

July 30, 2011

Nine Swan Rangers hiked from the Jewel Basin parking lot past Twin Lakes and out onto Tongue Mountain Saturday, with half the group continuing on down Tongue Mountain to a nice overlook of Clayton Lake. It was a perfectly sunny day, cool at higher elevations, and with enough of a breeze on Tongue Mountain to blow the bugs away during our lunch snack!

The Jewel Basin Road is now clear of snow to the parking lot, but there is still snow on the trails that begin there. The notch above Twin Lakes is still quite deep with snow and the junctions of trails with Alpine #7 Trail remain buried as well.

Fortunately, the steep side-hills where Alpine #7 skirts around Twin Lakes are free of snow and hike-able without any great risk. From there to Tongue Mountain however, where Alpine #7 passes through several flat meadows, the trail remains buried under six or more feet of snow - so it helps to have knowledge of the area in order to navigate. Once on the south slopes of Tongue Mountain, the trail toward Clayton Lake is mostly free of snow though large drifts remain on the lee of the ridge!

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.

When hiking in bear country, remember to carry bear spray and avoid the 3-D's: dawn, dusk, and darkness.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos by Keith Hammer and Bob Muth on following pages:



Alpine 7 on a sunny south slope above Twin Lakes.



Alpine 7 in the alpine meadows beyond.



Twin Lakes with the sparkle that gives Jewel Basin its name!



Blackfoot Lake with Mount Aeneas at top center.



Wildcat Lake from Tongue Mountain, with Infinity Ridge at left.



Bob Muth photo of Clayton Lake and Pioneer Ridge.