



Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Registration

Registration No. VNP4-DG16T

Submitted Jan 31, 2021 8:34pm by Cormac Mccrimmon

Approved Feb 3, 2021 2:02pm by Kate Macklin

Registration

2020/2021

Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund

Registered

RKMF Expedition Grant Group Application 2020-2021

Ritt Kellogg Expedition Grant Applications Due at Noon Feb 3, 2021 12:00pm-12:00pm

This is the group application for a Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Expedition Grant. In this application you will be asked to provide important details concerning your expedition.

In addition to this Group Application, each team member must submit an Individual Application.

All Group Applications and Individual Applications must be received by Wednesday, February 3rd at noon. For more information, example applications, proposal writing tips, and further guidance, please visit

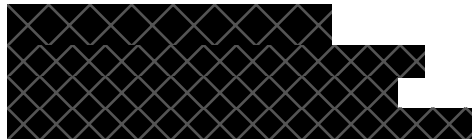
<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/rittkelloggfund/grants/expedition-grants/overview.html>

Note: For the 2020-2021 application year, the following additional parameters have been established due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 2021 RKMF grants are limited to travel in the contiguous United States only (no Alaska, no Hawaii, no Canada).
- 2021 RKMF grants are limited to travel by personal vehicles only (no airplanes, buses or other forms of public transportation)
- An additional COVID-19 preparedness section has been added to the Group Application
- Expedition teams which receive funding must submit an updated COVID-19 preparedness form 3 weeks prior to their expedition

If you have any questions please email Kate Macklin, Outdoor Education and Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Coordinator, at kmacklin@coloradocollege.edu

Participant



Expedition Summary

Expedition Name

Backpacking the Wind River High Route

Alternate Expedition Name

Winding Through the Winds

Objectives

We seek to complete a 112 mile backpacking loop on the Continental Divide Trail and Wind River High Route in Wyoming. Our trip will allow us to explore one of the most wild and beautiful sections of the Rockies in the US. The Wind River Range, a 100 mile strip of mountains, is often compared to Alaska. The range has towering granite peaks, massive glaciers and grizzly bears. This trip will push our backpacking skills to the next level. The trip will provide an excellent physical challenge, a chance to put our navigation and off-trail hiking skills to use and get a wonderful survey of the range, hopefully inspiring future trips to explore more difficult routes or peaks.

Although all members of our group have extensive backpacking experience, this trip will challenge us. We will have to train hard and come together as a team. We are excited for the challenge this trip will provide, and how it will force us to grow.

Location

The Wind River Range lies along the Continental Divide in Wyoming. The range is crammed with 12,000 and 13,000 foot peaks. Over the years, giant glaciers have carved u-shaped valleys and deposited debris, turning lakes turquoise. There are several Wilderness Areas that form a grid of protected lands: the Bridger Wilderness, on the west; the Fitzpatrick Wilderness and Popo Agie Wilderness, on the east; and the Wind River Roadless area. According to Ben Adkison, in Hiking Wyoming's Wind River Range, "There are over 2,000 high mountain lakes and countless tarns." Our group is very excited to hike in a region with so many mountain lakes.

The Wind River Range is also well known for its glaciers — the largest in the continental US. Although our route avoids directly crossing any of these glaciers, we look forward to seeing them now, as they continue to vanish. Because we will be hiking a loop, we will get to witness the beauty of the lower, forested areas and meadows, as well as the rocky, barren slopes on the high route.

Departure Date

Aug 8, 2021

Return Date

Aug 21, 2021

Days in the Field

12

Wilderness Experience

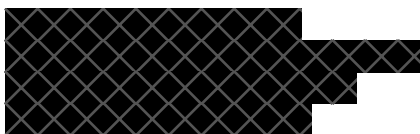
Our expedition is in one of the most remote parts of the Rockies. After we leave our car at the Big Sandy trailhead, we will be away from roads and most people for 12 days. Our route along the CDT will likely have more hikers than the second portion of the trail. The portion on the CDT follows the well-regarded and scenic Highline Trail. Nonetheless, it is still very wild-country. There's nothing like carrying everything we will need for a week to instill a sense of self-reliance.

We are used to squeezing backpacking trips into a block break or short period of time. This type of hiking often feels rushed. You might cover a lot of ground, but the best parts are over in a flash. The off-trail terrain will force us to slow down. We look forward to the opportunity to go slightly slower and have more time to take in the scenery around us.

In addition to the scenery, we look forward to the opportunity to see wildlife, flowers and stars. We are thankful for the protections Wilderness legislation has provided and aware of its fraught definition in changing times. Finally, we will make sure to follow all wilderness regulations and LNT ethics to uphold the quality of the Wind River wilderness experience for others.

Participant Qualifications

Expedition Team Member Graduation Dates



Medical Certification Dates

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Does your group have adequate experience?

Yes

Training Plan

In order to cover the physical aspect of training, we will plan to go on training hikes as a group. Two of the group members, Sam and Cormac, are training for an ultra running race in June, which will provide plenty of cardio. Connor is an avid peak climber and plans to train by skiing, hiking 14ers throughout the summer and running. Teddy shares plans to stay in shape backcountry skiing, running and hiking over the summer.

As a team, we plan to iron-out wrinkles in our gear and group dynamics by doing a series of test trips. These trips will include day hikes, carrying our backpacking gear, and overnight trips in Colorado during the summer.

Given the difficulty of the terrain on the Wind River High Route, we plan to spend lots of time in the Colorado alpine gaining practice with route finding, steep terrain and loose rock. To get more comfortable on Class 3 terrain we have a list of scrambles on Colorado peaks we plan to complete. There is only one section of Class 3 terrain on our route. This section is an optional spur we hope to complete, but we will evaluate the safety of while hiking. It is not necessary to hike this portion if deemed unsafe. We still want to be over prepared for potential challenges. Becoming more comfortable on harder terrain will make the steep class 2 sections feel easier and may open up additional evacuation routes.

Although we are all three comfortable navigating by GPS and map/compass, we plan to practice these skills by attending the navigation refresher course through CC and by navigating on a variety of off-trail routes before our trip. The last three options on our training trip list will satisfy the off-trail route finding component of our training.

Training Trips:**Backpacking Practice Route Ideas:**

Lost Creek Wilderness Loop
 Weminuche High Route (Off-trail navigation)
 Portions of the Sangre de Cristo Traverse (Off-trail navigation)
 Piffner Traverse (Off-trail navigation)

Class 3 Training Routes:

Father Dyer East Ridge
 Pettingell Peak East Ridge
 Mount Helen to Father Dyer
 Kit Carson Peak
 Sangre de Cristo Ridge Traverses
 Kelso Ridge
 Mt. Sneffels Southwest ridge/main gully

Expedition Logistics, Gear and Food**Travel Plan**

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, we will be driving one car to the trailhead. We considered other trails in the same region, but ultimately decided on a loop, so that we could spend more time hiking and less time driving.

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Impact

Our expedition will cover over 100 miles of a remote stretch of mountains in the Wind River Range in Wyoming. As such, our travel will have a small but not insignificant ecological impact. To minimize our ecological impact as much as possible we will be abiding by Leave No Trace principles. We have provided extensive planning for our trip and we will be traveling on established trails during our time on the CDT. While traveling off-trail, we will travel on pre-established use trails and game trails when possible, durable rock surfaces at other times, and will not travel through any fragile terrain unless absolutely necessary. We will camp overnight in areas that are at least 200 feet away from bodies of water and are relatively resistant to disturbance. Human waste will be buried using a trowel no less than 200 feet from water bodies and all other waste will be packed out and disposed of properly in appropriate waste receptacles.

Our expedition will require approximately 491 miles of driving from the starting point in Denver, Co, to Pinedale, WY, to the trailhead. The direct transportation emissions is estimated to be around 1.29 metric tons of carbon dioxide which will cost \$6.66 to offset.

Our expedition will take place on the traditional lands of the Eastern Shoshone Indigenous Peoples, who currently reside in the Wind River Reservation that is very close to our route. The Eastern Shoshone people traditionally resided in present day central and southern Alberta, most of Montana, and parts of Wyoming. In the early 1800s, they won a series of battles fought against the Crow Peoples, giving them access to the Wind River Valley, an important bison hunting ground. The band became heavily involved in the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade from the 1820s to the 1840s. In 1840, Washakie became the Chief of the band and led them through various treaties and agreements with the U.S government. In 1863, he signed the First Treaty of Ft. Bridger which established the boundary of the Eastern Shoshone Reservation, which later became the Wind River Reservation. The reservation was originally over 44 million acres in size and covered parts of Utah, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado. The Second Treaty of Ft. Bridger was signed in 1868, reducing the size of the reservation to just over 2.7 million acres, which was then further diminished after gold rich land in the southern portion of the reservation was conceded in 1874 in exchange for a payment of \$25,000. In the same year, the Eastern Shoshone Band was forced to share their land with the Northern Arapaho Band.

We recognize the privilege that we hold in being able to undertake the Expedition that we have outlined here. In doing so, a necessary step is understanding the complex and ongoing history of colonialism that took place on the traditional lands of the Eastern Shoshone Peoples. A land acknowledgment is simply a starting point to grapple with the privilege we hold. We fully intend to reflect and learn from the experiences we will share in the Wind River Range. This includes a commitment to learn about the history of injustice that Indigenous People have experienced, as well as vowing to support Indigenous voices and causes in the future.

Risk Management

Objective Hazards

Objective Hazards:

Terrain

Since half of our route is off-trail, we will need to be especially cognizant of terrain hazards. We plan to mitigate the physical challenge of off-trail hiking by training for the hike on similar terrain and by hiking fewer miles than we normally do on trails. This will allow us adequate time to pick the safest routes, bypass dangerous sections and prevent injury.

Given the steep nature of some of the terrain, falling would not be good. We plan to minimize the risk of falling by going slowly and practicing proper scrambling techniques (like maintaining three points of contact and checking holds) to stay safe on steep ascents and descents. We also plan to carry trekking poles which will improve stability on loose sections of the route.

Although we will be hiking in late summer, there is still a possibility of lingering snow on certain sections of the hike, like Knapsack Col, and some of the high passes. We have chosen our route because it avoids more technical snowfields and glaciers, but we will monitor snow levels using Snotel information, reading trip reports and calling local rangers to determine if snow exists on our route. Our research indicates that by August, snow that remains is usually easily avoidable. If it turns out to be a high snow year we will mitigate the risk of slipping by wearing micro-spikes. Given the lower angle slopes of our route, ice axes won't be necessary.

A large portion of our training plan focuses on gaining comfort and additional experience traveling in steep and exposed sections. We want to be ready for the hardest parts. We plan on training on class 3 routes that will be harder than the

passes we will hike on the high route.

Finally, we have spent lots of time researching route options and reading trip reports to understand the hardest sections. We have eliminated several of the most challenging sections, like crossing Knife Point Glacier, because we lack the proper experience. To reduce the risk of an accident, we have chosen alternate routes at several points.

Rockfall

Rockfall is another hazard we wish to avoid. Taking our time will also help with this. When traveling on loose rock, we will plan to spread out, never travel below one another and give each other space, so we don't kick rocks onto someone directly below. If we do dislodge a rock, we will yell "Rock!" to alert hikers below, or members of our own party.

Driving

Driving is always a big concern. Although our drive is a full eight hours, we will only drive during daylight hours and will split the drive among four people to reduce the risk of fatigue.

Cooking

Cooking is another potential risk. We plan to minimize the threat of kitchen injuries by designating a "Cooking Zone" at each campsite. This will allow our designated cook to operate the stove without someone tripping over the pot, spilling boiling water on another member of the team. We will use caution when cutting any food and treat any small cuts as they occur. We will try to minimize the spread of infectious diseases among our own group by practicing proper hygiene, not sharing utensils, and cleaning all equipment after use. See additional section on COVID-19 safety.

Forest Fires

Climate change is making forest fires an even larger concern in the West. We will need to be cognizant of fire locations and the possibility to evacuate if fires are close. We plan to monitor the situation using our inReach device to stay in touch with a trusty parent, who can provide updates. We will also plan to talk to other hikers, rangers, and outfitters to stay aware of fire conditions.

We will minimize our own risk of starting a forest fire by following all fire bans and regulations designated by land managers.

Animals

Animals are always a concern when traveling in their habitat. We plan to respect animals and give them plenty of space. We will limit our interactions with animals by keeping a clean camp, reducing odors, and storing food in bear canisters.

There are some grizzly bears that live along the route. In the past several decades, more grizzly bears are migrating to the Wind River Range, possibly related to changing climate conditions. We are planning to carry bear spray as a last resort to deter bears. We will make plenty of noise when traveling to avoid scaring wildlife. If we encounter a bear, we will use the National Park Service's suggestions:

Talk Firmly and Calmly

Do not run! Back away slowly, but stop if it seems to agitate the bear.

Try to assume a non-threatening posture. Turn sideways, or bend at the knees to appear smaller.

Use peripheral vision. Bears may interpret direct eye contact as threatening.

Continue to move away as the situation allows. (NPS website)

For other animals, we will plan to follow similar protocols: giving plenty of space, making our presence known, and giving a wide berth if need be.

Getting Lost

Although much of our route is off-trail, we never want to feel off-route. We plan to use our off-route navigation skills to monitor our location by using a map and compass (Beartooth Publishing 1:60,000 maps for macro-navigation, personal Caltopo set and Adventure Alan's free mapset and databook, 1:24,000). We will also carry backup navigation methods on our personal devices, like the Gaia GPS app, and our inReach device.

All three party members have significant experience navigating in alpine environments. We know how to read topo maps, shoot bearings, and triangulate our position using a compass. Because the WRHR off-trail sections are above

tree line, it will be far easier to use a map as our primary source of navigation. If during difficult sections we want to double check our route, the Gaia GPS on all member's phones will serve as our first backup navigation option. Finally, we plan to also upload the GPS waypoints to our InReach device for a second backup navigation option. Although we never plan on separating, we will make sure to distribute navigation resources among group members in case of separation.

Weather

Similar to Colorado, the Wind River Range is known for hard to predict summer weather. Thunderstorms or rain are possible in August. To mitigate the risk of thunderstorms, we will start early, get down from exposed terrain if we see storms moving in and monitor weather using our InReach.

With thunderstorms, often comes rain. We will be prepared for rain by bringing proper rain jackets and pack covers to keep our equipment dry. Given our daily mileage, stopping to dry equipment during lunch will be easy to do.

We will also need to think about sun exposure. Because there are few trees on the route, we plan to take adequate protections against the sun including wearing hats, using sunscreen and lip balm, and wearing sunglasses to protect our eyes.

Finally, we will be prepared for snow. Even in August, snow is possible. We will be carrying lots of layers, including long-johns, puffy's, and outerwear in preparation for the low temperatures. This same equipment will also keep us safe if it snows. If it does snow, we will evaluate the conditions and amount of snow to determine if it's safe to continue or if we need to leave the trail.

Altitude Sickness

Altitude sickness will be a concern mostly at the start of the trip. Since the WRHR is above treeline, we will want to be comfortable at altitude. Our expedition team will be coming from Colorado and will have been training at high-altitude over the summer. Once we have adjusted to the altitude, altitude sickness will be less of a concern, but we will still monitor each other for signs of altitude sickness and hike to lower elevations quickly if a problem arises and if it is possible to safely do so.

Dehydration

We will mitigate the risk of dehydration by drinking water often. If necessary, we will add electrolytes to water to improve hydration. Because of the frequent lakes on the Wind River High Route and along the CDT, water is not a major concern. However, we still plan to carry 2 liters per person and have a reliable method to safely treat water (MSR Gravity Filter and Aqua Mira Drops).

River Crossings

River crossings can be a potential risk when traveling in the Winds. Because of our late-summer timeline, we can count on water levels being much lower and safer than in early-summer. Throughout the spring we will monitor snowpack using Snotel data to see how much snow melt we can expect. In the summer we will plan to read trip reports from WRHR hikers who have traveled before us and call park rangers to learn more about trail conditions and potential hazards.

If we do encounter a swift moving river, we will scout the river and identify if there is a safe location to cross. If deemed safe, we will cross using the tripod method, bracing with trekking poles and unstrapping hip belts. We know that good footing is essential, and oftentimes, slow moving, deeper water makes for a better crossing option than faster, shallower water. We will make sure to look for downstream hazards and avoid spending too much time in cold water to lessen the risk of hypothermia.

Evacuation Plan

Because all four expedition members will be Wilderness First Responder certified before we leave, we feel comfortable treating minor injuries. If one of us suffers from a more serious injury or illness we will assess the situation and plan to evacuate. For less urgent evacuations, where the injured person can walk on their own, we have listed all access points, routes and have maps showing how to exit the trail. We will discuss escape routes at camp for the following day.

If injury prevents us from self-evacuating, we will use our inReach communicator to contact Search and Rescue using the SOS button. Once we establish a two-way communication channel (contact information listed below), we will inform

them of our exact location, and wait for help, making sure to stay warm and dry in the meantime. Emergency contacts for each land manager/search and rescue team are listed below, but because of the likelihood of not having service, we will use our inReach first.

In situations that involve life-or-limb urgency, we will assess the situation for danger, use our inReach SOS button to notify search and rescue and inform them of the urgency of our situation and location. We will stay with each other, keep the injured person warm and dry, and arrange for a possible helicopter rescue.

All team members will have the information (maps, escape routes, and supplies) to execute an appropriate evacuation. The inReach will allow us to contact rescue personnel, while staying together. However, since we have four members, it will be much easier to designate tasks to ensure a safe evacuation.

Emergency Resources

Our route begins in the Bridger-Teton National Forest and continues into the Bridger Wilderness area. The Bridger Wilderness area and the portion of the Bridger-Teton National Forest that we will be traveling through are under the jurisdiction of the Pinedale Ranger District. The contact information for this district is listed below:

Pinedale Ranger District:

29 East Fremont Lake Rd.
P.O. Box 220
Pinedale, WY 82841
(307) 367 4326

District Ranger: Rob Hoelscher

Search and Rescue

Sublette County Search and Rescue:
138 North Bridger Avenue
P.O. Box 400
Pinedale, WY 82941
Phone: (307) 367-2849

Search and Rescue Coordinator: Kenna Tanner

The nearest hospitals to our route are listed below in case of emergency hospitalization:

Hospitals

Pinedale Medical Clinic (Urgent Care)
Hennick St, Pinedale, WY 82941
[\(307\) 367-4133](tel:3073674133)

Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County (Emergency Room)
1200 College Dr, Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 362 3711

Lander Regional Hospital (Emergency Room)
1320 Bishop Randall Dr, Lander, WY 82520
(307) 332 4420

Communication to the Pinedale Ranger District and to each respective hospital, if needed, will be done using the inReach communicator if cell service is not available, and via personal cell phone if possible.

Emergency Communication

We will be carrying the Garmin inReach satellite communication device for emergency use. It allows for SOS communication 24/7 to a search and rescue monitoring center. Text communication from the device to the monitoring center will help the search and rescue team confirm and assess the severity of potential injuries and ensure that adequate care can be provided. Each team member will also carry a personal cell phone for backup navigation and possible communication needs.

COVID-19 Preparedness

What is the current COVID-19 situation in the area where you are intending to travel?

Our travel route is located in Sublette County, Wyoming. In the past seven days they have averaged one new case daily, has an infection rate of 0.75%, and as of now, does not have an ICU capacity metric available to the public. These metrics will be monitored using the New York Times COVID tracking feature that is updated daily along with other similar open access services.

Sublette county is following all state mandated Covid-19 restrictions and has not implemented any additional restrictions. The state of Wyoming has implemented a mask mandate in public spaces, has restricted gatherings of 10 or more people, and has mandated businesses enforce physical distancing guidelines such that people not residing in the same household must be separated by 6 or more feet in enclosed spaces. All of these mandates are effective until February 14th, 2021. There are currently no travel restrictions in the state of Wyoming for the backcountry or otherwise.

How do you intend to mitigate the risks of exposing yourself and your teammates to COVID-19 while traveling to your trailhead?

Although the timeline for vaccines is still up in the air, we are hopeful that by late August, most Americans, including college students, will be vaccinated. All expedition members will plan to get tested 48 hours before our departure date to ensure we are all starting with a solid baseline. If anyone is exposed to COVID-19 before departure, he or she will quarantine and we will reassess whether he or she will be able to safely execute the expedition.

While traveling, COVID-19 will be a large priority. We plan to minimize personal exposure and the risk to other people by following public health guidelines. Depending on public health guidelines, we will plan to wear masks, distance in public and keep high standards of hygiene. During stops for gas or food, we will nominate one or two people to complete the errand so as to minimize possible exposure.

While we are hopeful that some of these measures will not be necessary in August, we will keep up to date and follow CDC guidelines to slow the spread.

How do you intend to mitigate the risks of exposing the residents of the area(s) where you will be traveling to COVID-19?

By getting tested 48 hours before we depart from Denver, we are minimizing the risk of exposing the residents of Pinedale, Wyoming and the surrounding area from Covid-19. After departing Denver we will only stop for fuel and bathroom breaks.

One of our most important stops will be dropping food at Bald Mountain Outfitters. We will coordinate with guides to keep this stop as safe as possible. We plan to organize our food and arrange logistics with the guides beforehand. This way, we can drop food off outside and keep our visit under 5 minutes while wearing masks.

We will minimize human interaction at these stops to reduce exposure. At the trailhead and at crowded campsites where it is most likely we will encounter other people, we will wear masks and maintain social distancing when possible. We will abide by all Covid-19 restrictions in all of the places we visit on our expedition.

How do you intend to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 while in the field?

We intend to act as a "Family Unit" on this trip after we all receive our negative test results prior to leaving Denver. We feel traveling as a 'family unit' is appropriate because we don't plan on interacting with anyone outside of our family unit on our trip unless it is absolutely necessary. All other human contact outside of our group will be very minimal. For example, our resupply is completely contactless. Additionally, we will carry extra masks, disposable gloves, and hand sanitizer to assist with Covid-19 risk mitigation. We will make sure to pack out these risk mitigation measures appropriately.

If someone on your expedition develops COVID-19 symptoms, how will you handle it?

We will be using two two-person tents while in the backcountry. Because of this, if one person were to develop symptoms it is very likely that their tent mate would also contract the virus. In the event that someone develops symptoms we would immediately isolate into our two distinct tent groups, and we would all wear masks to avoid exposing the other group. To avoid exposing people outside of our group to the virus, we would attempt to leave the trail on the nearest predetermined evacuation route. If this becomes impossible due to the severity of symptoms experienced by any individual we will contact search and rescue using our inReach device and follow their instructions on how to proceed to exit the backcountry in the safest possible manner.

Budget

Budget

[Wind River High Route Bud....pdf \(1.1MB\)](#)

Uploaded 1/30/2021 1:50pm by Cormac Mccrimmon

Transportation

227.24

Food and Fuel

1094.62

Maps and Books

57.90

Permits/Fees

14

Gear Rentals

199.93

Carbon Emissions Offsetting

6.66

Total Funding Request

1600.35

Funding Per Person

400.09

Cost Minimization Measures

One of the biggest ways we have reduced costs is by choosing a loop hike. This prevents the need to drive two cars.

For food, we will do all of the shopping in advance to gain savings from buying in bulk. Items that we don't have, like multiple ursacks or microspikes, we will rent from the gear house.

All of the hiking information — map sets and directions — for the second half of our loop are free, online resources, thanks to Alan Dixon for pioneering the route and keeping it free.

Although the cost of using an outfitter is high, it's one of the best options for resupplying, while maintaining the wilderness experience. We have shopped around to find the best price for this service. Finally, there are no permit costs associated with our trip.

Expedition Agreement

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Winding Through the Winds: Backpacking the Wind River High Route Itinerary

Backcountry Itinerary Notes

We planned our backcountry itinerary using Caltopo maps, Alan Dixon's Wind River High Route Resources (<https://www.adventurealan.com/wind-river-high-route-guide/>), and Google Earth. We selected campsites and safe routes based off of previous trip reports to the area we found online. Below, we have pasted a Caltopo screenshot of the entire route. Each day has a corresponding Caltopo screenshot (below the day's description) with the route for that day highlighted purple and evacuation routes highlighted orange.

