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Subject: Postcard

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Today was *Return to 9-Mile Canyon*. 9-Mile Canyon is a 45+ mile stretch of Utah back road renowned for its petroglyphs. Famously, the Great Hunting Scene resides at mile 45.9 and attracts aficionados and looney birds. We first visited 9-Mile Canyon in, hmmm, 2006? Our objective was to find the Great Hunting Scene and we succeeded. But along the way we tried to find other notable rock art: The Sheep Panel, The Owl, The Big Buffalo, but to no avail.

This morning we were perversely disappointed to discover that the road through 9-Mile Canyon, which had been mostly dirt, had been paved. Makes it too easy for high school beer drinkers and not challenging enough for Vici. But we shouldn't have been discouraged. There are now 22 "dips", as the signs say, that carry water across the road along with rocks, silt and debris. The day began with rain (of course), everything was muddy, and the dips were flowing.



As always, we endeavored to persevere. This time we brought a guide book. It tells you where to set your trip odometer to zero and then holds your hand, instructing your every step. We stopped as directed at the key locations. Tromping through mud, clambering up slippery rock heaps, sucking moisture off of calf-high weeds with our pants, we searched. Did we find the famous Sheep Panel, Owl and Buffalo? Are you serious? We found lichen. We found cows. We found broken down old buildings and a truck. We found deer, we found a rabbit. We found a balanced rock that looks like a pig's head. We found a pit toilet and a place to eat. We found the sun after a long absence.









And we found the Great Hunting Scene. It was right where we had left it in 2006.

Life is good.

D&S