

SLOT NEAR MUMMY CANYON AND FURNACE SITE IN THE GREENWATER VALLEY

We returned to the "Mountain Lion Den" Canyon mentioned in my report "Narrows Near Mummy Canyon" to finish exploring the lower and middle narrows section of this canyon. Note that, as mentioned in this previous report, we had not yet seen the den, thus we returned to this area; also note that visitation to this canyon is not recommended by the author of this report at this time! See the Google Earth map in my report "Narrows Near Mummy Canyon" for a map of the "Mountain Lion Den" Canyon. From there, we headed into the Greenwater Valley. As this day was extremely cold, we did not spend much time up at the Furnace Site (name as noted on the NPS map), but we did want to check it out briefly to see what was up there and the status of the road (in our opinion, 4WD is necessary because of the steepness in the dirt, and moderately good clearance is necessary, but it is not at all a particularly difficult road).

Amazing sunrise on this very cold morning:



Looking over towards this canyon from where we parked; note that one must stay just to the south of the last set of white hills to access this slot, as can be seen from the Google Earth map. There are multiple good places to park for accessing this canyon; we chose the one with the shortest distance as it was very cold and windy on this morning:



Approaching the entrance to this canyon; the slot is just out of view around a corner for much of the walk across the alluvial fan, so a hiker should sight on the white mud-mound hills which can be seen to the left in this photo:



Dropping into the wash here:



The canyon looks interesting at this point, but it does not look like it will continue very far:



However, around a couple of turns, we spot the entrance to the lower section of narrows:



The cliffs at the bottom of this canyon are quite impressive and have some very interesting shapes:



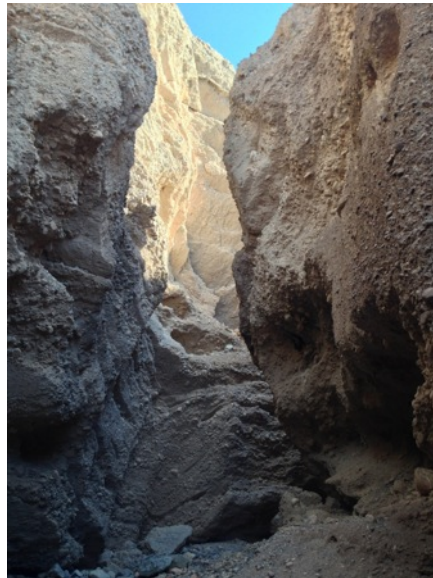
The canyon walls at this point are probably not tall enough to make this narrow section a slot, but they certainly make the entrance to the narrows very majestic:



Just inside the narrows:



These three photos show the beginning section of the lower narrows of this canyon:



Looking up towards the top of the cliffs:



Looking ahead through an even narrower section in the canyon:



All too soon, we are stopped by a major and unclimbable impasse:



Looking up at the sky and an impressive overhang from where our progress has been stopped:



Panorama (distorted) looking down-canyon (at the bottom) and also overhead to the top of the dryfall (at the top):



Interesting shapes in the canyon walls on our way back down:



Now approaching the entrance to the narrows:



Looking up and out of the canyon on its southern side:



View out towards the valley from the narrow entrance:



We decided to attempt to bypass this big impasse, so we ascended the ridge to the south side and looked for a workaround; this is the top of the dryfall:



It is possible to bypass this impasse, but, due to wind, cold weather, and the slipperiness of the terrain, only one member of the group continued on:



I believe this photo shows the route in to the canyon; we determined that it may be easier to get into the canyon on the north side:



Looking back down the canyon from near the top of the dryfall:



Heading up-canyon, into the middle section of narrows of "Mountain Lion Den Canyon"; I believe it was near here that the piles of bones and the den were spotted and were originally attributed to coyotes:



The next six photos show the amazing slot narrows of the middle section of "Mountain Lion Den Canyon":

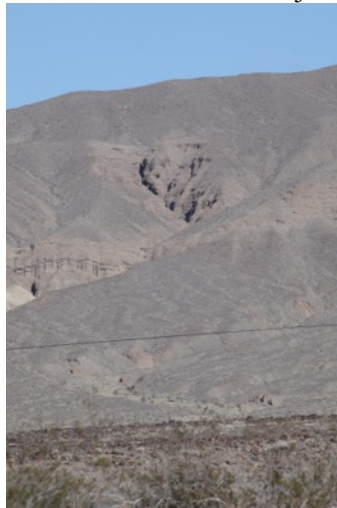




Looking back up at the narrows; it was after exploring the narrows that the gigantic mountain lion scat was spotted, and it was confirmed that this was not a coyote den area:



Looking back at the slot from the road; note that there is at least one major impasse at the end of the slot:



From here, we continued on to the Greenwater Valley Road, then took the first turnoff towards the Furnace Site (as marked on NPS maps):



It was incredibly cold in this location, so we only spent enough time outside to get some photos; this is a panorama of the upper Black Mountains (to the left) and the Greenwater Valley (to the right):



This appeared to be some sort of mine shaft:



Trying to get a view down into whatever this is:



This is another road up to this area, which comes in from further south along the Greenwater Valley Road:

