Lower Stevens Lake
Near Mullan, ID
5.0 miles round trip
2000 feet of elevation gain
Out and Back
Moderate strenuousness

The Tortured Tree. Every time I do this hike I look for an old friend of mine. A small tree that has been battered and bent over time into a long, curved shape. The source of the injuries to the tree are unknown. Maybe something to do with the boulder it grows next to or maybe it was stepped on by some animal or human passerby when it was young.

The tree is beautiful and is clearly a survivor. Find the tree a little over halfway into the hike below the first big open bowl. Take a break by the tree and read this prayer for resilience; something we all could use a little of these days.

Dear Lord,
Thank you for the challenges in life that help to build my strength.
Thank you for the times when my lack of resources reminds me of the value of resourcefulness.
Thank you for the mysterious people who confound, frustrate and annoy me, teaching me patience and the art of forgiveness.
Thank you for the moments when I am in desperate need of a miracle, and at the very last moment, from an unexpected source, one arrives.
Thank you for the difficult path that only I can walk, the challenging problems that you have prepared for me to solve and the purpose that you have for my life.
Thank you for the moments of courage that you give me so that I can live a life of meaning, not comfort.
Thank you for the moments when I am aware of my many faults, not so that I can wallow in guilt, but so that I can tap into your grace and mercy.
Thank you for sending angels to wrestle with me, building my resilience and teaching me to hold on to what is good.
I pray that you would give me strong ankles for the times when I walk on rocky ground.
I pray that you would give me a strong heart for the times when pain would otherwise break my spirit.
And I pray that even in the darkest night, I will be looking to the light that’s coming.
I pray that I (and my family and friends) may be numbered with the resilient ones.
Amen
Mineral Ridge

How do we meld in the story/narrative of indigenous land

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