

# Baker Lake #234

(Short: moderate to strenuous - walking sticks recommended)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's Driveway, turn left onto the West Fork Road and drive about .7 (seven tenths) of a mile. You'll see a National Forest Access sign indicating Baker Lake. Turn left here, onto Baker Lake Road, and travel 9 miles to the trailhead (#234). Baker Lake Road gains a considerable amount of elevation, climbing the flank of the mountain via switchbacks. Driving time is approximately 45 minutes from Triple Creek Ranch. Note .7 (seven tenths) of a mile before the trailhead, you will come to an overlook on the right. (There is no sign but there is a giant rock the size of a small house situated on a U-curve.) Park on the side of the road and walk out for an incredible view of Trapper Creek Canyon and the Bitterroot Valley. Look for Mountain Goats!

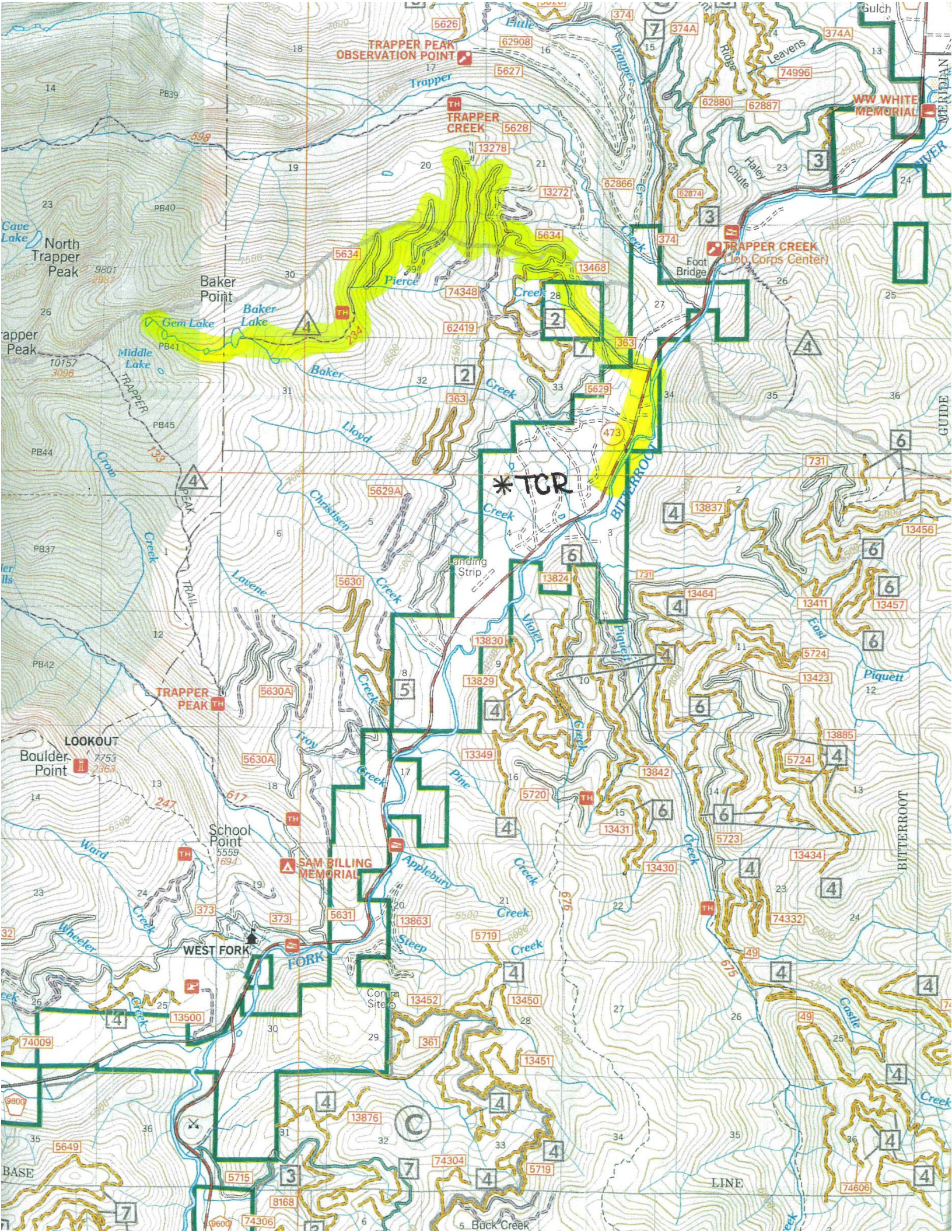
**ELEVATIONS:** (Approx.) Trailhead: 6,900 ft. Baker Point: 7,400 ft. Baker lake: 7,885 ft. Middle Lake: 8,100ft. Gem Lake: 8,360ft.

**MILEAGE:** The hike to Baker Lake is about 1 ¼ miles, to Middle Lake is 1 ¾ miles, and to Gem Lake is 2 miles - one way.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** This trail is rocky. Approximately a 60 minute hike from trailhead to the first trailhead to the first lake (Baker). Prepare for the first 20 - 40 minutes of vigorous hiking, uphill through a Lodgepole pine forest (pending your hiking ability). This steep climb loses the steepness when you get past Baker Point, a Large rock outcropping just to the left of the trail. Be sure to walk out between the two largest rocks and enjoy the panoramic view of Triple Creek Ranch below you. Upon leaving Baker Point, the trail is in timber, but at several openings there are excellent views of Trapper Peak looming above you to the west. Every once in a while, it's a good idea to stop and check your surroundings. This is especially helpful when coming back down the trail. The last 100 yards is a scramble up smooth large boulders, to the right (uphill). Look for rock cairns to mark the final approach to the lake.

To reach Middle Lake, follow Baker Lake's south (left) shore to the creek inlet. Some years there may be a more defined trail around the side of the lake. Your goal, whichever way you choose, is to reach the stream feeding into Baker Lake. The trail to Middle Lake is on the right side of the feeder creek. The trail to Middle Lake is rough and poorly defined. Just stay on the right side of the creek and follow it for .6 to Middle Lake. From Middle Lake you can actually see the rim of Gem Lake above it. The trail continues along the right side of Middle Lake and follows the stream up a short, steep, rocky canyon about .2 (two tenths) of a mile to Gem Lake. From Gem you can follow a stream to the flanks of Trapper Peak, where even in the heat of summer, "red snow" lies in long, steep fields.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



TRAPPER PEAK OBSERVATION POINT

TRAPPER CREEK

TRAPPER CREEK (Job Corps Center)

WW WHITE MEMORIAL

TRAPPER PEAK

LOOKOUT Boulder Point

SAM BILLING MEMORIAL

WEST FORK

\*TCR

BITTERROOT

LINE

5 Buck Creek

# Blodgett Canyon #19

(Moderate or Strenuous)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left and proceed to the Conner cutoff. Turn right on the Conner Cutoff to Hwy. 93. Turn left onto Highway 93 and follow 93 for 24 miles until you come into Hamilton. At the second traffic light make a left onto Main Street. Continue down Main St. until you cross the bridge on the Bitterroot River. ¼ mile past the bridge make a right onto Ricketts Road. Drive ½ mile and make a left onto Blodgett Camp Road. Follow this road (it will turn to gravel following a 90° right hand turn after approx. 2 miles) and signs to the Blodgett Canyon Trailhead. There is a lovely campground and other facilities at the parking area.

