

January 7, 2012

Eleven Swan Rangers went looking for snow Saturday, but were too lazy to carry their snowshoes in case they found some. They hiked up the Peterson Creek Trail and finally hit too-deep-to-hike snow just before the junction with the Side-hill Trail on Broken Leg Mountain!

It was like fall at the start, but at least a little bit like winter at the turn-around, with a few snowflakes falling from passing mini-squalls.

There were wolverine tracks near the turn-around spot, where last year we photographed fisher tracks. The first track where the wolverine had stepped off the trail into deep snow showed five toes well-splayed, the wrist/foreleg, and even a bit of chest imprint!

There's always something happening in the Swan Range!

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.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Where's Ranger #11?



Still looks like fall along the old road that's the first leg of the hike.



A view of Ferndale and Flathead Lake under low-lying, squally clouds.



Nearing the turn-around point. And, to the left . . .



. . . a splayed wolverine track showing the fifth toe in the "thumb position!"



A pretty piece of bark along the trail showing old beetle galleries.