



### Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund

## Registration

Registration No. M6N9-4DF3K  
Submitted Jan 4, 2016 3:44pm by Kathryn Jacaruso

#### Registration

Sep 1, 2015-  
Aug 31

Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund

#### **RKMF Expedition Grant 2015/2016/INDIVIDUAL**

This is the individual application for a RKMF Expedition Grant. If your group has received approval, you may fill out this application individually. In this application you will be asked to provide important details concerning your experience and eligibility for your proposed expedition.

Waiting for  
Approval

Sep 1, 2015-  
Aug 31

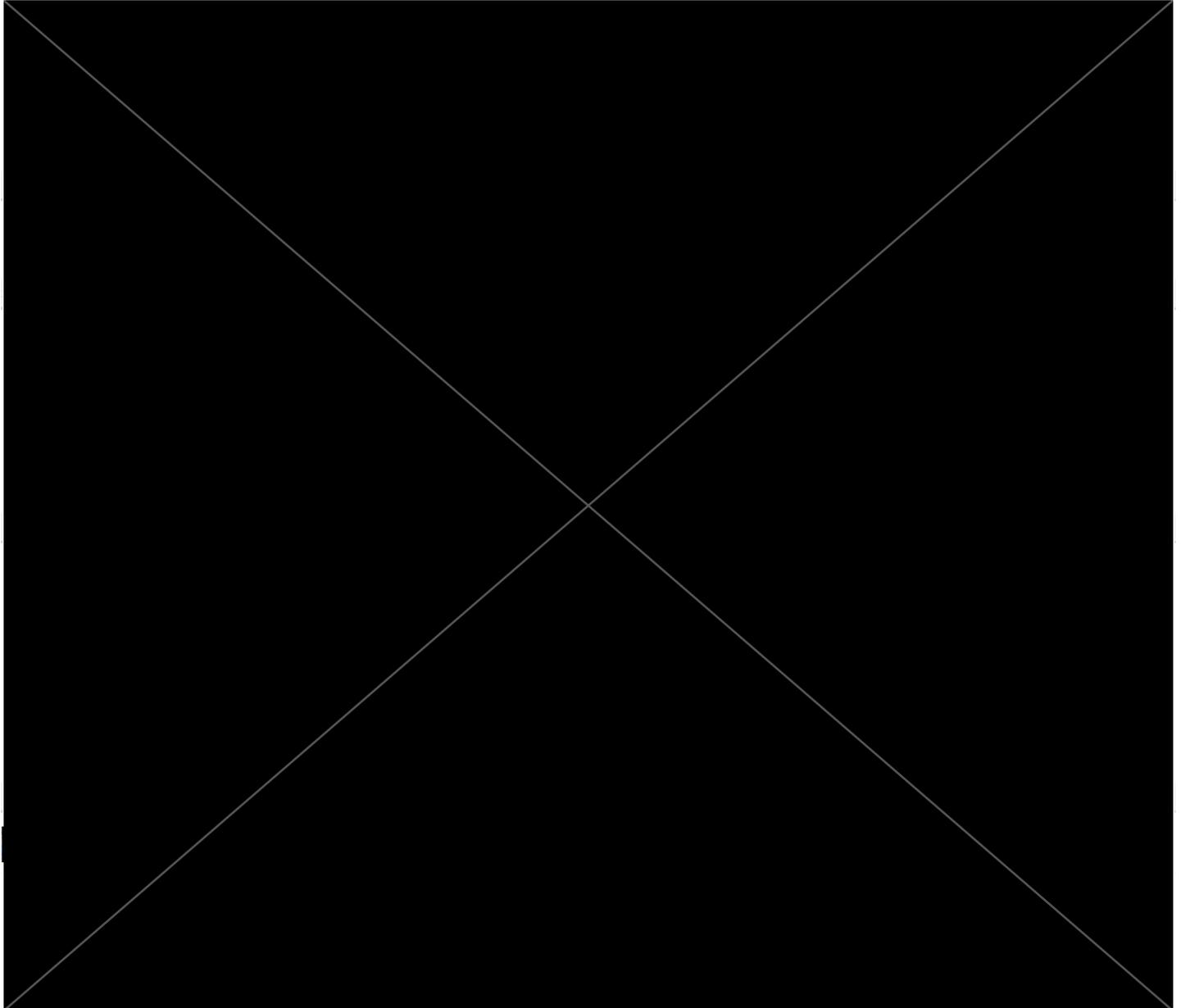
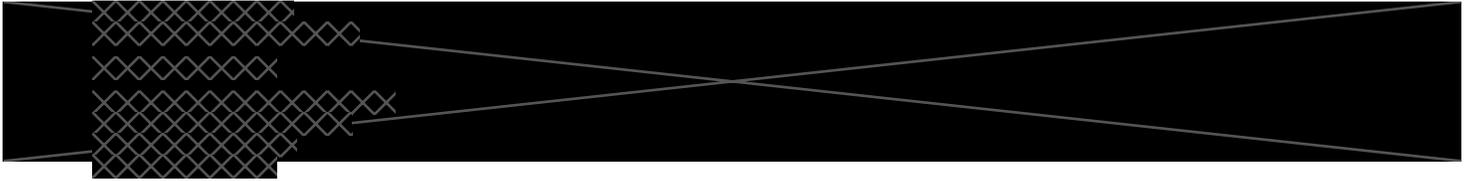
Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund

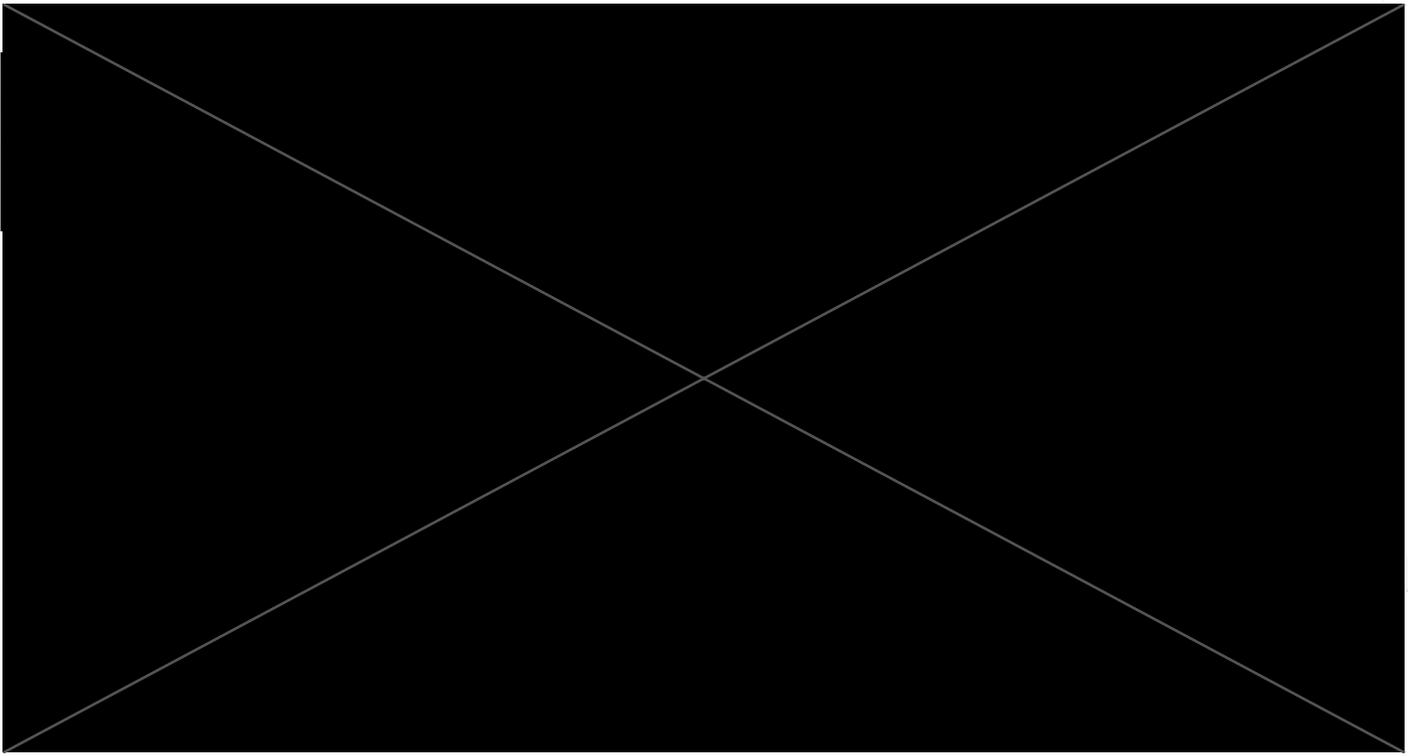
#### **RKMF Expedition Grant 2015/2016/Group Application**

