

January 12, 2008

Eleven Swan Rangers skied and snowshoed into Krause Basin Saturday, rising above the wet snow and crust near Foothill Road into a foot and a half of powder snow - which had completely hidden our tracks of two weeks past!

The snow still clings to the great hemlock trees in the basin, making it a winter wonderland. Which reminds us of an old legend about the hemlock trees:

A very long time ago, the Great Spirit visited the earth and walked in the forest. In his presence all living things bowed their heads in respect--everything except the proud and mighty hemlock. The Great Spirit noticed and said, "For placing yourself above everything else in my forest, you will bow your head forever." The result of this foolish act can be seen today in Krause Basin, where western hemlock trees continue to bow their heads.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for breakfast at 8:30, leaving at 9:30 for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

We carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe.

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



The Swan Rangers enter the unique western hemlock forests of Krause Basin.



This Krause Basin photo from two weeks prior shows the ability of hemlock trees to bow their limber tops, even to the point of bending over double under heavy loads of snow!