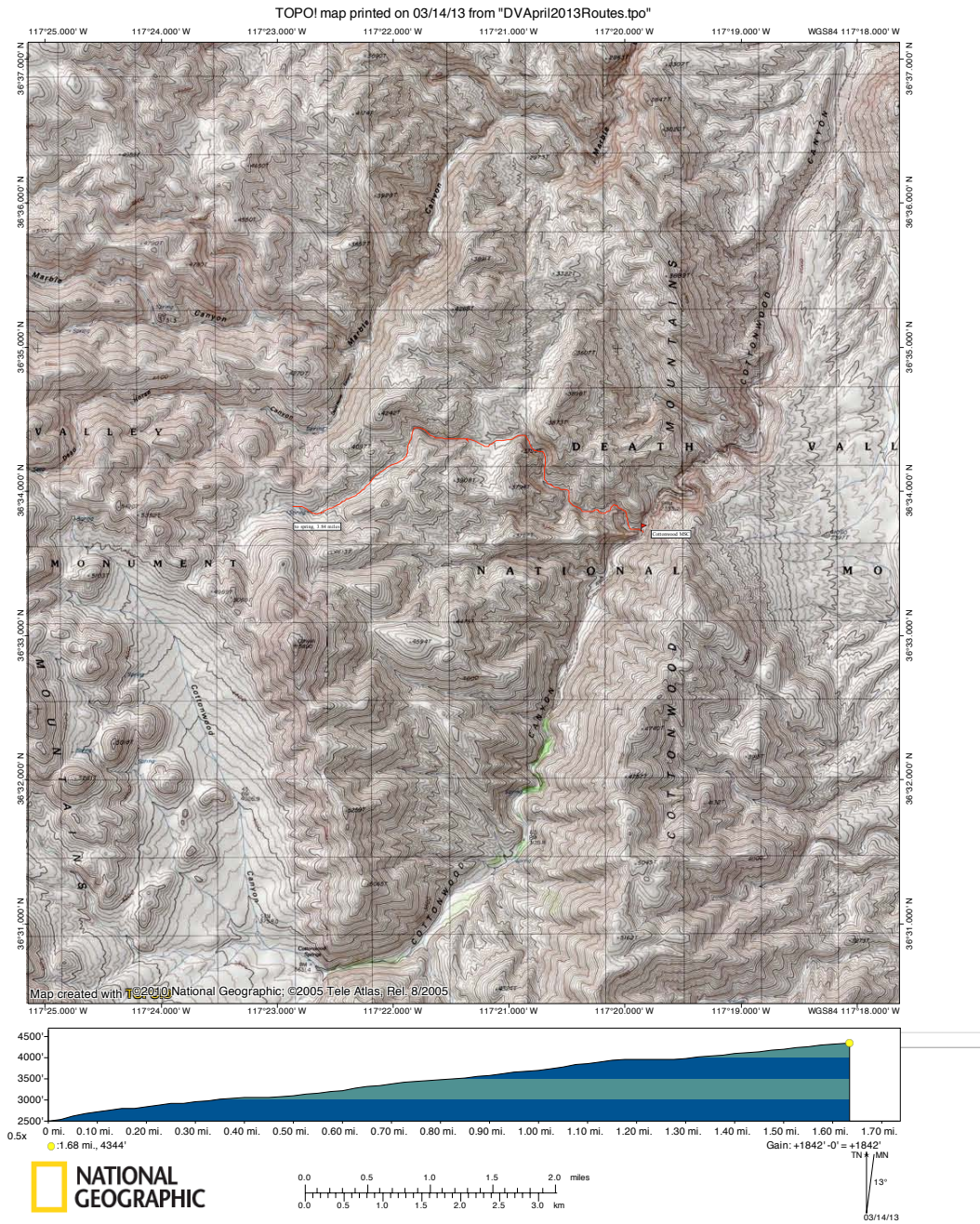


# Cottonwood Canyon Side Slot

TOPO map of this area:



Google Earth map of this area:



Looking up Cottonwood Canyon from where we parked:



Looking down-canyon:



The entrance to this side canyon of Cottonwood Canyon:



The side canyon becomes narrow quickly:



We encounter an easy-to-climb impasse, but unfortunately there is a boulder jam just beyond:



The boulder jam which proves to be too slippery for us to climb:



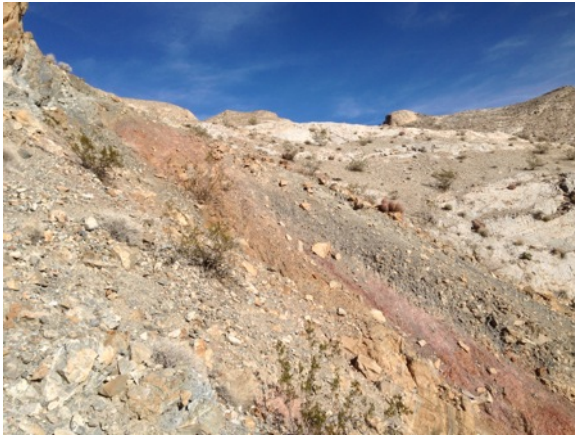
The canyon appears to be very nice just above this boulder jam:



We head back down to before where the side canyon starts to get narrow to look for a bypass route. On the left side of the canyon (when looking up-canyon) it is possible to scramble up the talus to attain the ridge which juts out into a bend in the canyon. There is a somewhat worn-in sheep and human trail which can be followed. It is wise to make sure each member of the group is past a slippery stretch and not continuing further on when another member is below to avoid launching boulders on people further down:



The next three photos show this workaround route:



When we reached the top, we spotted a group of seven bighorn sheep across from us:



Looking down into the slot below us:



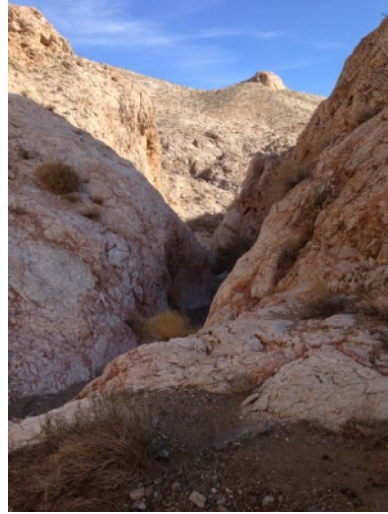
Looking up-canyon from here:



The route back down into the canyon is much easier than the route up:



We headed down the slot to see how far we could get before being blocked by a serious impasse:



Looking back at a small boulder-jam after down climbing it:



More narrows:



Another boulder jam:



Even more narrows:



This is looking into the canyon from the top of the boulder jam that we decided to stop at, as it was just too tall for us to feel safe down-climbing and then needing to climb back up. We had not expected there to be quite so many impasses and slippery rock:





Therefore, we retraced our steps and headed back up the canyon to see what more is in this side canyon. The next six photos show our progress up-canyon:



We spotted the bighorn group again on our way up-canyon:



The canyon appears to get narrow again up ahead:



Two back-to-back impasses that are easy to bypass on the left side:



A close-up photo of each impasse:



The next twelve photos show the lower section of the upper narrows of this canyon:





This is the impasse that blocked our further progress up this canyon:



Looking up-canyon above this impasse:



The impasse was fairly straightforward to climb most of the way up, but the plant above it had claimed all the good handholds for pulling oneself up the last stretch. The rock was just too slippery for us to get past this impasse, so we turned around and headed back down the canyon. This photo shows looking out of the slot:



This might be a possible workaround for the narrow section and this impasse; however, as it had taken us over two hours to drive out to this side canyon, and we wanted to see the rest of the Cottonwood Canyon Road while we were out here, we decided to turn around:



A small glimpse of the main valley from above the two dry-falls at the beginning of this narrow section:



Back on the Cottonwood Road, we reached a spot where the road got much rougher and seemed to disappear in places:



A lone Cottonwood tree:



We were running out of time, so we turned around here and headed back to Stovepipe Wells:

