

Burkholder Lake Trail

Site Identification

Nearest Community:

Lillooet, B.C.

Geocache Location:

N 50°57.857'

W 122°21.960'

Ownership:

Crown Land

Accuracy:

6 meters

Overall Difficulty: 2

Overall Terrain: 3.5

Access Information and

Restrictions:

From the Mile 0 Cairn on Main Street in Lillooet drive north for 2 km and turn left onto Hwy 40 and follow for 6 km. Continue straight for 18 km. Stay straight onto Bridge River Road for 6 km. Turn right onto Yalakom River Forest Service Road for 10 km. Take slight left for 4 km. Take slight left again for 1 km and follow to Lake La Mare. Trailhead on the west end of Lake La Mare. Trail can be steep and dusty.

Parking Advice:

Park at Lake La Mare Rec Site.

For more information or to report a problem with this site please contact:

Gold Country Communities Society
PO. Box 933
Cache Creek, BC.,
VOK 1H0

Tel: 1-877-453-9467
email: info@exploregoldcountry.com

For more site pages go to:
www.goldtrail.com

Apply Sticker Here



Photo: Wayne Robinson

This is a gem of a lake, found part way up the Yalakom Valley. Yalakom means 'ewe' in the local Chilcotin, First Nations language. This is a fitting name, the Yalakom river winds along the valley bottom adjacent to the Shulaps Range, which means 'ram' in the same language. California Big Horn Sheep are traditionally common in the area.

The trail head begins at a lake with an oxymoronic name, Lake La Mare. Lake La Mare offers a couple of nice camping spots and Rainbow Trout fishing. Like Burkholder, the lake was stocked with fish by early miners to provide a source of food to feed their operations.

The trail begins on the western edge of Lake La Mare and immediately begins to climb through a Lodge Pole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest. Initially, the trail skirts along a cut block which allows for views down the Yalakom Valley; on a clear day, Fountain Peak and the other mountains surrounding the town of Lillooet can be easily identified. As you crest the top of the first incline you will have gained nearly 200m in elevation. As you walk along the trail notice the fine powder like dust that makes up the soil. This is volcanic ash from a massive volcanic explosion originating from what we now call Mount Meager, as the crow flies, 90 km to the south west. This massive explosion took place approximately 2400 years ago. The eruption is recognized as the largest volcanic eruption throughout Canada, within the last 10,000 years. Mount Meager could still erupt at anytime; it's subterranean volcanic activity is evident due to earthquakes and the presence of hot springs that flow out of the ground in surrounding river valleys. Mount Meager is located within the Garibaldi Volcanic Belt, which is the most northern arm of the Cascade Volcanic Arc. The Cascade Volcanic Arc contains the infamous Mount St. Helens which erupted violently in 1980. As you continue

along the relatively barren hogs back ridge, you will be rewarded with tremendous views. The trail continues down the ridge and undulates up and down over the course of a few kilometers before eventually reaching a grassy slough. This would be a great place to catch a glance at a moose, if you are lucky. Almost immediately, you cross over a small bridge that spans a stream originating from Burkholder Lake. One last hill to ascend and you reach the remains of an established horse camp; within a minute you have reached the treed shores of Burkholder Lake. Notice the trees in the area, lodge pole pines of a similar size with much larger Douglas fir interspersed. This is evidence of a forest fire hot enough to open the Lodge Pole Pine cones, but not hot enough to penetrate the corky protective bark of the large Douglas Firs.

The name Burkholder comes from the original homesteaders of the Yalakom Valley. The family included a husband and wife with three children, who settled in the valley sometime between 1904 and 1907.

Detailed Access Information:

Detailed driving instructions to the trailhead are available in the *Canyon to Alpine Lillooet Hiking Guide*, written by the Lillooet Naturalist Society.

This is a moderate hike and campsites are established at Burkholder Lake if you prefer to pack your gear in. Remember the rules of the trail: Horses yield for no one, hikers yield for horses, cyclists yield for everyone.

This is bear country. If you are camping at the lake, be sure to store your food appropriately, hung between two trees and at least 4 meters off the ground.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCES

Lillooet Naturalist Society. (2005). *Lillooet Hiking Guide - Canyon to Alpine*, Second Edition. Canada: Friesens.

Parish, Coupe, Lloyd. (1996). *Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest*. Vancouver, BC: Lone Pine Publishing

Vanderwolf, G. (Personal Interview) 2012. Local prospector.

Vanderwolf, K. (Personal Interview) 2012. Born in the Yalakom Valley – Operates a business in Lillooet.

“Wikipedia: Mount Meager” (Web) 2012. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Meager#Cascade_Volcanic_Arc.

Letterboxing Clues:

From Lake La Mare travel the trail signed Burkholder Lake - 2 hours (6kms). Once the lake is in sight follow trail along East side of lake for 130 meters. Cache is on the side of the lake.