

## Road Art – 1<sup>st</sup> Trip – Days 21-30

Day 21 – 9/13/21, Tillamook, OR to Fort Stevens State Park, OR

CA-101 turned inland (east), it was a nice change of scenery after so much beach.



Then it turn back to coastal, Netards Bay and Oceanside, built literally on the side of a hill.



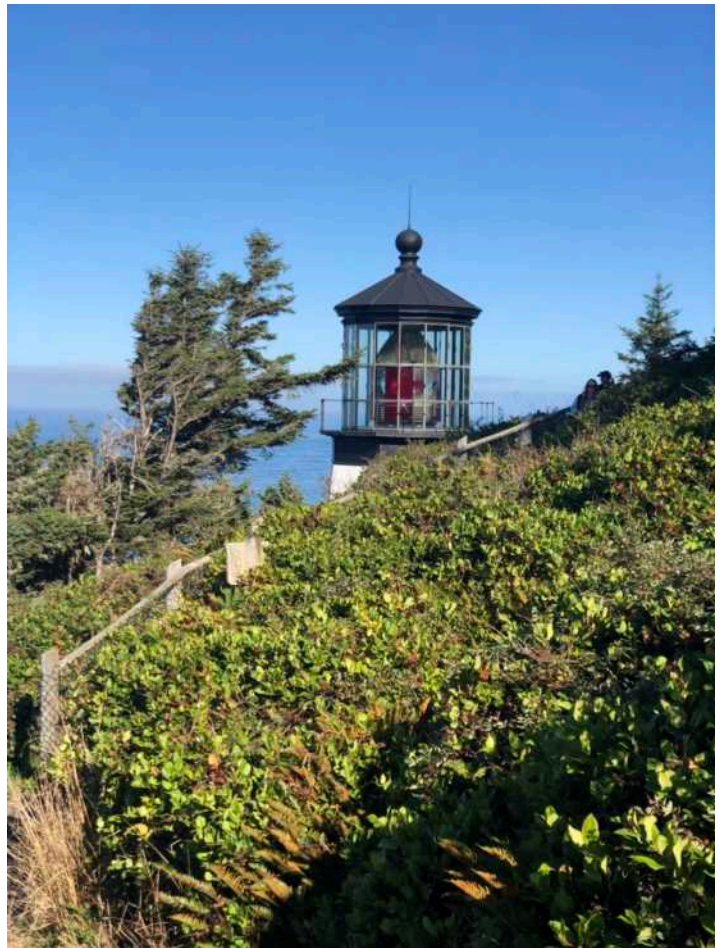
Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Mears, all great spots along the coast



Note to self, invest in a great camera.



It's a stubby short lighthouse. Seeing the light so close was cool.





The surroundings were great as well, many short, some steep hikes.



Just north a bit was Cannon Beach, what a cute little town with everything touristy just a short walk away. It would be a great 3 day getaway for anyone living in a big town.



Big line for the crêpes



I spent a lot of time browsing stores, biked and walked around, people watching, just taking it all in. And yes, it did have a beach.



For the night, I got a spot at Stevens Fort Park. It had a very nice bike path loop, not super long 8 miles or so, but scenic. It took you by Fort Stevens/Clapsop. Always enjoyable to learn something new. I didn't know that a Japanese submarine had shelled the US mainland, but it did and it was Fort Stevens.





Along the bike path.



Lastly, after a full day, I had some dinner and it was an early beddie bye-bye.

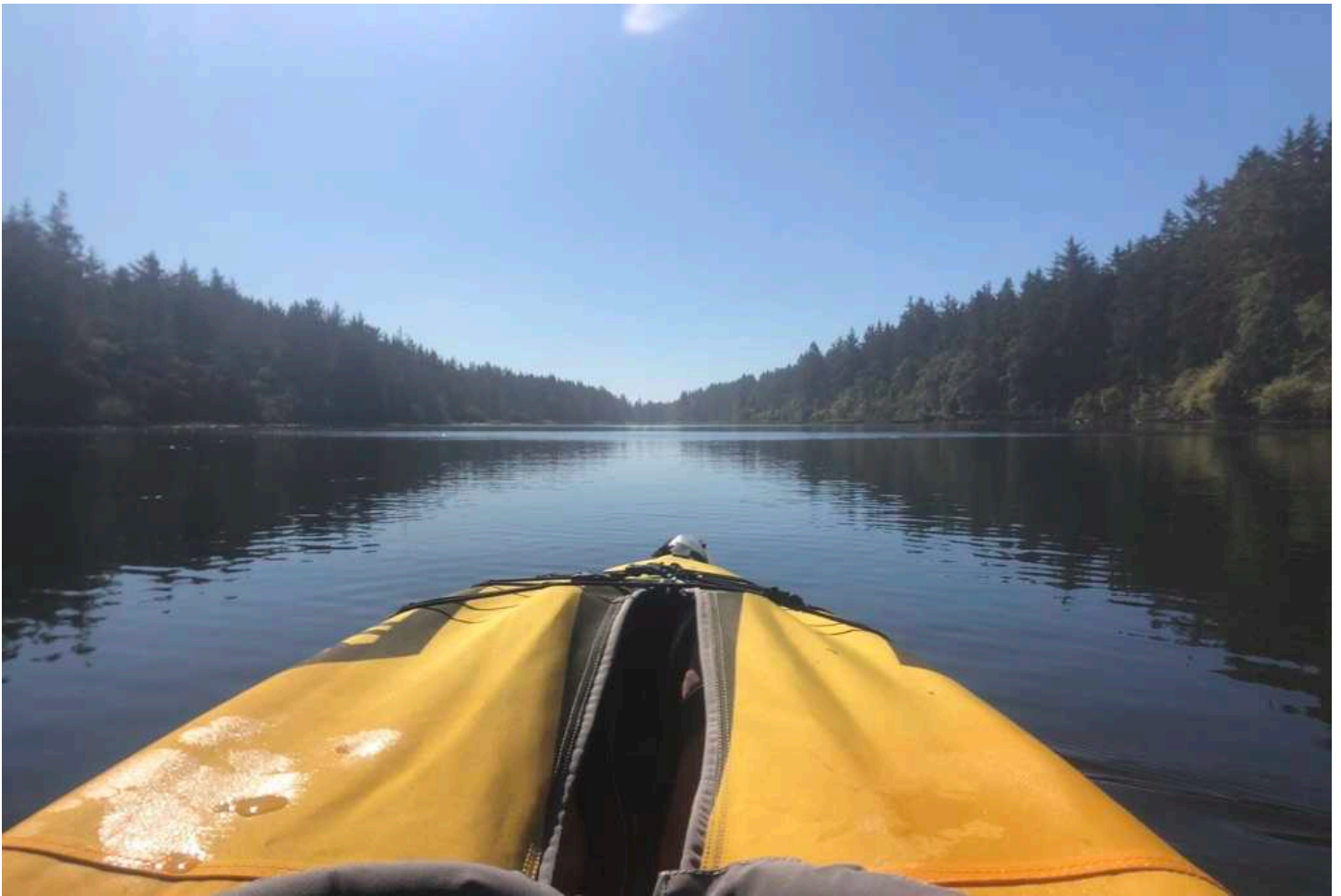
### **Day 22 – 9/14/21, Fort Stevens State Park, OR to Forest Road 2220, WA**

I woke up hungry so I made some coffee and a ham omelet, surfed the internet and went for a kayak on Coffenbury Lake. This was my first solo kayak experience.





Kayaking is so relaxing







Approaching Washington State, I wanted to capture the crossing of the Columbia river, but there was nowhere to stop.



And welcome to WA and Unceded Chinook Territory.



Washington has a different feel from Oregon can't put my finger on it yet, but we will see. The coastal 101 is beautiful as well, but it goes inland far more than in Oregon.



Aberdeen Mural, very detailed.



For the first time in 20+ days, I had some drizzle rain, not heavy but very noticeable. Fairly close to ONP. I stumbled upon an awesome forest road, cheated with a morning picture. Quiet and secluded.

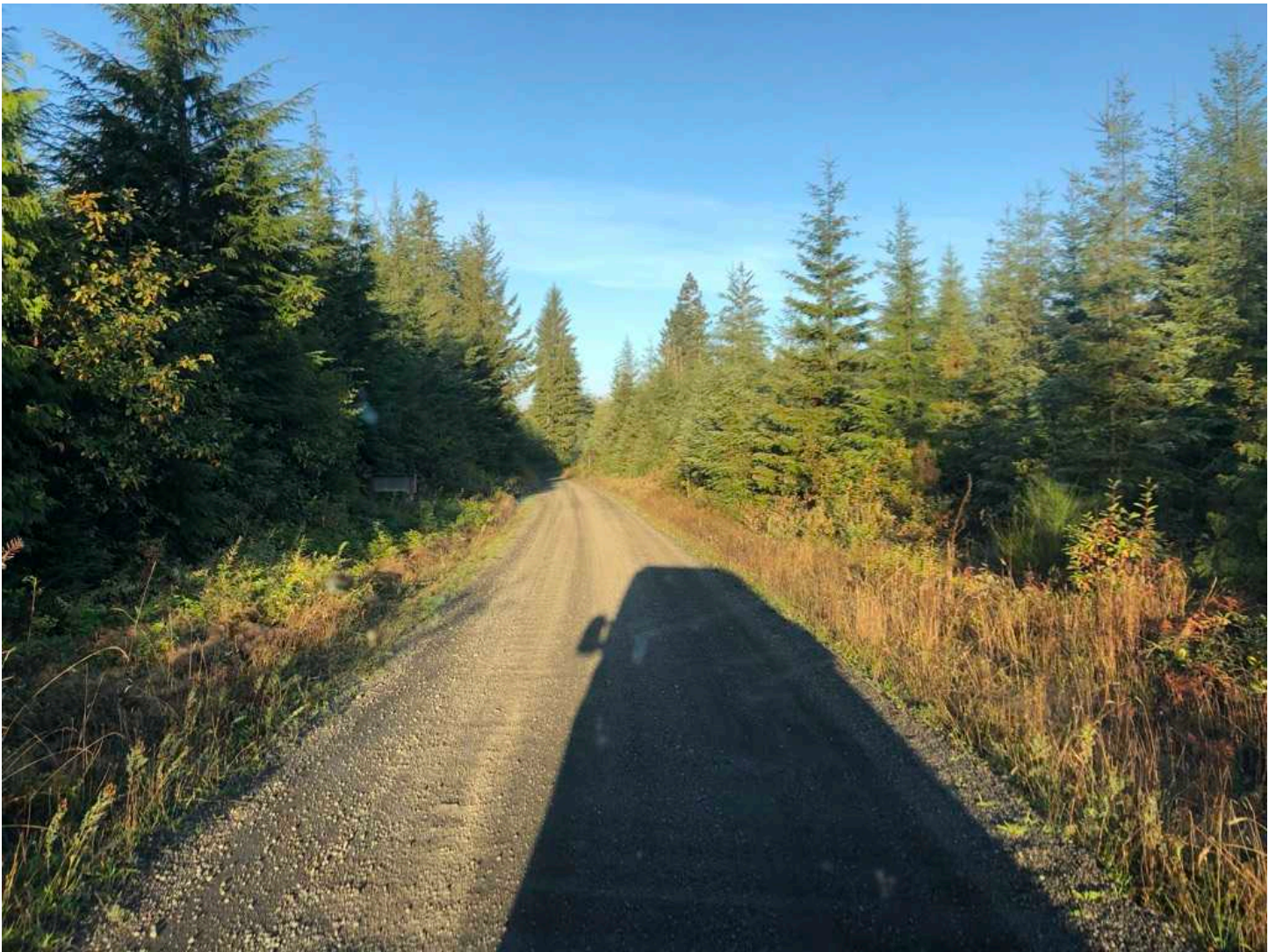


I had dinner and studied the Olympic National Park pamphlet, I am so excited for ONP tomorrow

## Day 23 – 9/15/21, Forest Road 2220, WA to Port Angeles, WA

Today I had an average day. This morning was beautiful, woke up after a great night sleep on the dirt Forest Road. Made my morning coffee and ate a nice warm bowl of oatmeal for breakfast. I took a couple of shots of my boondocking space and headed out to Olympic National Park.

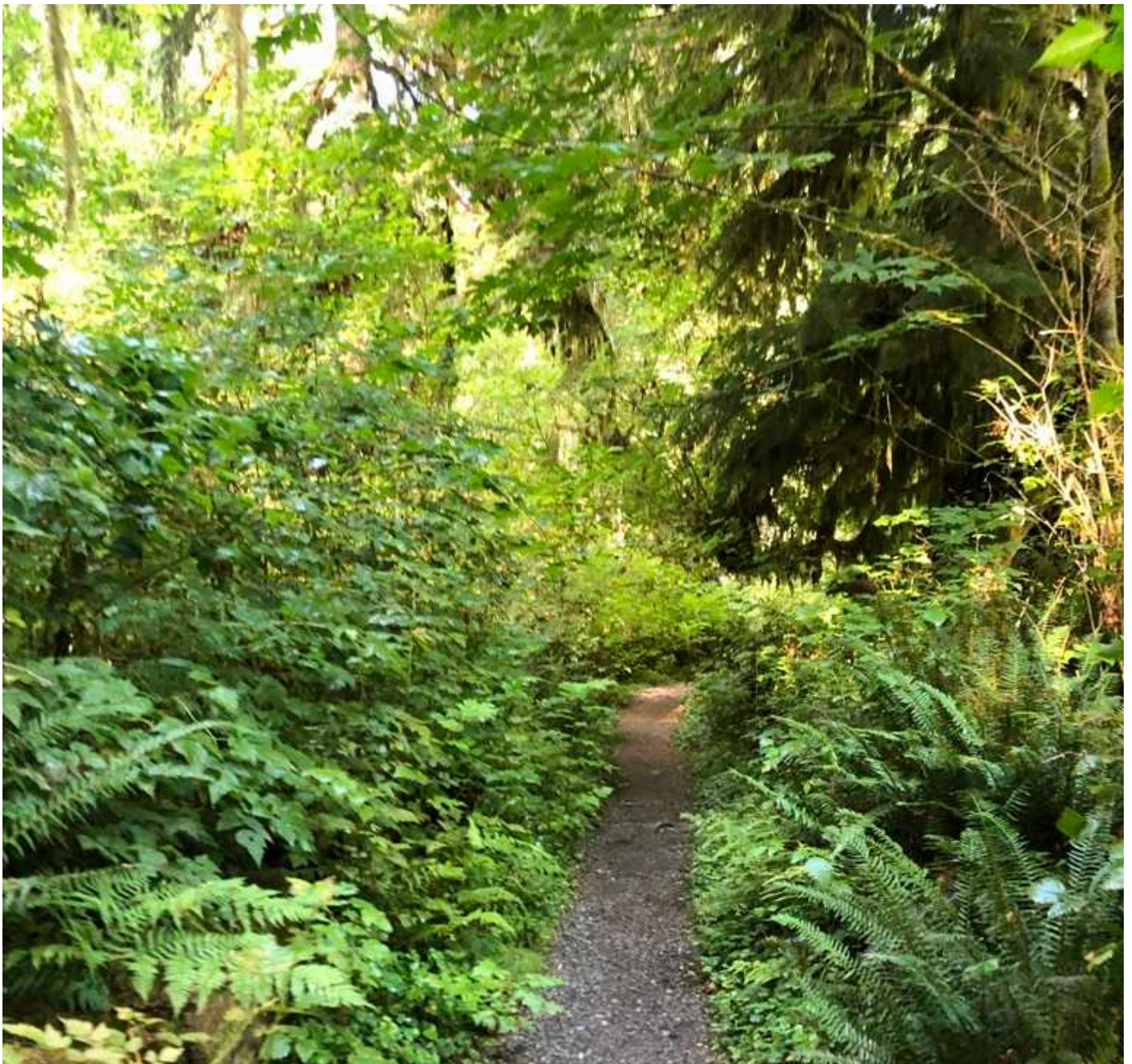
The road out to 101 was even prettier with the early morning sun



I entered the park in the south-west just north of Lake Quinault. The lake was beautiful, I was tempted to Kayak some of it, but it was very chilly that early in the morning.



Instead I chose to do 2 short hikes, the Quinault rain forest and Kestner Homestead. Both very nice.







After the Olympic NP stop, I planned to go to Cape Flattery via Neah Bay, about 130 miles away. As usual, I made several stops along the way.





Ruby beach had the typical drift wood about dispersed in the dark sand and also is home to “the tree” that is fully alive, but all its roots are exposed. Quite a sight.



Continuing north, I followed a road that paralleled Hoh river, it was very nice

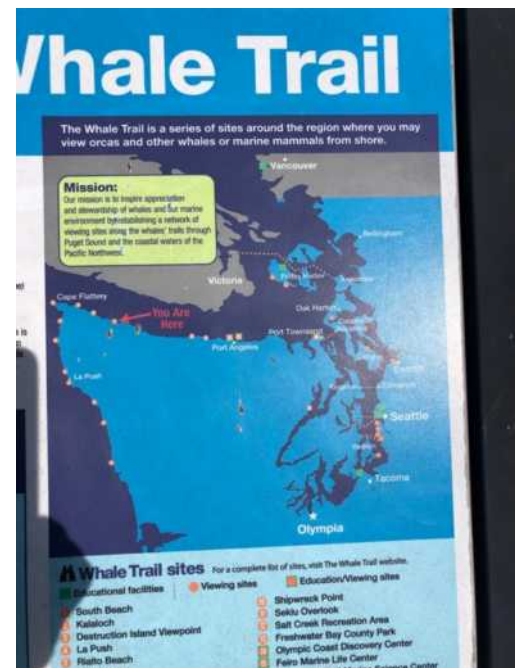
Along the way, I saw several vintage cars, 1960's, pulling camper of the same vintage. So when I stopped in Fork, I met a driver of one of those cars. They have a club and today was their day to venture out.