Note about **water**: Luckily, there are reliable water sources along the entire route. All of the campsites on this route are near lakes and streams. We will fill up our bottles each morning and have plenty of water to cook breakfast and dinner. Every day will take us by at least 3-4 lakes so water will be accessible throughout the day as well. Since water is not a concern on this trip, we have not listed individual water sources except on days where water is not available at the top of climbs.

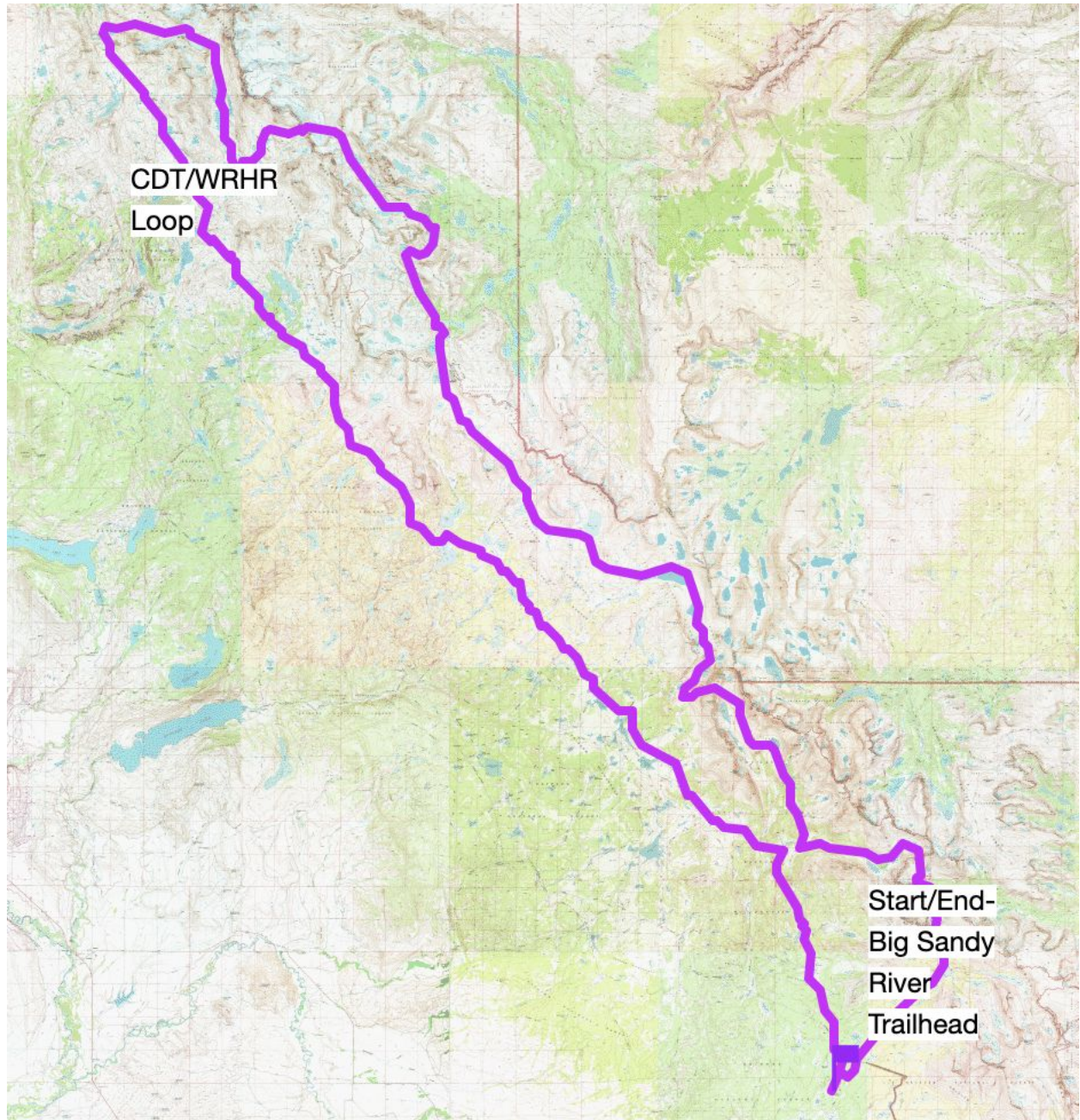
Note about **campsites**: We have chosen to place all our campsites near lakes. This ensures that we have access to water for dinner, breakfast, and to fill our bottles at the start of each day. The campsite icons on our map are placed less than 200 ft. from the shores of the lakes we have selected for ease of reading. However, we will find suitable, low-impact campsites that are at least 200 ft. away from any body of water.

Note about **Map**: We have provided screenshots of each day's section. Some of these screenshots are slightly confusing because of the different colored lines. Purple is the main route. **The map is a lot easier to view on Caltopo.** We advise using the link below and turning on/off lines for evac routes so the main line is clearer.

Caltopo Link: <https://caltopo.com/m/RSGS>

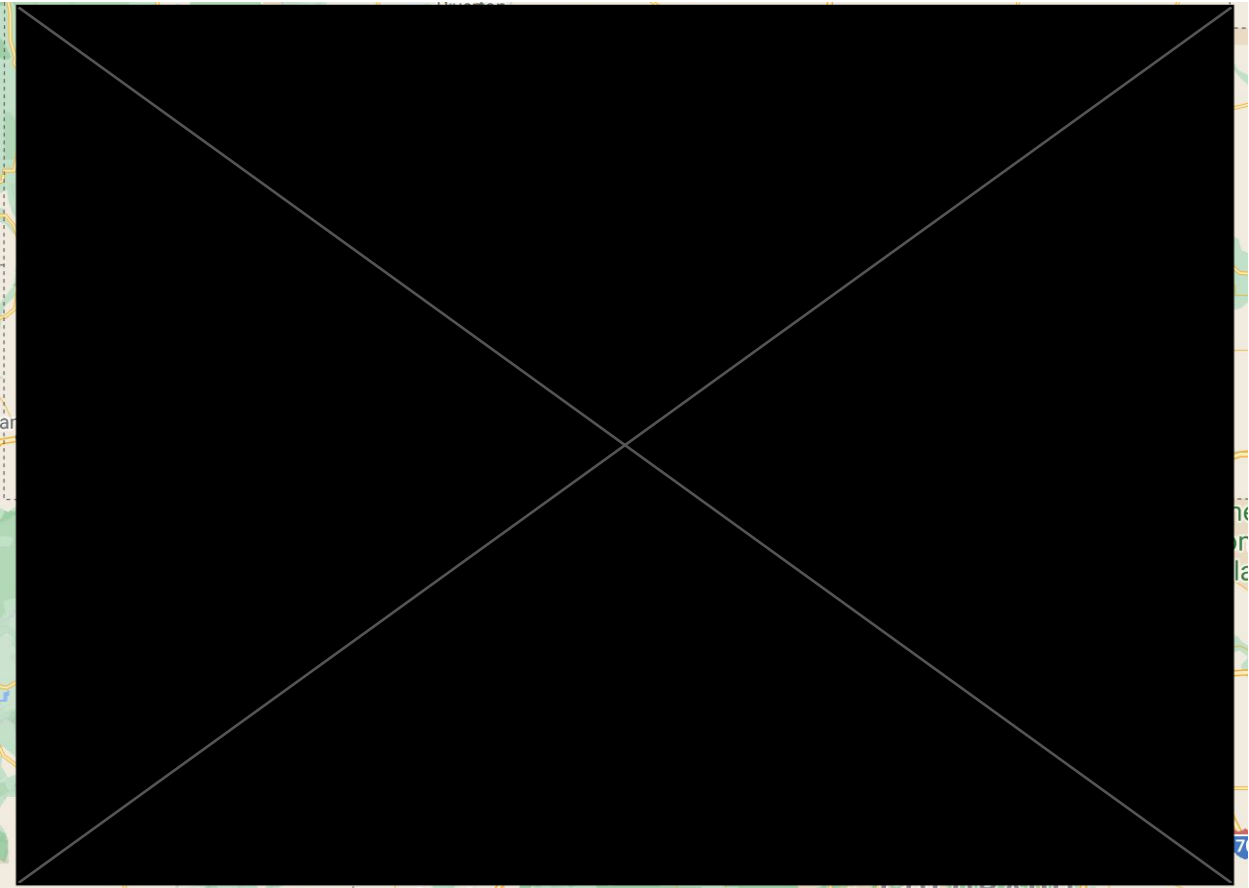
Backcountry Route Overview:

Caltopo Link: <https://caltopo.com/m/RSGS>



Day 0-Travel Day August 8th, 2021

We will all leave by car from [REDACTED] and drive to Pinedale, WY. We will meet our outfitter here and drop our food. From Pinedale, we will drive to the Big Sandy Trailhead. The trailhead has a parking lot for backpackers where we will leave our car for the duration of the trip.



Day 1: Big Sandy River Trailhead to Unnamed Small Lake (near Silver Creek)

Distance: 11.88 miles

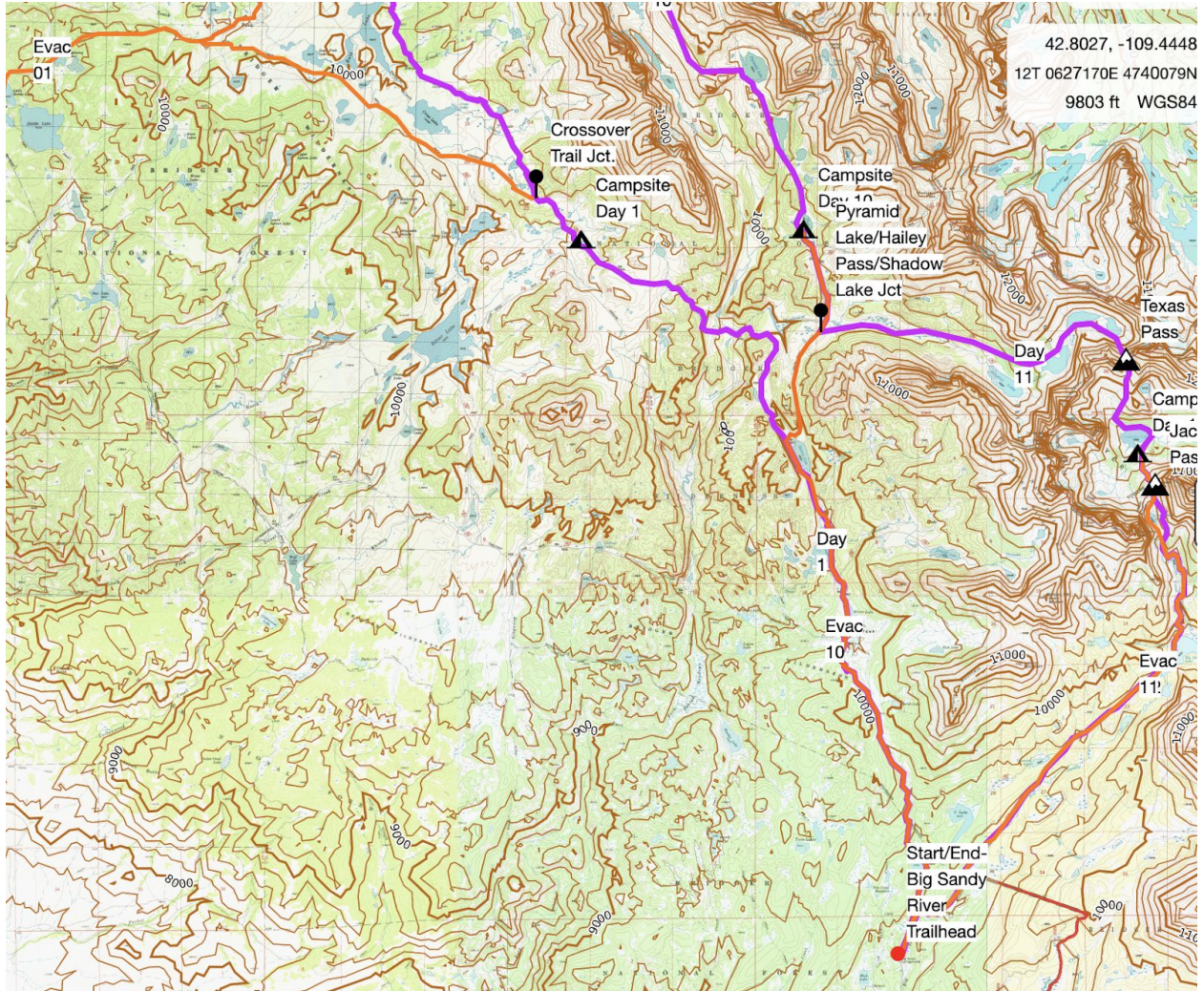
Elevation: **+2529'** **-1400'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 42.8117, -109.3466, elevation 10246'

Evacuation Route: Crossover to Scab Creek Trail to Campground (Evac 01 on map) or follow route back to Big Sandy Trailhead.

Climbs: None

Potential Hazards/Notes: From the trailhead, we follow the Fremont Trail for 11.8 miles. Since it is our first day on the trail, we will take water breaks and check-in with each other often. We will get an early start to give us plenty of time to reach our campsite and address any first-day issues that may arise.



Day 2: Unnamed Small Lake to North Tip of North Fork Lake

Distance: 13.84 miles

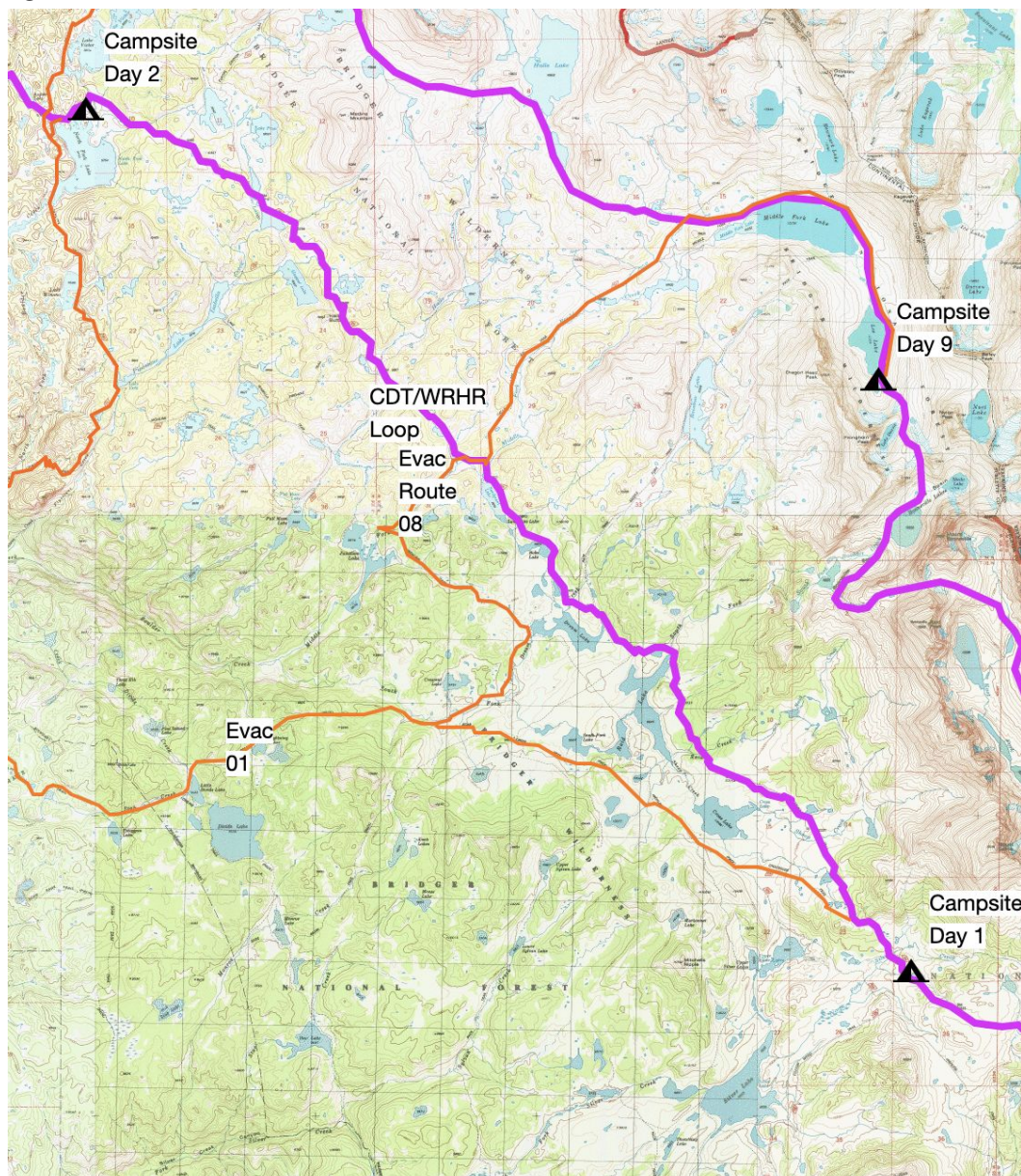
Elevation: +1637' -2108'

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 42.9314, -109.5023, elevation 9770'

Evacuation Route: Highline to Boulder Canyon Trail to Boulder Lake Campground & Ranch. (Evac 02 on map)

Climbs: Halls Butte

Potential Hazards/Notes: We have a fairly straightforward day. We continue on the CDT and pass the junctions with Crossover Trail and Middle Fork Lake Trail. We eventually arrive at North Fork Lake where we will camp for the night.



Day 3: North Tip of North Fork Lake to Lake 10175

Distance: 11.55 miles

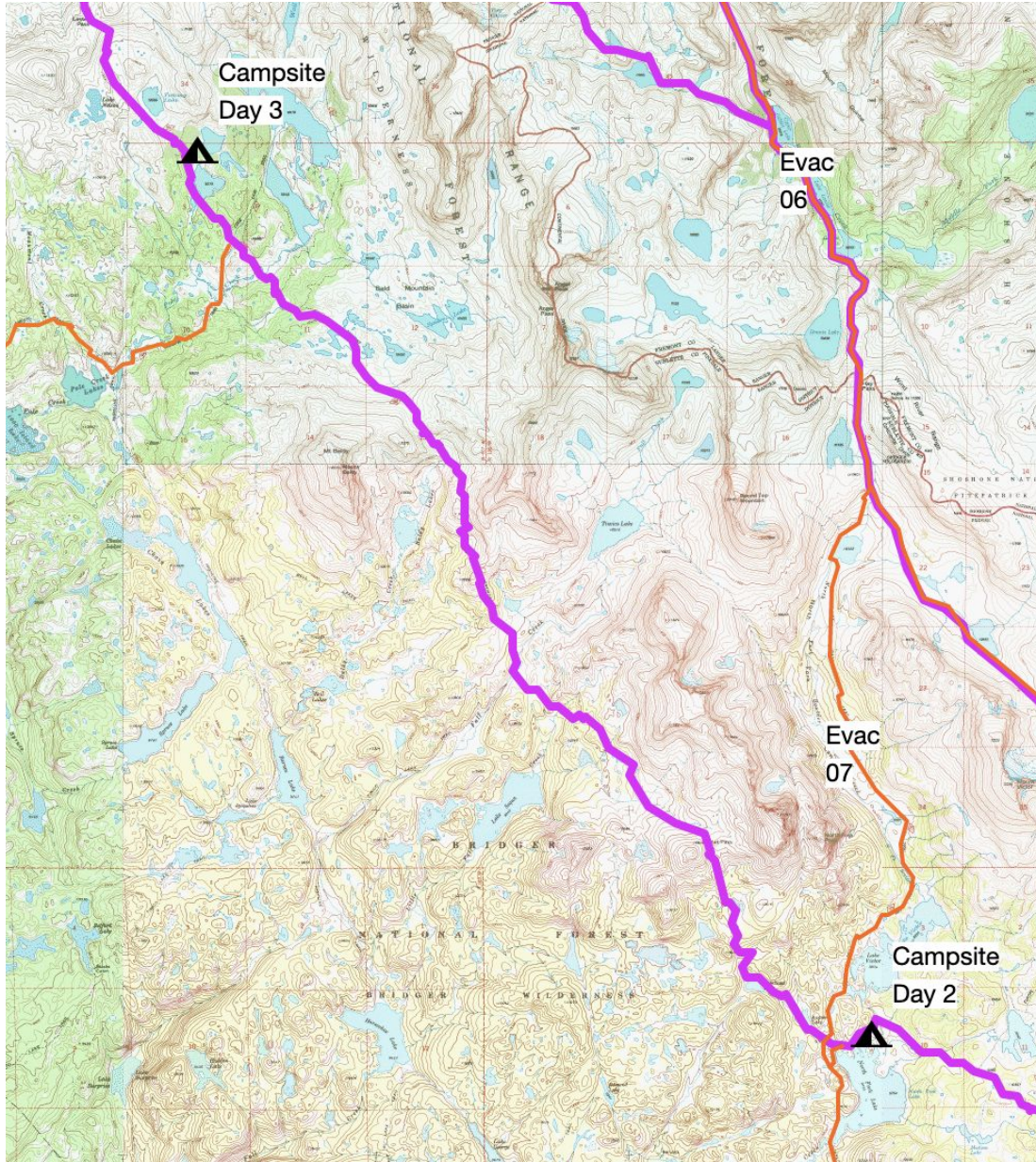
Elevation: +3117' -2550'

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 43.0378/ -109.6134, elevation 10267'

Evacuation Route: Highline to Pole Creek Trail to Elkhart Campground/Ranger Station (Evac 03 on map).

Climbs: Hat Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: From North Fork Lake, we continue our route along the CDT (Fremont Trail). We cross the junction with the Timico Lake Trail. We rejoin the CDT here if we took Alternate 01. Towards the end of our day, we reach the junction with Highline Trail and Cook Lake Trail. Eventually, Fremont Trail turns into the Highline Trail. We follow Highline until we reach our campsite at Lake 10,175.



Day 4: Lake 10175 to East Shore of Peak Lake

Distance: 11.84 miles

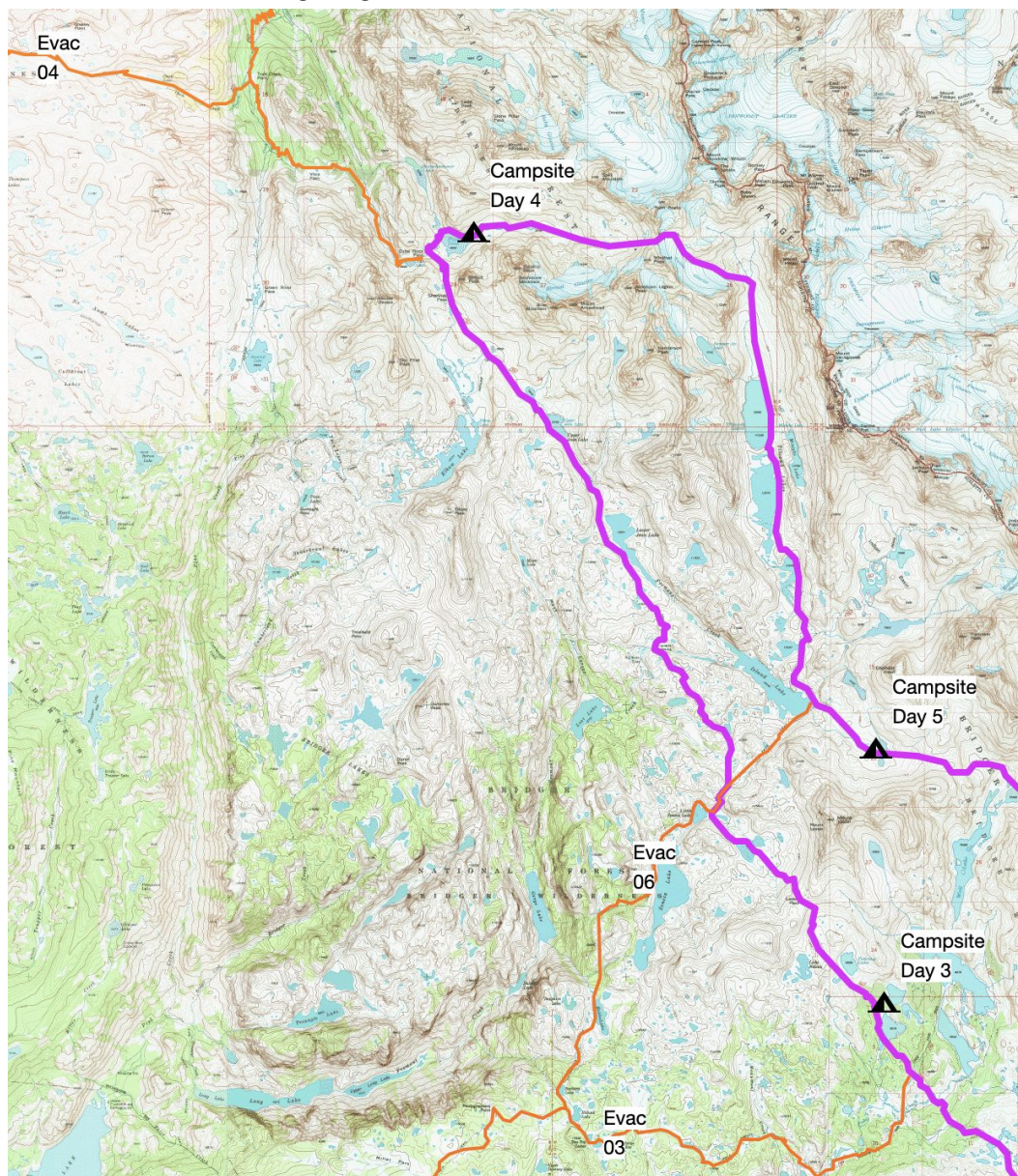
Elevation: +2798' -2540'

