

April 7, 2007

Nine Swan Rangers hiked the Broken Leg Trail into Wolf Creek Canyon on a beautiful sunny day. We saw 16 elk, 3 golden eagles, a mountain goat, 2 mule deer, and lots of ticks as it is still prime tick season on the south-facing slopes!

We also saw quite a few Painted Lady and Mourning Cloak butterflies.

It seems the only thing we didn't see was the Easter Bunny!

This was the third Saturday in a row spent hiking the Broken Leg Trail, which is among the few snow-free trails this time of year but consistently offers something new to experience.

Some of the brush and cottonwood trees are budding out and leaves will appear soon. And don't forget Broken Leg Trail usually has the first wildflower blooms among the Swan Range trails, on the south slopes in Wolf Creek Canyon!

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.

Everyone is Welcome!

Join us next Saturday for a special tax-filing procrastination hike somewhere in the Swan Range!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



Swan Rangers count and compare tick size along the trail on the south-facing slopes of Wolf Creek Canyon, with Flathead Lake in the background.



A by-the-seat-of-your-pants geology lesson as the Swan Rangers eat lunch on a glacier scoured cliff in Wolf Creek Canyon, as yet oblivious to the 16 elk on the mountainside behind them.



Some of the herd of 16 elk work their way across the upper slopes of Wolf Creek Canyon, with several turning around to listen to the tall tales of the Swan Rangers far below.