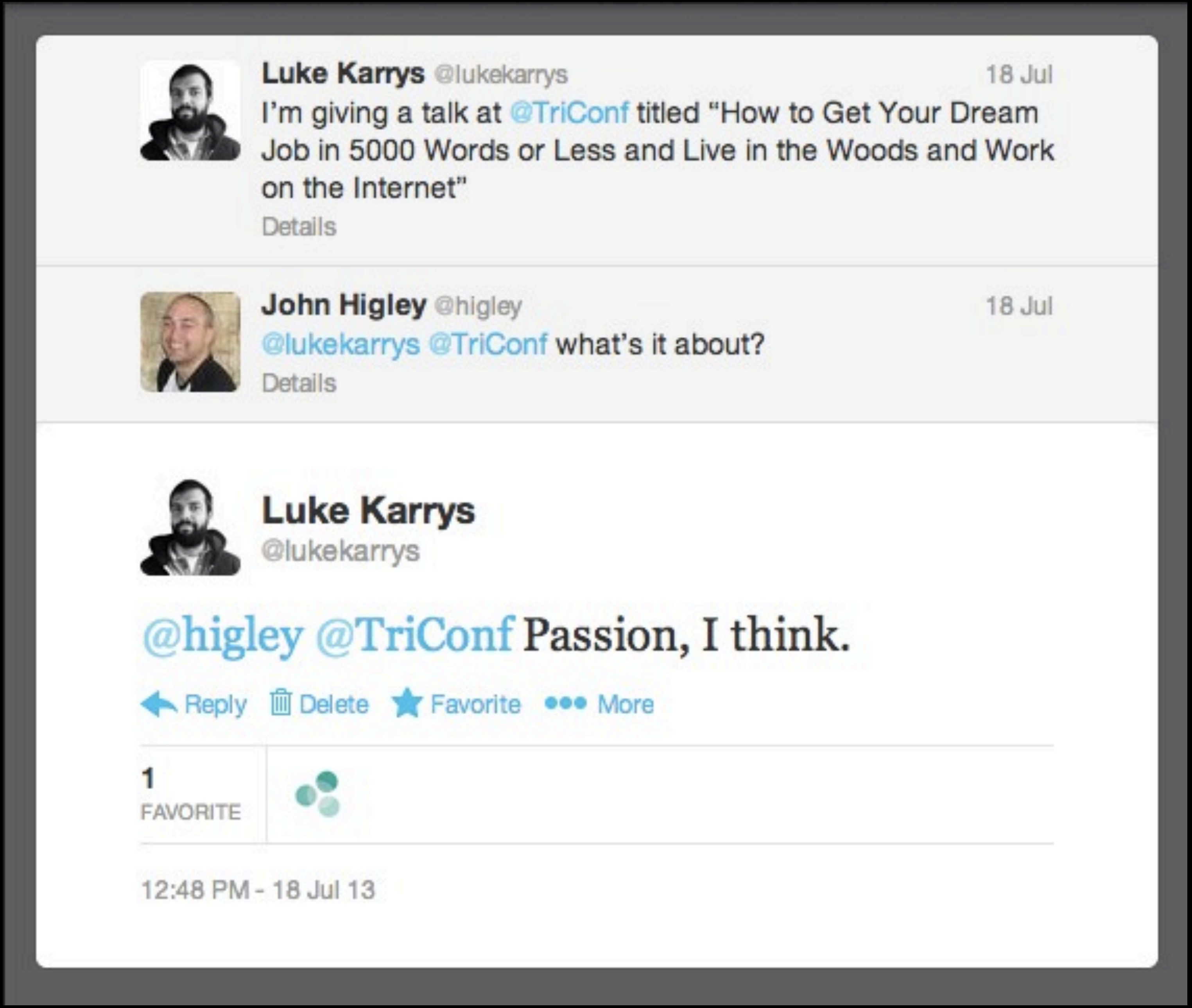
How to Get Your **Dream** Job in 5000 Words or Fewer and Live in the **Woods** and **Work** on the **Internet**



Luke Karrys @lukekarrys 18 Jul

I'm giving a talk at @TriConf titled "How to Get Your Dream Job in 5000 Words or Less and Live in the Woods and Work on the Internet"

John Higley @higley 18 Jul

@lukekarrys @TriConf what's it about?

Luke Karrys @lukekarrys

@higley @TriConf Passion, I think.

12:48 PM - 18 Jul 13

This is a talk about

passion

and **purpose**.

"Then you should **do it**."

– one of my heroes, Adam Brault

http://thepot-luck.com/adambrault/then-you-should-do-it

There will be **fear**.

There will be **fear**.

But you should **do it**.

arrys. I am a currently a JavaScript developer at meltmedia who has extensive experience with front-end web development and some experience with back-end as well. I really, really love the web in general and developing for it is truly a passion for me. My favorite part is getting an idea that is so awesome it gives me butterflies, and then working to make it a reality.

person: I live in a small (less than 1 sq. km) dirt road village in the middle of the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. I'm about 20 minutes outside the town of Payson and 90 minutes outside the Phoenix area. I absolutely love where I live. I enjoy doing outdoorsy stuff such as cycling and trail running. I also enjoy live music, t-shirts and my family (not the wife/kids variety but the mother/sisters/brothers-in-law/nieces/nephews/dogs variety). I'm looking for a telecommuting job that challenge
d build relationships with my awesome coworkers.

first of yourself. You help drive projects in quality and completeness. You can't stand being blocked from getting things done and you know how to get unblocked. You strongly prefer not to be managed.

leteness. One of the things that would drive me crazy as a kid was when I would start doing the yard for my mom, and then she would tell me to stop because it was "good enough." But I still had to trim around the driveway and the rocks and the trees! And that side of the yard that no one ever goes in still looks like a mess! I'm still like that today, especially with software projects. I love the feeling of finishing something and finishing it right. And I can do those things on my own. For the pa
remotely because my team and managers trusted me and knew I did great work, but there was still a time period during the first month of remote work where everyone was watching out for pitfalls and making sure everyone (especially me) stayed as productive and collaborative. I was diligent in asking my manager and coworkers if there was anything I needed to change, and I didn't receive a single complaint. Someone even said they thought I was getting more work done (which I took a

uestion down! This...might be a long email.

sk questions, look dumb, be wrong, take risks, and fail.

