

Landscape Oil Painting

AHS Capstone Project, Final Project Submission

Kathryn Lau

For my AHS Capstone Project I was working in the scholarly field of painting. I enjoy painting as an art and I want to get better at it. I found after taking a painting course that I especially enjoyed painting landscapes. I also have found that when I'm at college there are places, especially from home, that I miss and have a deep emotional connection with. These are usually the most fun and enjoyable paintings to work on. With this project I am hoping to further develop my skills as an artist while having a fun and relaxing activity during this semester.

Going into the project my plan was to go through the photographs that I had from home and my recent road trip across the country and select a handful of photos that I would be interested in painting. Then I went on to explore composition with sketches and draft paints. When I settled on two drafts I was happy with I started my final.

Photographs

Photograph #1



Photograph #2



Photograph #3



Photograph #4



Photograph #5



Photograph #6



Photograph #7



Sketches

Sketch #1



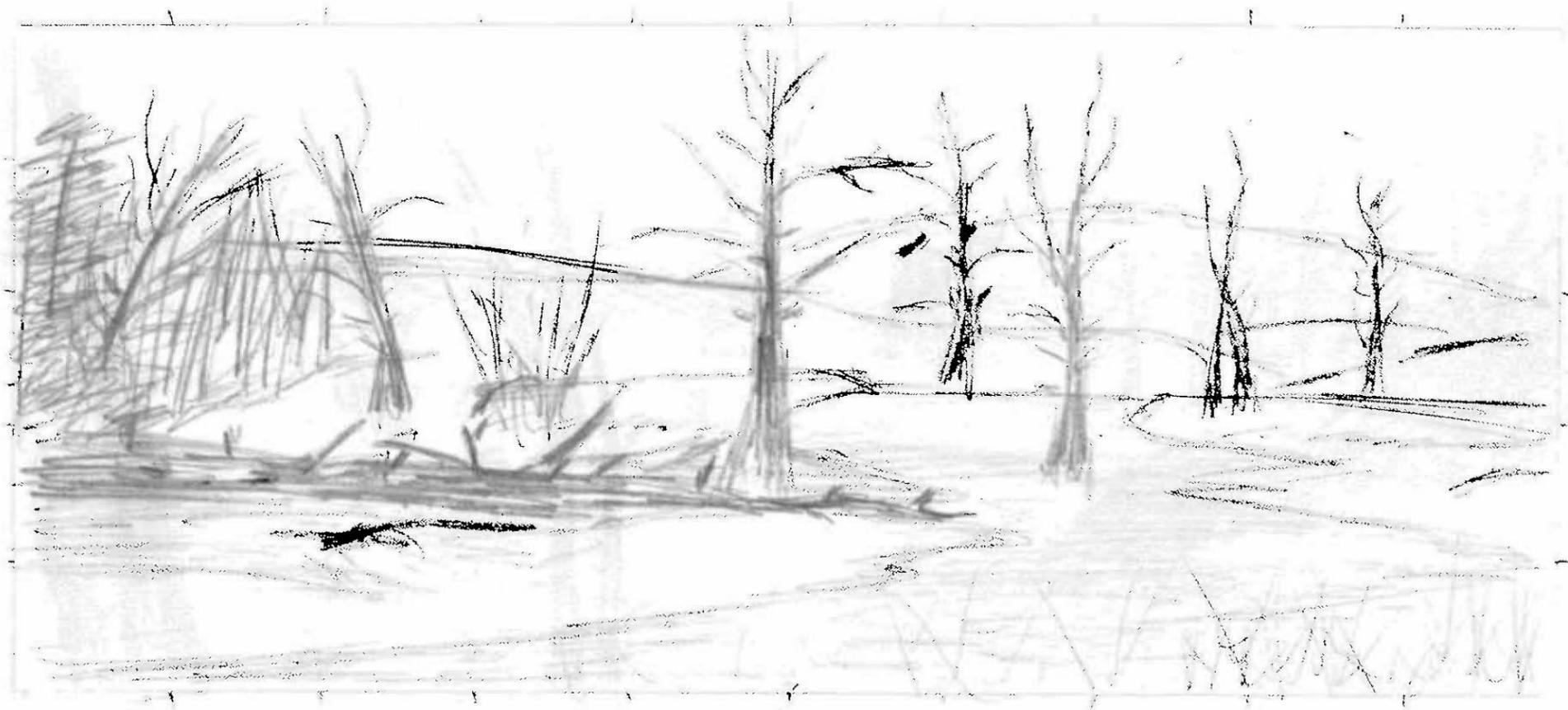
Sketch #2



Sketch #3



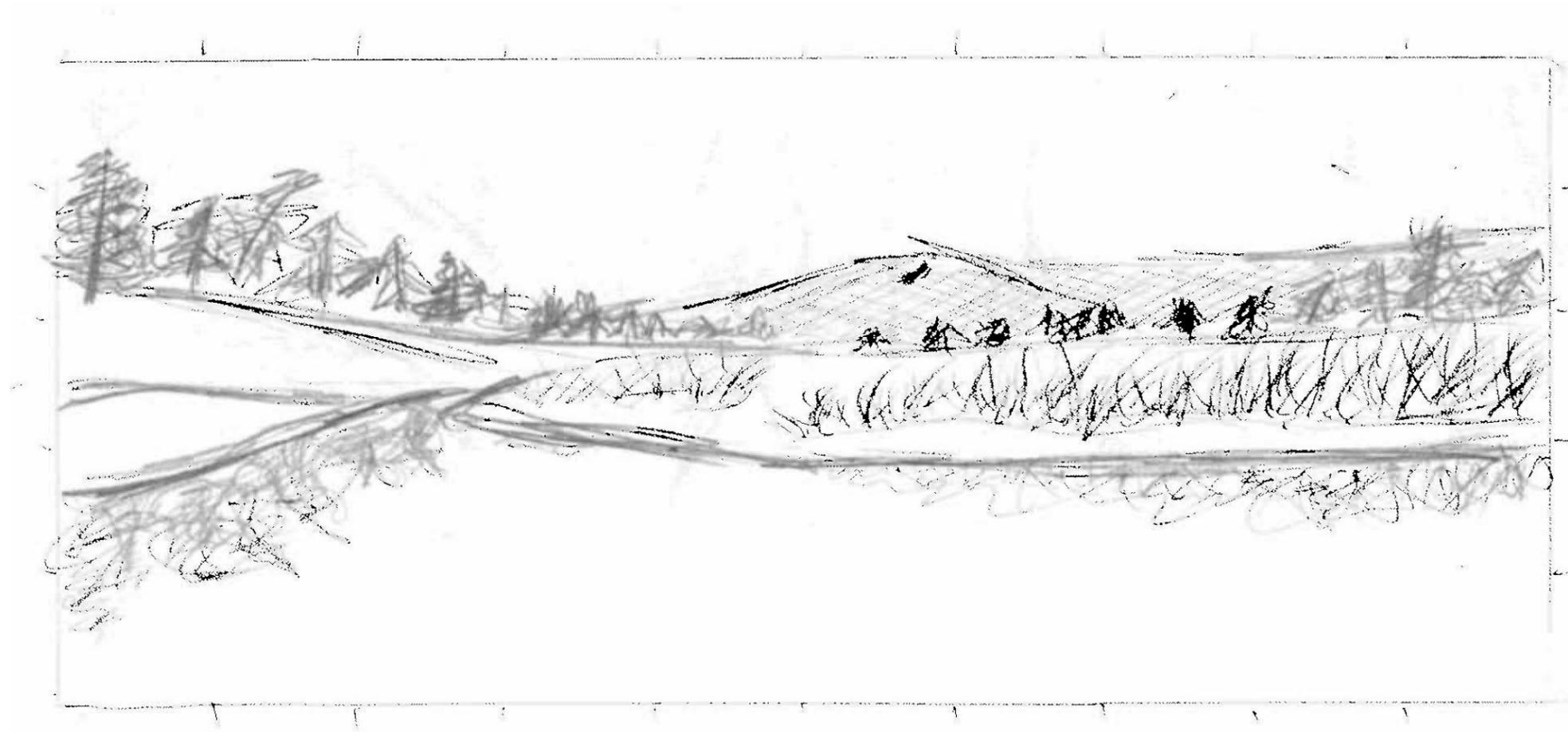
Sketch #4



