

# 2024 Six Lakes Basin



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July 7 - July 13

## Details

Start:

July 7

End:

July 13

Area

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Region

West Central Idaho

Project Type

Pack Support

Hike Difficulty Rating

3 - Moderately Strenuous

Work Difficulty Rating

4 - Strenuous

In the rugged mountains south of the Seven Devils, volunteers will hike, and their gear will be packed by pack string into a base camp in the Six Lakes Basin for a week of trail maintenance. We'll work on trails from camp which make up several loop options for backpackers to access the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Some of these trails have not seen maintenance for several years. Later in the season, ITA will host a project to work on the trail from the other end, past Emerald Lake, and hopefully tie in with where this crew leaves off to form a clear loop around Casey Mountain. This is a truly stunning area with amazing scenery and wildlife.

Project information is subject to change. Crew leaders will communicate via email. Failure to respond to your crew leader may result in being dropped from the project. See our FAQs, reach out to your crew leader, or contact ITA staff at [trails@idahotrailsassociation.org](mailto:trails@idahotrailsassociation.org) if you have questions.

**Trails:** Horse Pasture Basin Trail #173, Six Lakes Basin Trail #218, Casey Mountain Trail #216

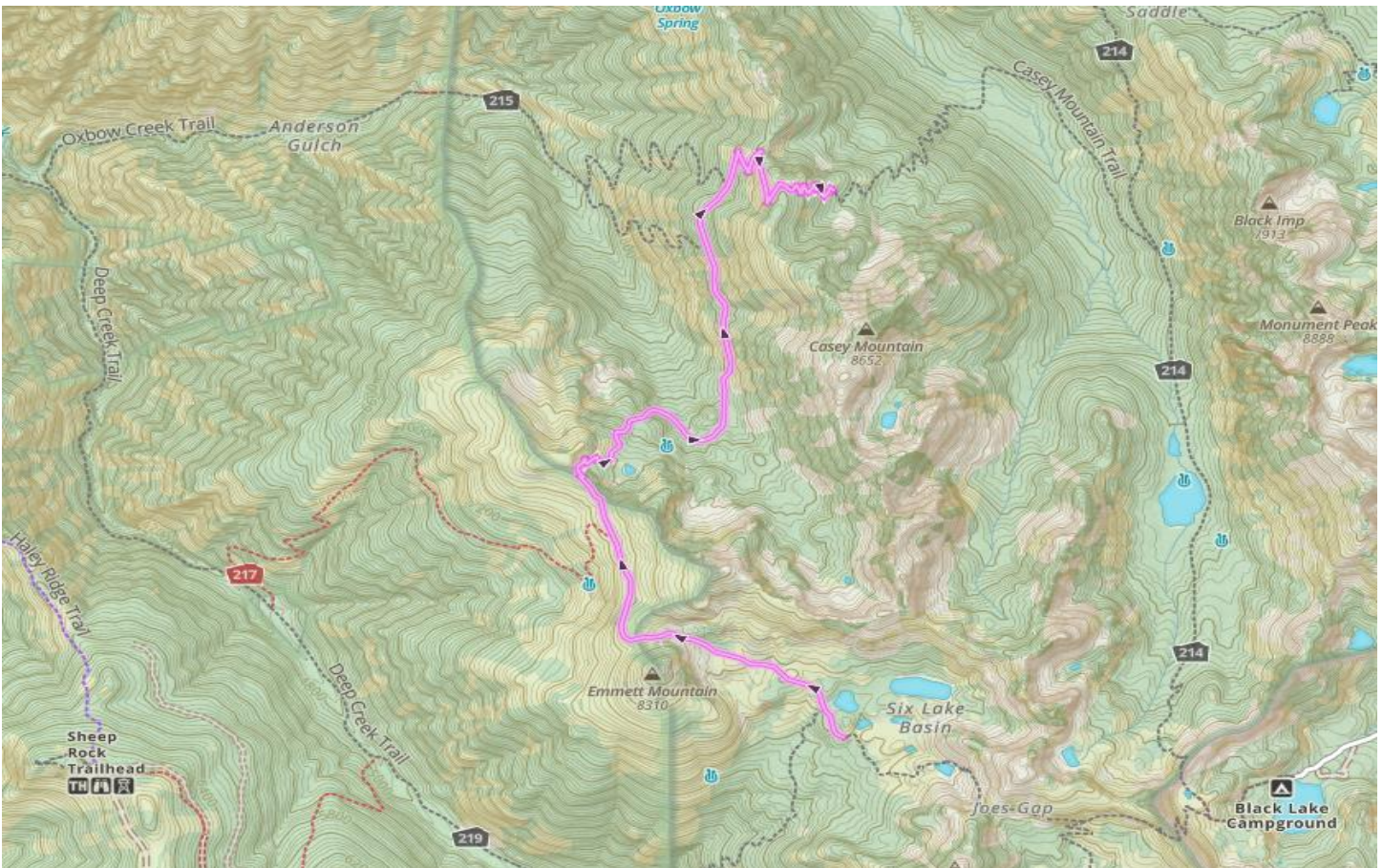
**Itinerary:** This is a Sunday-Saturday weeklong project. Meet with the packer near Smith Mountain Lookout. Hike into base camp in Six Lakes Basin. From here, work around Casey Mountain, return to base camp each evening. Packers return on the following Saturday to bring the crew gear back to the trailhead. Your crew leader will clarify specific meeting times and location, please refer to their pre-trip emails.

