

November 3, 2007

Three Swan Rangers hiked the old, overgrown Water Trail into the head of Deer Creek Saturday under high overcast skies but with great views of the Ferndale area, Flathead Lake and beyond.

The old Water Trail takes off from the first switchback in the Crater Notch Trail and dead ends below Crater Notch itself. It is unknown why it is called the Water Trail, shows on circa 1950 Forest Service maps, but is no longer maintained.

It is, however, a great, sketchy trail on which to practice log-hopping, access mid-elevation slopes of bear grass and lodge pole pine, and perhaps get lost for a little while!

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!

Don't forget to wear some hunter orange out there as big game hunting season continues!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith Hammer photos:



The old Water Trail is overgrown but the trail tread can be followed in most places.



The Water Trail ends below Crater Notch, pictured here, in the upper reaches of Deer Creek.



Slate gray skies provided nice contrast to the autumn colors of the larch trees and valley bottom.

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