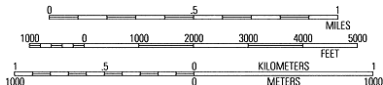
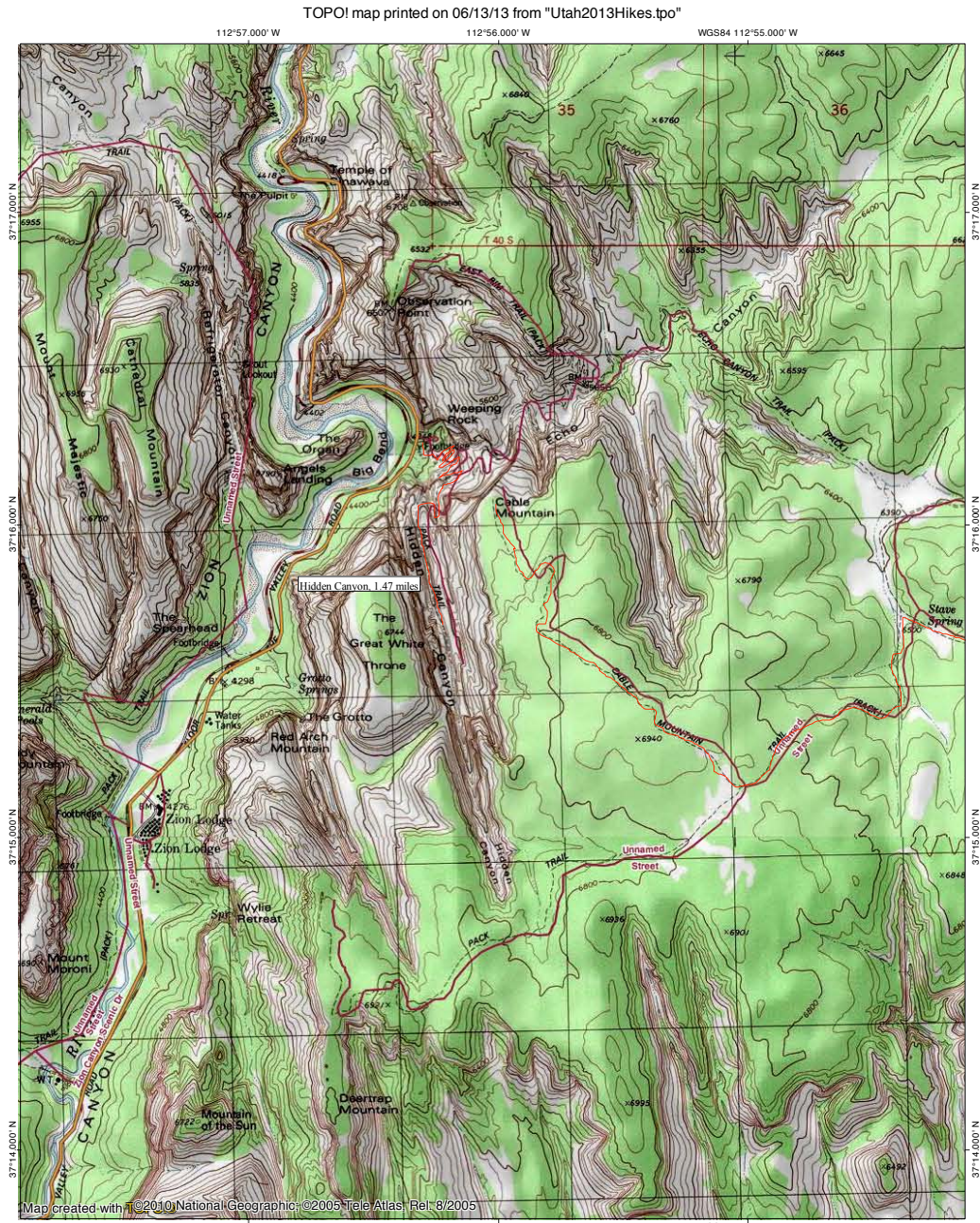


**HIDDEN CANYON AND PINE CREEK (FROM JUST EAST OF THE ZION-MT. CARMEL TUNNEL) IN ZION NATIONAL PARK**

Hidden Canyon is accessed from the Weeping Rock Trailhead in the main Zion Canyon. We had explored this canyon on our last trip to Utah (2012), but as we had checked it out after we had already hiked Observation Point, we ran out of time and energy, so we decided to return this trip to hike further up the canyon. Unfortunately, the trail was closed just past the first arch due to the area beyond being a “sensitive species habitat,” so we hiked up the East Rim Trail a little ways, then dropped into Echo Canyon to see how quickly the lower part is blocked by a large dryfall (very shortly). After that, we drove up to just east of the Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel to check out the narrows of Pine Creek before it drops over a series of rappels.