After Fork, I took the 113/112 north to Clallam Bay. Just past Clallam bay one can actually see strait of Juan de Fuca that created the border between the US and Canada. All the mountains that you see in the picture are part of Victoria, Canada.



Lots of beautiful scenery along the way.



As I approached Neah Bay, I saw a sign that it was closed to non-residents. Upon reaching the stop point, I was told the same and had to turn around. The only access to Cape Flattery is through Neah Bay, so my plans on visiting were spoiled. I was also going to boondock near Cape Flattery, but instead had to back track.

I headed to Port Angeles, perhaps see it, but my motivation had waned. And the average day came about.



I headed over to Salt Creek County Park only to find it fully booked, so I am boondocking on a nearby closed road.



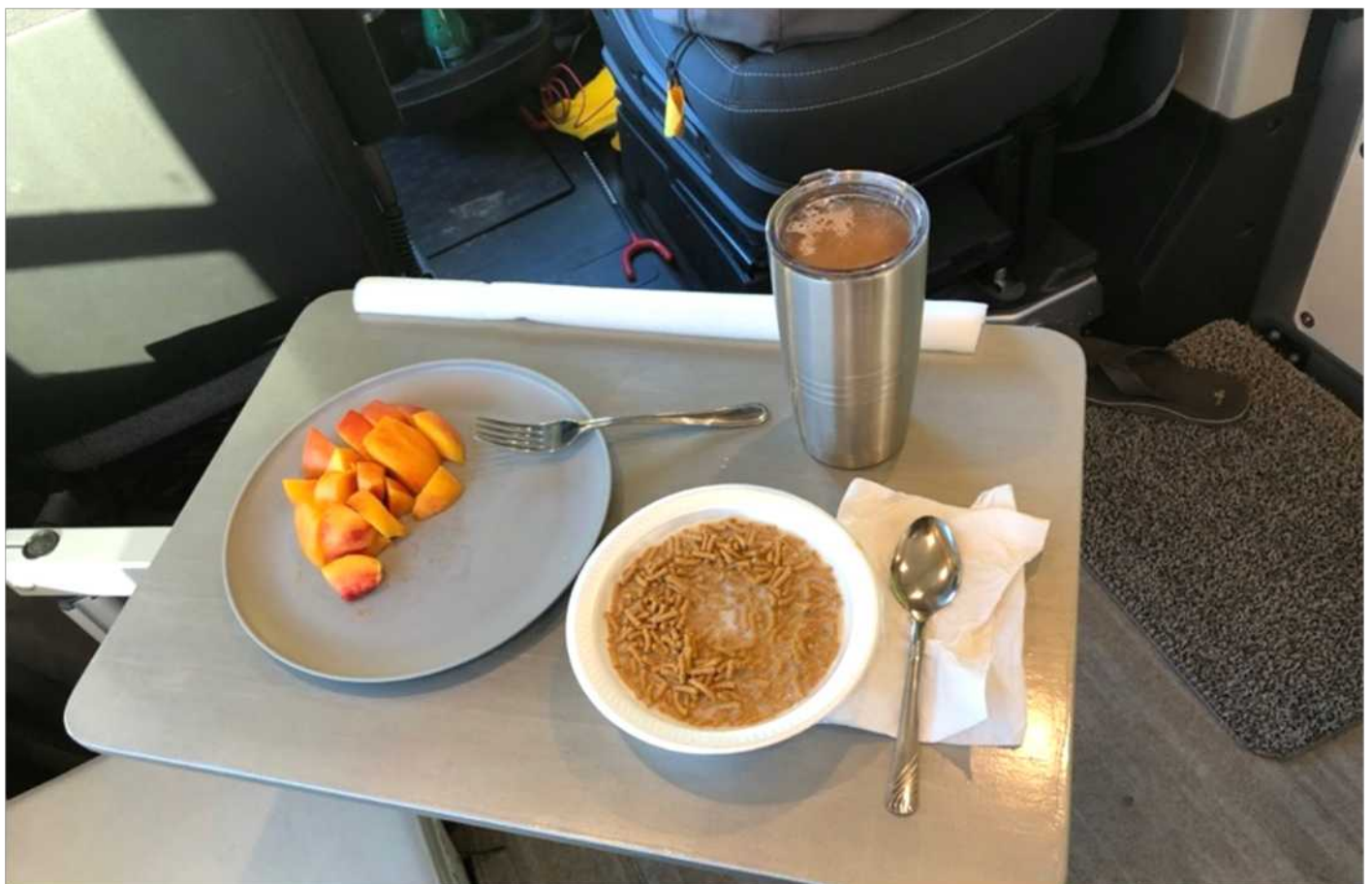
Made an avocado ham wrap for dinner and enjoyed a quiet evening before turning in. Tomorrow I will head over to Lake Crescent, on the north entrance to Olympic Park.

**Day 24 – 9/16/21, Port Angeles, WA to Forest Service Rd 2 miles south of 101 & 20, WA**

Today made up for yesterday and anything else that may have not gone so well thus far. My boondocking experience near Salt Creek was perfect. The morning was a balmy 37°F, but my Webasto worked like a charm, I had to ditch the blanket in the middle of the night.



After a hearty breakfast and a nice road out to Olympic National Park I got sidetracked again





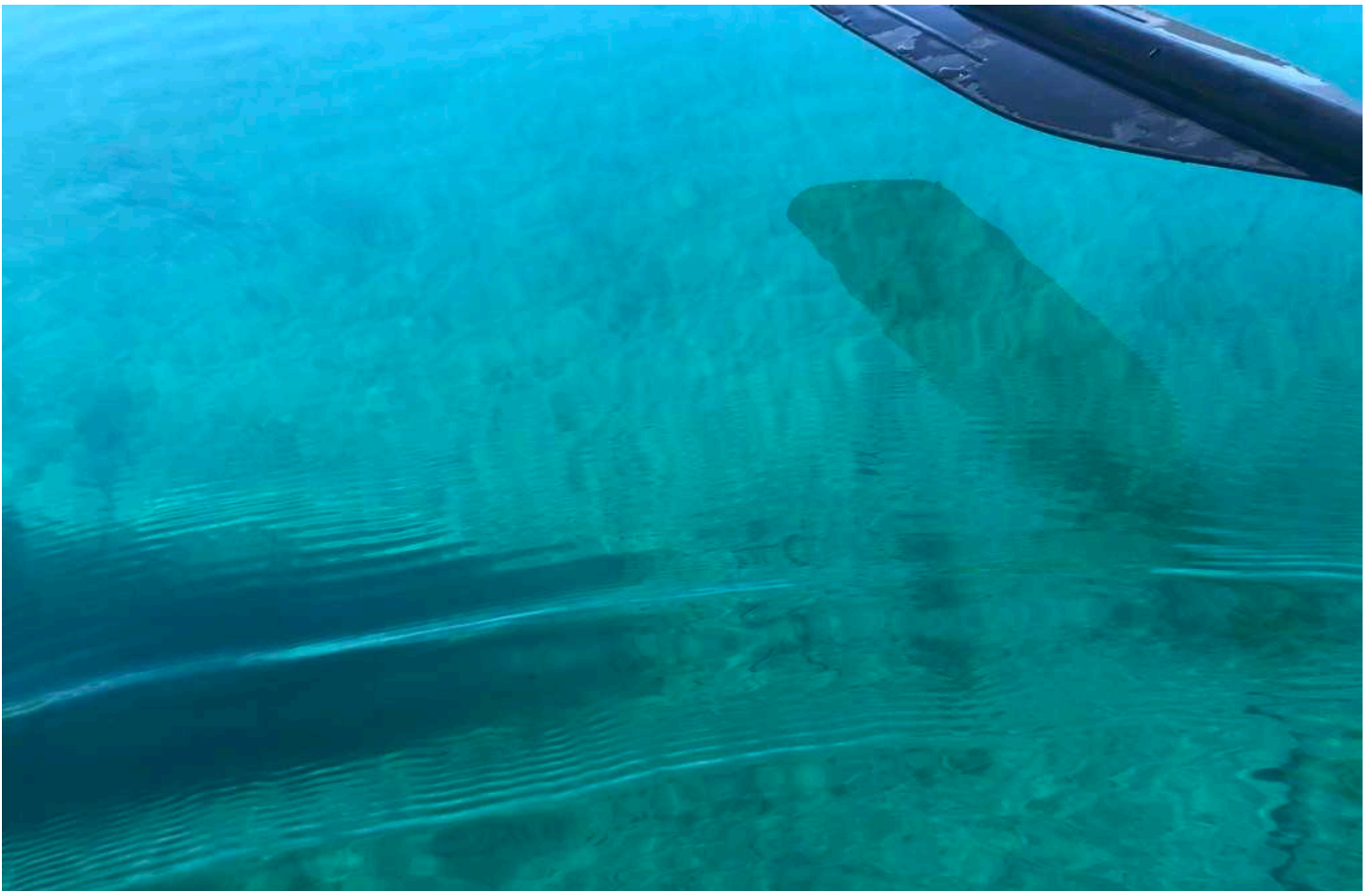
Bridge Photo from the dam river road. Notice the graffiti, lots of it in WA vs OR



And finally, Lake Crescent, a glacier lake, crystal clear, ~600 feet deep.



Kayak setup took me 14 minutes:50 seconds. This time I counted the pumps, 45 on the outer, 50 on the inner and 10 on the floor, 6 on all the others. And the water was so clear.







Always nice to be back on shore. One of the hardships of being alone is that you have no one to look after you/or each other. If something were to happen, you are 100% on your own. This applies to all activities, hiking, biking, kayaking and even driving, looking at directions or reading up interesting fact. Maybe some day.



As I was putting my kayak away, I met these 2 ladies that were traveling around in a van. They were curious to have a look at mine. I must say, out of all the home built ones I have seen thus far, mine has the best craftsmanship. They recommended that I go to Hurricane Ridge next and hike the trail. I had a quick Lunch and headed that way.

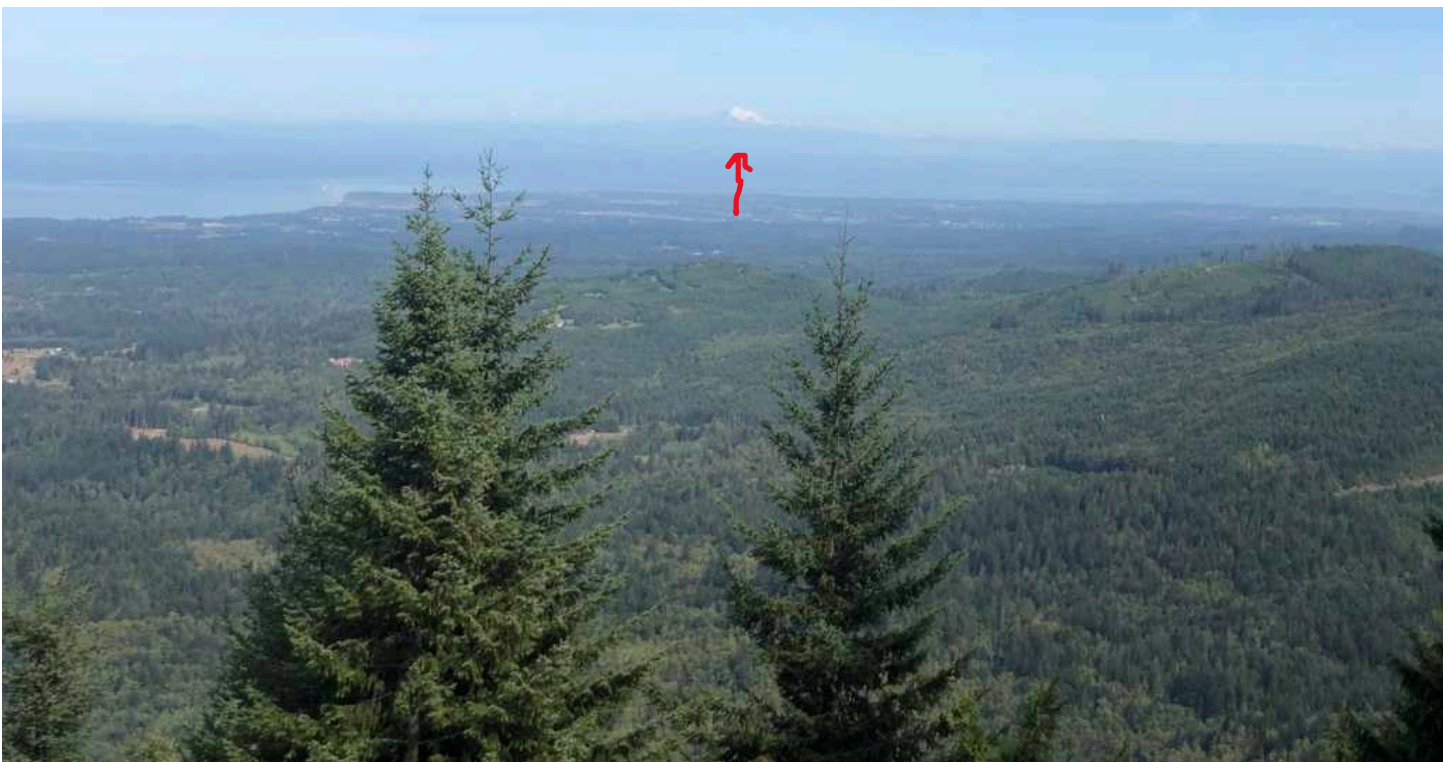
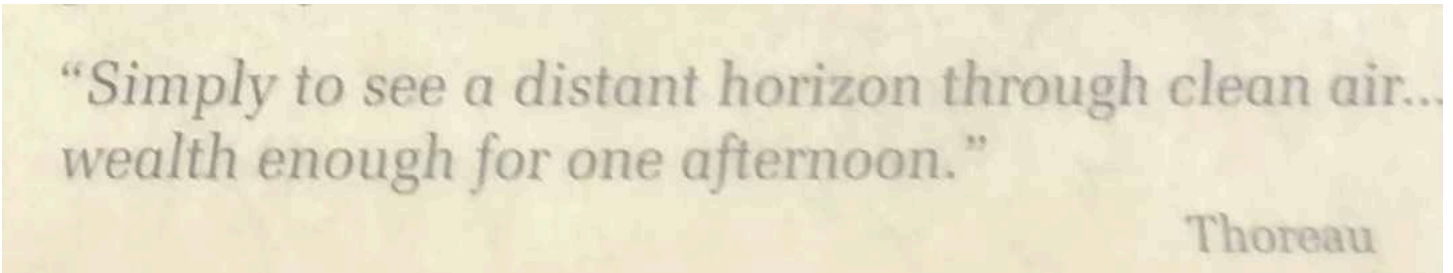
On the way up the mountain road they had lots of tunnels, they freak me out a bit.

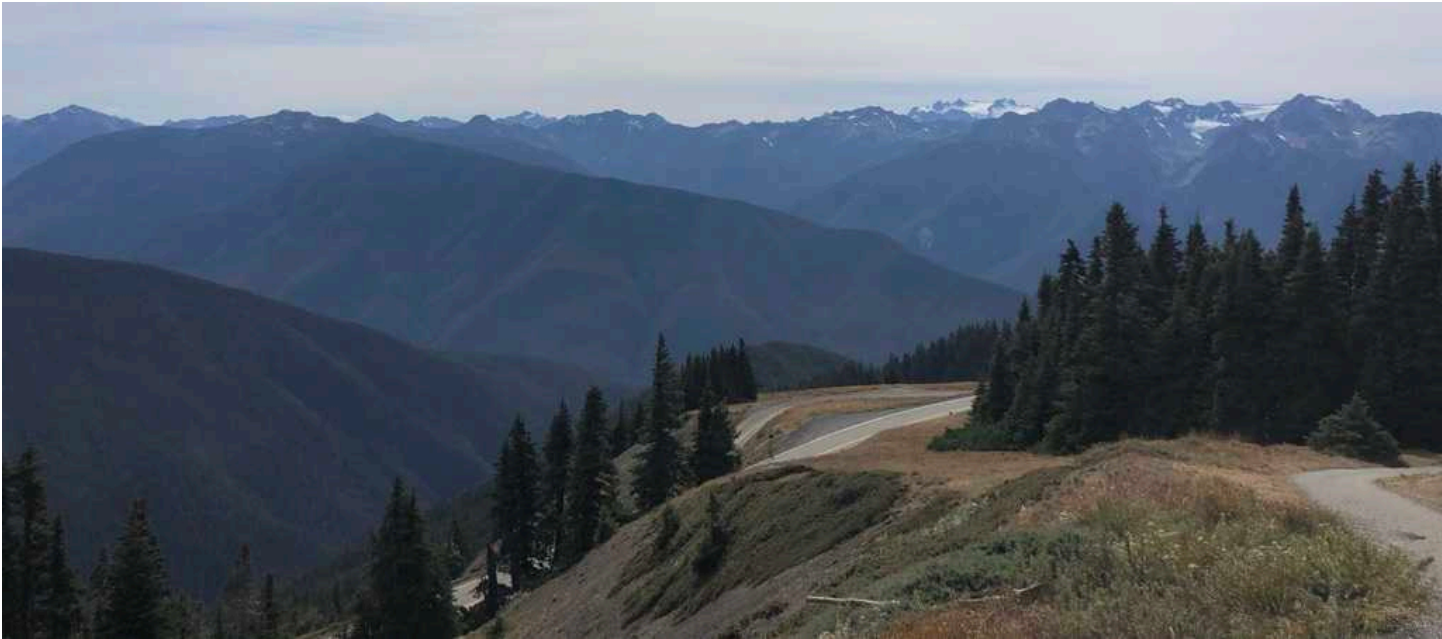


But it was a beautiful road.



