

## 44 Tenlake Creek Trail to Ardeth Lake

### Map 16

**round trip:** 35.6 miles

**elevation gain:** 3,048 feet

**this section one way:** 1.5 miles, 588-foot gain

**highest point:** 8,228 feet

**map:** Mt. Everly

**time:** 3 to 5 days

**difficulty:** strenuous

**access:** Using directions in Hikes 42 and 43, hike 16.3 miles from Grandjean up the South Fork of the Payette River to the Tenlake Creek Trail.

This trail leads to Ardeth Lake, a .5 mile-long blue lake set below the wide triangle of Glens Peak in a basin containing ten lakes. The topmost cliffs of this peak peer at the lake over a 600-foot shelf of solid granite. Two slanting chimneys, usually snow-filled, divide the sides of the shelf into three leaning granite grain elevators. The other nine lakes perch on this shelf, accompanied by dozens of tiny ponds.

This trail begins at 7,640 feet on the South Fork of the Payette River Trail, 16.3 miles and a 2,460-foot climb from Grandjean. The trail ascends Tenlake Creek through thick forest, and at .2 mile fords Tenlake Creek to the right (west). At 1.2 miles just below Ardeth Lake, the route returns to the left (east) side of the creek. These fords have deep, rushing water and are hazardous in early summer. The trail joins the trail from Edna to Spangle Lakes in woods near campsites at the lower end of Ardeth Lake (8,228 feet) at 1.5 miles.

## GRAHAM AREA

## 45 Bayhouse and Johnson Creek Trails

### Map 17

**round trip:** 15.2 miles

**elevation gain:** 1,780 feet

**elevation loss (return climb):** 720 feet

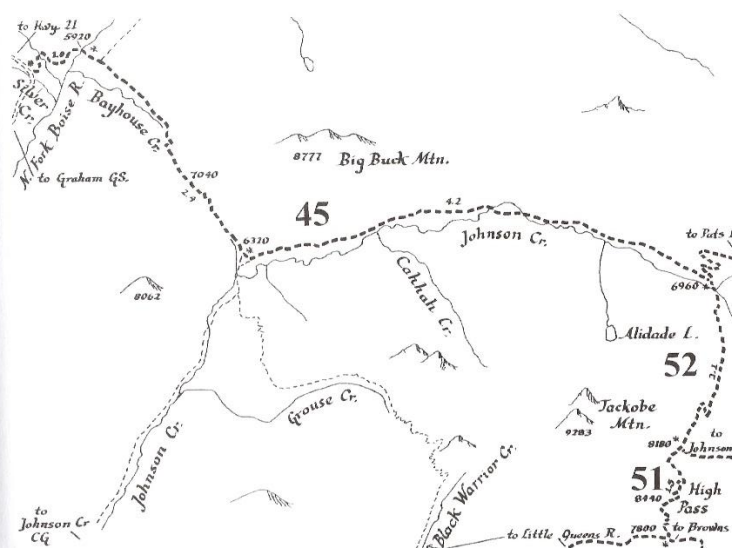
**highest point:** 7,040 feet

**maps:** Swanholm Peak, Nahneke Mountain

**time:** 11 hours or 2 days

**difficulty:** strenuous

**access:** From Highway 21 at the Edna Creek Campground 18 miles northeast of Idaho City, drive to the Little Silver Creek trailhead on the rough, primitive Graham Road, which requires four-wheel drive, and often washes out.



Map 17

**caution:** Most of the area around Graham, and along the Bayhouse and Johnson Creek trails, including Pats Lake, burned in 1994. It will be a challenge to travel through for several years because the burned snags can fall without warning, especially on windy days. The Forest Service has cut the dead timber back from the road so that it is less likely to fall on passersby, and they are working on cutting snags along the trails. Until they have finished, trail travel will be dangerous. For several years, finding safe campsites will be difficult, and leaving the trail will be dangerous. Before traveling in this area, always call SNRA headquarters for information on the conditions.

From the summit of the Graham Road, the splintered panorama of the entire Sawtooth range outlines the horizon. This road is for the brave, since it is rocky, steep and hangs above deep canyons. It requires four-wheel drive because it is a primitive road that has received little recent maintenance. From the road, the Bayhouse Trail climbs through a burned fir forest over a ridge and down through sparse sagebrush to the Johnson Creek Trail. The trail meanders with the creek in and out of meadows and the remains of lodgepole groves below the granite spurs of Big Buck Mountain. The Graham Road provides the shortest access to Pats Lake (10.1 miles), but Pats Lake will not be a destination hike until enough dead timber has fallen to remove the danger of falling snags. This danger will fall off and then peak again about ten years after the fire. As a day hike on calm days, these trails will provide an opportunity to observe how a forest at mid-elevation regenerates after fire when it is undisturbed.



