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Mammalogy Class 2012 Field Notes

Evan Fahy

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ROAD LOG to JEMEZ

- Drive vehicle alone
- 12:45 PM Took I-25N to Bernalillo ~ 15 miles
- 1:05 PM Exit on US-550 heading west
- Continue on US-550N past NM-4 and San Ysidro
- After passing San Ysidro, NM US-550 heads north, just west of the Jemez Mountains
- 1:45 PM Cabezon peak is visible due west ~ 20 miles past San Ysidro, continue on US-550N to Cuba, New Mexico
- 2:10 PM Once in Cuba, NM exit east on NM-126 for ~ 10 miles
- 2:35 PM turn left (North) on Forest Road 70, San Gregorio turn off
- Take Forest Road 70 ~ 2.2 miles, there will be a clearing on the left side of the road
- 2:40 PM arrived at location ~ 1 mile south of San Gregorio Reservoir

PARTICIPANT LIST

AMBER HOWARD (A.H.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	JULIE HAWK (J.H.)	<i>[Signature]</i>
NICHOLE HERRERA (N.H.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	KRISTIN WRIGHT (K.W.)	<i>[Signature]</i>
HEATHER TOMAN (H.T.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	MARIE WESTOVER (M.W.)	<i>[Signature]</i>
AMANDA JONES (A.J.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	ROSEMARY STEWBERG (R.S.)	<i>[Signature]</i>
LEONARDO GUTIERREZ (L.G.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	VANESSA CAJAS (V.C.)	<i>[Signature]</i>
SCHUYLER LIPHARDT (S.L.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	KEVIN McCORMICK (K.M.)	<i>[Signature]</i>
MICHAEL SMITH (M.S.)	<i>[Signature]</i>		
VALERIE HOUDA (V.H.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	JOSEPH COOK	
AMBER WEST (A.W.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	KAYCE BELL	
ANDREA JACKSON (A.J.)	<i>[Signature]</i>	JESON MALANEY	
BETHANY ABRAHAMSON (B.A.)	<i>[Signature]</i>		

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

- The site where we trapped was the southern most remnant of boreal forests found further north. The forest is rich in spruce/fir with occasional aspen and Ponderosa pine due to shifting life zones. The mature conifers were approximately 40 feet in height. The shrubby understory was around 3ft and there were some grasses. The site where we camped was a grassy meadow surrounded by forest that was about 65% cover.

OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED LOCALITY

- USA: New Mexico; Sandoval County; Santa Fe National Forest, Jemez Mountains, Clear Creek, 2 km south of San Gregorio Reservoir

lat/lon 36°01.188N 106°50.572W elev 2796

WEATHER

- Partially cloudy, cool, 70-75°F
- Winds picked up as trip continued
- Temp dropped about 5°F second day (9/8)
- 9/9 was mostly sunny, 70-75°F

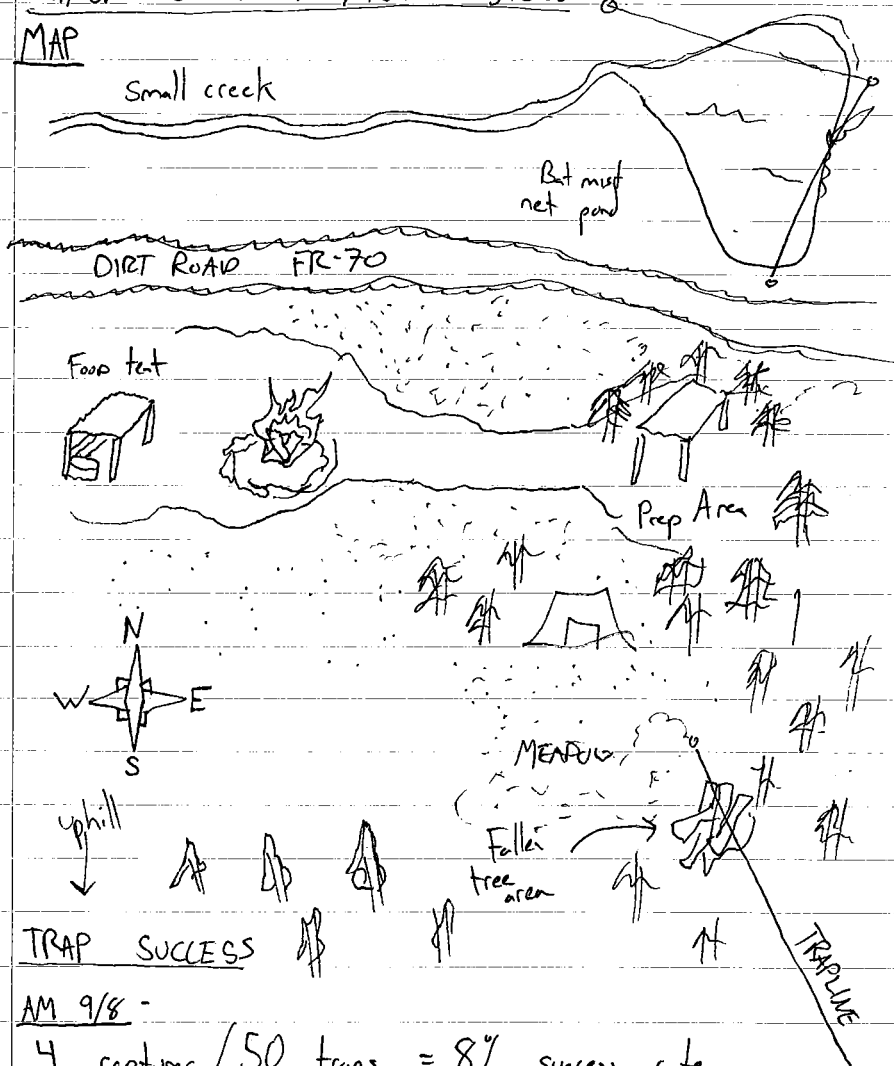
TRAPLINE INFORMATION

- Trapline name: EFF+LG (Evan+Leo)
 - Total traps: 50 / 10 pitfall, 40 Sherman
- Trapline: Our trapline ran southeast from the group campsite, starting in an area dense in dead and fallen trees. The trapline then proceeded through increasingly dense 40 ft tall conifers

up a slope. The first 3 trap sites were in a grassy area of only 25% cover. As the trapline moved south, leaf litter increased on the ground and conifers became thicker in cover. The ground was hard and ~~trap~~ pit-fall traps were difficult to dig.

LAT/LON 36°01.188'N, 106°50.572'W

MAP



TRAP SUCCESS

AM 9/8 -

4 captures / 50 traps = 8% success rate

- 4/40 sherman = 10% sherman success

• all captures occurred @ first two trap sites

• 0/10 pitfall = 0% pitfall success

Species

Tamias minimus (1) *

Peromyscus (3)

PM 9/8 - went out @ 5:00 to re-bait + check traps

1 capture / 46 traps = 2% success

- 1/36 sherman = 2% sherman success

- 0/10 pitfall success = 0% pitfall success

Species

Tamias minimus (1)

AM 9/9

2 captures / 46 traps = 4% success

- 2/46 sherman = 4% success

- 0/10 pitfall = 0% pitfall success

Species

Peromyscus

SPECIES LIST

Sylvilagus nuttallii

Sorex cinereus

Tamias minimus

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

Sorex monticolus

Spermophilus lateralis

Neotoma cinerea

Eptesicus fuscus

Thomomys talpoides

Peromyscus spp. (maniculatus, leucopus)

Tamias quadrivittatus

It appears that most of the trap success occurred with groups trapping in transition zones (ex dense forest to meadow) near the riparian area. Our best luck was with areas with many fallen trees. We need to work on finding small mammal "runways" ~~but~~ we got the Sorex!

