

September 13, 2008

Eight Swan Rangers hiked the Crater Notch Trail to Crater Notch, with three continuing on to hike the spine of Crater Mountain for a unique overview of Crater Lake and the upper reaches of Wolf Creek.

They all feasted on excellent huckleberries lingering at higher elevation and came across two black bears doing the same thing. Numerous blue grouse were seen along the spine of Crater Mountain.

There was a bit of napping in the sun after lunch in Crater Notch and it was a beautiful, sunny fall day all-around. The fall colors are intensifying with cooler weather and the lower angle of the sun.

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 alpine reaches of Crater Notch Trail offer great views of Flathead Lake and the Flathead Valley.



Rangers take in the view before tackling the last pitch leading to Crater Notch behind them.



Another brief, steep pitch above the notch leads to a gentle ridge walk along the spine of Crater Mountain with views of Crater Lake, left, and upper Wolf Creek, center.



Rangers head back down through Crater Notch and for home after a wonderful day in alpine country along the border of Jewel Basin Hiking Area.