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Upper
Twin Lake

Twin Lakes

Recreation Area

Take a meandering trek along many trails, enjoy scenic views, or simply spend some time fishing or paddling Twin Lakes.

Bureau of Land Management



Welcome to Twin Lakes

This is a unique part of the Channeled Scablands with more than 14,000 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) located in Lincoln County. This area is managed for its wildlife habitat, seasonal livestock grazing, and recreational opportunities.

Getting There

From Highway 28, at Harrington turn west onto Coffeepot Road and travel about 12 miles, then turn right onto Highline Road. Watch for public land access signs. Drive 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Follow this access road for about 2 miles to reach the recreation site. Plan for a drive of one to two hours from Spokane.

Geology

Volcanic eruptions some 6 to 17 million years ago in south-central Washington and neighboring Oregon forced lava flows out over the region. Then, about 12,000 years ago, the Missoula Floods ripped through the area. Powerful raging flood waters, measuring hundreds of feet deep, scoured the land—stripping the topsoil, eroding volcanic rock and leaving exposed lava layers and remnants of vents. The canyons, small pothole lakes, and wet meadows seen today mark the paths of these Ice Age floods.

Recreational Activities

Camp or picnic between upper and lower Twin Lakes where shade trees offer a tranquil setting. Non-motorized trails wind through shrub-steppe uplands, past numerous wetlands, and through the upper Lake Creek Canyon. Fish for Rainbow trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, yellow bullhead, black crappie and sunfish in the lake. For fishing or hunting regulations in the Twin Lakes area, contact the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Wildflowers

Spring blooms offer a colorful palette with yellow balsamroot, pink phlox, lavender daggerpod, pale blue frasera, and even a pale green flower—the western gromwell. Wild blue iris surrounds edges of moist swales. Wax currant, chokecherry, and serviceberry border patches of basalt talus.

In summer, wild blue flax mirrors the sky; and the yellow and rusty red blossoms of blanket-flower grow nearby. Round-leaf alumroot displays its slender white-flowered spikes from basalt slopes and crevices. Pink, nodding flowers of prairie smoke give way to long-plumed seed heads. Rocky soils sparkle with tiny, but eye-catching, magenta flowers of spinescent fameflower.

Wildlife

Shrub steppe and its native plant communities are home to so much life! As you walk through the uplands, listen for the flute-like song of the western meadowlark and watch for the distinctive white eye ring of the sage sparrow. Near the wetlands, you can often hear migratory birds singing and may see shore birds such as greater yellowlegs, black-neck stilt, semi-palmated plover, and avocets.

At any time of the year, you might catch glimpses of mule deer, coyote, marmot, and badger. And...if you like reptiles, this is the place for you! At least five species of snake are found here. A quick eye could get a peek of painted turtles and short-horned lizards warming themselves on rocks. Be careful where you walk though...**rattlesnakes** have been seen in the area.

Cultural

Human activity in the Twin Lakes area dates back thousands of years. The area's first government surveyors in 1878 reported finding "a fish trap used by Indians" in the stream between the upper and lower Twin Lakes. As non-native settlement increased in the late 1800s, so did the need to connect new farms with eastern markets.

To encourage railroad companies to build in the West, the U.S. Government made land grants to them along new routes. The railroads later sold some lands to settlers. In the case of Twin Lakes, the Northern Pacific Railroad Company sold the entire square mile that includes upper Twin Lake and the strip of land between the two lakes to settlers. These early settlers used the lakes for swimming, fishing, and duck hunting. After World War II, the present Twin Lakes campground became a small resort that operated into the 1960s, until the BLM acquired the property in 1995.

"We hope you enjoy your visit to the Twin Lakes area. Please come back again."

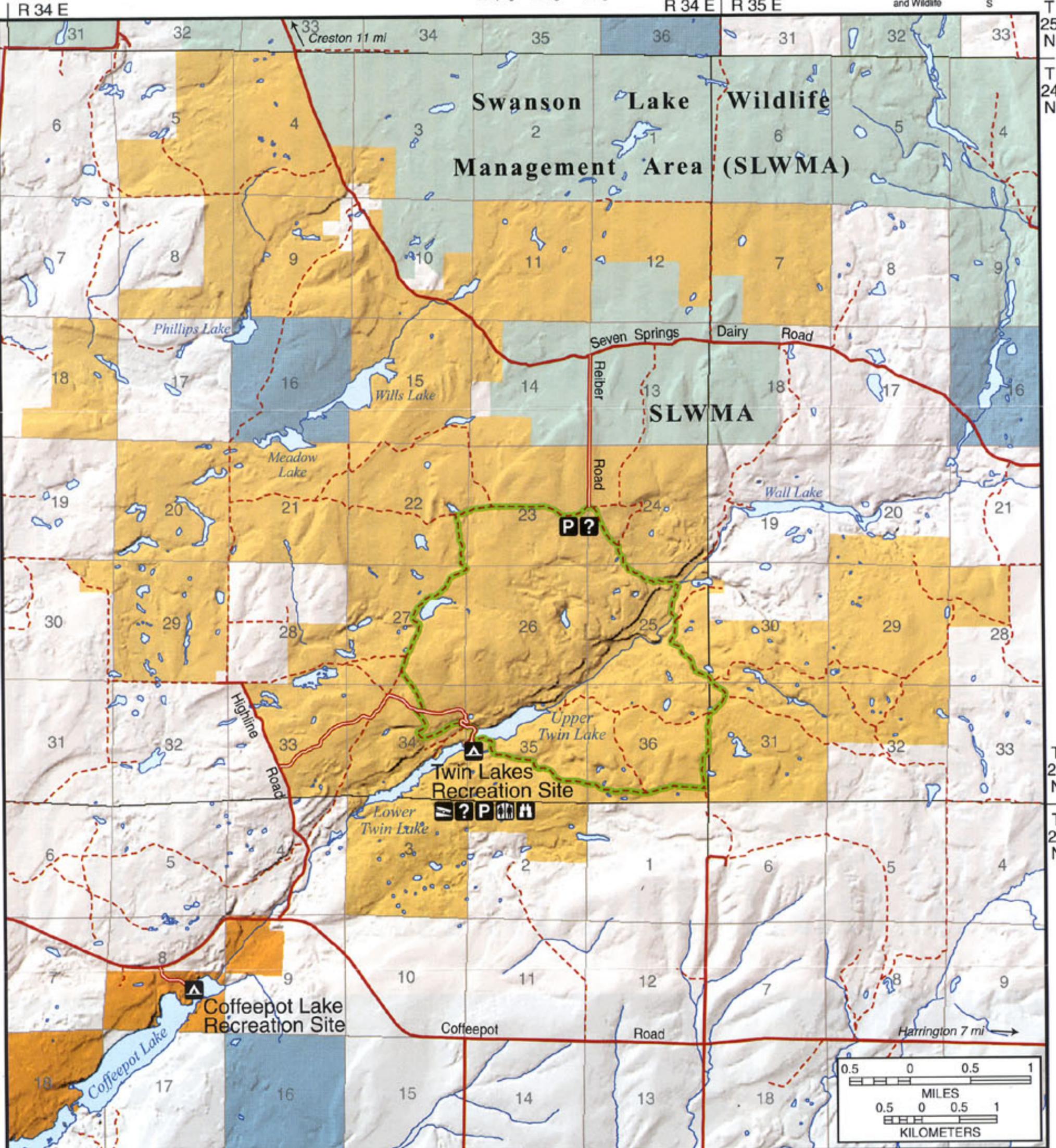
For more information, contact:

Spokane BLM District
1103 N. Fancher • Spokane, WA 99212
Phone: 509/536-1200

Check our website for other recreational opportunities and periodic updates:
www.or.blm.gov/spokane

TWIN LAKES

Recreation Opportunities:



USDI - Bureau of Land Management

Spokane District
1103 N. Fancher
Spokane, WA 99212
(509) 536-1200



- BLM Administered Land
- BLM Game Reserve (no hunting)
- State DNR
- State Fish and Wildlife
- Other

LEGEND

- ? Information
- P Parking
- ▲ Camping
- / Boat Ramp
- ♿ Restrooms
- H Watchable Wildlife
- Access Route
- Improved Road
- Loop Trail (9.5 mi.)
- Other Road or Foot Trail Access as Designated



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