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 43.1556, -109.6993, elevation 10600'

Evacuation Route: Shannon Pass to New Fork Trail to the Narrows Campground (Evac Route 04 on map) or Shannon Pass to Highline Trail to Green Lakes Trailhead (Evac 05 on map).

Climbs: Lester Pass, Cube Rock Pass, Shannon Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: Leaving Lake 10,175, we rejoin Highline Trail and continue hiking on this trail for 11 miles. We will pass numerous lakes and streams, so water is not a concern. Today we head over Shannon Pass, Lester Pass, and Cube Rock Pass. These climbs may be tiring, so we will take plenty of water breaks and check-in with each other often. There are many potentially confusing, minor junctions that we will look out for on our map. We leave the Highline Trail at the first major junction and continue hiking along Shannon Pass Trail. Towards the end of our day, we leave Shannon Pass Trail at the junction and join Glacier Trail. We traverse around the north shore of Peak Lake and set up camp.



Day 5: East Shore of Peak Lake to Unnamed Lake (South of Island Lake)

RESUPPLY DAY-shore of Island Lake

Distance: 9.11 miles

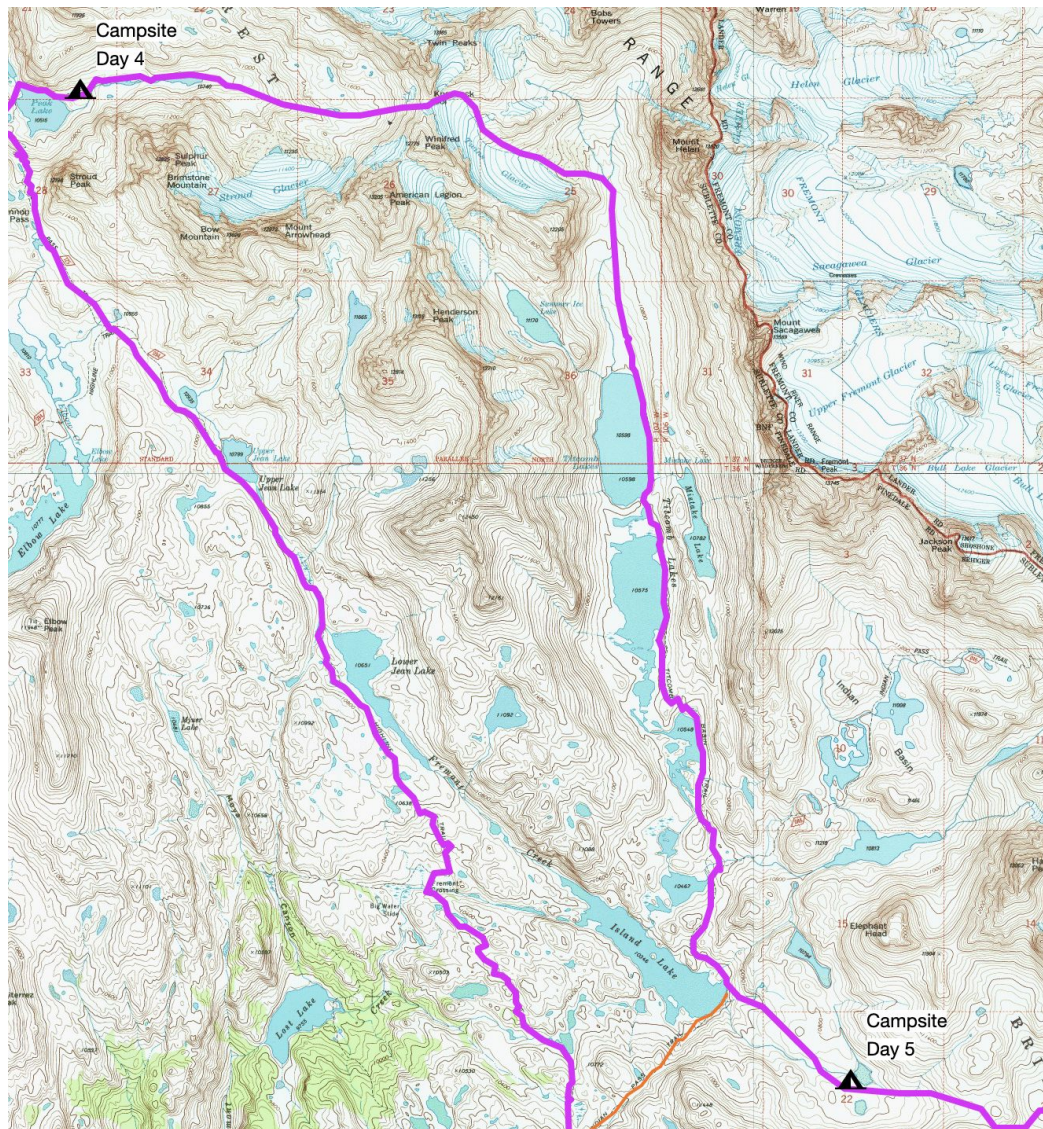
Elevation: **+2453'** **-2308'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 43.0767, -109.6151, elevation 10733'

Evacuation Route: Indian Pass Trail to Seneca Lake Trail to Evac Route 03 to Elkhart Campground/Ranger Station. (Evac 06 to 03 on map)

Climbs: Knapsack Col

Potential Hazards/Notes: There are some light use trails from Peak Lake to the top of Knapsack Col. We are expecting more snow on the East side and may have to cross snow fields. We will put on our microspikes and scout out a safe descent. However, most of the snow will have melted out by this point. Staying left will keep us away from steeper slopes. After dropping into Titcomb Basin, we join a trail that traverses the Eastern shore of the Titcomb Lakes. We pass the Indian Pass/Titcomb Trail Junction but continue along Titcomb Trail. Along the shore of Island Lake, we will meet our outfitter and collect food for the remainder of the trip. This resupply will be 100% contactless, minimizing the risk of COVID exposure. After passing Island Lake, we leave the trail and head southeast for a mile until we hit an unnamed lake. We will camp here for the night.



Day 6: Unnamed Lake to Lake 10895

Distance: 10.05 miles

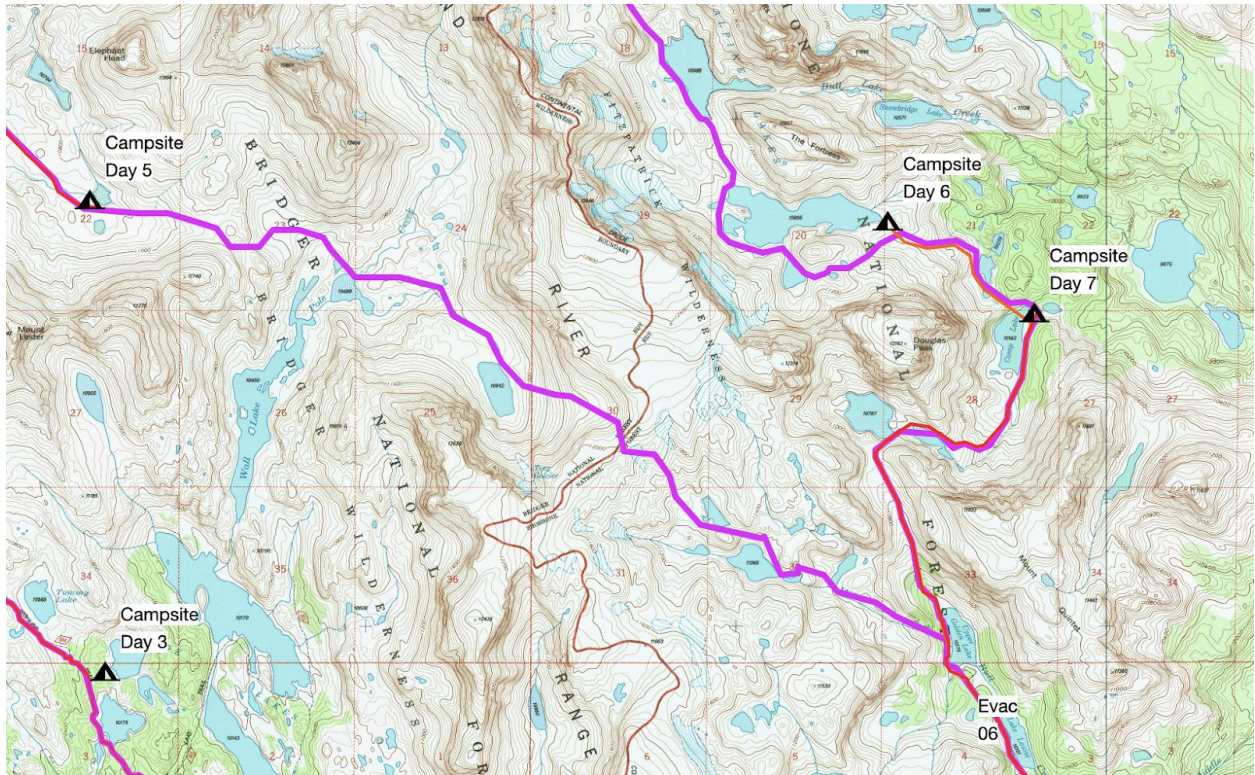
Elevation: **+3902'** **-3730'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 43.0749, -109.5253, elevation 10906'

Evacuation Route: Hay Pass Trail to Evac Route 08 [Hay Pass to Highline to Boulder Canyon Trail] to Boulder Lake Campground/Ranch (Evac 07 to 08 to 02 on map).

Climbs: Pass near Tiny Glacier

Potential Hazards/Notes: We will hike towards a small saddle and descend to Wall Lake. There is one small crossing of Pole Creek. From there, we loosely follow an inlet stream to lake 10842, staying East of Tiny Glacier. We will scout out a route to cross the divide and descend to lake 11065. Loosely following the Middle Fork stream will take us to Hay Pass Trail. We turn left on the trail and continue until we hit Camp Lake, where we turn left again until we reach our campsite for the night (Lake 10895).



Day 7: Lake 10895 to Camp Lake

Distance: 9.06 miles

Elevation: **+2801'** **-3521'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 43.0673, -109.5088, elevation 10171'

Evacuation Route: Haypass Trail to Evac Route 02 to Boulder Lake Campground/Ranch (Evac 08 to 02 on map).

Climbs: Alpine Lakes Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: This day's route may seem like an odd diversion from the main loop. By opting to not cross Knife-Point glacier, we would've missed some of the loop's prettiest terrain. However, this didn't sit well with our team. To make up for it, we will backtrack on Day 7, hiking along the standard high route to the top of Alpine Lakes pass where we will get a view of the glacier without having to cross it.

