- 1 Title: Differential tracking of habitat range change in elevation by small mammals over the last
- 2 century

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17 **Abstract:** Over time, both habitat and species' distribution ranges may expand, contract or remain static in elevation. Species track habitat dynamics when both habitat and species' 18 elevation ranges expand or contract synchronously. Conversely, species do not track habitat 19 dynamics when habitat and species' elevation ranges change asynchronously; we equate habitat 20 to vegetation type that is suitable to a species. Tracking habitat elevation range dynamics is 21 Deleted: can be 22 likely a function of species' ecological traits. Here we explore if observed changes in habitat elevation range can explain the observed changes in small mammals' elevation ranges over the 23 misantos 14/8/12 6:06 Deleted: in elevation last 80 years in Yosemite National Park. To answer this question we tested for an association 24 between small mammal presence using Grinnell's survey in 1910-1930 and resurveys in 2003-25 26 2008, with historical and current maps of habitat suitability. We found about 50% of the species Deleted: as niche space for the individual species 27 elevation ranges tracked their habitat elevation ranges. Most species that tracked their habitat 28 elevation ranges inhabit low and intermediate elevations and expanded their elevation range, and those that did not track are high elevation species, whose elevation range contracted. Habitat 29 elevation range tracking is mostly linked to the changes in Sierra mixed conifer forests, likely 30 Deleted: elevation and area of resulting from fire suppression and lag effects. Adult body mass, diet guild, genus, and neonatal 31 body mass showed significant effects on species' ability to track their habitat elevation range. 32 Omnivores tracked their habitat elevation range whereas herbivores did not. These results 33 34 suggest that a broad diet and higher reproductive rates allowed species to track their habitat Deleted: food niche breadth elevation range and expand their geographical range. Contracting species lack this capacity to 35 track habitat elevation range. Assessing species' ability to track, their habitat elevation range over 36 mjsantos 14/8/12 3:37 PM Deleted: 37 time is crucial as we use trends in species responses to environmental parameters to identify which species are at risk, and to predict their responses to future conditions. 38

45 Key words: California Wildlife Habitat Relationships, change detection, habitat suitability,

46 range dynamics, small mammals

Introduction

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focus on elevation range changes.

Species' geographic range exhibit dynamics in elevation (Gaston 1998). Theoretically, these shifts are a response to changing environmental conditions that delimit species' ecological niche over time (Grinnell 1917b, Soberon and Nakamura 2009). Much related research has been devoted to understanding how species' ranges are shaped by environmental conditions and how they may potentially change over time, termed biogeography, (for example see Elith et al. 2010; and references therein). Species range dynamics occur as a function of changes in climate (Lenoir et al. 2010, Tingley et al. 2010), and habitat (Oliver et al. 2009, Graham et al. 2010), and can be used to predict changes in species' distributions. Assessing species response to habitat dynamics is complicated because of the lack of historical datasets that comprise both species and habitat data and their change in time. Assessing species' ability to track changes in their habitat range over time could be very informative as it addresses how a species' climatic requirements (as reflected in elevation) and its food/shelter requirements (as presumably captured by the vegetation types) may not shift together as climate changes. In this paper we assess whether small mammals are or are not tracking habitat elevation dynamics over time with the use of two

Species *track* habitat <u>elevation</u> dynamics when both habitat and species ranges expand or contract synchronously. Conversely, species *do not track* habitat <u>elevation</u> dynamics when habitat and species ranges change asynchronously. Here, we equate habitat to vegetation type

historical datasets from the Yosemite National Park area of California, USA. In our case we

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difficult to follow.

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that is weighted by its suitability to each species. This is different than a simple metric of vegetation change. Species' life-history traits may also influence how species respond to changes 88 in their environment. However, this link is tenuous (Angert et al. 2011) because while traits are 89 associated with species' range dynamics (Broennimann et al. 2006, Kearney et al. 2010), finding 90 the trait(s) that is(are) responsible for that is challenging. A series of species' traits, such as 91 92 lifespan (Hanspach et al. 2010), number of broods per year and annual fecundity (Jiguet et al. 2007), habitat specialism (Chen et al. 2011), dietary breadth and reproduction habitat (Angert et 93 al. 2011), and external threats (disease) (Murray et al. 2011) may be central to the processes 94 through which species can be changing their distribution range in response to changes in their 95 96 environment. Moritz et al. (2008) and Rubidge et al. (2011) found different small mammal species exhibited 97 primarily upwards expansion in their elevational distribution range over the last 80 years in 98 Yosemite National Park. They suggested these dynamics could potentially be explained by 99 100 changes in climate and habitat. We set out to test whether elevational changes in habitat could explain observed small mammals' elevational range shifts. We asked two specific questions. 101 First, can observed changes in species' ranges be explained by shifts in their habitat over time? 102 103 And second, can species' traits explain the tracking of habitat changes? To answer these 104 questions we tested for an association between small mammal presence in historical and modern times (Grinnell survey in 1911-1917 and resurveys in 2003-2008) and habitat suitability derived 105 from historical and modern assessments of land cover (Wieslander survey 1930-1940 and 106 CalVeg 2000-2006). We then assessed if species' traits could explain species responses to habitat 107 dynamics. We predict that if a species' distribution range is driven by their habitat then species 108 will track the dynamics of habitat elevation ranges. Alternatively species' distribution ranges 109

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113 may be driven by other factors, such as climate or species interactions, then species will not track habitat elevation range changes. In the first case traits that relate to habitat use (behavior, diet, 114 reproduction, etc) will be linked to species ability to track habitat elevation range dynamics; 115 alternatively, in the second case, traits like physiology, circadian and annual activity, etc will 116 117 more likely be related with not tracking the habitat elevation range changes. 118 Methods 119 Study area – The study covers 3350km², used an elevational transect that includes the Yosemite 120 Deleted: National Park, and covers an elevation gradient from 100m to 3500m on the west slope of the 121 California's Sierra Nevada mountains (Figure 1). Different plant communities dominate at 122 123 different elevations, with oak woodlands and chaparral at the lower elevations (<1500m), 124 hardwoods, Ponderosa pine and other pine species at intermediate elevations (1000-2500m), 125 being replaced by lodgepole pine, fir and hemlock at higher elevations (2000-3200m), and alpine 126 conditions. 127 Small mammals' data – The presence and capture history data come from the ongoing Grinnell misantos 14/8/12 4:47 Deleted: Data sets Resurvey Project of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ), University of California, 128 Berkeley (Moritz et al. 2008). These data consist of the original data collected by Joseph 129 Grinnell and colleagues while documenting biological diversity in the state (Grinnell 1917a, 130 131 1924, Moritz et al. 2008). This effort involved the setting up of trapping campaigns across all 132 elevations within the Yosemite transect (and the effort also included the Lassen, Southern Sierras, Central Coast and San Diego transects, but those data were not considered in this 133 analysis), while documenting the Merriam life zones that defined the transect (Figure 1). The 134

137	data were recorded in extensive field note-books, archived at the Museum of Vertebrate
138	Zoology, and subsequently made available digitally through the Museum website
139	(http://bscit.berkeley.edu/mvz/volumes.html).
140	It can be argued that these data do not lend themselves readily to comprehensive analyses, as the
141	original Grinnell and colleagues surveys (1910-1920) were not intended to establish a
142	standardized baseline for comparison with repeat samples up to nine decades later. The historical
143	data collection methods consisted of traplines set at different locations across the Yosemite
144	transect, with a variable number of traps per trapline (averaging about 30), set between three and
145	five nights consecutively. This systematic approach was the basis to justify a comparison with
146	the sampling that Grinnell and his colleagues performed, because the same methods were
147	applicable and the survey design repeated. Craig Moritz and his colleagues were instrumental in
148	facilitating a resurvey project that aimed at repeating the same sampling in approximately the
149	same locations as the historical surveys to assess whether changes have occurred. Using that as a
150	foundation, modern analytical tools enabled us to build the details of the survey method into the
151	analytical framework to reduce the effects of the sampling design, allowing for accurate
152	comparisons across time.
153	In the historical data there were some uncertainties in the specific geographical location of
154	certain traplines. To reduce uncertainty, we aggregated all traplines known to have been set
155	within a 2km radius or a 100m change in elevation of a known location (often a campsite)
156	following the method in Moritz et al. (2008). The same criteria were applied to the modern data,
157	where traplines within 2km or 100m were also aggregated. Species' presence, capture history
158	and trapping effort data were then summarized for the aggregates and used for subsequent
159	analysis.

Species' capture histories were used to estimate if there were significant changes in species' elevational distribution range in an occupancy modeling framework. Occupancy modeling (MacKenzie and Nichols 2004) is a statistical framework based on a series of probabilistic arguments that allow simultaneous estimation of a species' probability of detection (p) and probability of occupancy (ψ) . The outputs of this method allow detecting significant changes in species ranges (see Moritz et al. 2008) and these results were used to select species for the analysis and to describe their elevation range dynamics (Table 1). Since we were interested in the changes in elevation range and not the entire spatial realization of a species geographic range, we believe this method is arguably better than species distribution modeling (SDMs) because (1) it deals with the issue of detectability in a more formalized way than most SDMs, as it incorporates detection probabilities directly into the estimation of species occupancy; (2) it allows incorporating estimates of trapping effort into the estimation of the probabilities of detection and occupancy; (3) tests for changes in occupancy, and therefore similar to SDMs range shifts outputs, which are done on the detectability corrected occupancy estimates; (4) it allows to incorporate effects such as elevation in explaining the significant models; and (5) do not require the definition of a threshold to create a range limit. In a parallel analysis we did compare the results from the species occupancy range changes and that of traditional SDM's outputs and found concordant results for four species (Appendix I; Santos et al. 2012). Land cover data - We used the digital version of the Wieslander (1934) and CalVeg (2000) land cover maps (Figure 1). The Wieslander data set (http://vtm.berkeley.edu/) corresponds to 1930s Wieslander surveys. Surveyors were sent throughout the state to define the vegetation communities. Surveyors color coded topographic maps to reflect the vegetation communities

they observed from vantage points; surveyors also annotated the maps to the dominant plant

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183	species. These maps were then georeferenced and hand-digitized on-screen to produce a spatial
184	digital layer of land cover in the 1930s. Given the uncertainty of these assessments from vantage
185	points (see description below on accuracy assessment), this data set was produced at a spatial
186	resolution of 300m (Thorne et al. 2008).
187	CalVeg 2000 data were downloaded from the United States Forest Service website
188	(http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/rsl/projects/frdb/layers/ev_mid.html) and corresponds to a semi-
189	automated classification of Landsat imagery data of California onto a vegetation map. The
190	spatial resolution of the original data set was 30m. Categorical resolution of some land cover
191	classes was relatively low, given the limitations of the classification algorithm to differentiate
192	closely related classes (for example, some conifer classes). These data were fused to available
193	vegetation descriptions for Yosemite National Park and the Sierra and subsequently corrected
194	using field surveys. The finalized map was then upscaled to 300m to match the spatial resolution
195	of the historical map.
196	Land cover types were subsequently cross-referenced to the California Wildlife Habitat
197	Relationships (CWHR, hereafter WHR) types (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/). WHR
198	types correspond to habitats designed to be used to predict terrestrial vertebrate wildlife species'
199	distribution in California. It includes 59 habitats (27 tree, 12 shrub, 6 herbaceous, 4 aquatic, 8
200	agricultural, 1 developed, and 1 non-vegetated), and do not represent a comprehensive
201	classification scheme for the mapping of California's terrestrial vegetation or marine and
202	estuarine habitats. Each habitat is defined by stage (a combination of size and cover class for tree
203	habitats, age and cover for shrub habitats, height and cover for herbaceous habitats, and depth
204	and substrate for aquatic habitats), which is determined by field sampling
205	(http://www.cnps.org/cnps/vegetation/protocol.php). In addition, special habitat elements are

206 also included, such as snags, banks and burrows, aquatic elements, vegetative and animal diet 207 elements, and human-made elements. Each habitat is then described in terms of its structure, composition, and links to other classification schemes, vegetation changes, and duration of 208 stages. Each habitat is also described in terms of its biological setting (its position relative to 209 210 other habitats and wildlife considerations), physical setting (soils, topography, and climate), and 211 geographical distribution in California (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/). For each habitat type, there is a comprehensive manual that describes the characteristic criteria; 212 information on classification and mapping the terrestrial vegetation are provided by the 213 Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP), the Biogeographic Data Branch, 214 215 and the California Department of Fish and Game (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/vegcamp/), and cross-referenced to WHR types (for detailed descriptions see 216 217 http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/). The final historical and modern maps correspond to 300m grids with the categorical resolution that matches the WHR types. 218 219 Several constraints are associated with evaluating and using time-series land cover data. These include: spatial accuracy, thematic accuracy, cross-referenced thematic accuracy, scale of 220 analysis, and rescaling of data. The spatial accuracy of the historical vegetation maps was 221 assessed using georegistered historical USGS topographic quadrangles (used as base maps upon 222 223 which the historical vegetation patterns were drawn). GIS production of the historical vegetation maps registered them onto georeferenced versions of the same-edition USGS topographic 224 quadrangles, using a process that leads to <10m registration error on 30' quadrangles (Thorne et 225 226 al. 2008). The same USGS topographic base maps were then registered to modern topographic 227 maps (Digital Raster Graphics; http://topomaps.usgs.gov/drg/). Control points were extracted from common locations on both maps (modern and historical USGS topographic quadrangles), 228

