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Trip Report

Forbidden Plateau Crossing (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Wed Aug 15, 2012

 Leader: **William Wright**

Co-Leader:

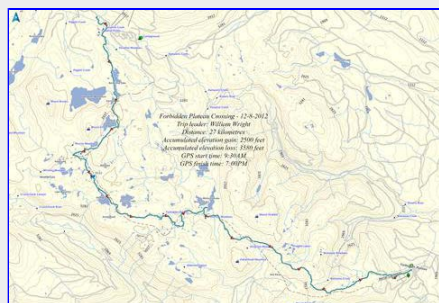
Eight of us set out from the Raven Lodge on a perfectly clear morning. The day promised to be hot but the Paradise Meadow trails were still lush and cool. The first 15 kilometers went by surprisingly quickly and we took a break by Panther Lake, not another soul around. After a relaxed lunch we headed off through shaded forest, with occasional views of Albert Ed and surrounding mountains. It all seemed so easy.

It was when we came out into the clearing beyond Johnston Lake that we met up with the Creekside Commons group who had decided to do the traverse from the opposite direction. They had started hiking at eight in the morning and it was now about two in the afternoon . It started to dawn on all of us that we still had a long way to go.

William had set a pace that would carry us through a long hike and he was careful to stop often for water breaks. We crossed several cool streams, refreshing on what had become a thirty degree day. We followed his route through McKenzie Meadows , pausing to admire unusual marsh plants. Ponds full of buckbean, stands of cotton grass , white and burgundy Burnet and the real prize - fragrant white bog orchids. By way of showing interest one of our hikers pointed out the yellow and purple daisies. Becoming a botanical snoot I said I thought they would be arnica and asters to which he said that to him, there were daisies and non daisies ! Best be on our way

Ah yes, the last five kilometers, stumbling our way to the finish line Does the old Forbidden Plateau ski slope ever get any better ? A track rutted out by four wheelers, strewn with the abandoned detritus of the long gone lodge either wheezing your way up it or as we then did pounding out our knees going down it , its the price to pay for an otherwise remarkable hike. And so it was, good company, a perfect summer day and a thirty kilometer walk between the two mountains.

[More photos from this trip](#) can be seen here.



GPS map and statistics
[Tim Penney photo]



At the start of the hike
[Tim Penney photo]



*At the junction in Murray
Meadows*
[Tim Penney photo]



Mackenzie Meadows
[Carol Hunter photo]



Douglas Lake
[Bob St.John photo]



McKenzie Lake
[Tim Penney photo]



Drabble - Indian Head col viewpoint
[Bob St.John photo]

Report contributors: Carol H, Heather M, Tim P, Bob S,

Participant list (8 of 8): Sylvia A, Susan H, Carol H, Heather M, Harold O, Tim P, Bob S, William W,

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