

August 4, 2007

Eight Swan Rangers hiked the Strawberry Lake Trail Saturday, then north along Alpine Trail #7 to Jimmy Ridge, peeking into the Lost Johnny watershed before returning via the Wounded Buck and Krause Basin watersheds on the same trails.

This Ranger's idea of a grand bushwhack loop back to the cars through the bowels of Krause Basin was roundly rejected by the rest, so we had to put up with the wonderful alpine country and views of Glacier National Park peaks on our return hike as well!

We chose this hike to stay north of the Chippy Creek fire plume and south of the Brush Creek fire plume. The air was quite good, with the Chippy Creek smoke moving north to greet us only for our descent from Strawberry Lake.

We did, however, encounter three motorcycles illegally accessing Alpine Trail #7 via a long abandoned foot trail legally closed to motor vehicles and stemming from the old clear-cuts at the end of the Lost Johnny Road. Please take a moment to email the following Flathead National Forest officials and ask them to physically block this trail to motorized use, which is destroying vegetation and violating "grizzly bear security core habitat" intended to be free of all motorized vehicles:

Flathead Forest Supervisor Cathy Barbouletos at cbarbouletos@fs.fed.us
Hungry Horse Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera at jdeherrera@fs.fed.us

Thank you for remaining vigilant and helping keep the Swan Range a quiet, safe and secure place for both humans and wildlife!

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:



Strawberry Lake offered a nice place to snack on our way north and a nice place to swim on our way back, not to mention the enjoyment of watching several people laughing and fishing.



Even the bees were enjoying themselves at Strawberry Lake, where fireweed is in full bloom.



Although legally closed to motorized use, the old foot trail linking the Lost Johnny Road to Alpine Trail #7 is turning into a motorcycle and 4-wheeler playground due to illegal trespass and lack of Forest Service law enforcement.