

## Tokewanna Peak

To TrailHead: (120 miles or so – 3 hours as over 20 miles is gravel)

Drive **42 miles** from Orem to Kamas, and get on the Mirror Lake Highway (150), go past Mirror Lake, and proceed until 2 miles north of the Bear River Ranger Station, which is about **49 miles** from Kamas where you will turn east onto the North Slope Rd (follow sign directing to the Blacks Fork River). Travel about **18 miles** along this road over to Elizabeth Pass Campground Rd. Turn right and proceed to the next junction. Turn left (follow sign directing you to East Fork Blacks Fork), drive **2 miles** to its junction with the East Fork Blacks Fork Rd. Turn right and follow road 1/4 mile (over bridge) then stop at a dirt road (FR 064) leading off to your right that is blocked by a wire gate (if the gate is closed, please close it after you enter). 2 miles up this road, it ends and the trail begins. \* This road is recommended for 4WD vehicles only.\*

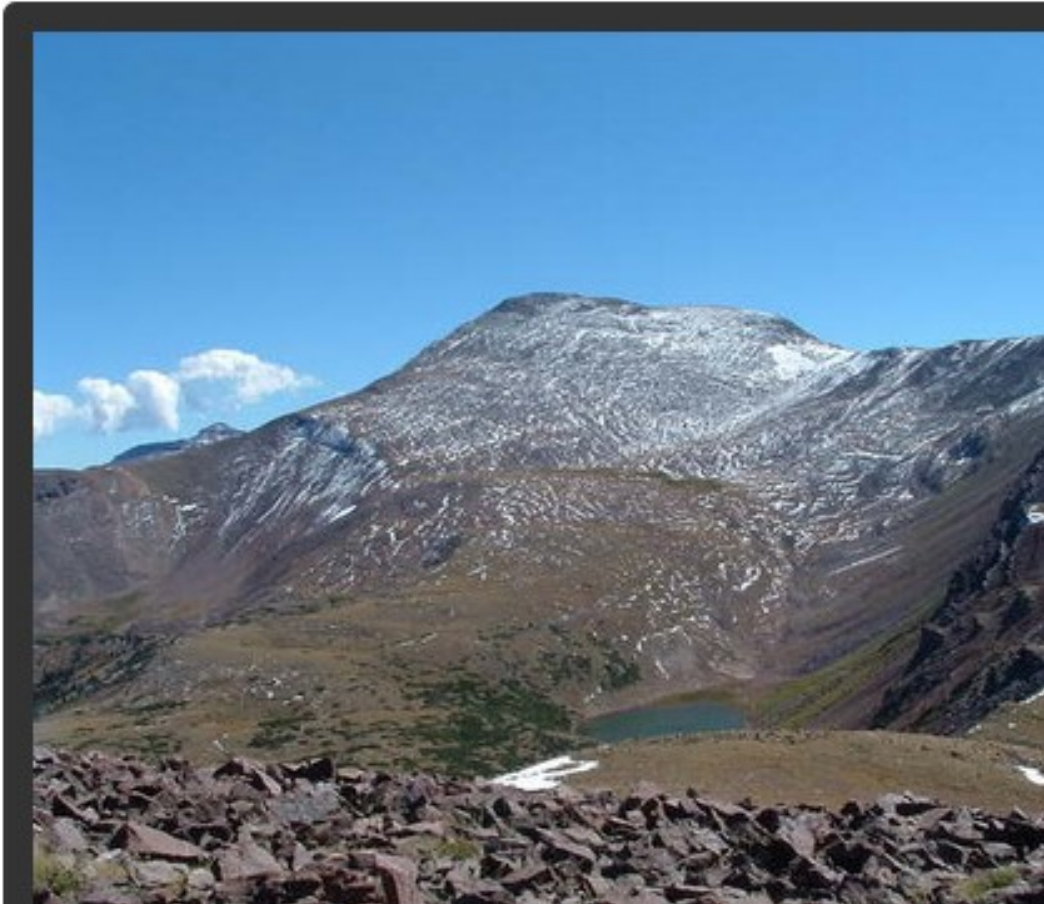
Route to Bob's Lake:

From the trailhead (8,900 ft) follow the gentle trail all the way south to Bobs Lake **10 plus miles**. The trail is **hard to follow** in places, so take a good map. You can't get too lost, as the **trail follows the river** the entire way, so as long as you are near the river, you are at or near the trail. There are several boggy places and **un-bridged stream/river crossings**. A bit less than half way to Bobs Lake, you will cross the Bear River-Smiths Fork Trail at 10,640 ft, but it is very easy to miss the junction. The trail continue for another 3 or 4 miles but gets harder to find after the junction, start looking for the two cirques mentioned in the next sentence. Continue on SW (217.0°) for another half mile or more to where the stream has a major divide and where **two cirque basins are visible** near the headwaters. The cirque on the left (east) contains a small lake and good campsites. The cirque on the right (west) contains Bobs Lake just above timberline (11,120 ft); either cirque has routes to the summit of Tokewanna, and both cirques are about 12 miles from the trailhead. To go to Bobs Lake take the right fork of the stream and proceed to the west (WxNW 291.1°) for under a half mile where the stream turns south (202.5°) and arrives at Bobs Lake in under a mile.

From Bobs Lake, you can climb south for 2,000 feet towards the highly visible summit of Tokewanna. Parts of the route are rocky, and parts are grassy. From the eastern cirque, you can climb southeast to the Northeast Ridge of Tokewanna and follow it to the summit. This route is a bit more rugged than the Bobs Lake route because of more boulders and steeper slopes, but neither route has any major difficulties. The total round trip distance is 26 +miles round trip and usually takes two long or three shorter days.

Note: **To follow your compass in the field, subtract 11 degrees from all the map bearings above to account for Utah's east declination.** Of course if you are plotting a field bearing on to a map do the opposite (add 11 degrees)

