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Forbidden Plateau Traverse (hiking) Mon Sep 12, 2016 Leader: Ed Tickner Co-Leader: Mary Finnan

Since our eager group had gathered early at Harmston we were able to get to Raven Lodge in time for a 7:30 start. The first few km were cool and frosty so we kept a good pace to stay warm. We had beautiful sunny skies all day and it gradually warmed up to temperatures in the mid teens so hiking conditions were about perfect. Unfortunately Croteau Lake was a bit of a disappointment..... got there to find nothing done on the group campsite and the outhouse all locked up. Onward to Johnson Lake for one of two planned "main stops". We hiked out to a rocky little peninsula overlooking a small island - my favourite spot on the whole hike. We spent a while just soaking it in. Onward to McKenzie Lake for another nice break, including time to pick a few of the bountiful crop of blueberries, we just couldn't pass them up. One person found a bees nest and was stung several times. Fortunately he had no serious reaction and was able to continue without problem. Past McKenzie Meadows we started our long slow climb but we still had some energy so it went well. We passed lots of signs of our work party, thank you for all your work, that section of trail is looking very good. By the time we started our descent on the old ski hill there wasn't a lot of jump left in the legs but we worked our way down successfully in time for a 5:50 arrival at the parking lot. Our driver arrived with a cooler of ice cold beverages for us to enjoy, what a nice treat at the end of a long day!

Special thanks to our driver Chris, she dropped us off in the morning and picked us up in the afternoon saving us a lot of time shuttling vehicles.

Total distance by Mary's GPS was exactly 30km, elevation gained 850M and elevation lost about 1100M.

A long strenuous hike but very rewarding, we saw a lot of wonderful country and had a great group of people to share it all with.



Frosty morning in Paradise Meadows [Ed Tickner photo]



Battleship Lake in early morning [Mary Finnan photo]



View across Panther Lake [Ed Tickner photo]



Arriving at Johnson Lake [Ed Tickner photo]



Johnston Lake [Mary Finnan photo]



Welcome rest after climbing up from Douglas/Mckenzie Lakes [Mary Finnan photo]

Report contributors: Mary Finnan, Ed Tickner,

Participant list (5 of 5): Derek Amos:*guest*, Anthony Beardow, Mary Finnan, Ed Tickner, Jim Tickner:*guest*,

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