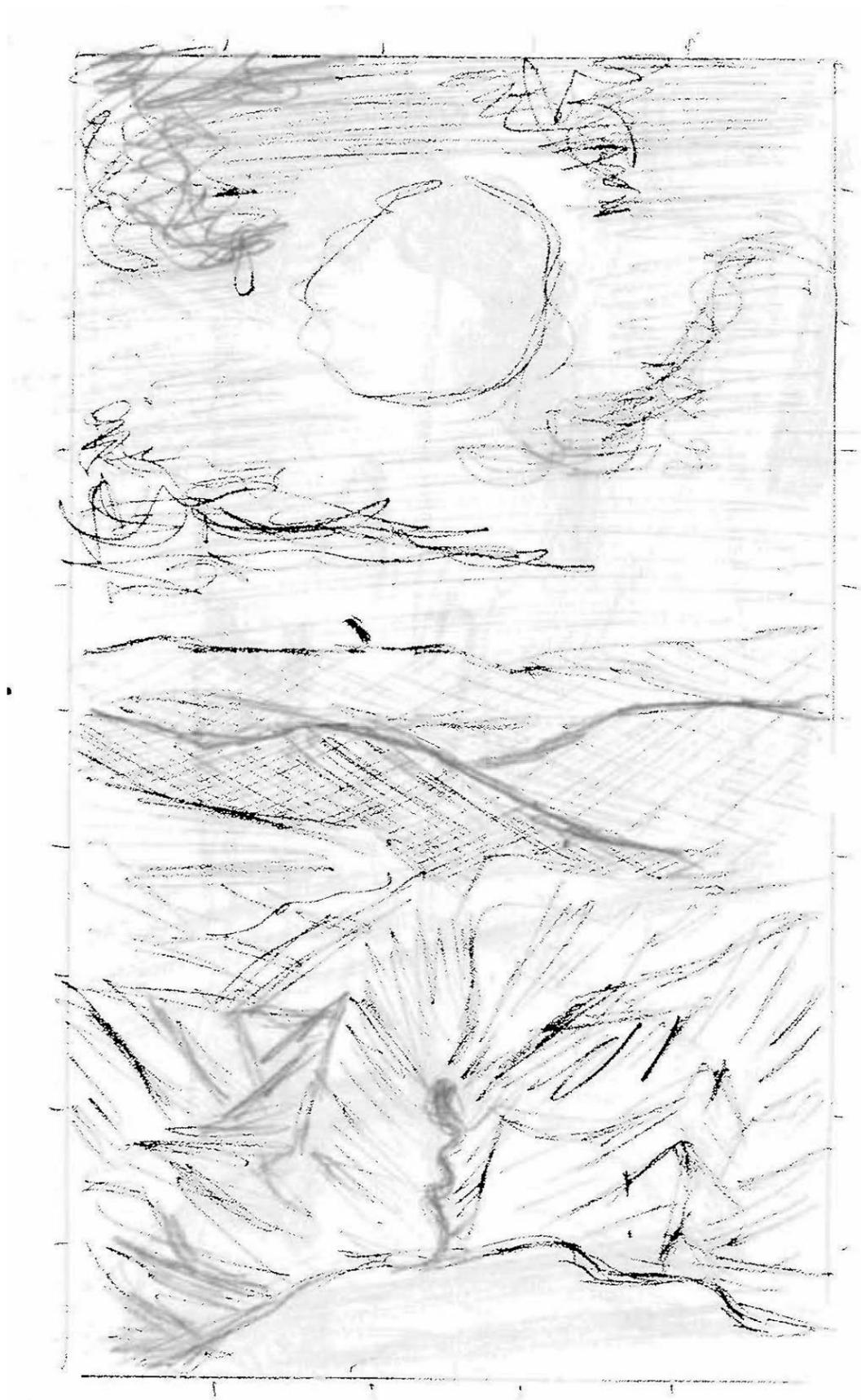
Sketch #5



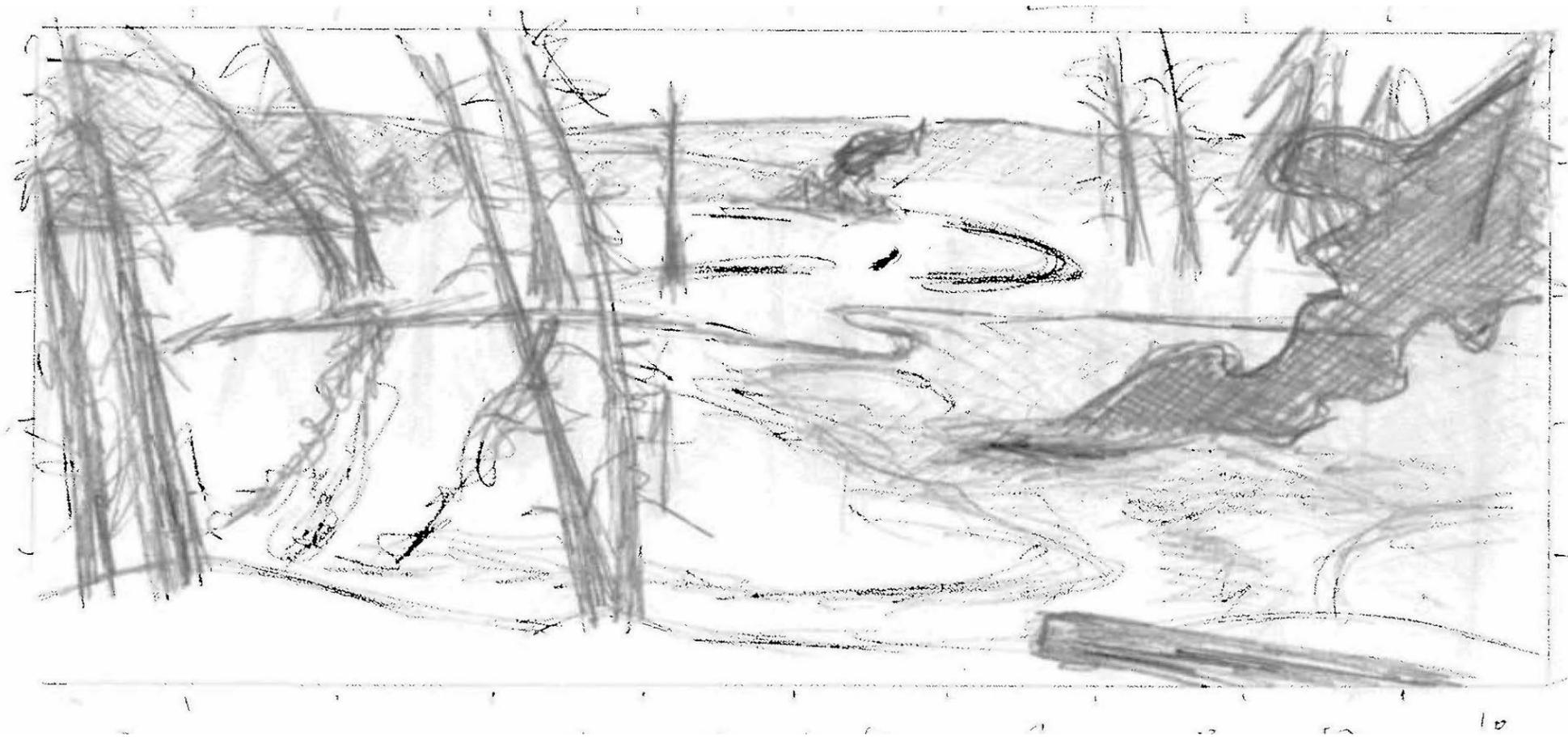
Sketch #6



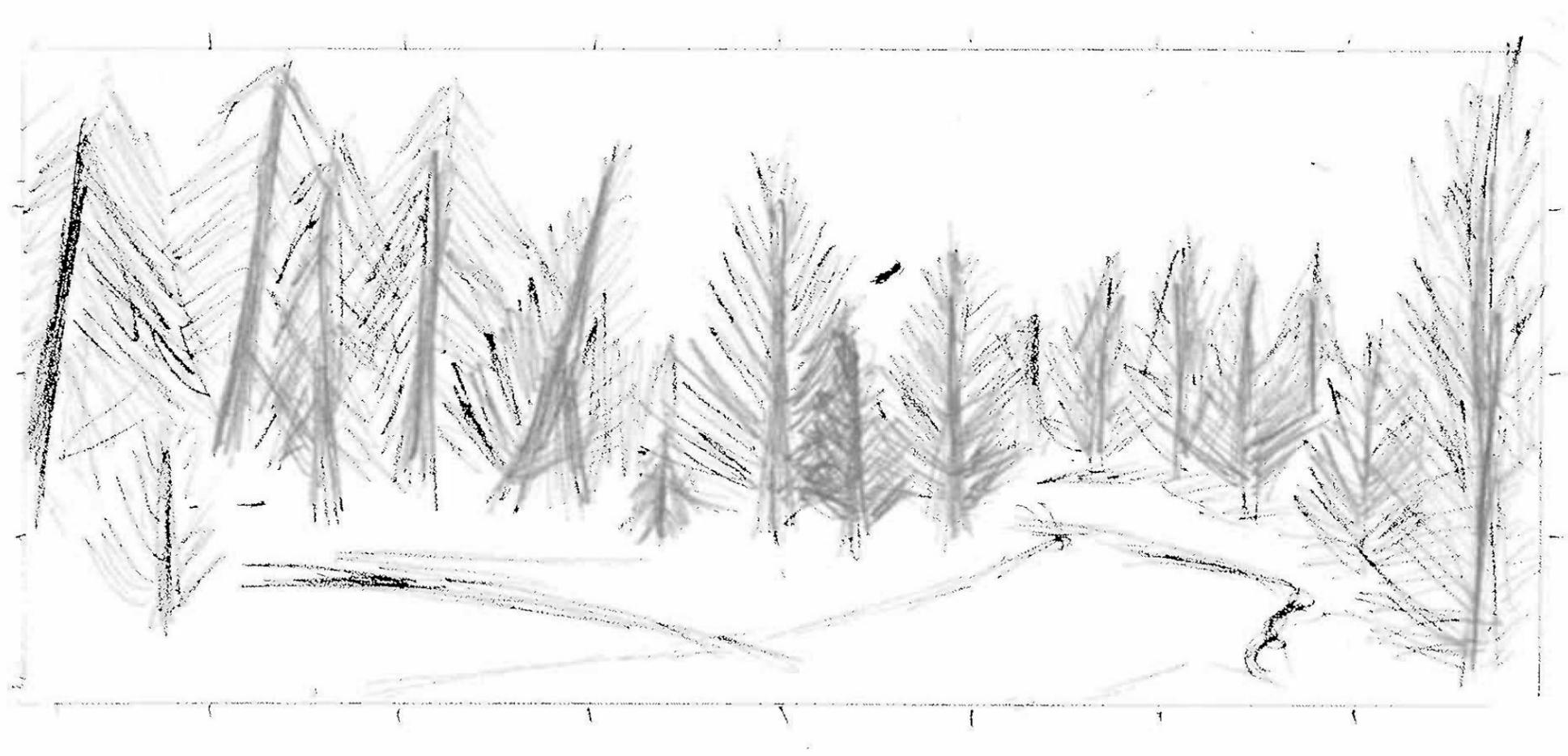
Sketch #7



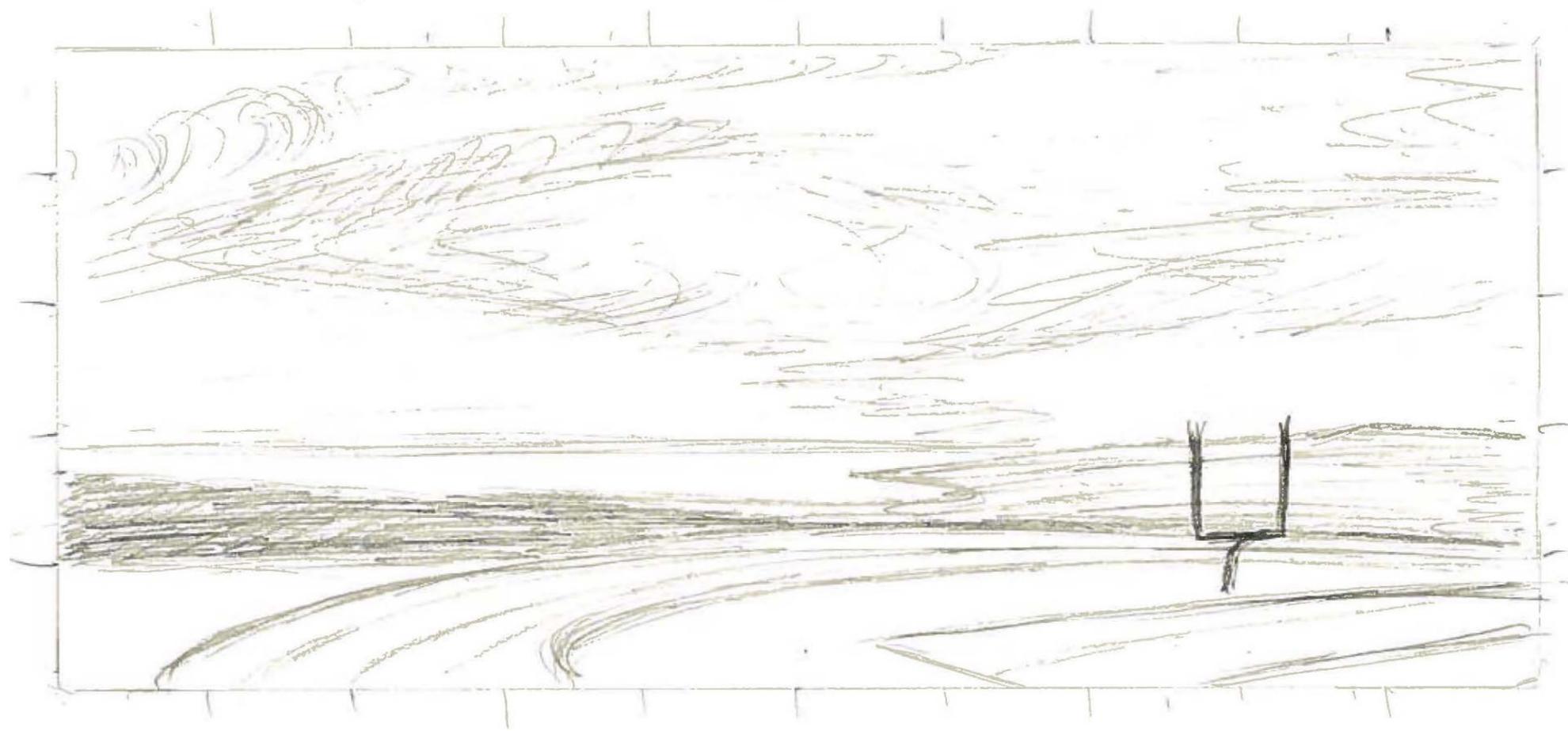
Sketch #8



Sketch #9

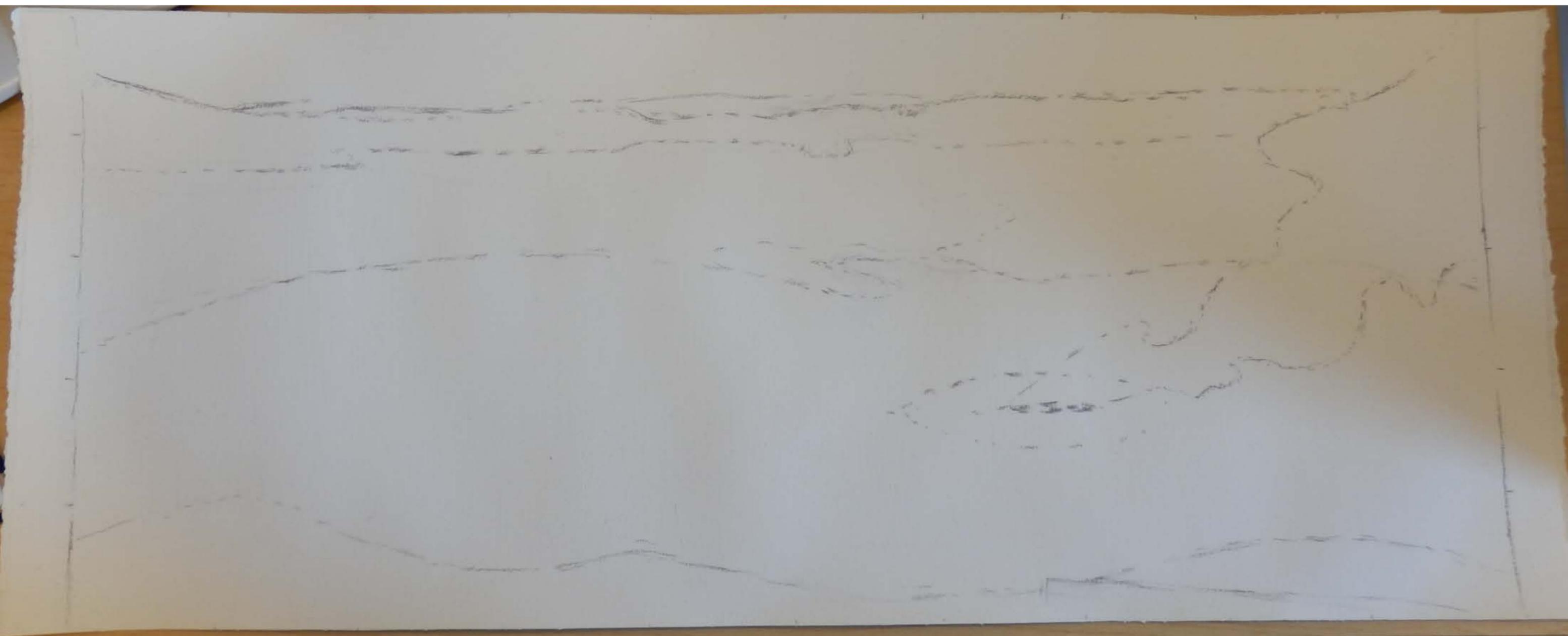


Sketch #10



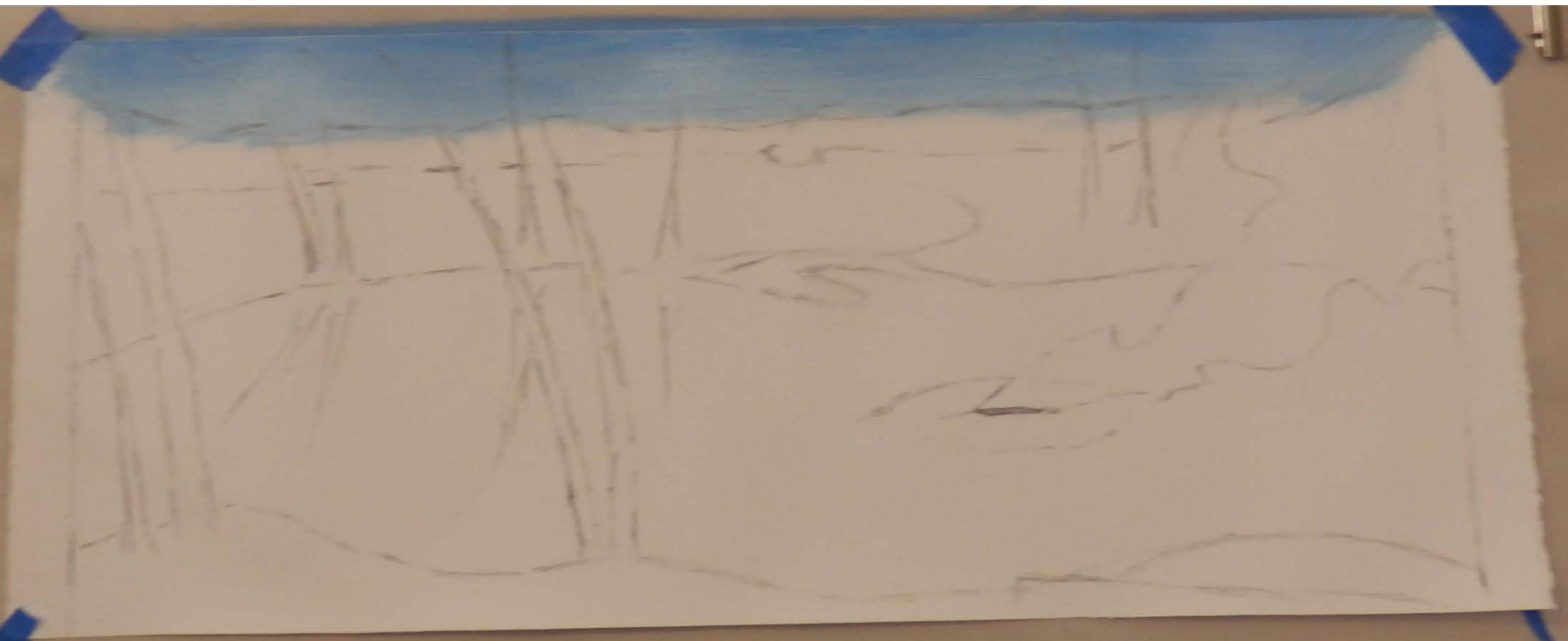
Draft 1

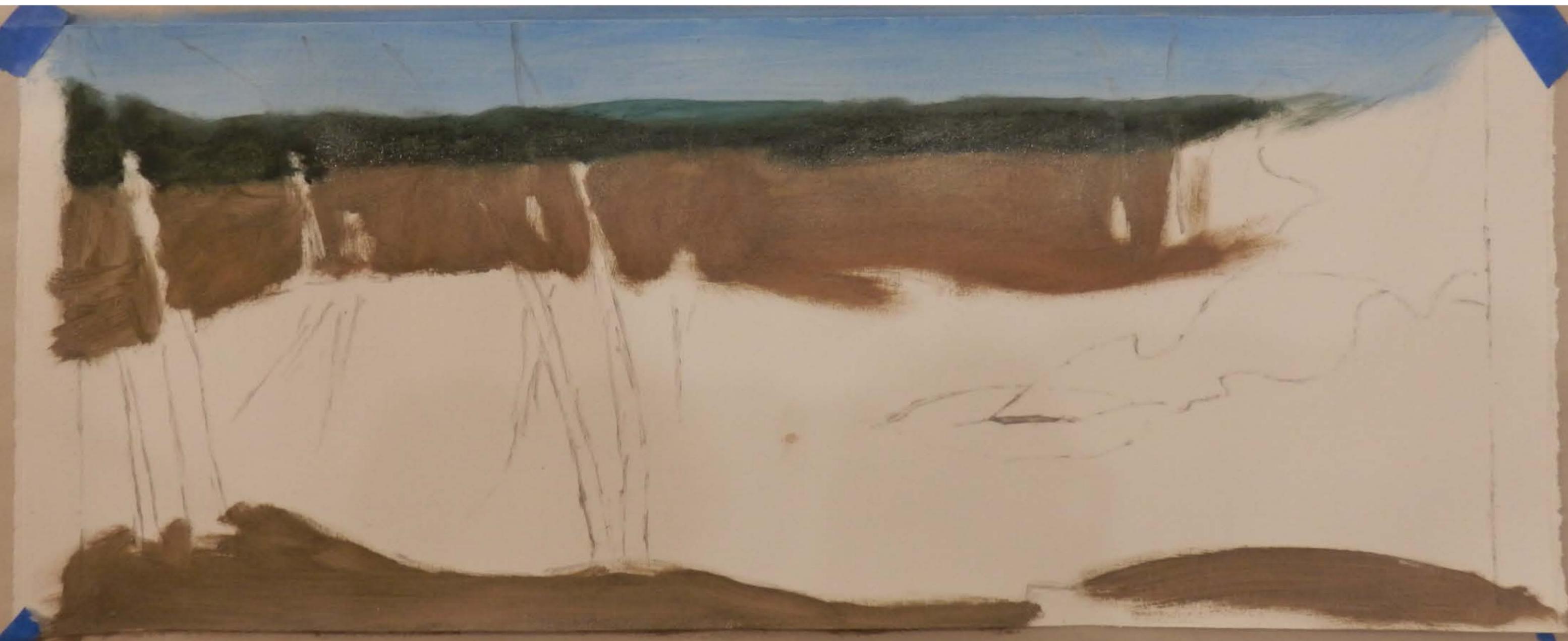
(Based off of Sketch #8)





























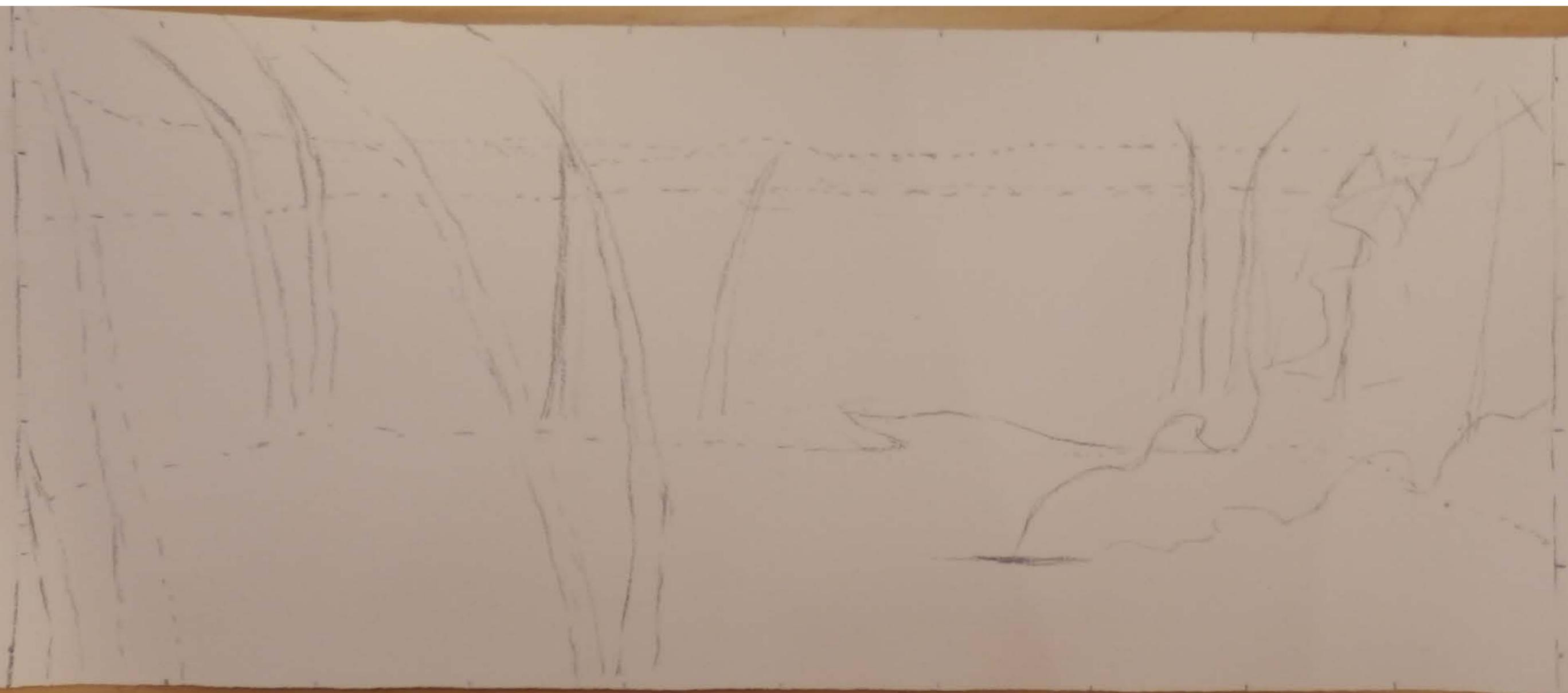


Draft 2

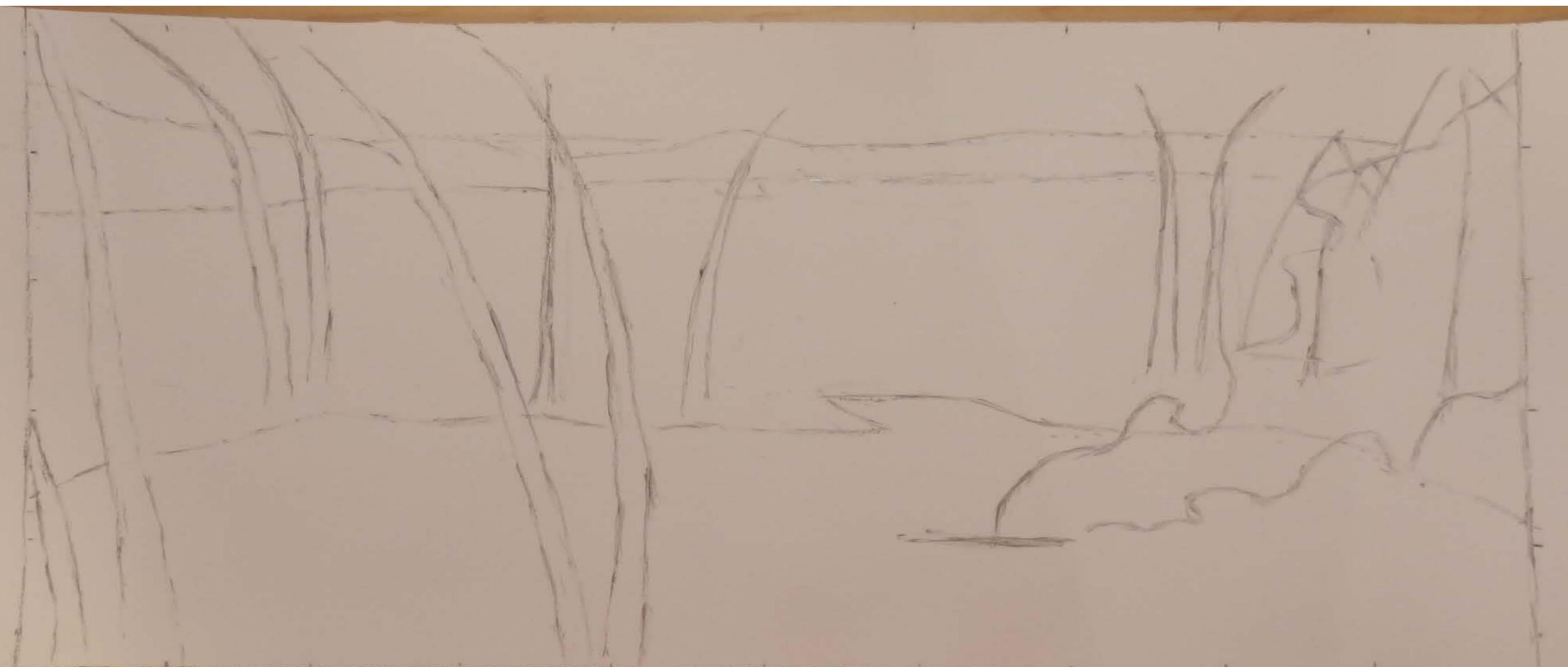
(Based off of Sketch #5)