ROAD LOG TO GILA

- Drove in van with Kayce driving

STARTING MILEAGE: 20737 - 11 OCTOBER 2012

- 8:18 AM Left UNM, west on Martin Luther King, South on I-25
 - 8:55 AM roadkill Canis latrans
 - 10:20 AM Exit 100 to San Mateo Mountains (Spring Mountain) to examine Chihuahuan desert + Neotoma nest
 - met up with Kern, Leo, Bryan, Jason
 - 10:35 AM Left San Mateo Mountains and headed South on I-25
 - 10:49 AM Exited into Truth or Consequences for a McDonald's food stop
 - 11:06 AM left McDonald's
 - 11:25 AM exit 63 Hillsboro, past Kingston
 - 11:51 AM Entered Gila National Forest
 - 12:47 PM Stopped at China mine, 15 miles east of Silver City
 - 1:03 PM Right on 180W
 - 1:08 PM stopped at Albertson's in Silver City
 - 2:11 PM W 180, right 14th Street, ~~Right~~
 - 2:42 PM Entered Gila
 - 2:51 PM Arrived at Mr. McDonald's home
 - 2:56 PM Left MacDonal's home and followed Turkey Creek Road for ~10 miles
 - 4:05 PM Arrived at camp site
- END MILEAGE: 21020

PARTICIPANT LIST

NICHOLE HERRERA (NH)	<i>Nicole Herrera</i>	MARIE WESTOVER (MW)	<i>Mulherson</i>
HEATHER TOMAN (HT)	<i>Heather Toman</i>	ROSEMARY STEINBERG (RS)	<i>Ri</i>
AMANDA JONES (AJ)	<i>Amanda Jones</i>	VANESSA CASIAS (VC)	<i>Vanessa Casias</i>
SCHUYLER LIPHART (SL)	<i>SL</i>	BETHANX ABRAHAMSON (BA)	<i>BA</i>
VALERIA HOUDA (VH)	<i>Valeria Houda</i>	LEONARDO GUTIERREZ (LG)	<i>LG</i>
AMBER WEST (AW)	<i>Amber West</i>	KEVIN MCCORMACK (KM)	<i>Kevin McCormack</i>
ANDREA JACKSON (AJ)	<i>Andrea Jackson</i>		
TERYU JENSEN (TJ)	<i>Teryu Jensen</i>	ERVIE VALDEZ	
KRISTIN WRIGHT (KW)	<i>Kristin Wright</i>	JOSEPH COOK	
JULIE HAWK (JH)	<i>Julie Hawk</i>	KAYCE BELL	

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

We set up camp in a location known as Turkey Springs. This site was right along the Gila River, dominated by Cottonwoods, Sycamores, willows, salt cedar, some sagebrush, Mullen. The ground was very hard and rocky soil. To one side of the camp was a transition ~~from~~^{to} Pison/Juniper up steep sides of the canyon walls. Between the riparian habitat and the PT, were a thick layer of mesquite. The river was running low and black from the fire that had burned most of the Gila Forest. It was much cooler in the canyon where we stayed.

OFFICIAL DESIGNATED LOCALITY

USA: New Mexico; Grant County; Gila National Forest
Mogollan Mountains; Gila River, 10 km N, 10 km E CAPP
35.06121, -108.50206; elev 1441

WEATHER

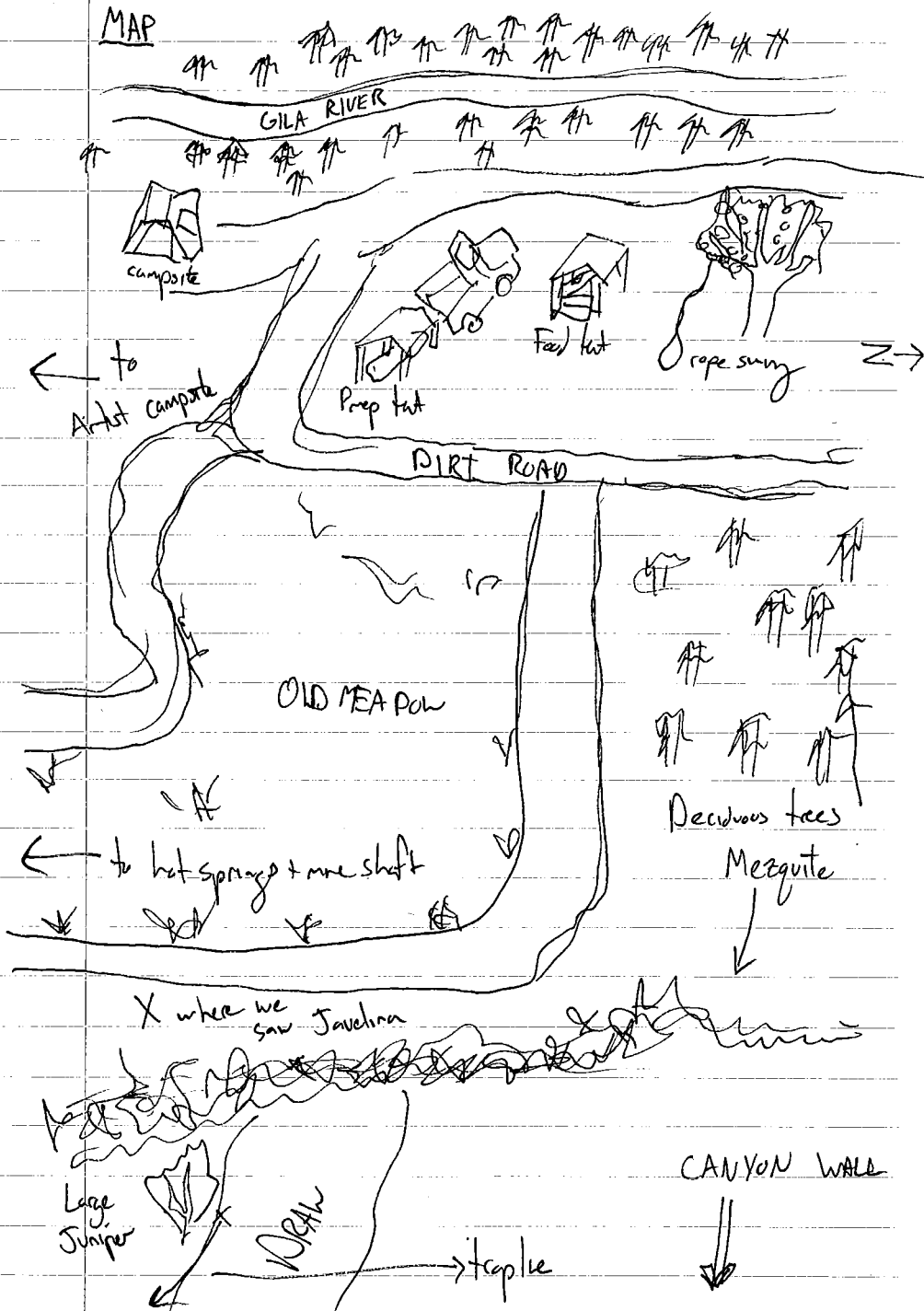
- The weather in the Gila was mostly sunny the entire trip with winds picking up the second day and the last night nearing freezing.
- 11 October 2012 - Mostly Sunny, calm; Day ~ 70°F, Night ~ 50°F
- 12 October 2012 - Mostly Sunny, windy; Day ~ 65°F, Night ~ 50°F
- 13 October 2012 - Mostly Sunny, slightly breezy ~ 70°F

TRAPLINE INFORMATION

- TRAPLINE NAME: EF + SL (Evan Fahyt Schuyler Liphardt)
- Total traps: 70 / 40 sherman, 30 snap

Trapline: In order to cover all the different habitats, Schuyler and I hiked up the canyon to the west of the campsite. You could follow the road from the main camp area and head west, after passing a large field, the road would bear east. We followed that road until there was a slight opening in the mesquite. We hiked through the mesquite until we reached a draw. We set our trap line starting underneath a large Juniper at the bottom of the draw. We then followed the draw about 1/3 of the way up the canyon side. The predominant vegetation consisted of 6ft tall mesquite and other shrubs, then more scattered Junipers + Pinons. Towards the upper half of the trapline, there were alot of prickly pears and loose rocks. Also at halfway, was a rocky outcropping with quite alot of scot.