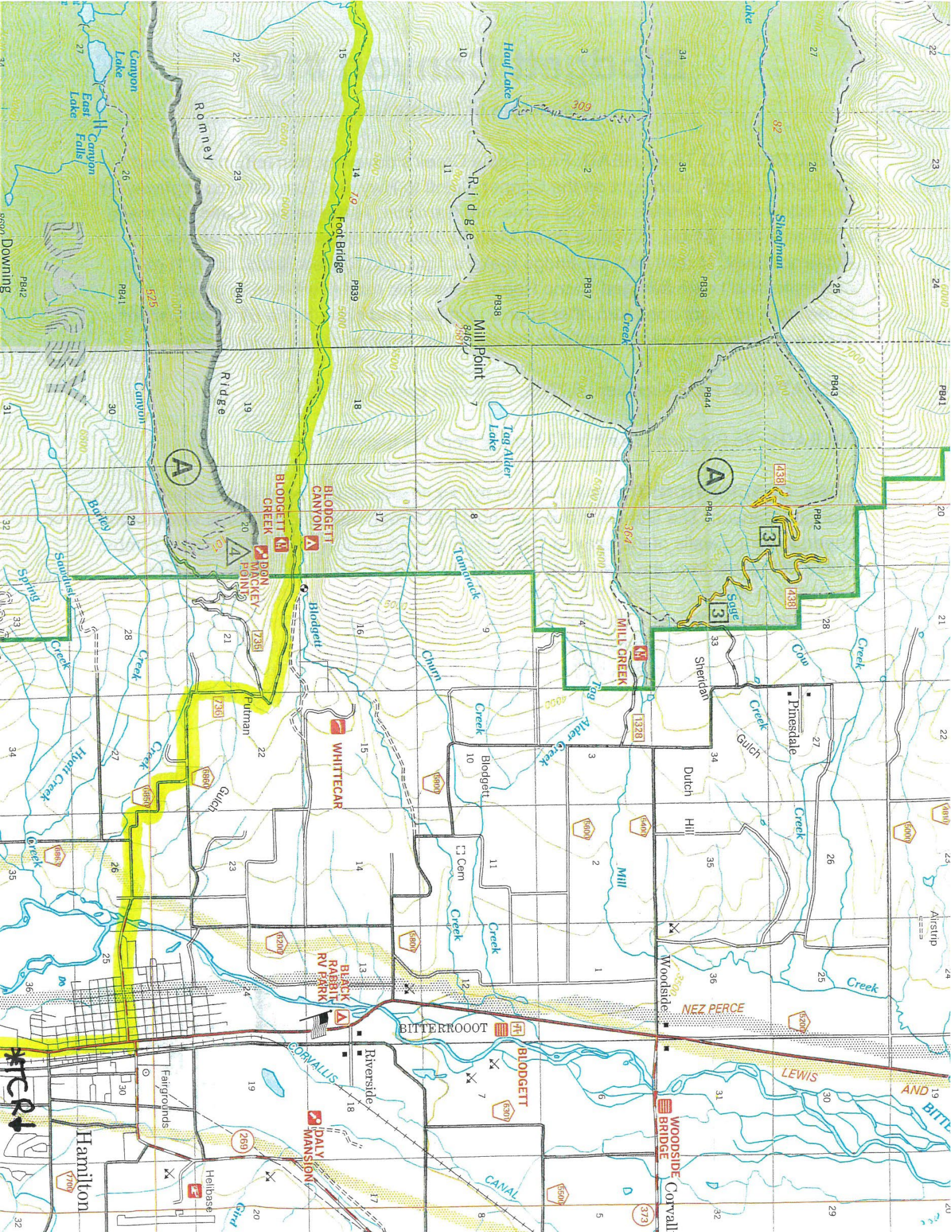
**ELEVATIONS:** Pass elevation: 6,780ft. Elevation gain: 3,623 ft.

**MILEAGE:** To Blodgett Lake it is 12.3 miles from the trailhead.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** The trail starts on the south side of the creek at the mouth of Blodgett Canyon. The first few miles are mostly in forest offering occasional views of the sheer, towering walls of the canyon. The grade is gradual with a few short, steep climbs. About 300 yards from the road there is a granite memorial next to the trail. The trail crosses the creek on a good bridge at about 3.1 miles. Looking to the south and slightly west from the bridge, one can see a natural stone arch on the ridge top. At about 4.4 miles the creek goes through a narrow canyon, creating a small waterfall and deep pool below there is a second waterfall about another ½ mile upstream. The trail continues up the canyon to Blodgett Pass 10.5 miles and to Blodgett Lake 12.3 miles from the trailhead.

Blodgett Canyon is one of the most picturesque and scenically varied of the Bitterroot Canyons. A good up & back trail which runs the entire length of Blodgett Creek offers excellent opportunities for hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The trail follows the creek and is relatively easy for the first four miles. There are excellent views of the sheer, towering rock walls of the canyon and good access to some deep wide pools in the creek. There are some charming waterfalls located 4.4 miles up the trail and Blodgett Lake is located 12.3 miles up the trail. Moose are commonly seen along the trail and Mountain Goats may be viewed high on the canyon walls.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



# Blodgett Canyon Overlook #101

(Easy)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left onto the West Fork Road and drive 7.5 miles until you come to Highway 93. Turn left onto Highway 93 and follow for 24 miles until you come to Hamilton. At the second traffic light make a left onto Main Street. Continue down Main St. until you cross the bridge over the Bitterroot River. ¼ mile past the bridge make a right onto Ricketts Road. Drive ½ mile and make a left onto Blodgett Camp Road. Follow this road for 2.5 miles (it will turn to gravel after a 90° right hand turn after approx. 2 miles) where you will come to a junction. At this junction take a sharp left onto the Canyon Creek Road and drive 2 miles to the parking area at the end of the road.

**ELEVATION:** Trailhead: 5,025 ft. Overlook: 5,545 ft.

**MILEAGE:** 1.5 miles

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** This 1.5 mile hike provides you with an exceptional vista of the lower end of Blodgett Canyon with the views of the Hamilton area and the Sapphire Mountains to the East as you hike the trail. The grade is not very steep and the trail is excellent.

The trail starts just beyond the Forest Service Informational Board. This is a combined trailhead for both Blodgett Overlook and Canyon Creek trails. Both share the same trail for the first 20 yards after which the Blodgett Overlook trail takes off to the right and the Canyon Creek trail continues straight. The overlook trail then climbs gradually, through a series of switchbacks, up the north wall of Canyon Creek from Blodgett Canyon to the north.

There are numerous scenic resting spots, some with benches constructed along the way. The views at the end of this relatively short 1.5 mile hike are spectacular. The overlook is located on an exposed rocky spire among big ponderosa pines. The views of the lower section of Blodgett Canyon and the immense rock faces are well worth the hike.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



# Boulder Creek Falls #617

(Moderate)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn right and head up the West Fork Road for 5.4 miles to Sam Billings Memorial Campground. Turn right here and continue 1.4 miles on this unpaved road until it ends at the trailhead. Park on the left side of the trailhead to keep your vehicle in the shade.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead: 4,540 ft. Boulder Falls: 5,480 ft.

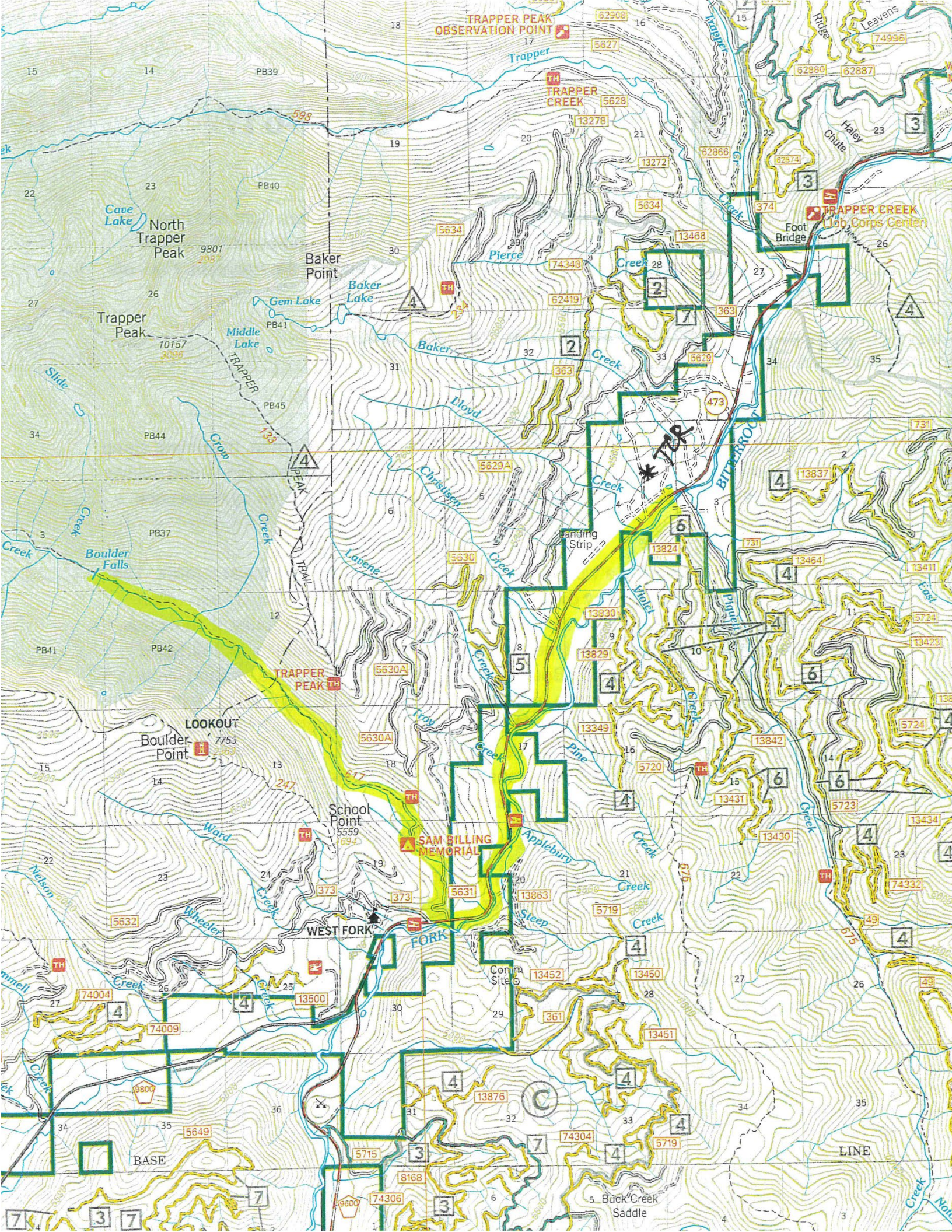
**MILEAGE:** Wilderness Boundary: 2.5 miles. Boulder Fall: 5 miles.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Excellent dirt trail beginning with gentle grade, becoming steep later. The trail is well marked and starts in a stand of huge Ponderosa pines and follows the east side of Boulder Creek. Please note that the trail is used often by horseback riders.

Boulder Creek Falls makes a wonderful day hike, reaching the falls in just 5 miles. The trail starts on a smooth, springy dirt trail near the stream in a charming flower - filled woods. For the first 2 miles the trail is very easy, climbing quite gradually. It continues, sometimes in heavy forest, sometimes in the open, crossing several side drainages along the way, rarely right beside Boulder Creek. One noticeable side stream, Crow Creek, can be quite wide and deep (especially in the spring). A log footbridge just above the trail was placed for crossing in 2001 so you don't have to get your feet wet anymore (though in the heat of the summer, this is a great place to take a short break and cool off your feet). The trail slope begins to increase and becomes moderately steep at about three miles. Here the trail emerges onto an open slope and offers views of the towering steep canyon walls. Boulder Peak looms to the west.

As you hike closer you will be able to hear the falls, but not see them. Here you face a large switchback that seems to take you far away from the falls on a steep uphill pull. Just after, you will emerge on a shelf next to the first of the waterfalls. You can hear the falls across the flat boulder to your left. Simply walk out over the boulders to see the falls. Walk along the edge a little higher to a second waterfall located 300 yards above the first, with a deep pool just below - perfect for a dip on a hot day and a great picnic area!

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!





# Castle Rock #627 ML

(Moderate)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn right onto the West Fork Road. Proceed on the paved road about 5 ½ miles. Turn right onto the Nez Perce Road just past the US Forest Service Ranger Station. Signs will say Nez Perce Road - Elk City Idaho. Drive 16 miles to the top of the Nez Perce Pass. There is a generous parking area at the pass. The trail starts on the back of the parking lot. The restrooms and horse ramps are on the south side of the road.

**ELEVATIONS:** 7,722 ft.

**MILEAGE:** 2.7 miles

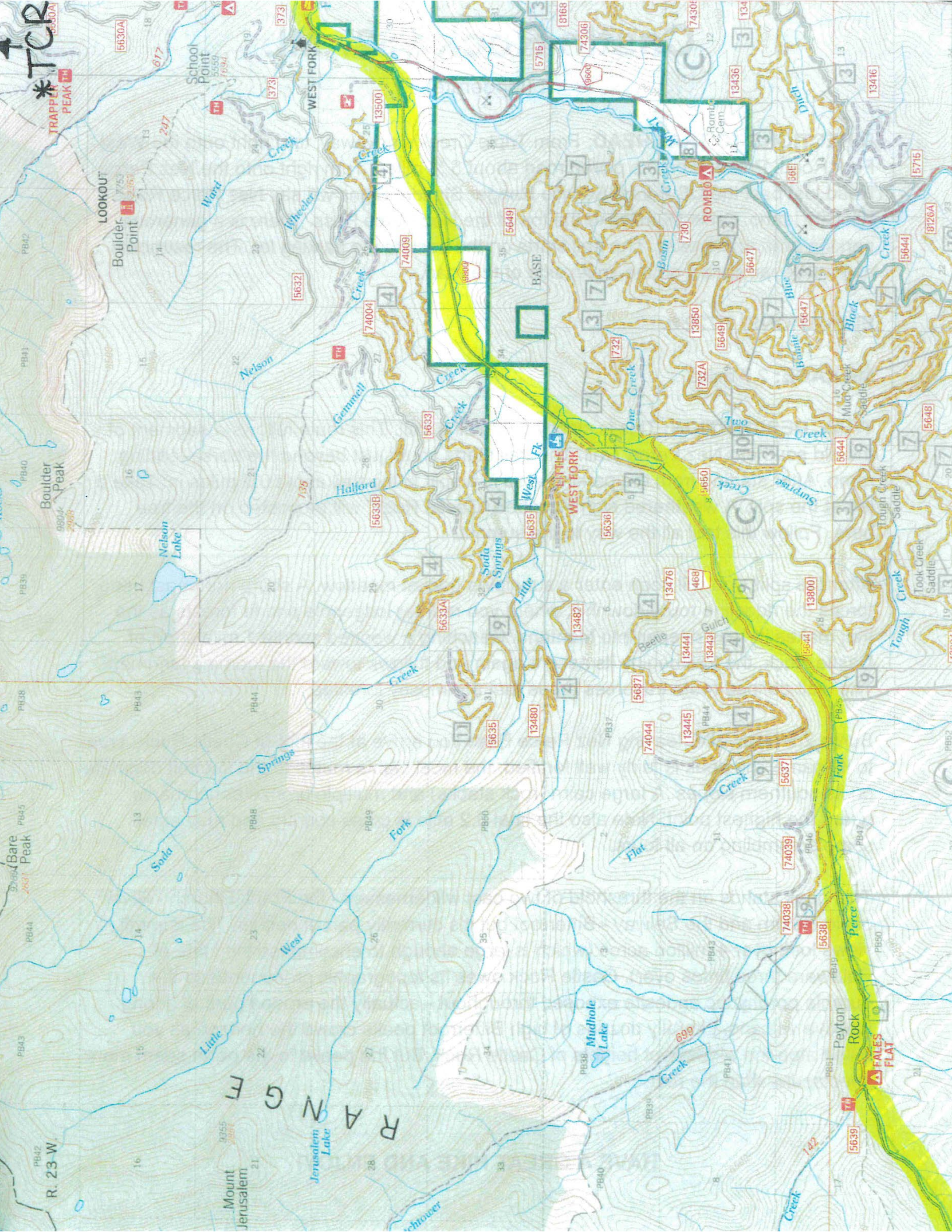
**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** This is strictly a ridgeline trail. This route follows a segment of the old southern Nez Perce Trail. The trail starts south just beyond the horse-loading ramp. After starting from the parking area is a split in the trail about 0.5 miles in. Take a left at the split. A weathered sign inscribed "Castle Rock" will be posted on the tree here. Follow this trail all the way to the summit.

After the split, you will soon enter a subalpine pocket meadow. A sharp northeast bend forces the ridgeline route downhill, where you reenter lodgepole and fir forests as the trail makes its way deeper into Montana. Reaching a wooded saddle 1 mile short of Castle Rock, the trail begins its ascent again and follows toward the looming landmark. The well-defined route traverses areas that are mostly forested.

Some 2.5 miles after leaving Nez Perce Pass you arrive at the foot of Castle Rock. True to its name, the peak is fairly well fortified, the most viable routes to the summit originate on its southern slopes. A large cairn (rock stacks) and multiple bronze benchmarks guard the highest point. Note also the final 0.2 mile is cross-country and may entail some scrambling on all fours.

This peak stands on the threshold of two cast wildernesses - the Frank Church - River of No Return and the Selway - Bitterroot but it's currently part of neither. The summit views look over 4 million acres (which is large enough to encompass the state of Delaware three times over). Castle Rock owes its topographic prominence to the durable porphyritic andesite exposed throughout - actually the eroded core of a long inactive volcano. Literally dozens of high Bitterroot peaks crowd the horizon as you stand atop the windswept heights of Castle Rock. But the peaks to the north seem more spectacular than the rest.

**HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!**



# Chaffin Creek #528

(Moderate to Strenuous)

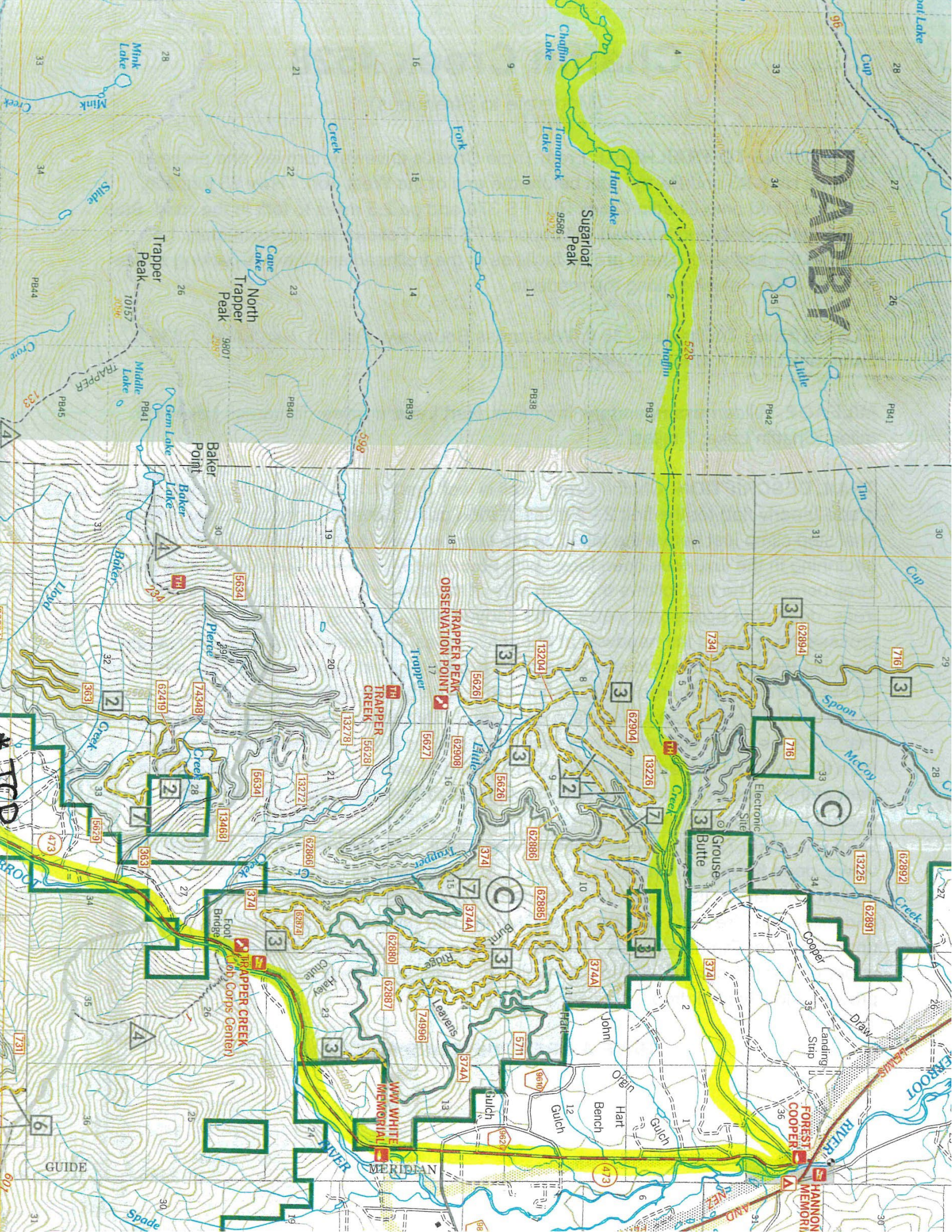
**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left and proceed towards Hwy. 93 and Darby. Just before the end of the West Fork / Hwy 93 junction, turn west (left) onto Chaffin Creek Rd / FS 374 and go 2.5 miles to fork in the road. Stay to the north (right) and the road will become FS 716. Follows for approximately 1.5 miles to the trailhead. There are no facilities at the trailhead and there is parking space for only a few vehicles along the roadside.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead 4,735 ft. Wilderness Boundary: 5,800 ft. Hart Lake: 7,336 ft. Tamarack Lake: 7,425 ft. Chaffin Lake: 7,505

**MILEAGE:** Wilderness Boundary: 3.5 miles. Hart Lake: 6 miles. Tamarack Lake: 6.5 miles. Chaffin Lake: 7 miles.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Chaffin Creek Trail is well marked and has a refreshingly gentle grade (nearly flat) for the first 2 - 3 miles. It then gains elevation rather steadily, with a final step climb just before the lakes. In the summer it endears itself to the hikers by beginning in the luxurious open forest with abundant wildflowers, huckleberries and wild strawberries. The trail follows the north side of the stream and though mostly in the trees, does offer occasional views of the canyon walls and nearby peaks. The path crosses the creek at the headwall at about five miles. Beyond the headwall, the creek crossing the trail appears to end abruptly at a solid rock wall. A large waterfall is located on the north side of the rock wall. To find the trail again follow the base of the rock face to the south (the left side as you face upstream). This will lead to a steep, rough trail that skirts the south side of the rock face that reaches Hart Lake. The elevation gain from the trailhead to Hart Lake (elevation 7,336 ft) is about 2,600 ft. Hart Lake has a dam at the lower end and is marshy. To continue to Tamarack Lake follow the trail around the south side of Hart Lake and then walk upstream about ½ mile. Tamarack Lake (elevation 7,425) is an exceptionally beautiful, high mountain lake with excellent views, good fishing and the largest of the Chaffin Creek trail lakes. There is an old rock and mortar dam at its outlet. Cross the dam to access the north side of Tamarack Lake and follow the stream to Chaffin Lake. Chaffin Lake (elevation 7,505) lies about ½ mile upstream from Tamarack Lake. Chaffin Lake is a small, high alpine lake sitting at the upper end of the canyon. Steep rock walls and high bare peaks to the west and north provide a lovely backdrop.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



# DARBY

Sugarloaf Peak  
9586  
9372

North Trapper Peak  
9807  
2987

Trapper Peak  
10157  
2096

TRAPPER PEAK  
OBSERVATION POINT

TRAPPER CREEK

TRAPPER CREEK  
Job Corps Center

M.W. WHITE  
MEMORIAL

FOREST  
COOPER

HANNON  
MEMORIAL

GUIDE

NE 1/4  
LAND

# Nelson Lake #5633 & #135

(Moderate to Strenuous - walking sticks recommended)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creeks's driveway, turn right and head up the West Fork Road for approximately 8 miles and take the right fork at the "Magruder - Elk City, Idaho" sign. Proceed 3 miles and turn right at the "Gommel Creek - Nelson Lake" sign. Go 2.7 miles and turn right. Drive 0.3 miles to the Nelson Lake sign. Again turn right and drive 2.4 miles to the Nelson Lake trailhead sign. This is a good road. Trailhead parking is limited, however, and there are no facilities.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead: 5,900 ft. Lake: 7,300 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Nelson Lake: 5 ½ miles.

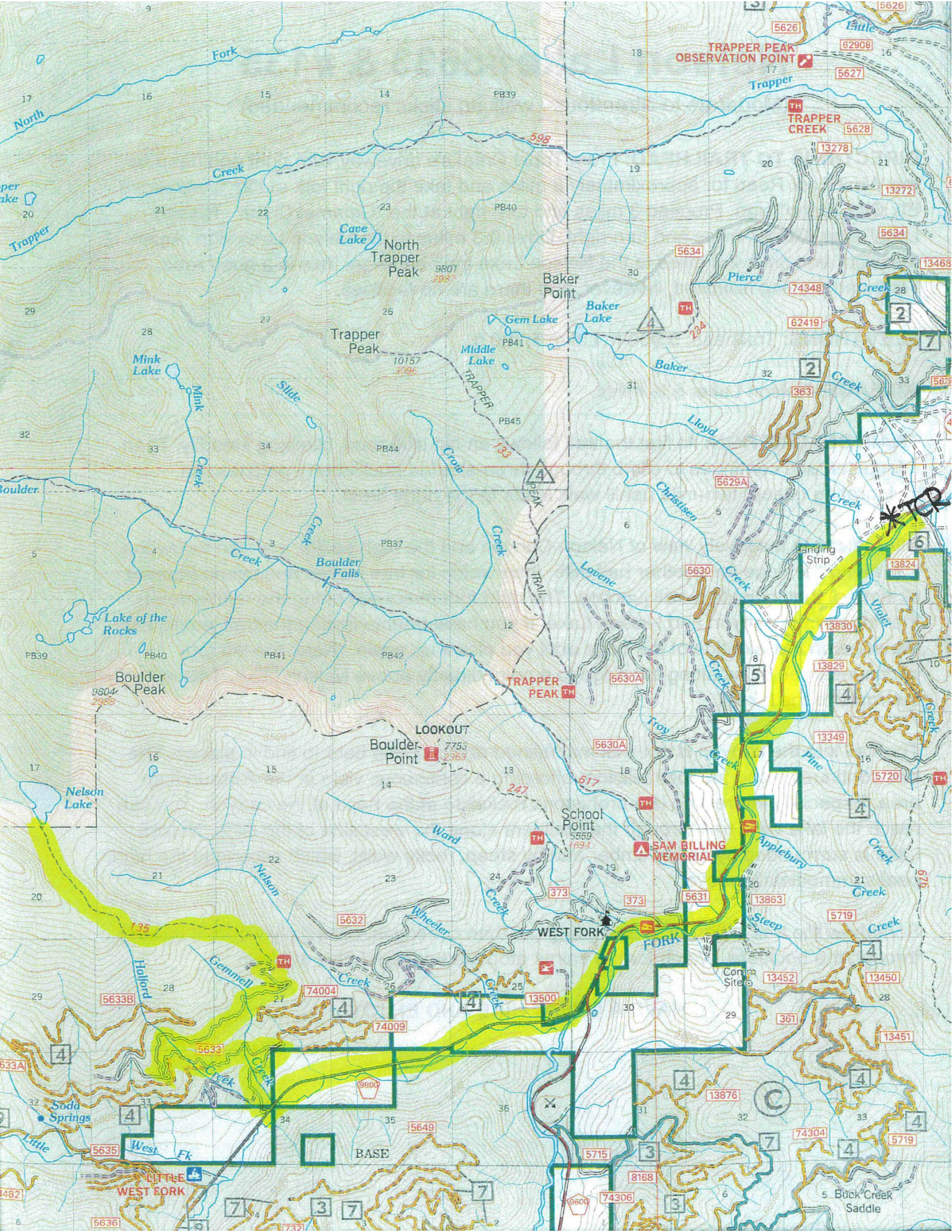
**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** At first the trail follows an old skid road, climbing steadily. Then it forks left and continues to climb through three-shaded huckleberry patches. An invigorating (steep) two-mile uphill walk leads to the ridge crest.

