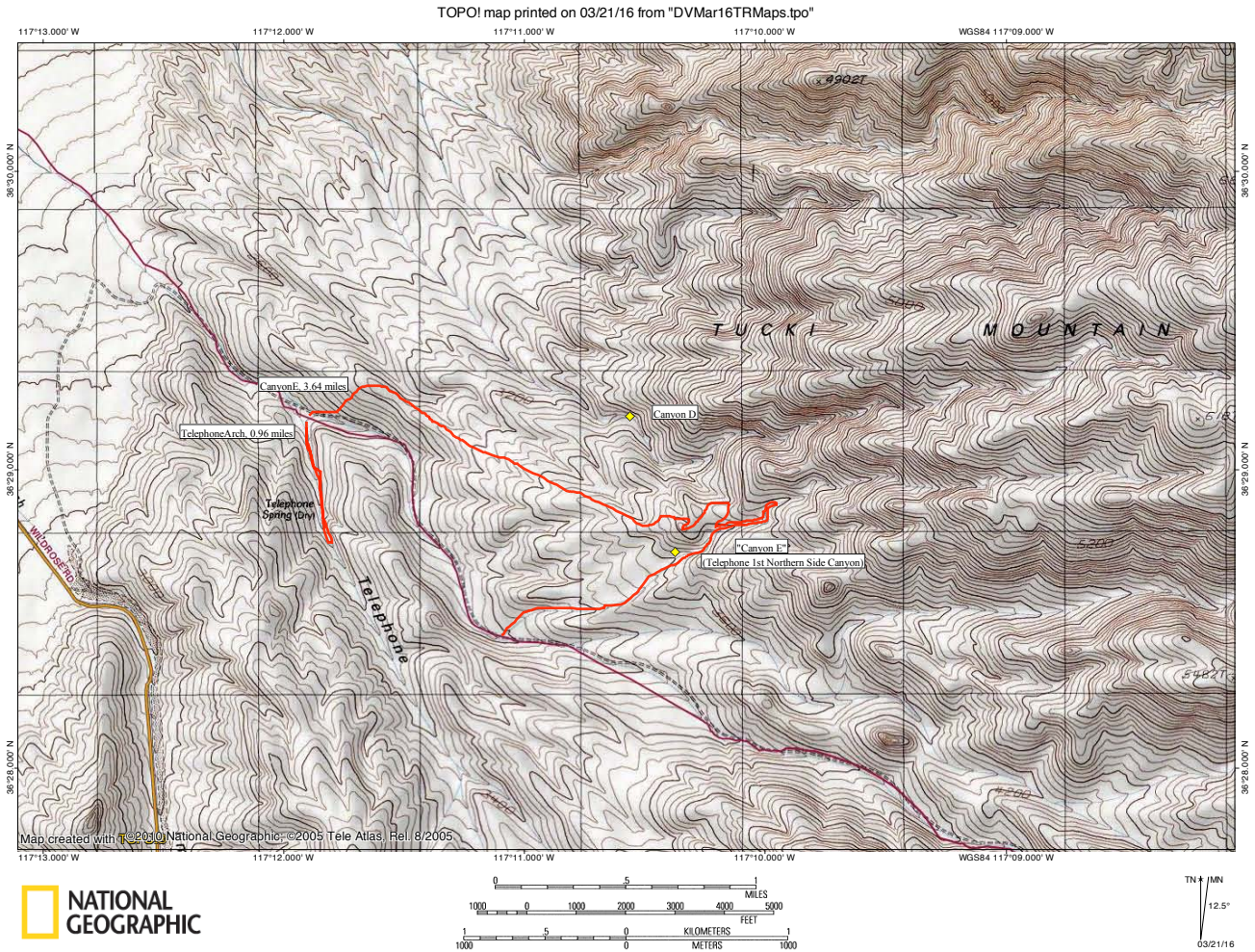


"CANYON E" (FIRST MAJOR EASTERN SIDE CANYON OF TELEPHONE CANYON)

There are numerous interesting canyons on the western side of Tucki Mountain, and many of the ones south of Black Point seem to have remained relatively unexplored. Of the canyons south of the southernmost "Black Point Canyon," I've been referring to the two major canyons north of Cairn Canyon as "Canyons A and B," and the two major canyons south of Cairn Canyon and north of Telephone Canyon as "Canyons C and D" (until someone comes up with more descriptive names for these canyons). "Canyon E" actually is the first major northern side canyon of Telephone Canyon, but it appears to be a major enough drainage to be worth exploring on its own. The other northern side canyons of Telephone Canyon also look like they would be good hikes.

TOPO map of the route:



Looking over towards the mouth of Lemoigne Canyon on our drive up towards Telephone Canyon; there is still much hiking that I'd like to do in that area of the Cottonwood Mountains:



View towards Cottonwood Benchmark (far right in this photo), which we had just hiked the previous day, with Canyons 8 & 9 visible in the center of the photo:



We stopped at the parking area for the major southern side canyon of Telephone Canyon (where Telephone Arch is located); this is the view looking back down the main canyon from the top of the only impasse in the canyon (the road goes around to the left in this photo):



Looking up the side canyon; we would check this out briefly later in the day (as I hadn't hiked up to Telephone Arch for many years):



We gained the ridge to the north of Telephone Canyon, and began following it towards the saddle between Canyons D and E which I had marked on the TOPO map:



The terrain north of Telephone Canyon is much more convoluted than it appears from TOPO maps and Google Earth; we had originally planned to check out both Canyons D and E on this hike, but it would have been much more difficult to cut cross-country to Canyon D than it had appeared from looking at the maps:



In retrospect, it seems like the best route to Canyon D would probably have been to park where "Canyon E" (which really seems to be the first major northern side canyon of Telephone Canyon) joins Telephone Canyon, then follow this (side) canyon to the saddle between Canyons D and E, then descend (if possible) into Canyon D. Hiking up to Canyon D from the main (paved) road would probably be a very long trek. Looking over towards Cairn Canyon, it clearly is too convoluted and steep of an area to hike directly across (as appears could be possible from maps):



Panorama looking down into Telephone Canyon, with an excellent view of the southern Cottonwood Mountains from here:



Zooming in on an interesting side canyon off of the main southern side canyon of Telephone Canyon; I think that's Pinto Peak in the background:



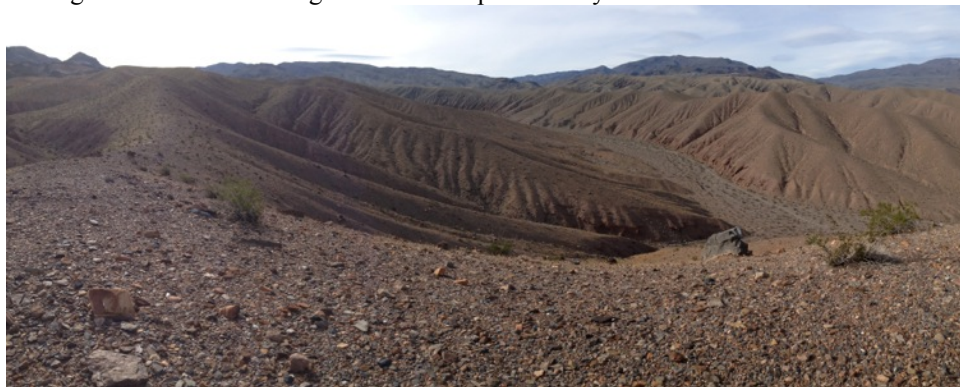
It would have been shorter, though perhaps steeper, to gain the ridge from a little further up the Telephone Canyon Road:



The walk along this ridge was very straightforward, with incredible views of the surrounding area:



Another panorama of the ridge we have been hiking on above Telephone Canyon:



Canyon D can be seen cutting into Tucki Mountain to the left in this photo, with Canyon E in the center and a prominent pyramid-shaped peak to the right:



Looking across at what I have been labeling "Canyon C," which seems to have some very colorful rock formations and is probably easiest accessed from the parking area for Cairn Canyon (what I'm referring to as Canyons C and D, and also Canyons A and B which are north of Cairn Canyon, are canyons that I hope to explore someday in the future):



Panorama looking towards Tucki Mountain, with Canyon D the major canyon cutting through the reddish mounds left of center in the photo, and Canyon E just to the right of it:



The slanted dryfall seen in the center of this photo appears to be in the Canyon D wash; it seems typical of canyons in this area to have a tall, slanted impasse near the start of the canyon:



Another view looking over towards Canyon D:



The views back towards the southern Cottonwood Mountains were spectacular throughout most of this hike:



Soon we needed to ascend a steep hill to get to the saddle between Canyons D and E:



We started to encounter numerous tall cairns, which are probably boundary markers for mining claims, though I'm not entirely sure:



The cairns through here were not nearly as tall or built of as large of rocks as the ones in Cairn Canyon are:



Panorama from the top of the ridge we had just ascended, with the southern Cottonwood Mountains to the far left and Canyon E visible to the far right:



We climbed up to a high point just south of where the previous panorama was taken and got an excellent view looking towards Telephone Canyon (right) and into Canyon E (left):



Looking down towards Telephone Canyon (which is on this side of the tall ridge going horizontally in the center of the photo); "Canyon E" is the wash which runs down the center of this photo (vertically), and joins the main canyon just right of center in the photo. It certainly would have been faster to park at this fork in Telephone Canyon and hike up from there, but we would have missed some of the excellent views looking towards the Cottonwood Mountains and over towards Canyon D:



Looking towards Skidoo, which is surprisingly close to Telephone Canyon:



Another panorama of this very nice area between Canyons D and E :



This small cactus seemed to have odd blooms (I've never seen anything like this before, but we saw numerous cacti like it on this trip):



We first headed up the ridge a short distance to get a view into Canyon D:



This panorama shows the view down a major side canyon of Canyon D, and into the main canyon (I think a hiker could descend this side canyon without too much difficulty to access the main canyon, but we didn't check it out so I don't know for sure):



Another view into the colorful lower reaches of Canyon D; I think this is probably one of the nicer canyons in this area, and I hope to fully explore it sometime soon:



From here, we crossed into Canyon E; this is the view looking down-canyon from where we dropped into the canyon, and the ridge we originally ascended is to the right of center in the photo:



Looking up-canyon from here:



I think this flower is called Scented Cryptantha:



Up ahead the canyon turns to the left; from Google Earth maps, it appears that we will encounter an impasse around another few bends in the canyon:



There seems to be a lot of interesting rock in this part of the Tucki Mountain area:



Up ahead we see that the canyon rounds another turn and enters a narrower section; it appears from here that the ridge between Canyons D and E would be relatively easy to hike up:



I think this plant with the yellow trumpet-shaped flowers is Desert Tobacco:

