

Heart Lake Hike June 27, 2015

Location: Idaho-Montana Divide

Status: Proposed Wilderness

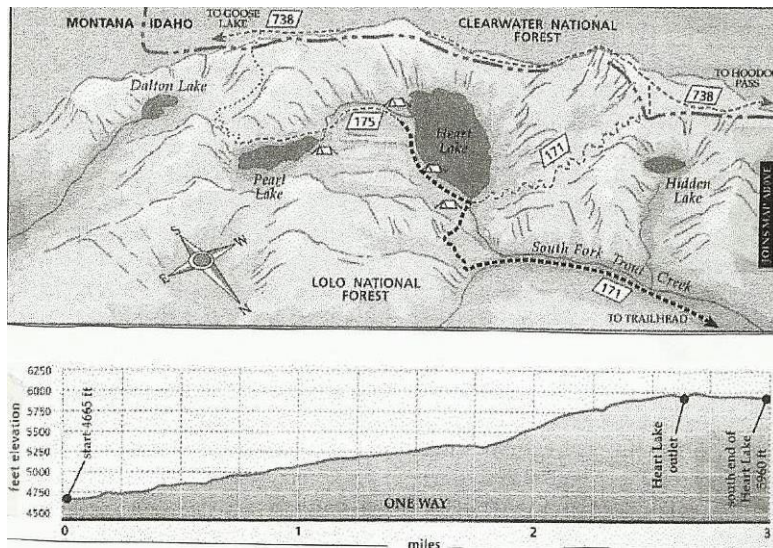
Distance: 6 miles round trip

Hiking time: ~3-4 hours or overnight

Difficulty: Moderate

Season: Mid-June through late October

Information: Lolo National Forest, Superior Ranger District



Hike into an area proposed as part of the Great Burn Wilderness and camp at the largest alpine lake in this western portion of the Bitterroot Mountains. Walk is a reasonably easy 3 miles to the lake. From there; opportunities exist to fish, hike to ridgelines above the lake for views, or to pearl lake and/or the Stateline trail (#738).

From Interstate 90, take Exit 47 at Superior, Montana, and head east on Diamond Road (State Hwy 257), which parallels the south side of I-90. The pavement eventually ends and becomes Forest Road 250 (Trout Creek). It's about 20 miles from Superior (passing Trout Campground) up to the Heart Lake Trailhead and parking area.

Trail 175 is well used and follows the South Fork of Trout Creek to the lake. It crosses several small tributary streams, but is generally dry. It is reasonably gentle, gaining about 1,130 feet in 3 miles through timber and grassy meadows. Just before reaching the lake Trail 171 intersects from the right. This trail is probably passable, but users should expect a steep, rocky path with switchbacks.