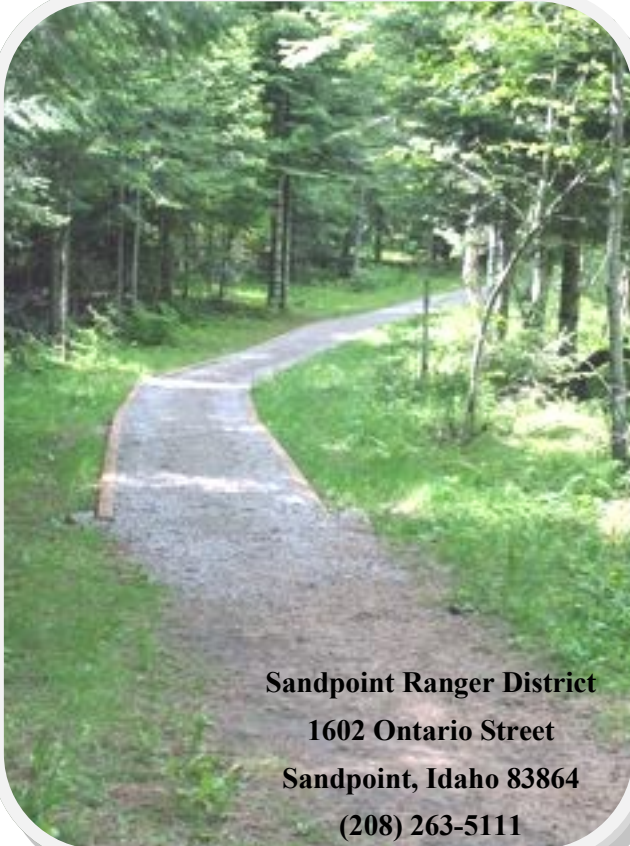


USDA Forest Service

Northern Region



**IDAHO PANHANDLE
NATIONAL FORESTS
SANDPOINT
RANGER DISTRICT
TRAILS**



**Sandpoint Ranger District
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[HTTP://WWW.FS.USDA.GOV/IPNF](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf)

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~TRAIL SYSTEM~

SANDPOINT RANGER DISTRICT

With more than 75 trails the Sandpoint Ranger District offers over 275 miles of developed routes for hiking, horseback riding, mountain bike riding and OHV riding. This system of trails offers opportunities for all types of walking and riding recreation from short day trips to a mountain lake for a picnic or fishing to extended backpacking or pack trips.

Terrain ranges from the shores of Lake Pend Oreille at an elevation of 2062 feet to sub-alpine environment as high as 7209 in the Selkirk Range. Valley bottoms, dense forests, brush fields, meadows and occasional clearings of barren ridges are mixed with streams, rivers and lakes. This variety of terrain and environment offers recreationists a chance to study nature, look for rocks, identify plants or wildlife, hunt or fish or just hike to a high ridge for a magnificent panorama of the area.

Discover for yourself what Sandpoint Ranger District trails have to offer!



LEAVE NO TRACE CAMPING

Many trails on the Sandpoint Ranger district offer the opportunity for dispersed camping. Your campsite and what you do at it can have major impact on the environment.

- Be sure to choose a site wisely
- Trenching and leveling for a tent leaves scars on the lands that take years to heal. Pick a spot where digging is not necessary
- Your spot should be at least 200 feet from a lakeshore and camp away from the main trail to give yourself and other travelers the solitude you're seeking



LEAVE NO TRACE CAMPFIRES

Campfires have always been a source of friendliness and comfort. Campfires can also leave unnecessary scars. The use of portable stoves is preferable especially in overused or high alpine sites where wood can become scarce. Following are some tips for a “No Trace campfire”

- Use firewood from small diameter loose woods lying on the ground
- Keep your fire small to conserve wood and reduce the size of the fire scar
- Build in an existing fire ring if you come across one
- Never leave your fire unattended
- Be sure it is our cold before you leave. Feel with the back of your hands. Dirty hands are preferable to a black forest
- Once out, scatter your ashes, disperse the rocks and replace any sod that was removed

LEAVE NO TRACE

HORSE ETIQUETTE

- Take the minimum number of stock needed. One pack animal per two people is sufficient if lightweight equipment is used
- Riding on the trail and not shortcutting switchbacks will reduce erosion problems and unwanted paralleling trails
- Campsites should be located off the main trail and at least 200 feet away from lakes and streams to help prevent overuse and contamination
- Packed in feed should be weed-seed-free feed to prevent the introduction of noxious plants. Avoid over grazing, rotate stock in forage area
- When confining stock: Do not tie horses to live trees for extended periods; use a pole or rope hitch rail and select a site preferable rocky where stock cannot trample tree roots and damage plants
- If animals are inclined to paw while tied use hobbles to allow movement and prevent damage to the site
- Leave your campsite in better condition than you found it



GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT

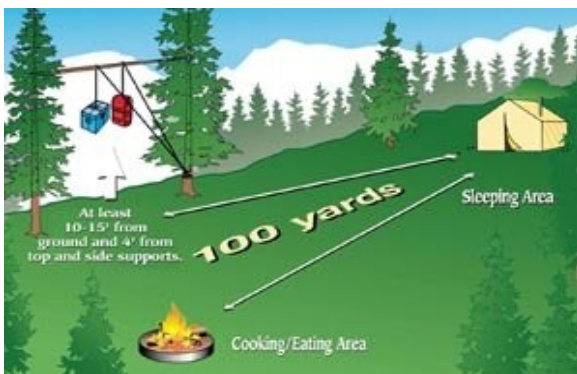
The Sandpoint Ranger District land north of Clark Fork and Pend Oreille Rivers are within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. The following ten trails in this brochure—Lake Darling, Moose Lake, Lake Estelle, Blacktail Lake, Moose Mountain, Beehive Lakes, Scotzman Peak, Harrison Lake, Chimney Rock and Porcupine Lake are within that zone.

