

At the Buena Vista Overlook¹

The sign exhorts me to *Discover the Buena Vista Overlook!*
so I park and stroll up the hill
400 yards or so
in the bright sunshine
across ancient basalt flows to
a magnificent viewpoint where,

someone has left a bag of dog shit.

What could possibly go through the mind of the person who
came thousands of miles to this *Buena Vista* and
probably drove to the overlook instead of walked
from the parking area 400 meters down hill
where a trash can waits open-mouthed
to receive bags of dog shit
and then stopped his car so his dog could relieve itself,
carefully packaged its leavings in
a blue plastic bag,
knotted,
and left it in the middle of the sidewalk?

Did he STAND WITH THE HAMMONDS²
plead the signs in Burns
or will he vote for ANYONE BUTT REID³
plead the signs in Eureka
or is he apolitical and just
didn't want a bag of dog shit in his car
for the two minutes it would take to drive
400 yards to the trash can
waiting silently
open-mouthed
to receive it?

At least it was in a bag.

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¹The Buena Vista Overlook is a stop on the Auto Tour Route within the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which is about 50 km south of the city of Burns, Oregon.

²The Hammonds provided the flashpoint for, but did not support, Ammon Bundy et al. to stage an anti-government, armed occupation of the Malheur NWR headquarters for 41 days in early 2016.

³Harry Reid is the senior senator from Nevada and one-time Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate.