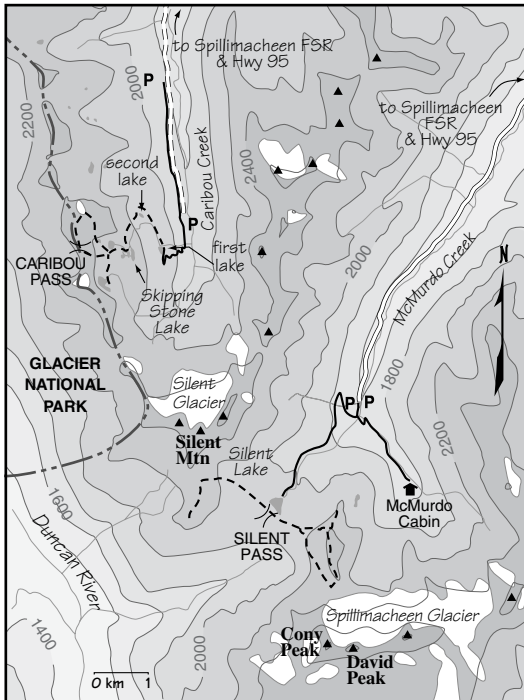


## 79 SILENT LAKE AT SILENT PASS

*“Shhh... we’re going to Silent Pass,” although the mosquitoes ensured it was never silent for long. In the open alpine of the highcountry, we soaked in the mountain grandeur. The stunning beauty of the landscape rewarded us as we hiked by meadows, tarns and outstanding views of the many glacier-draped mountains nearby.*

All is still in the high mountains, except the water that laden with glacial silt, grinds away the Purcell Mountains in its path. Many waterfalls tumble and hiss off the ancient ice. High peaks and rugged sculpted monuments etched by receding glaciers line both sides of the valley.

Below the ice fields, wildflower meadows bloom for only about six weeks during the short, high-elevation summers. A myriad of colours and shapes blanket the hillsides, and small creeks flow across the moss-covered alpine areas. The enchanting silence of this special place brings peace and calm.



**Rating** moderate

**Time** backpack 2 or 3 days

**Distance** 5.5 km

**Elevation gain** 394 m (1300 ft.)

Silent Lake 2042 m (6700 ft.)

Silent Pass 2073 m (6800 ft.)

**Trail** popular trail—fair condition, small creek crossings, steep trail to alpine lake

**Map** 82N/3 Mount Wheeler

**Trail map** page 235

### Drive

**Road** any vehicle

**Road map** page 233

The town of Parson is 67 km north of Radium on Highway 95.

- 0 km Turn west from Highway 95 at Parson Community Centre, on to the Spillimacheen FS Road, cross Columbia River bridge.
- 14.3 km Turn right (avoid Shortcut Creek left). Many side roads branch off main Spillimacheen Road, stay to main FS road.
- 17.2 km Continue straight Spillimacheen FS Road
- 45 km Turn left south (45-km sign) on to **McMurdo Creek FS Road**. (For **Caribou Creek**, see page 237, continue straight.)

Reset odometer to 0 km.

The McMurdo Creek FS Road is in good condition and has many new logging roads that branch off the main road.

- 0 km Junction of the Spillimacheen River FS Road and McMurdo Creek FS Road. Cross bridge over river.
- 4.6 km Continue straight
- 7 km Cross McMurdo Creek (53-km sign)
- 9.5 km Continue straight
- 10.6 km Park at end of the road (after 56-km sign).