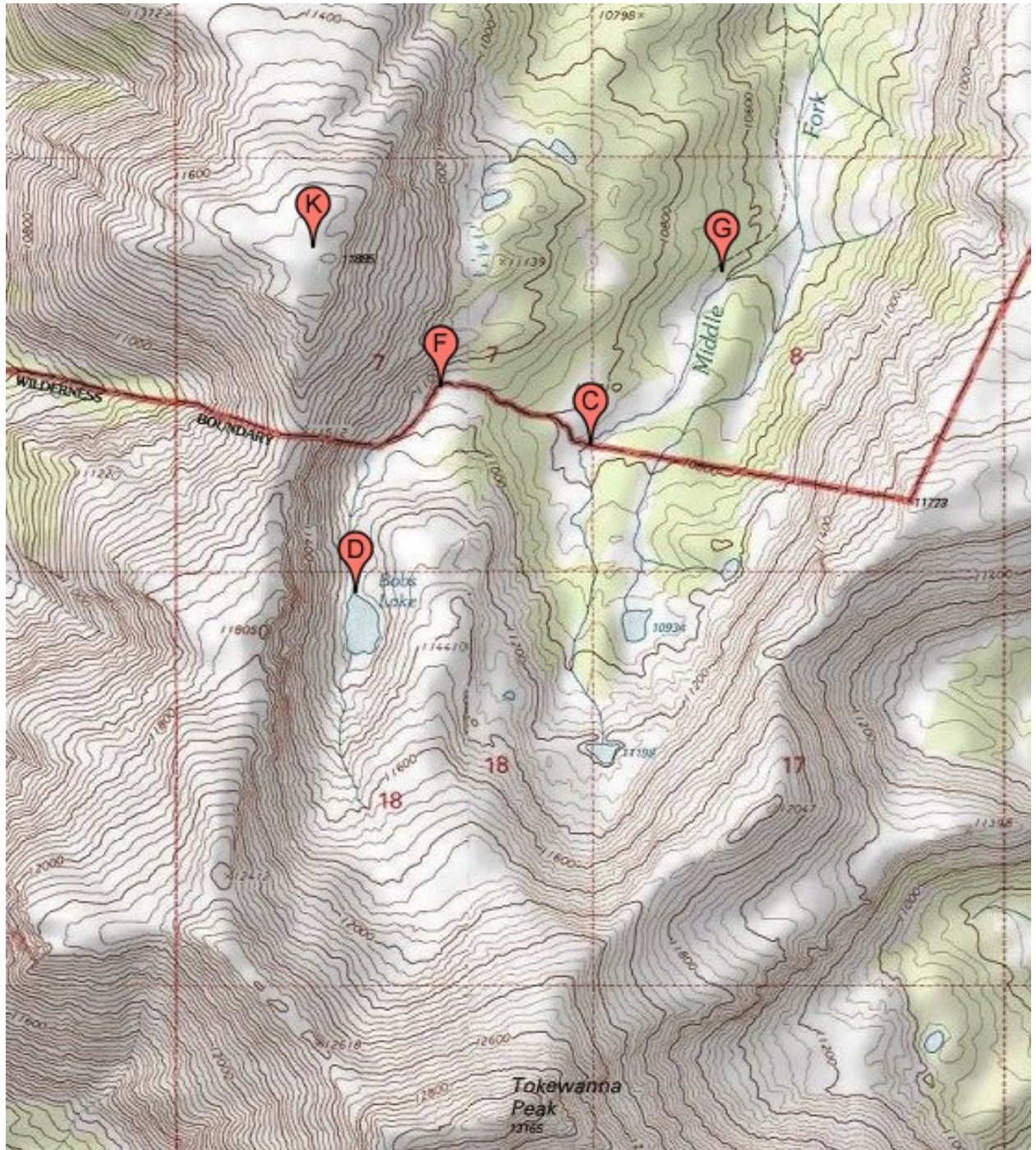
## Tokewanna peak view from...



On the topo below:

- K is the location from which the photo above was taken.
- G is the end of trail 096
- C is where you take right fork of the stream and proceed to the west (WxNW  $291.1^\circ$ )
- F is where the stream turns south ( $202.5^\circ$ ) and arrives at Bobs Lake in under a mile.
- As the crow flies Tokewanna Peak (13,165) is 2.1 km SxSE ( $160.2^\circ$ ) of Point D (Bobs Lake 11,120) and 2045 ft gain.