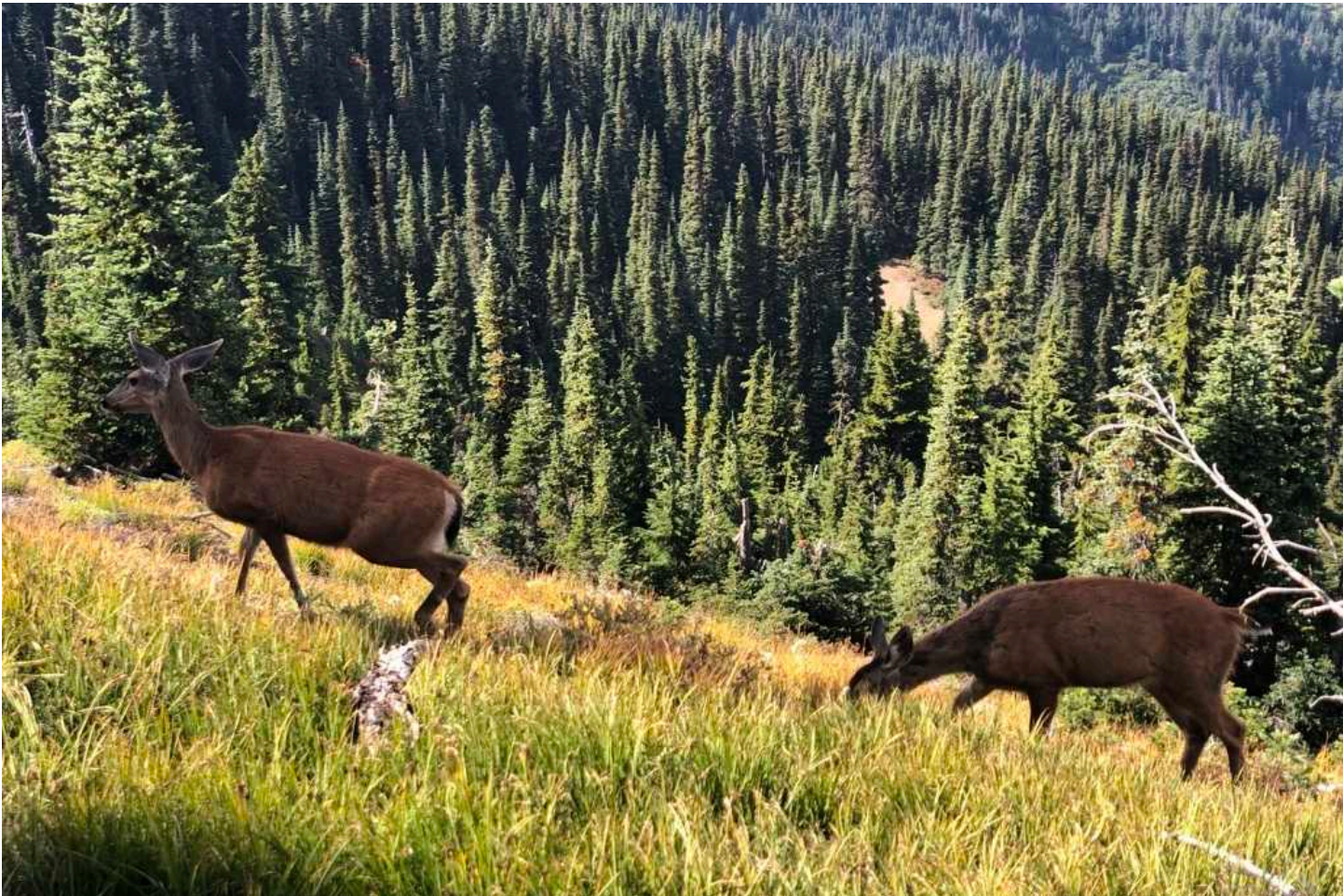
The day was so clear that you could see Mt Baker in the background, some 60+ miles away. So true







And some wildlife as well.



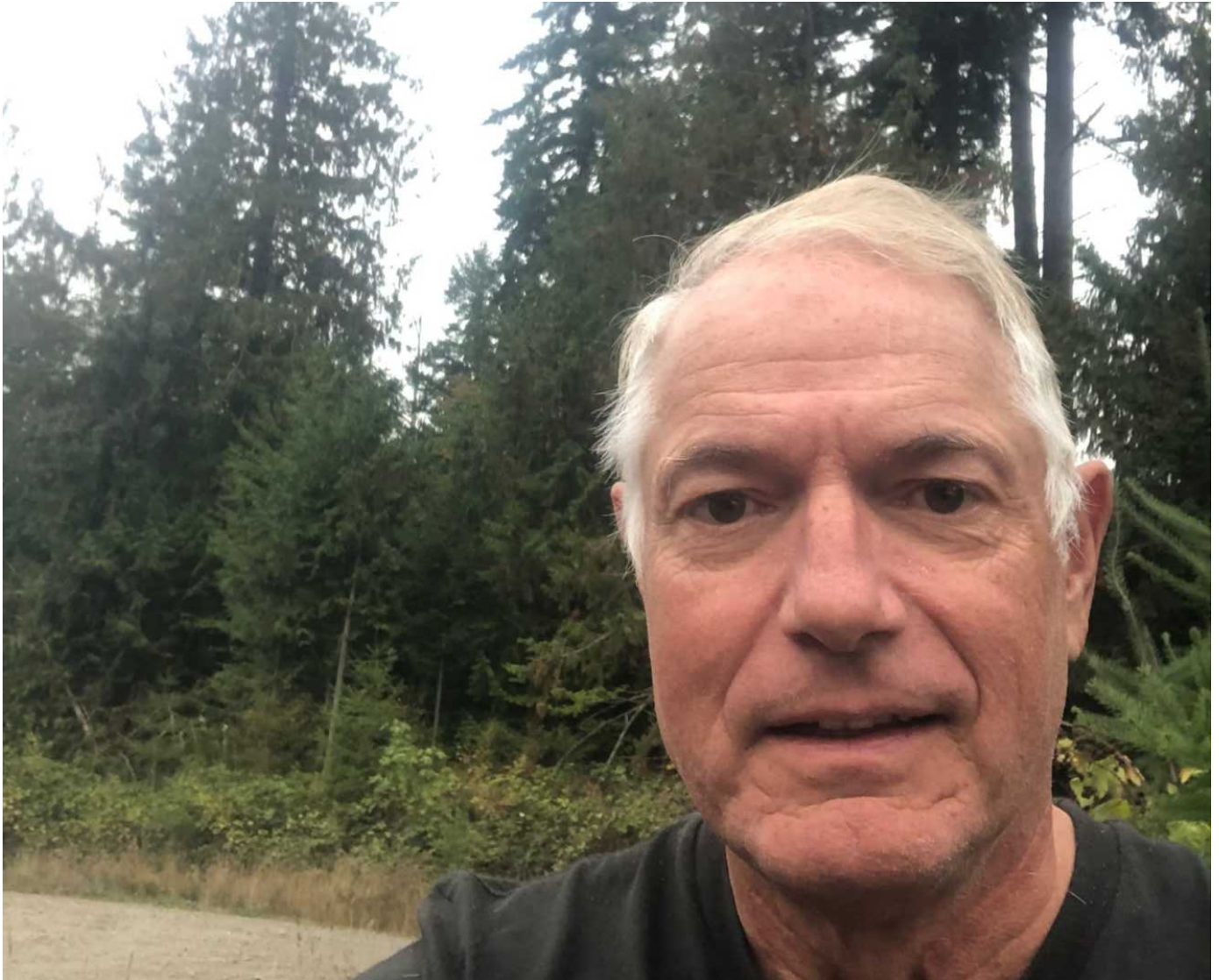
Alexandra took this picture for me, we hiked part of the way down the trail



Had a roadside snack with a great view



Boondocking at a random Forest road outside of Port Angeles, I decided to shave my beard as today would mark my "½ way" of my trip.



And boondocking in style, make sure you always back in the space just in case.



**Day 25 – 9/17/21, Forest Service Rd 2 miles south of 101 & 20, WA to Seattle, WA**

Nice short drive today, great night sleep on desolate forest road.

1<sup>st</sup> stop, Shine Tidelands state park, in Port Ludlow. Chilly overcast morning. After breakfast and some coffee hit the road



Hood Canal Floating bridge to Port Gamble.



Port Gamble, totally picturesque, clean, somewhat isolated and upscale







Ferry to Edmonds from Kingston, to Gas Works Park in Seattle.



The ferry takes you across a busy shipping channel.



My last time in Seattle was in 1997, quite different from today, massive sprawl and growth. Walked all over Gas Works park, although it drizzled this AM and was quite cold



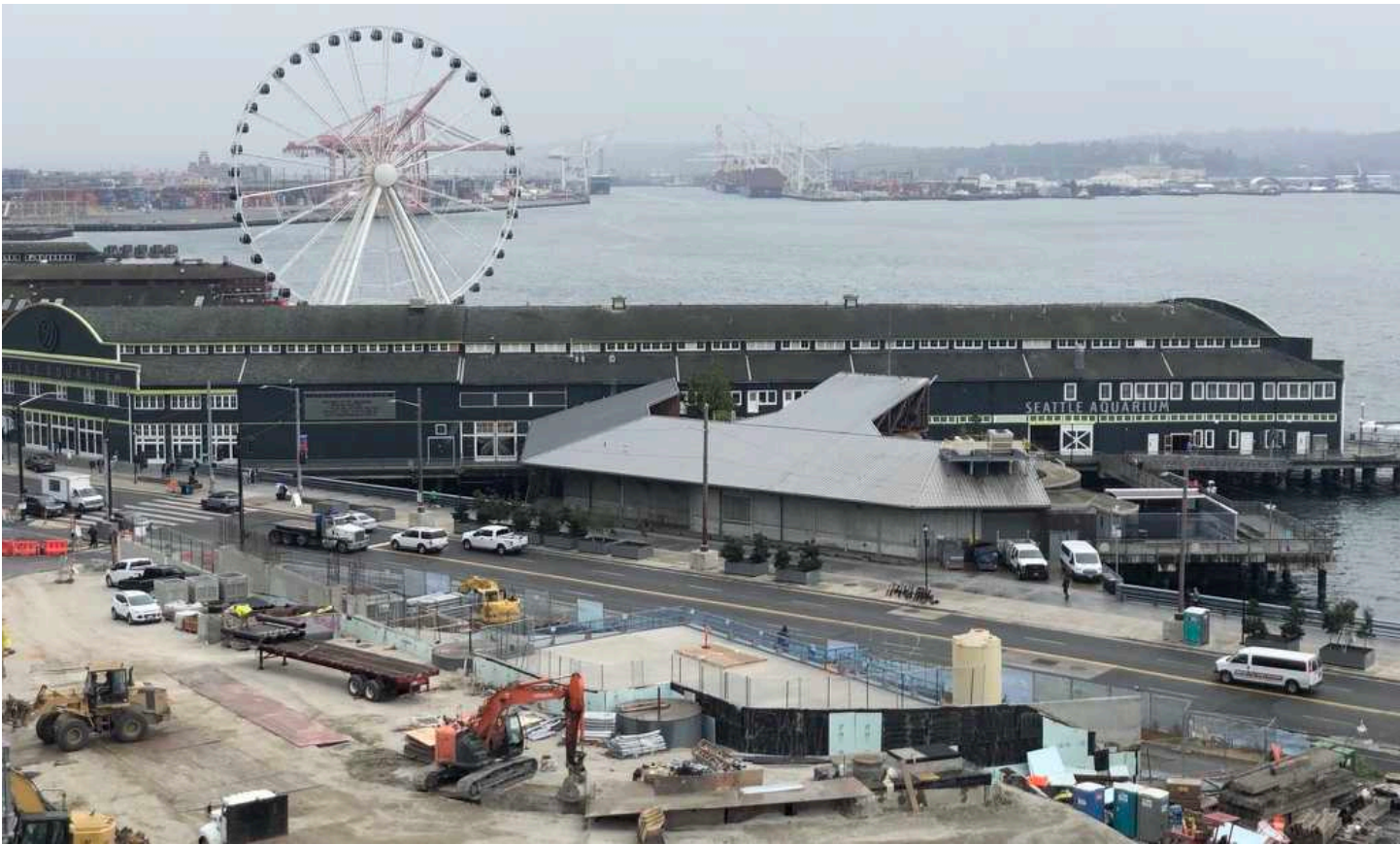
Nice city views





Next I headed to Pike Place Market, what a place so much bigger than what I remembered. I would say it is bigger than Pier 39 area in San Francisco and just as entertaining to watch people.





A ton of stores, from gourmet shops to pubs, and the Pike Place Fish Co. where they throw the fish between the sales people for a good show.



The first Starbucks, line must have been 100 people deep.



Cheese and meats



More restaurants, artesian crafts to SMICH (Shit Made In China), souvenir stores galore, food markets, etc. and lots of people with little or no social distancing.

After lingering for quite a while there, I drove through Downtown, busy as every downtown, big mistake, although seeing the steep up/down hills reminded me of San Fran.

Found a quiet street parking space on Summit Ave and went out and about the neighborhood in search for some dinner. No cooking or prepping in the van tonight.

I am holding out for a nice day tomorrow to bike ride some of the many city bike paths, I am so looking forward to it.

Boondocked near St Marks church, a bit noisy, but safe and away from the homeless tent encampments.

### **Day 26 – 9/18/21, Seattle, WA to Federal Way, WA**

Although my plans were somewhat cut short because of the weather, rain early AM, then clear for 3-4 hours until noon, and then rain continuously into the night

Usual routine of AM coffee on centennial park by Elliott's bay, and a ride on the bikeway

Enjoyed the south towards Pike Market and then north towards Discovery Park. About 15 miles of bike path quasi flat and a moderate wind.







Train right through the city's waterfront





The nice blue sky didn't last very long.



Bike lanes with their own signal, very nice and very safe.



Snapped this as I was leaving Seattle and that was the last blue sky for the next several hours.



I packed up once the rain started and per the forecast it was not going to let up. I figured I would work on my ride report while hunkered down, but even Starbucks WiFi is crappy.

I headed to where I know there is great WiFi, the Apple store in South Center Mall, not too far south from Seattle and on the way to Mt Rainer in case the weather clears

Finally, I published days 10-20, and felt pretty much on schedule. I know not a lot of people read them or even look at the pictures, but I do it for me. It keeps me young, and when I get older and grow up, they will be great memories for me.

I spent the night a bit further south where I-5 meets route 18, the exit for Mt Rainer

Quite evening but an exciting dinner in that new oven/crock pot I bought earlier on the trip. Beef ribs, I overcooked them a bit, but now I think I can make them again without over doing it. I am getting addicted to van travel.



## Day 26 – 9/19/21, Federal Way, WA to Portland, OR

The day started with heavy rain, and quick check of Mt Rainer's webcams confirmed that a visit was not going to happen. Instead, I headed south toward Portland OR to perhaps see if I can go to Crater Lake NP. As the rain stopped, a beautiful rainbow emerged, a good positive sign.



On the way going south on I-5, I saw a sign for Olympia State Capitol. The weather was iffy, some rain, some spots of blue sky and then more rain

I got lucky, it stopped raining for the 2 hours I was there and started again just as I was walking towards Road Art.



Awesome place, completely open to visitors, hardly any security, which was quite surprising given the times we live in.

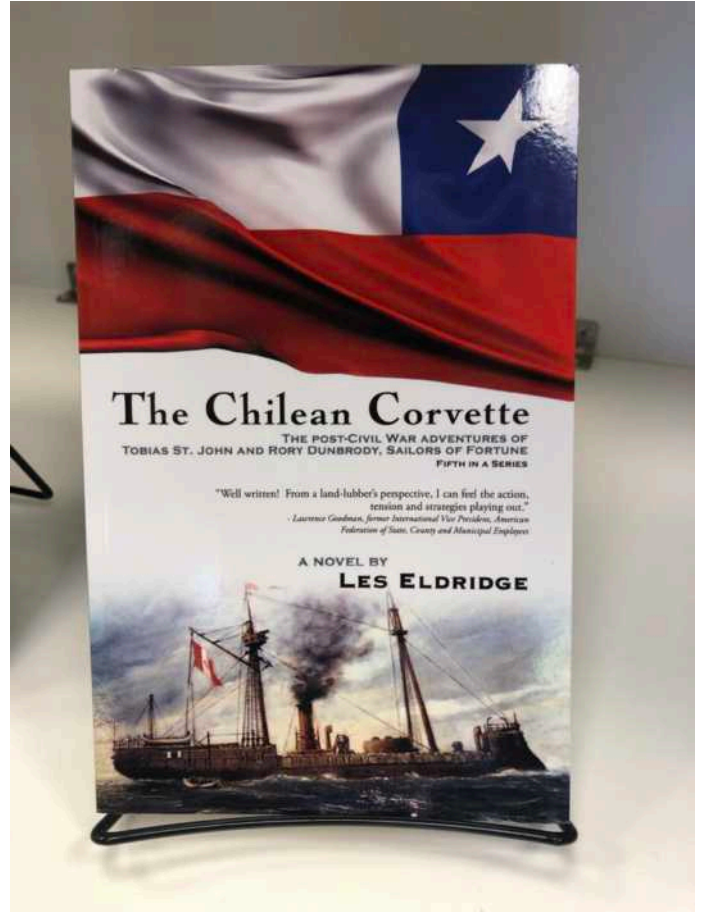




Room where the State Senate cast its Presidential votes and Court building



In the gift shop, 2 things peeked my attention



Afterwards, since it was raining, I stopped at a few stores, Home Depot, West Marine as I am still figuring out some things in the van. And once more welcome to Oregon.





