

November 15, 2008

Ten Swan Rangers hiked a loop on the northern shoulder of Broken Leg Mountain Saturday. They hiked the closed Bear Creek Road to its end, crossed Wolf Creek and climbed to the Echo Broken Leg Trail, followed the trail up to Elk Spring, then hiked down the ridge back to the Bear Creek Road.

It was a pleasant day hiked in lots of birch forest quiet with damp leaves and only a skiff of snow at the higher elevations. Wolf Creek has rebounded from its summer low and is a bit challenging to cross once again, although ice has only begun to form on rocks and logs in a few places.

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.

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

Everyone is welcome!

Hope to see you soon,



Keith

Keith Hammer photos on following pages:



The view up Wolf Creek shows hiking remains snow-free to mid-elevations in the Swan Range.



After crossing Wolf Creek, the Echo Broken Leg Trail begins to climb the north end of Broken Leg Mountain.



Views along the loop hike ranged from expansive views of the lower Flathead Valley to . . .



. . . close-up views of where woodpeckers have drilled for bugs in birch trees!