

April 23, 2011

Eleven Swan Rangers hiked (and post-holed) the Echo-Broken Leg Trail under sunny skies Saturday, to the mouth of Wolf Creek Canyon, where the snow became too deep and too soft to continue. They saw their first bear tracks of the season!

The trail is mostly still under snow pack after the first mile, and it gets deeper as you go. Last year at this time we photographed the flowers of glacier lily, trillium, Oregon grape, and yellow wood violets along this trail! (You can review past Ranger reports by visiting http://www.swanrange.org/hike_archive.htm).

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. (Times will shift one hour earlier beginning May 7, for the summer).

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

Bears are emerging from their dens, so be sure to carry bear spray.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



The trail is mostly bare until it crosses Stoltze Lumber Company's roads . . .



. . . but then there's plenty of snow as you go!



Last year's photo of the Deer Creek bridge on April 24, 2010.



Today's photo of the Deer Creek bridge on April 23, 2011!



While firm enough to walk on in the morning, in the shade . . .



. . . the snow pack turns "post-hole" soft in the sun and afternoon warmth!