



INTO THE FIELD WITH THE CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

WRPI Internship (6/6/2016-8/5/2016)



SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

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Executive summary:

I have had the honor of serving my summer internship with the Cleveland National Forest Services Supervisors Office in San Diego California. They are the supervisory authority for the federal lands in the southern region of California, including San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties. While stationed with the Cleveland, I worked with the Natural Resources Conservation management team in monitoring the elements within this complex Biome that is Southern California. I have had the pleasure of going out into the field with some of our nation's best Conservationist and I must say they are truly passionate about their work and it is contagious. We traveled into the main districts of this area like the northern most Trabuco, the central region the Palomar and the southernmost the Descanso. I was lucky enough to see these Scientist in action, doing their work in the field gathering data and analyzing progress of the Native species and control measures needed for the Evasive species.

My project The Inaja Memorial Interpretive Trail Tour was given to me by my Supervisor Emily Fudge a Hydrologist here at the Cleveland. In this project I am in search of all historical information on a Fire that took place Thanksgiving Day 1956 within the San Diego river valley, and topics related within the Biome of the San Diego river Valley. This was my main task given to me and I quickly realize the Magnitude of gathering data that has long been archived. I hope you enjoy.

Good times=times! I started this Internship having to take several defensive driving courses, although they were time consuming I learned a lot about the newer laws, also some really good tips on defensive driving. I then went on a driving test with my supervisor to see if I had learned the off-road techniques and maneuvers discussed in the Forest service off-road vehicle test. I am happy to report that I did really well, so well that I was able to take Emily Fudge, my supervisor to a location she had not been before were she was able evaluate a water-bar she had not been able to get to until now. She was now able to collect her data on road erosion and the condition of the watershed in that area and on the way back we saw a huge King Snake crossing the road. She is very busy as the Hydrologist here at the Cleveland National Forest working on Proposition 84 and so many other projects it's amazing; she is so good at her job. I have also gone out into the field with many of the other experts here at the supervisor's headquarters. Going on several trips with the Engineering Hydrologist Arnold Perez, I have enjoyed working with him because he is a Navy Veteran like myself. He has taught me his job as it pertains to the Federal Park System, the outlining ranger district offices and wildfire fighter outposts. He is very organized as he has such a large region to monitor; he is in charge of maintaining all the groundwater systems ensuring the water quality is up to standards for safe drinking water.

It is a very demanding job that requires a lot of focus and patience as most systems are out in the wilderness and these well-water systems run the risk of being contaminated by the many living creatures within the biome; the worst is total Coliform contaminated with E. coli. This turns up the heat on the operator in hopes of isolating the E.coli contamination. Then there is all the paperwork and public works communication that needs to take place immediately.

Don't get me wrong it is an awesome job and being outdoors is peaceful, the only setback that I see is that the majority of his fieldwork is done without a partner, in his case it does seem as if these types of evolutions involving so much importance and possibility for a misshape, should be a two person job; for it has been stated by so many elders throughout our history "Safety first". So you need to be careful and stay focused because working with water and electricity can be fatal. I have also assisted the Trabuco Ranger district were I worked with Julie and several other conservationist in hydro shock some native fish, from behind a spa in Corona were water being is pulling from their little creek and with the summer heat evaporation, it felt good to know we were saving these native trout from before the dry-up. I have also gone out with so many others and done so many things from unauthorized route staking with Jeff Hayes so that the ground cover would return preventing erosion, to endangered Plant counts with Kirsten Winter and Lisa locating new

grow sites of the native flower species and documenting the progress of past outcroppings.

My main project on my down time has been historical data collection, in this evolution I have reached out to all the Main Research facilities in Forest Service Fire Science to the Washington main office in search of the Archive files to one of California's most historic fire tragedies, the Inaja Fire of 1956. I have spent many man-hours tracking these archives and was successful in obtaining new contacts like Diane M. Smith PhD Research Historian, Sarah Flick FS Librarian and Chris Johnson Fire Training Specialist. I am proud to say that with their help I was able to locate all the historical data compiling a composition of historical photos and data. Now the Cleveland National Forest Service will be able to complete this Historical Park putting the information in place where it belongs and advancing the park into the 21st century utilizing QR codes to enhance to educational experience of adventure and History. I have attached my most recent pdf having my current work. Thank You all so much it has been memorable and I have a new motivation towards the protection of our most sacred resource the watershed and riparian zones within and the diversity of life it holds.

Appendices:

Please see my other attachments including the Inaja Memorial Word

Document any references within;]