Most of our trapping locations were on the slopes of the draw where we located animal runways.



TRAP SUCCESS

12 October 2012 - Checked traps w/ Schuyler @ 7:00 AM

4 captures / 70 traps = 4% success rate

- 1/30 snap = 3% success snaptraps

- 3/40 sherman = 7% success sherman

- All captures with shermans were made in the first 3 trap sites in the lower part of the draw before the rocky outcroppings and cactus
- The 1 snap trap success was from the last trap site, far up the canyon
- Most traps were missing bait, some evidence that bugs were eating it.
 - 2 traps moved without captures
- When we came back from rebaiting our traps we came across a Mephitis mephitis hiding in some rocks on the opposite side of the draw that we were trapping on.
- We also came across one Pecari tajacu on the road leading to our campsite

Species

Peromyscus (3)

Neotoma albigula

* Kayce gave us some pointers on trap placement on our way back to rebait 12 October

13 October 2012 - Checked traps @ 7:00 AM

7 captures / 70 traps = 10% success rate

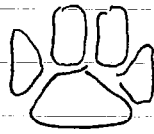
* I did not record which traps caught which specimens

- All but 2 captures were on slopes, we did not capture any specimens where all the droppings were found which was highly surprising

SPECIES

Peromyscus (6)
Neotoma albigula (1)

Puma concolor?



- Saw this on road. No claws, roundish.

SPECIES LIST

Chaetodipus intermedius

Neotoma albigula

Dipodomys merriami

Neotoma stephensi

Dipodomys ordii

Onychomys leucogaster

Lasiurus noctivivans

Perognathus flavus

Lasiurus cinereus

Peromyscus boylii

Myotis auricularis

Peromyscus eremicus

Myotis californicus

Peromyscus leucopus

Myotis volans

Peromyscus truei

Trap success was much lower on this trip than expected. However, I saw more evidence of diversity in this area through prints (beet + mountain lion), saw my first Javelina, and came face to face with a skunk. Mr McDonald, who lives in the area, predicted catches would be lower this time around. I was surprised because temperatures were warm and when the fire started in the area, this was one of the few places that was not affected, and many animals retreated here. We had an opportunity the second night to exchange experiences with an UNM art class, students were not totally on board with trapping but were curious nonetheless. Picked up roadkill

Urocyon cinereoargenteus on way back @ mile marker 42. + Spermophilus variegatus at site Reserve mm 24.

ROAD LOG TO LADDER RANCH

26 October 2012 - Drove in van with Kayce Bell

STARTING MILEAGE: 21327

- 12:02 PM Left UNM, took Martin Luther King west to I-25
 - Took I-25 south to Exit 150 Socorro, NM
 - Deal bunny at mile marker 188
 - 1:08 PM stopped for gas at Phillips 66 ~ 76 miles
 - 1:36 PM Exit 139 to San Antonio, NM went to Owl Bar & Cafe for lunch
 - 2:30 PM Left Owl Bar
 - 3:33 PM Exit 63 to Hillsboro
 - 3:57 PM Ladder Ranch Turn off, turned North
- END MILEAGE: 21500

PARTICIPANT LIST

AMBER HOWARD (AH)
 NICHOLE HERRERA (NH) *Made from*
 HEATHER BMAN (HMT) *Heather Bman*
 AMANDA JONES (AJ) *Amanda Jones*
 SCHUYLER LIPHARDT (SL) *SL*
 MICHAEL SMITH (MS) *MS*
 AMBER WEST (AW) *Amber West AW*
 ANDREA JACKSON (AJ) *AJ*
 TERYN JENSEN (TJ) *Teryn Jensen TJ*
 JULIE HAWK (JH) *Julie Hawk*
 KEVIN MCCORMICK (KM) *KM*
 MARIE WESTOVER (MW) *MW*
 ROSEMARY STEINBERG (RS) *RS*
 Amber Howard *Amber Howard*

