

Ross Creek Picnic Area

The Ross Creek Picnic Area is open May 1 through November 15 and is managed May 15 through September 10. The Picnic Area is for day use only. Pull-units are not recommended due to space restrictions. There is drop-off parking on Road 398, immediately adjacent to Highway 56. Restrooms and tables are available. There are no fire rings, dump station, water, reservations or fees at the site.

Emergency medical/dental/optical services are available in Troy (26 miles north), Libby (43 miles northeast), or Thompson Falls (55 miles southeast). All towns are full service areas and offer groceries, fuel, laundry, auto repair, sporting good, etc.

Ross Creek Cedars

by Elfstone

Come with me, walk with me
into this hushed place.
A cooling air greets us,
a dimming light softening through
silent shades of ancient green.

Unending columns of grey trunks
form a complex, living nave
beyond the best of man's devising.
The air is redolent with smells
richer than any incense.
Sanctified by quiet growth
of ferns and mosses,
this time warped stillness
shelters memories of passing years
as blinking moments.

This green cathedral fills our spirits.
This undisturbed, serene twilight,
shows our wondering eyes
a gentler vision.
A slowing pace compels reflection.
A gradeur unexcelled demands a quiet awe.
We stop and breathe a different air;
we speak in whispered tones;
we tread softly on the living earth;
we worship by our understanding;
we feel the very Presence:
here, Nature is not an abstract.

Stand still ! Hush!
You will hear that quiet thrumming
which is the heart of Earth,
tapping deeply into some richer well
of the soul's eternal seeking.
Hold on to that peace;
it calls to you from a deeper place.
Drink in the stillness of this hallowed grove,
and be content.