

December 3, 2011

Eleven Swan Rangers hiked the Bond Creek Trail Saturday. Most turned around at Bond Falls and a couple continued on to within about a mile of Bond Lake, where the snow depth was between 2' and 3'.

The trail is mostly bare to the falls, though there was enough to see the several-day-old tracks of a female griz and cub headed upcountry. Hopefully they are headed up to den for the winter. Fish, Wildlife and Parks reported last week that about half the dozen griz they are monitoring with transmitters are in their dens while the rest are still roaming and feeding on the remains of hunter kills.

So the moral of the story is: don't quit carrying your bear spray just yet!

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.

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:



Political subdivisions of the Swan Ranger Super Committee . . .



. . . that can't even agree on how to cross Bond Creek!





Bond Falls decorated with ice for the holidays!



A rare geologic formation known as the Bond Steppes!



Pacific yew, from which the cancer-fighting drug Taxol was derived, bedding down for the winter along Bond Creek.



An iTree along the trail. Forest Service "i" blaze communication devices predate the iPhone by many decades!