After taking in the lovely view of Nelson Canyon and the high peaks, you can follow the trail along the ridge for another half mile, then watch for tree blazes and cairns (mound of stones) that indicate a trail junction. The right fork descends along the right side of the ridge to the canyon and Nelson Lake. If you have trouble finding the trail just follow the edge on the lakeside of the ridge until you pick it up again. (Note: the left fork continues three miles along the ridge to a point directly above Nelson Lake. This is not the route to the lake!).

The trail into the canyon is not well maintained and is a little hard to find in places. The trail continues along an open hillside, affording a continuous vista of the surrounding area. Especially interesting is a prehistoric rockslide at the head of the canyon. You can reach the lake via a trail through the boulders along the west side of the slide. Nelson Lake is surrounded by heavy timber and by steep, rocky walls, which ascend to the high peaks immediately above.

Somehow the trail is harder to find going out than coming in, especially where it threads through the boulders. Watch for the cairns atop the boulders! This will help.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



# Piquett Lake #675

(Moderate)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, make a right onto the West Fork Road. Follow the West Fork Road to Painted Rocks Reservoir (approximately 14 miles). Just beyond the dam there is a dirt road on the left - Little Boulder Creek - make this left. About 1 mile up the dirt road there is a sharp, hairpin turn to the left. This is the trailhead.

**ELEVATIONS:** Elevation gain to ridgeline: 2,600 ft. Piquett Lake: 8,000 ft.

**MILEAGE:** 7 miles

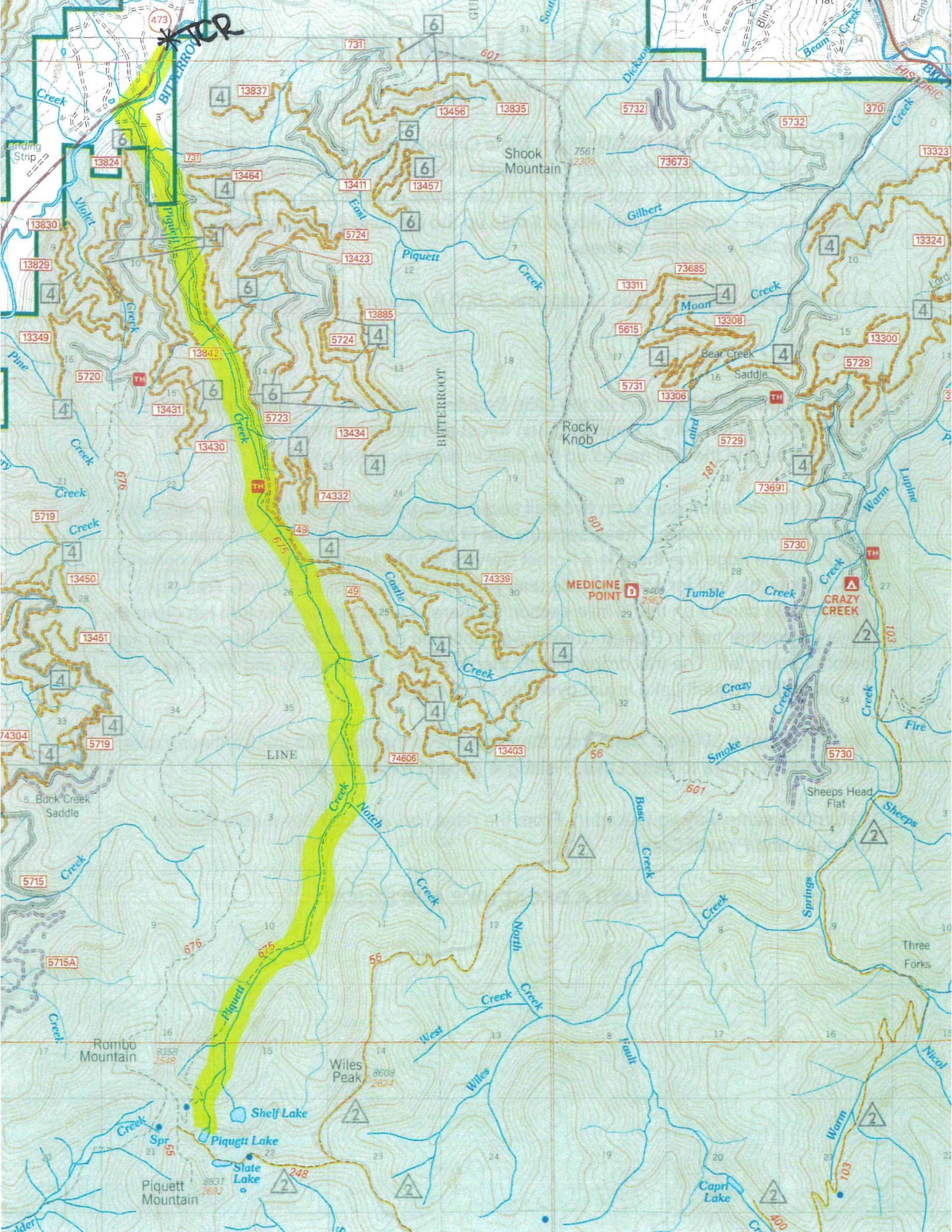
**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Hike up the Little Boulder Creek Trail for 4 miles to the ridge line. The first part of the hike is through green forest and along the creek. Then, enter a burned area and the trail moves up the hillside away from the creek.

Most of the elevation gain is on two trail sections away from Boulder Creek when you are hiking up the hillside. These sections are in the burn area and there is little if any shade. At the ridge line there is a Forest Service sign indicating trails, take the rightmost trail. Follow this trail for about  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile until you see another Forest Service Trail sign. Turn left. Be careful on the  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile section as there is an opportunity to turn left down the ridge on another trail to Piquett Creek - wait until you get to the Forest Service Trail sign before turning left. The trail drops slightly then crosses a talus slope and then rises over a small ridge. Piquett Lake is just over this small ridge line.

There is about a 300-foot climb from the ridge line to the lake. The trail continues over another small ridge to Slate Lake. Fishing is good in Piquett Lake!

Return the same way you hiked in. From the ridge line you look down onto Piquett drainage and Piquett Creek.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!





# Saint Mary's Peak #116

(Moderate to Strenuous)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** Drive time is about an hour and 45 minutes. From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left onto West Fork Road for 8.5 miles and take a left onto US-93 N. Take US-93 N for 36.6 miles to Indian Prairie Road (marked by a US Forest Service sign). Follow this road for 11 miles to the trailhead. The trailhead area has room for about 15 cars and has a restroom.

