

Some Mud Springs Canal Field Notes

Don Lancaster and **Dr. James Neely**

Synergetics, Box 809, Thatcher, AZ 85552
copyright c2017 pub 6/17 All rights reserved

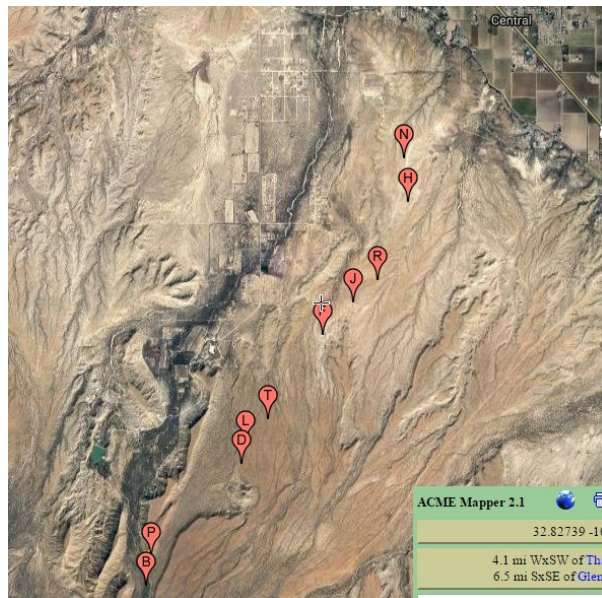
<http://www.tinaja.com>

don@tinaja.com and neelyja@utexas.edu

(928) 428-4073 and (575) 686-0098

The Mud Springs **Prehistoric Hanging Bajada Canal** is one of the longer and more interesting and includes several unique features. **It is one of the very few that can be viewed nearly in entirety from several locations.** Which suggests its easier development might have formed an earlier prototype. Other points of interest include a significant watershed crossing and a "pithouse-like" or "swimming pool-like" resident costructure.

The known portions of the canal include a **Mud Springs** eastern branch of ten kilometers length and a **Jernigan Canal** western branch of two kilometers. The Jernigan portion will be covered in a separate field note. Both canals are sourced from a taken at or near the Coronado National Forest **CNF** boundary at **32.78729 -109.85475** at an elevation of 3760 feet.



This canal is primarily on **AZ State Lands**, with a small portion on **BLM**. Access varies from Layton Road, Ash Creek Road, and various 4WD tracks to portions that still remain unvisited. The average slope appears to be approximately 2.3 percent.

Despite numerous attempts to date, the field destination(s) of the Mud Springs Canal remain unknown. Candidate possibilities include the Central Dump at **32.85628 -109.81539** and the Central Cemetary at **32.85733 -109.80105**. In contrast, the Jernigan branch has unusually well defined destinations.

Here are some noteworthy Mud Springs Canal features and locations...

- 32.78743 -109.85516** Presumed Ash Creek takein point that is not yet field verified.
- 32.78881 -109.85443** Presumed significant hanging portion Not yet field verified. May have seen significant damage from the 1983 tropical storm Octave. Conglomerate sheer cliffs do not bode well.
- 32.79160 -109.85383** **Brilliantly engineered watershed crossing.**
- 32.79160 -109.85383** Well preserved downslope area a seems a good candidate for drone development.
- 32.80128 -109.84127** Ill defined area likely caused by historic development or rework.
- 32.80128 -109.84127** Canal resumes obvious well preserved route. CCC structures in area.
- 32.80693 -109.83793** Canal crosses 4WD track. Unexplained mystery construct immediately west.
- 32.80999 -109.83566** Fairly well defined segment 1 meter wide by 60 cm deep. Portions remain unexplored.
- 32.78709 -109.85645** Hidden and quite impressive "secret" hanging portion that is quite distinct but hard to reach.
- 32.81757 -109.83013** Large Mesquite tree in center of channel.
- 32.82206 -109.82601** Route temporarily splits for a short distance, possibly because of a washout realignment.
- 32.82297 -109.82496** Total **SCS** heavy dam construction rework. A second original path may be present. There are safety issues in and around a blowout region.
- 32.82597 -109.82161** Canal resumes a hanging portion as it "climbs" its way out of the wash.

- 2.82692 -109.82115** **Enigmatic unique "pithouse-like" or "swimming-pool-like" structure** immediately and intimately intimately associated with the canal. To date, there is no observed charcoal in this "troll house".
- 32.82744 -109.82008** During a recent bloom, "dead flowers" clearly marked the canal routings in this area.
- 32.82761 -109.81942** Start of north trending Jernigan Canal branch. Small rocks suggest a headgate system.
- 32.82768 -109.81892** Apparently historic anglo tank seems somehow associated with the canal structures.
- 32.83074 -109.81551** Short segment remains undiscovered.
- 32.83885 -109.81107** Short segment includes extensive ATV damage.
- 32.84262 -109.81051** Modest hanging portion is significantly wider and includes caliche like white fill.
- 32.84356 -109.81141** Layton Road crossing.
- 32.84792 -109.81102** Canal vanishes without an apparent trace. Destinations remain unknown despite many attempts at resolution.
- 32.85608 -109.81527** Central Dump candidate destination.
- 32.85772 -109.80029** Central Cemetary candidate destination.
- 32.86610 -109.80138** Riverine candidate destination.

Further Mud Springs Canal work might include...

- 1** — Finding any remains of the Ash Creek takin and hanging portion.
- 2** — Seeking other watershed crossings, especially upper Frye Creek.
- 3** — Developing drone potential northeast of the watershed crossing.
- 4** — Verifying Mud Springs and south-of-secret hanging portions.
- 5** — Improving understanding of SCS dam initial canal routings.
- 6** — Explaining the troll house.
- 7** — Understanding the anglo tank.
- 8** — Filling in minor missing portions.
- 9** — Resolving the canal destinations.
- 10** — Videotaping and droning entire route.
- 11** — Continuing Mud Springs tours and lectures to raise awareness.



TROLL1 – Enigmatic "troll house" like structure is unique to the area and is closely associated with the Mud Springs canal. While a pithouse appearing, no charcoal remains have been noted to date. The view is to the northwest at **32.82717 -109.81995**



MUD1 – Midway along the Mud Canal, just below the SCS dam that overran it without accomodation. The view is to the southwest at **32.82696 -109.82111**.



MUD4 – A modest hanging portion of the Mud Springs Canal seems to include a fairly rare caliche-like fill. This portion seems shallower and wider than typical. The view is to the northwest at **32.84295 -109.81075**



MUD2 – The Mud Springs Canal vanishes without a trace just north of this view. Destinations remain unknown, despite numerous visits. In this view, the canal originates "halfway up" the middle of the mountain. View is to the South at **32.84792 -109.81102**.