

October 18, 2008

Three Swan Rangers hiked a slightly drippy but warm day in Krause Basin, making a loop up the Strawberry Lake Road then down the old Krause Basin roads. These old roads have been closed to cars and pickups long enough to now provide wonderful hiking trails through lush Western Hemlock forest.

Two Swan Rangers helped a couple dozen other volunteers brush out and dig the Kreck Riverwalk Trail, starting upstream from the Old Red Bridge on the southern edge of Columbia Falls. The first leg of the trail is made possible by a generous easement across the property of Dr. Loren Kreck, a longtime advocate for conservation, healthy exercise, environmental and human health – and longstanding member of Swan View Coalition. The trail will eventually connect with the Cedar Pointe Subdivision on South Nucleus and already offers great views of the northern Swan Range.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday (rain or shine) 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 on following two pages:



The old roads in Krause Basin have turned into great hiking trails (Greg Logan photo) . . .



. . . and offer opportunities for solitude and quiet contemplation among Western Hemlock trees (Pam Willison photo).



The Kreck Riverwalk Trail provides a suburban riverside stroll . . .



. . . with stunning views of Columbia Mountain at the north end of the Swan Range (Keith Hammer photos).