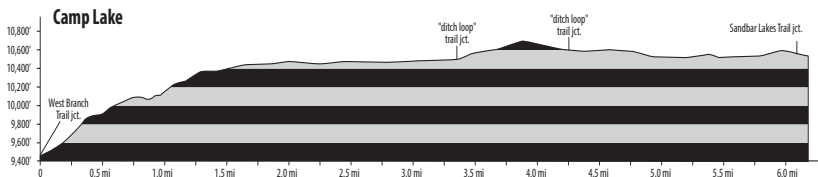


Camp Lake 968-1 & Upper Camp Lake 978

PRIORITY	HIGH (patrol methods: backpack; ride stock; day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Strenuous; Stock riders – Challenging
Open For Summer Patrol:	June 29th
SPOT/USFS Radio:	REQUIRED (Radio: 02 > 01; Priority 1, Moderate reception)
Wilderness:	Rawah
One-Way Length:	6.2 miles (from Camp Lake trailhead via the “cutoff trail” to Rawah Trail jct; 7.7 miles via the “ditch loop trail”) [+ 0.7 mi for Upper Camp Lake Trail]
Beginning Elevation:	9,474
Peak Elevation:	10,686 [10,750 at Upper Camp Lake]
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,276 / 205 / +1,071
USFS Regulations:	National Forest > Wilderness
Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
USGS 7-½' Quadrangle:	Rawah Lakes



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

Poudre Canyon; drive 51.6 miles from Ted's Place, turn right on the Laramie River Road (CR-103) at mm 71.5, and proceed 7.1 miles to the West Branch parking area, a short distance north of the Tunnel Campground. The trail begins about 50 feet south of the parking area and heads west along a ditch road. The trail then crosses the ditch to your left and heads uphill to the Wilderness boundary. Stay to your right when the trail divides at this point. Facilities, water and stock trailer parking are available at the West Branch trailhead.

GPS Coordinates:

jct. West Branch Trail: N40°39.845' W105°53.482'

jct. NW end of "ditch loop trail":

N40°41.851' W105°54.830'

jct. SE end of "ditch loop trail":

N40°41.579' W105°54.111'

jct. Rawah Trail: N40°42.034' W105°56.453'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

Primary access to this trail is from the West Branch Trail.

The Camp Lake patrol typically requires an overnight stay. After entering the Rawah Wilderness, travel up the West Branch Trail, which follows the West Branch of the Laramie River for several miles. (See the patrol description for West Branch Trail.)

You will encounter the Camp Lake Trail about 2.7 miles from the West Branch trailhead. The remains of an old cabin can be seen just off the trail to the east, less than 0.25 mile from the West Branch Trail. The first mile of the Camp Lake Trail is quite steep, rising some 1,000 feet as it heads uphill to the north. This part of the trail has sustained significant erosion damage and is very rocky. When the trail levels somewhat and opens up, you will have some great views of Cameron Peak, Clark Peak, and the West Branch valley below. As you climb a little further, you will notice the remains of some old cabins. Workers on the Link Ditch lived here during its construction in the 1890s and early 1900s. The trail is relatively flat as it winds along the ditch for 2 miles. Shortly after crossing North Fall Creek, the trail will make a large bend to the right.

From here, you can head left on the "cutoff trail" (#968), which will rejoin the old Camp

Camp Lake 968 & Upper Camp Lake 978 (continued)

Lake “ditch loop trail” (#968-1) about 1 mile from Camp Lake, or continue following the “ditch loop trail”. You might want to patrol one of these routes on your way in and the other route on your way out to provide coverage of both of these trails on your patrol. The old “ditch loop trail” has become faint in places. It will add 1.5 miles (each way) to your patrol.

When you reach Camp Lake, look for a campsite to the north or southwest of the lake. Camp Lake is a very popular destination for both backpackers and horsepackers, and has sustained considerable resource damage in the past. Despite this it seems to be recovering nicely. Check the area around Camp Lake to make sure camps are at least 200 ft from the lake, stream, and trail. Note that the 2-log stringer bridge across Rawah Creek at the northwestern end of the Camp Lake Trail is washed-out. Even if you are prepared to wade, this crossing may be impossible/unsafe during high stream flows.

Don't forget that the 0.8 mile-long Upper Camp Lake Trail (#978) to Upper Camp Lake, is a part of this patrol. Note that there is one un-

bridged stream crossing of Camp Creek just above Camp Lake that can be challenging. The east side of Upper Camp Lake provides some good camping and grazing areas for horsepackers. One or more illegal campsites can often be found along the south shoreline of the lake.

Upper Camp Lake is a beautiful area, with Sheep Mountain dominating the view to the west. The Camp Lake Trail and the Upper Camp Lake Trail are considered a single PWV patrol (Camp Lake) so all observations and activities should be reported in your Camp Lake Trail patrol report. Note in the *COMMENTS* section of your trail patrol report whether you took the “cutoff trail” or the “ditch loop trail” and whether or not you included the Upper Camp Lake Trail in your patrol.

If there is no scheduled patrol on the Sandbar Lakes Trails, and time allows, you may want to patrol these trails also. If so, remember to schedule and report this as a separate patrol.

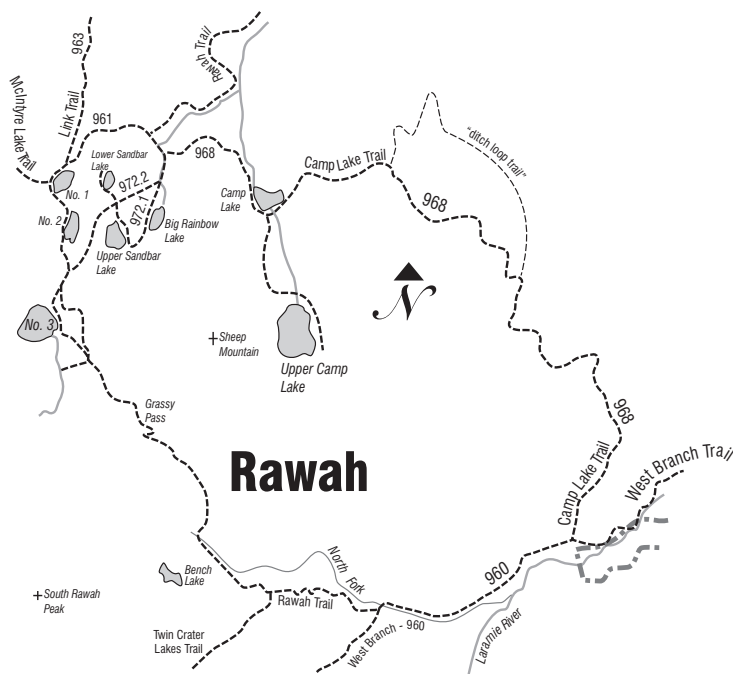


Figure 12.20