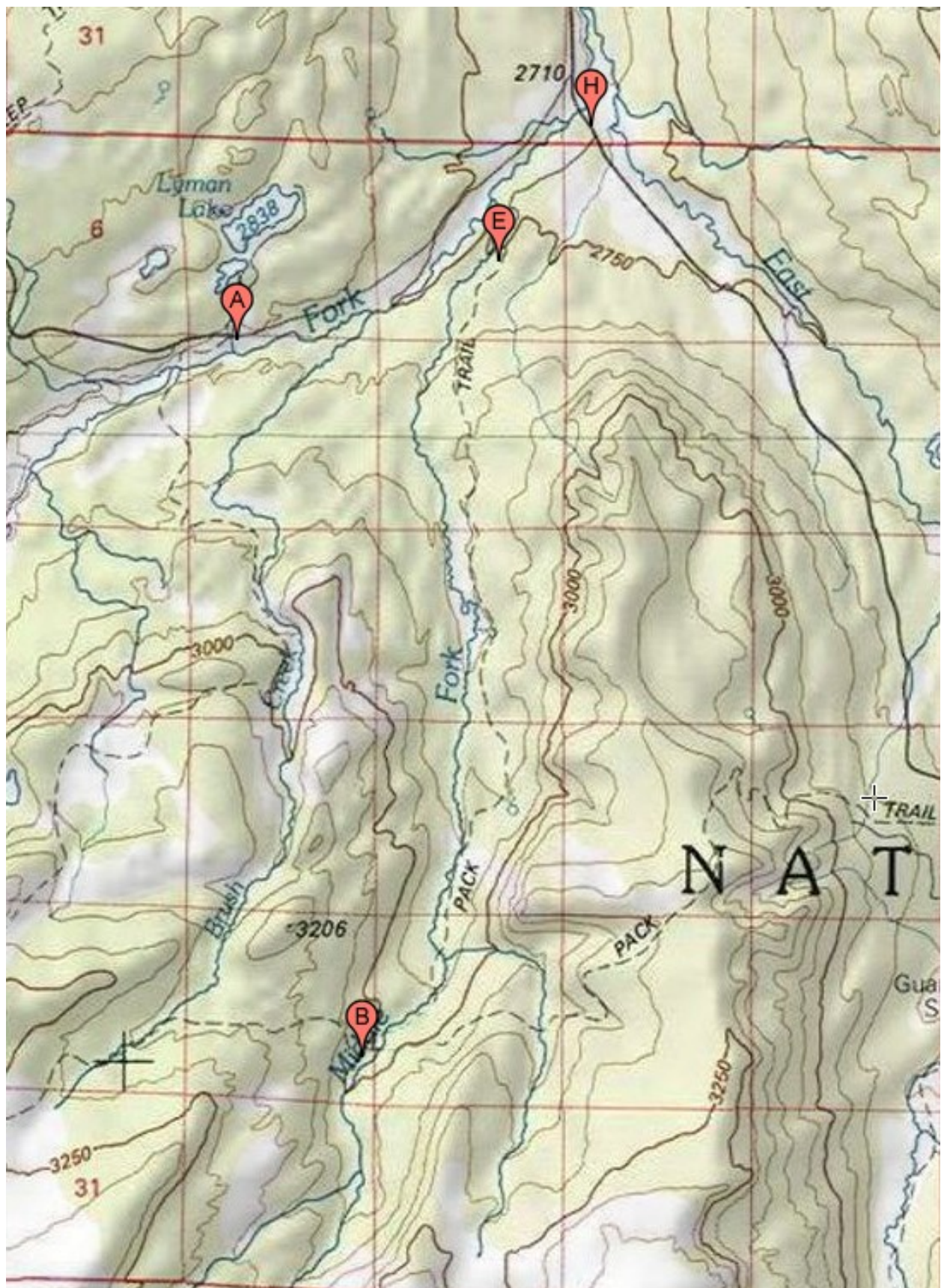




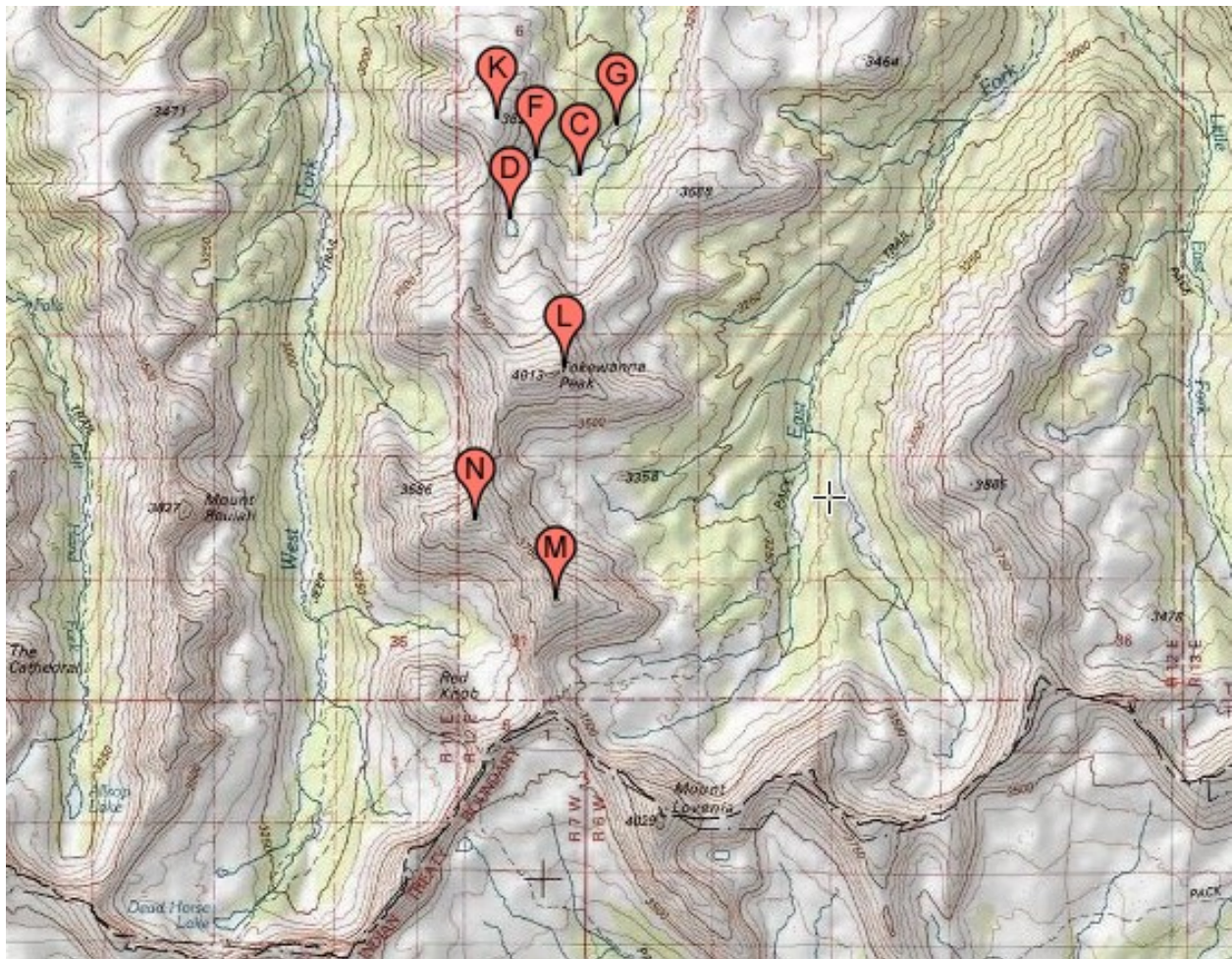
Below:

- A = turn to get to west fork
- B = 096 trail crosses the Bear River-Smiths Fork Trail at 10,640 ft
- H = turn on to FR 064, E = trailhead









N = Wasatch BM at 13156 ft

M = NW Wasatch (Peak 13,039)

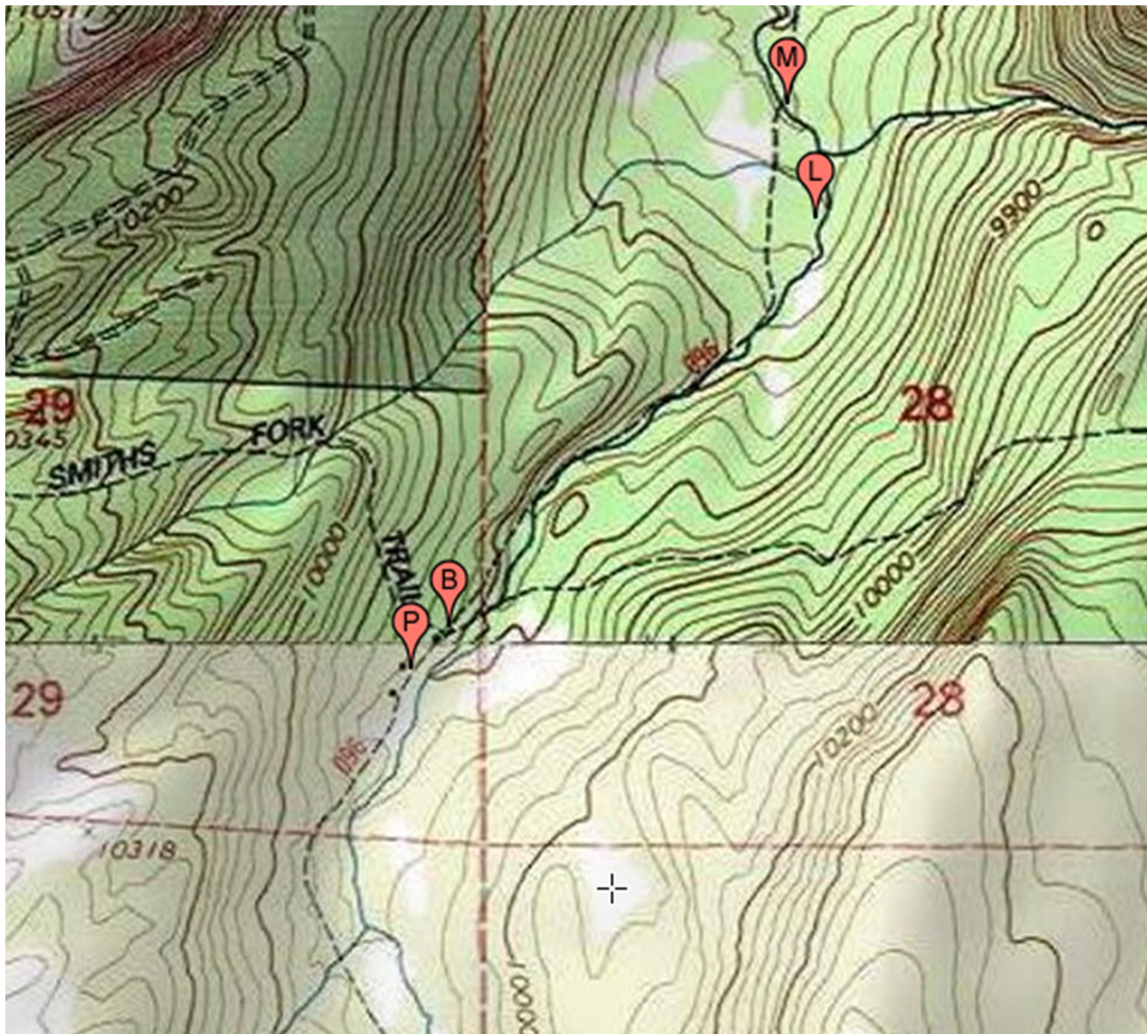
## September 6, 2016

- The lake we camped is at 10,934 ft, whereas Bobs is at 11,120 ft and the lake above ours is at 11,198 ft.
- The waterfall is located  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way in (as the crow flies).
- The big reservoir we could see in the distance (looking north) from Tokewanna is Meeks Cabin Reservoir, WY.
- There was a fire in the middle fork in 2002.
- The area with the cabins is considered a Ghost Town and at once time had around 100 residents. Its history is disputed but most likely it was established around 1870 by a Timber company and operated into the 1930's. The timber provided ties to the railroad company, and were hauled out in the winter when it was easier to skid them out on the snow. Douglas Fir was the timber of choice. (Read more at <http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/ut/black%27sfork.html>)
- The saddle on the ridge, above and between the two snow patches, is at 12,400 feet. We must have been around 12,300 feet, so we had about 865 feet to go (approximately 45 mins).

- We parked about 1+ miles below the trailhead (halfway or less up the 2 mile FR 064)
- As the crow flies from our parking spot to Lake 10934 is 13 km, and 12.3 km from the official trailhead of trail 096.
- Initially trail 096 is on the east side of the middle fork.
- $\frac{1}{2}$  way in, as the crow flies (but only about 1.5 hours into the 5 hour hike) the trail crosses the creek, and the rest of the hike the trail (route) is on the west side of the creek.
- Within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, after crossing the creek, the trail intersects the Bear River Smiths Fork Trail, and at the intersection is a dilapidated cabin remains (the first of many to come). About this time one crosses into the High Uinta Wilderness area.
- About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way in the creek enters a south west running gorge, and the trail stays to the right (west) of the gorge. As the creek bends back to the south a beautiful water fall is seen entering the gorge. To get around this the trail goes over a 10,258 foot point.



Interestingly the official topo map shows the location of the cabins as black dots. (See attached). I marked the middle dot with a P. L is our approximate 2nd camp spot, and M is the creek crossing



Satellite image of mark P (from the topo). Notice the ruined cabins





Time line from my photos, see <https://goo.gl/photos/as4DDPMm2W9B1hb57> or 2016\_09\_03-05\_MiddleForkBlacksForkRiver

1. It was stormy looking when we set out from about 1 mile up the 2 mile long Fire Road 064 at about 11:40 am, Saturday Sept 3, 2016.
2. You come to a large meadow after about 10 minutes of walking from the actual trailhead (see pic 20). We reached the actual trailhead at the end of FR 064 at noonish.
3. Around 1:45 pm we reached the intersection of trail 096 (our trail) and the Bear River Smith Forks trail (which runs W to E). The first cabin from the Blacks Fork ghost town (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blacks\\_Fork,\\_Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blacks_Fork,_Utah)) was located at the intersection, behind Peter in the photo.
4. As the topo map, above, indicates (with a black dot) there were basically three locations with dilapidated log buildings.
5. At 1:55 pm (2 hours 15 mins into the hike) we entered the High Uintas Wilderness area.
6. Roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way into the hike we encountered a water fall on the middle fork of Blacks Fork River.
7. At 4:30 pm we came to the creek that enters the middle fork from Bob's Lake. *We added about 30-40 mins to our hike as we started looking for this creek much too early in our hike, so we probably should have reached this point by 4 pm.* This is point C on the maps above.
8. We ended up camping at Lake 10,934 ft after first hiking to Lake 11,198 ft, and we had our camp set up by 6pm just before a hail storm arrived.
9. Day II we left camp at 8:23 am in spite of the clouds and gusty wind.
10. Within an hour we had pretty much reached the base of Tokewanna peak via the plateaued ridge between Bobs' Lake and the other three lakes. Peter here is likely around 11,600 feet or higher.
11. The high gusty winds, lightening, and graupel snow turned us around about 800 feet shy of our goal; the Peak of Tokewanna. We got back to camp by 11:30 am ish, and napped while the intermittent storms rolled in and out. Here is the accumulated graupel outside my tents vestibule.
12. Graupel at our campsite.
13. By 3pm we were packed up, and the sun was out so we decided to begin the exit hike out.
14. At 4:15 pm we were around the waterfall. Notice how much faster we were on the hike out, as we simply followed the middle fork creek more directly then on the way in. 1 hour 15 mins to this point from camp, compared to also 3 hours from the waterfall to camp on day 1.
15. By 5:30pm we stopped at point L on the map above (just before the creek crossing) and had a camp set up by 6pm.
16. Our camp near the creek at point L on the map above.
17. Sept 5, we were packed up and ready to hike out by 9 am.
18. We reached the end of the big meadow (see pic 2) by 10:07am and unlike the way in Tokewanna was visible. I guess we reach the red marked spot on the photo.
19. Same pic as 18.
20. The trailhead at the end of FR 64 10:15 am
21. Peter walking past the puddle on FR 64 notice his truck beyond the trees. Around 10:40 am the hike was complete. So exiting we hiked out in about 2.5 hours plus 1 hour 40 mins = 4 plus hours. Whereas hike in was closer to 6 hours.