This is the group application for a RKMF Expedition Grant. In this application you will be asked to provide important details concerning your expedition.

Waiting for Approval

#### Participant





## I. Expedition Summary

### Expedition Name

Finding Harmony on the Gila

### Objectives

Our expedition will begin with backpacking across the Gila Wilderness. We will follow the Gila River from one of its sources at Turkeyfeather Creek. As soon as the stream is large enough, we will inflate packrafts and paddle through the Gila Wilderness to the town of Gila, New Mexico.

During our expedition, we plan to gain insight into and reflect upon the human relationship with the wilderness. Our trip will take place in the first designated wilderness areas in America. This is the highest level of protection that a portion of public lands can have. However, the latter portions of our trip will have us in the midst of threats toward the Gila River. Though the river is one of very few to remain free-flowing in the Southwest, it is currently unprotected. Proposals to divert nearly all of its flow were approved last year. Unfortunately, it may be only a matter of time before knowing the Gila River by boat is impossible. We look forward to watching the Gila begin at its headwaters and grow with every tributary.

With a deep concern for wild lands, we are curious about this juxtaposition of conservation and development. We plan to use a combination of drawing and music to reflect on our experience. While we enjoy these art forms in themselves, we also hope to use our creativity to perpetuate a wilderness ethic to a broader audience. We hope to bring our creations back to Colorado College and use them to build awareness of environmental concerns such as those which threaten the Gila. In addition, we are interested in attending the annual Gila River Festival in September in order to promote awareness of the endangered river through our visual art and music projects. This will enable us to extend our own once in a lifetime opportunity in the Gila Wilderness to others, in hopes that they may have the chance to explore the area as we did before the imminent threat of water diversion.

Within the last year, votes have allowed for the diversion of the currently free flowing water in the Gila to begin, and federal funding of 1 million dollars has already been allocated to the project. While this may seem a lost cause, sources say that "it is unclear what the ISC will do with this funding." This means that our trip has the potential to be an essential part of the movement to preserve the river.

### Location

Our destination is in the Southwest corner of New Mexico, in the Gila Wilderness. We plan to begin our expedition at the Willow Creek Trailhead, hiking southeast on McKenzie Trail #151, which traverses the Gila Wilderness for 31 miles. We will follow along Iron Creek for a short distance before hiking upstream in Cooper Canyon. After climbing over Turkeyfeather Pass, Trail #151 follows Turkeyfeather Creek, which flows into the West Fork of the Gila River. As soon as there is enough water to paddle, we will inflate our packrafts and paddle.

Upon reaching Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, we expect enough water to be flowing that we are able to packraft. We plan to paddle for 56 miles from the national monument to the town of Gila, New Mexico. This stretch of river is considered class II-III. Due to our experience kayaking and rafting, we feel confident with our ability to navigate this section of river. However, we plan to exercise caution in the face of rapids and unknown territory.

### Departure Date

May 14, 2016

### Return Date

May 25, 2016

### Days in the Field

12

### Wilderness Character

The Gila River is New Mexico's last free-flowing river. The present is an incredibly unique time to explore this section of the Gila Wilderness because recently approved proposals to divert water from the natural flows have made the existence of this untouched system very time sensitive. Unless radical changes in policy occur, the near future may be our only chance to explore the Gila River. In 2014, this river was on American Rivers' list of the Most Endangered Rivers in America. Experts at American Rivers say that "The Gila River supports healthy riverside forests, cold

water fisheries, and a remarkable abundance of wildlife. The river is critical to the long-term health of these wild ecosystems."

Our expedition is designed to capture the most "off the grid" experience possible given the geographic context. The few aspects of our expedition that contradict our efforts to remain completely in the wilderness include our resupply at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, and the final destination of our expedition being in the town of Gila, New Mexico. Other than these minor and necessary diversions from the isolation for which we are aiming, our trip is an effort to become as immersed in the wild as possible. We are able to do this through our decision to packraft the journey, giving us access to link trails and rivers in a safe and flexible way. Traveling light enables us to make the most of America's first designated wilderness area while its key environmental feature remains flowing freely.

## II. Participant Qualifications

### Participants' Graduation Date

Mollie Podmore, 2017

Kathryn Jacaruso, 2017

Caleb Cofsky, 2017

Nina Lundstrom, 2017

### Medical Certifications

Mollie Podmore, 2017 (WFR expiration January 2017)

Kathryn Jacaruso, 2017 (WFR to be recertified February 2016)

Caleb Cofsky, 2017 (WFR expiration January 2017)

Nina Lundstrom, 2017 (WFR to be recertified January 2016)

### Does your group have adequate experience?

Yes

### Training Plan

Past Solidification of Technical Skills:

Two members have taken a Swiftwater Rescue course. All expedition members have a background in whitewater activities through past employment and/or family expeditions. All expedition members have participated in multiple multi-day river trips as well as kayaking excursions together. We have worked on solidifying roles with regards to safety, organization, and team/leadership development.

Future Plans to Solidify Technical Skills:

Our expedition members plan to organize and attend WFR review sessions as a team, leading up to the expedition to ensure maximum preparedness. In addition, it is essential to develop whitewater specific medical plans. We will review what we have learned in Swiftwater and other river rescue trainings.

The expedition team also plans to practice the necessary skills together, particularly those specific to whitewater. We plan to kayak together on the Arkansas River during the spring semester and in Utah during block breaks. During these excursions, we will discuss technical skills and use our time to teach and learn from one another.

Our shared location in Colorado Springs gives us the opportunity to practice working as a team prior to the expedition. Working as a team is a crucial piece to any trip, and we have confidence that the four of us work well together and know each other in a backcountry setting. We will continue sharpening these skills as the dates of our expedition approach. Together, we will practice our knowledge of river rescue, first aid, paddling skills, and backcountry trip logistics.

