

September 1, 2007

Three Swan Rangers and one trusty dog hiked the "back door" to Crater Lake from Bear Creek Road via Wolf Creek Canyon and "Dave's Sidehill Trail."

WARNING: DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME! (GO OUTSIDE FIRST!)

This route offers a shorter but steeper route to Crater Lake, where one is almost certain to run into more elk and goats than hikers! It also offers a seldom seen view of Crater Lake from the south, including its hidden thumb/arm, as well as views of Flathead Lake from the cliffs that keep Crater Lake from spilling over into Wolf Creek.

The Swan Rangers last fall saw mountain goats in these cliffs and this Saturday saw a large flock of blue birds there, not to mention some flaming red fall colors.

School or work got you down? Missing out on the excellent clear and cool hiking weather? Well then:

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: An informal foot and game trail threads its way among boulders, cliffs and scree slopes from Wolf Creek to Broken Leg Trail and from there to Crater Lake.



Bob Muth photo: Once atop the cliffs, the trail offers views of Crater Lake sitting in its glaciated landscape, with Mount Aeneas and the bulk of Jewel Basin to the north.



Bob Muth photo: The view back down Wolf Creek Canyon to Ferndale and Flathead Lake.