We avoid the north shore of Lake 10895 where there is a class 4 crack system we would need to navigate. Instead, we keep to the south shore which is a class 2 route. The west shore of Lake 11335 has a class 3 ramp we will follow to ascend Alpine Lakes Pass. There is a snowfield up Alpine Lakes Pass that should have a passable path on its side by the time we reach it. We will assess the situation once there and determine the safety of the ascent. If we reach the top of the pass, we will see many beautiful glaciers and peaks! We will then turn around and hike back the way we came, stopping at Camp Lake for the night.



Day 8: Camp Lake to Long Lake

Distance: 8.99 miles

Elevation: **+2364'** **-1818'**

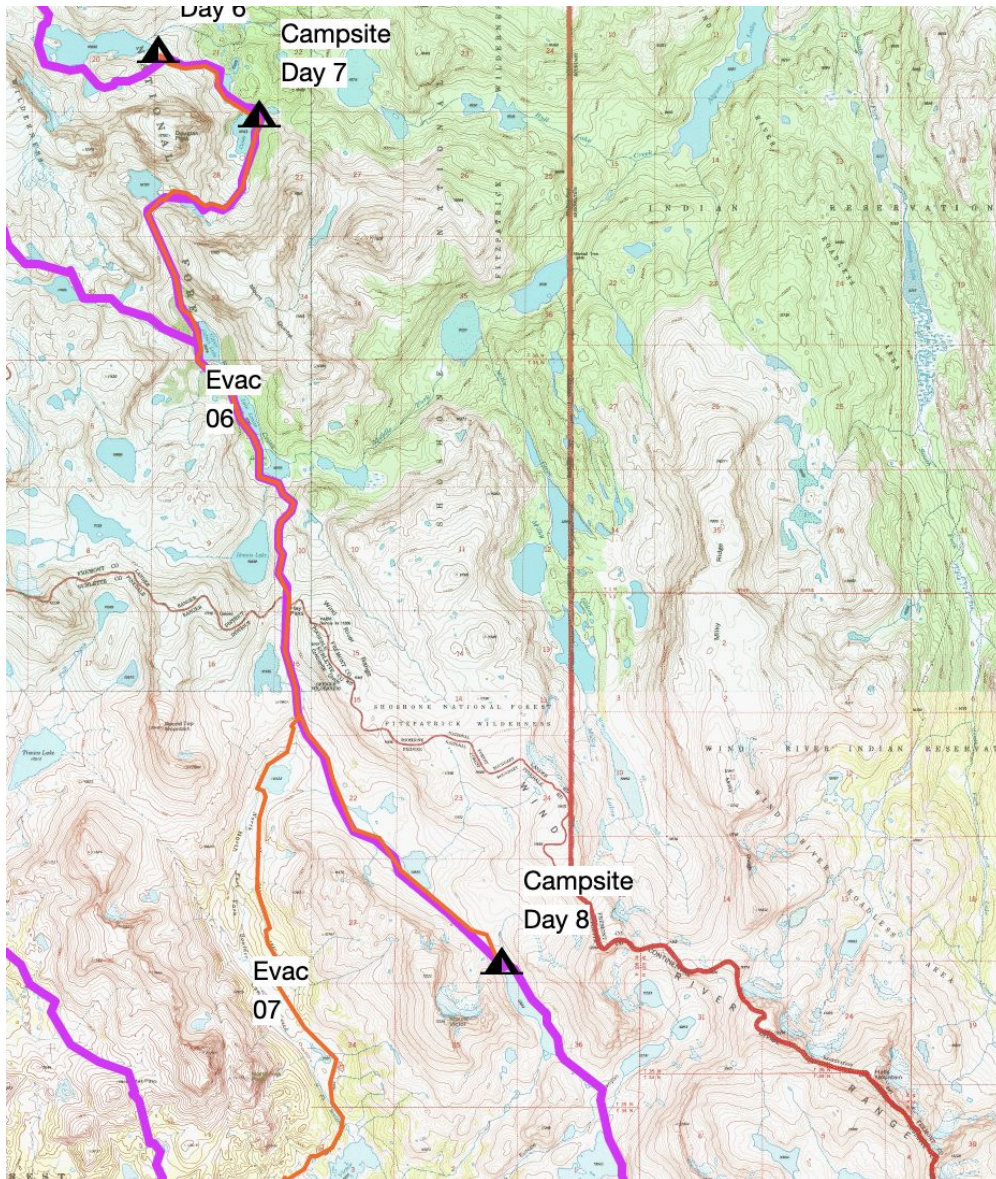
Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 42.9685, -109.4703, elevation 10715'

Evacuation Route: Haypass Trail to Evac Route 02 to Boulder Lake Campground/Ranch (Evac 08 to 02 on map).

Climbs: Hay Pass, Unnamed Pass, Small Unnamed Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: There is only a light use trail from Camp Lake to Lake 10,787, so we will check our map and compass often to ensure we stay on the right track. We will follow more established use trails to Golden Lake.

An inlet stream is our last water source before we ascend Hay Pass, so we will make sure to fill up here. We leave the trail around 10600 feet to descend into a basin to the South. From here, it is a boggy hike up to a small pass where we will descend to our campsite at Long Lake.



Day 9: Long Lake to Lee Lake

Distance: 9.58 miles

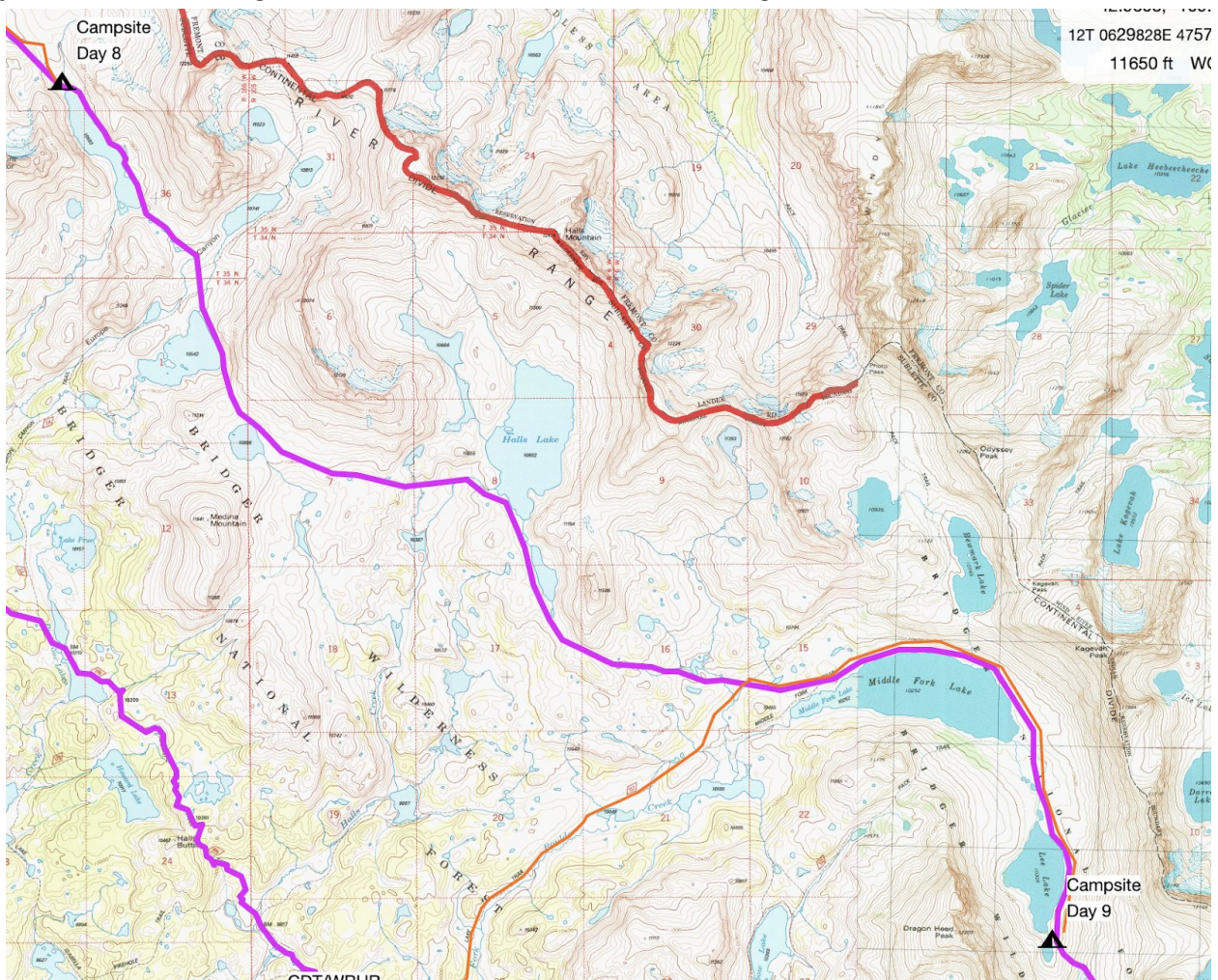
Elevation: **+1702' -2031'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 42.8938, -109.3526, elevation 10359'

Evacuation Route: Middle Fork to Crossover to Evac Route 01 [Crossover to Scab Creek Trail] to Campground (Evac 09 to 01 on map).

Climbs: Small Unnamed Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: After leaving Long Lake, there are some ramps and talus slopes to navigate over. Once we drop down into Europe Canyon, we follow a trail South for a short while. We leave the trail once we can cut directly to the shore of lake 10542 and then navigate over a small pass. The traverse around Hall's lake will be slow going and involve bushwacking, climbs, and drops. We will be conscious of LNT principles during this section. We will join a trail that runs along Middle Fork Lake and take this trail to our campsite at Lee Lake.



Day 10: Lee Lake to Skull Lake

Distance: 8.75 miles

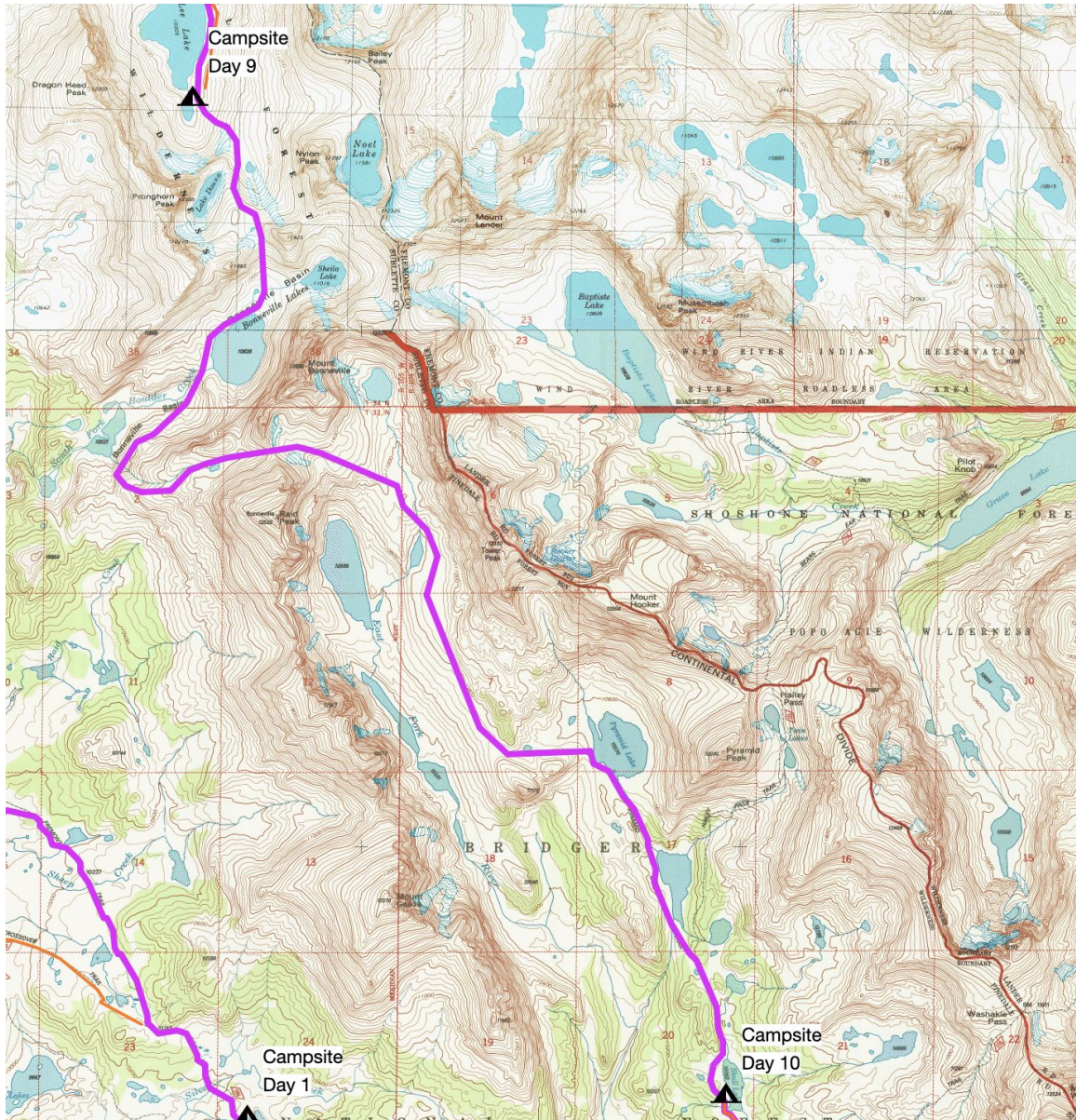
Elevation: **+2769'** **-2834'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 42.8134, -109.2939, elevation 10305'

Evacuation Route: Pyramid Lake to Hailey Pass Trail to CDT to Big Sandy River Trailhead (Evac 10 on map).

