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# Mammalogy Class 2012 Field Notes

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Jemez Trip Travel Log  
(Following Kayce Bell)

12:30pm Left UNM

Took I-25 North (~29mi)

~1:00 Took exit 249 to  
turn back south on  
I-25 (~6mi)

~1:10 Exited east (Exit 242)  
Towards Cuba (Stopped  
for snacks)

Stayed on 550V for ~60mi

~2:15 Turned right at  
the Cuba visitor center  
(NM 126 East) Followed  
road for ~10mi

~2:40 Took a left onto  
Leaky Forest Road 70  
(Keeping eyes out for  
field track) ~2-3mi

~2:45 Reached Jemez Mts  
Clear Creek campsite  
[Open field to left of  
road & small pond to  
the right of the road]

Seneca Trip Journal  
(Post-hoc description)

(7-September-12)

We arrived in the early afternoon. The weather was quite nice (mid 70's, clear & slightly humid). The habitat seems to represent a high elevation mixed conifer zone just past the Ponderosa pine zone. There is also a great deal of riparian area owing to the local runoff streams, and the small pond next to camp.

We quickly unloaded our gear, and chose camping sites. I dug a quick latrine for those that needed it, and then met with Joe & Kayce so that they could explain trapping protocol. For this trip they brought a selection of museum specials, rat traps, shermans, and materials for pitfall traps to target the shrews we were after.

We all packed up, and took a selection of traps & bait to separate trap lines.

I paired with Kayce, and we headed down to the larger stream bed that we passed coming up to camp.

The stream itself cut through a heavily wooded area, slightly rocky, with a loam sand mix of soil. To capture our targets (chipmunks & other small rodents) we set a mix of shermans, specials & rat traps along dead fall, and in brush cover next to the bank where possible. We were unable to follow the stream for our full line due to a large elevation drop; so about halfway in we headed upslope into a rocky step area. Brush in this area became increasingly sparse around the larger pine trees. I was told by Kayce we had a good chance of catching chipmunks here, and we did see quite a few squirrels & squirrel nests.

At the top of the slope we reached an open slightly grassy area, we cut back towards

camp at this point, and set our remaining traps. Once back at camp we set the bat nets around  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the pond in what we hoped was the natural flyway. Unfortunately, we could not get the nets to hang right next to the water surface, so there was a few areas that bats could avoid the nets. Plus, our setup required that at least one person was going to have to get wet to pull bats from the largest net.

Following this we returned to camp to make dinner and talk to Jim Finley and Joe about the species (species) we hoped to catch.

Day 2 (7-September-12)

Last night got very cold, but we did luck out and caught 3 big brown bats.

I was one of the first to stir, so I started the fire, coffee & breakfast preparations. After feeding everyone I went with Kaye to

check our trap-line. We actually did quite well, bringing back chipmunks in each area of our line, as well as a lot of perognathus, and some woodrats from the ~~tree~~ end of our line in the more open rocky areas.

Once back at camp we grouped all of our collections together, and got started prepping and skinning. We did manage to pull in a good mix of species (see list), including the shrews we were after. I volunteered to take on one of the shrews (Sorex monticolus), which in retrospect was a poor choice. I was out of practice, and the individual was very small, so I ran into problems getting wires into the feet and tail. Joe attempted to help, and a foot ended up coming off. Following the shrew I prepped a chipmunk (Tamias minimus) with no real problems.

I then checked our trapline (Kayce was busy), and lucked out with a few more deer mice and a golden mantled ground squirrel.

I grabbed a quick lunch while the squirrel was being preped, and then set about skinning it. While I ran into few major problems while skinning, this individual (Spermophilus lateralis) was retaining a lot of body fat, which greased up the fur. To stuff it I had to scrub the skin with soapy water & cob dust. It sewed up well, but ants had been chewing on its face when I found it, so it came out a little flat faced.

I then checked the traps a final time, and the group sat down for dinner. We chatted a bit, but I chose to ~~strag~~ crash early rather than stay up with the bat crew.

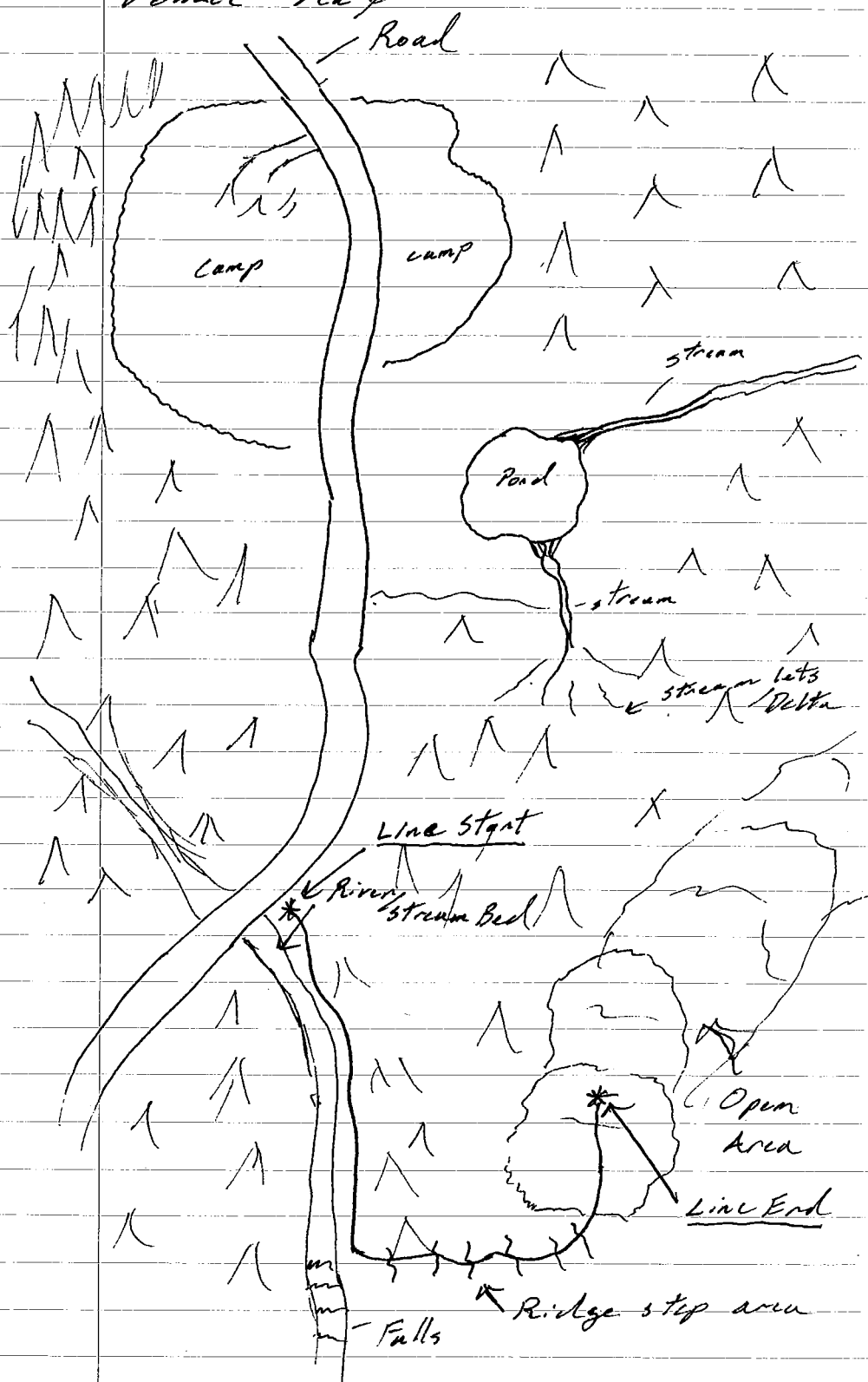
(Day 3: 7-Sept-12)

I was again one of the first up, so I started the fire, coffee and set out breakfast. Kayce was not far behind me, so we went to collect our traps. (It seems that it was cold again last night, and we did not get more bats.) We did get a few more deer mice, but nothing else of great note.

As soon as we returned we broke down camp, cleaned up, and headed home.



Survey Map



Road

Camp

camp

Pond

stream

stream

streamlets  
Delta

Line Start

River  
Stream Bed

Open  
Area

Line End

Falls

Ridge step area

Trip 2 Participants

Julie Hawk (JNH)	Julie Hawk
Evan Fatt	EFF
Marie Westover (MLW)	MW
Kristin Wright	Kristin Wright
Amanda Jones	Amanda Jones
Rosemary Steinberg	RS
Schuyler Liphardt	SL
Bethany L. Abrahamson	BLA
Heather Toman (HMT)	HT
Amber West	Amber West ALW
Leonardo R. Gutierrez (URG)	Leonardo R. Gutierrez
Amber Howard	ARH
Nichole Herrera	NH
Vanessa Casias	Vanessa Casias VRC
Andrea Jackson (ACJ)	ACJ
Michael J Smith	MJS
Valerie Horva	VRH

Gila Trip  
(10 October 2012)

~2:30 Left Albuquerque  
headed south on I-25  
(~120 mi.)

~4:15 Took exit 100  
West, and immediately  
turned north onto  
the service road.

~4:25 Turned west onto  
the first forest road  
and followed it until  
we met up with Bryan  
and Jason

~5:00 Reached camp  
next to a large  
water tank

(11 October 2012)

~8:00 Left Camp heading  
east on the same  
forest road. Stopped  
twice to collect traps.  
1: Dry river bed cliffs  
2: Brush/grassland site

~(9:30-10:00) Met group back  
at exit 100. Headed  
south on I-25 towards  
Terrell (~~exit~~ (~21 mi))

~ 10:30 Stopped in Terrell  
(exit 29) for snacks and  
gas

~ 11:45 Continued south  
on I-25 (~16 mi)

~ Turned west at exit  
63 headed towards  
Hillsboro & Silver City  
(~60 mi)

~ 12:50 Stopped at the  
Silver City Copper mine  
to discuss environmental  
impacts of mining.  
Continued on Rd 152 →  
Rd 180 west  
(~12 mi)

~ 1:58 Stopped in Silver City  
for lunch and gas.  
Then continued on 180 west  
(~27 mi)

~ 27 mi in we entered  
the National Forest &  
stopped briefly to  
meet Dr. MacDonald, and  
then followed him along  
a "steep-rocky & hazardous"  
dirt road down into  
the Gila River basin.  
We met a representative  
from the eco-art group  
who lead us to camp  
in what was once Abol  
plain, and is now camping  
area.

## Gila Trip Journal (10-October-2012)

Leo and I headed down early to meet with Bryan, Jason & John at the San Mateo Mt. site East of Vicks peak (both of us had GREs later that weekend). Bryan and Jason had chosen to set up but nets next to a large cattle tank (which was actually how we found camp). We were set up in a shallow canyon: a transition zone between Piñon/Juniper and desert scrub grassland. There was a dry stream bed next to camp, which is where Leo and I set our line.

I would refer to our line as semi-riparian, as it looks like it received water only occasionally, but it did have more green brush than the rest of the site. We set shermans only, as we wanted fresh specimens for the next day.

We were hoping to get lucky with some woodrats as we saw a lot of middens and burrows around the base of trees and bushes.

Despite dire predictions, the weather stayed nice through the day & that evening. Mostly clear, with a short "mist" in the evening, but warm enough to catch a few Mont's species in the nets. We also got to see some pocket mice running around camp after sunset, but we could not catch them.

(Day 2 11 October 2012)

Woke early to make breakfast and collect our trap lines. Leo & I only caught a few deer mice, while Bryan and John were also not able to catch any gophers. We had helped with this line earlier, but the soil burrows looked to have

been dug into soil that tended to collapse when we dug in.

We headed down the canyon and stopped at a dry arroyo bed where John had set traps on an adjoining cliff. We did collect a number of woodrats and deer-mice up here.

Then we headed to Bryan & Jason's trap lines in the open grassland where we collected k-rats, deer-mice & grasshopper mice & pocket mice (including an albino grasshopper mouse!).

After that we met up with the larger group and headed to the Gila River basin site.

Leo & I were very rushed so we set a trap line as soon as we got into the Gila site. We chose a mix of shermans, specials & rat traps, and headed to the river.



We ran into dense brush typical of a good riparian zone immediately, and were forced to set our line about 10-20m from the river, starting in the willows & grass to an area composed of flood debris among the cottonwoods. We saw evidence of a few woodpile middens, as well as burrow holes, so we were hopeful for a good catch.

As soon as we got to camp we started working on specimens. I managed to complete a Dipodomys merriami, a Neotoma albigula and a Peromyscus sonoriensis. All went well until I split the Neotoma's tail, ~~at the~~. After that I did manage to get the pieces of the tail back together, but they looked odd. The bat was hard to. I managed to wire and stuff it alright, but the skin split a few times while I was sewing.

As soon as I finished my

bat ate what was left of  
dinner, and passed out.

(12-October-2012)

Leo & I got started  
early, and broke camp.  
We helped with breakfast  
and collected our line  
(only a few deer-mice & a  
woodrat). Once we realized  
prepping would not start  
until late, we decided  
to leave so we could have  
time to study for the  
GRE.

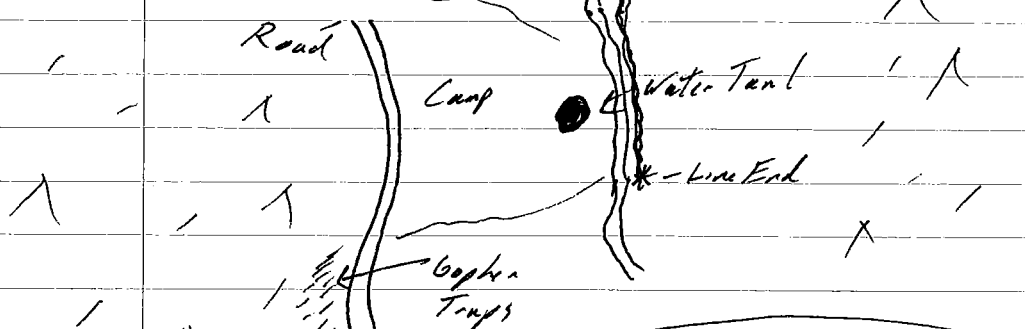
Note: I was quite rushed,  
but I did note that  
we had light rains overnight  
and that it was slightly  
cooler the next morning. However,  
for the duration of the  
trip daytime temps stayed  
around the mid 70's and partly  
cloudy.

USA: New Mexico, Sierra County  
Ladder Ranch, 1km North and  
10km West of Cubaillo

0.11 ♀ *Thomomys bottae* 212-66-29-6E130  
NK 2

(Sun Mu too S. etc.)

Stream Bed



More Road (limited space on page)

Grass/shrub

John's Line "Cl. A"

Vason's Line

Arrow

Open Grass

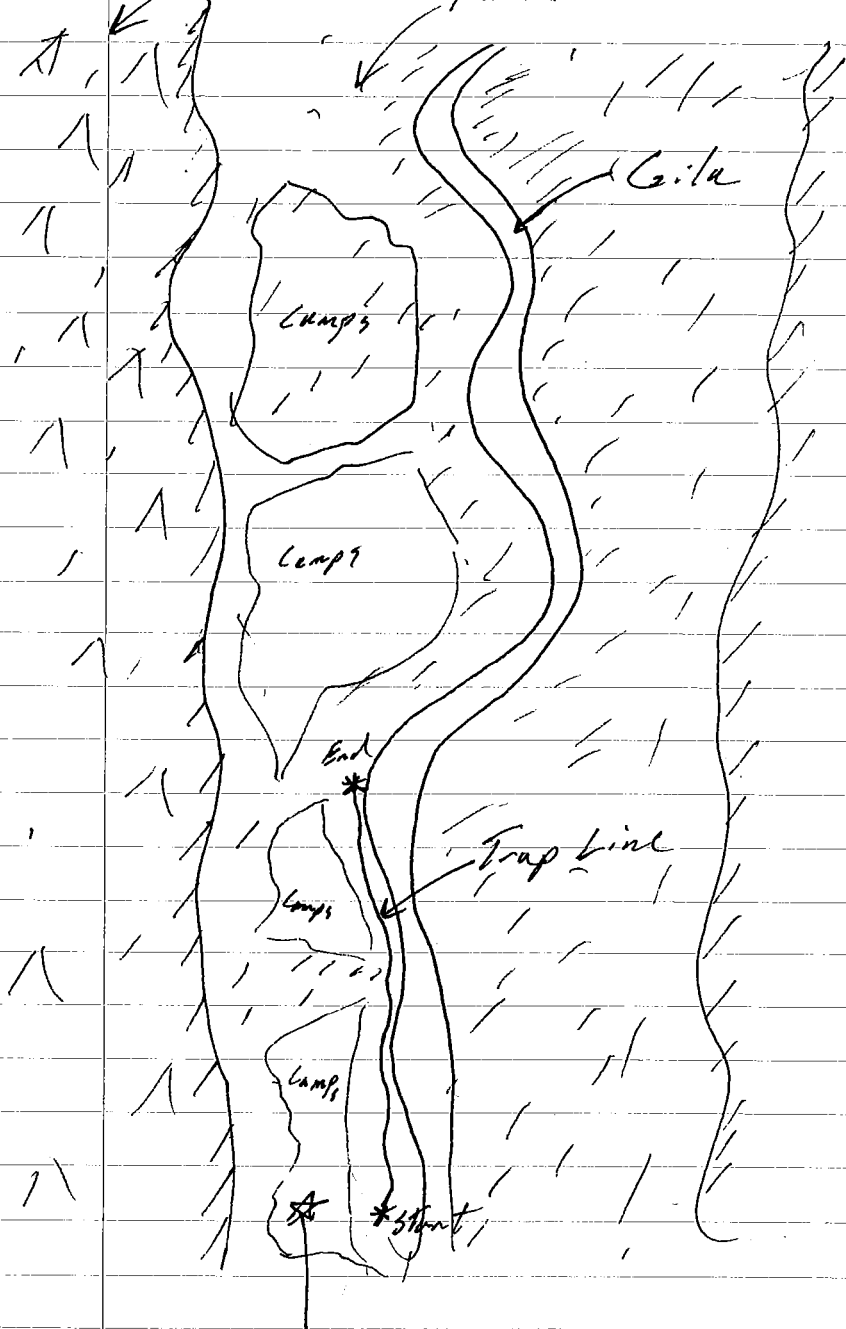
Bryant's Line

( )

Gila Site

Ridge

Flood Plane



Gila

Camps

Camps

End

Trap line

Camps

Camps

\* Start

\* Our Camp

Trip 2 Participants

Julie Hawk

Julie Hawk

EVAN FAHY

~~EVAN FAHY~~

EFFE

Kristin Wright

~~Kristin Wright~~

Amanda Jones

Amanda Jones AJ

Rosemary Steinberg

~~Rosemary Steinberg~~ RKS

Schuyler Zephardt

~~Schuyler Zephardt~~ SZ

Bethany L. Abrahamson

~~Bethany L. Abrahamson~~ BLA

Amber L West

Amber L. West ALW

Heather Toman (HAM)

~~Heather Toman~~

Leonardo K. Gutierrez (LRG)

~~Leonardo K. Gutierrez~~

Marie Westover (MLW)

~~Marie Westover~~

Nichole Herrera

~~Nichole Herrera~~ NRH

Vanessa Casias

~~Vanessa Casias~~ VRC

Andrea Jewson (ACT)

~~Andrea Jewson~~

Valerie Hovda VRH

~~Valerie Hovda~~

Teryn Jensen (TSJ)

~~Teryn Jensen~~

## Ladder Ranch Travel Log

- ~ 5:00am Met Rosie at the  
Biology department docs.  
Headed south on ~~Exit~~  
I-25
- ~ 6:45am Took exit 63 west  
towards Hillsboro
- ~ 7:00am Turned right onto  
the Ladder Ranch road  
(Topped Kayce)  
Waited at a fork  
in the road for Joe
- ~ 7:30 Joe met us, and  
guided us through some  
ridges into a riparian area.  
I overshot the camp,  
and we had to come  
back to where we lost  
Joe.
- ~ 8:00 Met Joe on the road  
and gave him a ride to  
camp (Ladder Ranch Picnic Area)

Ladder Ranch Journal  
(October 2012)

As soon as we arrived in camp I was informed that there was an opportunity to work on the wolf pens on the ranch. Therefore, I ate breakfast and quickly got to work. We were camped in a cottonwood floodplain, but the place that we checked with Joe was typical Chinaman desert habitat of mixed shrubs and short grasses. We managed to bring back a nice collection of kerato, grasshopper & pocket mice, and a deer mouse, while Joe did his best to point out rodent trails and plant taxa.

As soon as I got back to camp I prepped a pocket gopher, Thomomys bottae, and saved the carcass for tonight's dinner. I also volunteered to do a skunk, but Chris (Turner Foundation Wolf project coordinator) came to pick up volunteers.



Only Amanda and I went along, and we spent the rest of the afternoon with Scott, Chris & volunteers from NM State hauling rocks for erosion control.

That evening we met back up with the group at the Ladder Ranch headquarters, and then headed back to camp. Once back I immediately started on my skunk. Measurement had already been taken (I was told) and John was nice enough to pull tissues. The skunk was very large and still frozen (individual came from MSB storage), so it took all evening to skin. ~~So~~ Once the skin was off I packed it with cob dust for later, prepped the skeleton, and proceeded to pass out in my truck.

(28 October 2012)

I woke early started coffee and breakfast, and then headed back to help out with the wolf pens

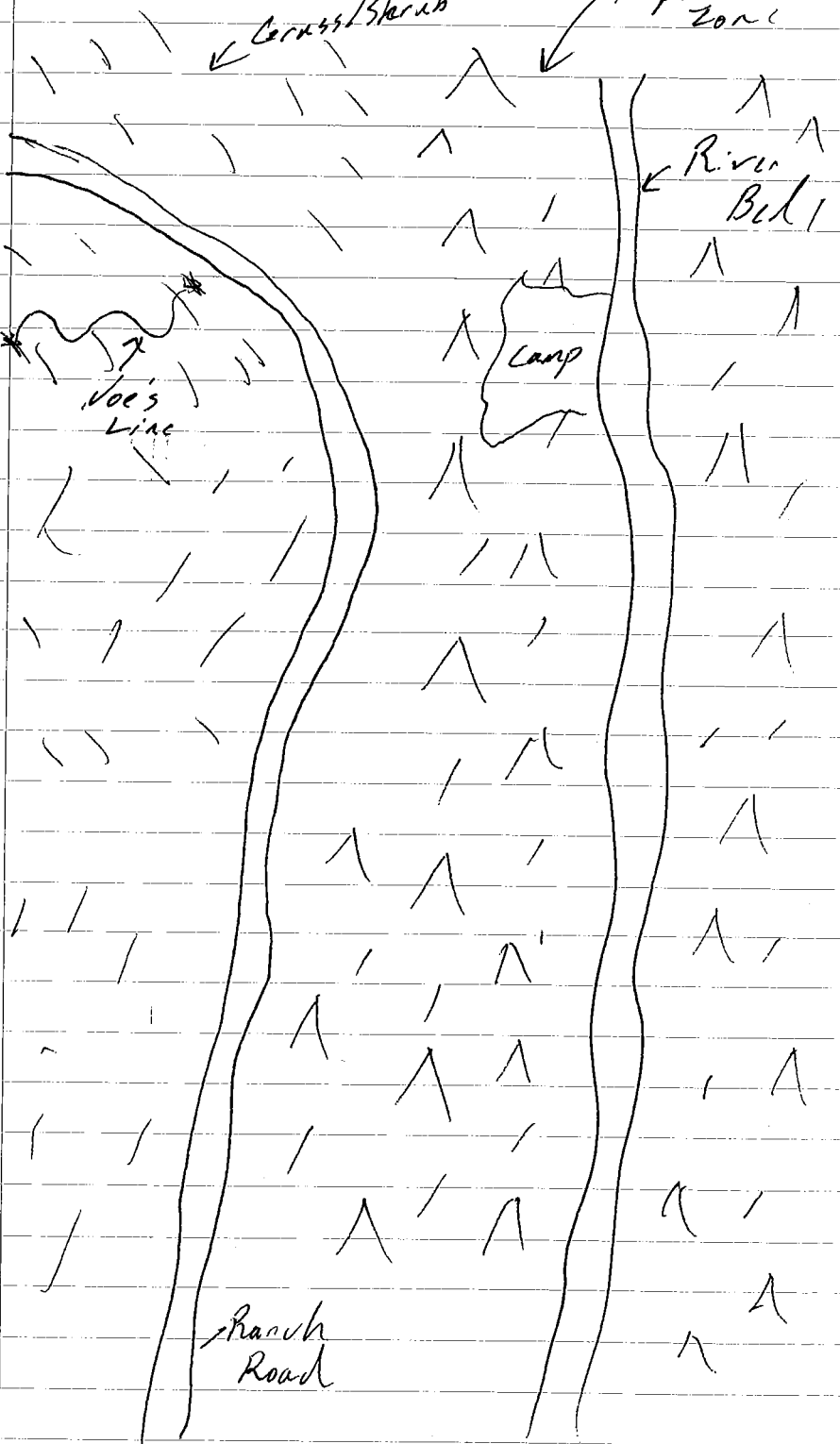
for the remainder of the trip.