## III. Expedition Logistics, Gear and Food

### Travel Plan

Our team will meet in Colorado Springs immediately after the spring semester ends. We will depart on May 12th and travel in one car. We plan to drive a partial distance and camp near Santa Fe, NM, so as not to have a dangerously long day of driving. We will arrive in Gila Hot Springs on May 13th and set up our resupply of food to leave at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, just five miles from Gila Hot Springs. We plan to camp the night of the 13th at Grapevine Campground, near Gila Hot Springs. Early on the 14th, we will meet owners of The Wilderness Lodge in Gila Hot Springs for a shuttle. A shuttle driver will travel with us in our car to the town of Glenwood, NM and via Bursum Road to the Willow Creek Trailhead. The shuttle driver will bring our car back to the town of Gila, NM for us to pick up at the end of our expedition. When we arrive in Gila on May 25th, we will return to Grapevine Campground to spend the night. The following day, we will drive back to Colorado Springs. The total distance which our car will travel is 1620 miles.

We have spoken with the owners of The Wilderness Lodge to confirm that they can provide us with a shuttle. Contact information for our shuttle service can be found at: <http://www.gilahot.com/index.shtml>

A map of our driving route can be found here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Colorado+Springs,+CO/Gila+Cliff+Dwellings+National+Monument,+New+Mexico/Glenwood,+NM/Gila+Cliff+Dwellings+National+Monument,+New+Mexico/Gila,+NM/104.8213634!2d38.8338816!1m5!1m1!1s0x87275a27c8136e5f:0x3f23db089c7eeb93!2m2!1d-108.272273!2d33.227291!1m5!1m1!1s0x87279ebcedb379e5:0xb2e31c16fba3086b!2m2!1d-108.8831188!2d33.167293!1m5!1m1!1s0x87275a27c8136e5f:0x3f23db089c7eeb93!2m2!1d-108.272273!2d33.227291!1m5!1m1!1s0x86d89af6ee96a63b:0xb66f15ea51d2b005!2m2!1d-108.5775687!2d32.9646574!1m5!1m1!1s0x8713412ea1e6d22b:0xa418eeb92f5e86b13!2m2!1d-104.8213634!2d38.8338816!3e0>

### Expedition Itinerary

[itinerarymap.pdf](#) (3MB)

Uploaded Jan 4 1:04pm by Kathryn Jacaruso

[itinerary and evac plans.docx](#) (132KB)

Uploaded Jan 4 2:32pm by Kathryn Jacaruso

[itinerarymapwithhospitals.pdf](#) (2.5MB)

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**Appendix A**

### Re-Ration Plans

We plan to re-ration food, fuel, and paddling gear at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. While this point is less than halfway between Willow Creek Trailhead and Gila, NM, we will paddle for the latter portion of the trip, which allows us to carry more weight. Because we will drive to Gila Hot Springs to arrange a shuttle before beginning the trip, we will easily be able to leave a re-ration at the nearby national monument as well. Though this will require a brief entrance into developed land, we will preserve the wilderness ethic by minimizing the time it takes to retrieve the re-ration. Prior to the trip, we will fully prepare and divide our re-ration into four groups (one per person) so that we can quickly return to the wilderness and our expedition. Based on our research, we expect the river size to become sufficient for paddling near the town of Gila Hot Springs. For this reason, we will collect all the necessary river gear along with our resupply. While it would be ideal to be completely immersed in the wilderness and carry our packrafts from the beginning, we feel that hiking with lighter packs is a necessary trade-off for the safety of our expedition. If, during the latter portion of the trip, we are faced with minimal water flows force us to hike, lightweight boating gear will allow us to do so.

### Food Storage

To prevent wildlife from getting into our food, we will set up bear hangs each night. Initially, we will carry P-cord for this purpose. During the paddling section of the trip, we will be carrying throw-ropes, which can double as a bear hang. We will have stuff sacks in which to keep the food. In our experience backpacking, we have learned that all food, trash, and other scented items should hang twelve feet above the ground, eight feet below a tree branch, and eight feet away from a tree trunk. We will follow this protocol.

We have spoken with the visitor center of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. We have arranged to keep our resupply of food inside a building at the national monument, so it will be safe from wildlife as well.

### Food List

[Food.docx](#) (6.7KB)

Uploaded Jan 4 1:08pm by Kathryn Jacaruso

**Appendix B**

### Equipment List

[Equipment List.docx](#) (68KB)

Uploaded Jan 4 1:08pm by Kathryn Jacaruso

**Appendix C**

### Are all expedition members familiar with LNT principles?

Yes

### Plan for Minimizing Impacts

Plan Ahead and Prepare:

Our itinerary fulfills this principle. This application, combined with the further planning we will do in the weeks leading up to our departure, shows that we have planned for various conditions and anticipated the ways in which we can mitigate our impact on the wilderness area.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:

Our route includes only designated trails and established sections of river. We plan to not break trail, bushwhack, or explore areas that are not marked as designated trails. We will camp at designated campsites when possible. At destinations that are not designated campsites, we plan to set up our sleeping pads and/or tents on non-vegetative ground. Due to the desert environment that we will be in, patches of sand and dirt will be easy to find.

Dispose of Waste Properly:

We will begin our trip with minimal packaging. We will pack out the small amount of trash that we do create. Human waste will be buried six inches deep at a distance of at least 200 feet from any water source or trail.

Leave What You Find:

We will not take any objects from the wilderness, both environmental and archaeological. If we find trash from another group, we will pack it out.

Minimize Fire Impacts:

We will only build campfires if one is necessary for the safety of the group (e.g. hypothermia).

Respect Wildlife:

We will keep all food, trash, and other scented items contained in a bear hang. We will keep each camp clean, so as not to attract animals. If we do see wildlife, we will admire it only from a distance and will not provoke it in any way.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors:

We will approach all other visitors with kindness. When we are unsure of whether there are other visitors nearby, we will not make excessive noise. We plan to stay on the trail, river, or in our chosen camp, so as not to invade the space of others during their wilderness experience.

### Cultural Concerns

Some portions of our expedition, particularly days four and five will be in the vicinity of ancient cliff dwellings. We understand the cultural and historical importance of such ruins, and, if we are to come across them, we will view them only at a distance with respect and awareness of the LNT principles. The Forest Service webpage regarding backpacking in the Gila Wilderness asks visitors not to camp on or disturb archaeological sites. We will take these instructions seriously.

### Land Management

Our itinerary takes place in the Gila Wilderness, which is located within the Gila National Forest. This protection prohibits access with motorized vehicles, which will not be a problem for our plans. There is no permit required to access this area. However, we will notify the nearest land management offices of our plans.

Contact information for the Gila National Forest headquarters is below:

3005 E Camino del Bosque  
Silver City, NM 88061  
Phone: (575) 388-8201

## IV. Risk Management

### Objective Hazards

#### Objective Backpacking Hazards:

Our experience with wilderness travel has given us an understanding of its dangers. When backpacking in remote areas, response to accidents or emergencies can be difficult and dangerously time consuming. For this reason, we will do everything possible to prevent accidents from happening. We will approach every aspect of the trip conservatively and with safety as a priority.

A major danger associated with outdoor travel is weather. Storms can demand a change of plans or cause hypothermia. To mitigate this risk, we will travel with warm synthetic layers and use heavy trash compactor bags inside our backpacks to keep sleeping bags and other clothes dry. We will consult a weather forecast prior to the trip. In addition, we will pay careful attention to the weather each day and use safe judgement to change our itinerary if it is necessary for the safety of the group.