n not great at this in large public settings, but can definitely do it in situations where I trust the other people and I feel like they trust me. The larger public settings is an area that I have been making an effort to improve upon. I have volunteered for 3 speaking engagements in the last year to try and become more comfortable with the feelings of risk, looking dumb and failure. One was at a local meetup group and two were at my current workplace where I spoke to people outside my team about
, but definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone. They required taking risks and possibly looking dumb. I felt like one of my talks was a failure since the people attending left not seeming excited or asking any questions. I did my best to make sure that didn't happen at the next one by being prepared to do more live code and demos instead of slides. Overall, I'm not worried about looking dumb. Someone is most likely going to think I'm dumb somewhere along the line, so there is no se

e of your share of blame and give way more than your share of credit.

b, one of my favorite activities is project post-mortem meetings. I love looking back on a project, specifically my areas of direct involvement and responsibility, and dissecting it to see what I did wrong and what could be done better in the future. I love being the first person to take responsibility for something not working. I'm usually the first to point out my flaws and failures because the ways that I can improve always seem so obvious to me after a project! I see taking blame as a positive be
d be better. As for giving away credit, nothing feels better than working on a project with an awesome team and having everyone share the awesome feeling that it is complete and awesome (the awesome count for that sentence was 3, wait 4). It makes everyone excited for the next project (and usual makes for a fun party to celebrate the accomplishment).

esome Rock Star Ninja Superstar. You're good but painfully humble about it because you know how much you have to grow and how much you can learn from those around you.

y Awesome Rock Star Ninja Superstars really irk me. I am a person and I want to work with people. As for being humble, it feels a bit like bragging to tell you how humble I am. So I will just try and be really honest. I know I am a good developer. I know because people I respect have told me so. I know because I get that awesome feeling when I create something cool and then I get to share it with the world. I know because I really, really enjoy doing it too. However, I consistently look at my
I don't think I will ever be able to say "I am happy with how much I know about development." It feels like an eternal uphill battle, which is a good thing. It's like the 1.5 mile hill near my house that I love to run up and time myself and try to beat my previous time. So I keep that same mindset when thinking about improving as a developer. And the &yet team looks like a dream team of people that I would never fail to have something to learn from.

ommunicator and play well with others, recognizing conflict is a creative force when handled correctly.

n my ability to communicate, which is why I made a real effort to improve my developer-to-non-developer communication skills after my last performance review at work. More than one project manager said I would lose them in my communication about code related issues. Since then I have been diligent in writing emails and explaining problems over the phone and in person to make sure I am doing the best possible job communicating the issue at hand.

ing person and therefore have always gotten along well with others in my various jobs (pizza delivery guy, 2nd grade teacher, developer). I would say I fall a bit short on the conflict front though. Honestly, I don't deal with much conflict in my work life. I don't know if this means I am Doing It Wrong or not, but I tend to believe that I get along great with people and most discussions about work related issues just don't turn into full blown conflicts. I definitely don't think conflict should b

d and you know how to state your position without being offensive and argue your point without being defensive.

pinions! If I have a strong enough opinion and have done my homework to back it up, I love to state this position and argue my point. I do it tactfully and when other people do the same I have no problem not being defensive. I feel I am pretty good at this in 1 on 1 situations or smaller groups where mutual trust exists. But the reason I give myself a 6 is that again I feel like fall short of this in larger or unknown group settings. I have made it a personal goal of mine since May to become bett
mine to fall back into being comfortable not sharing my opinion or sparking debates.

ways to make things better -- your work, others' work, and your collaboration together.

lmost not doing anything if I am not actively looking to make things better. At my current job I joined the innovation task force to try and tackle the problem of people at the company being afraid to try new things and innovate. I also joined a small front-end JavaScript task group where we tried to come up with sane guidelines, design patters, deployment and minification steps to make it as painless as possible to share code modules across the large number of sites using them. Collaborating o
ep back periodically and change my workflow in places where I feel it might have grown stagnant or complacent. This year I made the switch to Sublime Text 2 and now I'm using much better linting and code quality practices. This actually came as a suggestion from a coworker of mine who wanted to make my work better. I also made the conscious effort to try new design patterns when architecting JavaScript code. This was after a personal review of my code made my realize I was probab

kes your heart pound at least a little bit.

a bit terrified of this list. But it also incredibly exciting to answer all of these questions and know they will be read by insanely smart people who I would be honored to work with. Really. I follow few of the &yetis on Twitter and they are the reason I am concurrently excited and terrified to send this email. I think I first heard of &yet when this post of Henrik's hit HN and I immediately Instapaper'd it and followed him on Twitter. And yes, he continues to amaze me as recently as last week. Then
the end. It was a truly perspective changing peace that reinforced in my eyes how special of a place &yet must be. So yes, my heart is pounding right now, but that isn't going to stop me.

hose are important, too.
great and people you respect tell you so.

er. I know the job post said "Lead Interface Designer" but don't stop reading now! None of the awesome designers I've worked with have told me something I've mocked was awesome. I do feel like I have an eye for good design but can't talk for hours about typography or whip up something great looking in Photoshop in a short amount of time. I do try and make the things I put online look great, either by using something like Octopress for my coding blog or doing something s
ble of collaborating on great looking software and owning features from beginning to end. The area I am lacking would be trying to do that completely on my own.

simple, clear and visually minimalistic interfaces.

tted to not being a designer, I can still build some awesome, easy to use interfaces. I've spent a lot of time arguing and discussing with clients, project managers and designers about how something should work in the best possible way. Most of the time I have had an awesome designer whose UI/UX skills I trust completely to work hand in hand with to make sure the end product is awesome. However, I am confident that if the visual look and feel of something is done already, then I can creat

g in the browser with CSS. You use and love a preprocessor (like Sass, Less, or Stylus).

sign, but when I do, I do it in the browser with CSS. The Chrome Web Inspector and Sublime Text 2 with LiveReload are my best friends when it comes to designing something in the browser. I tweak and tweak and tweak until it looks right. I have used Sass before on a few projects (although I prefer the SCSS syntax) but it has never found a place in my permanent workflow mostly because no one uses it at my current job. There was one small project I did where a colleague and I got to
e I use them, the more I will love them.

efully considered because (1) doing so informs the logical structure of the site and (2) good markup is great supporting documentation.

e I spent arguably too much time consulting this flow chart to make sure I am selecting the perfect HTML5 element for my content, then yes. If you mean did I cringe when committing this because I realized just how long almost all the content on my homepage was just wrapped up in an H1 making me look like a I had pressed the "Convert to Website" button in Microsoft Word, then yes.

me with front-end Javascript, comfortable with client-side MVC, and you've built something with Node.js.

