

AMAZING FACTOIDS ABOUT SEELEY LAKE

1. The perimeter of Seeley Lake is the only place west of the Cascade Mountains where the white/buff colored glacier lily grows.
2. The world champion western larch is located on the west side of Seeley Lake.
3. The valley is a unique place in the world influenced by a confluence of the high plains from the south, maritime from the ocean, arctic from the north, and great plains over the continental divide.
4. Six species of cold water game fish (cutthroat, bull, whitefish, brook, and rainbow trout, and kokanee) can be caught in nearby waters.
5. Four species of warm water fish (yellow perch, northern pike, largemouth bass, and suckers) are available for anglers in the lakes.
6. The Swan Glacier formed the valley.
7. Big hunks of ice were buried in the valley floor, melted and formed the chain of lakes.
8. The three species of larch (two grow in this valley) are the only conifers in the western hemisphere to shed their needles annually.
9. Eight species of "pine" trees grow in the valley (Ponderosa, lodgepole, western larch, subalpine larch, Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, whitbark pine,
10. The first known map of the area was drawn in 1853.
11. The valley had been a part of Oregon, Idaho, and Montana territories before statehood in 1889
12. Jasper B. Seely and his brother, Elmer, built the first cabin near the outlet of Seeley Lake
13. In 1897 all federal land in the valley was designated part of the Lewis and Clark Timber Reserve.
14. Charles & Laura Morrell first registered land near the present townsite in 1894.
15. One of the first timber sales in the nation was started in 1906.
16. In 1907 logs were floated from Seeley Lake down the Clearwater River to the Bonner mill.

17. A post office was established in 1912.
18. The first telephone was built by the Forest Service in 1913.
19. The first residential area was started on the west shore in 1915.
20. Early access to Seeley was from Woodworth. The right of way for the road around Salmon Lake was started in 1915.
21. Reverend John Maclean built one of the first summer homes on the lake about 1921.

Recreation Opportunity Guide

22. Camp Paxson started out as a Boy Scout Camp in 1924
23. The Binko Recreation Ranch started in 1925 had a hotel and daily stage.
24. The Missoulian carried a story about an automobile trip and "vacation getaway" to Holland Lake.
25. The first service station opened near Seeley Creek in 1928.
26. George Weisel and Jan Boissevan started the Double Arrow Ranch in 1929.
27. Mail was first delivered from Missoula during winter by a kind of snowmobile made out of a car.
28. The first store was a log building moved from Potomac.
29. The Stage Station was originally built to house the mail truck.
30. The State first issued cabin leases near the Clearwater River in 1940.
31. The lumber mill started in 1945. Several portable mills operated in the area.
32. The Grizzly Claw building (1949) was one of the original stores, originally "Sullivan's Store" later becomes the Seeley Lake Mercantile.
33. The "modern" road from Clearwater Junction was completed in 1952.
34. Residents received a 1952 Christmas present of electrical service.
35. The Laundromat is "A wife saver built by Eddie and Jerrie Coyle" in 1958.
36. Residential telephone service installed in 1961.
37. Seeley Swan High School completed in 1965; eliminated a need for a two hour bus ride to Missoula.
38. Seeley Lake was first called "Moose Lake", then "Clearwater Lake."
39. The early day post office was at Woodworth.
40. Seeley Lake was the site of the first 50 kilometer cross country ski race sanctioned by the USSA west of the Mississippi
41. The Clearwater Chain of Lakes is one of two places in Montana where one can find "Larch Balls" -- balls of larch needles formed along the shores of lakes by wind and wave action.
42. In 1896 Gifford Pinchot (regarded as the "Father of Forestry in the United States) walked thru the valley on his way from Kalispell to Drummond to catch the train.
43. Log volume measurement was basically invented here by James Girard.
44. The first large timber sale by the USDA Forest Service was here in 1907.
45. Seeley Lake Ranger District was site of one of the ten "Stewardship Projects" approved by Congress as a test for a new way of doing commercial timber sales.