Similarly, lightning poses a threat to backcountry excursions. While we may be susceptible to this hazard, nearly all of our trip will take place in the bottom of the river's valley. However, the beginning of our expedition does include hiking over Turkeyfeather Pass. This requires reaching an elevation of approximately 8400 feet, which will be the point of the trip that is most threatened by lightning. On this day in particular, we will be extremely conscious of the weather. If indications of a storm are present, we will delay the crossing over the pass. Because the highest elevation portions of the route fall early in the trip, we will have enough time to make up for lost distance should the need arise. If we do get caught in a lightning storm with less than thirty seconds between flashes and thunder, we will observe lightning protocol. Group members will spread to about fifty feet apart and crouch on top of backpacks to be insulated from the ground. We will remain in this position until thirty minutes after the last flash of lightning and descend to a protected area as soon as possible.

Another danger that faces backpackers is stream crossings. Footing can be slippery and foot entrapments are extremely dangerous. With such a strong background in river safety, each of us is more prepared to respond to stream crossing incidents than the average backpacker may be. We will scout the area for the best place to cross as well as take note of and discuss visible hazards. We will then cross the stream with packs unbuckled to be easily releasable. We can use sticks or paddles to aid balance. We will carefully watch one another cross and offer aid if needed.

Wildlife can also present danger to hikers. The Gila Wilderness is home to rattlesnakes, Mexican grey wolves, mountain lions, and black bears. These animals usually do not harm humans unless they are started or provoked. We will use the following techniques to minimize the potential for dangerous interactions with animals:

Never feed or approach wildlife

Keep all food, trash, and other scented items in 'bear-hangs'

Eat, cook, and keep food a minimum of 200 feet from our tent

Pack out all trash

Strain and drain greywater into sump holes at least 200 feet from tent and cooking area

Avoid walking alone

Travel without pets

The national park service instructs park visitors to do the following if threatened by wildlife:

If we encounter a mountain lion or bear, we will face the animal, act large, make noise, and throw rocks or sticks as we back away slowly. If threatened by a wolf, we will shout while throwing small objects. In the case of a rattlesnake bite, we will treat the wound using WFR knowledge and extract the venom using a snake bite kit, wrap a tight band around the bitten limb, and assess the situation for how best to evacuate the victim.

Hiking with heavy packs also has the potential for repetitive motion injuries. We will be conscious of soreness and hot spots. If we notice this type of injury developing, we will prevent it by readjusting the associated gear (backpack or boots, for example) and using moleskin or other contents of our first aid kit to ease the injury. If one person is struggling with the weight of a pack, we have enough other members in the group to divide the weight. We have minimized the weight of our packs with our plans for a resupply.

If anyone is to be injured due to a fall while hiking, we will use our WFR skills to treat the injury. Each of us will be well-trained to respond to a wide variety of injuries.

#### Objective River Hazards:

As each of us has strong experience with rafting and kayaking, we know the importance of respecting the dangers that rivers can present. While river recreation is a source of great enjoyment, flowing water can be incredibly dangerous; it is always more powerful than a person. Knowing this, we plan to maintain safety as our ultimate priority.

Commonly, river accidents involve consumption of alcohol. We understand that this is a grave hazard, but fortunately it is easily preventable. We will not bring any drugs or alcohol on our expedition.

However, river travel does remain dangerous, even in the absence of alcohol. The largest hazards while on the river involve swimming in the event of flipping a packraft or getting knocked out of it. The easiest way to mitigate this hazard is to conservatively take on only the sections of whitewater which we are confident we will navigate successfully. There are no documented river accidents on this stretch, and we have not found information warning paddlers of dangerous rapids. However, we will exercise caution in the face of rapids and blind corners, and we will not hesitate to scout. Using the insight we gain from seeing what is coming, we will have the choice to portage or to paddle. If we choose to run the rapid, we will be able to do so with confident knowledge of which route is the safest. With the exception of five miles of river between Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and Grapevine Campground, Trail #724 lies on the river's shore for a length of 35 miles. This allows for accessibility to scouting rapids and portaging when necessary. During the sections of river which do not have a trail, we will continue using caution and portage any dangerous obstacles. Travelling with lightweight packrafts allows us to walk around obstacles, even in places where portages may be unusual for other boaters.

However, if any of us are to swim, we will mitigate hazards in the following ways:

Wear helmets and PFDs while on the water

Move to upstream of the packraft

Blow whistle and look for a throw rope

Swim with our feet up and pointed downstream to avoid foot entrapment

When possible, swim aggressively toward a safe spot on shore

Swim aggressively away from downstream dangers, such as rocks, strainers, and holes

If unable to avoid a rock or strainer, swim aggressively toward it and climb on top or over it

If unable to avoid a hole or ledge, ball up to be flushed to the bottom

With a group of four, other members of the group will be able to help rescue a swimmer. If the swimmer is unable to swim to shore alone, they can hold the back of another's boat and be towed to safety. Swimmers can also receive a throw rope from other group members. As a secondary priority, other paddlers can retrieve the boat and other stray gear. With this size group, it is likely

that these various aspects of rescue can happen simultaneously to minimize amount of time the swimmer spends in the water.

The largest risk associated with swimming is entrapment. To avoid this, we will keep our feet up and not stand up until we are fully to shore. Similarly, entanglement in gear or ropes can be very dangerous. We will each carry an accessible river knife and maintain neat loads to minimize stray straps or loops.

Swims, especially those long in length, also present the danger of lowered body temperatures. We will do everything possible to rapidly rescue swimmers, and each of us will wear a drytop and thermal layers to protect against cold water. If anyone does end up at risk of hypothermia, we will pull to shore to give them dry clothes, hot water to drink, high-calorie foods, and a "hypo-wrap" if the situation is severe.

We will travel with a patch kit in case of a torn packraft. If we are unable to fix a problem with our paddling gear, we will be able to roll up the packrafts and hike.

Another risk that we face in a desert environment is flash flooding. We will prepare for flash floods a number of ways. First, we will choose campsites on higher ground and upstream of side canyons when possible. Second, we will maintain an organized and compact camping environment at all times so as to ensure a quick and efficient evacuation if we experience any flash flood warning signs. We will take extra caution if a threat of rain storms seem imminent.

#### **Subjective Hazards**

Often, teams on backcountry trips may have trouble with group dynamics. While we are not exempt from this danger, the four of us have already spent ample time together, particularly on wilderness trips. We know that we work well together, and are cognizant of each other's personalities. If any issues do arise, we will make a conscious effort to communicate openly until the issue is resolved.

Varying degrees of technical experience can also be a subjective hazard. While our team members do not have identical experiences, we all have extensive background in both backpacking and river travel. During past trips, we have used this variety to learn from each other, and we will certainly continue to do so in the future.

In addition, medical histories present subjective hazards. We discuss how we will address this issue under "Special Preparedness" section.

#### **Hazard Mitigation**

We feel as though our hazard mitigation plan is interwoven above with our outline of the hazards. However, below is a list of steps we will take to minimize dangers.

##### **Hazard Mitigation Check-List:**

Backpacking: warm synthetic layers, bring trash bags to ensure dryness, look at weather forecast, monitor weather each day, minimize time at high elevations, change hiking plans if lightning is a threat, follow lightning protocol if we are in a storm, careful stream crossing protocol (one-by-one, sticks or paddles to help balance), keep food and trash contained from animals and do not approach wildlife, maintain awareness of repetitive motion injury and respond accordingly with medical attention, minimize pack weight.