The road to Graham turns northwest from the Atlanta Road at a point 4.3 miles from the Edna Creek Campground, which is 18 miles northeast of Idaho City. The route follows the Pike's Fork of the Crooked River, gradually becoming steeper and rockier. At a summit 13 miles from the turnoff, the road looks down on the 1,000-foot deep canyon of Jackson Creek. The track skirts the canyon wall to a junction with a side road to Jackson Peak Lookout at 14.6 miles. From this point, the road is suitable only for four-wheel drive vehicles with high clearance. It drops 300 feet into two-mile long Trapper Flat at 15.5 miles. The track next climbs the Crooked River to 8,080 feet with a view of the Sawtooths at 21.7 miles. After ups and downs, the road crests again at 25 miles. In the next five miles, it descends 2,000 feet with some turns so sharp drivers must back up to make them.

At 28.1 miles (32.4 miles from Highway 21), the road reaches the Little Silver Creek trailhead. It continues another four miles, passing the Graham Bridge Campground, to the Johnson Creek Campground.

The level trail from the Silver Creek trailhead (5,904 feet) fords Cow Creek at .2 mile and the North Fork of the Boise River at .8 mile. The crossing may be difficult and hazardous in early summer. A trail turns up the North Fork of the Boise at 1 mile. It climbs 1,656 feet and descends 2,271 feet in 11.8 miles to meet the South Fork of the Payette River Trail 3.8 miles from Grandjean. Most of the area along this trail burned in 1994.

At the junction with the North Fork of the Boise Trail, take the Bayhouse Creek Trail, which climbs southeast 1,140 feet through burned forest and lush meadows. At 1.9 miles, it crosses a branch of Bayhouse Creek. The path reaches a summit, (7,040 feet) at 2.5 miles with a view of the lower end of Johnson Creek Canyon. It drops 720 feet on an open slope to a junction (6,320 feet) at 3.4 miles with the Johnson Creek Trail, which has come 5 miles and 700 feet from the Johnson Creek Campground with four fords of the creek.

Turn left (east) up the Johnson Creek Trail, which winds through burned pines and remnants of brush. At 5.5 miles, the path fords the creek in a sprawling meadow. At the other end of the meadow at 5.9 miles, it fords back again to the north side of the creek. Up the canyon, the horns of two peaks form a headwall behind Azure and Rock Island Lakes. The trail climbs gently in the canyon bottom, and at 6.7 miles begins to climb more steeply. At 7.6 miles, it joins the Pats Lake Trail. There are several campsites along the canyon, but unless you can find a site well away from any burned trees, they will be unsafe. In late summer, there is water only in Johnson Creek and it dries up beyond the first ford in a year with little snow.

## QUEENS RIVER AREA

### 46 Queens River Canyon to Pats Lake Junction

#### Maps 18 and 19

**round trip:** 24.8 miles

**elevation gain:** 3,080 feet

**highest point:** 8,280 feet

**maps:** Atlanta West, Atlanta East, Mt. Everly

**time:** 3 days

**difficulty:** strenuous

**access:** On Highway 21, 18 miles north of Idaho City, turn east at the Edna Creek Campground and drive 36.4 miles on a gravel road to the Queens River. Turn left (north) and drive 2.3 miles on a dirt road to the transfer camp.

**caution:** Because the 1994 Rabbit Creek Fire burned Pats Lake and the Johnson Creek drainage, a loop trip is not recommended. It would be difficult to find campsites safe from falling snags.

Cracked gray cliffs 1,000 feet high line the canyon of the Big Queens River from its mouth to the Pats Lake junction. The first 3 miles of trail run through groves of ponderosa pines draped with yellow-green moss, but higher up, the route traverses open grass, brush or talus with views of fluted peaks ahead. Beyond Nanny Creek, streams pouring down the side of the canyon make bogs on the trail. Near the head of the canyon, a 1-mile side trip leads to an unnamed lake. A dagger-shaped tongue of grass along the inlet cuts into this oval, green lake below a ridge of short cliffs. At the Pats Lake junction, the infant river babbles through moss in a rocky meadow under the gray granite hat of Mt. Everly.

To reach the trailhead, turn right (east) at the Edna Creek Campground 18 miles north of Idaho City onto Forest Road 384. At 13.7 miles, turn left (east) along the North Fork of the Boise River on Road 327. At 26.6 miles, turn left again at a four-way intersection onto the Middle Fork of the Boise River Road 268 and drive to the Queens River Road 206 at 36.4 miles. Here, turn left (north) and drive to the transfer camp at 38.7 miles. There are signs for Atlanta at each turn on the approach, but on the way out, you must find the way by the road numbers. The Queens River Road continues beyond the parking area into an informal campground.

From the parking area, the trail begins as an old road, closed to motor vehicles, which drops left (north) to cross the Queens River on a bridge. At .2