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2



2





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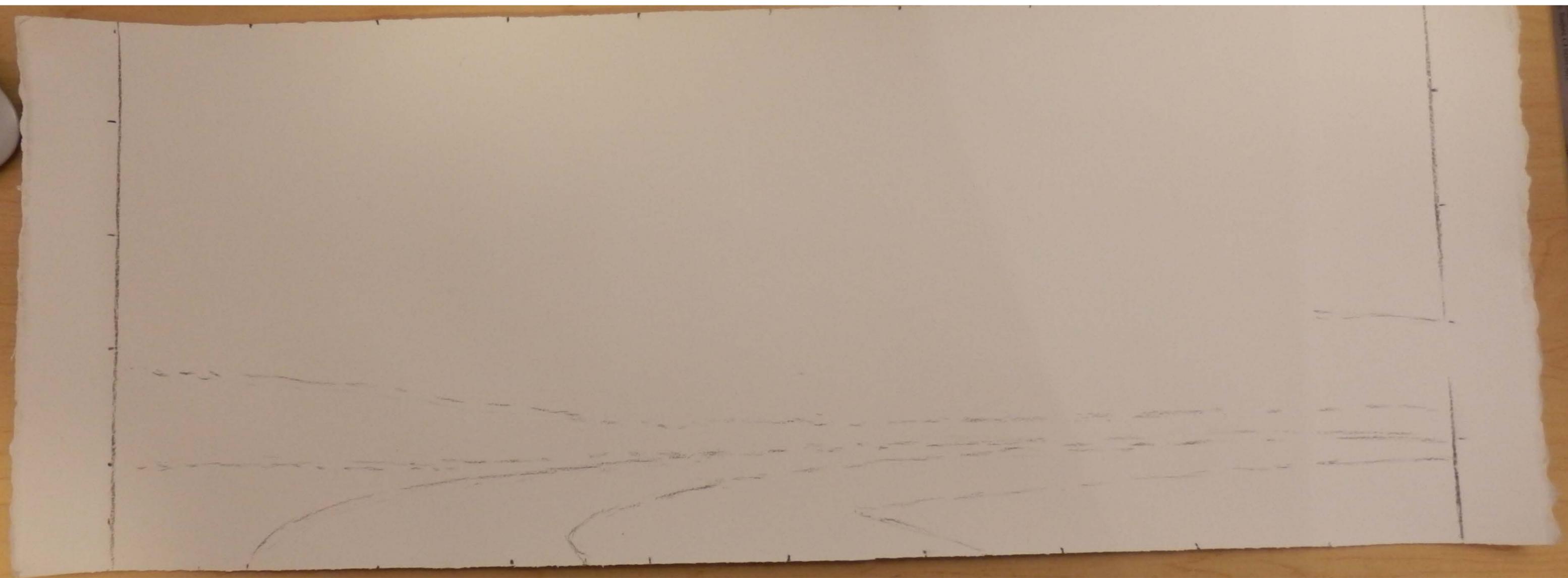
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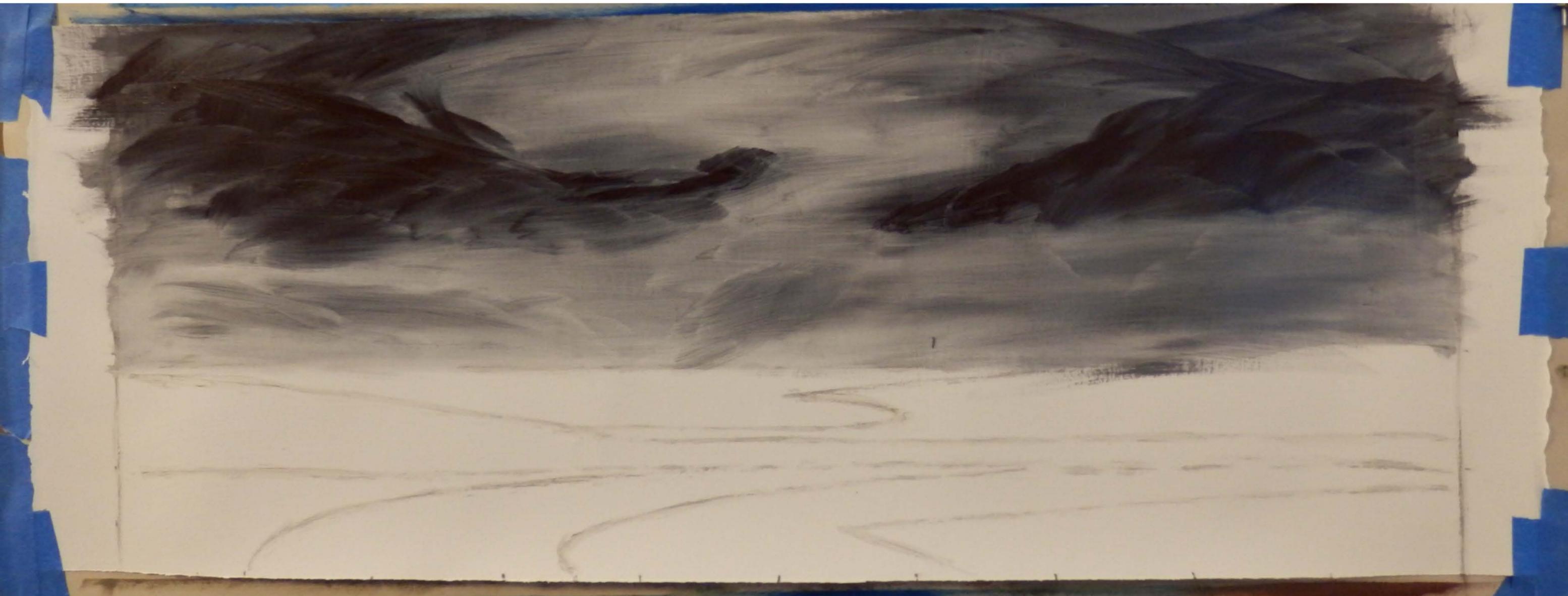


Draft 3

(Based off of Sketch #10)





















Artist Statement

I am an amateur painter from the sunny island state of Hawaii. I'm currently in my senior year at Olin College of Engineering in Needham, MA studying Mechanical Engineering. During my sophomore year of college I began taking drawing classes as an escape from the stress and emotional chaos of my engineering classes. A year later I turned my interests in art toward oil painting. For me painting was almost like drawing with charcoal. It allowed me to cover large surfaces with easily and at speeds that I could never achieve when drawing with graphite. Paints were even better because in addition to the ease and speed I also gained the use of colors.

While taking an intro painting class I decided to explore painting landscapes for my final project. Throughout the course of the class we had painted a variety of subject matter ranging from singular objects to large still-life compositions to human models, but we never did landscapes. I have always been a fan of landscape paintings and photograph because I think that the concept of capturing a large expansive scene in a (relatively) small picture is amazing. I decided make my final project a series of landscape paintings of different places from home. I wanted the paintings to be little "windows" of things like: a sunset view from my house, a lava flow, a wave about to crash on the shore, and other things that I associated with home. After that project was over I found that I really loved painting landscapes even more than I originally did. I discovered that I enjoyed the freedom that painting landscapes gave me.

I took my new love of painting and decided to relate my Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Capstone Project to it. I decided that I wanted to do a project that helped me to develop my skills for the entire process of producing a painting. The process as I defined it for my project was: photo selection, composition exploration, sketches, draft paintings, and final painting. I decided to spend more time on the pre-work for the final painting than I did in my intro painting class because part of the process that I didn't do much of previously. I began with narrowing down the thousands of photographs I had to a handful of possible candidates to paint. I explored a variety of different compositions and height to width ratios and the ones that my mentor and I liked I did sketches of. The sketches were narrowed down even further to three that I would do draft paintings of. The drafts helped me to explore different possible colors pallets as well as helped to familiarize me with the photo. After that I started work on the final paintings. The paintings I did were based off of two photographs: one of a place back home and the other from my trip to Yellowstone.

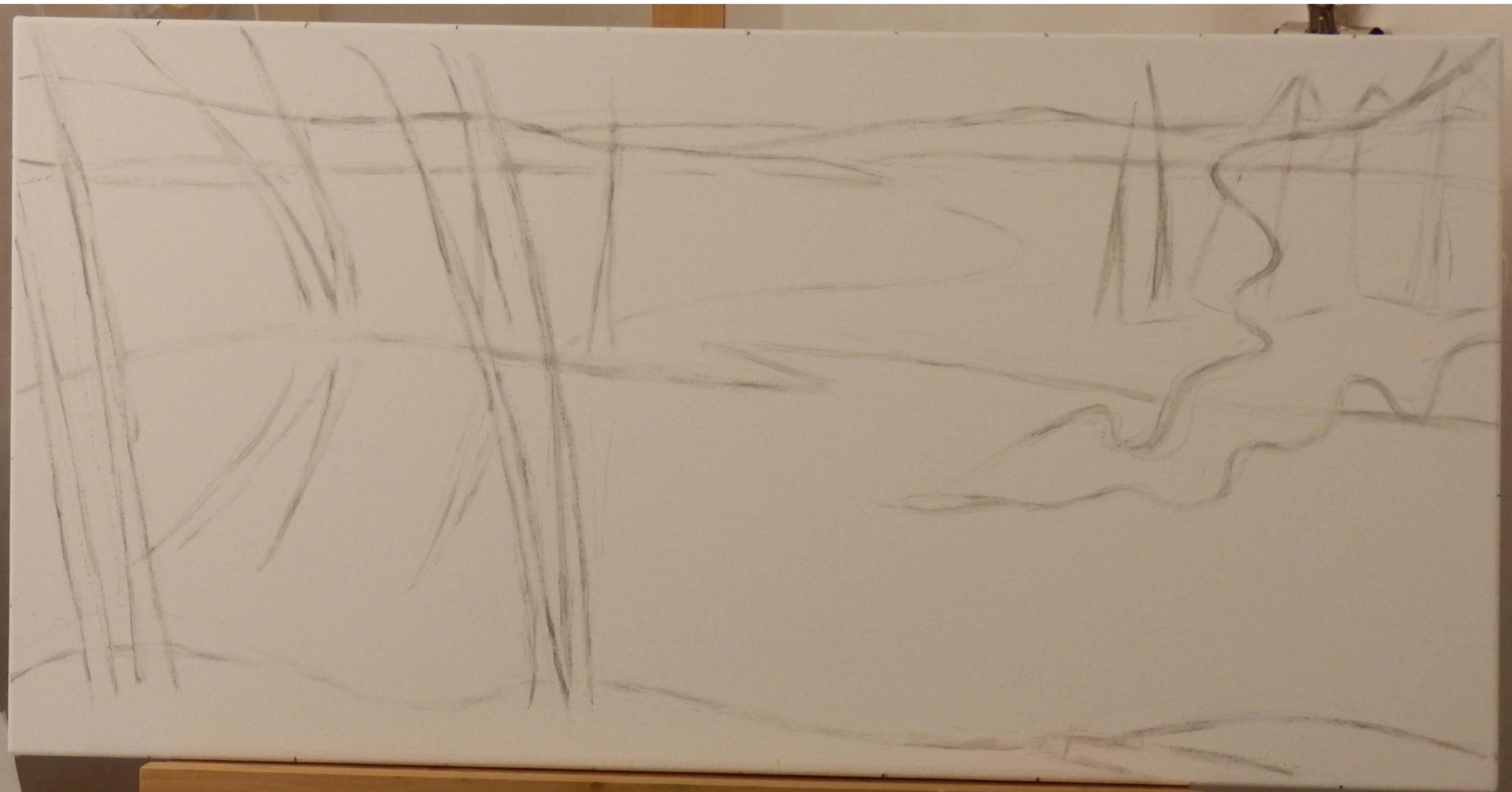
Final 1

(Based off of Draft #1)

This summer I went on my first ever road trip which was full of “first times.” I experience temperatures higher than 100°F for the first time. I went to In-N-Out Burger for the first time. I went to a lot of different states for the first time. One of the most exciting first times was going to Yellowstone National Park. I had only ever seen pictures of Yellowstone and heard stories of its beauty. Actually spending a few days in the park was such an unusual experience. There was a variety of plant and wildlife in every direction and everything looked so alive, but mixed in with all this living beauty was a variety of geothermal features that made me feel like I was on another planet. The scalding hot temperatures and acidic water kill nearby trees and produced eerily beautiful scenes which were the inspiration for my painting of a dead geyser.