Note: I was a little rushed and out of it, but I do remember that the weather was quite nice. It stayed cool and clear during the day, but the night time temperatures dropped quite a bit.

Ladder Ranch

← Cerrus/Skrub

↘ Riparian zone



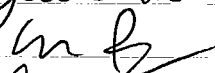


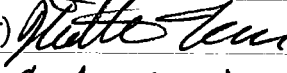
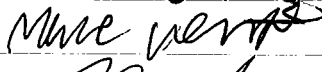

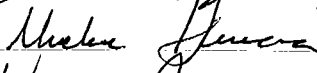

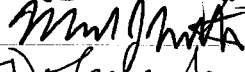
Joe's Line

Camp

← River Bed

Ranch Road

Trip 3 Participants

Julie Hawk	Julie Hawk	
EVAN FAHY		EFF
Amanda Jones	Amanda Jones	AJ
Schuyler Liphard		SL
Rosemary Steinberg		RKS
Heather Tomar (HMT)		
Amber L West	Amber L West	ALW
Leonardo R Gutierrez (LRG)	Leonardo R. Gutierrez	
Marie Westover (MLW)		
Amber Howard		ARH
Nichole Herrera		NRH
Vanessa Casias	Vanessa Casias	VEC
Andrea Jackson (ACT)		
Michael Smith		MJS
Teryn Jensen (TJJ)	Teryn Jensen	

# Species Lists

## - Lemme Mountains (Captures \*)

<u>Sylvilagus nuttalli</u>	<u>Sorex cinereus</u>
<u>Tamias minimus</u> *	<u>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</u>
<u>Sorex monticolus</u>	<u>Spermophilus lateralis</u> *
<u>Tamias quadrivittatus</u> *	plf
<u>Neotoma cinerea</u> *	<u>Peromyscus leucopus</u> *
<u>Thomomys talpoides</u>	<u>Eptesicus fuscus</u> *

## - San Mateo Mts + Gila Basin (Captures)

<u>Chaetodipus intermedius</u> *	<u>Neotoma albigula</u> *
<u>Peromyscus boylii</u> *	<u>Peromyscus eremicus</u>
<u>Neotoma stephensi</u> *	<u>Neotoma stephensi</u> *
<u>Peromyscus leucopus</u> *	<u>Peromyscus truei</u>
<u>Onychomys leucogaster</u>	
<u>Myotis californicus</u> *	[includes lines worked
<u>Myotis volans</u> *	w/ Bryan, Jason & John

## - Ladder Ranch (Captures \*) [w/ doc]

<u>Chaetodipus intermedius</u> *	<u>Eutamias dorsalis</u>
<u>Neotoma albigula</u>	
<u>Peromyscus eremicus</u>	
<u>Dipodomys merriami</u> *	
<u>Peromyscus leucopus</u> * ?	
<u>Thomomys bottae</u>	
<u>Peromyscus boylii</u> *	
<u>Onychomys leucogaster</u>	
<u>Peromyscus maniculatus</u>	
<u>Perognathus florus</u> *	