**ELEVATIONS:** St.Mary's Peak: 9,321 ft. Trailhead: 6,900 ft.

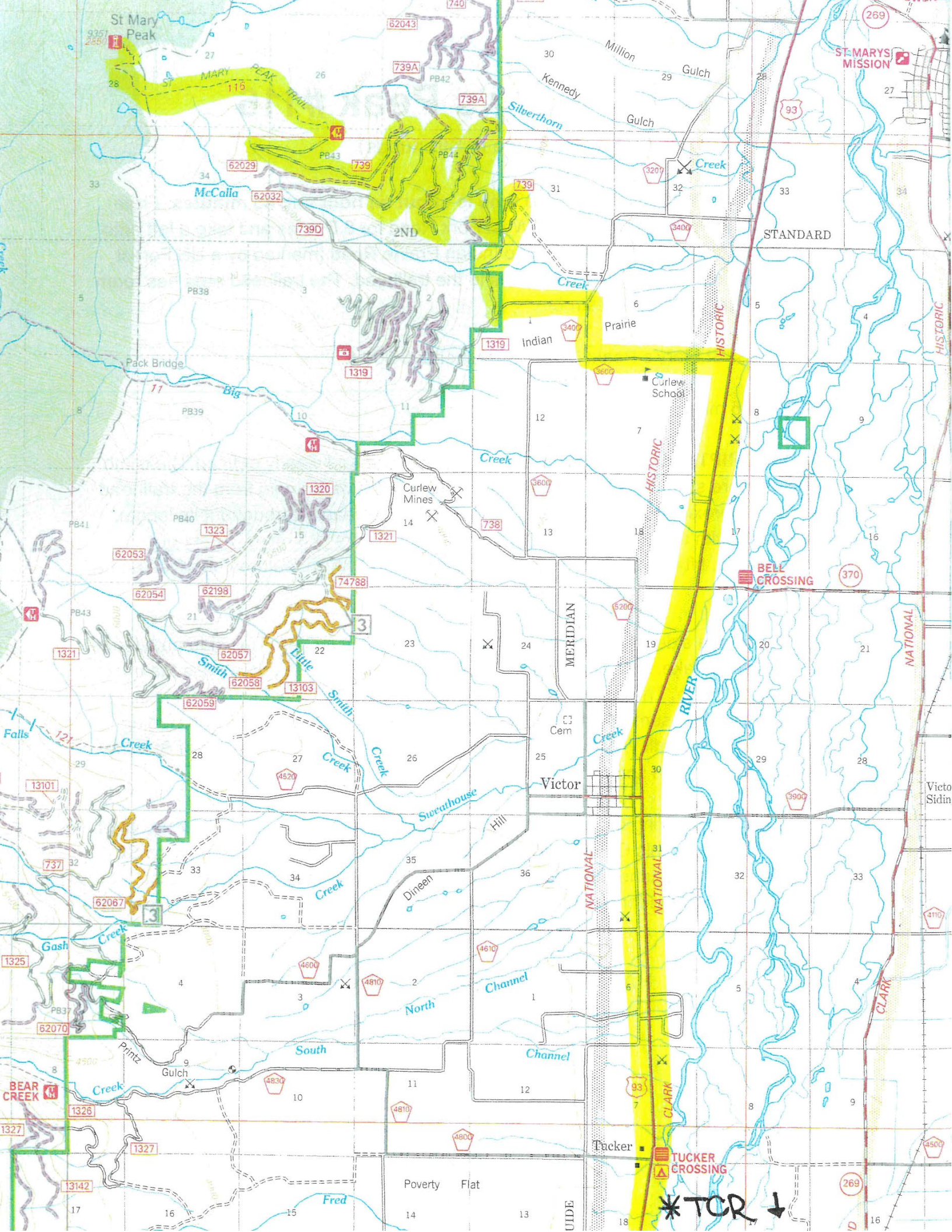
**MILEAGE:** 4.5 miles

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** This 4.5 mile hike is well marked and clearly defined. The climb, however, is more strenuous than many people expect. Elevation gain from the trailhead to the top is approximately 2,500 feet. The trail ascends steadily throughout its length. The trail starts with switchbacks through the trees for the first 1.5 miles. At about one-quarter mile, fifty feet left of the trail, there is a spring which features benches and a horse trough.

At about 2 miles, a side path forks to the left, stay on the main trail. This side path leads down to a shallow lake. At 2.5 miles the trail starts to switchback again across the bare rock face of the ridge. The course is easy to follow and the mountain top remains in view at all times. The summit, at 9,350 feet, offers a splendid view of the surrounding Bitterroot peaks, the valley, and the Sapphire range to the east. The summit of St. Mary Mountain is the site of a spindly US Forest Service fire control tower.

The three rest stops along the trail were built by Father Ravalli Council of the Knights of Columbus. Each year this Catholic organization sponsors a religious pilgrimage to St. Mary Peak. The event generally begins early on a Sunday morning in mid-August. They stop at each of the three rest areas for a brief religious service and celebrate mass at the top.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



St Mary Peak

ST-MARYS MISSION

MARY CLARK TRAIL

McCalla

Big Creek

Smith Creek

Smith Creek

Gash Creek

Bear Creek

Fred

Million Gulch

Kennedy Gulch

Silverthorn Gulch

Prairie Creek

Creek

Meridian Creek

Swathouse Hill

Dineen Channel

North Channel

South Channel

STANDARD

BELL CROSSING

Victor

Tucker

TUCKER CROSSING

\*TCR ↓

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739A

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# Shook Mountain #731 & #601

(Strenuous)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn right onto the West Fork Road. After approximately 1 mile, you will see the Piquett Creek Road sign. Take a left and cross the bridge. Continue up for 1.5 miles. At this point, you will notice a sign that indicates the road to Shook Mountain. Take the sharp left here and head up the mountain. This is a narrow road with steep banks. Just past the 3 mile marker, you will come to a "Y" in the road: take the left fork. There is another "Y" shortly after you pass the 7 mile marker. You will find the trail on the left fork of the road, but look carefully as the road does not end at the trailhead. After you have found the trail, you will see a Shook Mountain sign about 20 yards beyond the trailhead.

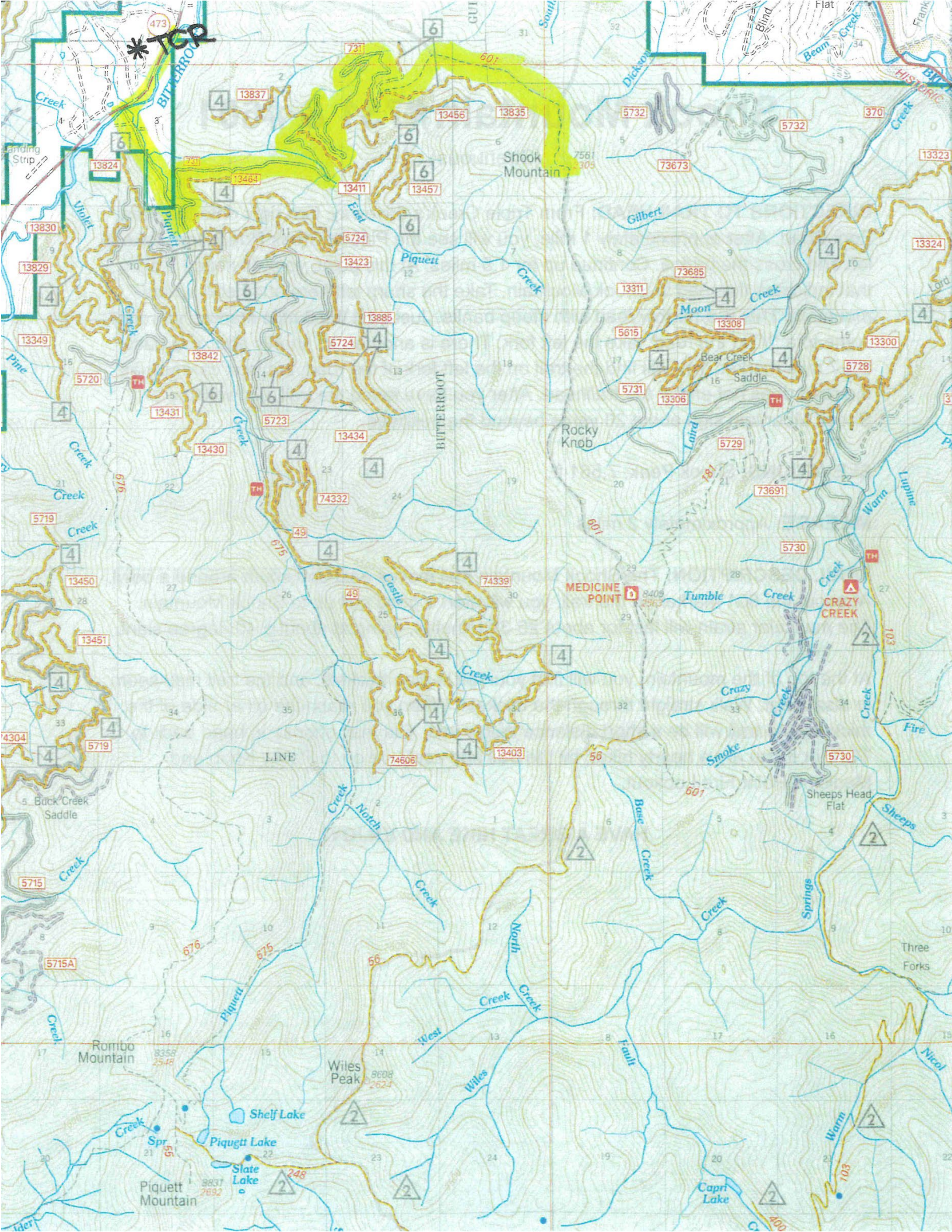
**ELEVATIONS:** Shook Peak: 7,561 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Approximately 2 miles

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** The Shook Mountain trail moves east and south around a bowl. At about the 601 marker on the trail, you will start a good pull up to Shook Mountain. The muscular strain will last for about 25-30 minutes, going at about a 40 degree slant.