y where in the world, it would be in front-end JavaScript. I would be at home and I would stitch a homemade sign that said: "Home is where the front-end JavaScript is <3" and hang it on the wall. Node.js would be a very close second, and if I was really well off I would like to buy both houses and split time between the two pretty evenly. Not just like a vacation home but something where you spend a lot of time in both places but not too much time in one that you wish you were at the other
to use it for a site called TweetYourBracket.com (source code) that I built with Node.js and the Flatiron framework.

ry all the flavors of client-side MVC that are out there though. For example, I recently read this pretty in depth account of Backbone.js and the problems it solves and it kind of blew my mind. The problems that it tackles are things that websites like Rdio and Wunderkit deal with, and that I didn't even know existed. I mean I knew those sites solve hard problems, but I have never been bitten or even heard of zombie events in Backbone. I think it is something where I would need to solve concrete pr

ks of Git and you've worked in a web framework of some sort -- Rails, Node.js, or Django.

ng Git about a year and a half ago. The first time I used Git, it was scary and new. "So different from Subversion!" I recoiled in horror. Slowly I started to realize that this was Stockholm Syndrome. Git was so awesome that I went home from work and took everything from my ReadyNAS that I had setup to be my version control system for personal projects with DynDNS, SSH keys, and [illegible] for Subversion and [illegible] and put all the code on this new "Hub" of "Git" that everyone
e things that I don't even know that I don't know about Git make me love it.

works, Node.js has been my weapon of choice recently. Having previous experience with JavaScript made it a natural fit and made creating a full application a joy. Coupled with the easy hosting options of Heroku and the like, and I fell in love. We also started using it more at work and I loved that I was able to write back-end and front-end code in JavaScript. It really helped in the realm of less context switching that often plagues me in application development.

opywriter and understand basic marketing.

od at marketing but if I believe in something, then I can market it. It's like the time in high school when I volunteered to do cold calls to schools for my uncle's multi-state basketball tournament because I knew it was so awesome and every kid that got the chance to play in it would love it, even though I didn't enjoy talking on the phone to strangers. I also like to write, but you probably couldn't tell that by this 4,000+ word email. Although I am allergic to copy that sounds like it was written by a
make things sound good and stuff." Ehhh, that was off the cuff, let me try again: "Development and words are things I use to make things for for people." Ok, taglines aren't my thing. But I enjoy coming up with copy that sounds like it was written by a human with a personality. And I love the copy on the &yet homepage.

improve on the homepage though is the code that binds the navigation links to the content areas on the homepage. Instead of five selectors and functions I would do something like:

```
']).bind('click', function() {
is).attr("href"), {"duration": "slow"});
```

I couldn't ignore after checking out the source. You'd also have to change the href for a home to #[illegible]. And I don't understand the reference to leaping deer. Hopefully that's something that someone can explain to me one day.

of your work and links to where you're at online (twitter, github, personal site).

l site and code blog (which unfortunately has a longer list of post ideas than actual posts). I'm also on Twitter and GitHub and I love to save interesting code articles and tag them on Pinboard.

worked on this year:

rk for sponsored JSConf US 2012 by throwing NotConf. I was on the core team for the conference and I used the HTML5 history API and the Flatiron framework to make the site not use full page refreshes. Here are my commits for the project, the bulk of which were spent on the front-end code and redoing the routing functions.

NotConf that I worked on was the costume contest to giveaway 1 ticket to JSConf. Another developer and I at work collaborated on a PhoneGap app that was used to take pictures of all people entering the contest and a site where the entries would be uploaded and then people could vote through Twitter. I mainly worked on the PhoneGap app and the code that would watch Twitter for a certain hashtag and then parse the tweet for the necessary information and count the vote appropriately

t I have worked on in my free time is a static site generator for Instagram photoblogs using Jekyll. It's currently in an under construction state as I'm migrating away from Octopress to more of a vanilla Jekyll setup. The bulk of the code exists in the Rake tasks that will create photo posts using their Instagram API and the Instagram Jekyll plugin for creating the HTML for those posts. There is also the front-end code that uses the Instagram API (and a PHP to proxy) to allow Instagram users t
CSS, HTML and Jekyll plugins that come with Octopress.

reated this year (which has since been abandoned) is a Static Site Boilerplate. This was a boilerplate that I created to try and do development of mostly static sites that would sanely and easily provide support for HAML, SCSS, CoffeeScript and LiveReload as well at the HTML5 boilerplate and Twitter Bootstrap while also minifying and concatenating JS and CSS. This project is now defunct mostly because much better tools exist but it was a good learning experience for me in what a boilerplate sh

rchitected and built the front-end JavaScript code for was a prototype for a marketing brochure site that didn't get picked up by my agency. It was originally the CodeKit project that I mentioned which used SCSS and HAML. The example I've included only includes the processed files obviously and I've changed the JS slightly so that none of it is minified or concatenated so it can be viewed easily. The main JavaScript file is here. The main goal was to have this be extensible (so HTML/CSS/JS
on and each slide did not have to be [illegible] so it was easier to make the code dynamically build the slides as necessary so as little as possible was going on in the DOM at any one time.

nt to talk about was a pet project of mine from March called TweetYourBracket. It stemmed from an idea I covered in this blog post and this gist where I started to think about if you could store all the relevant information for a bracket worth of NCAA tournament picks in a tweet. Turns out you can (and turns out it is a moot point if use the t.co URL shortener anyway). So I spent a week coding my kind of crazy idea and launching it...and getting 16 entries (2 of which were me). It was still a b
ous cleanup. And I have a bunch of new ideas for what to do with it next year.

ing the time to read this insanely long email. I know &yet put a lot of time and care into crafting that job description and into hiring the current members of the team and I wanted to try and put that same care and effort into this email application. I look forward to hearing from you.

com

I wanted a job
that I **loved**.

Passion is

hard.

I **failed**.

A whole bunch.

Your dream **job**
will be **hard**.

Why do I **Love*** my job?

big-L Love: http://thepot-luck.com/ericzanol/a-recovering-wannabe/

I couldn't be

a **wannabe**.

I have **no idea** what I’m doing.

But I do it

passionately.

Dream job?

✓ Dream job?

I live in the

woods,

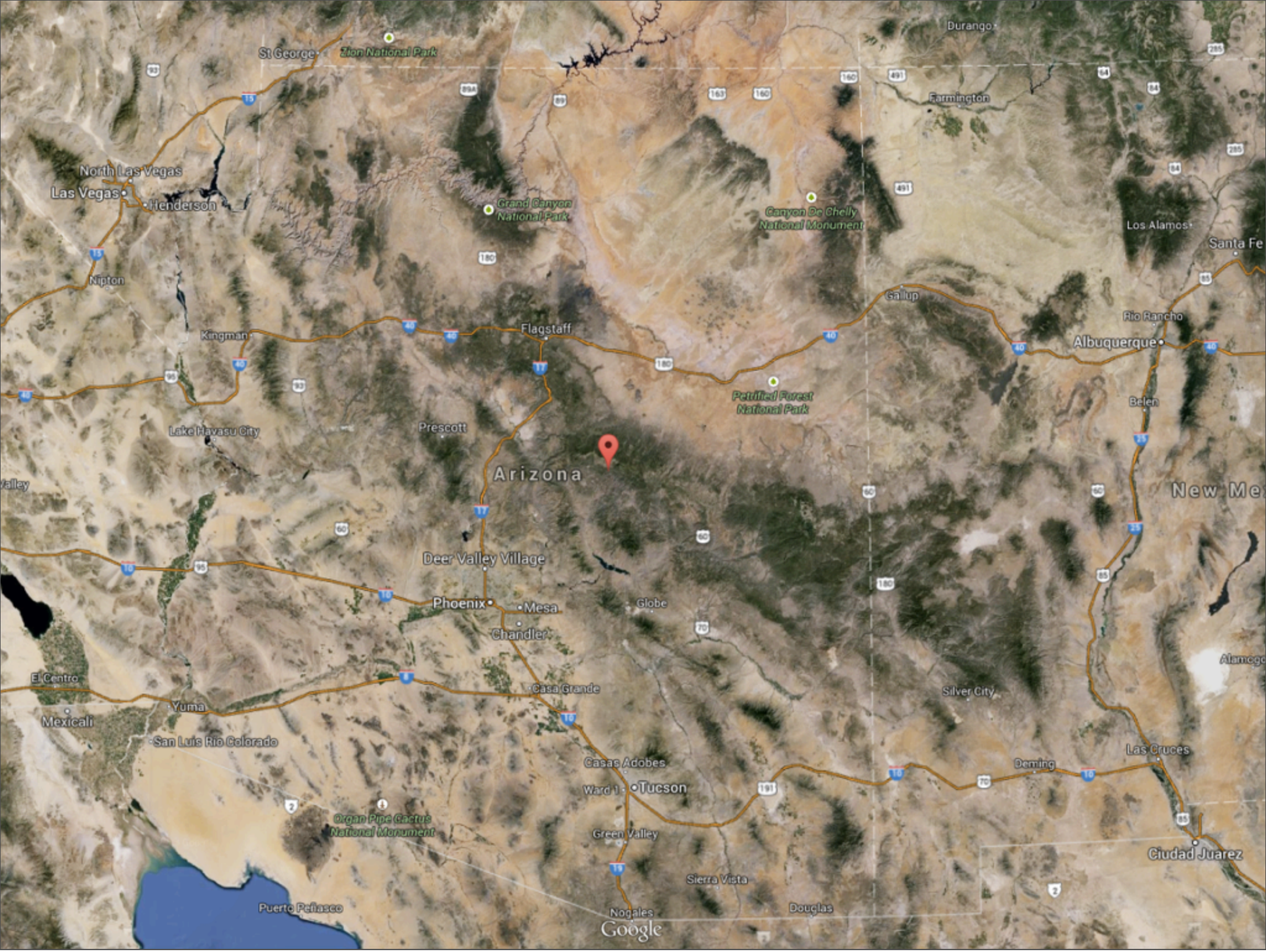
because that is where

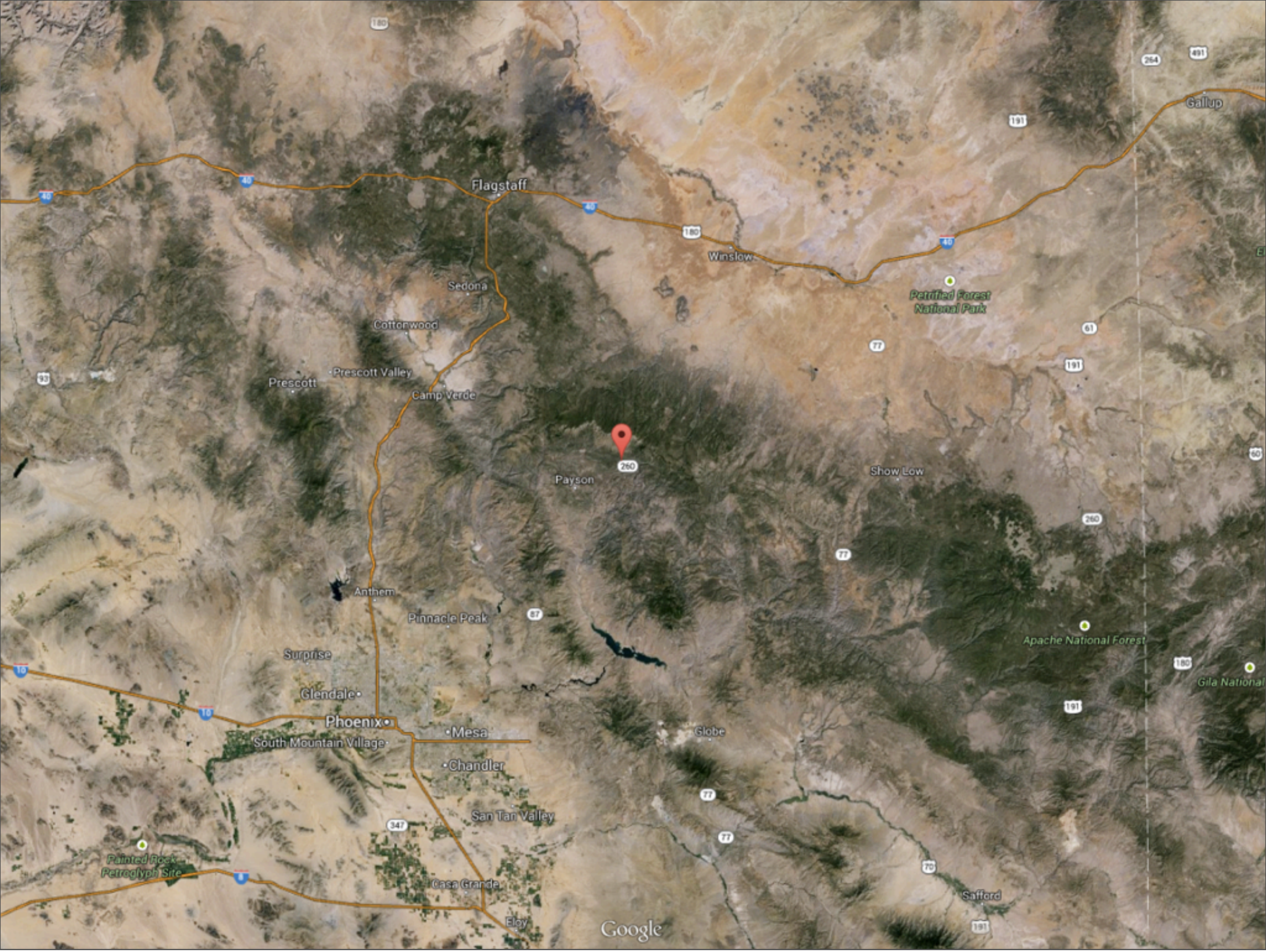
I belong.