and the distance between each location in the historic vegetation map and correspondent historical USGS topographic quadrangles was used to estimate the Root Mean Square Error – RMSE. Previous analysis of registration error of the historical USGS topographic quadrangles in relation to modern digital maps produced a registration error of 263m (Thorne et al. 2008), suggesting a final historical map with a minimum mapping unit of 300m. Using it produced a more conservative measure of change than using a finer spatial grain would have done. The modern map spatial accuracy is a part of USGS routine pre-processing levels for Landsat products (http://landsat.usgs.gov/products_productinformation.php). The level of accuracy of the historical map georeferencing (300m) required the upscaling of the modern map to meet this operational grain size of 300m and to be deemed reliable for comparisons. Therefore both historical and modern vegetation maps were rendered to the same 300m grid. A majority filter was applied to both the historical and the modern vegetation maps to obtain the 300m final gridbased maps. Although the historical maps have some polygons smaller than 300m the generalization primarily sub-sampled the historical map polygons. The modern vegetation maps have 10 times (or more) polygons per area. For these maps, the 300m resolution represents a coarsening of the data. However, in each case, the most prevalent vegetation is assigned to each 300m grid cell. This process had two advantages: it dealt with the spatial uncertainty of in the historic maps, and it provided a common framework, allowing for patterns of change to be analyzed between time periods. The thematic accuracy of the historical maps is considerably higher than that of the modern vegetation maps. It consists of color-coded polygons hand-drawn on the USGS topographic quadrangles that indicate the vegetation type and are annotated with dominant plant types in rank-order of the percent cover. Every polygon lists at least one, and up to eight species. Plant

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252	species combinations for each polygon were concatenated, and labeled as vegetation type using
253	the Manual of California Vegetation (MCV) and then to WHR types (Thorne et al. 2008). These
254	are very commonly used procedures to determine vegetation types and have been verified
255	extensively by plant taxonomists both at the University of California, Davis and the University
256	of California, Berkeley. The historical vegetation maps have considerably more taxonomic detail
257	than the modern vegetation maps, so these historical data are likely more taxonomically accurate
258	than the data for the modern maps.
259	The thematic accuracy of the modern land cover map has two components: the Yosemite
260	Vegetation Map and CalVeg. The Yosemite Vegetation Map contains 220 vegetation types,
261	which can all be reduced to WHR types. It therefore has a high level of thematic accuracy. The
262	CalVeg map thematic accuracy, where reported for Sierran forests, is typically only 50-70% and
263	can be low for some classes, such as hardwood and mixed hardwood conifer classes. It has been
264	stated by the USFS that the CalVeg product is mainly for regional expansion of plot
265	measurements, and not for detailed spatial modeling. Nonetheless we believe this data set is still
266	usable in our analysis since because (1) we merged it with the Yosemite Vegetation Map, which
267	covers the majority of our area (the Yosemite map extends more than 1km beyond the edges of
268	the park), and (2) we upscaled the final map to a minimum mapping unit of 300 m, which
269	minimizes certain thematic registration errors.
270	There were few viable alternatives to consider in representing the vegetation in both time
271	periods. Using the information on the vegetation plots that were conducted by Wieslander and
272	his team, as we expected, would have been questionable because the plots that occur in our
273	Yosemite transect are distant from the locations where the mammals were trapped, and many of
274	them have not been revisited (Crimmins et al. 2011, Dobrowski et al. 2011). We also expected to

be able to use the information on habitat from the field notes of Joseph Grinnell and his colleagues, since they were also tasked to delimit life zones (vegetation that corresponds to elevation bands sensu Merriam life zones) in the Yosemite transect. However, the information provided in these notes was non-systematic and spatially restricted, without any relative concise description of the habitat where trapping campaigns were conducted. We therefore eliminated the possibility of using these alternative sources of data to complement our analysis, and decided instead to use the historical maps compared with the modified CalVeg data. We believe that the rescaling of both maps resulted in comparable spatial and thematic accuracy, which allows for cross-temporal comparisons. There is a potential for a scale effect among the small mammal data and the vegetation data. The small mammal data were collected from traplines that generally consisted of 30-40 traps, spaced about 10m from each other, set in a 300-400m line. The vegetation maps' minimum mapping unit was set at 300m. The similarity of these scales of data collection and bolstered confidence in the proposed integration of the data sets. In addition, lack of specificity in the description of the geographic location of the historical traplines created a need for the traplines to be aggregated into a 2km buffer around the various camp sites. This made the aggregate the minimum unit of analysis, each unit consisting of information from several traplines, while vegetation variables were being collected at similar scales. We feel assured that the alignment of the two collection methods greatly reduces the potential for a scale effect. Habitat suitability – We used published California Wildlife Habitat Relationships system rankings of species-habitat suitability to convert historic and modern land cover to habitat

suitability values for each target species. This system consists of a set of relational tables that

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298	summarize existing knowledge on species-habitat relationships for California vertebrates. For
299	each vertebrate species, literature and experts were surveyed to rank the importance of each
300	WHR type for that specific taxon; ranks varied from 0 (not suitable) to 1 (most suitable). The
301	system provides an average or weighted habitat suitability index for each vertebrate species,
302	calculated from the stage-specific ranks for each WHR type (low, medium, high). In addition
303	three other habitat suitability indexes (cover, food and reproduction) are available. We used the
304	values from the weighted habitat suitability (Table AII.1.; Appendix II), and linked them to the
305	historic and modern land cover maps, and calculated the landscape-level suitability per species
306	during both time periods.
307	To accommodate the uncertainty in the geographical positioning of the historical data, we
308	extracted the WHR ranks for each 2km buffer that represented each aggregate. We then summed
309	these values and divided them by the number of cells of the habitat map that the buffer included.
310	We called this metric the standardized Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) and used it in the
311	remaining analyses.
312	!
313	Data analysis – We tested whether HSI values predicted species presence by using a
314	contingency analysis (χ^2) to see if HSI values were on average significantly higher when a
315	species was present than when it was absent. Occupancy modeling determined non-detection was
316	considered as absence. This would indicate whether HSI values could be used to describe
317	species' presence in our study area.
318	To assess whether species and habitat elevation range dynamics were synchronous or not, we
319	estimated habitat displacement in elevation. This metric was calculated as the difference in

elevation range of each WHR type between historical and modern time, weighted by its