River Travel: No drugs or alcohol, scouting or portaging rapids, wear helmets and PFDs, observe safe swimming protocol as defined by Swiftwater Rescue course, minimize swimming time, travel with patch kit, observe flash flood warning signs and choose campsites accordingly.

#### **Special Preparedness**

Caleb has both asthma and a bee allergy. We will travel with an inhaler, epi-pens, and ample benadryl.

Nina has Von Willebrands Factor, which affects the way she heals from cuts. We will do our best to prevent such injuries. In case of an accident, we will treat Nina's wounds with extreme caution and monitor their healing.

Mollie and Nina have had past injuries, such as a concussion or broken bones. None of these injuries have been a recent issue, but we will keep them in mind in the event of a similar injury and treat accordingly.

Kathryn wears contact lenses. She will bring extras and keep them very clean. She will also prepare by bringing her glasses.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

The first step to ensuring a successful evacuation in any case is providing individuals outside the wilderness with an itinerary including date of entry into wilderness, exact location of entry, exact location of nightly campsites, exact location of vehicle, and exact date of intended exit from wilderness. According to the New Mexico Search and Rescue, an itinerary should be submitted to the New Mexico State Police Department. In addition, each member of our expedition will be providing that information to one member of family/one reliable friend in order to make sure that we are all "on the same page."

In addition to prior communication with both family and officials, we will be prepared for the event of an emergency with a SAT phone and a well-stocked first aid kit. This will allow us to call for help as we treat the issue to the best of our WFR and Swiftwater Rescue knowledge. We are equipped with the information from these technical skill courses, and combining our knowledge will only make our abilities stronger. Furthermore, not only will we travel with gear specific to first aid, but we have learned that other pieces of equipment can be used in a rescue as well. For example, clothes and sleeping pads can be used to create a splint. We will use our collective creative thinking to the best of our abilities to make the most of everything we have.

We have thoroughly researched our evacuation routes based on each day of our itinerary. We feel confident in our ability to complete an evacuation based on the routes we have outlined. Evacuations often involve a combination of travel on foot and by vehicle. We understand that an evacuation would likely require hiking on trails in order to reach access to a vehicle. In our itinerary, we have listed specific trails to guide us from our expedition route to a more developed area where we can receive outside help. We will never have to backtrack or skip ahead by the planned distance of one day to reach an outlet. In the event of needing to evacuate one person, our group of four is big enough for us to share the responsibilities and change roles when we are in need of rest.

The emergency communication device that we plan to use is a rental Iridium satellite phone. We will use the sat phone only in case of emergency, to contact the nearest available emergency resources. Research shows that cellular service is spotty, if not nonexistent. However, we plan on carrying at least one cellular phone in case of emergency. We would keep the cellular phone stowed away, and powered off, so as to ensure maximum wilderness experience.

#### **Emergency Resources**

##### **Nearest Hospitals:**

Gila Regional Medical Center  
non emergency: 575-538-4183  
general phone: (575) 538-4000  
1313 E 32nd Street  
Silver City, New Mexico 88061  
From Gila, New Mexico, this hospital is 40 miles away. From our re-ration area, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, it is 43.1 miles. From Glenwood NM, it is 62 miles away.

Socorro General Hospital  
general phone: 575-835-1140  
1202 Highway 60 West  
PO Box 1009  
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

From Gila, New Mexico, this hospital is 178 miles away. From our re-ration area, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, it is 174 Miles. From Glenwood, NM it is 164 miles.

The designated Ranger Station for the Gila Wilderness is the Wilderness Ranger District (see information below). Prior to departing on our expedition, we will call the station to let the rangers know that will be headed into the Gila Wilderness for 12 days. We will also fax them copies of our itinerary.

Wilderness Ranger District  
 Roman Torres, District Ranger  
 Address: HC 68 Box 50, Mimbres, New Mexico, 88049  
 Directions: Travel US 180 east from Silver City to Jct. with Hwy 152. Take Hwy 152 approx. 14 miles to Junction of NM 35. Continue 11 miles north on NM 35 to Wilderness Ranger Station.  
 Phone: Phone (575) 536-2250

More Phone Numbers:  
 Glenwood RD: (575) 539-2481  
 Silver City RD: (575) 388-8201  
 Reserve RD: (575) 533-6232

If we have service, we will be using a cellular phone to contact these resources if necessary. If no service is available, we will be using out SAT phone to contact these resources.

**V. Budget**

**Budget**  
[budget.docx](#) (103KB)  
 Uploaded Jan 4 3:02pm by Kathryn Jacaruso



**Transportation**  
 \$382.99

**Food and Fuel**  
 \$485.90

**Maps and Books**  
 \$80.55

**Communication Device Rental**  
 \$156.00

**Permits/Fees**  
 \$0.00

**Gear Rentals**  
 \$1550

**Total Funding Request**  
 \$2655.44

**Cost Minimization Measures**

In an effort to minimize costs, we plan to borrow dry bags. We understand that in order to be sufficient for our trip, drybags must double as a backpack. Each of us has a large group of family and friends with whom we have rafted. Through these people, we have access to four dry bags with full backpack outfitting. We have spoken with friends who have this gear, and have confirmed that we will be able to borrow them. This significantly cuts costs, as rental rates for drybags are often quite high.

We have chosen to use the shipping option when renting from Packraft America. Though this company does have a small shipping fee, rental rates do not apply to the days during shipping. For this reason, shipping packrafts to Colorado Springs prior to the trip, and returning them to the mail on our way home will be cheaper than picking them up in Denver.

When travelling to the trailhead and from the take-out, we plan to camp, rather than stay in hotels. Grapevine Campground requires no fee.

Though we know that our car will be very full with four people and each of our gear, we believe this option is best in order to use gas in only one vehicle.