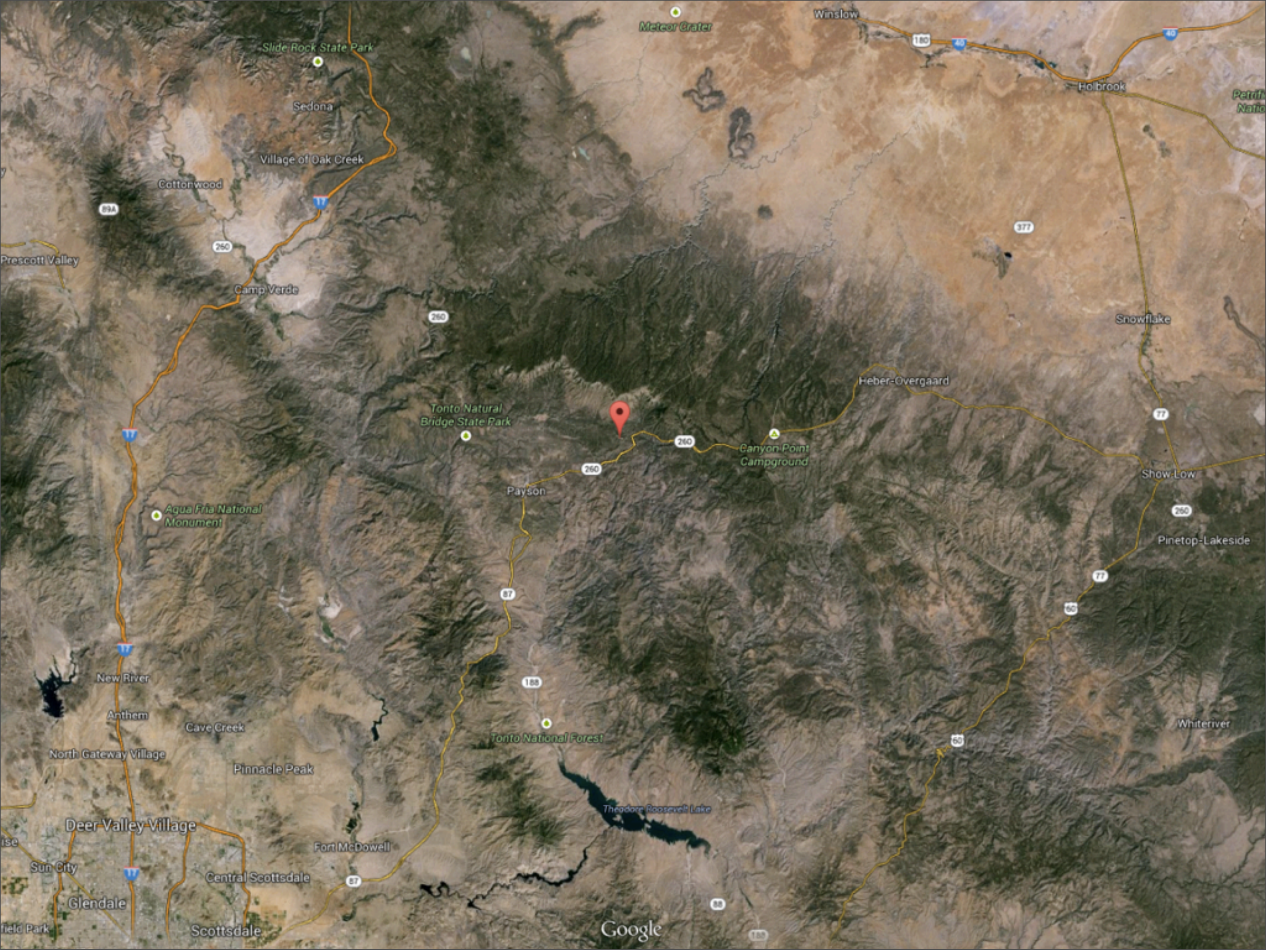
Washington
Montana
North Dakota
Minnesota
Oregon
Idaho
South Dakota
Wisconsin
Michigan
New Yo
Wyoming
Pennsylvani
Iowa
Nebraska
Ohio
Maryl
Nevada
Illinois
Indiana
West Virginia
United States
Utah
Virginia
California
Colorado
Kansas
Missouri
Kentucky
North Caroli
Tennessee
South Carolina
Oklahoma
Arkansas
Arizona
New Mexico
Mississippi
Alabama
Georgia
Texas
Louisiana
Florida
Gulf of California
Google
Gulf of Mexico

