The twenty-seventy hike of the 2014 season next for the Selkirk Cabinett Purcell Club will be to Grouse Mountain if the weather is good or down at Wyman Wildlife Refuge near Dr. Jimmy and Kathi Richardson's home if too much snow on Grouse Mt. Either way, we will all meet at the Naples Store at 8:15 Wednesday October 22nd and depart for the hike at 8:30. Those coming from Bonners Ferry will depart from the Pace Home (7087 Funkhouser Street) at 8:00 AM. On Grouse Mountain, stand in one place and see mountains and valleys between Sandpoint, ID and Creston, BC. According to our Dr Jimmy Richardson in his description below, it is a four mile hike with 2,500 foot elevation gain to the first or western most of the three Grouse Mountain Peaks.

Here is the Grouse Mountain Folder of Google Earth points, with starting locations, trails, detail and directional spokes. Here are pictures from the 2012 Grouse Mountain Hike.

Directions to Trail 53 Trail Head:

Take road 404 or Trail Creek Road from Naples up over Beaver Dam Pass; simply stay on the mail road. The pass is between Trail Creek and the North Fork of Grouse Creek. About 1.1 miles past the pass, which is clearly evident because of the beaver dams in the stream, an area with a horse staging area and an outdoor toilet setup is visible and cannot be missed. The gate that marks the end of vehicle travel is just up the road maybe 200 m. The horsey place has the trail head on the south with abundant parking.

Trail 53:

Trail 53 crosses NF of Grouse Creek in 0.25 mi. This is pretty place but be careful of the ford. High water can be a hazard. The trail wanders upward in a southeasterly direction for 2 miles to Trail 483. We follow the combined trails 2 more miles upward through some nice scenery to the middle of Grouse Mountain. The top of the mountain has 3 knobs. I suggest that the middle is enough. The eastern peak does not add much in my opinion.

More detail in Dr. Jimmy's P.S. below.

Plus, see my Hiking Blog for more information and great views of Boundary County.

Please RSVP if you are coming. Please bring a little money for gas ($0.60 per mile/number of people in the car).

Bob Pace
(208) 295-7094
(208) 304-4458 Cell

P.S. Here is Dr. Jimmy's more formal description of our hike:

PROPOSED HIKE ON TRAIL 53 – GROUSE MOUTAIN

– Jim Richardson 9/16/2010

INTRODUCTION

Grouse Mountain is a ridge of three prominent knobs located just about on the Bonner County/Boundary County line (48 degrees 30' latitude). The knobs are 5990', 6005', and 5980' feet in elevation from west to east. The east knob is the "official" peak with a U.S. Geological Survey Elevation Bench Mark. I am suggesting that the hike terminate where Trail 53 crosses the middle knob, which I paced out to be 4 miles one way with 2500 feet of elevation gain. The three peaks and trail occur near the corners of four topographic maps and are not easy to analyze. Logging, lack of trail maintenance and recent trail work has altered the trails in the area. I am familiar with the recent trail construction and maintenance efforts on Trail 53, and with the branching trails to and from it in the Boulder Creek, North Callahan Creek, and Grouse Creek watersheds, and with Callahan Creek that discharges into the Kootenai River at Troy, MT. I was surprised that Troy was as far south as it is.

TRAIL CONDITION

Trail 53 is very well maintained and recently has had substantial improvements on the segment from the trail head to the middle and east knobs of Grouse Mountain. The trail is clear and unambiguous all the way and usually is quite soft. It is easy on the legs and feet. Dust and mud, therefore, can be problematic. Horsey folk have discovered the trail. The trail in places is torn up by hoof action, and dodging horse turds is a chronic problem. Four places are really steep for 50 to 110 paces each. Much of the trail has switchbacks with decent gradients that allow for ascending at an effort that is not exhausting. I made it point to NOT breathe hard the whole distance to the middle of the mountain and it took me 3 hours with many stops to take notes. I was really rested when I reached the top. Nancy asked about the condition of the creek crossing, which was an excellent question. This creek would be crossed with great effort at high water. At base flow, such as in the late summer, rocks and a log at the ford make crossing the stream easy. I will add that one should concentrate on the crossing of this ford. I got careless on the fourth time across and slipped. The landing was cold and wet. Rounded rocks in streams with moss are slick. I have learned this lesson more than once and hope to remember it the next time.

HOW TO GET THERE

Travelling north on US 95, turn RIGHT (east) at the second Naples road (close to milepost 497) on TRAIL CREEK ROAD. For 3.3 miles the road follows Trail Creek and then switches away from the creek. The road has no un-gated alternatives from here to the trail-head. At about 5 miles from US 95 is a logging deck area. The road to here is good Boundary County gravel. From the landing area to Beaver Dam Pass (about 1 mile), the road is fair Boundary County condition. A Subaru Outback would not have a problem, but other cars might have difficulties. At the top, just before the

beaver dams, is a second logging deck area that was actively logged in 2008. The ruts are real and suggest mud when wet. From here the road is better and the beaver dams are interesting, at least to me. The trail-head is seven miles or so from US 95. It is a large one with a camping area that can accommodate a company of cavalry and probably has recently, judging by the piles of horse pootoot. This place is obviously popular with the horsey crowd. Although the road may appear to continue, it is gated just beyond the parking area. Land ownership in the area is timber companies and the state of Idaho until about 2 miles into the hike where it is USDA-USFS managed land.

Some GEOLOGY

The underlying rock type from Naples to the trail-head is granodiorite, which is an intrusive igneous rock similar to granite, but containing more plagioclase than potassium feldspar. Often, the plagioclase feldspars are lighter in color. Granodiorite contains greater than 20% quartz by volume when at least 65% of the total feldspar content is plagioclase. The pluton that produced these rocks is called "Kelly Pass Granodiorites" by Miller and Burmester (2003). These rocks are highly porphyritic (which means the different mineral crystals in the rock have noticeably different sizes), very coarse grained biotite-hornblende-containing rocks of Cretaceous age. Miller and Burmester have given a date of 99 Ma to a rock collected just north of Grouse Mtn at Kelly Pass.

Most of the hike will be on soils created from Pleistocene and Holocene sediments over Proterzoic aged materials dating 1460 Ma or so in age. Two distinct ROCK units are present: 1. Prichard Formation of quartzites, siltites, and argillites (metamorphosed sands, silts, and clays) which are some of the oldest sediments in North America. 2. Mafic sills of really high temperature intrusive rocks of great age. These are gabbro-like rocks with abundant dark minerals present. We can see a mafic sill in contact with a finely bedded argillite on the middle knob of Grouse Mtn. Also a small lens vein of quartz has intruded into the argillite near the trail. These veins were valued by prospectors because of the potential for metals such as silver and copper.

As one looks north from the Grouse Mtn. ridge, the area just below and several miles north is the circular shaped area underlain by the Kelly Pass Granodiorite. This area has been severely modified by ice. The north edge of the ridge is very steep and is typical of cirques carved by alpine glaciers. The ridge had earlier been over ridden by a larger glacier as can be ascertained by the complete lack of periglacial boulders. Periglacial ("peri" is Latin for "close to") is an adjective is originally referring to places in the edges of glacial areas. "Periglacial" is used in particular in soil geomorphology to describe any place where geomorphic processes related to freezing and thawing of water occurs. In the area of the Cabinet Mountains as I am using it, the areas with such features were not buried by glacial ice but were subject to intense freezing and thawing cycles and exhibit permafrost type weathering and fracturing characteristics, which form patterns such as stone stripes, polygons, or felsenmeer. Clifty, Pend Oreille, Lunch, and Scotchman Peaks all have periglacial features indicating that they were not over ridden by moving glacial ice. To the north of

Grouse Mtn., Clifty is about the only peak that was NOT over ridden by ice. Note that it is sharp-peaked, not rounded like glacially modified peaks, and if the weather is clear the stone stripes are visible on Clifty even from the top of Grouse Mtn. Almost all others are rounded with the look of the ice grinding the rocks down. The frost-fractured stones are "plucked" by the ice and act as grit to smooth out the knobs from peaks. If you look closely at some of these peaks you can see the striations (scratches) made by grinding boulders in the ice.

Additional material

Trail 483 connects the Grouse Creek falls area on the main fork of Grouse Creek to Trail 53. Trail 53 continues to Bald Eagle Mountain-Kelly Pass area and then down to Boulder Creek and ends at Smyth Creek Trail and Trail 51 and Boulder campground. Grouse Mtn. is on the east section edge of Section 1, T34NR1E.