ridge and not drift to far to the right. The ridge is not very brushy so going is good although steep. As you near the summit the left side of the ridge has a couple rock outcroppings that provide some great views to the North and Upper Dry Creek that are better than the summit itself.



At the Saddle

It is a hard 4.0 miles to the summit with around 1,700 feet of climbing over 1.25 miles after you leave trail #112; so I would plan a full day for the average person to enjoy the experience and summit. At 66 it took me 4.5 hours total time from trailhead to summit with extended stops at the mine and saddle. I did this route early in the summer (mid June) so the brush wasn't too high yet; something to consider.





Lakes of the Great Burn & More

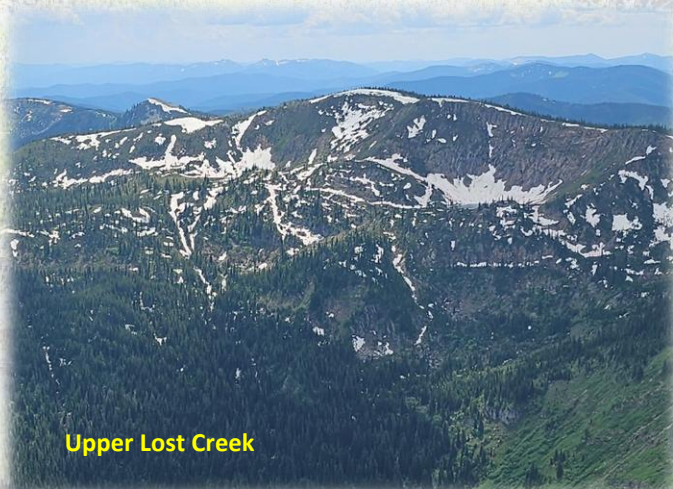
On the Summit: The summit is just a mound of dirt and rocks. I did not find a benchmark on or near the summit nor a registrar; this is not a highly visited peak. There are trees that partially block the views from the actual summit, but just going off the summit a bit provides some really great vistas of the surrounding area in all directions. There are some unique views that you won't see on the other nearby peaks.



At the Old Mine



Lost Lake, Illinois & Oregon Peak

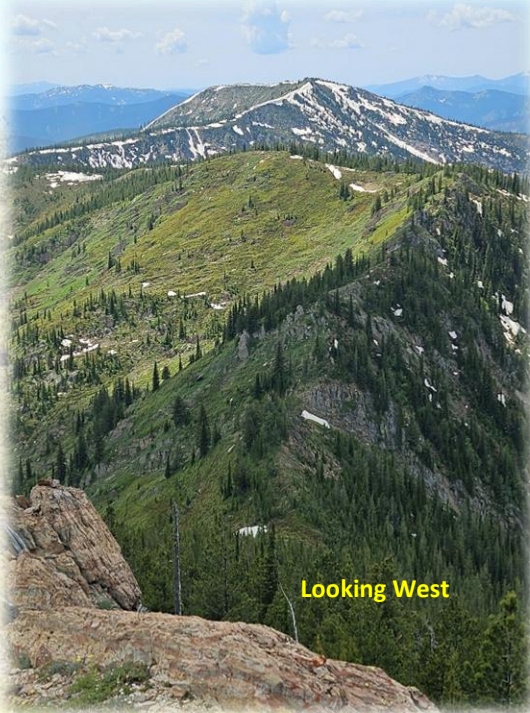


Upper Lost Creek





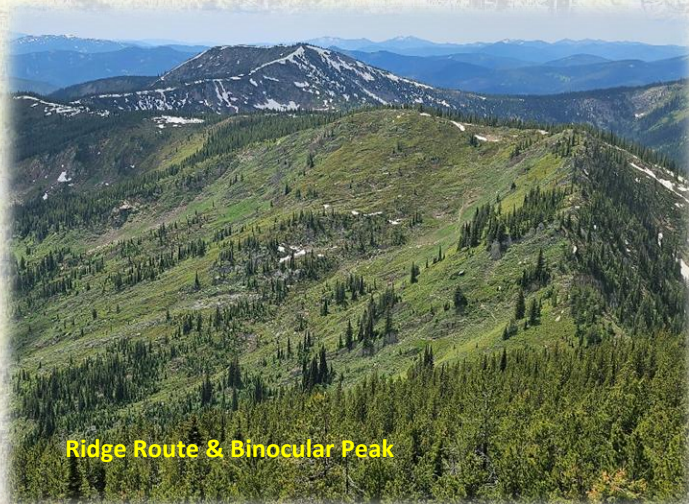
Lakes of the Great Burn & More



Looking West



At the Old Mine



Ridge Route & Binocular Peak



Along the Ridge Trail





Lakes of the Great Burn & More



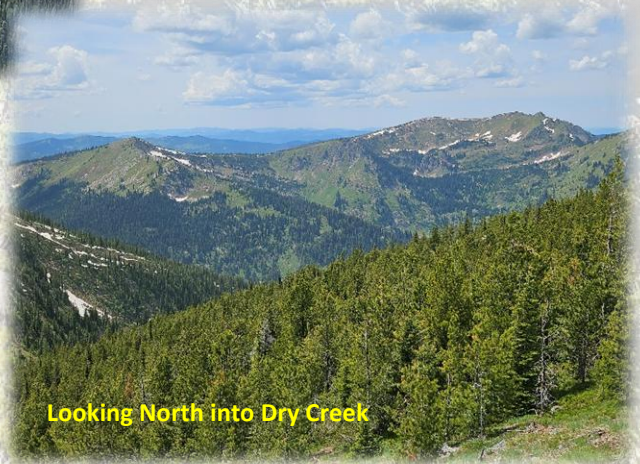
At the Old Mine



North from Summit



Eagle Cliff Peak



Looking North into Dry Creek