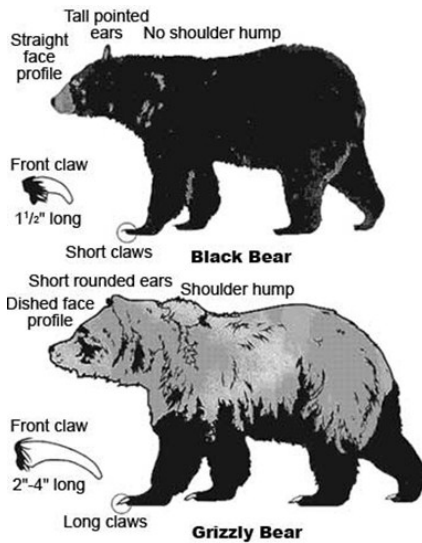
Within Grizzly Bear Habitat there is a mandatory food storage order from 1 April through 1 December. All food and beverages including canned food, soda, and beer, garbage, grease, processed livestock or pet food and scented flavored toiletries must be stored and unavailable to bears and in bear resistant containers at night and when unattended during the day.

BEAR RESISTANT FOOD STORAGE CONTAINERS ARE LOCATED AT LAKE DARLING, PORCUPINE LAKE, FAULT LAKE, MOOSE LAKE, HARRISON LAKE AND BEEHIVE LAKES.

If you choose to recreate in these areas you need to learn about grizzly bears and how to avoid having a confrontation with one.

If a grizzly bear is encountered your actions can affect the outcome. You can provide options for both you and the bear by maintaining a safe distance and by acting in a manner that does not threaten the bear. A “cool” head is necessary to avert harm to minimize risk when a human-bear encounter occurs.





Bear Safety Tips

- ◆ Be aware of your surroundings (e.g. bear sign, preferred habitats) and avoid areas of known bear use.
- ◆ Use extra caution in places where hearing or visibility is limited. **ANTICIPATE!**
- ◆ Reduce your chances of surprising a bear by making noise -- talking, whistling.
- ◆ Travel in small groups or pairs when possible.

If you encounter a grizzly bear you should first try to back out of the situation. Keep calm, avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly and speak in a soft monotone. Never turn your back on the bear and never kneel. Most encounters end with the bear leaving at this point.

Never run and do not climb a tree unless you have time to climb at least 10 feet before the bear reaches you. Bears can run very fast.

As a last resort play dead. Curl into a ball covering your neck and head with your hands and arms and leave on your backpack if you have one. If the bear swats you roll with it. Stay in a tucked position and do not try to look at the bear until you are sure it is gone. Many people have survived bear attacks using this tactic.

Report all encounters or sightings no matter how insignificant and even if it is much later. Your report may prevent someone from getting hurt.

Gold Hill Trail #3

Length: 3.7 miles

Primary Use: Hiking, Mountain Bikes

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain/loss: 1200 feet

Primary Season: May – November

USGS Map: Talache

Access: (Lower trailhead). From Sandpoint, take Hwy 95 south, cross the long bridge and go approx ½ mile to Bottle Bay Road; turn left onto Bottle Bay Road and go 4.8 miles to the trailhead located on the right.

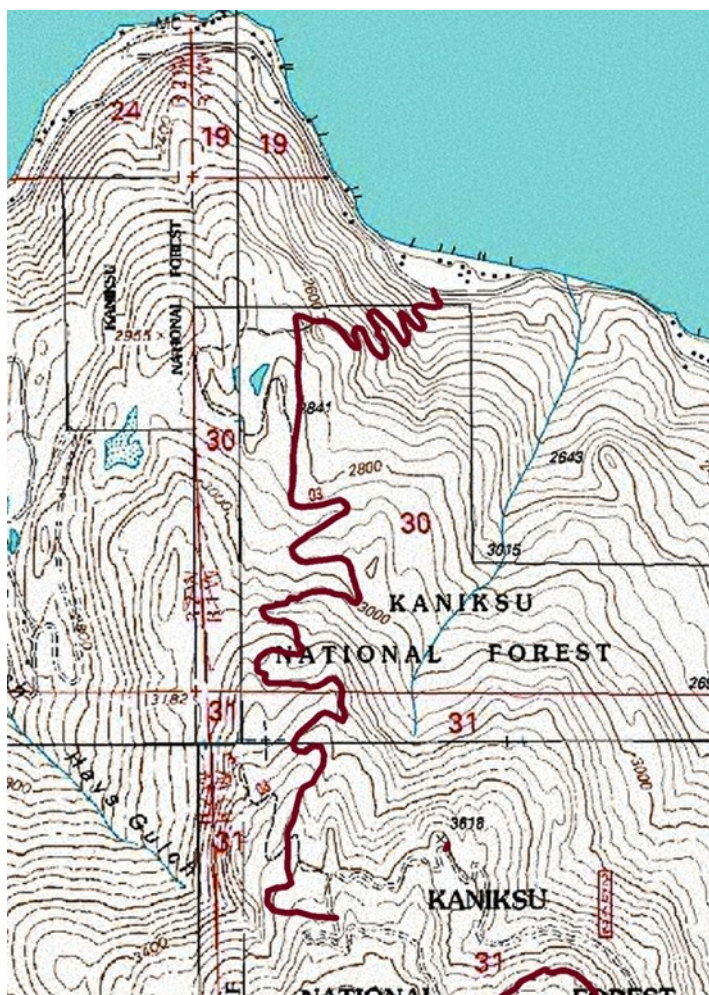
Access: (Upper trailhead). Take Hwy 95 south 6 miles to Sagle Road; turn left onto Sagle Road and go 6 miles to Contest Mtn. Road 2642 (located on the left at the hairpin turn); turn left onto Road 2642 and go 6 miles to the trailhead.

Trailheads: The trailhead on Bottle Bay Road is paved, has a restroom and parking for 10 vehicles (no room for horse trailers). Parking at the upper trailhead is along a wide spot in the road with room to turn around horse trailers.

Attractions and considerations: A local favorite for hikers and mountain bike riders. Located close to town and not too steep, this trail is a nice hike for the entire family. Panoramic views of Sandpoint, Lake Pend Oreille and the Selkirk Mountains are offered along the route, but the best views are near the top. Visitors will enjoy various forest settings for the entire length. There are several benches along the trail to rest and relax. The best views are from the benches on top. Don't forget the camera; there are excellent views from this trail.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong.

Gold Hill Trail #3



Mickinnick Trail #13

Length: 3.7 miles

Use: Hiker

Difficulty: More Difficult

Elevation gain/loss: 2150 feet

Primary Season: May - November

USGS Map: Sandpoint

Access: From Sandpoint, take Hwy 95 north 1.3 miles to Schweitzer Mountain Road; turn left and go 0.5 miles; turn right and go 0.8 miles; turn left (at Schweitzer Sign) and go 0.5 miles to Woodland Drive; turn left and go 0.7 miles. The trailhead parking area is located on the right

Attractions and considerations: Constructed in 2005, the name Mickinnick is derived from Mick & Nicky and the Kinnickinnick plant that is native and grows along the trail. Mick and Nicky Pleass donated 160 acres to the Forest Service for trail construction.

