

June 20, 2009

Ten Swan Rangers hiked the Sixmile Trail Saturday, with half turning around at Alpine Trail #7 and half continuing on to Sixmile Peak. It turned into a wonderful, warm and mostly sunny day and the lower stretches of trail are lined with a record year of blooming bear grass!

The Sixmile Trail offers great views of Swan Lake and Hall Peak on the way up and is currently snow-free to its junction with Alpine Trail #7. After that, the trail remains mostly snow covered to Sixmile Peak, where the views expand to include Flathead Lake, the Flathead Valley, the Swan Valley, Hungry Horse Reservoir, the Swan Crest, Glacier National Park - well, just about everything can be seen from up there!

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!

HAPPY SUMMER SOLSTICE and hope to see you soon,



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



The first portion of the Sixmile Trail is the steepest, but currently lined with bear grass blooms!



Sixmile Trail and Alpine Trail #7 join in a saddle with a nice view of Hall Peak - a great place for lunch or a snack!



From there the Sixmile Trail heads around the north side of a knob and up a ridge - both of which hold snow into summer - and into the clouds!



The 360-degree views from atop Sixmile Peak are matched only by the companionship!