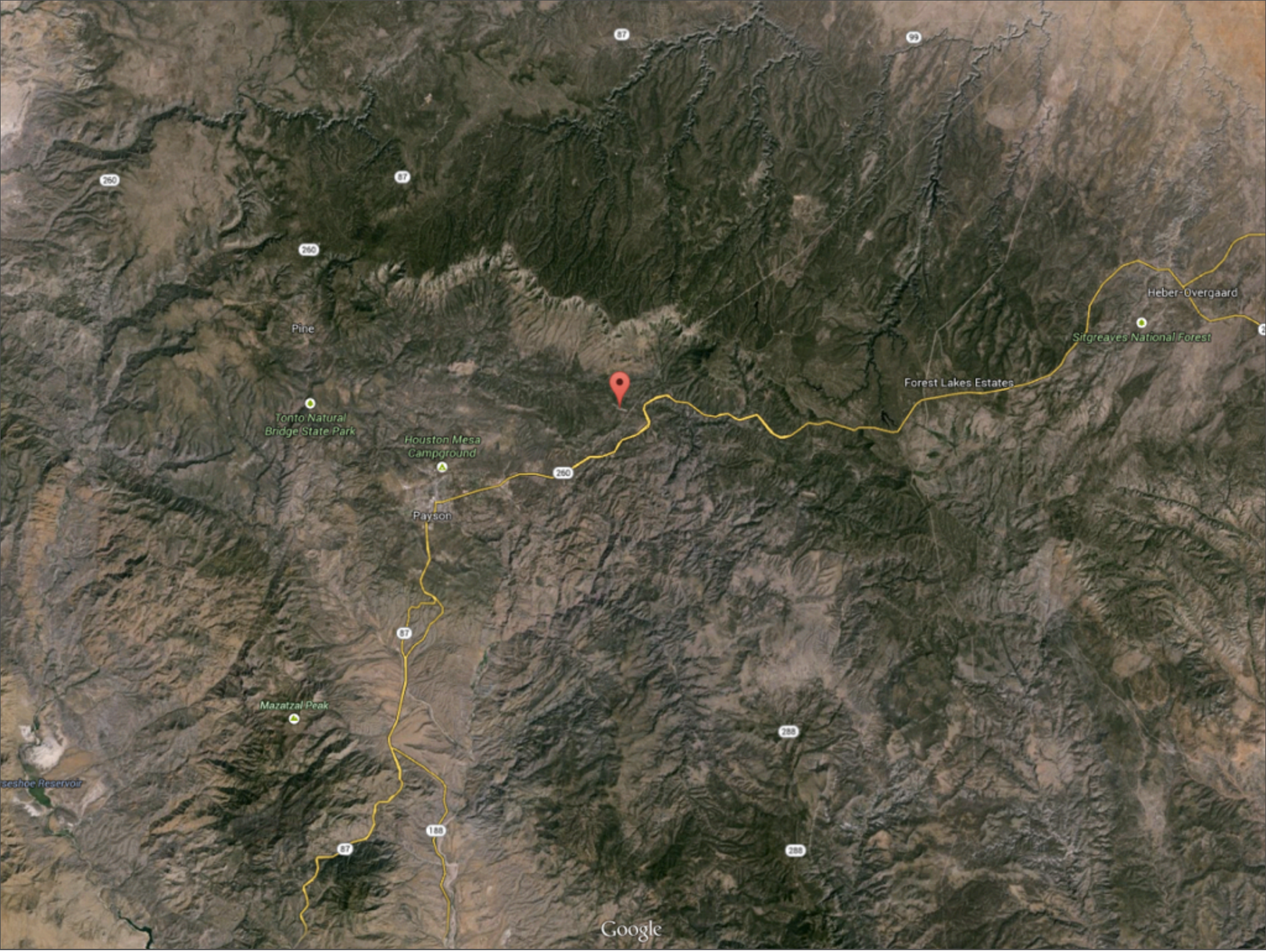
Saturday, July 20, 13

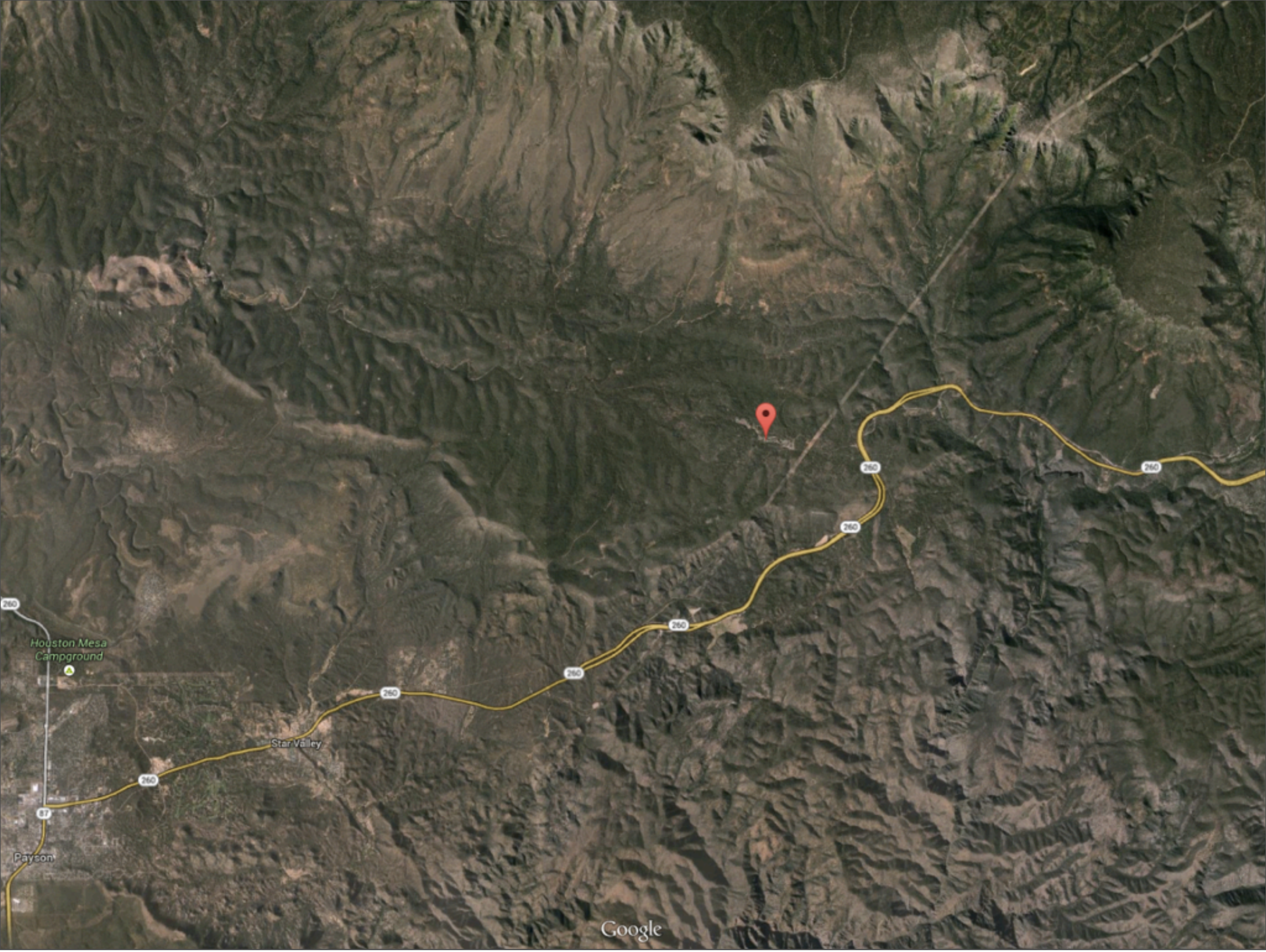
Salt Lake City
Elko
Sandy
Provo
Cheyenne
North Platte
Grand Island
Kearney
Fort Collins
Rocky Mountain National Park
Northeast Denver
Denver
Centennial
United States
Nevada
Utah
Colorado
Colorado Springs
Hays
Salina
Kansas
Pueblo
Yosemite National Park
Bryce Canyon National Park
Kings Canyon National Park
St George
Durango
Farmington
Enid
Las Vegas
Henderson
Grand Canyon National Park
Santa Fe
Okl
Oklahoma City
Amarillo
Flagstaff
Albuquerque
Clovis
Los Angeles
Arizona
New Mexico
Irvine
Lubbock
Oceanside
Escondido
Phoenix
Chandler
Roswell
Fort W
San Diego
Tijuana
Mexicali
Alamogordo
Hobbs
Abilene
Tucson
Las Cruces
Carlsbad
Midland
Ensenada Municipality
Odessa
Texas
Kartchner Caverns State Park
Ciudad Juarez
Caborca
Nuevo Casas Grandes
Judson
San Anton
Ciudad Acuña
Hermosillo
Big Bend
Piedras Negras
Google
Chihuahua


Durango
St George
Zion National Park
Farmington
North Las Vegas
Las Vegas
Henderson
Grand Canyon National Park
Canyon De Chelly National Monument
Los Alamos
Santa Fe
Nipton
Gallup
Rio Rancho
Kingman
Flagstaff
Albuquerque
Petrified Forest National Park
Belen
Lake Havasu City
Prescott
Arizona
Valley
New Me
Deer Valley Village
Phoenix
Mesa
Globe
Chandler
El Centro
Casa Grande
Silver City
Alamogo
Yuma
Mexicali
San Luis Rio Colorado
Las Cruces
Casas Adobes
Deming
Ward 1
Tucson
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Green Valley
Ciudad Juarez
Sierra Vista
Puerto Peñasco
Douglas
Nogales
Google

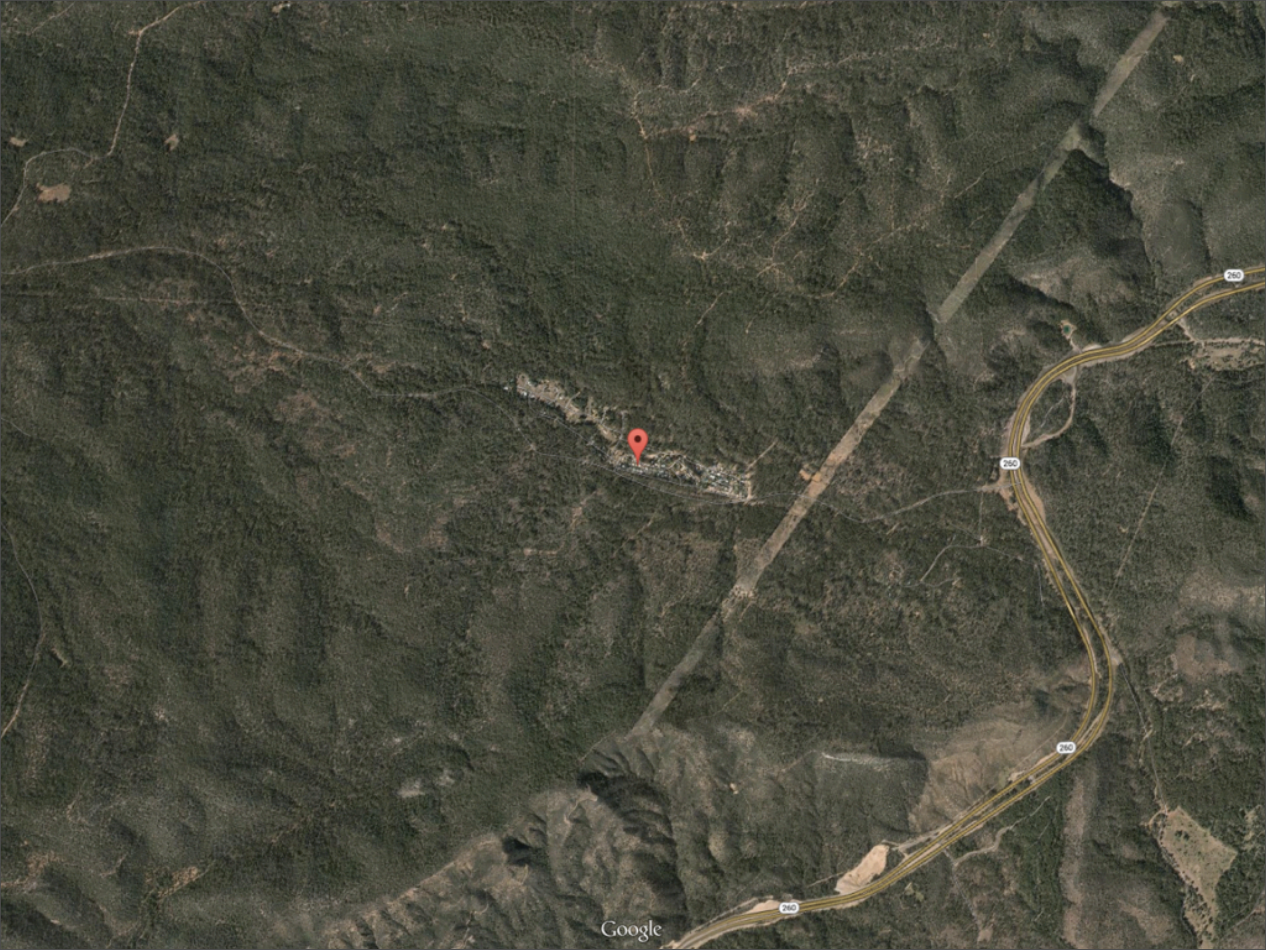

180
264
491
Gallup
191
40
Flagstaff
40
40
180
Winslow
40
Petrified Forest National Park
Sedona
Cottonwood
61
77
191
Prescott Valley
Prescott
93
Camp Verde
260
Payson
Show Low
60
260
77
Anthem
87
Pinnacle Peak
Surprise
Apache National Forest
180
Gila National
10
Glendale
10
Phoenix
Mesa
South Mountain Village
Chandler
191
Globe
77
San Tan Valley
347
77
70
Painted Rock Petroglyph Site
8
Casa Grande
Safford
Eloy
191
Google