At the top of the mountain, you will find yourself in pine thickets, and the trail may seem to disappear. Walk straight through the thickets. When you reach the other side of the thickets, the trail will be a short distance below you. You may choose to head back to TCR, or if you are a hearty hiker, hit the trail and continue on to Rocky Knob and Medicine Point Fire Lookout.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



# State Line North #16

## Nez Perce Trail #13

(Moderate)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway turn right onto the West Fork Road. Proceed on for about 5 ½ miles. Turn right onto the Nez Perce Road just past the US Forest Service Ranger Station. Signs will say Nez Perce Road - Elk City, Idaho. Drive 16 miles to the top of the Nez Perce Pass. There is a generous parking area at the top of the pass. The trail starts across the highway on the north side of the Nez Perce Road. The restrooms and horse ramps are on the south side of the road.

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead: 6,587 ft. Fork in trailhead: 7,160 ft. Nez Perce Peak: 8,387 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Indian grave: 0.7 miles. Fork in trail: 3 miles. Nez Perce Peak: 6 miles.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Cross the road to the north side. The well - defined trail climbs steeply through a grove of widely spaced trees for 0.6 miles and then emerges in a large, open, hillside meadow. The route levels out a bit in the meadow. A very unobtrusive sign for Fales Flat trail junction is located at the northern end of the clearing. Stay left and continue hiking north. About 300 yards past the junction, on the left side of the trail, is an Indian grave with a marble headstone. This is the final resting place of Francis Adams, Salish Indian, who died at age 80 in 1900. The grave is outlined with small rocks. I have been told there are other Indian graves nearby, however this is the only one with a marker. The route climbs for another 0.2 miles beyond the gravesite and then follows more gentle rolling terrain. It continues through a series of open hillside meadows with grand views in every direction. When the Beargrass plums are in season the white flowers dominate the landscape. From this area Nez Perce Peak is clearly visible to the West. The trail enters a wooded segment for 0.7 miles before a signed trail junction.

**Turn left** for Nez Perce Peak and follow the **Nez Perce Trail** west through the lodgepole forest.

**Turn right** to continue following the **State Line Trail**. This trail will be more level than the Nez Perce Trail.

The Nez Perce Trail follows a spur ridge leading all the way to the peak. The route winds through some trees and then crosses a large open hillside meadow and makes a steep descent through a grove of trees. At 5.2 miles a steep climb leads to a saddle at the lower end of an open hillside. There is a campsite on the north side of the trail at the saddle. The view of the peak is blocked by the steep hill. The route to the Nez Perce Peak leads up the ridge past a campsite and then climbs through a hillside meadow where a 50 - foot segment of the trail is not clearly defined. Just head uphill facing west and watch for the trail on the left. The remaining 0.7 miles' segment is very easy to find as it climbs through an open grassy hillside. At the top are the remains of an old lookout tower.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



# Tin Cup Creek Trail #639 & 96

(Easy to moderate to strenuous)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left on the West Fork Road and drive 7.5 miles until you come to Highway 93. Turn left onto Highway 93 and proceed towards Darby. Once in Darby, turn left on Tin Cup Road (there is a large sign on the left for Tin Cup Lodge). Follow the signed road west. About 100 yards beyond the end of the pavement, Tin Cup Road takes a sharp left turn and climbs a hill. It's a 3.5 mile drive from Highway 93 to the trailhead. When you reach the junction with road 639B, turn left and cross the bridge to the trailhead. There is a large parking area.

**ELEVATIONS:** Tin Cup Lake: 6,283 ft.

**MILEAGE:** 1st Creek Crossing (to northside): 3 miles. Waterfall: 4 miles. 2nd Creek Crossing (to southside): 6 miles. Tin Cup Lake: 11 miles. Pass to Idaho: 13 miles. Total length of the hike is 13 miles.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** The trail starts on the west - side of the road and follows the south - side of Tin Cup Creek for the first 3 miles. The trail through heavy forest is well maintained and relatively easy. For the first 3 miles, the grade is very gradual. At about 1.5 miles the trail becomes noticeably wider. The trail follows an old bulldozer road for most of the distance to Tin Cup Lake. At 3 miles, the trail crosses to the north side of the creek. There is a single log that serves a scary foot - bridge just above a horse crossing. After crossing to the creek's north side, the trail begins to climb a little more steeply. The canyon begins to open up at this point and is no longer enclosed by heavy forest. The trees are more widely spaced and there are numerous clearing along the creek. About 1 mile past the crossing is a lovely cascade with a very pleasant clearing next to the creek, a delightful place for a picnic. As the trail climbs, the canyon walls spread farther apart offering lovely views of the towering ridge tops on both sides of the canyon, while the creek rushes below. At about 6 miles, the trail crosses back to the south side of the creek. There is a convenient sing log foot - bridge available here. The trail continues to climb gradually, but steadily, along this wide part of the canyon. There is good access to the creek offering tempting fishing opportunities throughout most of its length. There is an exceptionally nice clearing next to the creek about 1 mile past the second crossing. Here the creek is squeezed tightly between narrow rock walls. This is a very picturesque spot for camp, or a break from hiking. The trail continues to climb gradually until reaching about 1 mile below the lake. Here the trail crosses the creek for a third time and then climbs steeply up the north wall of the canyon to Tin Cup Lake. The lake is about a mile long and is located in a high steep walled basin.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!





# Trapper Peak #5630 & #133

(Strenuous - walking sticks recommended)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway, turn right and head up the West Fork Road. At the sign for Trapper Peak, turn right on Lavene Creek Road. The sign here indicates the trailhead is 4 miles from this point, but it is actually about 6.5 miles. Follow this gravel road for 0.6 miles to a junction. Take the left fork and follow the sign pointing to Troy Creek and Trapper Peak. Continue climbing on this road for 4 miles to the trailhead, which lies just past a switchback and is marked by a sign. There is a wide spot in the road for parking just before the trailhead.

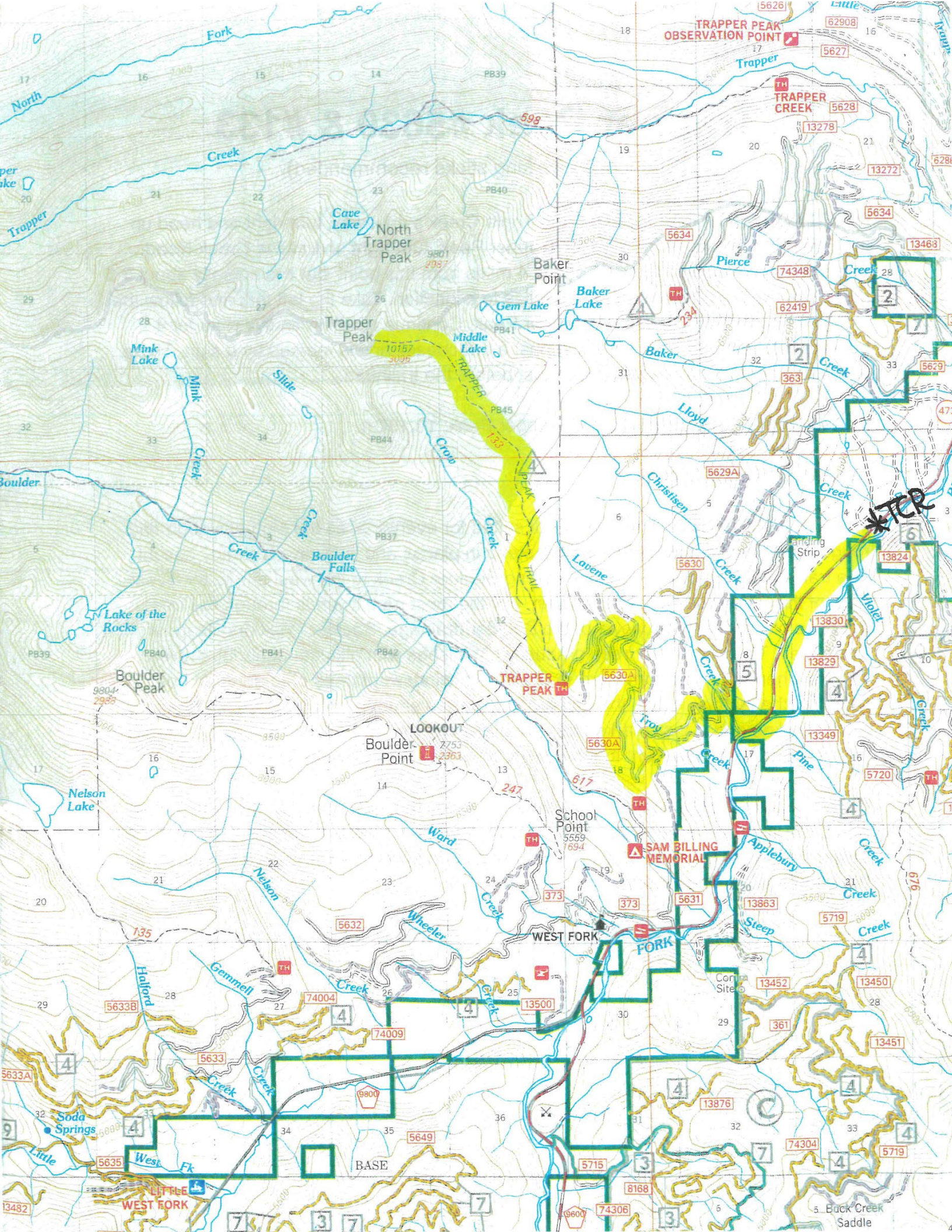
**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead: 6,360 ft. Trapper Peak: 10,157 ft.

