

Recreation Opportunity Guide

HIKING – FLORENCE LAKE

Easiest access from the village of Seeley Lake is to take the Morrell Creek Road 1.1 miles east to the West Morrell Road #4353 and turn north. Go straight past the Pyramid Pass Road then turn on the climbing road about three miles beyond. But first, enjoy the fabulous view of the Swan Range face, and a distant peak at Morrell Falls. Drive to the saddle where the trail crosses the road. Park in the small pullout and head south up the trail.

The trail is very easy to follow to the Florence Lake trail junction. The Rice Ridge trail to Florence Lake is tolerable; but has not been cut out. The trail beyond the lake very difficult to follow (old ribbons have once marked it); practically lost.

Good huckleberry trail; especially in the old logging units. Strong smell.

Another way to the lake is via the Rice Ridge Road #720. From Hiway 83 drive 9.3 miles to the road marked as the route to Florence Lake. Follow that road as far as you want to abuse your vehicle, then start walking.

Quite a bit of the Rice Ridge trail between Findell Saddle and Florence Lake follows the edge boundary/fireline of old logging units. The cutting unit boundary very likely was located using the trail because during that era the presumption was that after roads entered the area, there wouldn't be any use for the old trails; the trails would be worthless.

This is a good area to observe the effects of logging 30-40 years ago. There area some unusually large lodgepole pine in the unlogged areas.