

September 15, 2007

Five Swan Rangers Saturday hiked up Peters Ridge Trail, over the Swan Crest, down to historic Alpine Trail #7, along Alpine #7 to Strawberry Lake, then down the Strawberry Lake Trail in a wonderful autumn loop!

The fall colors are at their best, the air temperatures perfect for hiking, and pesky bugs totally absent!

We took snack stops on the east side of Peters Ridge and at Strawberry Lake, which turned lengthy simply because it was so quiet, cool and peaceful up there!

We also noticed the Forest Service has posted new signs reminding people of the long-time closure of historic Alpine Trail #7 to 4-wheel ATVs, apparently in response to our monitoring and letters of complaint several weeks ago that ATVs were accessing Alpine #7 via an illegal trail stemming from the Lost Johnny Road.

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:



The Peters Ridge Trail crosses the Swan Crest at Bee Notch, so named for the summertime bee traffic as they use this lowest point in the nearby Crest to pack pollen and nectar from the west side flower fields to their east side hives.



As the Peters Ridge Trail descends the east side of the Swan Crest, it offers wonderful views of the Crest, Great Northern Mountain and distant Glacier National Park. Pictured here is the Swan Crest forming the upper reaches of Lost Johnny Creek, with Hash Mountain at the far right.



A few moments taken to file in-the-field monitoring reports while enjoying the Swan Range results in increased posting and enforcement of closures to damaging off-road vehicles; lessening conflicts while protecting peace, quiet and wildlife security.