Climbs: Bonneville/Raid Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: From the South tip of Lee Lake, we will immediately navigate over a small saddle near Donna Lake. We may need to scout a good route to take down from the saddle to avoid higher class terrain. To ascend Bonneville/Raid Pass, we hike southwest of an inlet stream to avoid a steep climb. We will hike carefully since multiple use and game trails can make things confusing. Around Pyramid Lake, we pick up a heavily used trail that we will follow until our campsite at Skull Lake.



Day 11: Skull Lake to Lonesome Lake

Distance: 6.98 miles

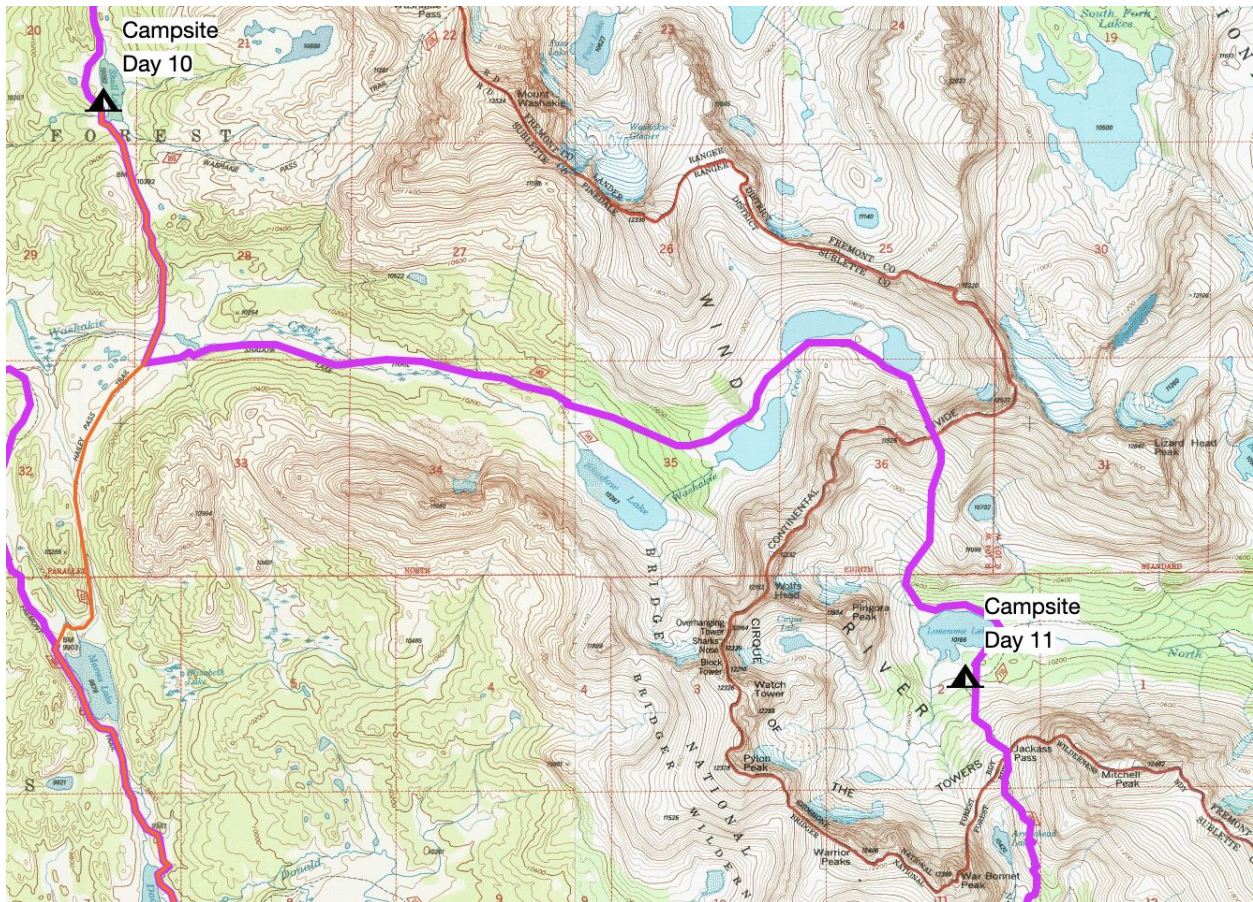
Elevation: **+1688'** -**1836'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 42.7747, -109.2150, elevation 10200'

Evacuation Route: Route to Big Sandy River Trailhead (Evac 11 on map)

Climbs: Texas Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: From Skull Lake, we will hike on trails to Texas Pass (Pyramid and Shadow Lake Trails). We will come across a junction where we turn from Pyramid Lake Trail onto Shadow Lake Trail. There is no official trail over Texas Pass but there are various use and game trails. We will keep our heads up and navigate carefully. We loosely follow a stream that leads to Lonesome Lake, which is our campsite for the night. There is good camping in the basin below Pylon Peaks and Warrior Peaks (Per Alan Dixon). There is also a climbers' trail to campsites between JackAss Pass and War Bonnet Peak.



Day 12: Lonesome Lake to Big Sandy River Trailhead (Campground)

Distance: 8.47 miles

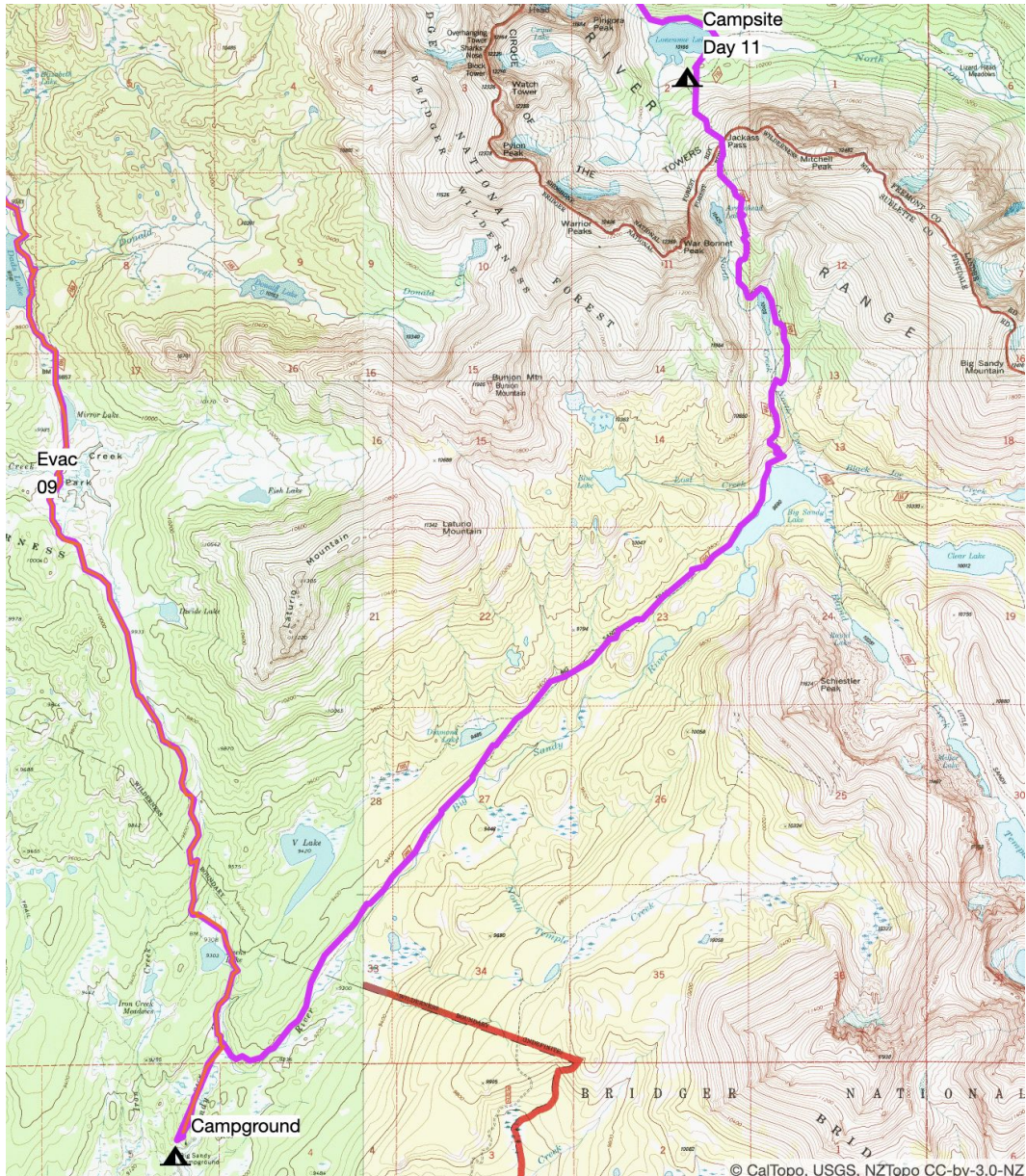
Elevation: **+1235'** **-2292'**

Camp Coordinates/Elevation: 42.6871, -109.2714, elevation 9085'


