

Badlands National Park



Kylie's Fossil Find









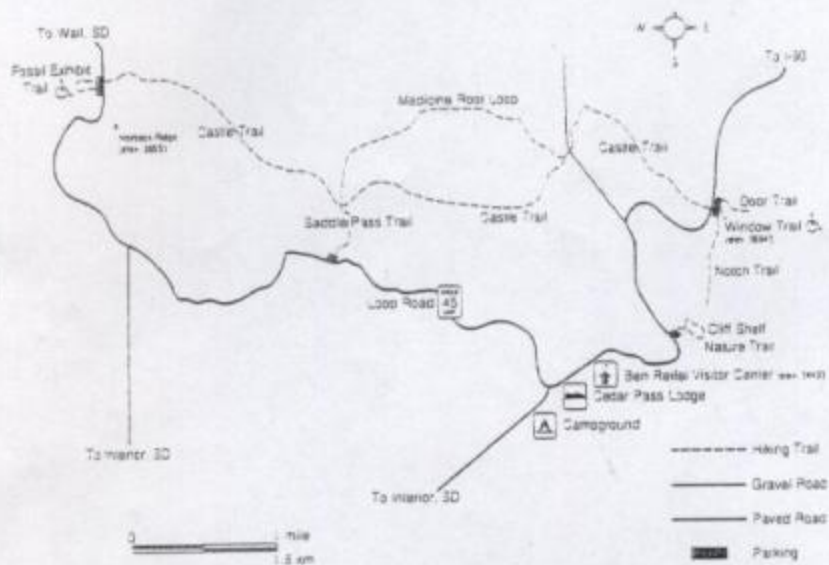




Date 5-30-10
Visitor Center Butte
Employee Name M. Sore

PALEONTOLOGICAL SITE REPORT: VISITOR FIELD ID

DESCRIPTION OF SITE LOCATION: HELP US LOCATE THE FOSSIL EASILY BY ANSWERING ALL QUESTIONS. INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU FEEL WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE. BELOW IS A MAP OF THE CEDAR PASS AREA, INCLUDING TRAILS. PLEASE MARK THE LOCATION OF THE FOSSIL.



PLEASE GIVE A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF WHERE WE SHOULD GO TO FIND THE FOSSIL. THIS IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: Is the site near a road or visitor use area? Which one? How far is the site from a major landmark? Feel free to draw a map, include UTM Coordinates or a Xerox copy of a topographic map showing the location.

In what type of terrain was the fossil found?

- a. Butte
- b. Wash
- c. Sod Table
- d. Flat
- e. Other _____

over hill from picnic tables
by visitor center

What is the color and texture of the surrounding rock?



Description of the Fossil:

The fossil is Bone Tooth Both

What color is the fossil?

- a. White d. Black
 b. Red e. other _____
 c. Brown

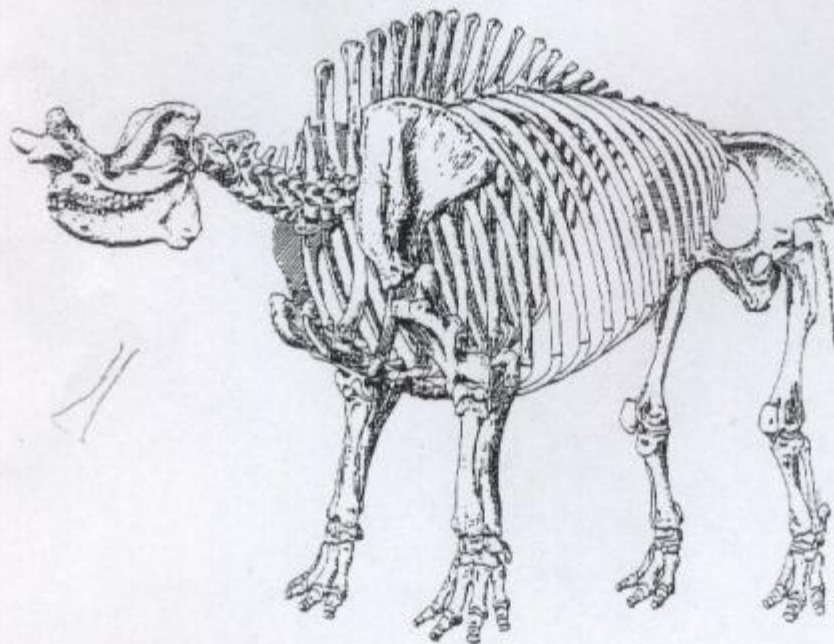
On a scale of 1-5, how weathered is the fossil? 1 2 3 4 5

1- no weathering, intact 5 - broken bits of bone, scattered

What is the surface texture of the fossil?

- a. shiny b. rough
 c. splintered
 d. other _____

What is the general fossil shape? Does it resemble any of the parts on the skeleton drawing below? If so, please circle it.



The Mammoth *Elephas robustus*
Fisher, 1916







DAVIS

SABER TOOTH CAT





























Metro Atlanta Girl Makes Major Fossil Find



Posted: 4:49 pm EDT June 29, 2010
Updated: 5:14 pm EDT June 29, 2010

INTERIOR, S.D. -- A metro Atlanta 7-year-old's trip to a national park has turned into anything but normal.

Kylie Ferguson, of Sharpsburg, Ga. in Coweta County, stumbled upon bones belonging to the extinct saber tooth cat, Dinictis. The discovery was made at Badlands National Park in southwest South Dakota on May 30, where Ferguson had been participating in a junior ranger program.

"Junior Ranger Kylie did the right thing. She reported her find to rangers," park officials said.

Kylie's fossil find was especially meaningful for her father.

"She knows the characteristics of fossils because her dad is a geologist," said Kylie's mom. "She was really excited and now her dad will just be over the moon!"

Enlarge Image

National Park Service

Junior Ranger Kylie Ferguson found a saber tooth cat fossil while on vacation in Badlands National Park

Initially, park officials said paleontologists identified the bones as belonging to the oreodont Merycoidodon, an extinct sheep-like animal. But heavy rain throughout the month of June exposed more of the skull and paleontologists soon realized that it was not from the sheep-like animal, but was from Dinictis.

Officials said the fossils were found in limestone which provided protection for millions of years allowing the skull to remain in museum display quality. Paleontologists have since excavated the fossils and some of the surrounding rock and they will be added to the museum collection storage at Badlands National Park.

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