

Recreation Opportunity Guide

CLEARWATER RIVER CANOE TRAIL #7777A

Trail Beginning:	4000 ft. elevation End of Forest Road #17597
Trail Ending:	3993 ft. elevation Canoe landing at Ranger Station
Trail Length:	Approximately 3.5 miles (One Way)
Recommended Season:	Late Spring/Summer/Fall
Usage:	Moderate
Difficulty:	Easy to Moderate
Reference Maps:	Lolo National Forest, Seeley Lake Visitors Map USGS Topographic Map - Seeley Lake West Quadrangle
Map Location:	E1/2 Section 20 T17N R15W
Lake Size:	1008 acres - 3993 ft. elevation

2011

NARRATIVE

This is one of the most popular "trails" on the Seeley Lake Ranger District. This is a canoe trail, however, motorized boat use is allowed at a no-wake speed while on the Clearwater River portion of the trail.

The 3 1/2 mile distance can be canoed at a leisurely pace in about 2 hours. The trail offers excellent opportunities for birdwatching, sight-seeing and photography. The canoe trail ends at the landing site at the Ranger Station, where you can take a 1 1/2 mile hiking trail back to the canoe trailhead, thus eliminating the need to shuttle vehicles.

Early morning is typically the best time to observe wildlife. To help you identify them, bring along a pair of binoculars and field guides. Sightings may include Osprey, Bald Eagles, Belted Kingfisher, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Yellow Warbler, and a variety of other ducks and birds. A local "bird list" is available at the Ranger Station.

Mammals common to the river environment are white-tailed deer, moose, mountain lion, mink, muskrat, beaver, and an occasional otter. The fish living in the river and Seeley Lake include introduced species such as northern pike, large-mouth bass, perch, rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, and native westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Also keep an eye out for western painted turtles, spotted frogs and red-sided garter snakes.

ATTRACTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

There is parking at the trailhead for approximately 6 vehicles and an outdoor toilet is also provided. There is no drinking water available. Visitors are reminded to practice "Leave No Trace" techniques while canoeing, hiking and picnicking in the area. Please do not disturb the wildlife!

REMINDERS

To make your trip safe and enjoyable, there are a few things you should do.

- Personal flotation devices should be worn at all times.
- Keep within the weight limit listed on your canoe.
- Bring extra clothing, raingear, sunscreen, an extra paddle and a first-aid kit.
- Be aware of local weather conditions and paddle close to shore on windy days when you reach the lake.

We hope you enjoy your float. If you would like further information, contact the Seeley Lake Ranger District at (406)677-2233, located three miles north of the town of Seeley Lake.

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* Tourist Information Program

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