VANESSA CASIAS (VC) *Vanessa Casias*
 KEVIN MCCORMICK (K.R.) *Kevin McCormick*
 Bryan McCann
 JASON McANEY
 Bethany Abrahamson BHA *Bethany Abrahamson*
 Joseph Cook
 Kayce Bell

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

The site we stayed at was down in a stream valley that the Animas stream ran through. We were in a low grassy meadow surrounded by deciduous trees (huge cottonwoods, willows). The riparian area also had a good deal of Mullen and as you moved out of the valley you got into Chihuahuan desert dominated by four-wing salt bush, opuntias, sage brush, some winter fat. At the center of camp was an old pump where we set up fire, towards the entrance we had both the food tent and prog tent. The cottonwoods around camp were about 10 feet in diameter and 70 feet tall. The animas stream was only about 6 feet across average and perhaps 2 feet deep.

OFFICIAL DESIGNATED LOCALITY

USA: New Mexico; Sierra County; Ladder Ranch
1 Km N, 10 Km W of Caballo
lat/lon 33.01176, -107.46735 elev. 1444m

WEATHER

26 OCTOBER 2012 - Mostly sunny; Day - 70°F, Night 45°F
27 OCTOBER 2012 - Mostly sunny; Day - 65°F, Night 40°F
28 OCTOBER 2012 - Mostly sunny; Day - 65°F, Night 40°F

TRAPLINE INFORMATION

- TRAPLINE NAME: 27 October 2012: # 015-022
28 October 2012: # 042-043
- Schuyler Liphardt & Evan Fahy
- TOTAL TRAPS: 80 traps / 40 sherman, 40 snap trap
* ADDED 30 more sherman on second day
- The trapline started on edge habitat, where the meadow of the campsite met the edge of the riparian zone, then along the Animas stream. By using the edge habitat, we hoped to catch Sigmodon. We added an extra 30 sherman to catch Farmas that Schuyler and I spotted.



TRAP SUCCESS

Schuyler and I checked traps at 9:50am, 27 October 2012

- 9/80 = 11.25% success

• 2/80 sherman = 5% sherman success

• 7/40 snap = 17.5% snap success

- Captures were not localized but rather spread fairly evenly across the entire trap line

- The snap traps caught only Peromyscus, and the sherman caught both the Neotoma & Eutamias

Species

Peromyscus (7)

Eutamias dorsalis (1) 33.01176, -107.46735

Neotoma albigula (1)

- * Schuyler and I did not replace the traps we removed when we went to place 30 more Sherman traps in the riparian borderland where we caught the Eutamias.

Schuyler and I checked traps at 7:15AM, 28 October 2012

- 2/106 = 1.8% success

• 2/40 = 5% snap success

• 0/66 = 0% sherman success

- Surprising the decrease in trap success the second night, perhaps due to a slight decrease in nighttime temperature

Species

Peromyscus (2)

SPECIES LIST

Bassariscus astutus

Chaetodipus intermedius

Dipodomys merriami

Eutamias dorsalis

Neotoma albigula

Oryzomys leucogaster

Perognathus flavus

Peromyscus boylii

Peromyscus leucopus

Peromyscus maniculatus

Thomomys bottae

Ladder Ranch trapping site was rich in diversity and was the first riparian trapping I got to do all semester. The first night at Ladder Ranch we spoke to two biologists, Chris + Scott, and learned about the "Turner Endangered Species Fund", and the current work on Bolson tortoise recovery and Mexican wolf recovery. We attempted on the second night to catch some K-rats via moonlight but with no such luck. Upon checking the second round of Sherman traps to catch more Eutamias for Kayce, Schuyler and I found a bear toilet of sorts. It was a fallen cottonwood laying across the Arroyo covered in scat. On this trip I learned some valuable life lessons such as not burning cottonwood and the allure of "prime rib". A once in a lifetime opportunity I will never forget.