

Date: 3/26/2017 8:50:02 PM

Subject: Postcard

Mount Taylor backup plan #2: Hike the Hole-in-the-Wall trail.

This was another suggestion from Ranger Elizabeth. She was all aquiver about our opportunity to see a kipuka by going to Hole-in-the-Wall.



A huge, colorful, informative, sign marks the *dirt track trailhead* that supposedly leads to the *hiking trailhead*.

This is the dirt track. It meanders through other dirt which is not a track but is home to brushy-weedy stuff (shown) and to flock after flock of horned larks (not shown, as they continually flew away).



After 30 or 40 minutes of bump and thump, we arrived at, possibly, the hiking trailhead which could be, possibly, just past this padlocked gate. The sign says exactly what you see here and, if it is indeed the hiking trailhead, which is debatable, then the hiking trail is just more dirt track. And

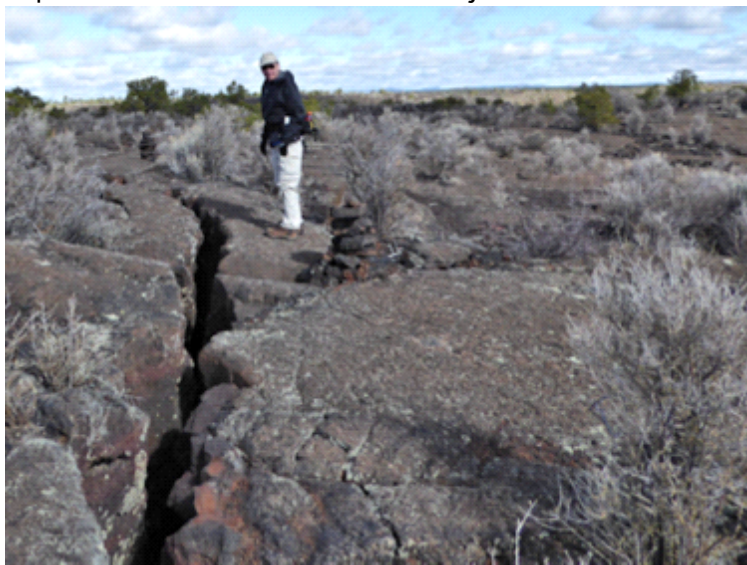
inaccessible by vehicle. And we didn't want to waste hiking time on more brushy-weedy stuff even with the promise of a kipuka at the end.



Drove back.

So. Hole-in-the-Wall backup plan #1 (aka Mount Taylor backup plan #3): Hike Lava Falls.

Lava Falls was Stanley's* suggestion. Which we followed. There were lots of lava rock cairns which we also followed, important because there was no trail, just lava rock.



And big cracks a plumber could envy. Or maybe Ferg.

Still, signs of life in many of them:



Crevice Cactus.



Lava Lizard.

And the day was not over. We pulled off at Sandstone Bluffs, a “Scenic Overlook” that for once was scenic.



And luckily they had this sign.



If they hadn't, just imagine, I might have slipped, rolled over three times, cracked my camera and skinned my arm! So we are grateful.

D&S

* Stanley (left) works for Kathy (center) who owns Pie-O-Neer. His job is to wander around and look engaged. He also doles out driving and hiking advice.



We explained all this in 2013 when we first visited Pie Town. Pay attention.

postcardsfromthesouthwest.com