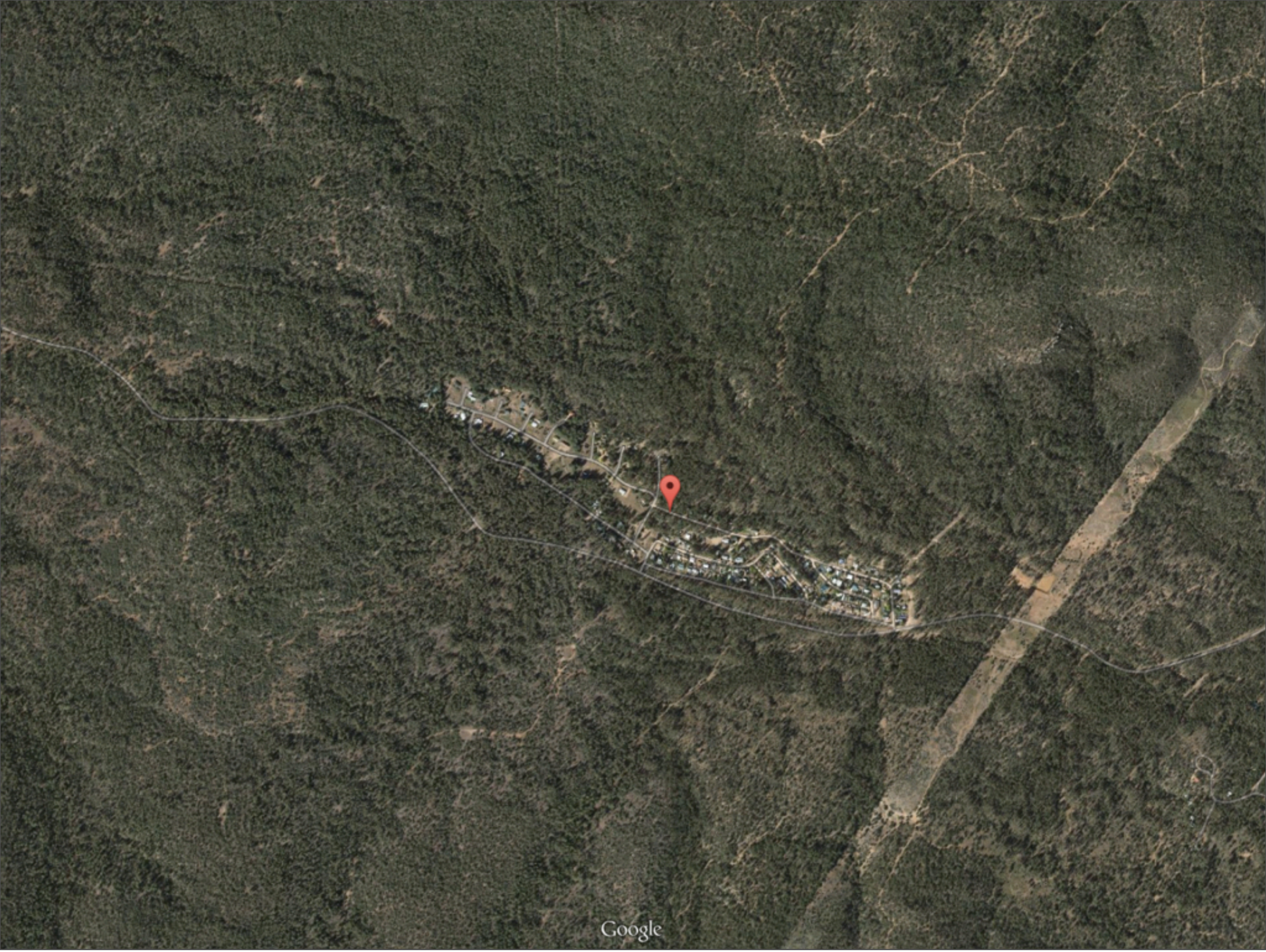

Meteor Crater
Winslow
180
40
40
Slide Rock State Park
Holbrook
Petrifi
Natio
Sedona
Village of Oak Creek
Cottonwood
17
89A
377
260
Prescott Valley
Camp Verde
260
Snowflake
Heber-Overgaard
Tonto Natural
Bridge State Park
77
260
Canyon Point
Campground
260
Payson
Show Low
Aqua Fria National
Monument
260
Pinetop-Lakeside
87
77
60
17
188
New River
Anthem
Cave Creek
Tonto National Forest
Whiteriver
North Gateway Village
60
Pinnacle Peak
Theodore Roosevelt Lake
Deer Valley Village
ise
Fort McDowell
Sun City
Central Scottsdale
87
17
Glendale
88
field Park
Scottsdale
Google
188


87
99
260
87
260
Pine
Heber-Overgaard
Sitgreaves National Forest
Forest Lakes Estates
Tonto Natural Bridge State Park
Houston Mesa Campground
260
Payson
87
Mazatzal Peak
288
seshoe Reservoir
87
188
288
Google


260
260
260
260
260
260
260
260
87
Houston Mesa Campground
Star Valley
Payson
Google

260
260
260
260
260
Google


260
260
260
260
Google



Google

Do everything with people you **Love**.

MESSY

12
the
REALTIME
CONFERENCE

Tigger
Pooh

Dream job?

People I love?

Living in the woods?

✓ Dream job?

People I love?

Living in the woods?

✓ Dream job?

✓ People I love?

Living in the woods?

✓ Dream job?

✓ People I love?

✓ Living in the woods?

“The Good Life”

Living in the place you **belong**. With the people you **love**. Doing the work that's **yours**.

https://speakerdeck.com/adambrault/realtimeconf-closing

Why am I **unhappy** sometimes?

I am fucking

forgetful.

“The Good Life”

Living in the place you **belong**. With the people you **love**. Doing the work that's **yours**.

“The Good Life”

Living in the place you **belong**. With the people you **love**. Doing the work that's **yours**.

– on purpose

Purpose is the important part.

I battle:

Depression

Anxiety

Anger

I battle:

✓ Depression

Anxiety

Anger

I battle:

✓ Depression

✓ Anxiety

Anger

I battle:

✓ Depression
✓ Anxiety
✓ Anger

I can convince myself:

I suck at my job
I'm not worth loving
I belong nowhere

I can convince myself:

✓ I suck at my job

I'm not worth loving

I belong nowhere

I can convince myself:

✓ I suck at my job

✓ I'm not worth loving

I belong nowhere

I can convince myself:

- ✓ I suck at my job
- ✓ I’m not worth loving
- ✓ I belong nowhere

But not on **purpose**.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of **evil** is that good men **do nothing**."

– Edmund Burke

All that is necessary for the triumph of **me** is that I have **purpose**.