

THE LOWER CANYONS  
LA LINDA TO DRYDEN CROSSING

MAPS & NOTES  
FOR  
RIVER RUNNERS

# DEAR RIVER RUNNER -

THESE MAPS AND NOTES WILL NOT GET YOU THROUGH THE CANYONS. BOATING SKILL, CAUTION, AND A DEEP RESPECT FOR THE RIVER WILL. THE RATINGS I HAVE ASSIGNED THE RAPIDS SHOULD PROBABLY BE UPGRADED A FULL POINT DUE TO THE WILDERNESS SETTING OF THE TRIP. THE RAPIDS CAN CHANGE AFTER FLASH FLOODS.

PLEASE ADD YOUR OWN NOTES TO THESE PAGES. IF YOU SEE A GOOD CAMPSITE, MARK IT ON THE MAPS.

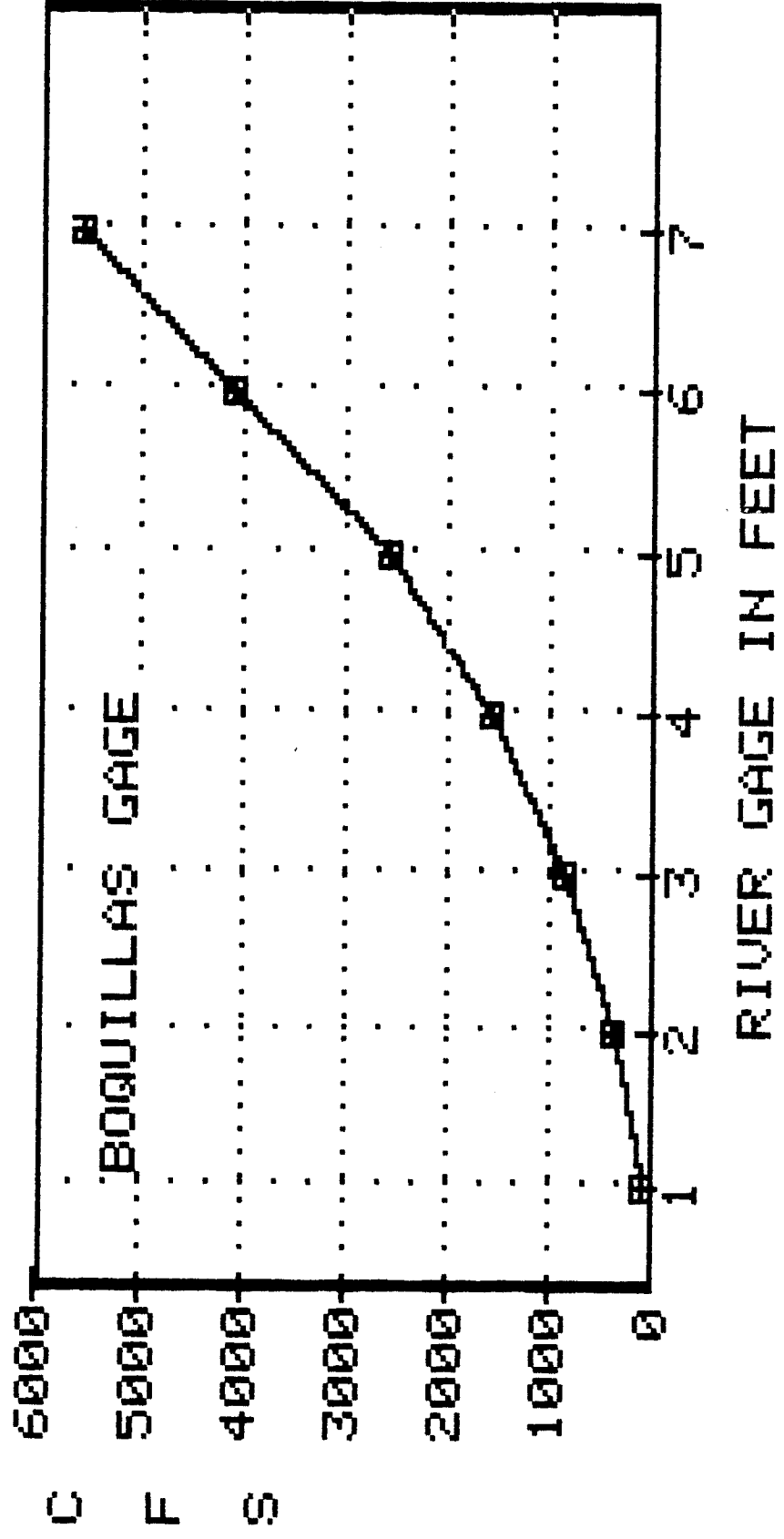
THE RIVER LEVELS MENTIONED ARE BASED ON THE GAUGE AT RIO GRANDE VILLAGE (BOQUILLAS) IN BIG BEND NAT'L PARK. MULTIPLY THE GAUGE READING IN METERS BY 39.4 AND DIVIDE BY 12 TO GET FEET.

- 1.7 FT. MINIMUM FOR CANOES.
- 3.0 FT. MINIMUM FOR GOOD RAFT TRIP.
- 3-4 FT. IDEAL!
- 4-7 FT. EXPERIENCED BOATERS ONLY.
- 7 FT. + RAFTS AND KAYAKS ONLY WITH EVERY PRECAUTION.

HAVE A GOOD ONE!

Joe Buttes

# FEET TO CFS CONVERSION



# MILEAGE TABLE

LA LINDA BRIDGE PUT-IN _____	0 _____	0
MARAVILLAS CREEK _____	11 _____	11
BIG CANYON _____	17 _____	28
OSO CANYON _____	6 _____	34
ASA JONES' PUMPHOUSE _____	5 _____	39
SAN ROCENDO CANYON _____	2 _____	41
BULLIS FOLD _____	3 _____	44
PALMAS CANYON _____	2 _____	46
BURRO BLUFF _____	9 _____	55
LOWER MADISON FALLS _____	2 _____	57
PANTHER CANYON _____	4 _____	61
SAN FRANCISCO CANYON _____	5 _____	66
BONE WATERING _____	6 _____	72
MIDDLE WATERING _____	3 _____	75
DRYDEN CROSSING TAKE-OUT _____	8.5 _____	83.5

## PHONE NUMBERS

DRYDEN MERCANTILE STORE MR. BILL TEN EYCK (TIN-IKE)	915/345-9916
DESERT HILLS MOTEL, DEL RIO	512/775-3548
BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK	915/477-2251
DUDLEY HARRISON'S TEXACO SANDERSON	915/345-2503

SHUTTLE EXPENSES

ITEM	YEAR			
	1985	1986	1987	1988
COST PER DRIVER	\$47.50			
SHUTTLE VEHICLE	\$45.00			
TAKE OUT FEES				
COST PER VEHICLE	\$10.00			
COST PER PERSON	\$5.00			

CALCULATION EXAMPLES:

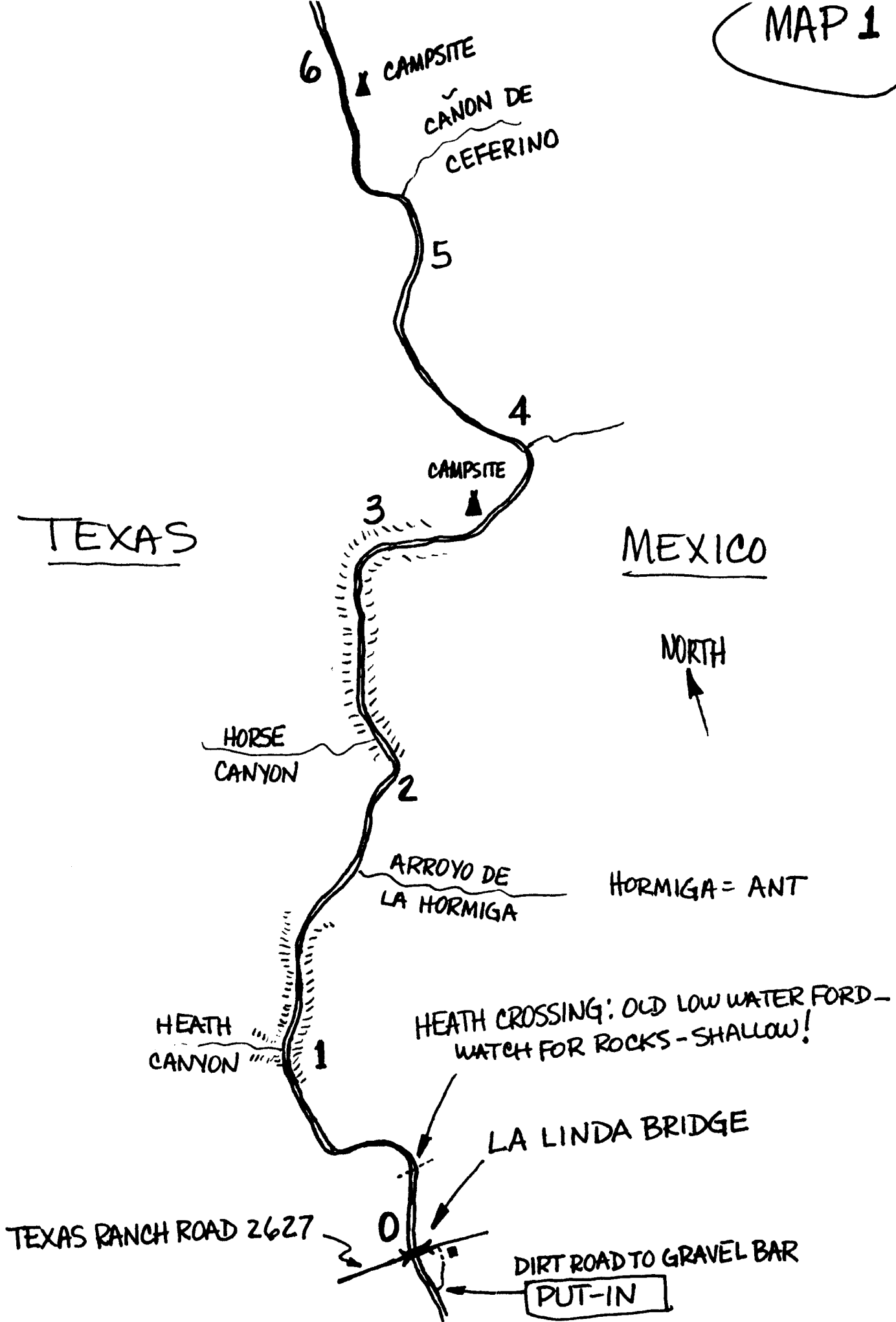
SHUTTLE COST = (NUMBER OF VEHICLES X \$47.50) + \$45.00

TAKE OUT FEE = (NO. VEHICLES X \$10.00) + (NO. PEOPLE X \$5.00)

TOTAL FEES = SHUTTLE COST + TAKE OUT FEE

SHUTTLES ARRANGED THROUGH AND FEES PAID TO BILL TEN EYCK

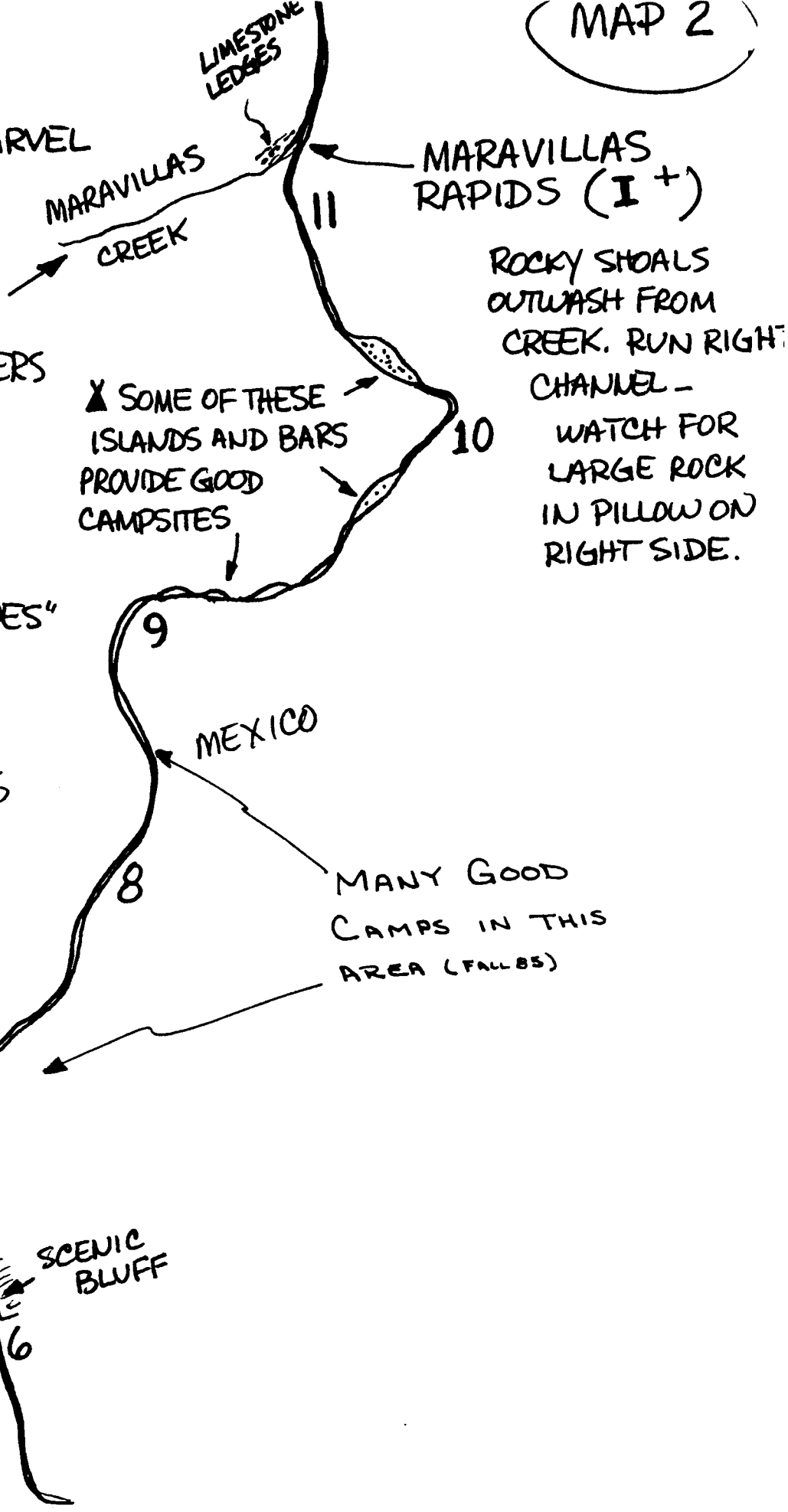
MAP 1



MARAVILLA= WONDER, MARVEL

THIS IS A VERY LARGE DRAINAGE AND CAN FLASH FLOOD AFTER LOCAL RAINS. HEADWATERS ARE NEAR MARATHON AND ALPINE, TX.

THE MOUTH OF THE CREEK WAS CALLED "PASO DE LOS LADRONES" (ROBBERS' PASS)





THE RIVER WIDENS AND SLOWS IN THIS VICINITY AND CONTINUES LIKE THIS FOR THE NEXT TEN MILES OR SO THROUGH THE "FLATS", AFTERNOON HEADWINDS CAN BE A PROBLEM.

"OUTLAW FLATS"

THERE ARE MANY SMALL SEEPS AND SPRINGS IN THE RIVERBANK IN THIS AREA. MOST WILL BE COVERED AT LEVELS OVER 4'.



