

Magruder Corridor

Sept 11 and 12, 2010

Bruce, Willie and Jeanne, and John and Donna left Lolo about noon Saturday for Elk City Idaho. The three Jeeps traveled up Highway 12 for a quick stop at the museum/gift shop/visitor center at Lolo Pass. We then continued down to Lowell, Idaho and turned to follow the road up the Selway River. We took the Selway Falls road up and over the Mountain to Elk City.

After gassing up at the only gas station in town, we checked in at the Elk City Hotel. John and Donna had reservations for the most expensive room, and they enjoyed it. Willie and Jeanne booked a room under a herd of elephants. Bruce had a closet down the hall. The rooms were basic, sort of what you'd expect for a hotel in a town with its best days long gone. Warmer and less work than camping, I guess.

We had a good barbeque rib dinner at the café next to the hotel that night, and the next morning had a huge breakfast at the same place. Very good and inexpensive food!

Sunday morning we got a late start. We drove out of Elk City and up the Red River road, stopping for pictures of Nixon Rock – a natural feature that bears a remarkable resemblance to Richard Nixon. Just past the old Red River Ranger Station, we turned onto a well-maintained gravel road that follows the Magruder Corridor. At the 14 Mile Tree trailhead, the road became a more primitive native surface road suitable for high clearance vehicles. We took a short side trip to Green Mountain Lookout that overlooks the Red River watershed to the west and the Bargamin Creek watershed to the east. We continued along the Magruder Corridor road to Burnt Knob Lookout, a cabin perched on a cliff at the end of a mile long four wheel drive road.





We stopped at many of the points of interest along the way. An electronic brochure of the Magruder Corridor road is available on both the Nez Perce and Bitterroot National Forests web sites.

After a long day of sightseeing and trying to diagnose nasty sounds under Willie's Grand Cherokee and Bruce's YJ (pitman arm hitting tie rod on every good bump) we finally got to Darby about 8 p.m.