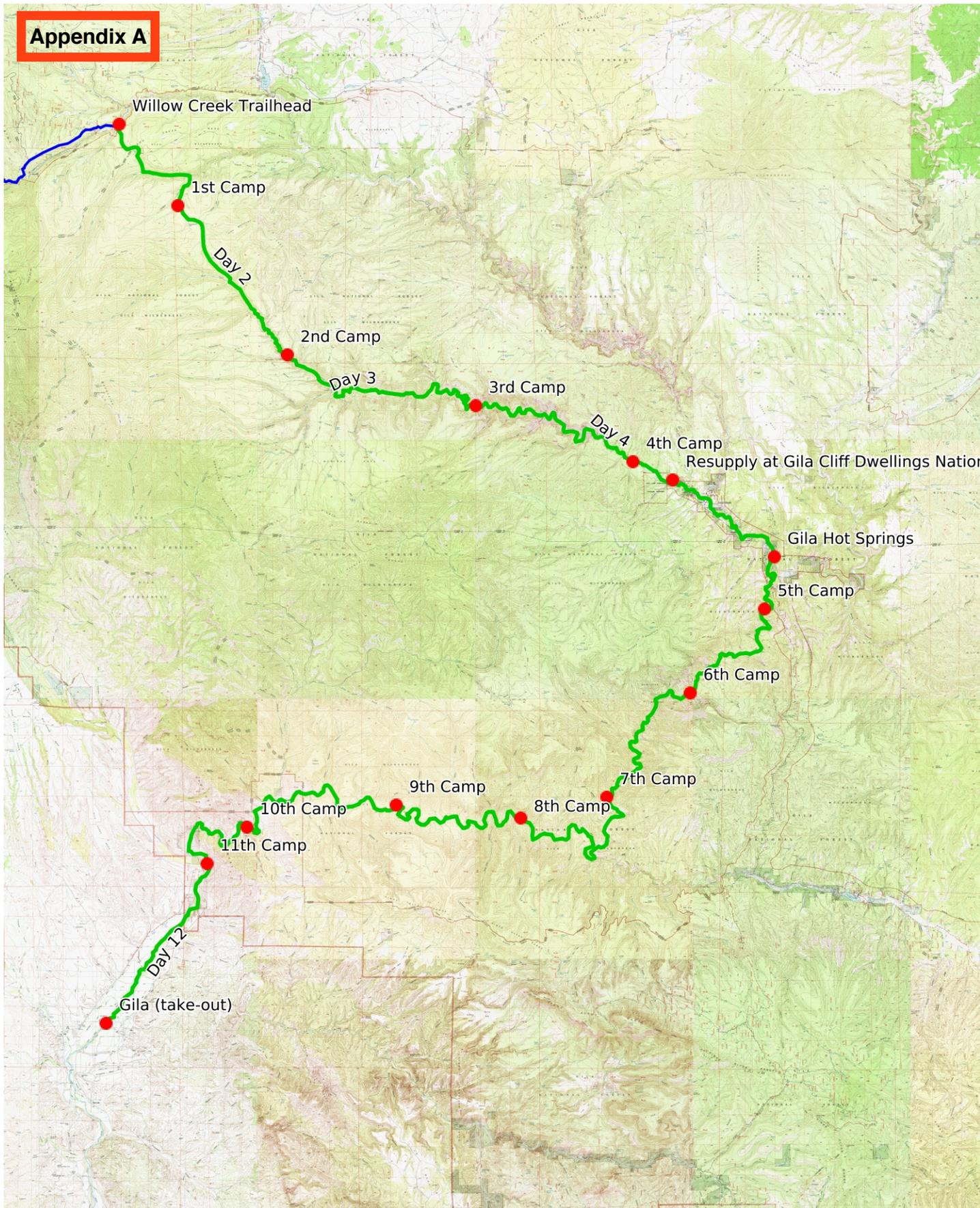
While the satellite phone rental is expensive, we have decided to use the Iridium 9555 Satellite Phone rather than a less expensive option because it would be the safest and most reliable option for our evacuation procedures. We want to let you know that we have made this informed decision based on research, and feel that budgeting less money for a different device would compromise the emergency preparations we have made for this expedition.

**VI. Expedition Agreement**

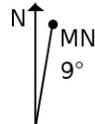
**Expedition Agreement**  
[ritt agreement.pdf](#) (7.9MB)  
 Uploaded Jan 4 1:45pm by Kathryn Jacaruso



**Appendix A**



Mercator Projection  
WGS84  
USNG 12SYB-12SYC  
CalTopo.com



There is also an attached PDF of this map, but here is the online Link to our caltopo:

<http://caltopo.com/map?id=5R7G>

## **Itinerary:**

The total distance of our route is 87 miles. Over a twelve day expedition, we expect to average approximately seven miles per day. All camps will be chosen following LNT protocol and within a reasonable distance of a water source. We plan to camp near tributaries to the river, as, if flowing, they will likely be cleaner for filtering drinking water. Keeping the possibility of flash floods in mind, we will cautiously choose campsites on higher ground and upstream of side canyons when possible.

### **Day 1:**

Our first day will begin at Willow Creek Trailhead, hiking southeast on McKenzie Trail #151. Because of logistics regarding a shuttle, we will not start the day of hiking as early in the day as usual. For this reason, we expect our first day to be shorter; we will camp along a branch of Cooper Canyon Creek approximately five miles from the trailhead. The hike will begin with an elevation gain of 340 feet. We will then descend 650 feet into Iron Creek. We will finish the day with a gradual climb in Cooper Canyon, gaining approximately 300 feet in elevation.

### **Day 2:**

During our second day, we will summit Turkeyfeather Pass, reaching a peak elevation of 8320 feet. Because this topography magnifies dangers of weather and lightning, we will get an early start or refrain from crossing the pass if weather does not permit. From the top of the pass, McKenzie Trail follows Turkeyfeather Creek, which soon joins the West Fork of the Gila River. We plan to hike approximately seven miles, descending just over 1000 feet, and camp near the mouth of Packsaddle Canyon.

### **Day 3:**

On our third day, we will have the opportunity to make up for the short distance of the third day. We will hike along the West Fork of the Gila for about nine miles. After passing the White Creek Administrative Site, the trail strays from the river for a short distance. In doing so, we will gain 450 feet of elevation before descending nearly 1000 feet back to the river's level. We plan to camp where the canyon's floor widens just before it is met by Ring Canyon.

### **Day 4:**

On day four, we will gradually descend about 400 feet with the river. We plan to hike seven miles and camp just upstream of the mouth of EE Canyon. This is another open area at the mouth of a side canyon, so we expect to find a good spot to camp. This will be our last night before resupplying. Elevation loss is steady for the remainder of the route.

### **Day 5:**

Our fifth day will be longer than most. We will retrieve our resupply of food, fuel, and paddling gear that we will have left at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. To preserve a wilderness character in our expedition, we will have the resupply ready to go and rapidly return to the river. We will not engage in any visitor activities at the national monument. It is likely that, after this point, we will packraft for the rest of the expedition. The portion of the river immediately following the national monument does flow near a road for a short distance, so we will paddle a total of nine and a half miles until we have returned to the designated wilderness area. We will camp above the mouth of a small, unnamed side canyon. For the next 35 miles, Trail #724 follows the river's edge. If hiking is necessary, it will remain an option exactly following the planned route.

### **Day 6:**

On the sixth day, we will enter into an area called Murtock's Hole, where the canyon becomes much steeper and tighter. Because at this point we will be ahead of schedule in regard to distance, we plan to only travel five and a half miles. Countless side canyons line the edges of the Gila River, so we hope to explore the area through hiking up these drainages.

Day 7:

On our seventh day, we will paddle just under seven miles. We will camp shortly before the juncture of Granny Mountain Trail with Trail #724.

Day 8:

Our eighth day, we will travel about eight miles. We will camp where the river banks are gradual upstream of the mouth of Johnson Canyon.

Day 9:

This day, we will paddle just over seven miles. We plan to camp shortly before Utah Bill Canyon meets the Gila.

Day 10:

On the tenth day, we plan to travel slightly more than seven miles. We will camp as the canyon becomes tight again above the mouth of Brushy Canyon. This area of the map shows unique topography with many small side canyons and spires; we look forward to exploring this region on foot from camp.

Day 11:

This day will have a short distance to travel; we will go five miles. This is the last day in which the canyon will remain tight. Paddling a short distance will allow us to make the most of our remaining time in the canyon. We will camp shortly before Mogollan Creek meets the river.

Day 12:

On our last day we will paddle seven miles into the town of Gila, NM. During this portion, the topography surrounding the river is much more open. As we near the town, we expect to see the effects of development on the river. While this day's travel is not entirely immersed in the wilderness as it would ideally be, we believe that seeing this transition will inform our understanding of both the conservation and the threats that define the landscape of our route.

## **Emergency Evacuation Plans:**

\*\*\* ALL EVACUATION ROUTES ARE DEPENDANT ON CONTEXT\*\*\* We understand that there are an infinite number of variables, and we will react to any situation to the best of our ability given the knowledge of injury and/or threat of injury.

