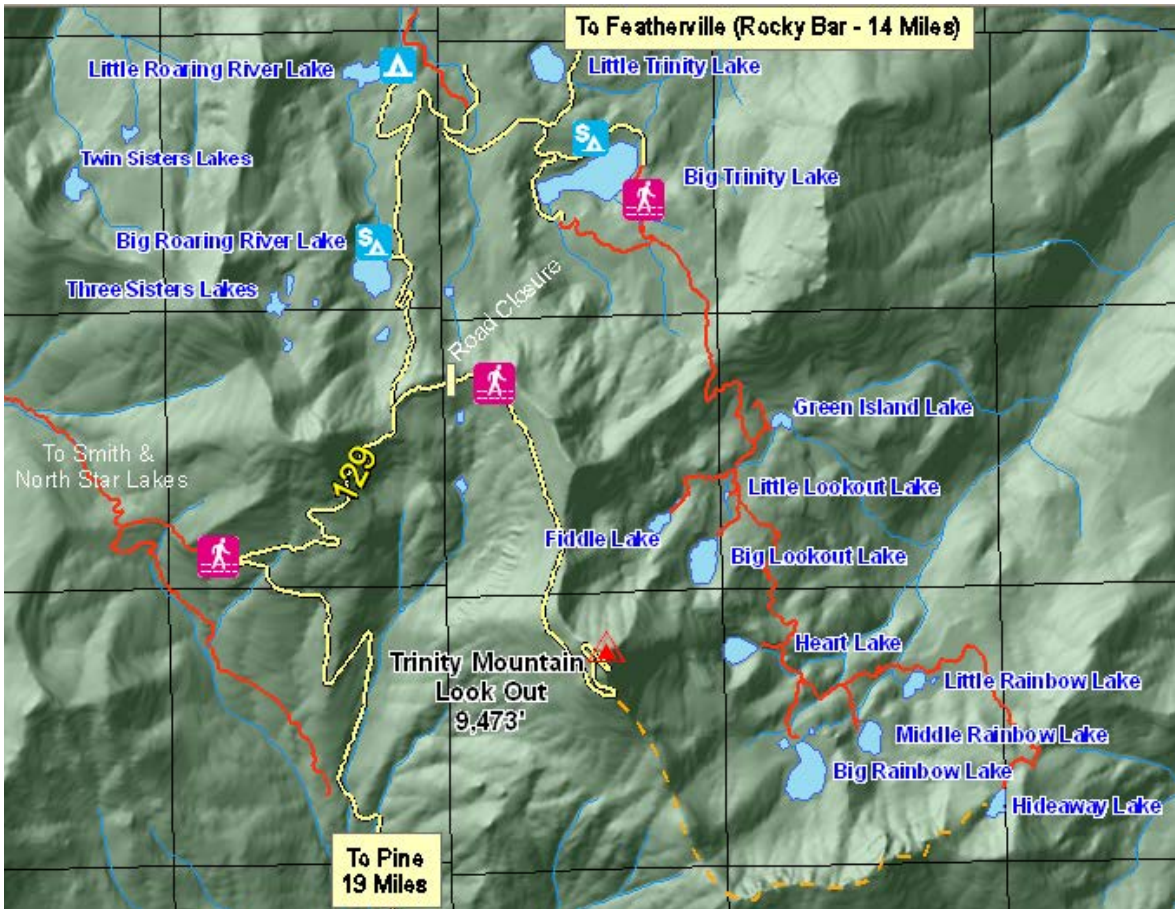




Date	Early/mid July 2006	Time	All day at different lakes
Location	Trinity Lakes – Rainbow Basin	Weather	Clear Skies
Fish Species	Cutthroat; Rainbow	Size Range	10"-16"
Fish Caught	Several		
Flies Used	Standard nymphs; small dry flies		
Techniques	Float dry flies; strip small nymphs		
Comments	It is a beautiful hike that is accessible by any vehicle.		

The Trinity Mountain lakes are located between the South Fork and the Middle Fork of the Boise River drainages about 80 miles northeast of Mountain Home. The area has spectacular scenery in a high mountain setting with snow covered peaks that line the cirque lakes below. All can enjoy the area since there are lakes that are both road accessible and those that require a hike into Rainbow Basin.

