

Memo

April 6th 2001

To: Dave Clark, Jim Morris, John Apel, George Rummele, Lorie Rummele, and Dwayne Moats

From: Doug Owen

RE: Alternate return route near Big Cinder for Broken Top Loop

Yesterday I performed a reconnaissance survey of the alternate route for the return portion of the Broken Top Loop. Linda Humphreys accompanied me and took digital images of some of the special features and they are available for your viewing. Dave has already seen the pictures and we have discussed some of the pros and cons of this route.

Special Features:

- ⊕ Just to the west of the wilderness trail on the cinder hill, a large number of volcanic bombs (spindle, breadcrust, and ribbon) are exposed on the surface, many of them are small enough to be easily carried off.
- ⊕ Good ropes and billows.
- ⊕ Some of the dead snags have some of the most robust and beautiful lichens growing on them that I have seen anywhere in the park.
- ⊕ Outstanding blue glass on lava toes associated with breakouts from the lava lake.
- ⊕ The vista across the lava lake, a.k.a. sheet flow, a.k.a. pressure plateau, is nothing short of spectacular.
- ⊕ Many good examples of "dragons teeth" cooling cracks.
- ⊕ Stellar healthy colonies of Christmas Ferns in a number of the deeper cracks.
- ⊕ Some impressive squeeze ups in some of the fractures, including some hollow ones with blue glass on the surface reminiscent of what used to be found at North Crater Flow Trail and called the "Devil's Sewer".
- ⊕ Small tephra cone $\cong 15'$ high that formed post crust formation on the sheet flow.
- ⊕ A number of nice inflation structures and an outstanding large inflation pit.
- ⊕ Impressive tilted slabs along the south edge of the sheet flow, much like can be seen just beyond Buffalo Caves, but not quite as tall.

Pros:

1. Plenty to interpret
2. Better vista across the sheet flow
3. Better ferns than found near Buffalo Caves
4. A few features, such as the pipe like squeeze ups that are not found on the current trail.

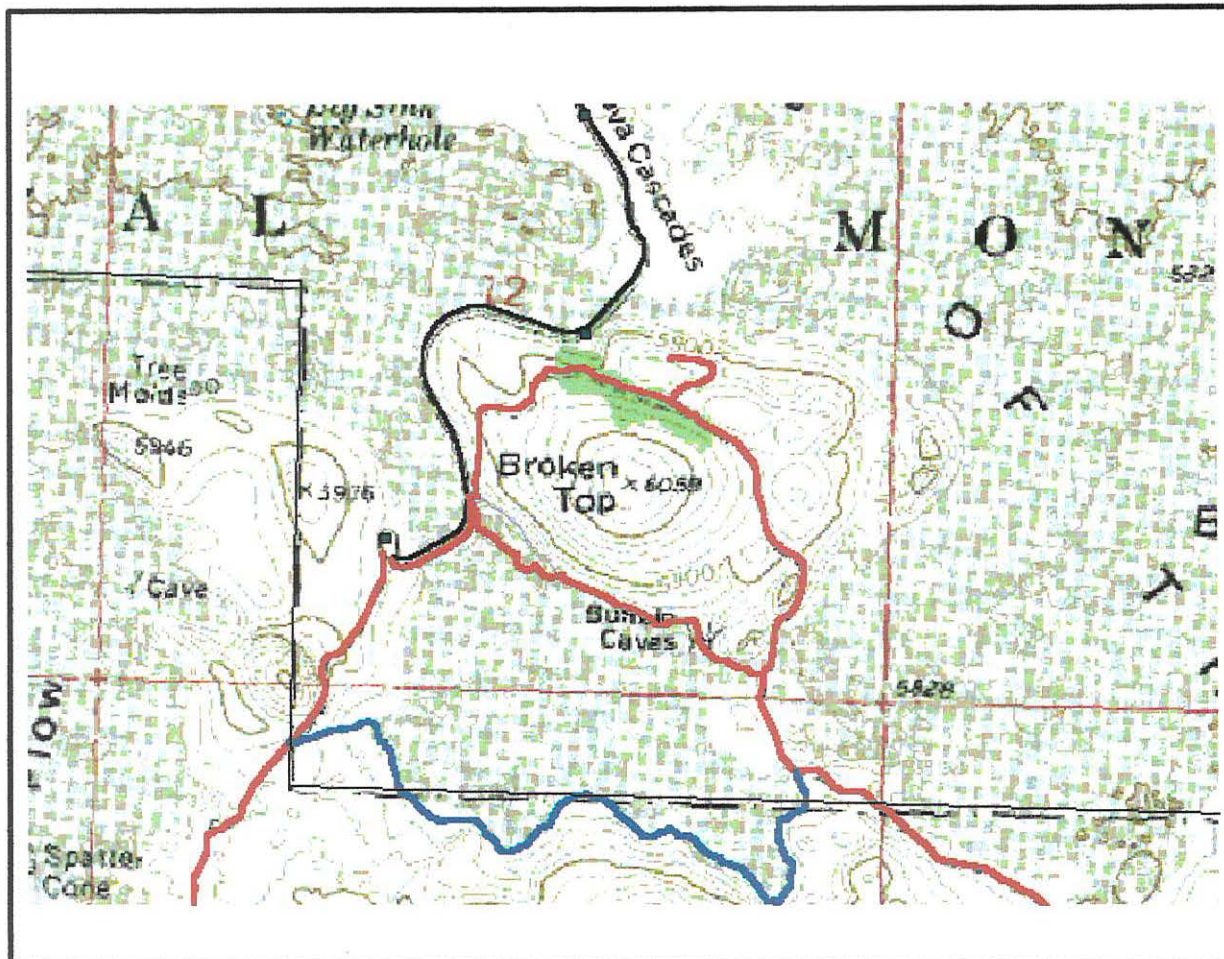
Cons:

1. Area is basically pristine
2. Concerned that the bombs would walk
3. Concerned that someone might try and collect the pipe like squeeze ups with blue glass
4. Some portions of the trail would be as rough as the existing trail
5. Portions fall within the wilderness area
6. Large stretches would need cairns to mark the path across the sheet flow
7. Overall I think that there would be more work involved in developing this segment than doing what we can to improve the existing trail.
8. Adds considerable distance to the loop trail, making it too long for school groups with younger children.
9. Distance involved in a rescue could be greater

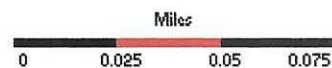
Recommendations:

- ♣ Not develop this area, but consider adding a wild hike that visits this area to our special programs for the summer.
- ♣ Consider adding a few treated wood or plastic wood steps or possibly just a simple handrail to the few steep sections of the existing trail.

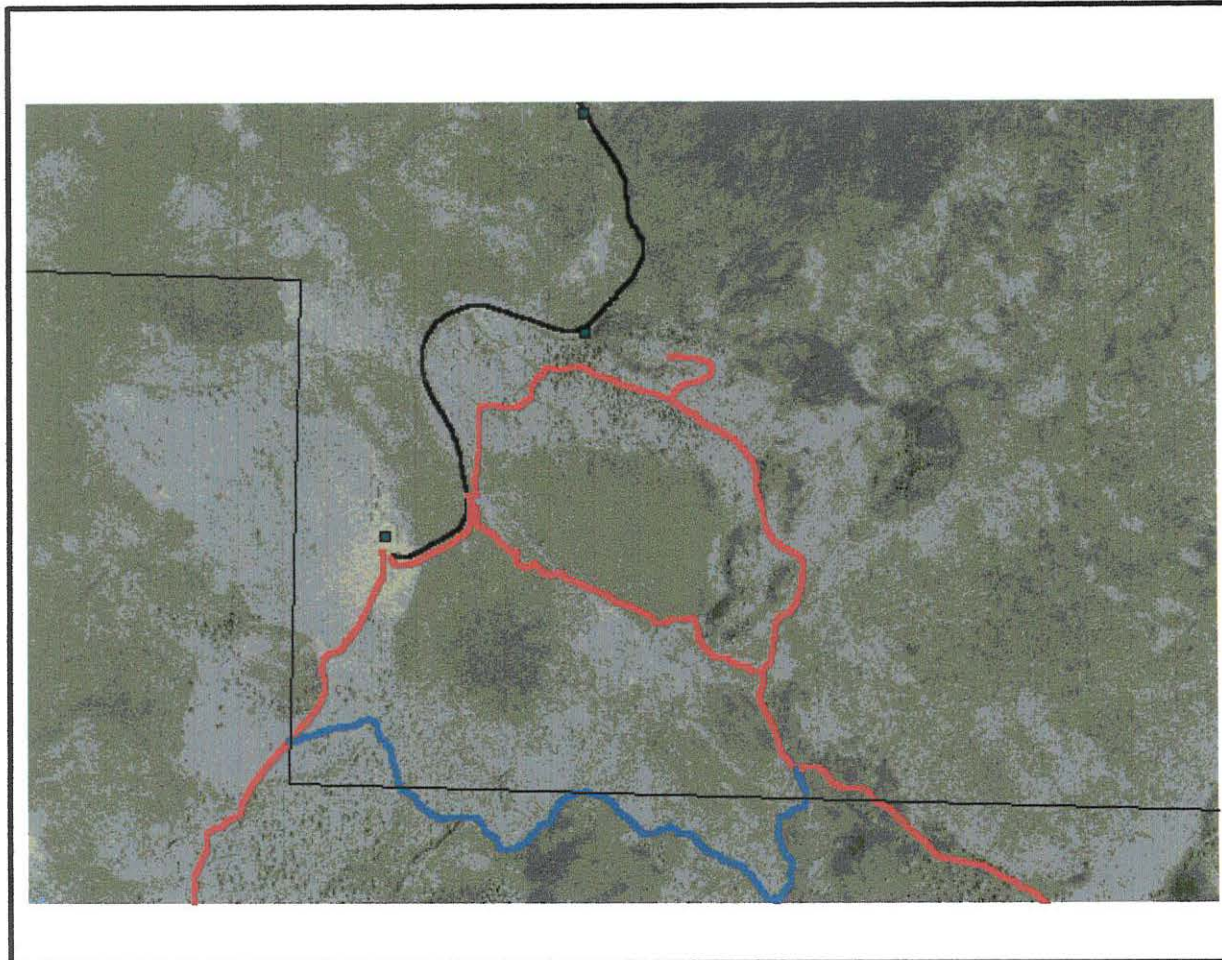
Broken Top Trail



- boundarycp
- ALT4_Trail
- walkway
- BS_spurtrail
- BT2_Trail
- trailgps
- parkingdot
- Roads (TYPE)
 - Graded Dirt
 - Paved-1 Lane
 - Paved-2 Lane
 - Unimproved



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