

## Mica Peak Fact Sheet

Meeting Place: 20002 E. Belmont Rd Mica, WA 99023

Distance: 4-mile loop using California Creek, and returning on the Moonshine Trail the TH

<https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/4066/Mica-PeakConservationArea-TrailMap-PDF?bidId=>

Although there exists 10+ miles of hiking and biking trails at Mica Peak experience has shown that most people who attend INLC hikes are happiest if the outing is limited to a maximum of 4 miles and does not include extreme amounts of elevation gain/loss. This need to stay under 4 miles severely limits guided hikes to Mica Peak.

- The mountain ecology of plants and animals at Mica Peak is amazing. The peak itself is a great example of climate resilient lands within a 25-minute drive from Spokane. The summit is 5,200 feet above sea level.
- The hike begins in a Spokane County parking lot but quickly leaves county land and the trails traverse forestry lands owned and managed by the WA State Department of Natural Resources.
- California Creek trail ascends over 2,000 feet before crossing the north flanks of Mica Peak and entering the 1,000 acres INLC helped to conserve in 2018.
- The middle section of nearly 1,000 acres had been owned for decades by Inland Empire Paper Company and INLC staff suggested to the head forester at IEP that they nominate the land to the Spokane County Conservation Futures Program. The Mica Peak addition scored very favorably and was purchased in 2018. This new addition completed a connection between the existing 1,794 acre Mica Peak property with the existing LLRP (Liberty Lake Regional Park) making total of 5,400 acres of public land between Zephyr Rd. in Liberty Lake and the Belmont Rd. Trailhead in Mica, WA.
- Some unique and beautiful plants like trillium grow in abundance on Mica Peak.
- Winter snowshoes to this location have also been popular during years when we have average or above average snowfall.
- Views from Mica Peak include conserved lands such as Saltese Flats, Saltese uplands, Antoine Peak, and Beacon Hill.
- Fun Fact: one of many contributing factors that caused IEP to sell their land to Spokane County Parks was that the size of timber on the Northside of Mica Peak was too large in diameter and it would have required shipping the logs by truck to Western Montana to have them processed, thus removing the value of the timber sale. INLC is happy that the large diameter trees are still standing today.