TEXAS

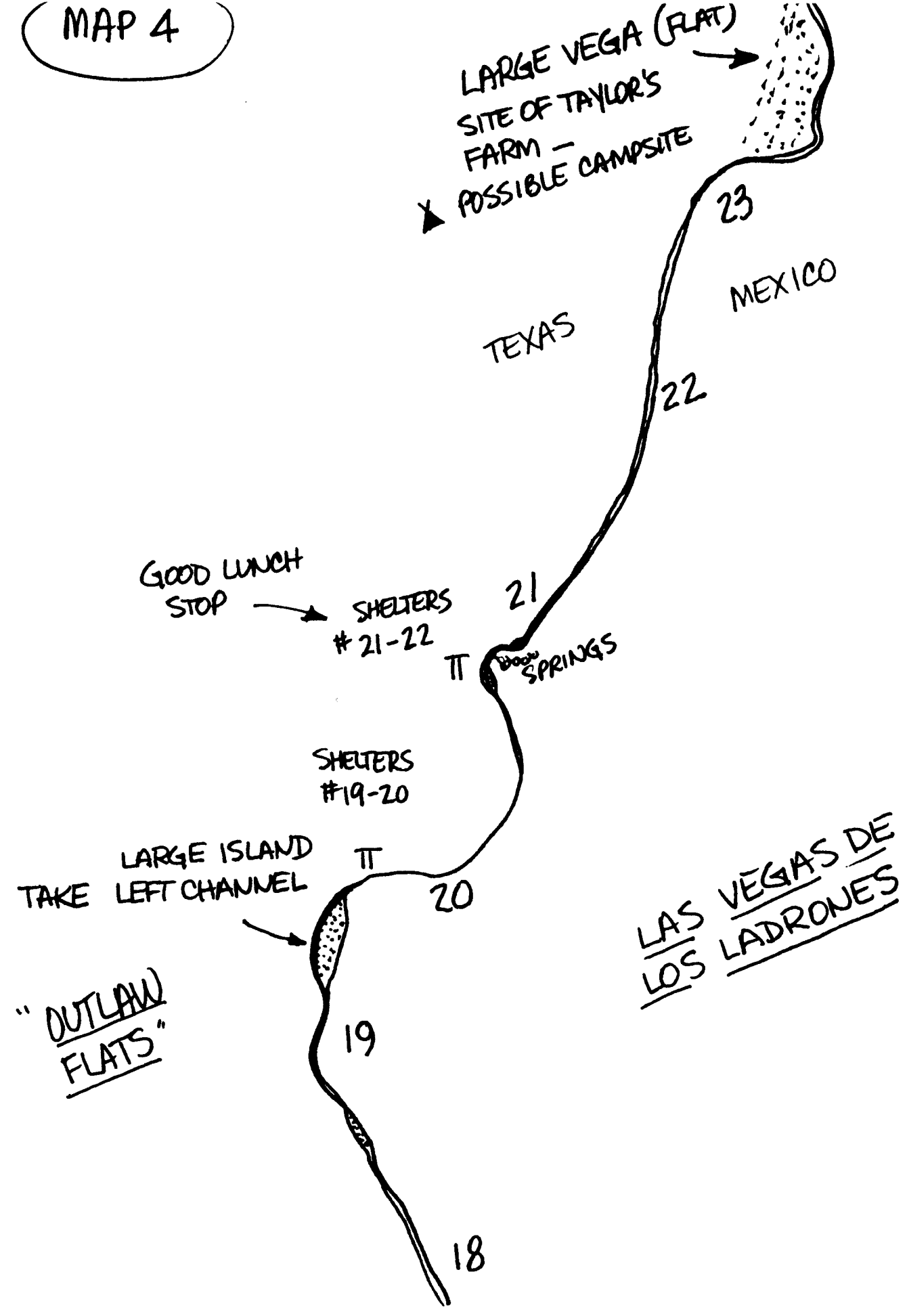
MEXICO

MARAVILLAS  
A DEEVE

LAS VEGAS  
DE LOS  
LADRONES



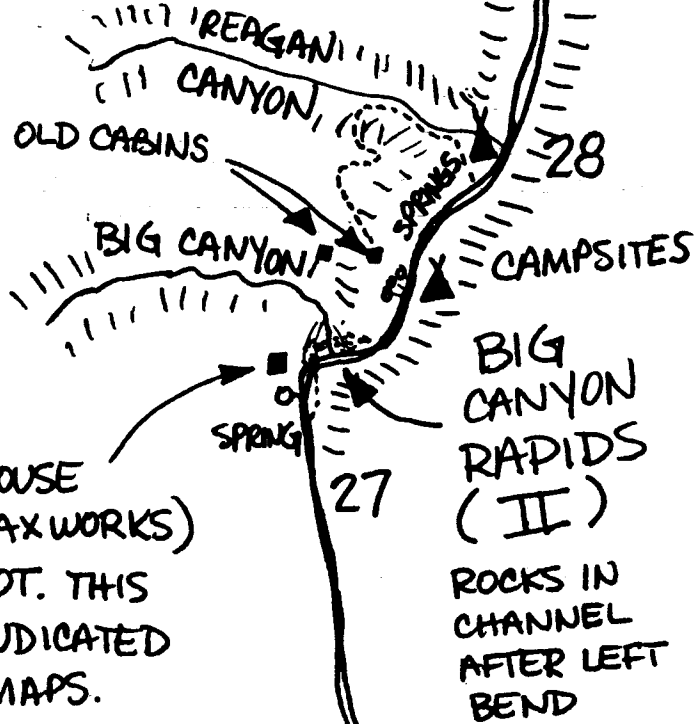
MAP 4



MAP 5

THE RIVER ENTERS DEEP CANYON AT BIG CANYON RAPIDS. THE RIVER NARROWS AND CURRENT QUICKENS.

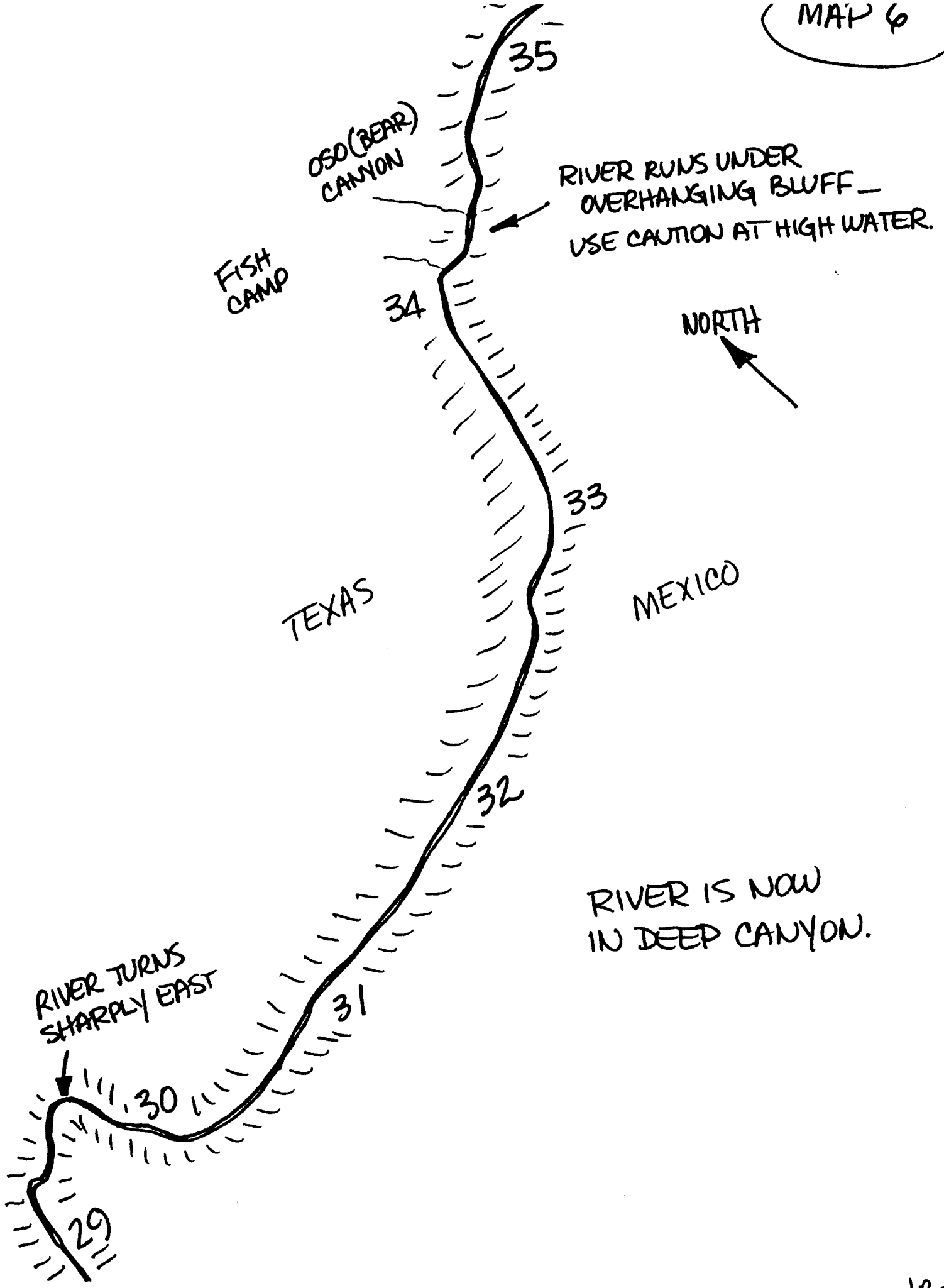
BEST ACCESS TO OLD CABINS IS BY WALKING UP REAGAN CANYON



OLD ROCK HOUSE (CANDELILLA WAXWORKS) GOOD PHOTO SPOT. THIS WAXWORKS IS INDICATED ON 1918 TOPO MAPS.

THERE ARE VERY CRUDE ROADS UP BIG CANYON AND REAGAN CANYON, LEADING TO THE BULLIS GAP AREA. AN OLD TRAIL RUNS BACK THROUGH OUTLAW FLATS TO MARAVILLAS CREEK.

OUTLAW FLATS



FISH CAMP

OSSO (BEAR) CANYON

RIVER RUNS UNDER OVERHANGING BLUFF - USE CAUTION AT HIGH WATER.

NORTH

TEXAS

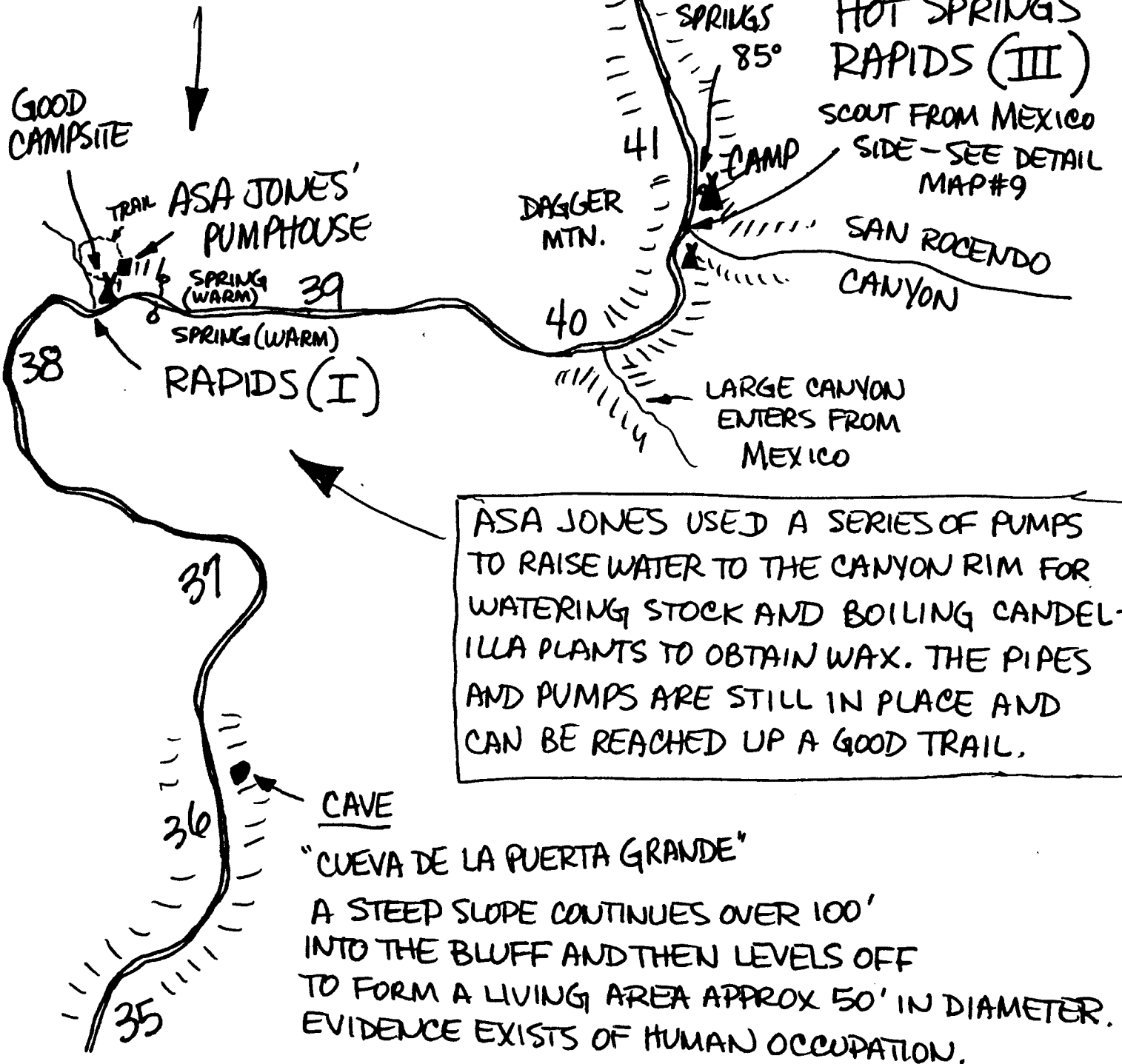
MEXICO

RIVER TURNS SHARPLY EAST

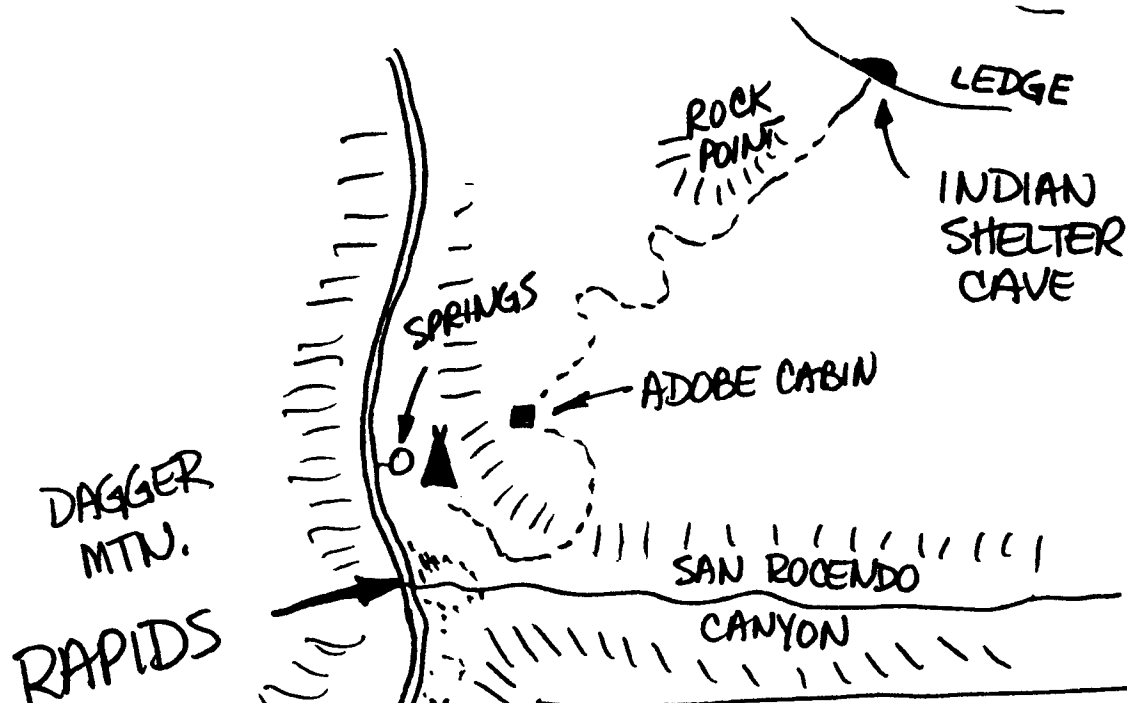
RIVER IS NOW IN DEEP CANYON.

# ASA JONES' PUMPHOUSE

PULL IN ON TEXAS SIDE JUST BELOW RAPID. THE TRAIL TO THE TOP BEGINS AT THE BASE OF THE CLIFF AT THE DOWNSTREAM END OF THE BAR. A LITTLE PUSHING THROUGH BRUSH AND THORNS WILL GET YOU TO THE START OF THE TRAIL.



"CUEVA DE LA PUERTA GRANDE"  
A STEEP SLOPE CONTINUES OVER 100' INTO THE BLUFF AND THEN LEVELS OFF TO FORM A LIVING AREA APPROX 50' IN DIAMETER. EVIDENCE EXISTS OF HUMAN OCCUPATION.

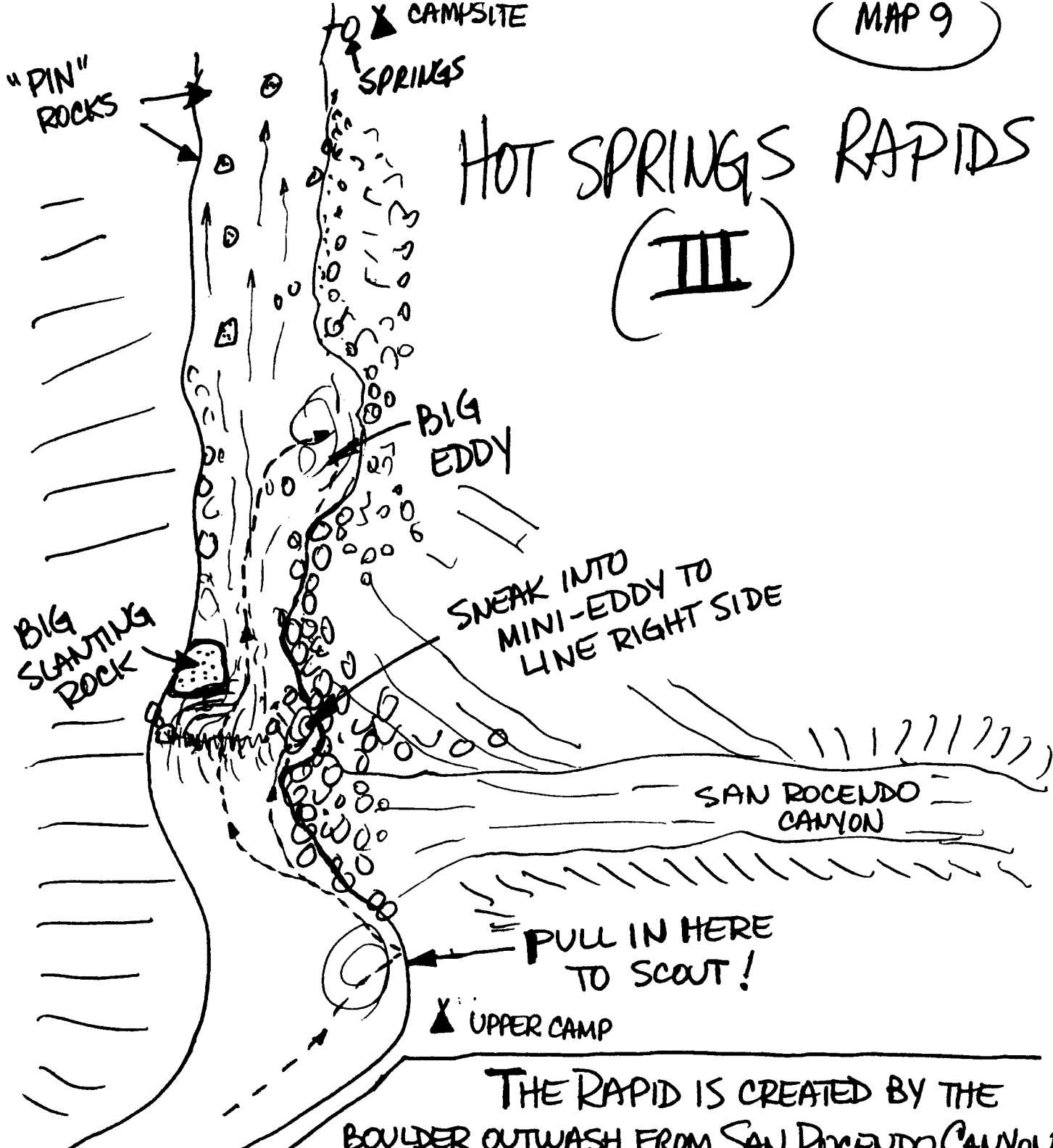


THE AREA AROUND HOT SPRINGS IS HEAVILY USED BY BOATERS, FISHERMEN, AND MEXICAN VAQUEROS AND GOATHERDERS. IF SOMEONE IS CAMPED AT THE SPRINGS, COURTEOUS BOATERS WILL CAMP AT THE BIG FLAT UPSTREAM OF SAN ROCENDO. THE SPRINGS ARE GREAT TO SOAK IN AND AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER. DO NOT POLLUTE THE SPRINGS WITH SOAP OR ANY OTHER SUBSTANCE.

A PRETTY GOOD TRAIL LEADS UP TO AN OLD ADOBE CABIN BEHIND THE CAMP, AND THEN CONTINUES ON UP THE HILL TO AN INDIAN SHELTER. THERE IS A 4-WHEEL DRIVE ROAD UP SAN ROCENDO CANYON TO A RANCH ABOUT 12 MILES UP. A 2-3 MILE HIKE UP THE CANYON EARLY OR LATE IN THE DAY IS A GOOD WAY TO SPEND A FEW HOURS.

# HOT SPRINGS RAPIDS (III)

UTUQUA MOUNTAIN  
(LOMA DE LAS PALMAS)



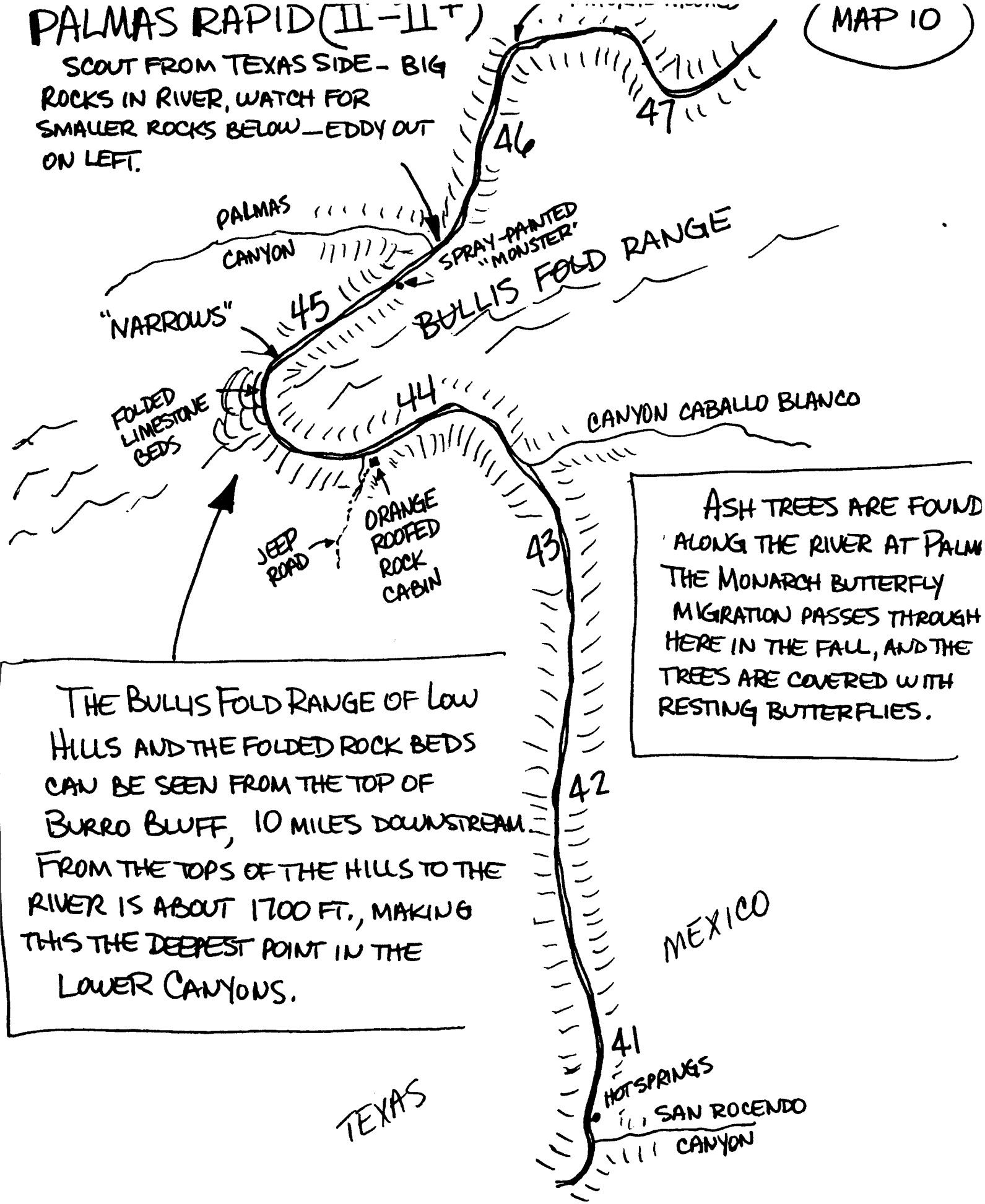
THE RAPID IS CREATED BY THE BOULDER OUTWASH FROM SAN ROCENDO CANYON.

RUN THE MAIN DROP NEAR THE CENTER AND AVOID THE LATERAL OUTWASH OFF THE BIG BOULDER ON THE LEFT. THE BIG EDDY ON THE MEXICAN SIDE CAN BE USED FOR RESCUE BOATS. THERE ARE CAR-SIZED BOULDERS BELOW AND FAST CURRENT WHICH CAN PIN AND WRAP A CAJUE. USE ALL CAUTION AND SAFETY PROCEDURES IF YOU CHOOSE TO RUN THIS ONE!

# PALMAS RAPID (II-III)

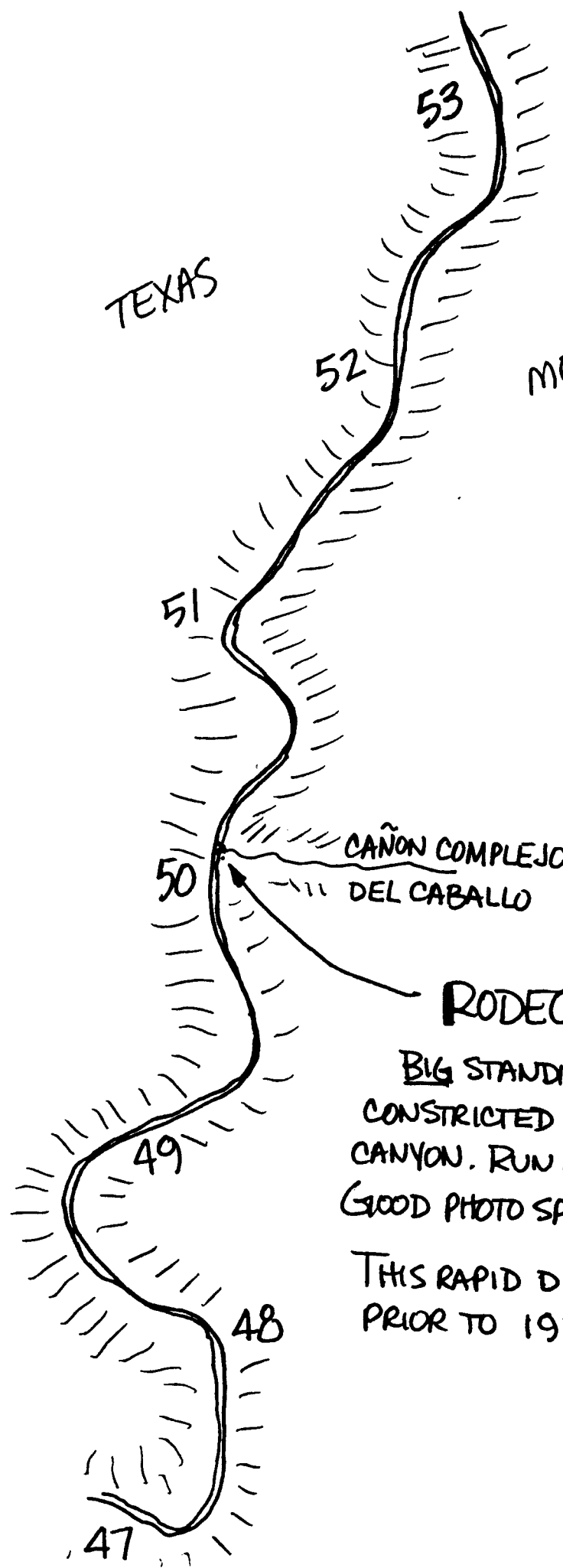
MAP 10

SCOUT FROM TEXAS SIDE - BIG ROCKS IN RIVER, WATCH FOR SMALLER ROCKS BELOW - EDDY OUT ON LEFT.



THE BULLIS FOLD RANGE OF LOW HILLS AND THE FOLDED ROCK BEDS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE TOP OF BURRO BLUFF, 10 MILES DOWNSTREAM. FROM THE TOPS OF THE HILLS TO THE RIVER IS ABOUT 1700 FT., MAKING THIS THE DEEPEST POINT IN THE LOWER CANYONS.

ASH TREES ARE FOUND ALONG THE RIVER AT PALMAS. THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION PASSES THROUGH HERE IN THE FALL, AND THE TREES ARE COVERED WITH RESTING BUTTERFLIES.



**RODEO RAPID (II<sup>+</sup>)** SCOUT RIGHT SIDE

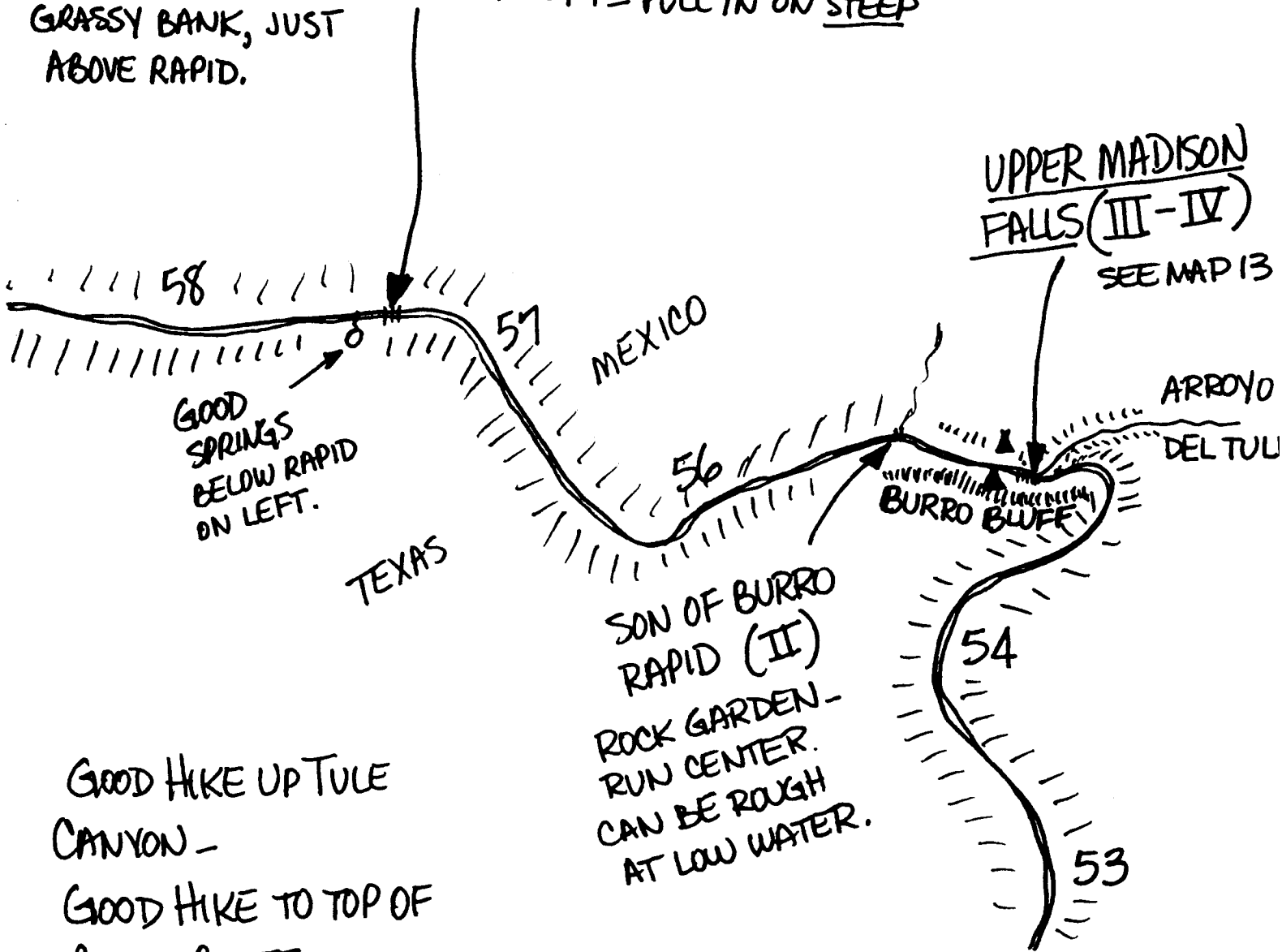
BIG STANDING WAVES - RIVER IS CONSTRICTED BY OUTWASH FROM SIDE CANYON. RUN CENTER, EDDY OUT RIGHT. GOOD PHOTO SPOT. GOOD LUNCH STOP.

THIS RAPID DID NOT EXIST AS SUCH PRIOR TO 1978 FLASH FLOOD.



# LOWER MADISON FALLS (II<sup>+</sup>-III) (HORSESHOE FALLS)

A ROCKSLIDE HAS PARTIALLY DAMMED THE RIVER. THERE IS A CHANNEL RUNNING AROUND THE LEFT SIDE WHICH MAY BE RUN OR LINED. AT HIGHER LEVELS, THE FALLS CAN BE RUN DOWN THE CENTER. WATCH FOR ROCKS IN THE CHUTE AT LOW WATER. THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO PIN A BOAT. SCOUT LEFT - PULL IN ON STEEP GRASSY BANK, JUST ABOVE RAPID.



GOOD HIKE UP TULE CANYON -  
GOOD HIKE TO TOP OF BURRO BLUFF.  
SEE MAP 14.

# UPPER MADISON FALLS (III-IV)

BAD AT ANY LEVEL

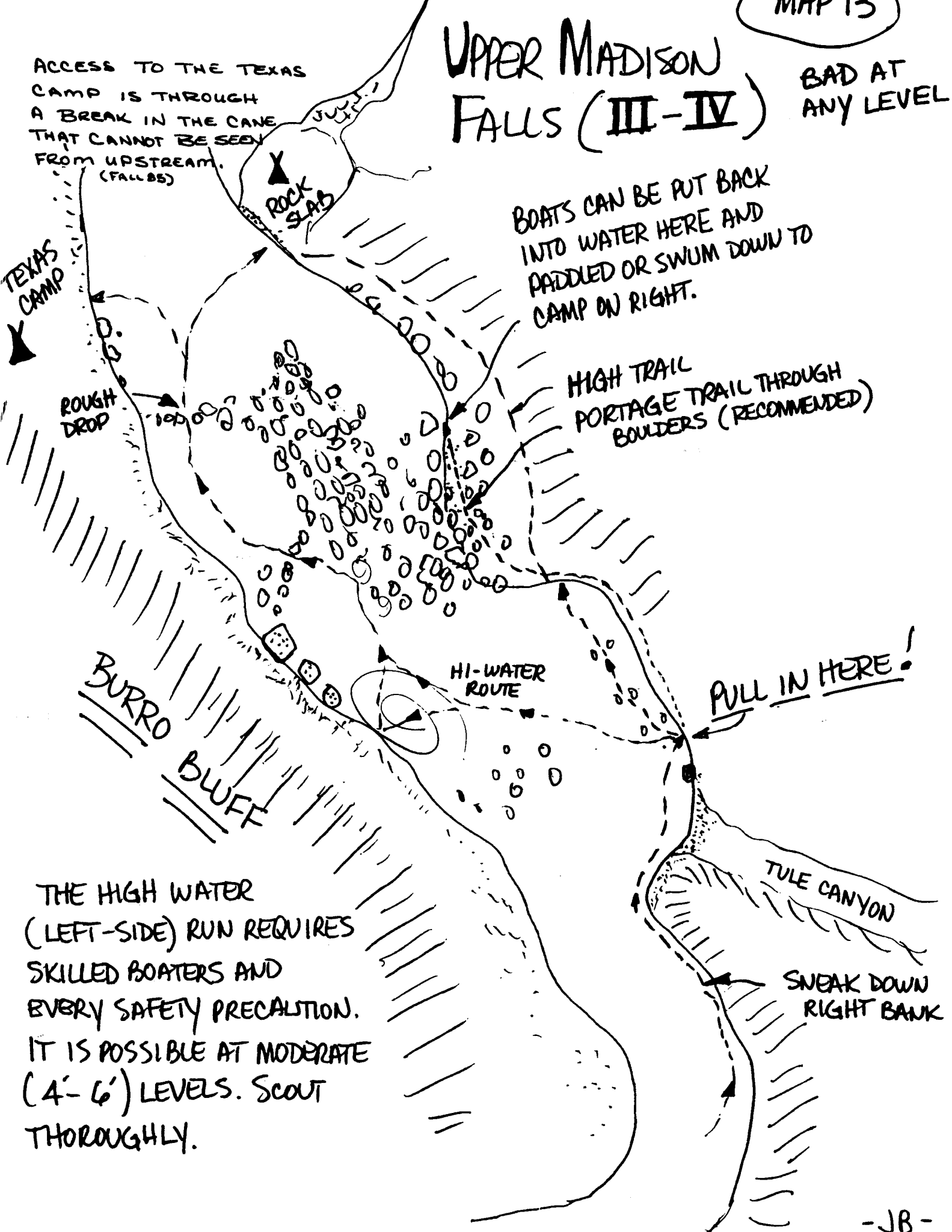
ACCESS TO THE TEXAS CAMP IS THROUGH A BREAK IN THE CANE THAT CANNOT BE SEEN FROM UPSTREAM. (FALL 85)

BOATS CAN BE PUT BACK INTO WATER HERE AND PADDED OR SWUM DOWN TO CAMP ON RIGHT.

HIGH TRAIL PORTAGE TRAIL THROUGH BOULDERS (RECOMMENDED)

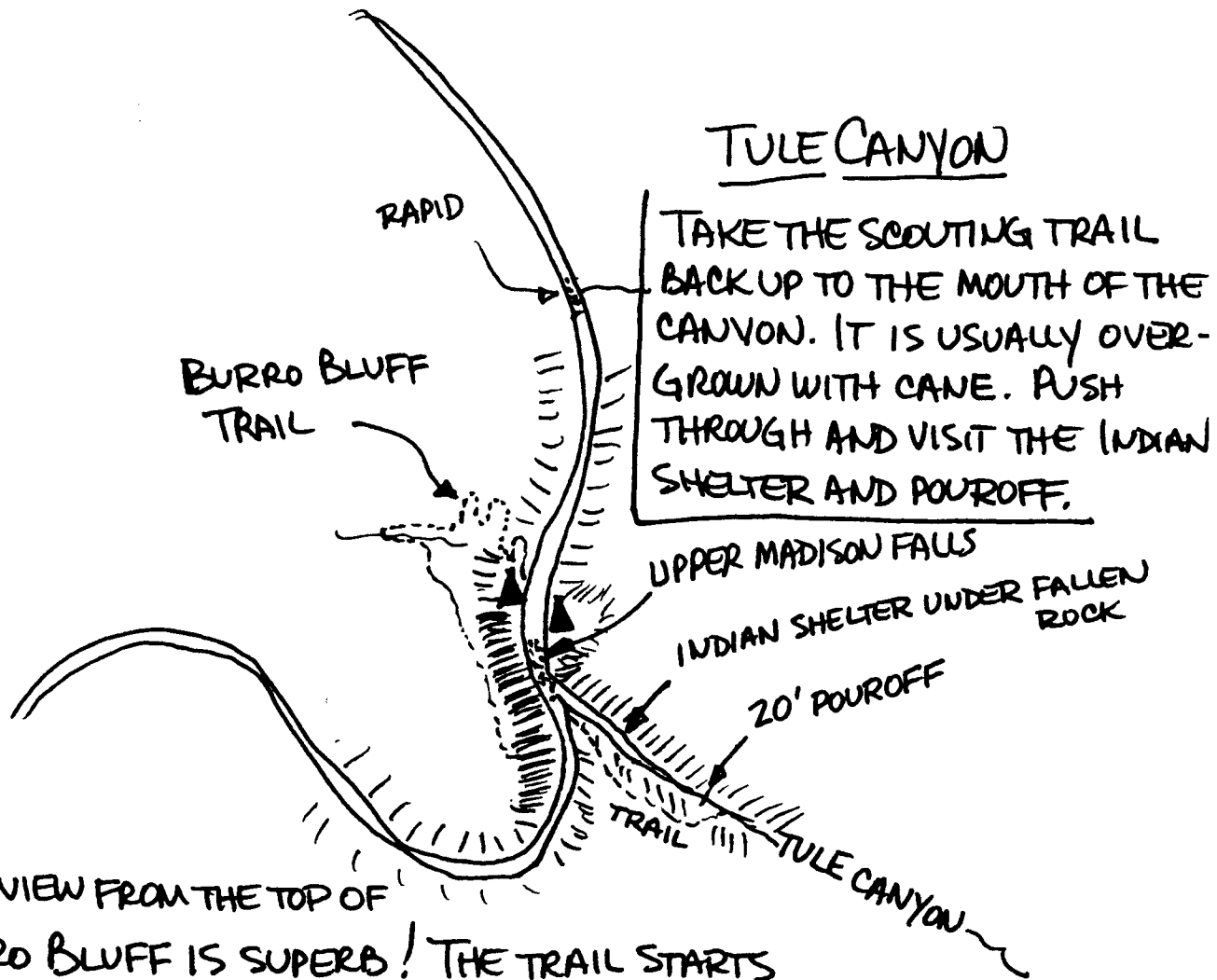
PULL IN HERE!

THE HIGH WATER (LEFT-SIDE) RUN REQUIRES SKILLED BOATERS AND EVERY SAFETY PRECAUTION. IT IS POSSIBLE AT MODERATE (4'-6') LEVELS. SCOUT THOROUGHLY.



# BURRO BLUFF AREA

MAP 14



THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF BURRO BLUFF IS SUPERB! THE TRAIL STARTS SWITCHBACKING UP FROM BEHIND THE CAMP ON THE TEXAS SIDE. IT IS A MODERATE CLIMB AND TAKES ABOUT AN HOUR TO THE TOP. AFTER THE TRAIL STRAIGHTENS OUT UP THE GULLY, WATCH FOR PILES OF STONES INDICATING WHERE TO TURN LEFT. THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND THE PARK SERVICE RECOMMENDS THAT PERMISSION BE OBTAINED TO CLIMB BURRO. THIS AREA IS ALSO USED BY PEREGRINE FALCONS FOR NESTING, SO MINIMUM DISTURBANCE IS IN ORDER.

TEXAS

MEXICO

63

62

LAST GOOD SPRING BELOW 7'

OLD JEEP ROAD

PANTHER CANYON

61

PANTHER RAPIDS (II+)

SCOUT FROM BLUFF ON TEXAS (LEFT) SIDE. STOP ON GRASSY BANK ON LEFT ABOVE MOUTH OF CANYON.

THE BEST RUN IS DOWN THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ISLAND, NEXT TO THE TEXAS BLUFF.

THE RIGHT SIDE IS RUNNABLE AT HIGHER LEVELS. BOATS CAN BE LINED DOWN EITHER SIDE BY PULLING ON TO THE HEAD OF THE ISLAND.

IF YOU RUN THE RIGHT CHANNEL - SCOUT THE ROCKS AND HOLES - STAY LEFT IN GENERAL.

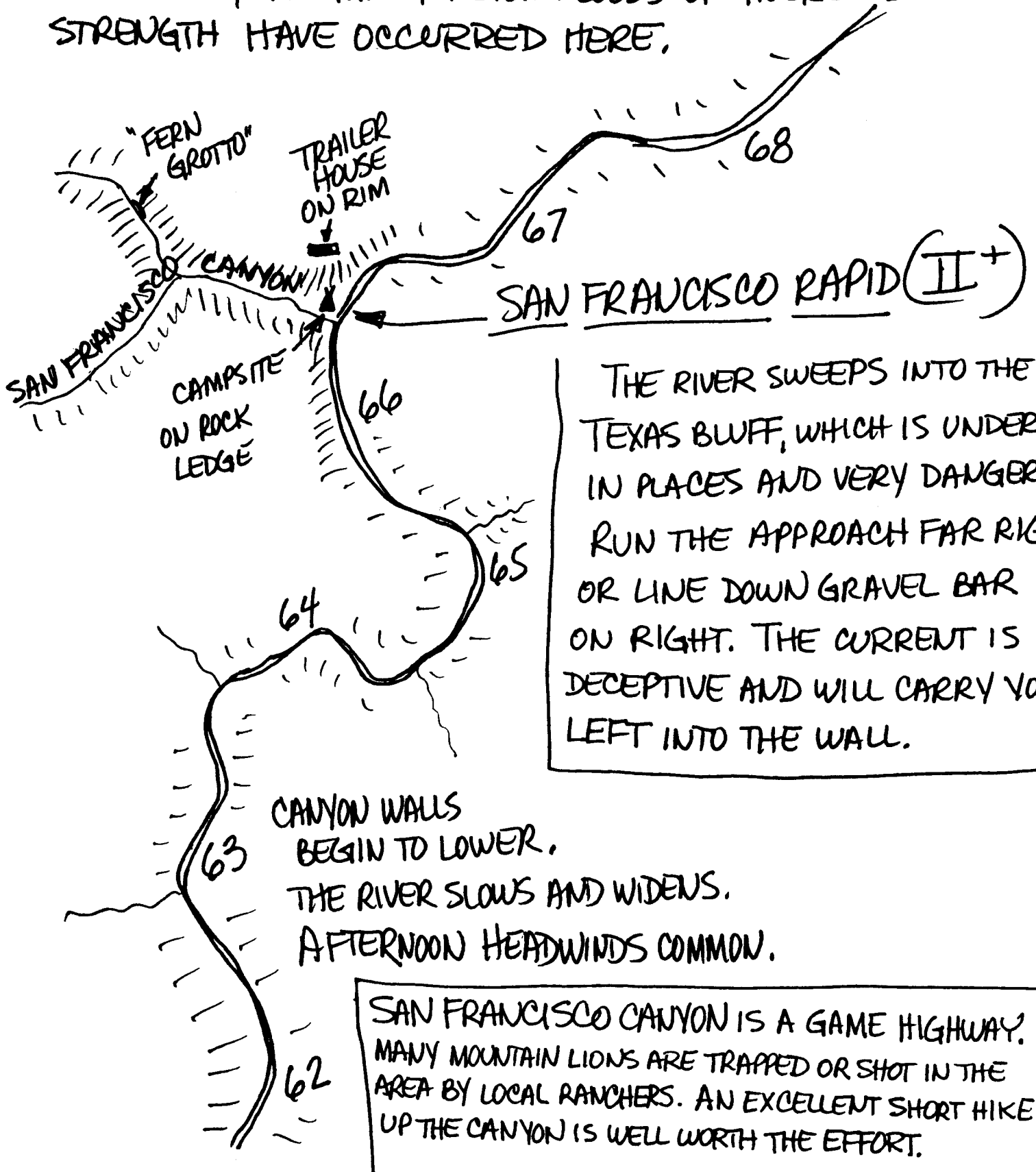
AT LOW LEVELS, THE LEFT CHANNEL HAS A SHALLOW RUN-OUT.

60

59

THE SOLID ROCK FLOOR OF PANTHER CANYON IS POKETED WITH SOLUTION POTHoles WHICH USUALLY HOLD WATER. THERE ARE SEVERAL SHELTERS IN THE CANYON WALLS WHICH HAVE SIGNS OF HABITATION.

SAN FRANCISCO CANYON IS A LARGE SIDE CANYON WITH A BIG DRAINAGE AREA. IT HEADWATERS ABOVE AND WEST OF SANDERSON, TX. MANY FLASH FLOODS OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH HAVE OCCURRED HERE.



THE RIVER SWEEPS INTO THE TEXAS BLUFF, WHICH IS UNDERCUT IN PLACES AND VERY DANGEROUS RUN THE APPROACH FAR RIGHT OR LINE DOWN GRAVEL BAR ON RIGHT. THE CURRENT IS DECEPTIVE AND WILL CARRY YOU LEFT INTO THE WALL.

CANYON WALLS BEGIN TO LOWER, THE RIVER SLOWS AND WIDENS. AFTERNOON HEADWINDS COMMON.

SAN FRANCISCO CANYON IS A GAME HIGHWAY. MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE TRAPPED OR SHOT IN THE AREA BY LOCAL RANCHERS. AN EXCELLENT SHORT HIKE UP THE CANYON IS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT.

MAY 11

INDIAN CAVE - WALK DOWN TO END OF GRASSY BENCH - TURN RIGHT UP SMALL CANYON. PLEASE LEAVE IT AS IT IS.

75

CAMP

"MIDDLE WATERING"  
EXCELLENT CAMPSITES!

LONG GRASSY BENCH WITH GOOD ACCESS.

RIVER IS SLOW THROUGH THIS AREA

74

"BONE WATERING"

GOOD CAMPSITE ON TEXAS SIDE

73

LADY FINGER BEND

CAMP

72

MEXICAN CANYON

JEEP ROAD

SMALL ISLAND

MEXICO

TEXAS

71

70

CANYON WALLS LOWERING

69

68

THESE "WATERINGS" ARE GRASSY FLATS WHERE RANCHERS MOVE THEIR STOCK IN TO GRAZE AND WATER THEY OFFER GOOD CAMPSITES AN EASY HALF-DAY RUN TO THE TAKE-OUT.

MAP 18

JAVELINA CANYON

TAKE OUT  
DRYDEN CROSSING  
(WE MADE IT!)

RIVER GAUGE  
FLOOD WATERS GOT INTO BOX ON TOP OF PIPE IN 1978.

CANYON WALLS VERY LOW

ARROYO AGUA VERDE

AGUA VERDE RAPIDS (II)

ROCK GARDEN OUTWASH.  
ROUGH AT LOW WATER.  
IN GENERAL, RUN CENTER AND WORK LEFT TO AVOID PILING INTO THE MEXICAN WALL. BIG EDDY ON LEFT BELOW. SCOUT RIGHT SIDE.

TAYLOR CANYON

SANDERSON CANYON IS ANOTHER LARGE DRAINAGE PRONE TO FLASH FLOODS.

SANDERSON RAPIDS (II+)  
SCOUT LEFT, CLIMB ROCKS.

SIMILAR TO SAN FRANCISCO - WATER RUNS INTO TEXAS WALL AT LOW WATER, LINE DOWN RIGHT SIDE FROM GRAVEL BAR. HIGH WATER, RUN FAR RIGHT TO AVOID WALL. SOME BIG ROCKS ARE IN CHANNEL. SET UP RESCUE BOATS BELOW W EDDY ON RIGHT

FISH CAMP

SANDERSON CANYON

LEON CANYON

RED HOUSE CANYON

TEXAS

MEXICO