

Photos of Twin Lakes Trail
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Baker District

August 18, 2013



Twin Lakes are located in a high glacial cirque (at center) carved into the southern Elkhorn Mountains.



The old, unmaintained trail starts from the lower trailhead, at right, then climbs along Lake Creek.



The new, longer trail follows old logging roads up a dry ridge and can be used by ATVs and dirt bikes.



Both trails converge at a log footbridge over Lake Creek, then climb steadily along the east creek side.



After about 2 miles, the trail leaves the thick fir forest and switchbacks through high alpine meadows.



From the upper basin, one has views down canyon to the Sumpter Valley and Strawberry Mtns. beyond.



Mountain goats are commonly spotted in the upper basin, grazing near the lakes or high on the hillsides.



The Twin Lakes, set in a scenic and dramatic glacial cirque, are well worth the strenuous, 2,000' climb.