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361 suitability (HSI value) and averaged across all WHR types suitable for each species. The overall value of habitat elevation displacement ($\Delta_{habitat}$) was estimated as: 362 mjsantos 14/8/12 6:02 PM Deleted: vertical misantos 15/8/12 5:51 PM 363 $\Delta_{habitat} =$ Deleted: Δ_{elev} mjsantos 14/8/12 5:50 PM $\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left[\left[\left(\max(elev)_{m}-\min(elev)_{m}\right)-\left(\max(elev)_{h}-\min(elev)_{h}\right)\right]*HSI\right]_{i}\right]_{N}(\text{Equation})$ Deleted: elev 364 mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM Deleted: hab_ 1) 365 2.5:51 PM Deleted: hab mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM where i is each of N WHR types suitable to the species, max(elev) and min(elev) correspond to 366 Deleted: hab_ mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM Deleted: hab_ the maximum and minimum elevation at which a given habitat type occurs in either historical (h) 367 or modern (m) times, and HSI for the species comes from Table A1. Maximum and minimum Deleted: hab 368 Deleted: hab elevations were estimated as the average of the 95% and 5% quantiles of the distribution of 369 Comment [9]: something is wrong with this elevations at which a given WHR type occurs in each time period. 370 sentence "There is a possibility that this equation does not account for shifts in habitat range rather than expansions and contractions." We then plotted the changes of suitable habitat range against the change in species' ranges. The 371 Comment [10]: What changes? This isn't clear. change in species' ranges (Δ_{sp}) was the difference in the species' historical and modern 372 **Deleted:** There is a possibility that this equation does not account for shifts in habitat range rather 373 elevational ranges: than expansions and contractions. However, we did not observe these changes within our habitat types and thus continued the assessment using this metric $\Delta_{sp} = (max(elev)_m - min(elev)_m) - (max(elev)_h - min(elev)_h)$ 374 (Equation 2) Deleted: p_elev mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM Deleted: _elev 375 where max(elev) and min(elev) correspond to the maximum and minimum elevation at which a Deleted: sp_ species occurs in historical (h) or modern (m) times and were estimated as the averages of the 376 mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM Deleted: sp_ 95% and 5% quantiles of the distribution of elevations at locations where the species was 377 Deleted: sp_ present. In a plot of changes in habitat ranges against changes in species' ranges, species 378 mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM Deleted: sp_ 379 tracking habitat occur in the first and third quadrants of this plot, whereas species not tracking mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM Deleted: sp_ habitat lie in the second and fourth quadrants (Figure 3). 380 mjsantos 14/8/12 5:51 PM Deleted: sp_ mjsantos 15/8/12 6:19 PM Deleted: 2

We then tested whether the small mammal community showed a non random tracking of habitat 404 dynamics. We used a contingency test with the counts of species in the 1st and 3rd quadrants – 405 tracking species – against the counts of species in the 2nd and 4th quadrants – not tracking species 406 in Figure 3, against a random prediction from a binomial distribution. We excluded species 407 whose range dynamics did not change significantly. We expected that if tracking was dominant, 408 409 the contingency test would be significant. Next, we used a contingency analysis to test whether tracking (based on the placement of species in the plot in Figure 3) was affecting species' 410 systematically; by comparing species that occupy high, intermediate or low elevations; and 411 species that had shown expansion or contraction in their elevation distribution ranges. We then 412 413 tested whether there were range limit specific changes, ie, whether there were different behaviors at the upper and lower range limits (UL and LL respectively). To do this we modified equations 414 415 1 and 2, as in Equations 3 (habitat) and 4 (species) for upper and lower range limits (L) in historic and modern time. We then used a chi-square test to assess whether placement of species 416 within the plot described in Figure 3 was different from random for both UL and LL. 417 $\Delta_{habitat_L} = \frac{\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} [(L_m - L_h) * HSI]_i\right]}{N}$ (Equation 3) 418

$$\Delta_{habitat_L} = \frac{\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[(L_m - L_h) * HSI \right]_i \right]}{N}$$
 (Equation 3)

$$\Delta_{sp_L} = (L_m - L_h)$$
 (Equation 4)

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Even if all species track well, some species will likely track habitat changes more closely...To test this we removed the categorization into tracking and not tracking and created a linear model for Figure 2. We expected that if tracking was strong, the regression would explain a large proportion of the deviance, thus have a high R-square, and a significant and positive slope. A significant positive slope indicates that tracking is more important than not tracking. A slope non-significantly different from zero suggests equal importance of tracking and not tracking.

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430 Finally, we tested whether species' traits could be related to tracking habitat dynamics using chisquare tests. We assembled information on species' traits from the PanTHERIA database (Jones 431 et al. 2009) or from the data published in Moritz et al. (2008), which included their relatedness 432 (Genus), behavior (home range size and terrestriality), circadian and annual activity (annual 433 rhythm, activity cycle), physiology (metabolic rate), biometrics (weight, longevity), diet guild, 434 435 reproduction (litters per year, gestation length, litter size, neonatal weight, young per year). 436 Descriptions of each trait and trait values are detailed in Appendix III. Because of the number of comparisons performed we applied a Bonferroni correction to the significance level. 437 Results 438 Deleted: Land cover changes along the Yosemite Transect 439 In the Yosemite transect there are 33 land cover types (Figure 1). The dominant land cover type 440 in historical time was ponderosa pine (412.7 km², 12% of the transect area), followed by 441 lodgepole pine (354.7 km², 11%), and annual grasslands (336.2 km², 10%). In contemporary 442 time, Sierran mixed conifer and annual grasslands are co-dominant (SMC: 519.6 km²; AGS: 443 517.8 km²; both 15%). From 1930s to 2000s, the land cover that increased most was Sierra 444 Mixed Conifer (from 17.4 to 519.6 km²; Figure 1c), at the expense of decreases mainly in 445 Ponderosa pine (from 412.7 to 116 km²) and white fir (from 140.4 to 5.2 km²; Figure 1d). Other 446 relevant transitions are the increase in mountain hardwood from 95.8 to 264.3 km², and the 447 decrease in chamise-redshank chaparral from 278.1 to 1.5 km², blue oak woodlands from 196.7 448 to 24.6 km², and barren areas from 228.6 to 1.6 km² (Figure 1d). 449 Comment [11]: If you re-surveyed this right now

Test of HSI for species' presence

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(or at the same time as the later survey), how much

change do you think you would see? In other words, what is the null expectation for changes in these habitat types, if nothing had really changed?

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For eighteen (out of 23) species, Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) values were significantly higher

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Comment [12]: I don't understand this

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Deleted:), with the exception of O. beecheyi, T. senex, and P. maniculatus

Comment [13]: "for simplicity, however, we state tracking or not tracking as referring to elevation dynamics" - please don't do this, but rather be specific in your references. It will significantly help the reader.

Deleted: We questioned whether elevation ranges of small mammal and their habitat changed in concurrent or opposite directions; for simplicity, however, we state tracking or not tracking as referring to elevation dynamics.

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Deleted: Habitat tracking was not significantly different from random (χ²=0.08, P-value=0.78), excluding species that showed no significant changes in their elevation ranges. However, we found that there were significantly more expanding species that tracked habitat elevation range and that more contracting species did not track habitat elevation range (χ^2 =3.86, P-value=0.04).

mjsantos 23/8/12 6:11 PM Comment [14]: add results – means and ranges species showed the same pattern (range: Figure 6b; R²=0.32, F_{2.8}=1.97, P-value=0.05; lower: Figure 498 Comment [15]: This does not show the size or 6c; R^2 =0.02, $F_{2.8}$ =0.08, P-value=0.93; upper: Figure 6d; R^2 =0.38, $F_{2.8}$ =2.44, P-value=0.02). 499 direction of the effect, or what the differences among the 3 elevational classes were. At least means and ranges would help. This may not be much of an effect. Subtle and drastic effects are *Tracking habitat changes – tracking closely* 500 measured by effect sizes, not significant differences **Deleted:** we found significant differences in 501 About 50% of the species tracked well habitat changes; however, species did not track habitat tracking between species that inhabited low. intermediate and high elevation ranges changes closely. The regression explained little variance within the data set (R²=0.07) and slope of 502 **Deleted:**), with species at low and intermediate elevations tracking habitat, and species at high 503 the regression was not significantly different from zero (F_{1,21}=1.586, P-value=0.22). Regression for the elevations not tracking habitat mjsantos 17/8/12 3:41 PM upper and lower limits also (Lower: $R^2=0.02$, $F_{1,21}=1.586$, P-value=0.22; Upper: $R^2=0.06$, $F_{1,21}=1.372$, P-504 Formatted: Not Highlight 505 value=0.25). Species' traits 506 From the suite of species' traits only diet guild showed a significant effect on species' ability to 507 mjsantos 17/8/12 3:27 PM Deleted: ; genus, adult body mass, track their habitat (Table 3). Species tracking habitat dynamics were omnivorous, whereas 508 mjsantos 17/8/12 3:27 PM Deleted: , and neonatal body mass species that did not track habitat dynamics were mostly herbivorous. Genus, adult body mass and 509 mjsantos 17/8/12 3:27 PM Deleted: s mjsantos 5/7/12 4:27 PM neonatal body mass traits were only significant prior to the application of the Bonferroni 510 Deleted: 4 correction. 511 **Deleted:** significantly more of the genus *Sorex*, with lower adult and neonatal body mass, and were misantos 17/8/12 3:28 PM 512 Deleted: significantly more Microtus, with higher adult and neonatal body mass, and 513 Discussion Comment [16]: Add something about this MS gets at the issue of how a species' climatic Our main goal was to assess whether changes in habitat elevation range could explain the 514 requirements (as reflected in elevation) and its food/shelter requirements (as presumably captured 515 observed shifts of small mammals' elevational ranges. Our results illustrate multiple responses to by the vegetation types) may not shift together as climate changes. There can be historical processes (e.g. fire) and lag effects (e.g. long-lived trees) that

cause this decoupling. I think that more should be made into more of an explicit theme in the MS.

Further, species that inhabited low and intermediate elevations tracked habitat significantly more

than species that inhabit high elevations (Figure 6a; χ^2 =6.52, P-value=0.04), Tracking only

habitat dynamics by the assemblage of small mammals in Yosemite National Park. Half of the

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531 species tracked habitat range changes, where both habitat and species' range expanded or contracted synchronously. The other half of the species did not track habitat range changes, 532 where species and habitat range dynamics were asynchronous. The partition into species that 533 tracked and did not track habitat dynamics differed both by elevation range and by species' range 534 dynamics. Species that tracked habitat tended to occupy low and intermediate elevations and 535 536 their elevation range significantly expanded in the last 80 years. Conversely, species that did not 537 track habitat dynamics tended to occupy high elevations and their range contracted. While ecology aims to find a generalized response of communities to habitat dynamics, 538 individual species responses may also play a key role. Our results analyzing only one axis of 539 variation of a species niche (habitat), show a strong signal, with half the mammal species 540 541 responding to changes in habitat, especially as this group includes species from many different 542 genera (Sorex, Otospermophilus, Callospermophilus, Tamias, Chaetodipus, Peromyscus, 543 Reithrodonthomys) and a varied suite of traits (Appendix II). This concerted response is a 544 function of a major change in habitat composition, specifically the expansion in Sierra mixed conifer (SMC) which has been documented in the Sierra Nevada over this time period (Thorne et 545 al. 2008). For most of the species that we analyzed, the greatest contribution to the measured 546 547 changes in habitat range are due to changes in the availability of SMC (see Appendix II for the 548 HSI per land cover type). This explains why in Figure 4 most species showed positive habitat changes (x axis). These results are consistent when using just the most suitable habitats 549 (HSI>0.5; Appendix III) and no scale effect was observed. 550 Sierran mixed conifer (SMC) is an ensemble of five conifer species: white fir (Abies concolor), 551 552 Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa), sugar pine (Pinus

lambertiana), incense cedar (Calocedrus decurrens), and the California black oak (Quercus

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571 kellogii). SMC has replaced the adjacent natural vegetation communities at both lower and higher elevations. At lower elevations and under a regular fire regime, the landscape would be 572 dominated by ponderosa pine (PPN), and white fir would be prevented from reaching the 573 canopy; however, fire suppression in mid-20th century and fire restoration in 1970's (Bill Kuhn 574 personal comment) have allowed white fir to reach the canopy leading to vegetation transition 575 576 from PPN to SMC (Thorne et al. 2008, Collins et al. 2011). Most of the small mammal species inhabiting lower elevations tracked the dynamics of their habitat. Specifically, T. 577 quadrimaculatus is a conifer habitat specialist, inhabiting denser forests (Clawson et al. 1994b); 578 O. beecheyi and P. boylii are found in a variety of habitats including SMC and therefore may be 579 580 benefiting from the downward expansion of the SMC. For T. senex, there was a contraction in 581 both its habitat and distribution ranges. At higher elevations, tree density of SMC has increased 582 after the alteration of the fire regime (Collins et al. 2011) and encroachment of meadows by trees (Vale 1987). These may reduce open areas and affect species that require heavy debris areas with 583 584 high herbaceous cover, and fallen logs and shrubs, such as S. monticolus (Smith and Belk 1996), or riparian species, such as S. palustris (Beneski and Stinson 1987). 585 Species' traits may affect how they respond to their habitat dynamics. From the suite of traits 586 that we tested, we found only significant effects of diet guild on species' ability to track their 587 habitat(s). We found significantly more omnivore species tracking and herbivores not tracking 588 589 their habitat dynamics. Being an omnivore ensures a wider variety of food options that can be 590 used as the species uses more the current habitats or expands into new ones. This categorization 591 into dietary guild corresponds to other findings of dietary niche breadth (Angert et al. 2011). As habitat patterns change on the landscape, it is likely that species with a less specialized diet will 592

be favored, as they can take advantage of resources provided by the changing habitats. We also

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found that herbivores generally did not track habitat dynamics likely because these species use mostly herbaceous dominated habitats, such as open areas [*M. californicus*, *M. longicaudus* (Smolen and Keller 1987), and *S. trowbridgii* (George 1989)], meadows [*U. beldingi* (Jenkins and Eshelman 1984), and *M. montanus* (Sera and Early 2003)], riparian (*Z. princeps* (Hart *et al.* 2004)), and open talus slopes (*T. alpinus* (Clawson *et al.* 1994a)).

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Three potential explanations can be advanced for why species did not track habitat range changes. First, species may be responding to other pressures such as direct effects of climate change (Chen et al. 2011), altered species interactions (Tylianakis et al. 2008), or could show evolutionary adaptation (Atkins and Travis 2010) and exhibit behavioral plasticity (Knowlton and Graham 2010). However, if species were not responding to habitat, we would expect HSI not to be a good predictor of species presence. This was only the case for P. maniculatus, a habitat generalist species (P. maniculatus can use 30 of the 31 WHR types, Appendix II). Two other species, O. beecheyi and T. senex, showed no significant differences in HSI values in modern absence and presence locations. O. beechevi did not change its distribution range and little changes were observed in its habitat; T. senex was only recorded at one trapping location in the modern time. Because only a few species showed no differences in HSI values and presence, and for most of those just in one era, it suggests that species presence is a function of habitat. Secondly, HSI did not represent all of the possible habitats a species could occur in. For example, barren (BAR) lands include the rock talus where *T. alpinus* (Clawson et al. 1994a, Rubidge et al. 2011) and N. cinerea (Smith 1997) occur; however, BAR was not listed in the WHR rankings for these species and this land cover showed a major decrease in the study area (Figure 1). This does not undermine the value of the HSI, but instead, reinforces the importance of a periodic review of their values in light of the newest literature on each species, and, the

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possibility that habitat suitability values may change over time (see below). Thirdly, we were unable to measure the characteristic(s) of the habitat to which species are responding. Habitat as a component of a species' niche can be measured in a wide variety of ways (Godsoe 2010), and not necessarily all species will respond to the same metrics. We used a change detection analysis of habitat (or land cover types) as the predictor for range dynamics of vertebrates. The land cover maps used may have questionable classification accuracy, errors in georeferencing, and the crosswalk between the historical and the modern maps may contain errors. We believe, however, that these errors are negligible in our analysis as similar transitions as those we describe were documented from both vegetation map and concurrent plot data (Thorne et al. 2008, Collins et al. 2011, Crimmins et al. 2011), which provide an independent validation of the changes measured using the land cover maps. The thematic resolution (WHR types) used in this analysis was selected because it was linked to wildlife-habitats; however, some land cover classes (meadows, riparian areas, etc.) may be diluted when represented at a spatial resolution of 300m. Changes in both these land cover types known to occur in Yosemite (Vale 1987) are likely imperceptible at the spatial resolution of our land cover map, and at the scale of the aggregates where species were trapped. This may explain why meadow specialists like U. beldingi (Jenkins and Eshelman 1984) and M. montanus (Sera and Early 2003) and riparian species as Z. princeps (Hart et al. 2004) did not track habitat dynamics. Further, WHR change detection did not measure increase in density in SMC (Collins et al. 2011) and the change in forest structure (Mantgem and Stephenson 2007, Lutz et al. 2009), to which species like S. trowbridgii (George 1989) or T. speciosus (Best et al. 1994) are likely to respond.

Assessing species' ability to track changes in their habitat over time is crucial as we use trends in

species' responses to environmental parameters to identify which species are at risk, and to

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predict their responses to future conditions. Our results show idiosyncratic responses of species in relation to shifts in habitat in the Yosemite transect, however, with a strong pattern by inhabited elevation range and its dynamics. The results presented here suggest the dynamics of species that expanded their range are more easily understood by habitat changes than those that contracted. The next steps should integrate all of these components, and include other factors such as species interactions, diseases, and population dynamics. Only an integrated and holistic assessment of species responses to multiple factors may shed light towards our understanding of range dynamics and improve predictions of future responses.

Acknowledgements

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794	Figure 1. Study area location and changes in WHR land_cover types in the Yosemite transect: (a)	
795	location of the Yosemite transect in California and the outline of Yosemite National Park (YNP);	
796	(b) Yosemite transect with colors depicting different elevation life zones (sensu Merriam's life	
797	zones) and outline of YNP; (c) Historical (1930's) and modern (2000's) land_cover in the	
798	Yosemite transect; and (d) change in area (km²) covered by each WHR type from historical to	
799	modern time and blue bars represent loss and red bars increase (AGR -Agriculture, AGS -	
800	Annual Grasslands, ASP – Aspen, BAR – Barren, BOW – Blue oak woodland, BOP – Blue oak-	
801	foothill pine, CRC - Chamise-redshank chaparral, CPC - Closed-cone pine-cypress, DFR -	
802	Douglas fir, EPN – East side pine, FEW – Freshwater emergent wetland, JPN – Jeffrey pine,	
803	JUN – Juniper, LAC – Lacustrine, LPN – Lodgepole pine, MCH – Mixed Chaparral, MCP –	
804	Montane Chaparral, MHW – Montane Hardwood, MHC – Montane hardwood-conifer, MRI –	
805	Montane riparian, PJN – Pinyon-juniper, PPN – Ponderosa pine, RFR – Red fir, SMC – Sierran	
806	Mixed-conifer, SCN – Sub-alpine Conifer, URB – Urban, VRI – Valley Foothill riparian, VOW	
807	– Valley Oak woodland, WTM – Wet meadows, WFR – White fir).	
808	Figure 2. Images of (a) Joseph Grinnell's field note books with the annotations of the trapping	
809	records, (b) the hand drawn maps of the trapping locations, and (c) Wieslander maps.	
003	records, (o) the halld drawn maps of the trapping recutions, and (o) wrestander maps.	
810	Figure 3. Plot of changes in habitat elevation range axis (x axis) against the changes in species	
811	elevation range (y axis). Habitat tracking occurs when species are placed in the 1st and 3rd	
812	quadrants of this plot, whereas species that did not track their habitat are placed in the second	
813	and fourth quadrants.	
814	Figure 4. Changes in species' and habitat range change: (a) full range, (b) lower limit and (c)	
815	upper limit. The x axis represents changes in habitat elevation ranges (positive values: increase	mjsantos 15/8/12 6:20 PM Deleted: 3 mjsantos 23/8/12 6:16 PM
		Deleted: elevation displacement

in habitat elevation range, negative values: decrease in habitat elevation range), the y axis 818 819 represents changes in species elevation range (positive values: increase species elevation range; negative values: decrease species elevation range). Black triangles indicate species that have 820 significantly expanded their elevation range, white triangles indicate species that have 821 significantly contracted their elevation range, and white circles indicate species that have did not 822 823 change their elevation range. Eleven out of 23 species (48%) track habitat in elevation. Species names are coded to the three first letters of their genus and scientific names. 824 Figure 5. Box plots for species tracking and not tracking (a) range, (b) lower limit, and (c) upper 825 limit. 826 827 Figure 6. Species inhabited range and range changes: (a) average range change, (b) range change in tracking only species, (c) lower limit in tracking only species, and (d) upper limit in tracking 828

only species.

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Yosemite transect

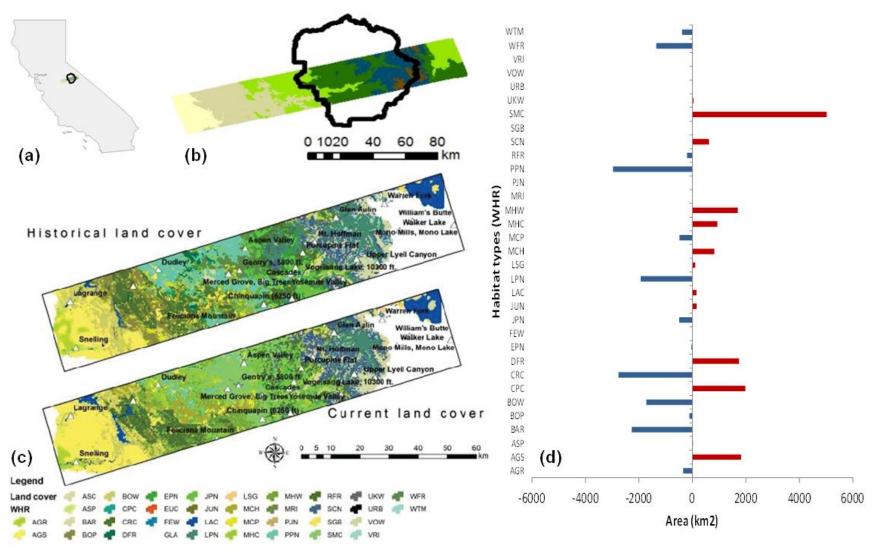


Figure 1.

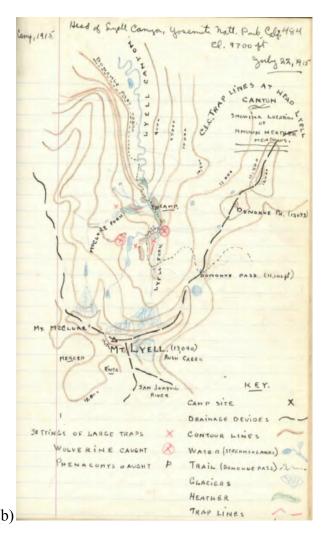
Sminel-1915

Josemite
July 30

13433 Neotoma f. streatori & 378 × 180 × 35 × 26

The line of 24 rat traps set up the broken come below Rocky Point,
primail for clapsimules as previous
described, produced this morning:

1 Wood rat as above; + 8 Peromyseus boys
2 9 9 6 5 5, all adults, the latter with
three embryos. The 24 traps were
all in exactly some kind of ground
manually steep piles of boulders along (b)



1

(a)

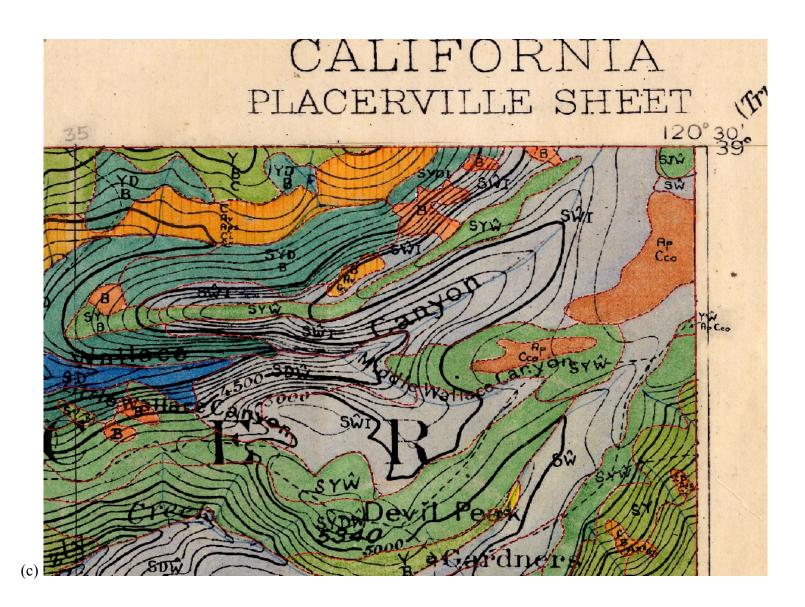
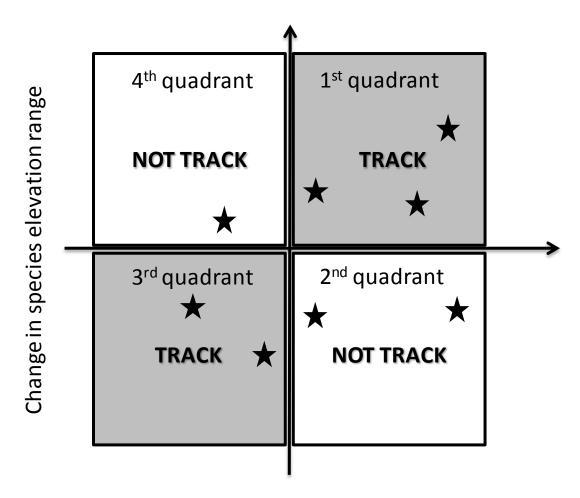


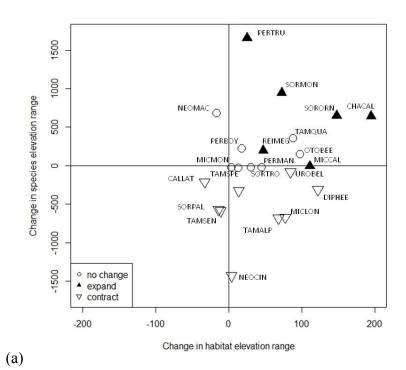
Figure 2.



Change in habitat elevation range

2 Figure 3.

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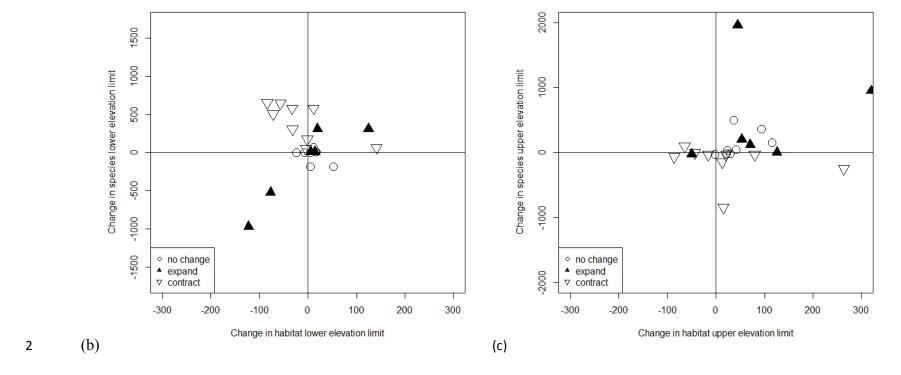
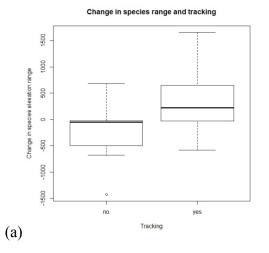


Figure 4.



