

October 8, 2011

Eight Swan Rangers hiked the Beardance and Crane Creek trails on Crane Mountain Saturday, under sunny skies after a hard night's rain. The Swan Mountains, meanwhile, received a white cap of snow above 6,000 feet!

The Rangers found that, while some of the unauthorized breakneck bike jumps and ramps on Beardance Trail have been removed as the Forest Service promised, others remain.

If you feel so inclined, please email District Ranger Rich Kehr at rkehr@fs.fed.us.

Thank him for the several jumps and ramps removed, but ask him to finish the job so the trail once again meets "Leave no Trace" standards.

The Rangers also saw recent motorcycle use, which is not allowed on these trails, that has caused ruts now running with water!

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:



The landmark ponderosa pine where Beardance Trail leaves Hwy 35!



A view of Flathead Lake and Wildhorse Island as the sun peeks over Crane Mountain.



A log ramp and side trail the Forest Service failed to remove.



Unauthorized log rides not removed by the Forest Service.



New log rides not needed to cross a wet area with high and dry trail tread.



Unlawful motorcycle use has rutted the Crane Creek Trail and runs with water!