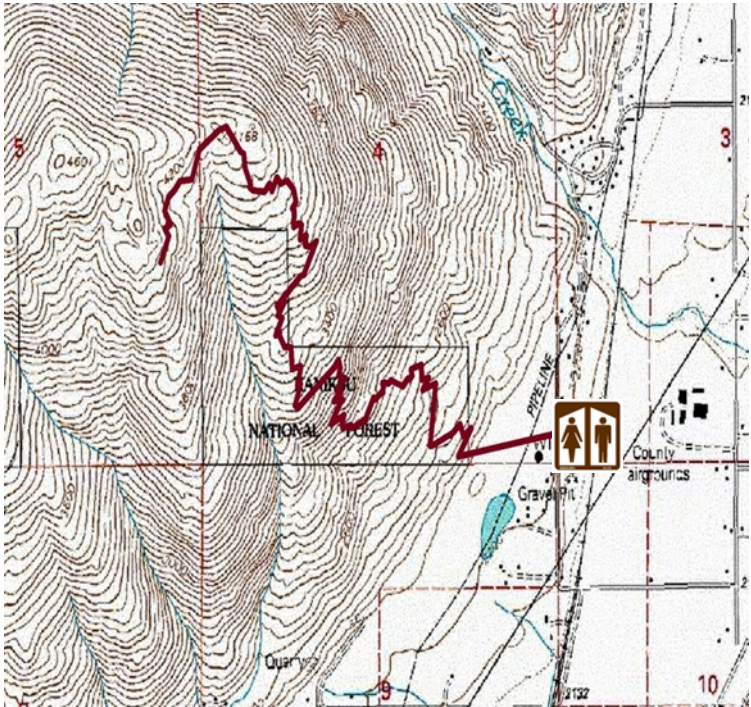
A local favorite for hiking, this trail is relatively steep, switchbacks around huge rock outcroppings, goes through grassy and mossy meadows and past old growth timber. There are several benches along the way to rest, relax and enjoy the view. The most spectacular view is from the memorial bench(s) on top.

Not recommended for mountain bikes or horseback riders.

Spectacular vistas all along the trail include Lake Pend Oreille, Sandpoint, the Cabinet Mountains and the Pend Oreille River.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong.

Mickinnick Trail #13



Lake Darling Trail #52

Length: 2.5 miles to lake one-way,

Primary Use: Hiker

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain/loss: 1440 feet

Primary Season: July - October

USGS Map: Mt. Pend Oreille

Access: From Sandpoint take Hwy 200 east 12 miles to Trestle Creek Road 275; turn left onto Road 275 and go 16 miles to Lightning Creek Road 419; turn left onto Road 419 and go approx. 1 mile to trailhead located on the left just before the bridge.

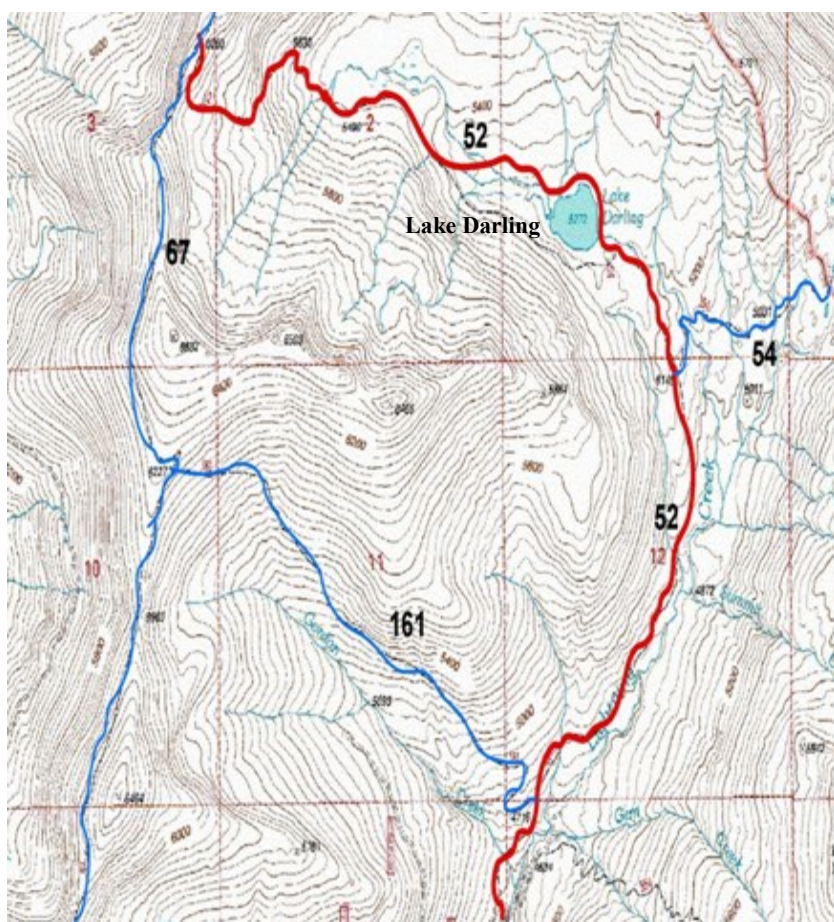
Trailhead: Marked trailhead and two small parking lots with room for 8 vehicles. Horse trailers should park along the road. Room to turnaround.

Attractions and considerations: Gentle grades provide easy access to this mountain lake. Popular with day hikers, backpackers and horseback riders this trail passes through a forested area providing access to scenic Lake Darling, Gordon Creek Trail 161, Callahan Trail 54 and Pend Oreille Divide Trail 67. There are several campsites and a bear resistant food storage container at Lake Darling. Mosquito's and Moose are both frequent visitors so don't forget your insect repellent and a camera.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles except snowmobiles.



Lake Darling Trail #52



Porcupine Lake Trail #642

Length: 6 miles one-way

Primary Use: ATV, Motorbike

Difficulty: ATV, Motorbike – Moderate.

Elevation gain/loss: 1900 feet

Primary Season: July - October

USGS Map: Trestle Peak

Access: From Clark Fork, take Lightning Creek Road 419 approx. 10 miles to the trailhead located on the left.

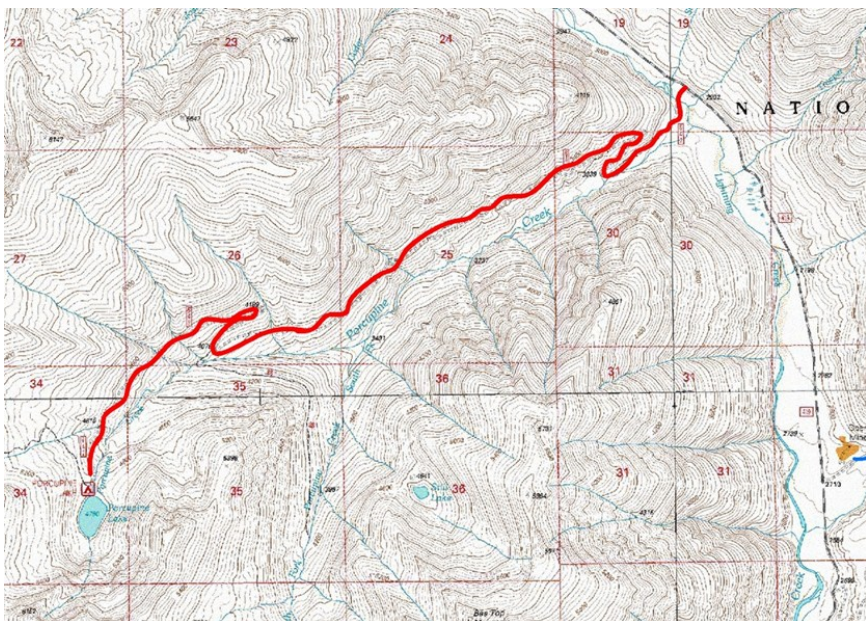
Trailhead: New trailhead with parking for about 5 vehicles.

Attractions and considerations: In 2010 Porcupine Creek Road 642 was converted to a motorized trail. A trailhead was constructed on Road 419. There is a primitive campground at the lake with picnic tables and fire rings, and a bear resistant food storage container. There is no toilet at the lake. Trail 114 a primitive non-motorized hiking trail starts at the lake and connects with Beetop-Roundtop Trail 120.

Visitors must ford Lightning Creek at the beginning of the trail. High water during spring run-off and after periods of heavy rain may make fording the creek impossible. Use extreme caution.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to motorized vehicles over 50” in width yearlong except snowmobiles.

Porcupine Lake Trail #642



Fault Lake Trail #59

Length: 6.5 miles one-way

Primary Use: Hiker, Horseback

Difficulty: Hiker – more difficult, Horseback – more difficult

Primary Season: July-October

Elevation gain/loss: 3350 feet

USGS Map: Mount Roothaan

Access: From Sandpoint take Hwy 95 north 13 miles to Pack River Road 231; turn left on Road 231 and go 12 miles; the access road is located on the left; follow the access road to the trailhead located at McCormick Creek.

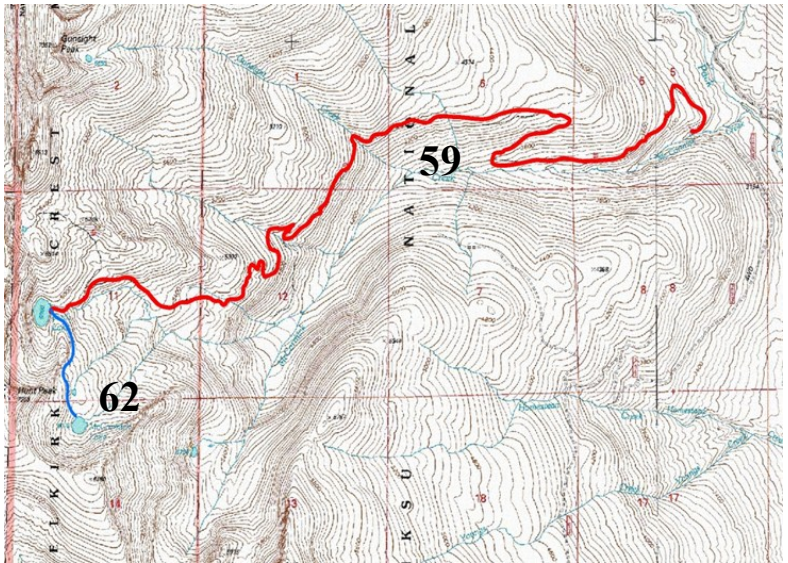
Trailhead: Parking at the end of the road for 3 to 5 vehicles.

The access road is not recommended for vehicles towing trailers. Visitors with horse trailers park on Pack River Road and ride the road to the trailhead.

Attractions and considerations: There is no bridge over McCormick Creek at the trailhead. The bridge was washed out in the 2006 flood. Crossing the creek is difficult during periods of high water. The trail follows an old road with gentle grades for almost 4 miles, and then turns into single track for the rest of the way. This trail is open for most of the way traversing through the Sundance Burn providing views of the McCormick Creek drainage, Pack River and the beautiful Selkirk Crest. There are several nice campsites and a bear resistant food storage container at the lake.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles except snowmobiles .

Fault Lake Trail #59



Mineral Point Trail System

Mineral Point #82, Lost Lake #81, Mud Lake #80

Length:

Mineral Point 5 miles one-way

Lost Lake 1.5 mile loop

Mud Lake 2.5 miles one way

Primary Use: Hiker

Mtn. Bike, Horseback

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Elevation gain/loss: 200 ft.

Primary Season: May – Nov

USGS Map: Packsaddle NW

Access: From Sandpoint take Hwy 95 south 6 miles to Sagle Rd.; turn left onto Sagle Rd. and go 9 miles to Garfield Bay; turn left on the first road past the boat launch and go approx. ¼ mile to Mineral Point Rd. 532; turn right onto Rd. 532 and follow signs to the trailhead located at the end of Rd. 532A

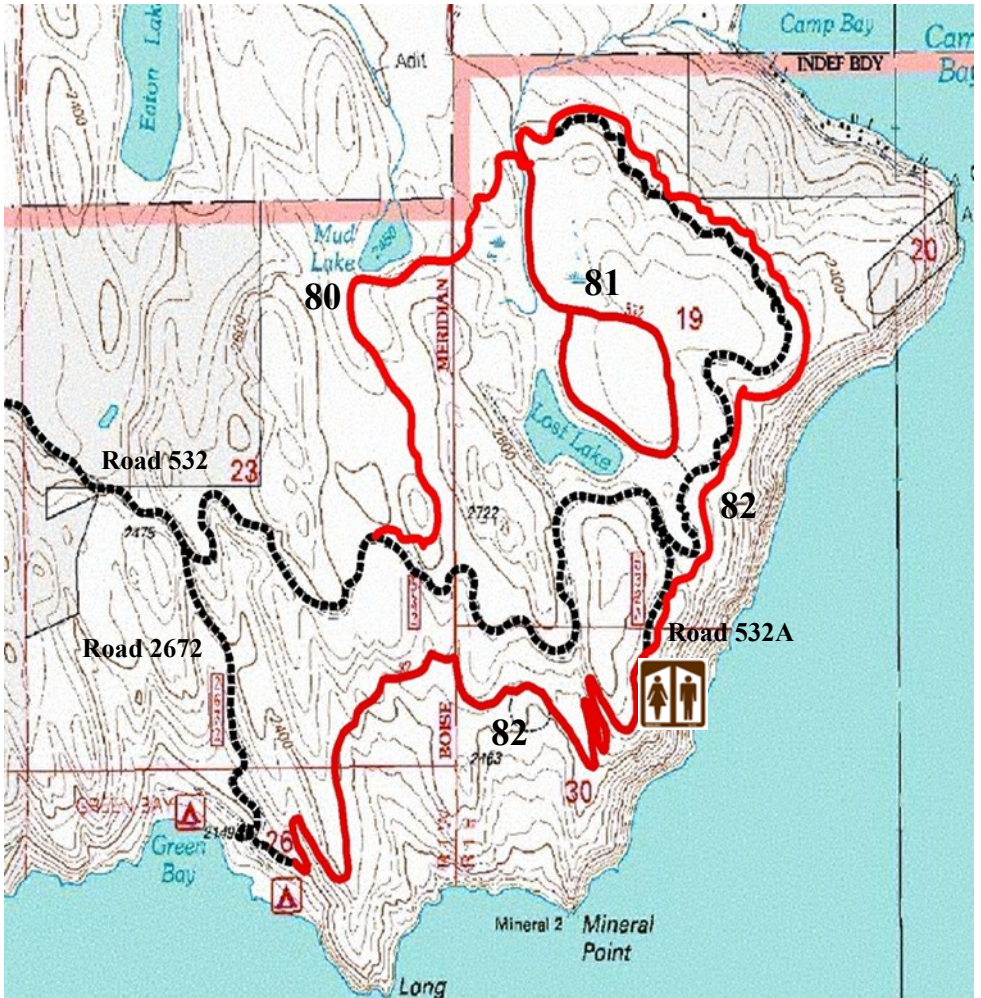
Trailhead: Parking for 10 vehicles. There is a toilet and a nearby picnic area. The trailhead is in the middle of the trail. Access to Mineral Point Trail 82, Lost Lake Trail 81, Mud Lake Trail and Green Bay Campground.

Attractions and considerations: This is one of the most beautiful trails on the Sandpoint Ranger District and is popular with hikers and mountain bike riders. Gentle grades, wildflowers and excellent views of Lake Pend Oreille make this a suitable trail for the entire family.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong

Mineral Point Trail System

Mineral Point #82, Lost Lake #81, Mud Lake #80



Chimney Rock Trail #256

Length: 5.0 miles one-way

Primary Use: Hiker

Difficulty: Hiker – most difficult

Elevation gain/loss: 1820 feet

Primary Season: June - October

USGS Map: Mount Roothan

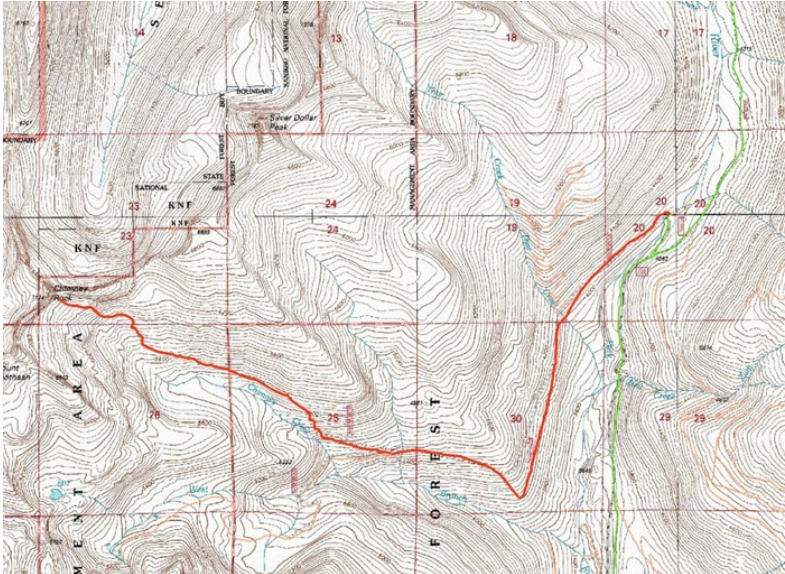
Access: From Sandpoint take Hwy 95 north 13 miles to Pack River Road 231; turn left onto Road 231 and go 16 miles to W. Branch Road 2653; turn left onto Road 2653 and go ½ mile to trailhead parking at the bridge.

Trailhead: Semi-developed trailhead with parking for at least 5 vehicles.

Attractions and considerations: A beautiful hike to Chimney Rock, a popular climbing destination. The first 2.5 miles of trail is along an old road, the last 2.5 miles is somewhat steep. There are several nice campsites along the river at the trailhead.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong.

Chimney Rock Trail #256



Moose Lake Trail System

**Moose Lake #237, Blacktail Lake #24,
Lake Estelle #36, Moose Mtn. #213**

Length:

Moose Lake 1.6 miles one-way

Blacktail Lake 2.6 miles one-way

Lake Estelle 2.0 miles one way

Moose Mtn. 2.4 miles one way

Loop Option: Moose Lake Tr. 237

connects with Moose Mtn. Tr. 213 and Blacktail Lake. Tr. 24 for an 8 mile loop roundtrip from Trailhead.

Primary Use: Hiker, Horseback

Difficulty: Hiker – moderate,

Horseback - easy

Elevation gain/loss: 1240 feet

Primary Season: May - October

USGS Map: Mt. Pend Oreille SW

Access: From Sandpoint take Hwy 200 east 12 miles to Trestle Creek Rd. 275; turn left onto Rd. 275 and go 16 miles to Lightning Creek Rd. 419; turn left onto Rd. 419 and go 1.5 miles to Moose Creek Rd. 1022; turn right onto Rd. 1022 and go 2 miles to the trailhead. This is also the trailhead for Blacktail Lake Trail 24 and Lake Estelle Trail 36.

Access: From Clark Fork, take Lightning Creek Rd. 419 approx. 20 miles to Rd. 1022; turn right onto Rd. 1022 and go 2 miles to the trailhead at the end of road.

Trailhead: Developed trailhead with toilet, campsites and plenty of parking. Horse trailers turn around and use pull outs along road.

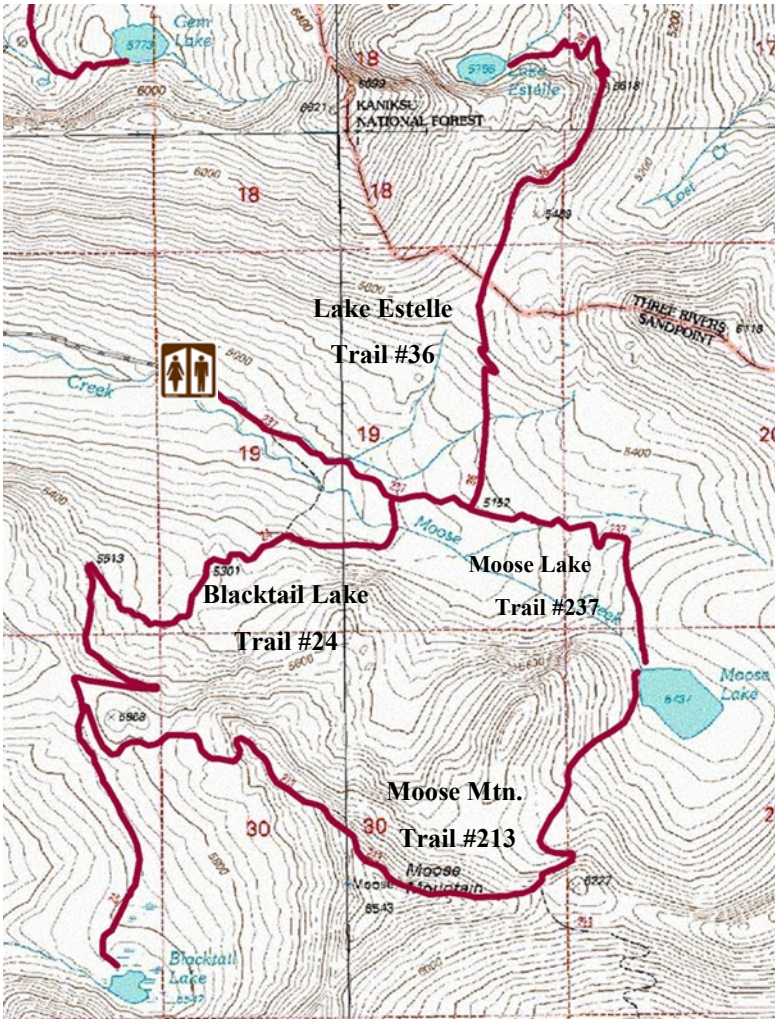
Attractions and considerations: Grades are gradual to Moose Lake and this is a great hike for the entire family. Don't forget a bucket for huckleberries and a camera – you might even see a moose. There are a few nice campsites and a bear resistant food storage container at the lake and several nice campsites at the trailhead.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong except snowmobiles.

Moose Lake Trail System

Moose Lake #237, Blacktail Lake #24,

Lake Estelle #36, Moose Mtn. #213



Harrison Lake Trail #217



Length: 2.3 miles one-w

Primary Use: Hiker

Difficulty: Hiker – more difficult

Elevation gain/loss: 1432 feet

Primary Season: June - October

USGS Map: The Wigwams

Access: From Sandpoint take HWY 95 north 13 miles to Pack river Road 231, turn left onto Road 231 and go 20 miles to the trailhead.

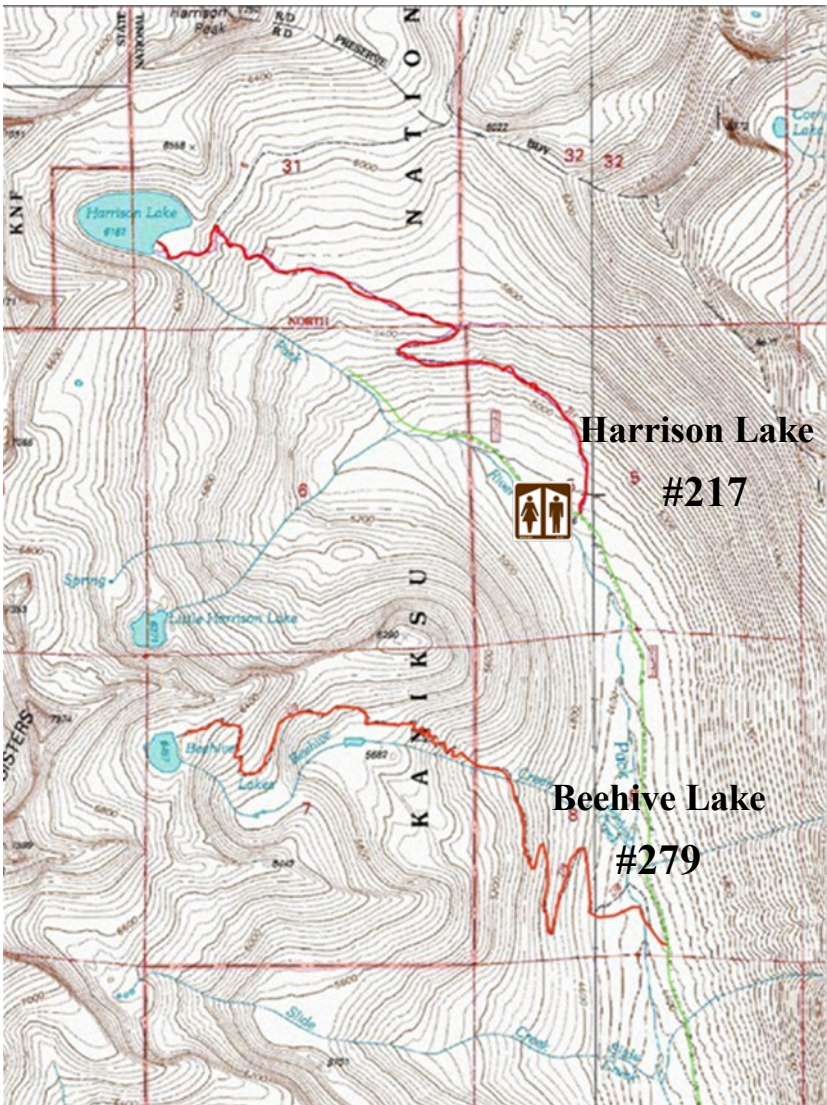
Trailhead: Marked semi-developed trailhead, parking for at least 5 vehicles. Toilet at trailhead.

Attractions and considerations: One of the most popular trails on the Sandpoint Ranger District this trail provides access to a beautiful mountain lake. There are views of the Pack River drainage and the Selkirk Crest along the entire route. There are several nice campsites, and a bear resistant food storage container at the lake.

Not recommended for horses, the trail crosses several areas of slab rock.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong.

Harrison Lake Trail #217



Scotchman Peak Trail #65



Length: 4.2 miles one-way

Primary Use: Hiker

Difficulty: Hiker – Most difficult, Horseback – Most difficult

Elevation gain/loss: 3729 feet

Primary Season: June - October

USGS Map: Clark Fork NE

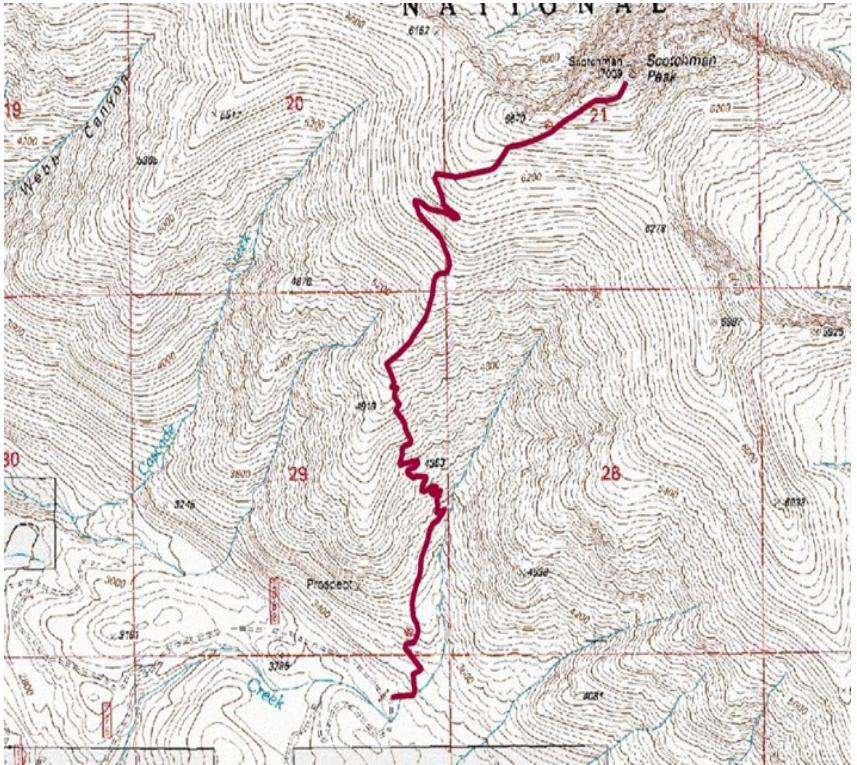
Access: From Sandpoint take Hwy 200 east 25 miles to Clark Fork; turn left at Lightning Creek Road and go 1.2 miles (do not take Road #419) to the fork in the road; take the fork to the left and go 1.4 miles; turn right and go 1 mile; turn left and go ½ mile; turn left and go 2.1 miles; turn left to the trailhead. It's a total of 6.3 miles from Hwy 200.

Trailhead: at end of road, and parking along the road

Attractions and considerations: This is a very steep trail providing views of rugged alpine scenery and vistas of Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork River Valley. This is the high country and a family of mountain goats can often be seen or heard from the summit. Please do not feed the goats.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles except snowmobiles.

Scotchman Peak Trail #65



Please do not feed the wildlife.

Beehive Lakes Trail #279



Length: 4.4 miles one way

Primary Use: Hiker

Difficulty: Hiker– Most Difficult

Elevation gain/loss: 2050 feet

Primary Season: June - September

USGS Map: The Wigwams

Access: From Sandpoint take Hwy 95 north 13 miles to Pack River Road 231; turn left onto Road 231 and go 19 miles to the trailhead.

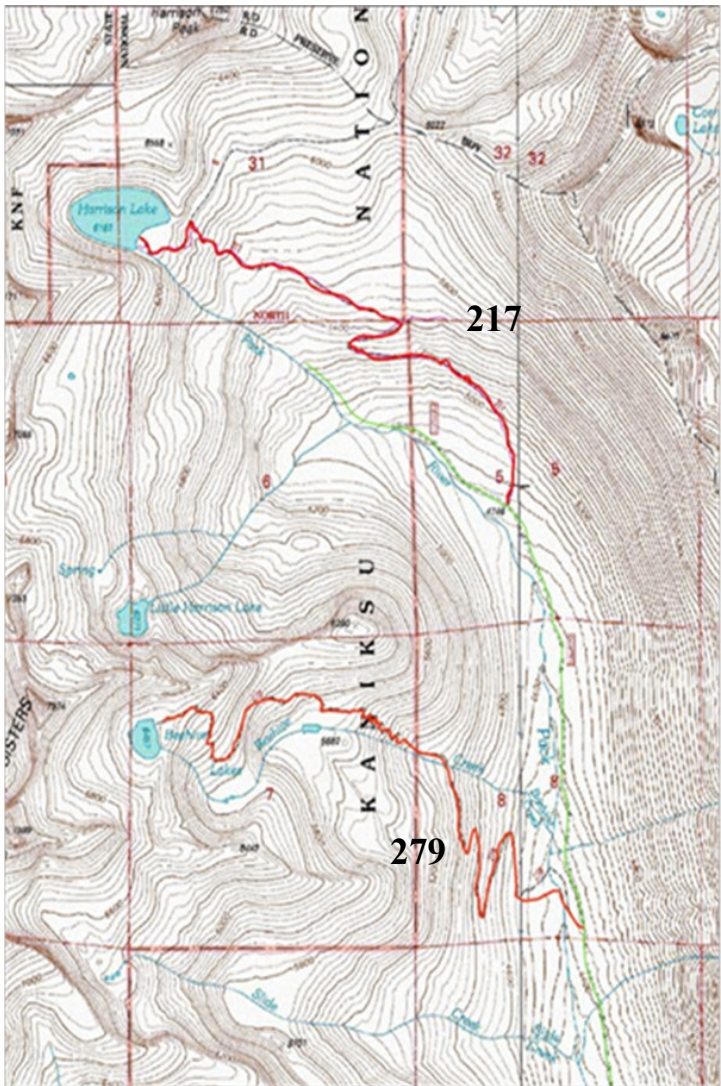
Trailhead: Semi-developed trailhead with parking for at least 4 vehicles plus creek side camping.

Attractions and considerations: A beautiful mountain lake high in the Selkirk Mountains this is an excellent day trip or over night backpacking opportunity. The lower end of the trail is in good condition, but the upper sections are narrow and rocky and somewhat steep. There are nice wide-open views all along this trail. There are several nice campsites and a bear resistant food storage container at the lake.

Not recommended for horses, the trail is narrow, rutted and crosses several areas of slab rock.

Trail Restrictions: Closed to all motorized vehicles yearlong

Beehive Lakes Trail #279



OHV's



- ⇒ Protect your riding privileges by staying on the trail.
- ⇒ Avoid riding over small trees and shrubs. Trampled vegetation not only looks bad but is damaging to wildlife habitat and helps erode the soil.
- ⇒ Always yield the right of way to non-motorized trail users.
- ⇒ Ride in the middle of the trail to avoid making it wider. It ruins the trail and is expensive to repair.
- ⇒ Honor locked gates and seasonal trail closures.
- ⇒ Never harass wildlife you may encounter riding the trails. Always stay a respectful distance.
- ⇒ Never litter. Remember Pack it in Pack it Out!
- ⇒ Make a realistic plan and tell others what you are doing and where you will be.
- ⇒ Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams. Please stay on designated trails.
- ⇒ Spark arrestors are required on all OHV's traveling on public land.

DAY HIKING TIPS

- ◇ Carry clothing and food in different colored stuff sacks for better organization
- ◇ Always carry plenty of water.
- ◇ Carry more food than you think you will need.
- ◇ Practice minimum impact hiking. If you pack it in. Pack it out.
- ◇ When you choose a hike, consider the ability levels of all members of your party.
- ◇ Hike only as fast as the slowest member of your group.
- ◇ Acquaint yourself with the area and specific trail so you can set a reasonable timetable for your hike.
- ◇ Start off slowly to avoid excess fatigue partway through your hike.
- ◇ Make sure your vehicle is in good running order and your gas tank is full.
- ◇ Check weather conditions before you leave.
- ◇ Leave your itinerary with someone you trust and check in upon your return.

FOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR DAY HIKES

Water

Trail Mix

Energy Bars

Jerky

Fresh/Dried Fruit

Tuna

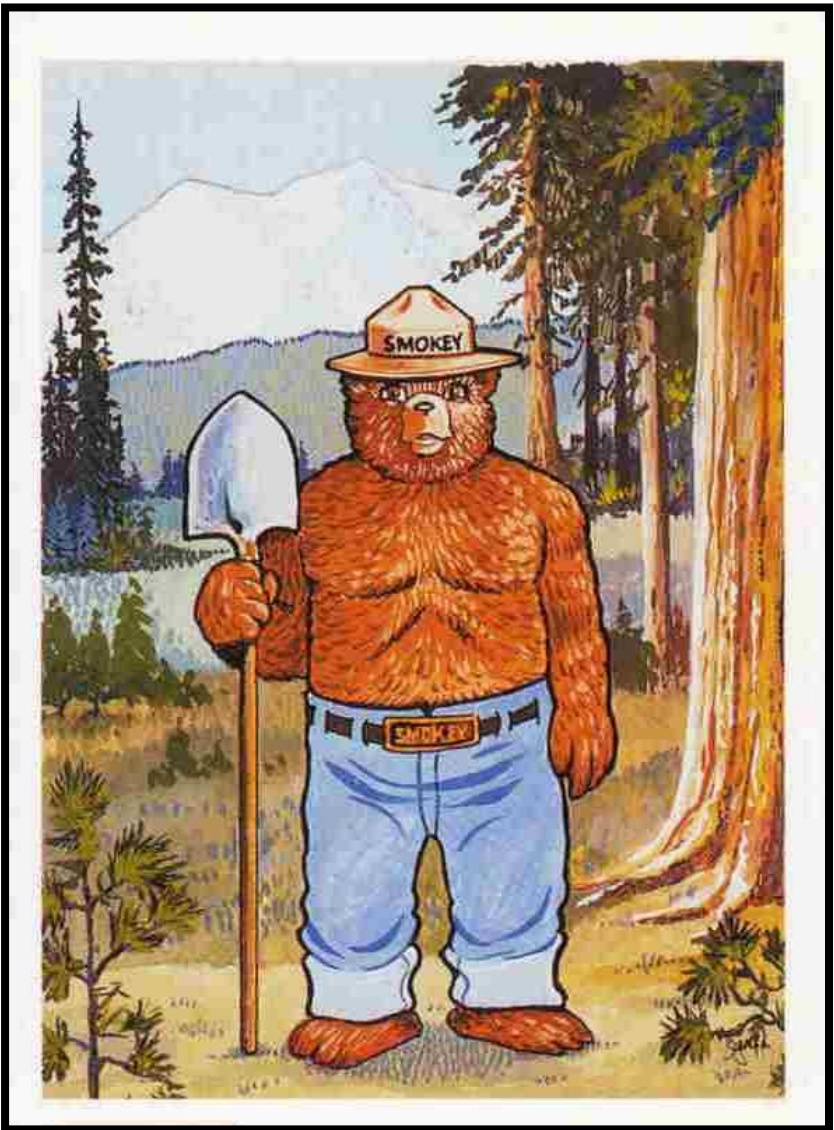
Crackers

Cheese

Nuts

Cut up vegetables





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