



## TRAIL DESCRIPTION

For more trail information contact:  
Kootenai National Forest  
Libby Ranger District 406-293-7773



**Recommended Season**

Summer Fall

## Howard Lake Trail # 823

1.7 Miles

**ACCESS:** From Libby, travel 12 miles south on Highway 2 and turn right onto the Libby Creek Road # 231. Follow this road for 14 miles and as it drops into the West Fisher drainage, there will be a Howard Lake Campground sign to the right. Follow this road for about a mile to the campground and trailhead. This trail can also be access via the Miller Creek and West Fisher Roads about 25 miles south of Libby on Highway 2.

**FACILITIES:** Campground sites, water, parking and vault toilet.

**SETTING:** The trail circles Howard Lake, in a predominately forested setting with views of the lake.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Hiking, viewing scenery, hunting, camping, picnicking and fishing.

**ATTRACTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS:** Attractions include the Howard Lake Campground, adjacent fishing, swimming and boating on Howard Lake.

The Old Showshoe Road was constructed during the mid to late 1800's to provide access to the original town of Libby and numerous mines in the area. This historic road template now provides the southern portion of the trail

The scenery is stunning year round, but the fall colors are spectacular. The north side of the trail provides views of Shaw and Great Northern Mountain.

**TRAIL INFORMATION:** The trail circles Howard Lake beginning and ending at the campground. The southern portion of the trail is on the Old Showshoe Road template, providing an easy grade and wide path. The northern portion is a typical hiking trail with 2' tread, rocks and roots and some small elevation changes. Excellent hike for families. The road to the campground opens in May and closes in October so plan an extra mile hike each way if you are hiking in the off season. Or tie into the south end of the trail off Libby Creek Fisher River Road #231.

**ELEVATION:** Beginning and ending at the campground at about 4150 feet.

**USE:** High

**DIFFCULTY:** Easy

**MAINTENANCE:** Yearly

**For Current Status -**

[www.fs.usda.gov/activity/kootenai/recreation/hiking](http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/kootenai/recreation/hiking)

**MAPS:** Forest Map, District Travel Map

**CLOSURES:** All motorized use.



*Howard Lake in the Fall*

*Prepared by Cabinet Back Country Horsemen*



# Howard Lake #823, Libby Cr. 119, Standard Cr. #116, Gloria Mine #301, Wayup Mine #815

