

September 6, 2008

Ten Swan Rangers hiked the Broken Leg Trail to Wolf Creek, then six continued up a game trail through the cliffs and "back door" to Crater Lake in Jewel Basin.

This route offers a view of Crater Lake not provided by Alpine Trail #7, but not as sure a footing!

The game trail was marked frequently with berry-laden bear scat and the Rangers saw lots of Flickers and a small flock of Townsend's Solitaire at the top of the cliffs.

This was a long day out-and-back hike, and a loop of similar length can be made by connecting with Alpine Trail #7 at Crater Lake, hiking north, then taking the Crater Notch Trail back down to cars left in the Broken Leg/Crater Notch Trails parking lot at the bottom of the Jewel Basin Road.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for breakfast at 7:30, leaving at 8:30 for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

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

Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you soon,



Keith

Photos by Keith Hammer:



The Broken Leg Trail itself offers nice views of the valley and Flathead Lake from Wolf Creek canyon . . .



. . . while the "back door" game trail to Crater Lake offers a higher perspective.



Once atop the cliffs, a stroll down glacier-scoured bedrock offers . . .



. . . a view of Crater Lake and Mount Aeneas not seen by many!