

September 11, 2010

Eleven Swan Rangers hiked up the Peters Ridge Trail Saturday under cloudy skies mixed with a little sunshine. Three returned early from the Swan Crest and the rest hiked on to Lamoose Lake and up Hash Mountain.

They had a great day but saw where motorcycles are going off Alpine Trail #7, illegally hill-climbing in an avalanche chute south of Lamoose Lake and creating deep ruts up the side of Hash Mountain as well. On the return, they encountered three motorcyclists that had just contributed to the hill-climbing damage south of Lamoose Lake.

The Forest Service needs to hear from folks concerned about this illegal off-trail activity. They also need to hear about the inappropriateness of allowing motorcycles on Alpine Trail #7 and Peters Ridge Trail, where they are creating deep ruts in the fragile alpine soils, destroying the serene quiet of these unique alpine basins, and providing legal access to the illegal hill-climbing areas far beyond the reach of the law.

If you share these concerns, please send an email message to:  
Flathead Forest Supervisor Chip Weber - [cweber@fs.fed.us](mailto:cweber@fs.fed.us)  
Hungry Horse District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera - [jdeherrera@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdeherrera@fs.fed.us)  
Swan Lake District Ranger Richard Kehr - [rkehr@fs.fed.us](mailto:rkehr@fs.fed.us)

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,

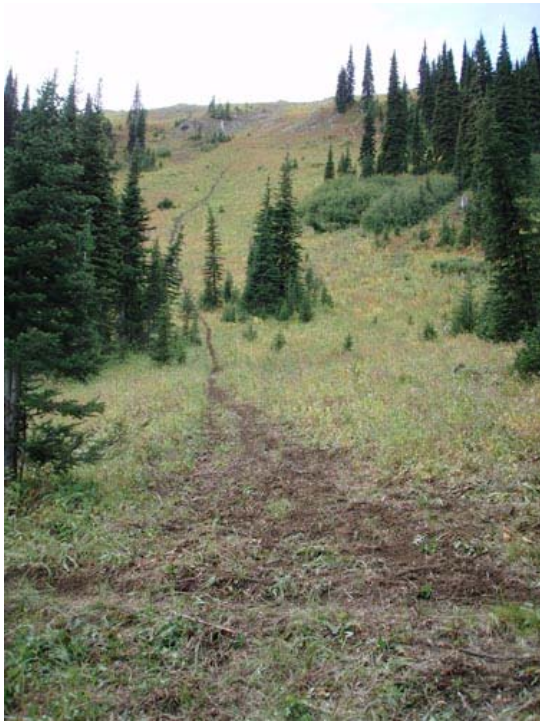


Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Headed for the Swan Crest from Peters Ridge.



Illegal motorcycle hill-climbing south of Lamoose Lake!



Lamoose Lake from Alpine Trail #7.



Atop Hash Mountain with Flathead Lake in the background.



A nice bow in the Swan Crest south of Hash Mountain.



Sun highlights mountain maple turned red for fall!