

August 18, 2007

Six Swan Rangers enjoyed both hillside hemlock forests and alpine meadows on Saturday, hiking up the Strawberry Lake Trail and continuing up Alpine Trail #7 to look down on Wildcat Lake in Jewel Basin Hiking Area.

It was a relatively clear day, given the recent days of thick smoke. Under more normal circumstances, we likely would have commented the sky was a bit hazy, but on Saturday gave thanks instead for air clean enough for some steady uphill hiking, good exercise and more distant vistas.

This Swan Ranger actually turned around early for a festival in Polebridge via the inside road in Glacier National Park, where the areas formerly burned by the Anaconda, Roberts, and other fires are lush with greenery, even during this hot and dry summer. It served as a comforting reminder that there is life on the other side of all this recent smoke!

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 photo: The first portion of the Strawberry Lake Trail runs through beautiful hemlock and then spruce-fir forests as it switchbacks up the hillside.



Bob Muth photo: Above Strawberry Lake, Alpine Trail #7, like the name implies, leads hikers up into high alpine forests and meadows, then into Jewel Basin Hiking Area.