

August 11, 2007

Three Swan Rangers hiked Saturday, with one turning around early for a date with a sailboat. The remaining two hiked up Wolf Creek canyon to the Broken Leg Trail, then up to the ridge overlooking the upper reaches of Wolf Creek and the Crater Lake area. Though the smoke was not too bad for hiking, we nonetheless set a slower pace to make it easier on our lungs.

The number of huckleberries on the bushes was inversely proportional to the number of piles of huckleberry-laden bear scat on the trail! The bears had definitely been into the berries, but it was a glimpse of a mountain lion and not bear that we believe we caught high on the shoulder of Broken Leg Mountain as it quietly moved through the brush away from us.

Not so quiet was a goshawk that scolded us and flew at us on our way back down the mountain. We likely had passed near its fledglings and/or nest, although we saw only the adult.

Fall colors are making their debut at the higher elevations, especially in the berry bushes, and pesky summer bugs were nowhere to be seen or heard high on the mountain.

It was a beautiful day and what was lacking in huckleberry feasting was made up for in wild raspberries!

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.

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



Wonders abound near and far, with a juniper bush growing out of solid rock overlooking Flathead Lake and the Ferndale area.



Fall colors are making their debut in the underbrush, especially at higher elevations.



Bear scat full of huckleberries is a common sight along mountain trails this time of year.