

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Elko, Nevada**.

Many of us have traveled across the country on good old Interstate 80. Some of this road is quite interesting, but sadly, much is not. Yes, you can cover a lot of ground on Interstate 80, but a lot of it is flat, dry, and boring. You may have made an overnight stop in Elko, Nevada. Why not? It's about half way between Reno and Salt Lake City. For the last couple of nights, we have been staying at the Double Dice RV Park in Elko. The first night we needed the rest, the second day we needed to work, and the third night was a result of bad weather. For the last two days, we have been experiencing very high winds with gusts up to 60 miles per hour and serious flooding. Hey, that's not motorhome weather, so we are sitting out the storm and expect to leave tomorrow and continue our trek toward Rapid City, South Dakota.

When we are forced, or have the opportunity, to look around, we take it. So what is there to see in Elko, Nevada? A lot of old history for sure and a couple of first rate museums. But did you know that less than 20 miles from where we are parked in this high desert (5,000 feet) there is a beautiful glacial valley with snow and glaciers? What a surprise and absolutely worth a visit. Have you seen the spectacular **Ruby Mountains**? We hadn't either. They are very rugged and very beautiful. Because they are so rugged, it's very difficult to get into them. But there is partial access via Lamoille Canyon.

Lamoille Canyon is an absolute gem and one of the prettiest drives in all of Nevada. Some call it the Yosemite of Nevada. That might be a stretch, but it is a gorgeous glacial valley.



The start of Lamoille Canyon Scenic Drive.

The road up Lamoille Canyon is 12 miles long and in excellent condition. There are camping spots, including one for RVs, and lots of hiking trails. As you go up the canyon, you climb from about 6,000 feet to 8,800. Even at 8,800, the peaks are thousands of feet higher allowing snow to remain most of the year. Here at the end of June, the canyon has lots of water. There is a beautiful rushing stream down the middle of the valley and many, many waterfalls on both sides of the valley. The end of the road at 8,800 feet is actually a trailhead going far up into the Ruby Mountains and passing many lakes. If you're strong and fit and like to fish, this is the country for you.



Further up Lamoille Canyon.

In the picture above, you can clearly see the rounded shape of the valley caused by glaciers approximately 250,000 years before Christ. Actually, there were two glaciers that came together and were over 1,000 feet thick! Ya mon, that's a lot of ice. This photo shows the glacial valley that comes down from the right of the main road. At the point where we took the photo, the glaciers merged.



Further up the main road.

The picture above is going further straight up the main road. There are lots of nice turnouts to stop and take pictures. There is one on the right of this shot. Keep in mind that this beautiful green forested area is very close to the sandy sagebrush surrounding the high desert of Elko, Nevada. Wow, what a contrast. We would never have imagined this glacial valley being so close to Elko.



One of the many waterfalls flowing into the canyon.



Still further up the main road.

By this time, the air is noticeably colder and definitely thinner. Any fast movements left us panting.



The end of the road at 8,800 feet.

If you've missed the Ruby Mountains, you've missed a gem. Pun intended.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

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