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PRM 308- 1241

Week 2 Report

Job Duties: June 13th-19th

Thursday 14th (7 Hours)- Today I was able to complete the whole loop of the Verrado Temporary Trail system. Before I did a shorter loop just to get a feel for it but this time I was able to go as far as the system travels and looped all the way back to the trailhead. Here I was able to also find the Trail where you can connect the Verrado and Skyline Regional park. In the future, I would love to link these and will probably try on one of the next days I come back to the Verrado Trail system prepared with a lot of water and snacks to eat and keep my energy up when things start to get hot in the morning. It was nice being able to see the whole Trail system and see what it has to offer for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Hiking this trail made me want to go out and repurchase a mountain bike and wonder why I ever sold mine in the first place. It is a perfect trail to ride because it is a little more rugged and still makes you feel you are in a wilder environment with many obstacles in your path. Sometimes when Mountain bikers have to ride trails that are made for hikers can get bored because the paths are plowed to suit the hikers needs and gets ride of the harsh obstacles for mountain bikers. I was able to run into many mountain bikers while I was out there and I was happy to greet them and ask them how their ride is going. After the hike in the Verrado Temporary Trails, I was able to work on journaling and Facebook marketing for the Conservancy.

Friday 15th (7 Hours)- On this day I went to the Skyline Regional Park to get more familiar with some of the trails here to keep the work and knowing all the trails for the steward badge. The trails that I did today were the Mountain Wash, to the Lost Creek, to Quarts Mine trail and a beginner trail called the Watson Lookout. This was a good hike and I was able to interact and see some people on the trails. Normally not a lot of people are out and so it's nice to see some faces when hiking during the summer can be lonely because not a lot of people want to get up super early to beat the heat. It is fun to run into other hikers who are loving the fresh air and leisure as much as you do. I feel like I am being a friendly face and representing the Conservancy the best I can while interacting with different hikers. I don't want to be unkind and turn them away. I know I am there to help if they need it even if it is the hardest of tasks for me to pull off. I have also noticed that people go from very quiet and straight faced to happy and talkative even if you just say hello or good morning to them. I can feel the same way though when you haven't seen anyone for a while on the trails and you are able to have some sort of interaction with another human being. It is nice to have and I enjoy the interactions I have with people and it makes me less nervous about the future of dealing with people in a more career like parks and recreation setting. After this long hike, I was able to work on the marketing tasks of writing a journal and posting photos for social media.

Saturday 16th (8 Hours)- Today I took a hike that got me familiar with the connection between the Verrado Temporary Trails and Skyline Regional Park. This was a harder hike but worth it for

every mile that I hiked and every step that I took. I started off in Verrado and while I was on the trails here, I was able to run into two Mule Deer. I snapped some pictures of them to show my proof for my Facebook marketing pictures and took in the change of pace for the wildlife. It was nice to see something other than a lizard or squirrel. On the way before you get on the connecting trail between the two large trail systems is a large rock that is fenced off for protection with petroglyphs. It is amazing to be able to see things images from past people that have stood the test of time. There is one that shows a giant lizard on the rock and it makes sense because while I hike through these mountains I see a lot of lizards. The trail that connects the parks is a very narrow and windy trail and goes on for a couple of miles. I then was able to make it to the Skyline Regional Park and was able to Hike up to the skyline trail and sit and take a rest before heading back on a much shorter trail to my truck in Verrado. It was a cool experience to be able to take a long journey and see how these two trail systems connect. It was also getting me wondering and maybe thinking of ideas to help out for when they want to try and connect these two trail systems with the White Tank Mountain Regional Park. I am definitely going to have to have a chat about it and see what the future plans are going to be. After all this hiking, I was able to come home and work on the daily journaling and posting to Facebook for the volunteering marketing aspect.

Sunday 17th (8 Hours)- Volunteering was a fun and interesting experience because I was able to hike a trail I really loved and had a great experience while I was on it. I am getting closer and closer to being able to say I have hiked all the trails and this will give me the experience and knowledge for earning the steward badge. I am very close to obtaining the badge with just a few more to go. I took the granite falls trail to the chuckwalla trails which take you into a valley and through a bunch of dried washes in between the mountains. These trails are a part of the Skyline Regional Park. This area is a little wilder and you feel as though you are venturing away from the park but you are still in the vicinity of the park. I was able to see things that startled me and at times I was prepared for the worst but in the end, saw nothing. I came across a large dug out part of the walls on the wash in different areas and the trails walked right by them. One was big enough that it looked to be a home to a mountain lion. I will never know what kind of creatures these dens house but I was glad they were vacant when I walked by. While on the trail before I veered off onto the trails that went away from the more frequently traveled trails, I met a lot of friendly hikers today because it was Father's Day and many people were out with their families or fathers with their adult children. Many people got up early in the morning to beat the heat and enjoy a hike with their fathers and you could see the happiness on these people's faces. It was a nice change because normally not a lot of people are out this time of year but they made an exception to make their fathers happy. After my hike, I worked on journaling for the future newsletter and also worked on posting some images to Facebook.

Monday (3 Hours)- Today was a day that I took to work on journaling for the news article and started to piece half of my article for my newsletter that I will finish by my 4th week volunteering for the newsletter. I want to get a start on what I have already experienced so that the memories are a little fresher in my head and don't have to recall from a month away and miss anything. I also wanted to take time to make sure that my weekly report was ready to be handed in. Today would have had some hiking hours added, so that I would be knocking out

hours but the heat in the Phoenix area is a little too hot so now I have to take some days where I wait for it to cool off because even the mornings are going to be too hot. I will also work on seeing if there are jobs that I can start doing indoors until this major heat wave is gone and I can work on getting more experience for my stewardship in the early mornings into the afternoon before it hits 100 degrees outside.

What I learned:

I have learned that in order to really learn and have an appreciation for the desert heat you have to be prepared for some of its harsher temperatures. This also helps you be able to learn and teach other hikers ways that you have found to survive hiking when temperatures jump from 75-100 while you are out hiking in the morning hours to afternoon.

I have learned how to look for things that I feel can improve or help the park in many ways and would love to help.

I learned that you really have to be prepared for the event of anything happening while out hiking because there are many things out there that could harm you. Hiking with a buddy is something I would recommend 100 percent of the time.

I have learned that there is a lot of work that is put into these parks and organizations to be able to give people the hiking trails they need to be able to fulfill their daily or weekly leisure times.

Hours Worked This Week: 33

Hours Worked Total: 65