Evacuation Route: Big Sandy River Trailhead

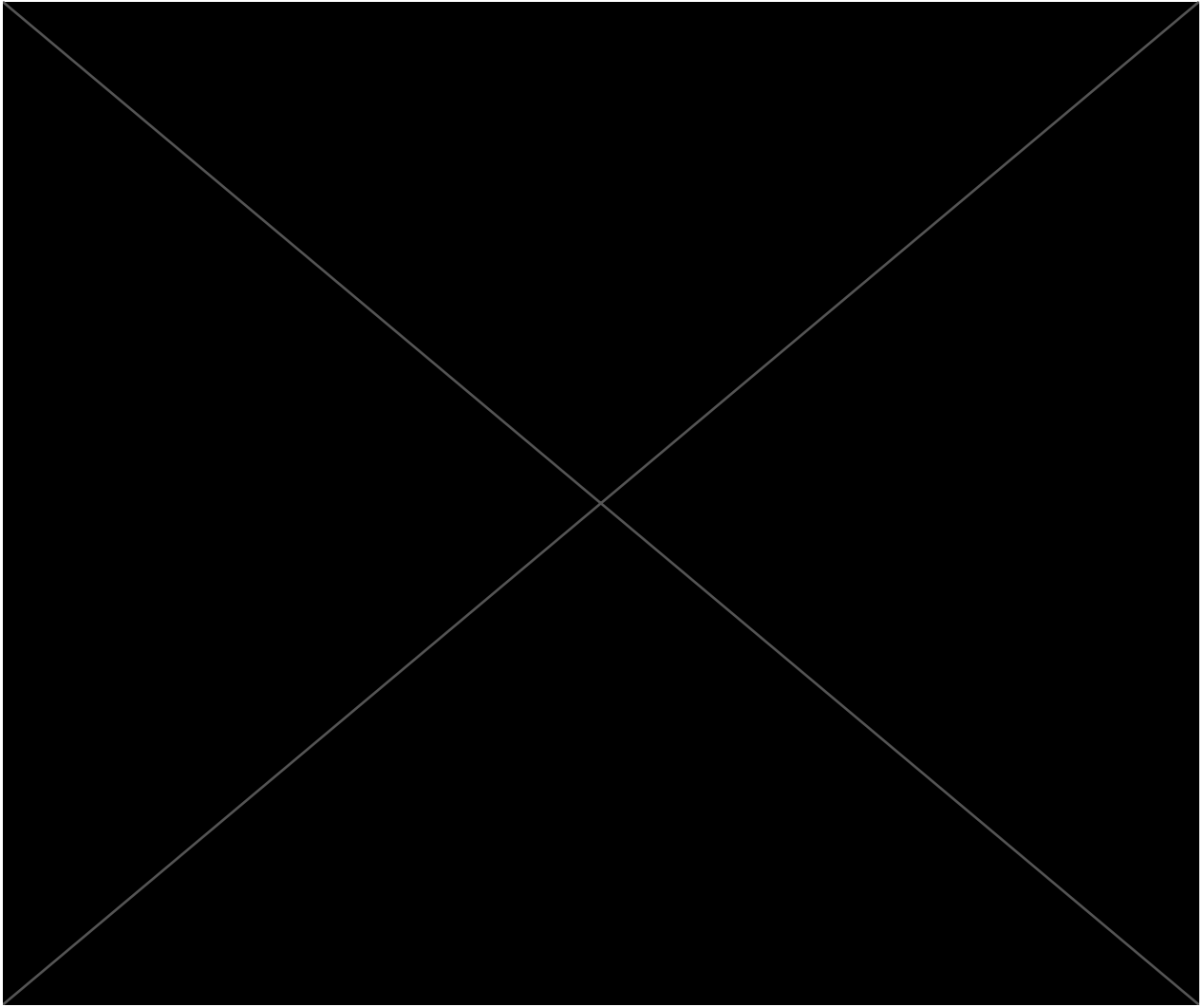
Climbs: JackAss Pass

Potential Hazards/Notes: The route from Lonesome Lake to the trailhead is on a heavily trafficked trail (Big Sandy Trail) so navigation is not a big concern. We will finish our trip at the Big Sandy River campground where we will spend the night. The next morning, we will leave from the trailhead where our car is parked.



Day 13- Travel Day

From Big Sandy trailhead, we will make the 8 hour drive bac 



Daily Caloric Intake Target: 3500-4000 calories.

Food	Calories	Price	Quantity	Total (12 Days)	12 DAY TRIP	Average Day	Calories
Breakfast							
Instant Oatmeal Pack	160	5.99/18	6	\$35.94		Breakfast	
Poptarts	400	2.99/12	5	\$14.95		Oatmeal(3)	480
Granola	220	4.49/12 oz.	3	\$13.47		Clif Bar	250
Snacks							
Cliff Bar	250	12.99/12	4	\$51.96		Nuts/Dried Fruit	200
Nuts/Dried Fruit	200	5.99/lb.	8	\$47.92		Snack	
Gummy Bears	150	6.99/29 oz.	2	\$13.98		Almond Butter Packet	200
Beef Jerky	80	9.99/8 oz.	4	\$39.96		Gummy Bears	150
Pringles	150	1.67/can	2	\$3.34		Lunch	
Hummus Powder	75	34.95/12 packs	1	\$34.95		Tortilla (1.5)	210
Kind Bar	180	7.99/6	8	\$63.92		PB&J	248
Almond Butter Packets	200	11.90/10	4	\$47.60		Beef Jerky	80
Lunch							
Tortillas	140	5.99/20	4	\$23.96		Kind Bar	180
Peanut Butter	190	4.99/28 oz.	1	\$4.99		Summer Sausage	165
Jelly	58	2.99/24 oz.	1	\$2.99		Snack	
Swedish Fish	124	6.99/24 oz.	2	\$13.98		Swedish Fish	124
Tuna Packets	70	\$26.35/24	1	\$26.35		Hummus	75
Summer Sausage	165	5.99/20 oz.	4	\$23.96		Dinner	
Nutella	200	6.99/26.5 oz.	1	\$6.99		Knorr Side (1)	700
Dinner							
Knorr Chicken Rice	700	1.00/1	8	\$8.00		Chicken Packet (1)	70
Knorr Spanish Rice	575	1.00/1	8	\$8.00		Veggies	55
Knorr Mexican Rice	575	1.00/1	8	\$8.00		Olive Oil	90
Knorr Chicken Brocoli	575	1.00/1	8	\$8.00		Salami	100
Idahoan Potatos	440	2.50/8 oz.	6	\$15.00		Dehydrated Beans	200
Chicken Ramen	570	2.39/6 packs	2	\$4.78		Nutella	200
Parmesan Cheese	110	7.49/8 oz.	1	\$7.49		Parmesan	110
Broccoli	30	5.99/28 oz.	2	\$11.98			
Bell Pepper	25	3.99/16 oz.	2	\$7.98			
Freeze Dried Veggies	100	12.95/10 oz	1	\$12.95		Estimated Total Calories (per person)	3887
Chicken Packets	70	17.88/12 packs	4	\$71.52			
Dehydrated Beans	100	12.95/18 oz.	1	\$12.95			
Olive Oil	120	8.07/48 oz.	1	\$8.07			
Salami	100	7.49/15.2 oz.	1	\$7.49			
Misc							
Cholula				\$6.99			
Mio		4.29/1	4	\$17.16			
Condiment Packets							

Spice Kit								
			Total Cost	\$687.57				
			Cost per person	\$171.89				

Group Items

Cost (if applicable)

Garmin in-reach rental	
1 First aid kit (See First Aid)	
4 lighters	
1 Large pot (with grip)	
1 Spatula	
1 large spoon	
2 Maps (north and south)	28.00
1 altimeter	
2 compass	
2 16 oz bottles of sunscreen	15.99/bottle
1 biodegradable soap	
8 pack aa bateries	
1 sponge	
4 2 oz hand sanitizer	6.99
1 trowel	
2 2 person tents	
1 whisperlite	\$33
2 large fuel bottles 60 oz total	\$34
1 Stove repair kit	
Dromedary Bag	
1 MSI gravity filter	
1 Packs Aquamira	14.95/pack
4 Bear Cannisters	
1 leatherman	
4 bear spray	
1 bugspray	5
1 solar charger	

Personal Items

1 knife
1 headlamp
1 warm hat
1 sun hat
1 pair hiking boots
1 set camp shoes
2 masks
1 rain jacket
1 rain pants
1 pair light gloves
1 bowl with utensils
1 sleeping pad
1 sleeping bag
1 puffy jacket
1 chapstick
3 pair underwear

1 synthetic t shirt
1 synthetic long sleeve
1 long underwear
1 pair of shorts
2 pair hiking socks
1 pair pants
1 fleece jacket
2 liters water capacity
1 set toiletries
1 power bank charger
1 pair trekking poles
1 pair microspikes (gearhouse)
Book
Journal/Pen

72

First Aid

Medication

Acetaminophen- 15 doses, 30 pills
Ibuprofen- 13 doses, 26 pills
Benadryl- 10 pills, 5 doses
Electrolyte tabs- 10 doses
Anti-diarrheal- 4 doses
Hydrocortisone- large tube
Antibiotic Ointment 1 small tube
Burn Cream- 3 packets

Misc.

ACE Bandage- 2
Athletic tape, 1" roll- 2
Moleskin sheets- 5 thin, 5 thick
Liquid Bandage- 1 pack (for blisters)
Ziplock bags- 8
Foil Blanket- 2
N-95 masks- 2

Tools

Tweezers- 1
Oral thermometer- 1
Bandage scissors -1
Irrigation syringe- 2
Triangular bandage- 5
Safety pins- 10
CPR mask- 1
SAM splint- 2
Gloves- 5

Wounds

Band-Aids- 20 misc.

Wound closure strips- 3 packs

4" x 4" gauze pad- 6

Non-adherent dressing- 5

Gauze roll- 2

Antiseptic wipes- 15

Benzoin swab- 5

WFR field Guide

First Aid

Medication

Acetaminophen- 15 doses, 30 pills

Ibuprofen- 13 doses, 26 pills

Benadryl- 10 pills, 5 doses

Electrolyte tabs- 10 doses

Anti-diarrheal- 4 doses

Hydrocortisone- large tube

Antibiotic Ointment 1 small tube

Burn Cream- 3 packets

Misc.

ACE Bandage- 2

Athletic tape, 1" roll- 2

Moleskin sheets- 5 thin, 5 thick

Liquid Bandage- 1 pack (for blisters)

Ziplock bags- 8

Foil Blanket- 2

N-95 masks- 2

Tools

Tweezers- 1

Oral thermometer- 1

Bandage scissors -1

Irrigation syringe- 2

Triangular bandage- 5

Safety pins- 10

CPR mask- 1

SAM splint- 2

Gloves- 5

Wounds

Band-Aids- 20 misc.

Wound closure strips- 3 packs

4" x 4" gauze pad- 6

Non-adherent dressing- 5

Gauze roll- 2

Antiseptic wipes- 15

Benzoin swab- 5

WFR field Guide

RKMF Expedition Budget Proposal

Winding Through the Winds: Backpacking the Wind River High Route

Permits and Campgrounds

- Big Sandy Campground (Night 0 and Night 12) = 2 nights x \$7/night = **\$14**

Total Permits and Campgrounds Cost = \$14

Transportation and Travel

- Gas from Denver to trailhead: Average 25mpg at \$2.73/gallon x 491 miles = **\$53.62**
- Gas from trailhead to Colorado College: Average 25mpg at \$2.73/gal x 480 miles = **\$52.42**
- Food for Travel Days: 2 days for 4 people, \$15/day/person = 15 x 4 x 2 = **\$120**

Total Transportation/Travel Cost = \$226.04

Food and Fuel

- Total Food Costs: **\$674.62**
- Resupply Outfitter Gear Drop: **\$420.00** ((\$225 for Guide)+(\$195 for 1 Pack animal), (150 pound limit per pack animal) Bald Mountain Outfitters)
- White Gas: **\$0.00**, We will rent two-large fuel bottles from the gear house, which come pre-filled. These each hold 30 oz

Total Food/Fuel Cost = \$1,094.62

Maps and Books

- Beartooth Publishing 1:60,000 Maps: **\$27.90**, 1 Map of Northern Wind River and 1 Map of Southern Wind River
- Printed Waterproof Maps of Caltopo Route: **\$30.00**, Printed at Mountain Chalet in Colorado Springs, CO

Total Maps/Books Cost = \$57.90

Equipment

- Garmin in-reach rental: **\$0**, Rented from OE, for 16 days.
- Sunscreen: **\$31.98**, \$15.99/16 oz. bottle (2 bottles)
- Hand Sanitizer: **\$7**, 2 oz bottles, \$1.75/bottle (4 bottles)
- Bug Spray: **\$5**, 1 bottle
- Large Fuel Bottles: **\$33.00**, Rented from Gear House for 16 days.
- WhisperLite Stove: **\$34.00**, Rented from Gear House for 16 days
- Aquamira: **\$14.95**, 2, 1 Ounce bottles. We selected the small size since it has dropper bottles.
- Microspikes: **\$72**, Rented from OE, 4 pairs*(\$2 + \$1*16)
- Bear Spray: **\$0**, 4 cans rented from OE
- Bear Canisters: **\$0**, 4 cans rented from OE

Total Equipment Cost = \$197.93

Carbon Emissions Offsetting

- Car travel for ~900 miles: **\$6.66**, See impact question for discussion

Total Emissions Cost = \$6.66

Total Funding Request= \$226.04 (Transportation) + \$1,094.62 (Food and Fuel) + \$57.90 (Maps and Books) + \$14.00 (Permits and Fees) + \$197.33 (Equipment) + \$6.66 (Carbon Emissions Offset) =

\$1596.55 total

\$ 399.14 per person