

June 27, 2009

Ten Swan Rangers hiked to Crater Notch Saturday, a sunny day with a cool breeze perfect for hiking! There was bear grass galore and a goat that watched us patiently from the cliffs above the notch.

There were also tracks of a moose that appears to swap sides of the Swan Crest via Crater Notch each year about this time. The Crater Notch Trail is now snow-free until the last eighth-mile in the notch itself - just a precursor of the vast amounts of snow that remain on the "back side" of the Swan Mountains compared to what can be seen from the Flathead Valley!

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 on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Bear grass glows in the morning sunlight along the trail.



Crater Notch and Jewel Basin, however, still have plenty of snow to insure a later bear grass bloom!



Avalanche debris points the way back to Flathead Lake . . .



. . . or maybe Echo Lake if you follow the trail and your nose!