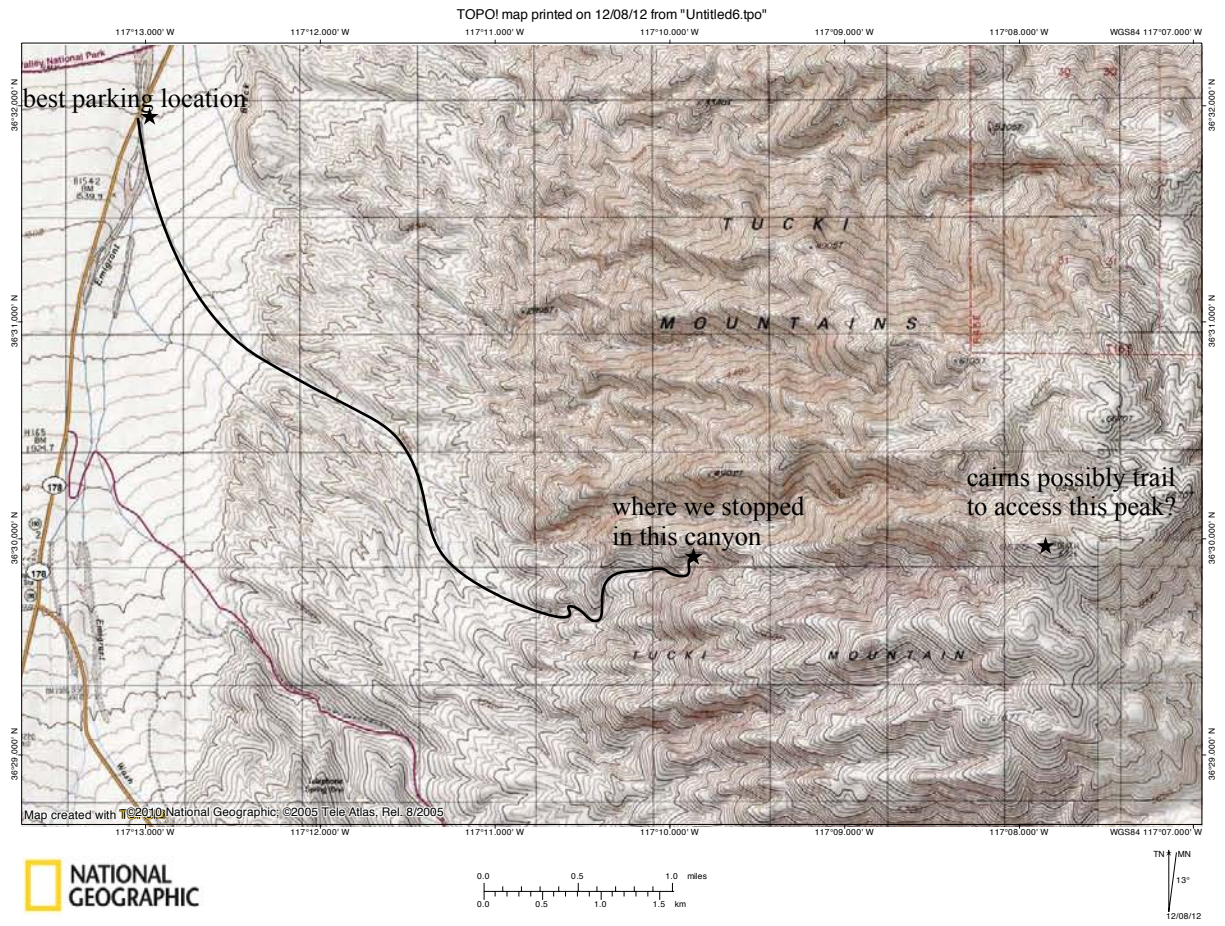


## “CAIRN” CANYON

This canyon is one of the canyons between Black Point West Canyon and Telephone Canyon; it appears to be one of the canyons which can be used to access the summit of Tucki Mountain, as there are many large cairns on the ridges surrounding it. Therefore, I'm calling this canyon “Cairn” Canyon.

Annotated TOPO map of the canyon:





Annotated Google Earth view of this canyon (note the direction of north—I oriented the map differently to fit more of the area on the page):



Panorama taken from where we parked due west of the canyon mouth; this is different than the location which I marked on the map as the best place to park, but I think that following the route marked on the map is better than what we did on the way out, which was scrambling down the embankment on the side of the road and going up and down over washes instead of just following the alluvial fan up:



View of the canyon mouth; you can see the canyon which we headed for in the left half of the photo:





As we head up the wash, the surrounding area starts to get convoluted; we just followed what appeared to be the most major wash (to the right of the photo). This panorama photo shows the side wash to the left which can be seen branching off on the TOPO:



As we continue onward, the wash appears even more similar to other canyons in this area (canyon east of Black Point East, Black Point East, Black Point West):



The wash passes through a colorful spot around a corner:



Then, around another bend, we encounter the first of the cairns; up on the ridges, we spot more cairns:



Approaching the entrance to the more major part of this canyon:





Up ahead, the canyon has a few interesting grottoes/dryfalls, which are not very difficult to climb or bypass:



Then, the canyon continues for quite a ways, relatively uninterrupted except for a couple more short (about 6 feet tall or so) and easy to climb dryfalls:







At the top of one of these dryfalls, we are surprised by a couple of bighorn bones and a bighorn skull:



Farther up, the canyon rounds a couple more bends and encounters a more major dryfall, about 20 feet tall, which is relatively easy to climb up but does require care on the downclimb:



View up-canyon just past the dryfall:





From here, we decided to turn around, as it is getting very cold at this higher elevation, and it already was a cold day. Looking out towards the canyon mouth near where we turned around:



On our way back down, we encountered another cairn, and we saw yet another cairn up on the ridge (we climbed the first set of grottoes/dryfalls on the way up, but bypassed them on the way down):



We decided to check out the side wash just to the west of this canyon on our way back, which turned out to be very similar to the canyon we had just explored:





Looking back towards the increasingly-cloudy valley:



Looking back at Tucki Mountain, partially in the sun on our return to the car:

