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|---------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Date | Mid July, 2009 | Time | All Day |
| Location | Loon and Twentymile Lakes | Weather | Clear |
| Fish Species | Cutthroat & Rainbow | Size Range | 10 – 12”; occasional 14” |
| Fish Caught | Several Cutthroat & Rainbow | | |
| Flies Used | Adams, Black Ant | | |
| Techniques | Dry Fly | | |
| Comments | We took 15 boys on a high adventure in the McCall area. | | |

A few leaders and I took 15 young men from our LDS church youth group (age 14-18) on a mountain biking high adventure in the McCall area. We made our base camp at Upper Payette Lake. We biked, kayaked, canoed, soaked in a hot spring, hiked and fished. It was a very fun week that built some lasting memories.

Itinerary

Tuesday, July 14: Biked the Bear Basin Nordic Ski Trails and kayaked and canoed at the inlet of Payette Lake

Wednesday, July 15: Biked 10m to Loon Lake to see the World War II bomber and soaked at Burgdorf hot springs.

Thursday, July 16: Biked and hiked 12 miles to Twentymile Lakes to fish for Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout.

Friday, July 17: Biked the 5m Goose Creek Trail and biked Brundage ski resort using the chairlifts.

Loon Lake

I've always wanted to hike into Loon Lake from Chinook Campground. I'd heard the story of the World War II Bomber that crashed on the frozen lake and slid into the nearby trees. I'd also heard about the Moose, Wolves, and Loons that inhabit the area not to mention all the other wildlife. Loons are rare to hear now but you may get lucky early in the summer. I met a guy that told me that he heard Loons and Wolves on the same night while on an overnight camping trip two years ago.

I packed my backpack with lunch for everybody while everyone else rode their bikes on one of Idaho's classic mountain biking trails. A portion of the trail takes you along the beautiful Secesh River. We were a little early to see the King Salmon spawning. The area burned in 1994 scarring the landscape for miles and miles. Despite many burned areas it was a beautiful hike. I never had the chance to fish but it looked like some fun fishing water.



Crossing the bridge over the Secesh River

Loon Lake from the outlet





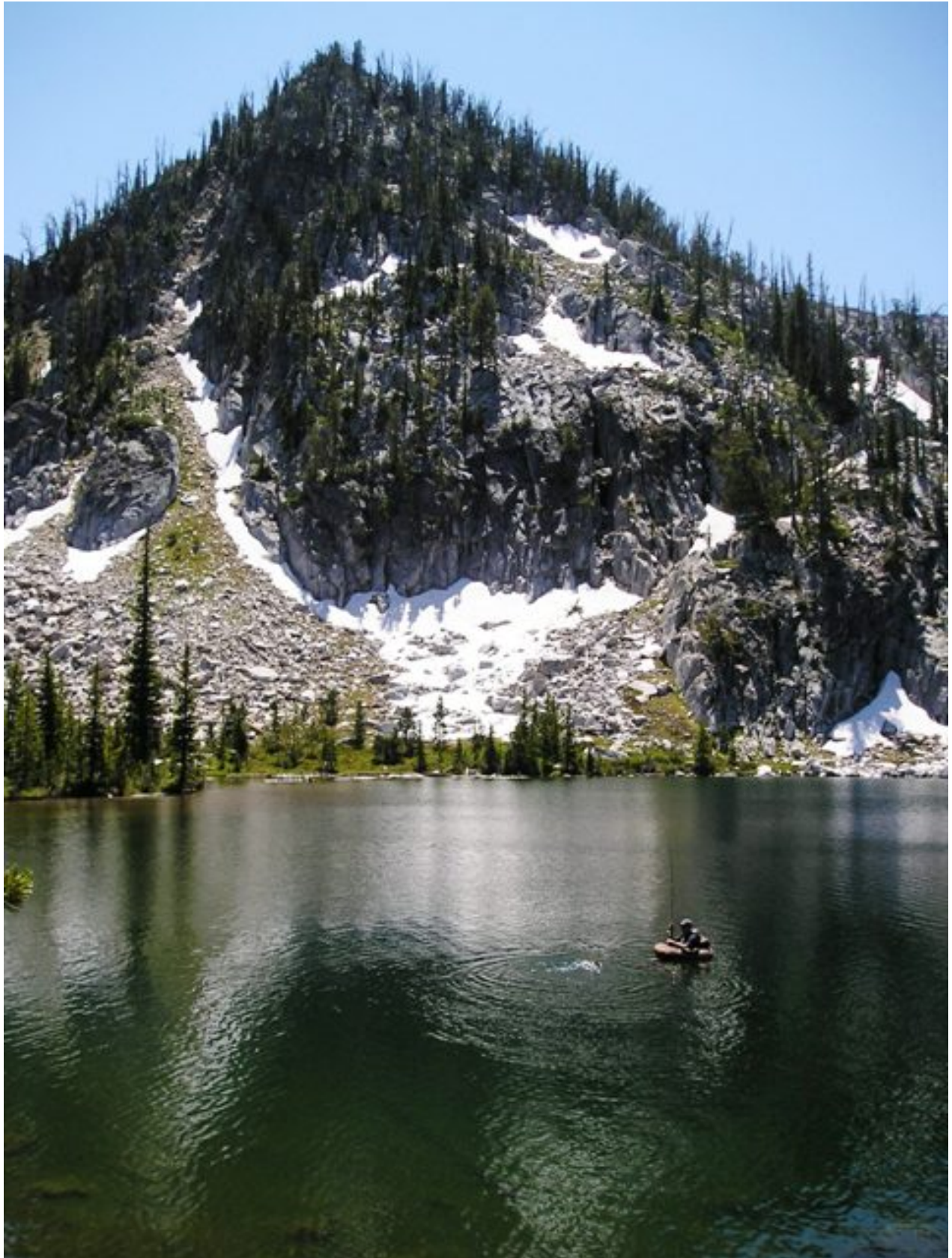
World War II Bomber crash site

Twentymile Lakes

We biked 3 miles and hiked 3 miles to get to Twentymile Lakes. It was a grueling 2000' climb for a day hike but we did it. We were rewarded with some beautiful scenery and excellent fishing for pan sized Trout. Everyone that brought a pole caught fish. It was a nice surprise to see another Scout group from Eagle that had packed in with horses. They had a nice camp set up and were cooking with dutch oven.

There are four lakes in the Basin that all had fine fishing. I caught a few fish from each lake as I walked around gathering the scattered boys. There was a leader from the other group that was fishing from a float tube that constantly had a fish on his line. This day tested the boy's endurance but I think they enjoyed it despite the hard work.

This is one of those trips that the boys will remember for a lifetime. It is very rewarding as a leader to spend time with the youth in the outdoors. I wish it was an experience that all the youth could have.





Twentymile Lakes

Upper Payette Lake near the campground (below)

