

May 21, 2018

My wife and I recently returned from a two week road trip through western Nevada and the central Arizona. I pulled our 5th wheel trailer, which allowed us the ability to stop in many interesting places to spend the night at a very reasonable cost with full RV hookups.

One interesting place we spent a couple of nights was Hawthorne Nevada, which is literally in the middle of the desert. We found out that Hawthorne Nevada is the home of the Largest Army Ordinance depot in the world or was at one time. Looking at the area using google maps you can see hundreds of bunkers throughout the area, which contain vast quantities of munitions for use by the military during war time.

The very dry climate is perfect for the storage of all types of munitions. The town is about the size of Fortuna and most of the residents are employed by the depot, which has been there since 1929.

We also spent a few days at Lake Mead and visited the Hoover Dam, which is quite an engineering feat. Once the largest dam in the world now overshadowed by the one built a few years ago in China. Still it is worth seeing by driving or walking over or by taking advantage of a tour of the dam itself.

We eventually left Nevada and ended up in the Flagstaff area in central Arizona, also famous as the gateway to the Grand Canyon. We spent a day at the Grand Canyon, first at the main

visitor center and then we drove 25 miles to what is called the desert view center of the Canyon. Both locations provided spectacular views of this wonder of the world. It is breathtaking and if you haven't been there you should make an effort to do so.

During this trip through primarily desert we encountered 100 degree weather, some very mild weather, the threat of snow showers in Flagstaff and a very rainy night near Alamo Nevada. We also encountered some very nice folks along the way and learned to appreciate other areas of our country.

One evening I was fueling up in Williams Arizona when a guy pulled up and began to put diesel in his truck. He looked over at me and said " can you believe the cost of diesel"? the price at the pump was \$3.40 a gallon. I asked if he was a resident of Arizona and he said he was. I replied that I was from California and before I crossed the border into Nevada I paid \$4.00 a gallon for diesel. He just shook his head and stopped complaining. The lowest I paid for diesel, outside of California, was \$3.00 a gallon most places were around \$3.15 a gallon. Another example of the higher costs to live in California and how lower the cost of the things we use on a regular basis are in neighboring states.

All in all a great trip and looking forward to seeing more of our country in the future. This has been Mike Downey for Community Comment.