

September 3, 2011

Ten Swan Rangers hiked from Camp Misery parking lot to the top of Tongue Mountain in Jewel Basin Saturday, under blue skies and pleasant temperatures (once out of the frosty early morning shade anyway)! Though a bit under 7,000 feet, the views from Tongue Mountain are well worth the steep scramble up from the trail leading to Clayton Lake!

Six Rangers returned by the same route while four continued on to loop out via Wildcat Lake and Strawberry Lake Trail. Camp Misery parking lot was over full as folks take advantage of the high elevation trail-heads there before the road closes for contractors to finish the gravelling work begun last year (the Forest Service has yet to say when after Labor Day the road may close).

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 on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Alpine 7 free of snow where buried under several feet four weeks ago!



Blackfoot Lake lies just south of Tongue Mountain in Jewel Basin.



Heading up Tongue Mountain from the trail to Clayton Lake!



360 degree views from atop Tongue Mountain!





Wildcat Lake, Infinity Ridge at left, and the Swan Crest running north to Columbia Mountain.



Unlawful mountain biking tracks on historic Alpine 7 Trail in Jewel Basin.