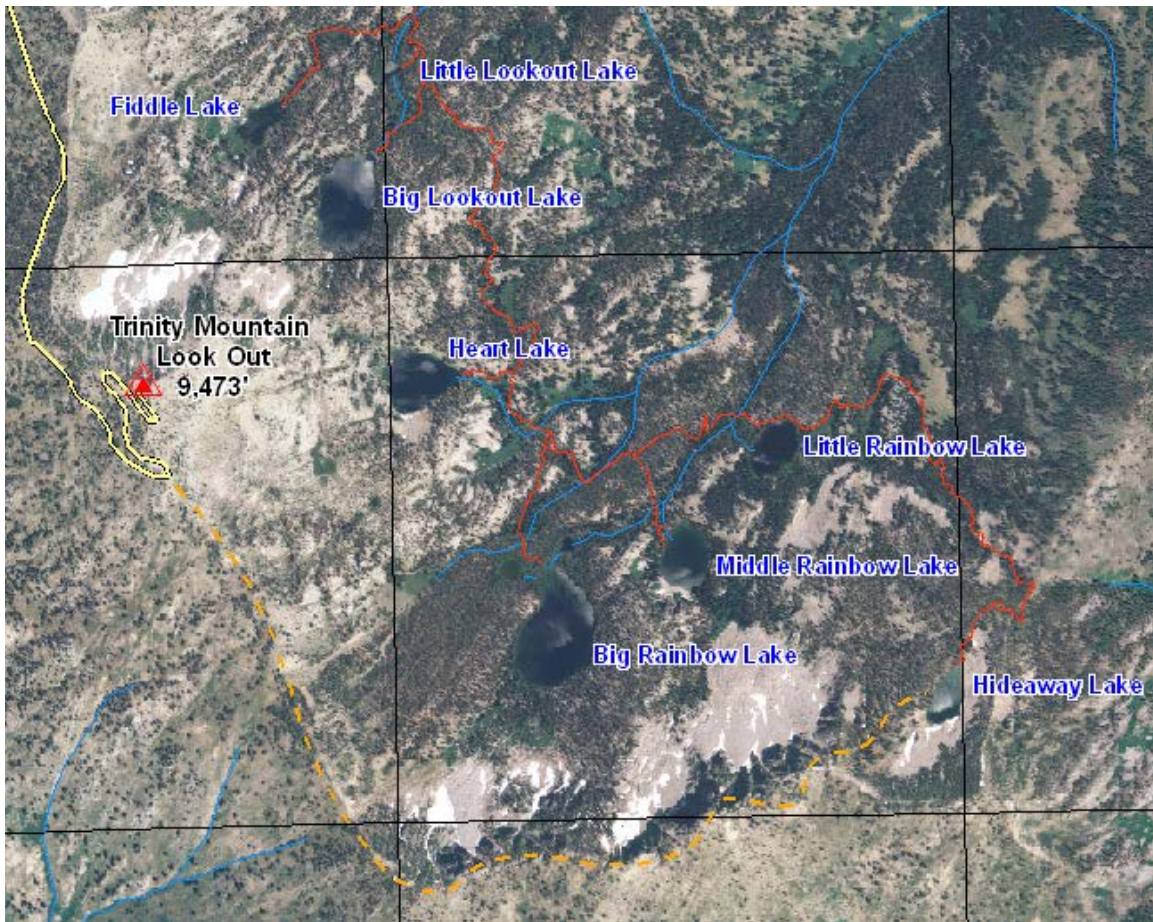


Trinity Mountain Area

Lakes on Trinity Mountain contain Rainbow, Cutthroat and a few Grayling. There is non-motorized boat use on all lakes in the Trinity area. Three lakes provide Forest Service campgrounds. Don't forget the mosquito repellent!

Trinity Mountain is accessible by car from early/mid July to early/mid October weather permitting. There are a few ways to get there but I recommend the following: From Boise drive east on Interstate 84 to Mountain Home. Drive northeast on Highway 20 until you come to the turnoff for Pine. Follow the paved road to Pine. Continue heading north to Featherville. Turn west on forest road 172 and proceed until you come to a T at forest road 129. Turn left (south) on forest road 129 and proceed until you come to Little Trinity Lake, which is the first lake on the north side of Trinity Mountain that you will come to.

The group of lakes that I recommend fishing is located in Rainbow Basin. The trailhead to Rainbow Basin begins on the east end of Big Trinity Lake. It is a non-motorized trail. If hiking to Hideaway Lake, I would suggest parking on the side of the road at the gate that closes the road to Trinity Mountain Lookout. I would then walk up the road to the lookout which offers breathtaking views of the lakes in the basin. I would then proceed to follow the ridgeline to Hideaway Lake (shown in orange). I hiked to the lookout with my five-year old daughter before so it is a fairly simple hike with great views all the way.



Rainbow Basin Lakes

The reason you may want to hike to Hideaway Lake is because of the Grayling. That is the main reason I wanted to come on this trip but I only caught Cutthroat. Not that I'm complaining because there were some nice size 14 – 16" Cutthroat. I saw a larger one swim by as well.

I actually started my hike out at Big Trinity Lake. It is about 5 miles into Hideaway Lake. I hiked into Hideaway Lake and fished the lakes on the way out the next day. The trail is very easy to follow with signs to all the lakes along the way. Once you get to Little Rainbow Lake the trail is much harder to follow and was non-existent in my case due to the snow.

I was the first one to hike in that far this year as there was evidence of no other tracks in the snow. I climbed the ridge and there it was with ice floating on the water. I found a few large Cutthroat spawning in the stream and could have caught them with my bare hands.



Hideaway Lake

I spent the night and started back early fishing the Lakes I had passed on the way in. I fished the Rainbow Lakes; Big, Middle and Little. Little Rainbow had plenty of little Rainbow that were easy to catch. I didn't spend much time at Middle and Big Rainbow Lakes but I understand there are some nice sized Rainbows.



Middle Rainbow Lake

I only saw a handful of people on the hike so I felt solitude on the trip. That will not be the case a few weeks from now when everyone knows the roads are open. The flowers were blooming and butterflies were everywhere. It was a very inspiring place.

I stopped at Heart Lake and saw several nice fish but no takers. You can look up and see the lookout on the peak above. It is worth hiking up to the lookout and seeing the view of most of the lakes.

The last lake I stopped at was Fiddle Lake. I caught a few small Cutthroat trout and called it good. The fishing was mediocre but it was a beautiful hike and a place I will return and hike with my kids.