

Taylor Donahue
PRM 308- 1241

Week 8 Report

Job Duties: July 25th-31st

Wednesday 26th (7 Hours): Today I helped steward on the trails at Skyline Regional park. I wanted to take the Chuckwalla trail again because I don't know how often I will be able to hike it in the future after volunteering. I really liked this one even though it ventures off of the mountain and follows the base of some of the smaller mountains in the Park. It is fun because you feel as though you are going to run into some wild life that you don't see often because it is farther away from the more traveled trails. You don't see many people on this trail either because most people don't know of it or more mountain bikers like to ride it because they are more secluded and can ride without a lot of traffic. I went by the normal dens that I saw earlier in volunteering but still nothing in them which is disappointing. It is bittersweet for me because I want to see something new like a mountain lion or something scary but at the same time I am thankful because then I don't have to react or worry about how the situation is handled for my own safety. It's a good hike and desolate but it is always fun to come back to the busier trails on the park and see friendly faces. Sometimes you get bored of yourself and it's nice to chat to the people on the trails. I have felt lucky to while I have been volunteering because I haven't had to deal with any life threatening scenarios and the people I run into always are smart and well prepared. I still have a week left though so we will see what happens. After my hiking travels, I returned home to report and journal on everything.

Thursday 27th (10 Hours): Today I got a friend to go on another Ford Canyon hike. This is the one where it is very long and treacherous. It is better to have someone with you and I make sure to tell other hikers about this now. I was glad that Joe was able to warn me in the past because I may have been fine but there is always that what if. It is better to keep people safe than sorry. I had fun being able to go on a hike that more tests your abilities as a hiker. Here you aren't just walking up and down rocky hills but you are also climbing up large boulders where water would run over creating pools and water falls during the wet seasons. It has rained recently in the valley but not enough to make this look like a small river running through the wash. I would love to go someday still when there is a lot of rain and it is still safe to hike. Someday I will cross it off the bucket list. This is a long hike through but I like to test my knowledge of a lot of the wild life and plant life I have learned. I finally found out that a lizard that has a black and white striped tail and likes to wave it when it is stopped is called a zebra tailed lizard. I have been trying to figure this one out for most of my volunteering and was a little embarrassed when I found out the name was very simple and obvious. I like to be able to talk to my friend who I am comfortable with and teach her so that in the future I can have practice for when I get out into the field and have to teach families. After my hike, I came home to report and journal on my day.

Monday 31st (3 Hours): Today I worked on my report and have been working on my newsletter. I am also getting all my pictures together because I know at the end of next week I will be done. I have to email Alice all of the things that she asked for in the beginning like the newsletter and the presentation. I work on it a little every week but by next week it will be coming all together and it will be nice to see the final drafts. I am excited to give it to them because I know they are looking forward to it and I want it to be perfect. I also will be turning in the last of the reports to Jane by the end of next week. It's crazy to see how far I have come just through these 8-9 weeks and sad that they are pretty much over with only 25 hours to go.

What I learned:

I learned that in a short time I can learn a lot and what seemed like finding time for the volunteering I was able to get very close to the end.

I am learning more and more that I picked the right major and love the opportunity of being a part of this conservancy serving as their first intern volunteer.

I am learning that I want to be a part of something bigger like this and my calling in life is to be able to serve and protect the natural resources we have and this is more than just a passion that I have.

I am learning that my studies have been well spent on time and money and now know that I made the right choice in what I want to do and I am excited for the future and where I will be in 5-10 years.

Hours Worked This Week: 20

Hours Worked Total: 215