

July 18, 2009

Seven Swan Rangers hiked past Strawberry Lake Saturday, heading south on Alpine Trail #7 to check out the flowers in the head of Krause Basin - and they weren't disappointed! This south-facing stretch of trail provides a wide variety of wildflowers, along with grand views of the Flathead Valley!

An early start on a day forecast to reach the mid-90's provided a relatively cool hike and an early afternoon return.

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

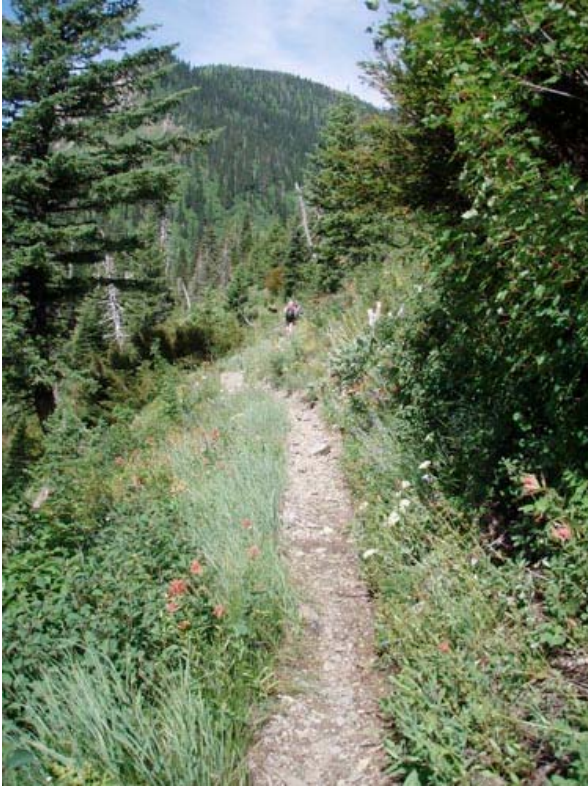
Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



A shady looking bunch of characters well prepared for sun on the divide between Strawberry Lake and Krause Basin.



A grand old tree shows off its lichen highlights in the early morning sun.



Historic Alpine Trail #7 lined with wildflowers that include . . .



. . . beardtongue (a penstemon) saluting the morning sun . . .



. . . and lady slipper!



But don't let the flowers spoil your view of the Flathead Valley from Alpine Trail #7!