



Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve  
Sunday October 25, 2015

Beautiful days hike up Plateau Mountain

I lead a small group of friends up onto Plateau Mountain yesterday and found it interesting that it has NO signage at the locked gate to inform people that it is a protected area - Ecological Reserve!!!

There was a couple just about to leave the parking area at the locked gate who were just hunting above the locked gate!! He had no idea (so he said) that this was an ecological area and hunting was not allowed. They had seen a large mule deer buck but it got away. He said other hunters are up there as well - I told him that it does not make it right and that if he referred to his hunting regulations he would find out more about the region he was hunting in!

If you have not been up there for awhile there was a lot of erosion along all the ditches esp. near the parking lot of the road (and below, about 30m down) and hiked up. Even when we walked to the north end to the plaques - a huge amount of water erosion had disturbed the east ditch of the road - taking the level down to bed rock in places and widened the area by at least 7-9 meters of rock. A cat has been taken in to repair the road beyond the locked gate.





Vehicles have driven across the mountain on the old road! Is this to access the ice caves??

Looking at the info posted on mammals in this area, for some reason there is not mention of bears?? I saw several places where a bear(s) have done a lot of digging in the meadow of the second last switch back.

Birds; Many different flocks, a crow/raven,

We saw 2 groups of ewes and lambs (only maybe 3 new lambs of this year!). The first group had 9 mature ewes and 4 youth. The 2nd group had 5 ewes and one lamb. One lone ram - who came within 10 meters of one of our hikers and a band of 5-6 other rams on the north meadow before the plaques. One of the older ewes approached one of hikers on the way up and also on the way down (came within 2 meters the 2nd time and would have come closer if he had not stopped her- thinking people are feeding salt or something!)

There were a few snow patches along the road and it looked like there was still some water in the run off spring on the south side of the road near the top.

Scat - one old bear scat, lots of sheep pellets and a coyote, wolf or cat scat on the road on the hike up.

Soil mounds - pocket gophers and voles?.

Wildflowers: every small groundsel along the road in bloom.

Invasive's: lots of flix weed along the road in the first 1km of the road for about 1/4 of a km.

Hiking times:

1.5hr from the locked gate to the top east edge.

1 hr to the north plaque (from the above stop - near the towers and buildings) 5 hours hiking time altogether; a storm was coming in from the north so we did not stay too long exploring. Started our hike a 10 am and back to the car at 4 pm. We did see on other truck at the locked gate parking area and they left just before we left. I did not speak to them.

Signage is needed at the locked gate. That this is an Ecological Reserve and what is and not allowed! More education needed.

Not sure if hunters hike up from the east side or other locations - maybe find this out and post a few other signs.

Wendy Ryan