**Day 27 – 9/20/21, Portland, OR to Forest Road on Hwy 230, near 62 CLNP**

I left Portland with some more rain/sunny mix and continued heading south with the aim of visiting Crater Lake National Park (CLNP).



As I hit Salem, I once more saw signs for Salem State Capitol. Oregon Capitol buildings seemed like the poor cousin to Washington's Capitol.

One observation I would make is that while Washington spends money on their "fat cat politicians" and fancy buildings that only a few enjoy, they skimp on their roads and visitor facilities and roads. Oregon's state & local recreation areas and roads give the travelers a far more superior experience.





I was still looking for a few things for a van and finally found a Lowes, lots of Home Depots, but not what I needed. I did get a clamp and spring that I needed and before going on my way, I saw a supercuts and got a haircut. I feel like I am living in Dallas, visiting Home Depots, Lowes, Supercuts, Costco, Safeway, etc. LOL

Once past Eugene, I started heading east away from I-5. The landscape quickly improved. Saw a sign for a covered bridge and stopped by to check it out.

I called Albertito for his birthday from Lowell Covered Bridge.

Lowell Covered Bridge, first built in 1907, later rebuilt in 1945.



And the road became ever more beautiful, weather too, clear and sunny!



**Day 28 – 9/21/21, Forest Road on Hwy 230, near 62 CLNP to Crater Lake National Park**

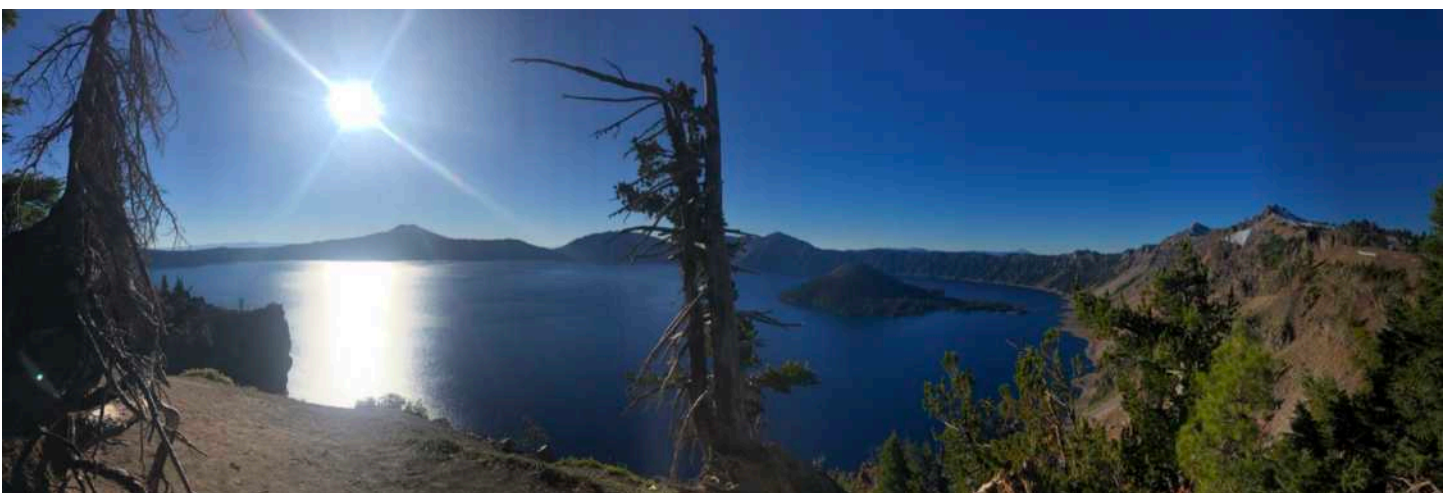
Woke up to a chilly 34°F morning, but my heater kept me toasty warm.

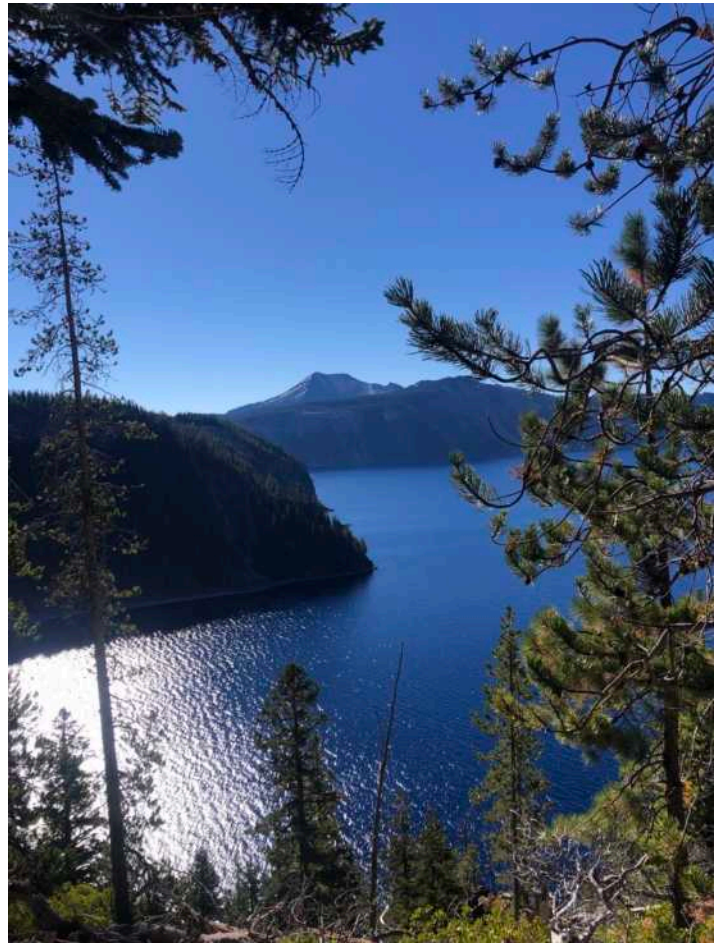


Crater Lake has to be among one of the most beautiful places I have ever been too. The approach and surrounding area, beauty everywhere.



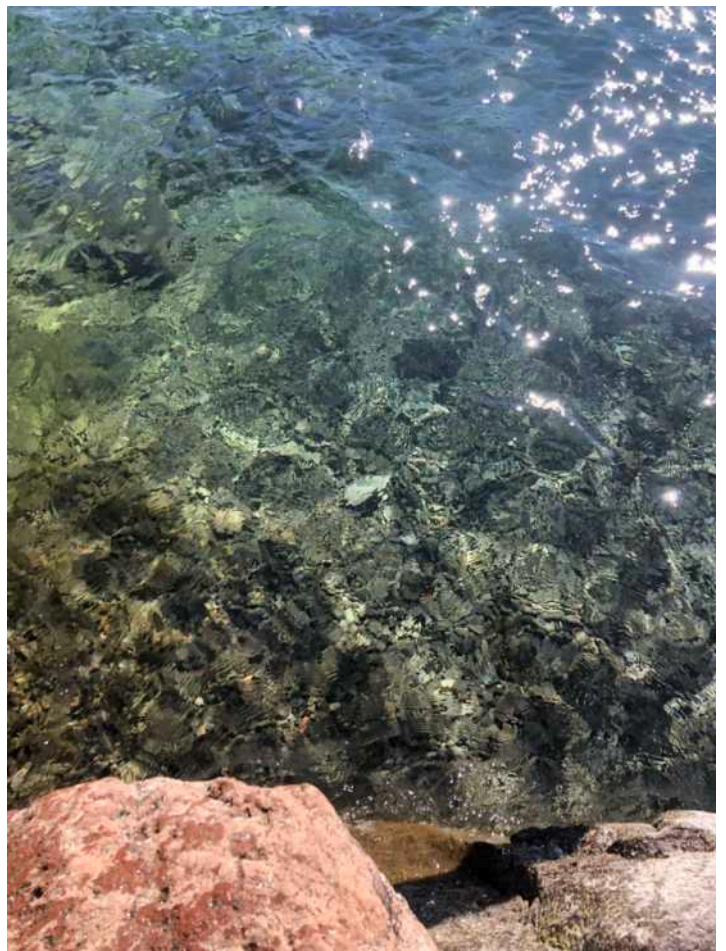
My first glimpse, WOW, WOW, WOW! Words cannot describe it and photos don't do it justice. One of the most beautiful places I have ever visited. I probably pulled into every viewpoint and did mini hikes to most and the best viewing areas.





I did 2 big hikes, one to Cleetwood Cove where you can swim, a 700 feet descend and climbed Mt Scott, 1,250 feet ascend, both stunning in their own way.

