

The trail began to descend, and it was getting hot, so we chose to not complete the loop trail.



Panorama from where we turned around, looking to the east.



Here, we have a clear view towards the northern Eureka Valley.



Looking northeast, towards what appears to be called Fish Lake Valley.



Heading back the trail towards the visitors center. Notice how green the hills in the background are.



From here, we continued up the road, which turned to dirt just past the visitors center. A sign warns drivers that there are sharp rocks on the road ahead (this is indeed very true!), and that there is no cell phone service. It also states "towing services are \$1,000 minimum beyond this point".



The sign up ahead tells travelers that it is 12 miles from here to the Patriarch Grove. We found out at the visitors center that the road is closed due to snow 2 miles before reaching this grove, and that this road closure is common for most of the year.



Looking down at what appears to be called Reed Flat.



Panorama from near where the previous photo was taken, looking north towards where this road goes. Notice the snow-topped white mountains in the background.



The road soon descends a little, towards the fork with the Silver Canyon (west) and Wyman Canyon (east) roads.



Up ahead, the road continues winding along near the ridge.



We continued north at this fork, planning to check out the Silver Canyon Road briefly on our way back.



Far ahead, we see that the road will switchback up a mountainside.



There are a few turnouts where one can park to get a view towards the eastern Sierras.



Looking east, down what I think must be Wyman Canyon (but I'm not entirely sure).



We are now approaching the switchbacks. Note that, although the road looks smooth in the photographs, there are numerous sharp rocks embedded in the dirt, so we were driving slow and therefore not making fast progress along the road.



We chose to turn around at the top of the switchbacks, where the road was wide enough and the visibility sufficient to do so. Here we are looking north towards where the Patriarch Grove must be. I would estimate we came about halfway from the visitors center to the parking area for the Patriarch Grove (note that when we visited in June of 2017 there was still too much snow to drive all the way to the grove).



Looking across at the eastern Sierras on our drive back down the switchbacks.



We parked at one of the turnouts on the way back to get some photographs. Here we are looking towards the peak above the Silver Canyon Road, where a radio tower is located (background left).



Panorama looking south from this viewpoint, with the eastern Sierras to the right. I think the small peak to the left is called County Line Hill.



Another view of the eastern Sierras from here. Unfortunately, it was a bit hazy, probably because it was so hot in Bishop during our trip. I think the canyon we are looking down here is called Gunter Creek, but that may be north of us.



Looking south, towards where the Wyman Canyon Road descends to the left, and towards the peaks between us and the Schulman Grove in the distance.



Looking north from here, towards the snow-capped peaks which must include Mt. Barcroft and White Mountain Peak.



From here, we continued back towards the Silver Canyon Road. This photo is of a side-road which, according to one of the very helpful people at the visitors center, leads to a nice viewpoint. (I don't think it goes very far, so out of concern for not being able to turn one's vehicle around on this road, I would recommend walking it rather than driving it.)



This is the road sign for Silver Canyon. It is only 15 miles along this 4WD road to Bishop, but I have heard it still takes a skilled driver the same amount of time to drive to Bishop along the Silver Canyon Road as it does to drive back to Big Pine and then up to Bishop along the paved road.



Looking down at the Silver Canyon Road from where it effectively becomes a one-lane-road. Notice how hazy it is looking towards Bishop from here.



Here we are looking across at the mountains above Bishop Creek. Notice the Silver Canyon Road is visible in the lower left part of this photo.



Looking down Silver Canyon at the northern part of Bishop, and the volcanic tablelands north of town.



This sign tells travelers "4-Wheel Drive ONLY! High Clearance, Low Range." From what I've heard, a short wheel-base would also be helpful on this road.



Looking down the Silver Canyon Road, and towards the eastern Sierras again.



Looking north across the volcanic tablelands from here. The views would certainly be spectacular here on a less hazy (cooler?) day.



From here, we headed back towards the visitors center. Here we are approaching where the dirt road turns to pavement.



Looking across at the eastern Sierras, and a small peak (center of photo) which I think is between the Sierra View overlook and the Grandview campground.



Looking across at the eastern Sierras yet again. My photos seemed to turn out better later in the day.



Notice how steep the hillsides are here. This paved road is actually quite narrow, and you notice it more on the drive down (you also notice more how steep the road is; a low gear is necessary here).



Looking across at the tall peaks above Big Pine Canyon as the road descends towards the town of Big Pine.



This is the view looking north towards the volcanic tablelands north of Bishop from the Airbnb we stayed at.