Emergency, Life Threatening Evacuation Plans:

According to New Mexico Search and Rescue, a life threatening emergency should be handled by calling 911 at the earliest possibility. By doing that, authorities will be able to begin any necessary evacuation services. We will use our satellite phone to reach the authorities. We will use our knowledge of wilderness first aid to tend to the victim(s) until help arrives. If, for any reason, moving the victim is an option, we will consider moving to a location more fit for evacuation services.

## **Non-Emergency, Non Life-Threatening Evacuation Routes:**

The positioning of our route within the designated wilderness is very helpful to facilitating evacuations. Much of the route, particularly the lower portions of the river flow near the wilderness boundary. This allows us to fully experience a wild place while simultaneously being

relatively close to roads should the need for an evacuation arise. Below, we have divided our itinerary into sections based on the best routes for a non life-threatening evacuation.

#### Days 1-2:

If an injury occurs during the first two days but does not require immediate medical attention, we will return to the trailhead. Before we arrive at the trailhead, we will use our Satellite Phone to call Wilderness Ranger Station for assistance. With the aid of rangers, we will take the victim to the nearest medical center.

#### Days 3-4:

If a non-emergency evacuation is needed during days three and four, we will continue on our planned route to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. Here we will have road access and can seek aid from rangers at the national monument for transportation to the Gila Regional Medical Center.

#### Days 5-6:

Once paddling, we have the convenience of Trail #724 following the river closely. This allows us to retrace our steps in areas where an evacuation would be more efficient if we travel upstream. During days five and six, we have the evacuation option of hiking back to the town of Gila Hot Springs, New Mexico, where we will have access to transportation. This is the location of The Wilderness Lodge, whose owners plan to shuttle our car. When speaking with the owners, it was clear that they are very willing to help us as much as they can. If we are unable to receive transportation from rangers at the national monument, we will ask The Wilderness Lodge.

#### Days 7-8:

If a non-emergency evacuation is needed during the seventh and eighth days, we can hike out of the canyon at Sapillo Creek. Here, we have two options of trail. Spring Canyon Trail is longer in length but leads directly to Highway 15. The south branch of the trail is called Sapillo Trail. This is shorter but meets a long four-wheel-drive road numbered 4083V, rather than the highway. If we need to use one of these trails for an evacuation, we will assess the situation for which choice would be more efficient. While hiking out, we will call a Gila National Forest ranger station for assistance.

#### Day 9:

During the ninth day, our evacuation route can be Packsaddle Canyon. This trail leads away from the Gila River and meets up with a network of four-wheel-drive roads numbered 282. This is very close to where Sapillo Trail meets the dirt roads.

#### Day 10:

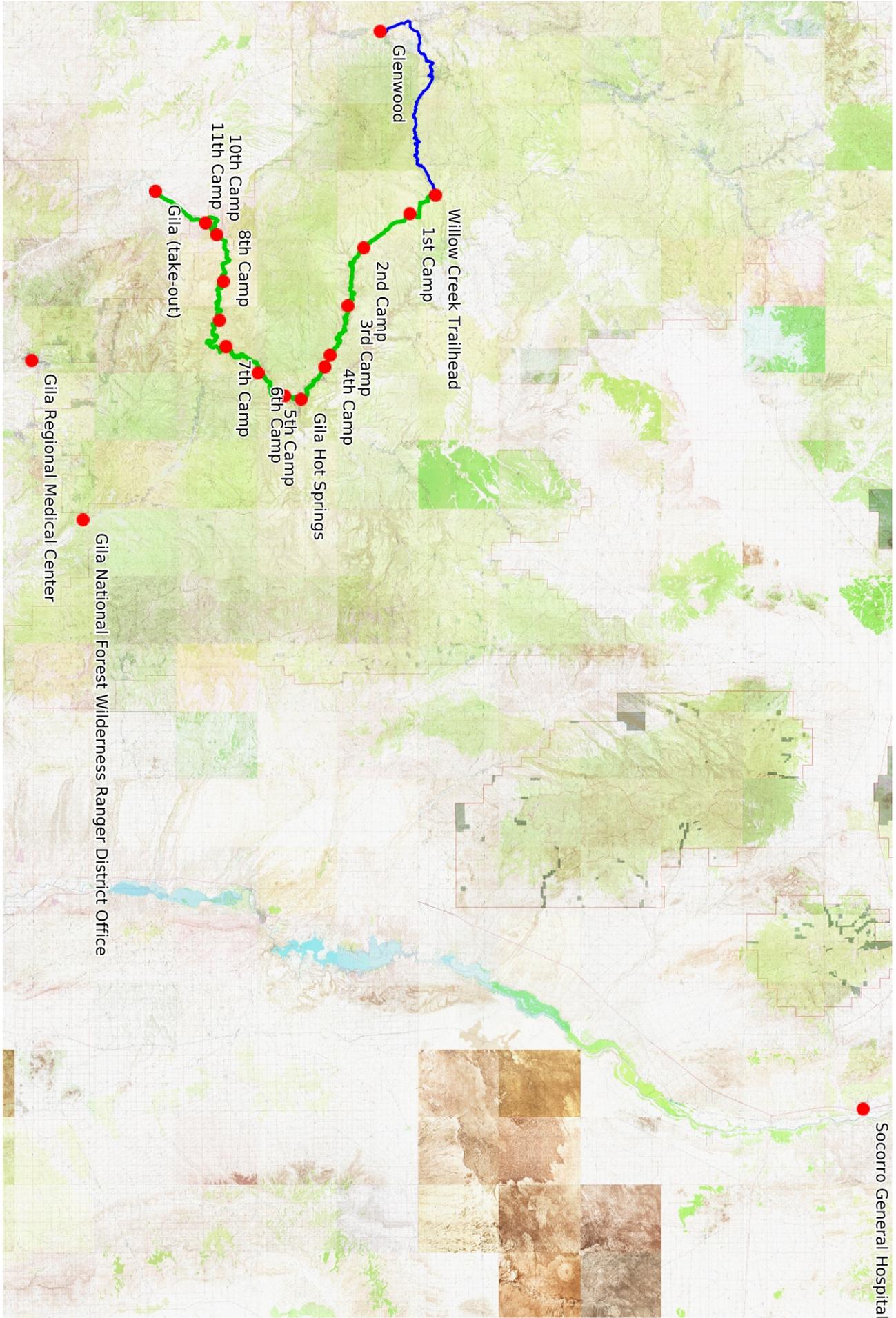
If an accident occurs on day ten, we can evacuate via four-wheel-drive road number 155. This road leads to the more main road, number 153. From here, we would be close to the town of Gila and able to use ranger support to reach a medical center.

#### Days 11-12:

On days eleven and twelve, we will be within a reasonable distance from road 219. This rapidly meets the established road numbered 293, which leads to the town of Gila. Our vehicle will be in Gila, so our need for transportation will be less extensive. We will call a ranger station for aid in getting to Gila, and from there, we will be able to use our own vehicle to reach a medical center.

#### Day 12:

If an injury occurs in the afternoon of our final day, we will continue downstream until we reach the planned take out. Here, we will have our own vehicle to use for travelling to a medical center.

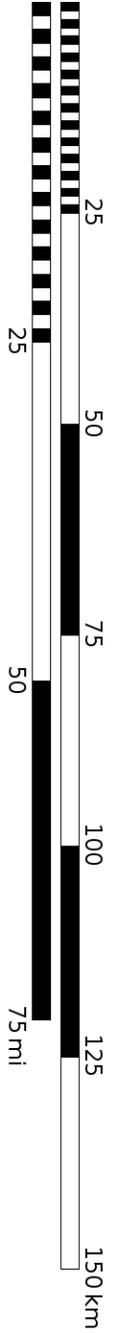


Mercator Projection

WG584

USNG 12SXB-13SCT

CalTopo.com



## Appendix B

Based on a 3,000 calories/day diet	Food	Amount	Cost
<b>Breakfast</b> (Total Weight: 29 lbs Total price: \$99.00)	Oatmeal	3lbs	\$8.00
	Bagels	24 bagels (3 lbs)	\$15.00
	Granola	4 lbs	\$18.00
	Fresh Fruit (for snacking as well)	30 apples, 15 oranges (15lbs)	\$24.00
	Raisins (for oatmeal)	1 lbs	\$4.00
	Brown Sugar (for oatmeal and tea)	1 lbs	\$8.00
	Tea	48 bags	\$6.00
	Coffee	24 packets	\$7.00
	Apricot Preserves	1 lbs	\$4.00
	Powdered Milk	1 lbs	\$5.00
<b>Lunch</b> (Total Weight: 35.3 lbs, Total Cost: \$113.00)			
	Bread (for sandwiches)	3 lbs	\$12.00
	Tortillas (for wraps)	4.5 lbs	\$15.00
	Peanut Butter	2.5 lbs	\$10.00
	Salami	2 lbs	\$12.00
	American Cheese	2 lbs	\$12.00
	Cheddar Cheese	1 lbs	\$6.00
	Triscuits	2 lbs	\$7.00
	Tomatoes	4 tomatoes (2 lbs)	\$5.00
	Hummus (dehydrated packets)	0.3 lbs	\$4.00
	Canned Chicken	1 lbs	\$5.00
	Canned Turkey	1 lbs	\$5.00

	Pita	1 lbs	\$3.00
	Green/Red Peppers	4 peppers (2 lbs)	\$6.00
	Carrots	2 lbs	\$4.00
	Ramen	3 lbs	\$7.00
<b>Dinner</b> (Total Weight: 29.2 lbs, Total Cost: \$115.00)			
	Rice	2 lbs	\$5.00
	Tortillas (for Mexican)	2 lbs	\$7.00
	Beans	3 lbs	\$3.00
	Cheese (for Mexican)	1 lbs	\$6.00
	Salsa	1.5 lbs	\$5.00
	Onion	2 onions (1 lbs)	\$3.00
	Pizza Dough (for use shortly after resupply)	4 lbs	\$17.00
	Shredded Cheese (for pizza)	2 lbs	\$12.00
	Powdered Tomato Paste	.5 lbs	\$8.00
	Spice Kit	1 lbs	\$10.00
	Pepperoni	1 lbs	\$10.00
	Oil	.2 lbs	\$3.00
	Pasta	4 lbs	\$7.00
	Bread	2 lbs	\$8.00
	Spaghetti Sauce	3 lbs	\$4.00
	Mashed Potato Packets	.5 lbs	\$3.00
	Bacon Bits (for mashed potatoes)	.5 lbs	\$4.00
<b>Snacks</b> (Total Weight: 13.95 lbs, Total Cost: \$99.00)			

	Snickers	12 bars (1.25 lbs)	\$12.00
	Clif Bars	28 bars (4.2 lbs)	\$28.00
	GORP	5 lbs	\$25.00
	Beef Jerky	1.5 lbs	\$22.00
	Dried Fruit	2 lbs	\$12.00
<b>Water Purification</b>	Aquamira		\$12.00
<b>Food Total</b>		<b>102 lbs</b>	<b>\$438.00</b>
<b>Fuel</b>	White gas	72 oz (1.5 oz per person per day)	\$47.90
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$485.90</b>

## Appendix C

### Equipment List

#### Personal Pack Rafting Gear

- Packraft
- Paddle
- PFD
- Helmet
- Drytop
- Fleece top and bottom to wear while paddling
- Throw-rope
- River Knife and whistle attached to PFD
- Dry Bag with backpack outfitting

#### Personal Camping and Backpacking Gear:

- Sleeping pad
- Sleeping bag
- Sturdy hiking shoes
- Rain jacket
- Thick fleece jacket
- 2 Synthetic long-sleeve tops
- Synthetic long underwear
- Three pairs of wool socks
- 2 strong trash compactor bags (for additional waterproofing of sleeping bag and essential warm layers)
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses

#### Group Gear:

- Water purification pump
- Aquamira water droplets (as backup purification)
- SAT Phone in small drybag for extra protection
- 2 Whisperlite Stoves
- 6 oz white gas/day/person
- 2 pots
- 1 pan
- 2 lighters
- Rain fly, poles, and stakes of a four-person tent
- First Aid Kit
  - Kit (1)
  - gauze (2 rolls)
  - medical tape (1 roll)
  - band aids (varied sizes, about 25)
  - ace bandages (2)
  - cravats (3)
  - Sam splint (1)
  - Tylenol
  - Ibuprofen
  - Benadryl
  - moleskin (pack with 5)
  - sterilizing wipes (pack of 20)
  - scissors (1)
  - tweezers (1)
  - CPR face mask (1)
  - Emergency Information notebook

- Emergency contact information
- SOAP note booklet (1)
- pencil (1)
- duct tape (1)
- flashlight (1)
- batteries (4)
- Antibacterial cream (1)
- Snake bite kit

## Appendix D

### Transportation

Travel to and from the expedition, including the vehicle shuttle will total a distance of 1620 miles. The car we will be using averages 23 miles to the gallon. The current average price of gas in Colorado is \$1.88 per gallon. Our total distance traveled within Colorado will be 296 miles, which means we will spend \$24.19 in the state of Colorado. The current average gas price in New Mexico is \$1.89. Because we will travel 1324 miles in this state, we expect to spend \$108.80. The total price of gas for our expedition will be \$132.99. In addition to this cost, we will owe \$250 to The Wilderness Lodge for their shuttle service between Willow Creek Trailhead and Gila, NM.

### Food and Fuel

Food: \$438.00

Fuel: \$47.90

Total: \$485.90

### Maps and Books

The route of our expedition will pass through nine different USGS Topo Quads. Each costs \$8.95. The total price of maps for the expedition is \$80.55.

### Communication Device Rental

Considering cost as well as efficiency, we found that the Iridium 9555 Satellite Phone is our best option.

Renting the phone from [www.spdirect.com](http://www.spdirect.com) will cost \$49.00 per week, with a \$58.00 shipping fee for standard Fed Ex overnight shipping. The total cost of renting the satellite phone is \$156.00. <https://www.spdirect.com/iridium-rental-agreement.html>

No Permits or fees are required.

### Gear Rentals

We plan to rent packrafts from Packraft America. We have chosen this company because they offer to ship packrafts to us. While we could also pick them up in Denver, we have calculated that it will be cheaper to ship them, as personally returning them after the trip would require two more days of rental. Packraft America does not charge rental fees on the days of shipping. We plan to begin renting the packrafts on May 12th. Packraft America ensures that the rentals will arrive on the 11th, but the rental fees will not begin to apply until the following day. We must begin renting on the 12th, as this is the day which we will leave Colorado Springs. We will have them rented through May 25th, and we will ship them back to the company on May 26th. For fourteen days of rental plus shipping fees, the total cost for four packrafts will be \$1550.

<http://packraftamerica.com/rates-and-gear-3/>