**MILEAGE:** 5 miles to peak.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** This hike is not suited for everyone, as the high elevation and rough terrain make it difficult. It is very steep in places and is always a steady ascent. The trail starts high on a ridge overlooking Boulder Creek to the west and to the West Fork of the Bitterroot River to the south. For the most part, it winds through the trees, but does offer occasional views of the Boulder drainage, Boulder Peak and Trapper Peak itself. The size of the trees gradually diminishes with altitude, at about 3 miles. The trail then emerges from a group of stunted, windswept trees onto an open boulder field. For the last few miles, the trail winds toward a saddle among the boulders above the timberline and is well marked by rock piles. The actual peak lies just to the left of this saddle. The final ascent to the peak follows an easily traversed ridge.

Scramble over the last of these boulders and enjoy the view from 10,000 feet! To the north, the view is a sheer drop. Thousands of feet down lies picturesque, glacial Cave Lake surrounded by bare, jagged peaks. This spectacular view is definitely well worth the effort it takes to get there!

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



TRAPPER PEAK OBSERVATION POINT

Cave Lake

Trapper Peak

Baker Point

Baker Lake

Lake of the Rocks

Boulder Peak

Nelson Lake

LOOKOUT

Boulder Point

School Point

SAM BILLING MEMORIAL

WEST FORK

Soda Springs

BASE

Back Creek Saddle

X

# Watchtower Creek #699

(Moderate)

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** From Triple Creek's driveway turn right. Stay on the Westfork Road for approximately 7 miles. You'll see a road veering off to the right just before a bridge, turn on that road (Nez Perce Road). Check your odometer at this junction, as it is almost exactly 9 miles to Watchtower Creek's signed turnoff. Trailhead is within ¼ mile of the turnoff.

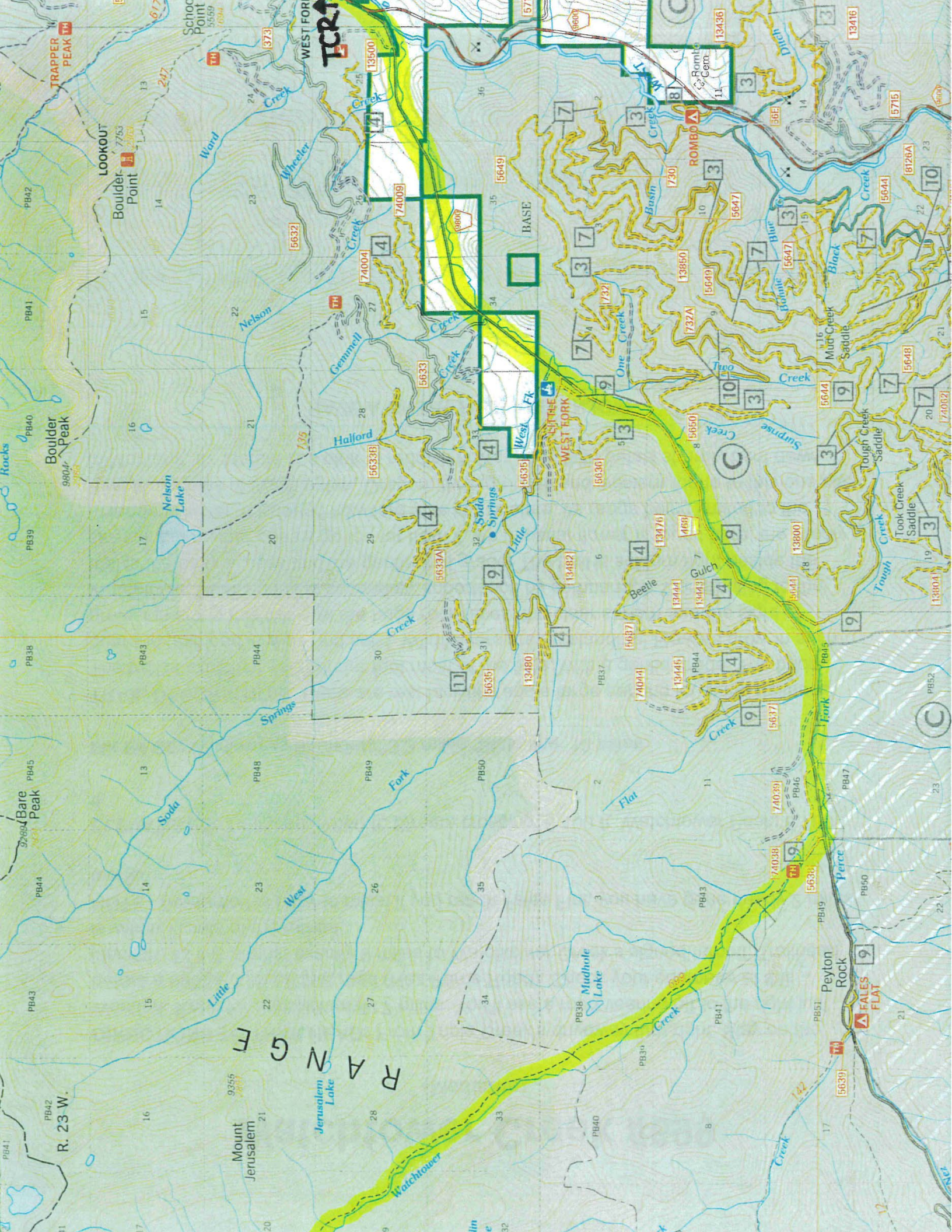
**NOTE:** The turnoff is easy to miss: if you reach Fales Flat, you have gone nearly 2 miles too far!

**ELEVATIONS:** Trailhead: 5,080 ft. Stream crossing: 6,100 ft. Watchtower Peak: 8,780 ft.

**MILEAGE:** Wilderness Boundary: 3.3 miles. State line: 10 miles.

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** There are rest facilities and a large parking lot at the trailhead. The trail is excellent - soft under foot most of the time, with a gentle grade. The bridge near the trailhead is wide and solid. Wildflowers are outstanding! Flowers grow in such profusion along this trail that the huge rock faces, the clear stream and the sight of Watchtower Peak shrink to secondary importance by comparison. Contributing to the trail is the easy access and the gentle trail grade. The trail is seldom right beside the stream, but neither does it go too far from it. An unusual flower is found here, the Woolly - Headed Clover. It is found nowhere else in this state, its range being limited to the Blue Mountains of Washington, Oregon, through Utah and western Idaho to this one site in Montana. Its feature is a pink to reddish flower head with petals sharply bent down.

HAVE A GREAT HIKE AND ENJOY!



PANHANDLE

Jerusalem Lake

Mount Jerusalem

R. 23 W.

Little Fork

Soda Springs

Bare Peak

West Fork

Boulder Peak

Nelson Lake

LOOKOUT Boulder Point

TRAPPER PEAK

BASE

WEST FORK

ROMBO

Peyton Rock

FALES FLAT

Beetle Gulch

Surprise Creek

Tough Creek Saddle

Took Creek Saddle

Mud Creek Saddle

Blue Basin

One Creek

Wheeler Creek

Halford Creek

Gemmill Creek

Ward Creek

Schoch Point