

February 18, 2012

Eleven Swan Rangers skied and snowshoed into Krause Basin Saturday, with half returning by the same route and half returning in a loop via the Strawberry Lake Road. It was a wonderful day with occasional sun on fresh snow!

The Rangers enjoyed the steadily increasing snow depths and the great western hemlock of Krause Basin. So legend has it:

A very long time ago, the Great Spirit visited the earth and walked in the forest. In his presence all living things bowed their heads in respect-- everything except the proud and mighty hemlock. The Great Spirit noticed and said, "For placing yourself above everything else in my forest, you will bow your head forever." The result of this foolish act can be seen today in Krause Basin, where western hemlock trees continue to bow their heads.

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:



Snow, sun and smiles!



The ever-welcoming hemlock forests of Krause Basin!



Slowly but surely, the snow is piling up!



A hemlock tree bows its head!



The "cottonwood bottom" along Krause Creek.



Krause Creek makes a brief appearance along the way!