**Food Provided by ITA:** No

**Crew Leader:** [John McCarthy](#)

**Estimated Drive Time from Closest Town:** 2 hours from Council

Trail Map: [Trail into Camp](#) and [Casey Mountain Trail](#)



## Refundable deposit: \$50

*Why do I need to pay a deposit? We've had trouble with people backing out of trips at the last minute which can really affect the productivity of the overall project. By charging a refundable fee, volunteers are less likely to cancel their reservation. Refunds will not be given to volunteers that do not show up or cancel their reservation. Exceptions will be made for medical reasons or unforeseen circumstances. Volunteers can choose to donate the deposit to ITA. All donations are tax-deductible and will go towards maintaining trails throughout Idaho. If you require assistance in paying for this fee, please contact us at [trails@idahotrailsassociation.org](mailto:trails@idahotrailsassociation.org) and we will waive the cost.*

## Difficulty Rating

You should have experience with backpacking and be in good hiking condition with broken-in and tested gear. This is a remote backcountry project so injuries such as sprains and blisters or even extreme fatigue from not being properly conditioned can quickly become a big safety issue. If you are unsure about the proper gear or about preparing for a trip, please reach out to [trails@idahotrailsassociation.org](mailto:trails@idahotrailsassociation.org).



**Hike: 3/5 Moderately Strenuous-** 4.8 miles into camp with 1,300 feet elevation gain. A steady climb with some switchbacks up and over Joes Gap. See the linked map for the elevation profile of the hike in. Carrying day pack, and some trail tools.



**Project Work: 4/5 Strenuous-** Volunteers can pick trail duties based on comfort and ability level and are encouraged to work at their own pace. There are several trails we'll be working on from our base camp, and hikes to the project site may get very steep as we work further out. Deferred maintenance includes logging out, brushing, and drainage clearing.

## Volunteer Spots Available: 8 of 8

If there are no volunteer spots available, click "Sign Up" to get on our waitlist for this project!



John McCarthy moved to Idaho in April 1977, to work trails in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. He became a trail crew foreman the next year, doing 10-day, two-person backpacking hitches. After leaving seasonal work with the Forest Service, he did a 10-year stint as a reporter for the Lewiston Morning Tribune. He spent the next two decades slogging through environmental activism with Idaho Conservation League and the Wilderness Society— working on wilderness designation in the Owyhees and on forest management. One of the founders of Idaho Trails Association, John joined the first ITA volunteer project at Hum Lake in 2010 and he continues to lead projects every year possible. After retiring from the environmental combat zone, he wrote a book about his wilderness heroes from the Selway, *Working the Wilderness: Early Leaders for Wild Lands*.