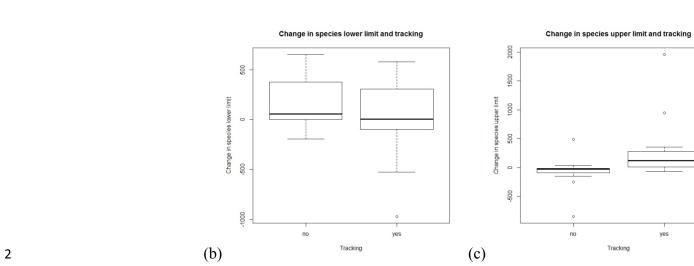


Figure 5.

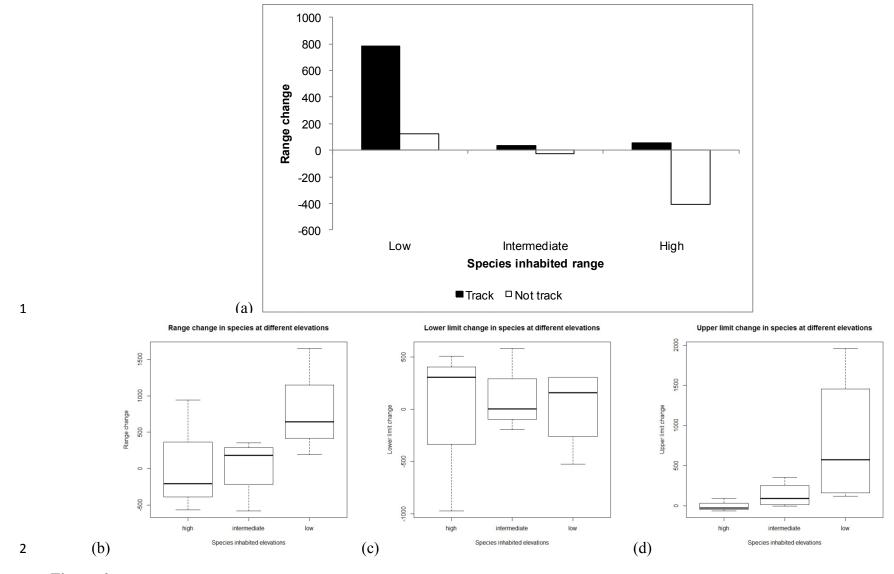


Figure 6.

- 1 Table 1. Species recorded in the Yosemite transect, and observed elevation range dynamics
- 2 Moritz et al. (2008), and the elevation range they inhabit.

				Elevation
Order	Family	Species	Range	range
Insectivora	Soricidae	Sorex monticolus	Expand	High
Insectivora	Soricidae	Sorex ornatus	Expand	Low
Insectivora	Soricidae	Sorex palustris	Contract	High
Insectivora	Soricidae	Sorex trowbridgii	No change	Intermediate
		Otospermophilus	No change	Intermediate
Rodentia	Sciuridae	beecheyi		
Rodentia	Sciuridae	Urocitellus beldingi	Contract	High
		Callospermophilus	Contract	High
Rodentia	Sciuridae	lateralis		
Rodentia	Sciuridae	Tamias alpinus	Contract	High
Rodentia	Sciuridae	Tamias quadrimaculatus	No change	Intermediate
Rodentia	Sciuridae	Tamias senex	Contract	Intermediate
Rodentia	Sciuridae	Tamias speciosus	No change	High
Rodentia	Heteromyidae	Chaetodipus californicus	Expand	Low
Rodentia	Heteromyidae	Dipodomys heermanni	Contract	Low
Rodentia	Cricetidae	Neotoma cinerea	Contract	High
Rodentia	Cricetidae	Neotoma macrotis	No change	Low
Rodentia	Cricetidae	Peromyscus boylii	No change	Intermediate
Rodentia	Cricetidae	Peromyscus maniculatus	No change	All

Rodentia	Cricetidae	Peromyscus truei	Expand	Low
		Reithrodontomys	Expand	Low
Rodentia	Cricetidae	megalotis		
Rodentia	Cricetidae	Microtus californicus	Expand	Low
Rodentia	Cricetidae	Microtus longicaudus	Contract	High
Rodentia	Cricetidae	Microtus montanus	No change	High
Rodentia	Dipodidae	Zapus princeps	Contract	High

1 Table 2. Contingency test of the effect of HSI values on species presence. Bold values represent

2 significantly higher HSI values in locations where the species was present.

	Historical		Mode	rn
	χ^2	P-value	χ^2	P-value
Sorex monticolus	9.88	0.002	4.69	0.03
Sorex ornatus	1.72	0.19	3.81	0.05
Sorex palustris	8.4	0.004	0.21	0.65
Sorex trowbridgii	6.25	0.01	10.91	0.001
Urocitellus beldingi	7.08	0.008	13.79	0.0002
Callospermophilus lateralis	4.23	0.04	0.32	0.57
Otospermophilus beecheyi	0.09	0.76	0.08	0.77
Tamias alpinus	25.11	0.0001	13.74	0.0002
Tamias quadrimaculatus	7.47	0.006	10.83	0.001
Tamias senex	3.49	0.06	0.62	0.43
Tamias speciosus	15.48	0.0001	11.3	0.0008
Dipodomys heermanni	4.86	0.028	1.55	0.21
Chaetodipus californicus	8.59	0.0034	4.89	0.03
Neotoma cinerea	4.49	0.03	0.97	0.32
Neotoma macrotis	8.81	0.003	17.23	0.0001
Peromyscus boylii	2.63	0.11	16.26	0.0001
Peromyscus maniculatus	0.032	0.86	0.71	0.39
Peromyscus truei	4.4	0.03	4.97	0.03
Reithrodontomys megalotis	14.02	0.0002	14.6	0.0001

Microtus californicus	8.14	0.004	7.64	0.006
Microtus longicaudus	4.69	0.03	3.77	0.05
Microtus montanus	6.69	0.009	2.1	0.15
Zapus princeps	9.33	0.0023	6.73	0.009

- 1 Table 3. Species traits effect on species tracking or not tracking habitat in elevation. Bold values
- 2 are significant differences (Bonferroni corrected *P*-value<0.01).

Trait	Track	Not track	χ^2	P-value
Genus	Sorex	Microtus	17.96	0.05
Home Range	0.005	0.014	0.02	0.88
Terrestriality	1.5	1.33	0.17	0.68
Annual Rhythm	non-hibernator	non-hibernator	0.68	0.71
Activity Cycle	both	both	0.14	0.93
Basal Metabolic Rate	68.99	112.76	2.45	0.12
Adult Mass	52.30	144.29	4.12	0.04
Max longevity	12.75	24.00	2.39	0.12
Diet	omnivore	herbivore	10.68	0.01
Litters per year	1.75	2.00	0.02	0.89
Gestation length	26.10	25.23	0.01	0.92
Litter size	4.63	4.43	0.28	0.60
Neonatal body mass	2.35	7.06	3.84	0.05
Youngs per year	7.38	9.00	0.03	0.86