TOPO map of Hidden Canyon:



Looking up at the East Rim Trail (to the left) and Hidden Canyon (to the right of center) from the Weeping Rock Trailhead:



View towards Angel's Landing from the lower part of the East Rim Trail:



The Hidden Canyon trail leaves the East Rim trail and switchbacks up the cliff shown in the left-of-center of the photo below:



Zooming in on the cable-works at the top of Cable Mountain from below:



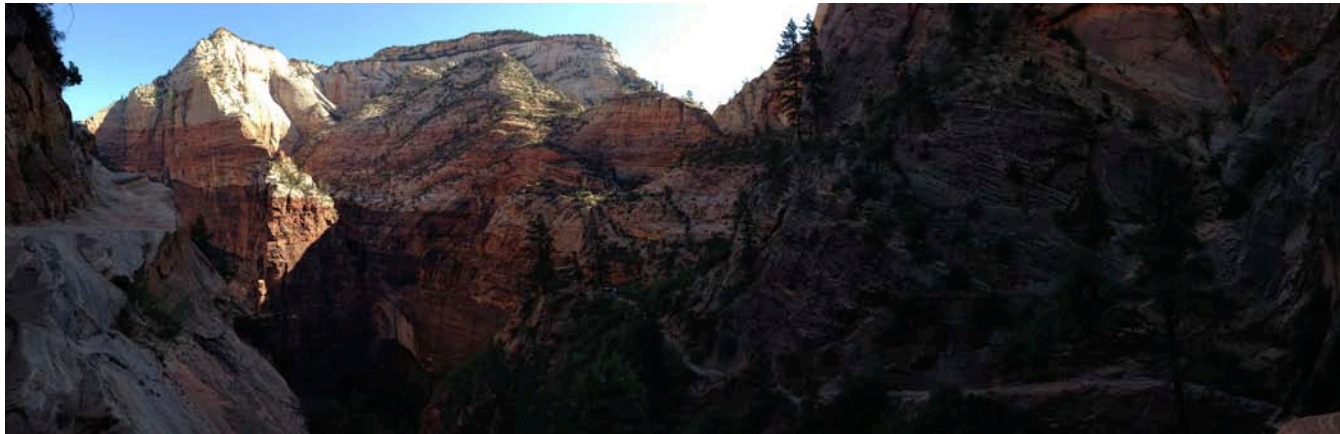
Looking out towards Weeping Rock from where the Hidden Canyon trail dips into a short canyon before reaching Hidden Canyon itself:



Looking towards Observation Point:



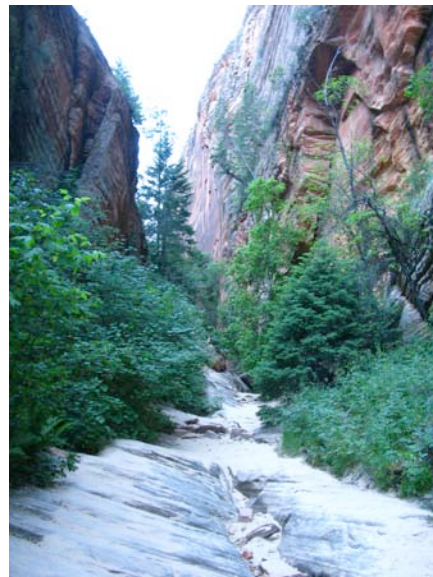
Panorama of the Hidden Canyon trail from just before where the trail cuts into Hidden Canyon:

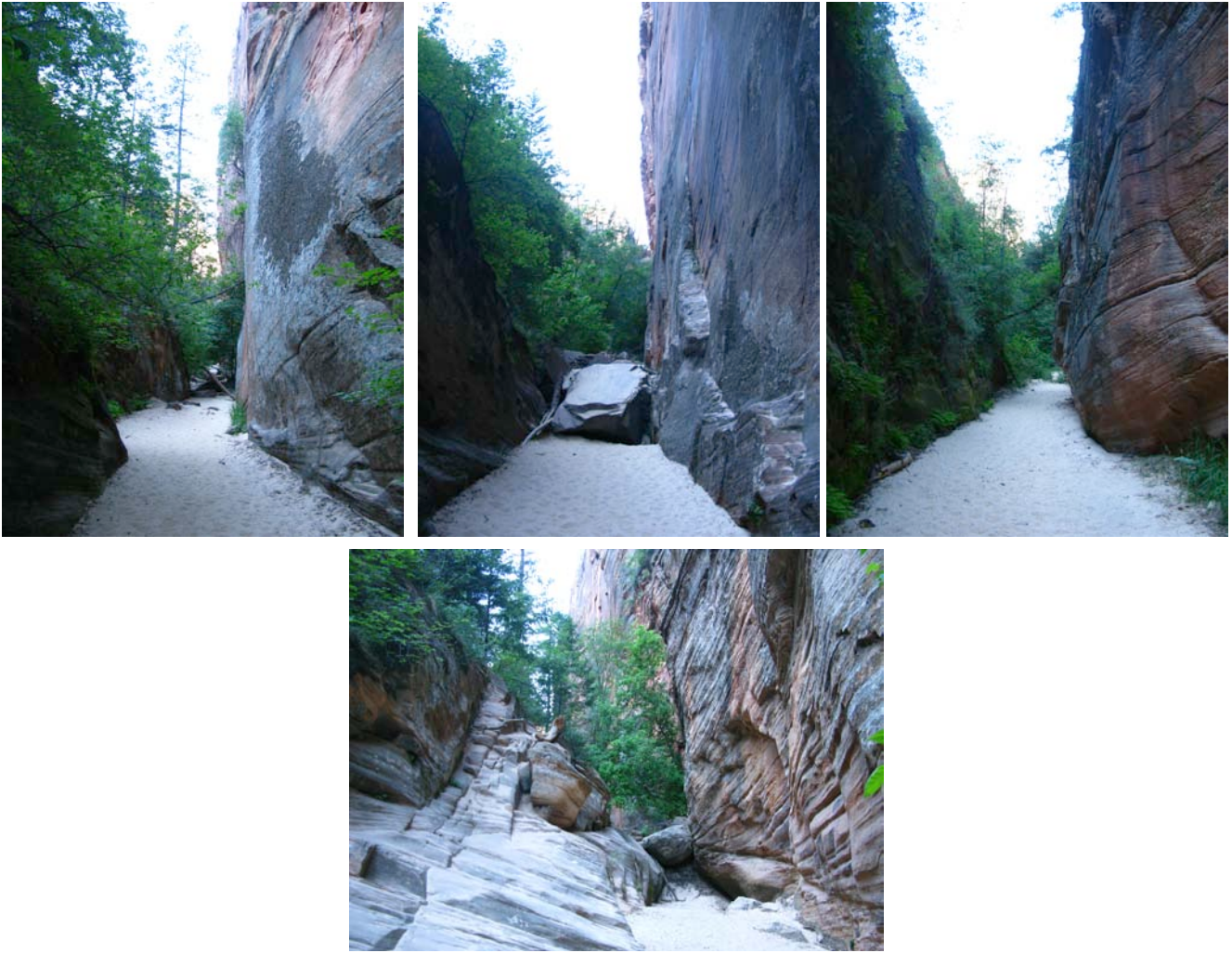


Theoretically, this is the last rappel of Echo Canyon, but due to the number of tourists near Weeping Rock it is currently illegal to rappel it:



The next 7 photos show the hike up Hidden Canyon to the first arch:





Just ahead, around a corner, was where the canyon was closed due to being a “sensitive species habitat.” Panorama of Hidden Canyon and the first Hidden Canyon Arch:



The first Hidden Canyon Arch is possible to climb, though due to the amount of loose sand on the rock it would be quite slippery on top:



Vertical panorama taken from where the area closed sign was located:



From here, we turned around and headed back down the canyon. Photo of some nice colors on the canyon walls:



There is a hikers trail that goes out to a viewpoint on the western side of the canyon, which we noticed on our way out of Hidden Canyon and decided to check out. Panorama of the view from this overlook, with the Weeping Rock to the left and Hidden Canyon to the right:



Looking back towards Hidden Canyon:



Looking up at the Great White Throne:



Looking up Echo Canyon:



Looking down at the main Hidden Canyon trail on the way back from the viewpoint:



From here, we headed up the East Rim trail towards where it first drops into Echo Canyon. Zooming in on the viewpoint from which the previous few photos were taken from the East Rim Trail:





Panorama from the East Rim trail just before it leaves the switchbacks and starts to follow the rim of Echo Canyon:



Looking down into some narrows of Echo Canyon from the top of an impasse just down-canyon of where the East Rim trail drops into Echo Canyon:



The narrows beyond this impasse look very nice, but it is difficult to see if there are more impasses, or large potholes, soon after the one that stopped us:



Weeping Rock:



Looking up towards Hidden Canyon (to the right):



From here, we decided to check out the narrows of Pine Creek just before the series of rappels, which begin past the Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel:



There is a short downclimb into a pothole (bottom of photo) just after the canyon passes under the bridge; then, the canyon drops over the first rappel:

