

Watchtower Creek

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD: From Triple Creek's driveway turn right. Stay on the Westfork Road for approximately 7 miles. You will see a gravel road veering off to the right just before the bridge crosses the river. Turn onto this road (Nez Perce Road). Check your odometer at this junction, as it is almost exactly 9 miles to Watchtower Creek's signed turnoff. Trailhead is within ¼ mile of the turnoff.

NOTE: The turnoff is easy to miss; if you reach Fales Flat, you have gone nearly 2 miles too far!

ELEVATIONS: Trailhead 5080 ft.; stream crossing 6100 ft.; Watchtower Peak 8780 ft.

INFORMATION FROM TRAIL SIGNS: Closed to all vehicles, Map of area, Watchtower Creek Trail info # 699

MILEAGE: Wilderness Boundary- 3.3 miles; State line 10 miles.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION: There are rest facilities and a large parking lot at the trailhead. The trail is excellent – soft under foot most of the time, with a gentle grade. The bridge near the trailhead is wide and solid.

Wildflowers are outstanding! Flowers grow in such profusion along this trail that the huge rock faces, the clear stream and the sight of Watchtower Peak shrink to secondary importance by comparison. Contributing to the trail is the easy access and the gentle trail grade. The trail is seldom right beside the stream, but neither does it go too far from it. An unusual flower is found here, the Woolly-Headed Clover. It is found nowhere else in this state, its range being limited to the Blue Mountains of Washington and Oregon, through Utah and western Idaho to this one site in Montana. Its feature is a pink to reddish flower head with petals sharply bent down.

Have Fun & ENJOY!