

Evans Lake:

<u>Difficulty:</u> Classic <u>Distance:</u> 3.50 miles

Trailhead Elevation: 3475 feet; Trailhead Lat/Long: 47°33'6.23"N / 115°38'10.49"W

Lake Elevation: 5430 feet; Lake Lat/Long: 47°31'55.25"N / 115°41'18.56"W





Getting There: Drive over Thompson Pass from the Idaho side; at about 6.75-mile mark off the Montana side of Thompson Pass, take the primitive road to your right. It is not well marked and comes up fast. There is a residence across the road, either the first or last depending on your direction of travel. Stay on the primitive road for 0.5 miles, staying left at the junction. The road ends at the trailhead by Evans Creek, there is

a trailhead sign. The trailhead is more of a party place or at least it tends to look like that. There is room to park a couple vehicles. Cross the creek at the trailhead, you'll make another crossing in 1/2 mile. There are a several small creeks and seeps along the way so plenty of water for the dog along the route. The trail is in good shape and sawed out (as of 2024) and follows an old road through much of the lower sections.

The trail does climb 2,000 feet over the 3.5 miles with a gain of 500 feet via 12 switchbacks over the last 1/2 mile to the lake. So, this is just not a stroll up to the lake as there are some steep but short pitches along the way. It is a short but steep drop down to the lake.

At the Lake: The lake rests up against a steep headwall on the far side of the lake and is relatively deep there, but it is brushy and hard to get around. The fishing for







Lakes of the Great Burn & More

Brook Trout wasn't as good as I hoped. In 2020, the fishing for Brook Trout wasn't as good as I hoped. The fishable (well better access) parts of the lake were shallow, and the fish weren't

cruising there so fly casting didn't provide much action. In 2024 I went back to the lake; I fished with lures, but I didn't see or catch any fish greater than 6 inches.

There is one good camping site along the right shore complete with 2 lawn chairs, at least in 2024. Other marginal sites above the lake with a steep drop down to the water are scattered near the outlet. A moose came down for a drink while Skye & I were there in 2020. One of the few lakes in 2020 that I didn't meet anyone either coming or going, is not nearly as popular as



the other lakes accessed by Thompson Pass. If you wanted a cross-country venture, you could access this lake from the Cooper Pass side, but it looks to be a bit of a chore.