The water was crystal clear, on average you can see down 90 feet and many times up to 130 feet. Temperature is cold although dipping my feet did not feel bad at all.



A cute little chipmunk,



As the day wore on, the lake turned bluer than blue, spectacular!

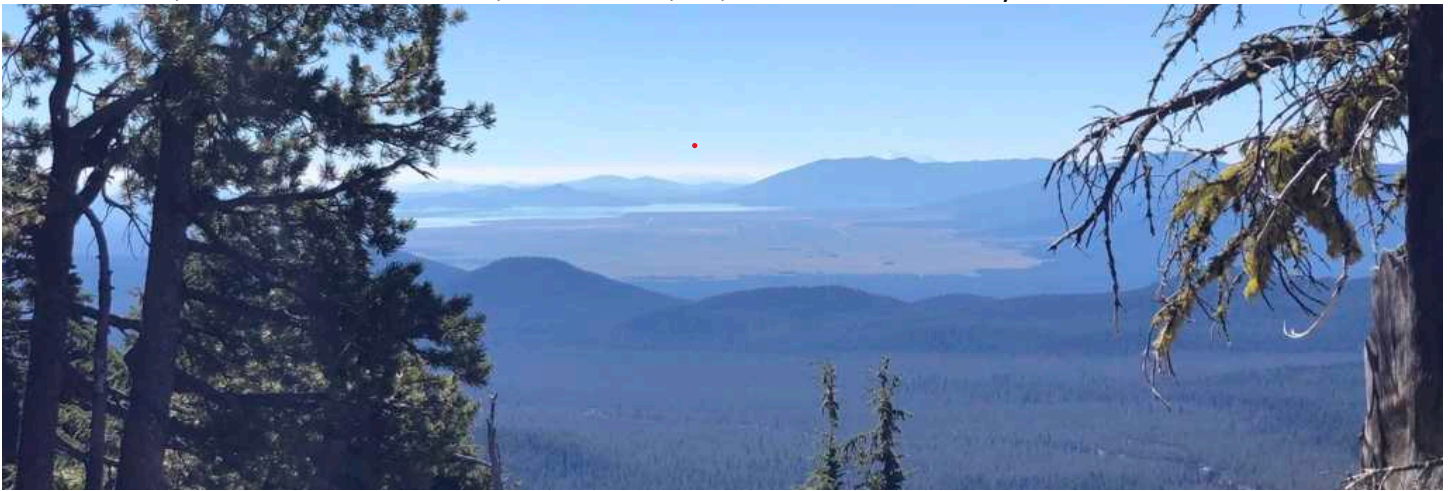




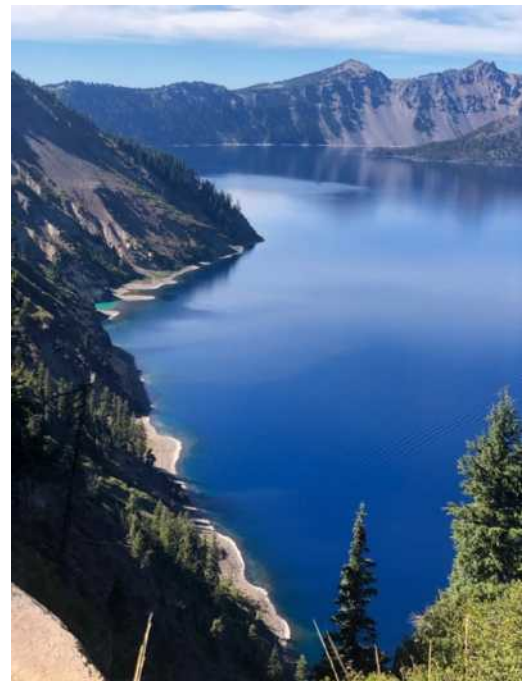




In the middle, underneath the red dot, is Mt Shasta, CA, some 130 miles away.



And as I climbed up, the views got better and better



At the top.



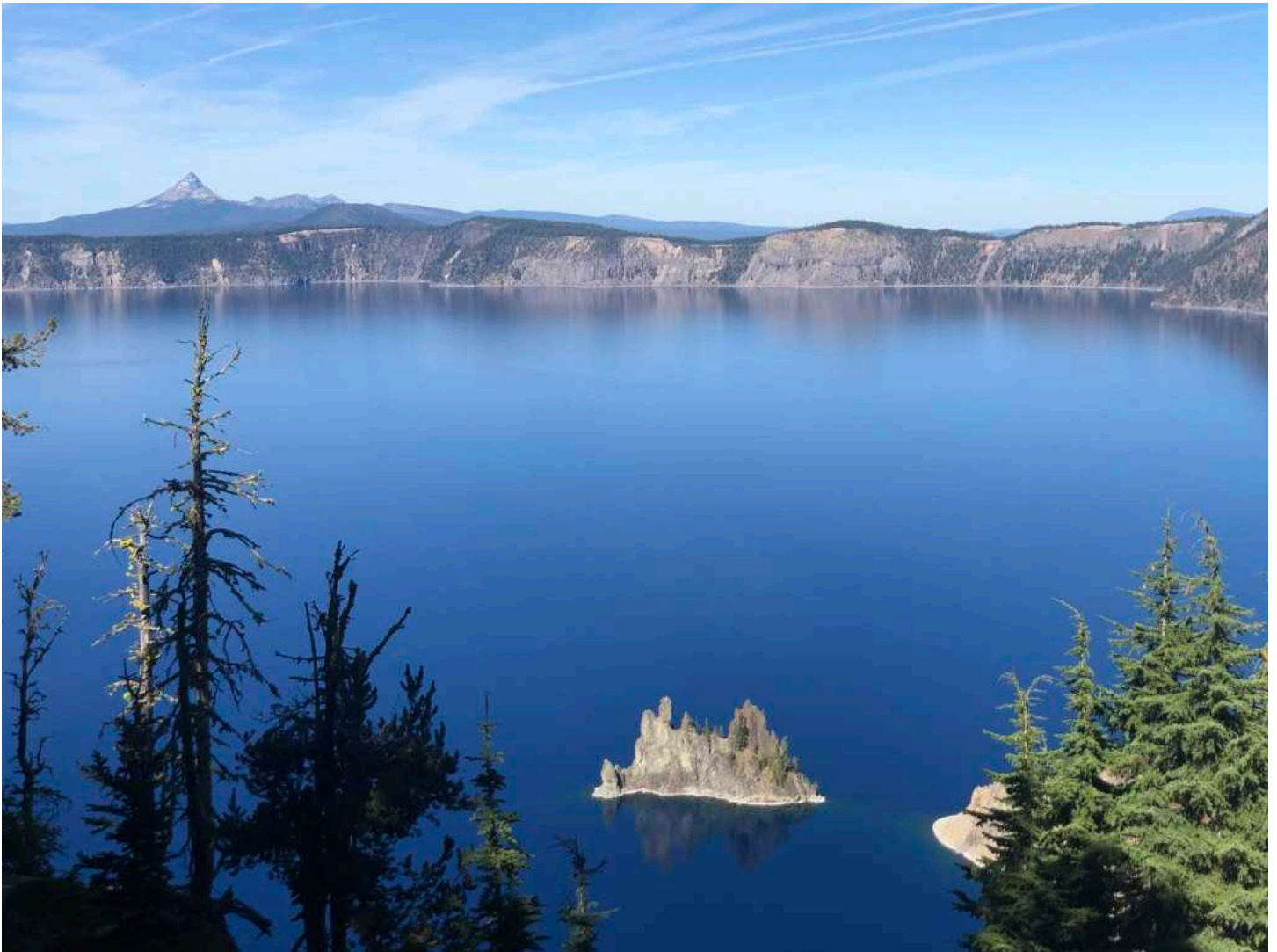
A little bit of snow



I spent the night in the park so I could do the west rim the next day.

**Day 29 – 9/22/21, Crater Lake National Park to Lake Siskiyou, CA**

I hiked discovery point, imagine stumbling upon this on your exploration hike.



As I headed south mid-day, the winds caused havoc blowing the ash into the area of Mt Shasta. Yesterday I could see it from 130 miles away, this is from 25 miles away.



Sad to see all the fire damage, mile after mile.



Once south of Weed, I found a spot to boondock and awoke with others that had the same idea. Haha



**Day 30 – 9/23/21, Lake Siskiyou, CA to Lake Britton and Burney Falls, CA**

The day started with a paddle on lake Siskiyou, the water levels were way down, mostly due to the current drought. The overnight winds blew the ashes east and the views cleared. Overall a spectacular morning.



From ducks to white pelicans, plenty to see.



There was a loop around the lake, a 7 miler dirt path that had my calling. Very nice ride.



After the lake activity on my way to Lake Britton and Burney Falls, the views of Mt Shasta really came through.



This lookout was announced 8 miles away, you would figure they would cut an opening in the trees.





I explore almost every marked viewpoint or vista point, this is near Lake Britton and Lake Britton Beach.



**To be continued....**