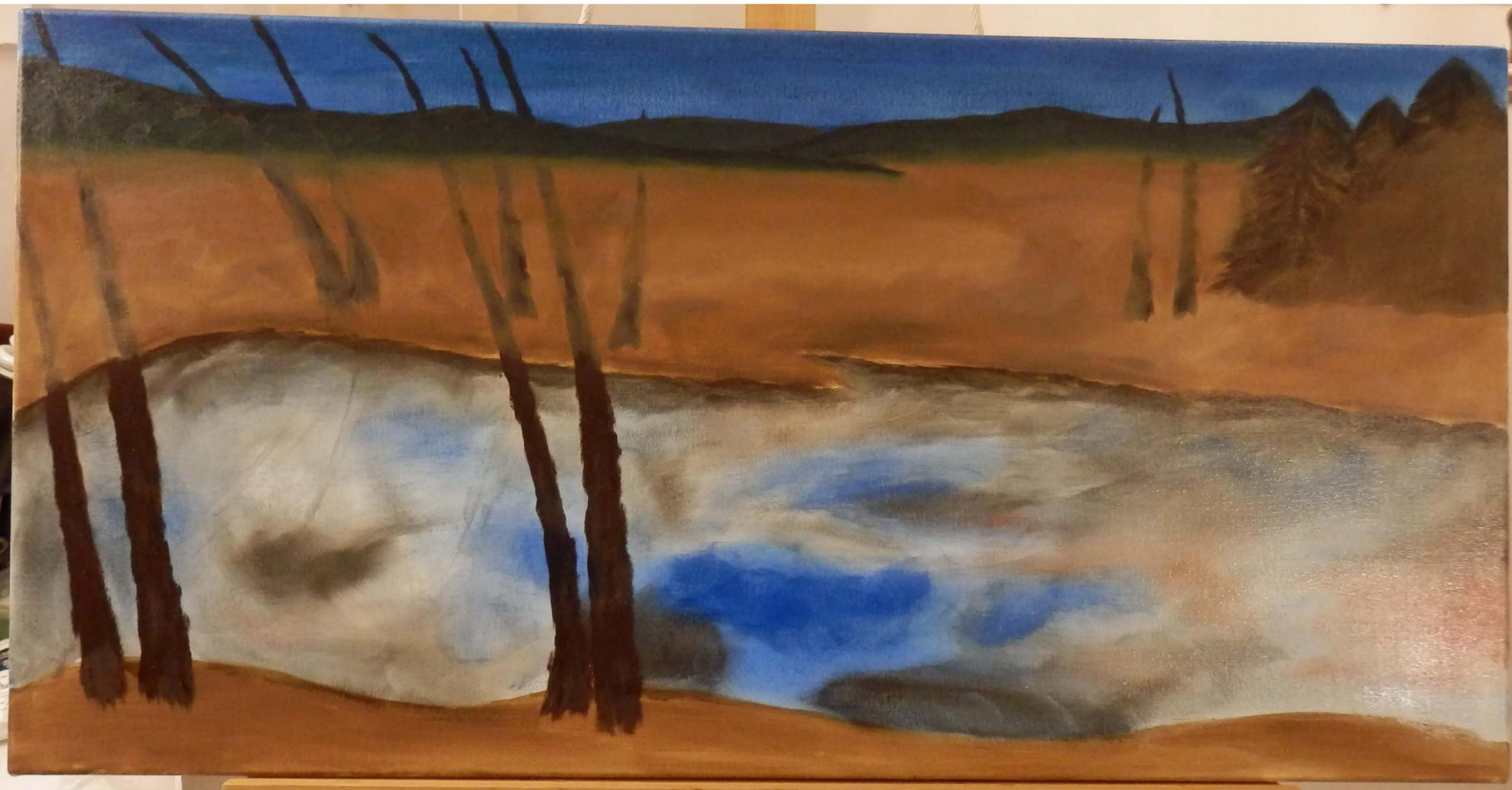




































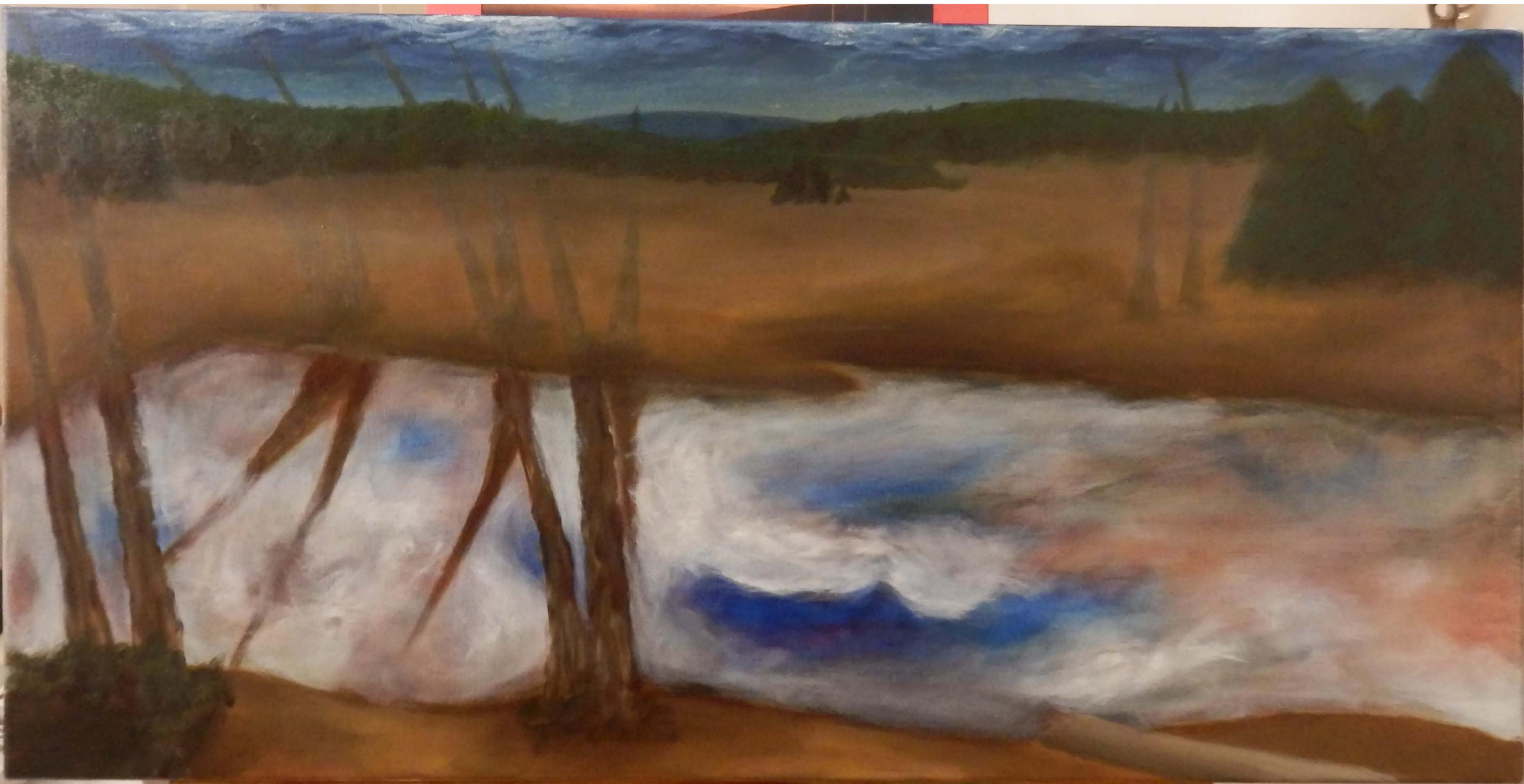


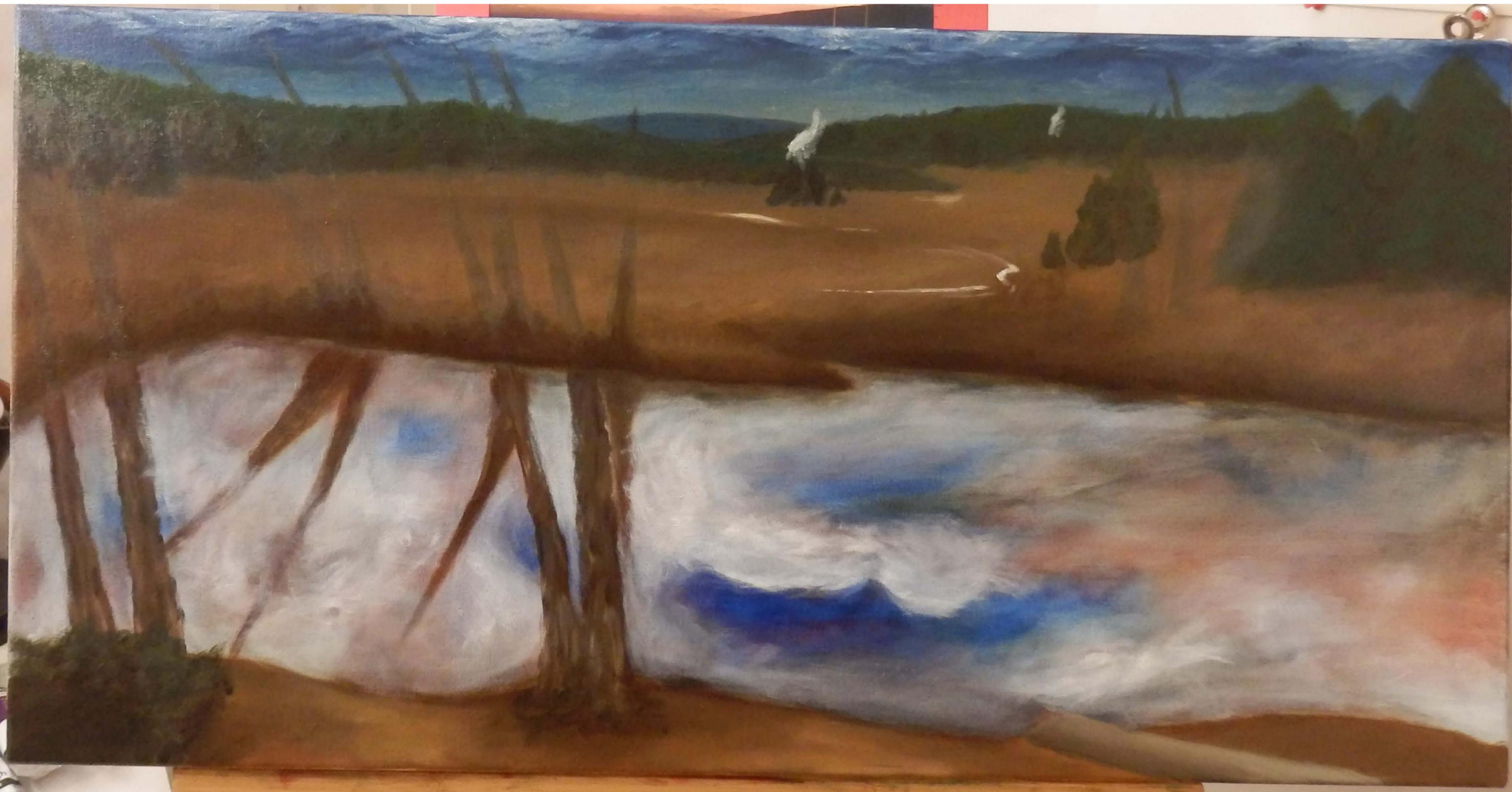


























van Gogh
oil colors



















Final 2

(Based off of Draft #3)

The painting of the sunset and football field was inspired by Frederic Edwin Church's painting "Dämmerung in der Wildnis" (Twilight in the Wilderness) which depicts clouds at sunset. I love sunsets because of the mix of different colors that are visible as well as the variation on a day by day basis.

