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Subject: Postcard

Mount Taylor backup plan #1: Hike the Continental Divide.



Well, maybe just the part that goes through El Malpais National Monument. Or, possibly, just part of that part.

The trail was, to some extent, blazed with these signs.



Oh man, are Americans clever. The initials are just like the monogram on a Gucci dress shirt and the T is shaped like an arrow! Follow the arrows! I didn't get it – I was still thinking Gucci – until I went the wrong way once. Sheila (part Cherokee, remember) was quick to explain it.



The rest of the trail was marked with megacairns. Make that gigacairns. Scores, maybe hundreds, of huge rock piles. Everywhere! (Until, of course, you really needed one. In which case there weren't any.)



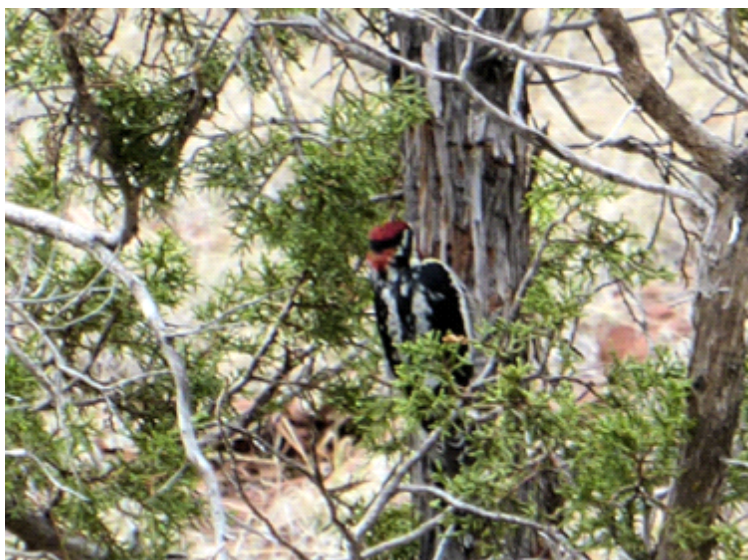
Trail.



Dead rabbit brush blooms from last year.



Trail.



Red-Naped Sapsucker. Huzzah!



Grassy place. Turn around. Go back. Done.

Ranger Elizabeth recommended this hike. And then she told us that the bats in the park's caves are being counted and tested for white nose syndrome. Now that we know, you should too.

D&S

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