



*View of first Silver Spring Lake, with Keno looking north.*

June is the best time to see wildflowers at Silver Spring Lakes. Butterflies are not a common sight on most East Kootenay trails, but they are surprisingly abundant and diverse near these picturesque lakes.

To reach these three lakes, leave the vehicles and hike the south hillside on a small, steep and forested footpath. Climb for about 10 minutes to the powerline. Cross the powerline and hike south, up a steep washed-out gravel road. The entire steep section takes about 20-30 minutes and gains 100 m (300 ft.) to the northern shore of the first scenic lake. When you reach the shore of the first lake, turn left (east) and hike/scramble up a short rocky section. Follow the trail south as it winds atop the bedrock banks. The many prominent bedrock outcroppings allow you to appreciate the lake views. Hike the eastern side of the three lakes

for 3 km. Maintain the same elevation as you travel over diverse terrain as the trail is indistinct in many places. Easy routefinding is necessary over the base of boulder fields and through the wet areas.

Cliffs stand above the third lake. They rise 122 m (400 ft.) almost straight up in places and appear as a barrier to further exploration. If you find a faulted section in the cliffs and hike up a less steep route, you can climb to the rim on both sides of the lakes. The climb to the western side rim offers flat grassy plateaus and is the access to the upper portions of the Wigwam Flats, see hike page 112. Scrambling up to both cliff rims offers spectacular views of the shimmering, blue-green lakes below and the Rockies to the north.