

Frank's blog for March 27, 2007

Today I became an expert on sterile soil sample collections. With a group of eight, we measured a 10m. by 10m. east west transect. We collected surface soil in six areas in the transect. To keep the sample sterile, we wore rubber gloves and used new collection tools. Each sample was bagged and labeled for analysis in the lab. All of this collection was for a research project a grad student is doing. It was a good feeling to know I might be part of some valuable research. We did collection at two different sites. Each time the process was the same. Step one select an area. Step two measure the transect. Step three collect the samples. This was a great experience. I can't wait to share it with my students.

The afternoon trip to Afton was an adventure. Seven van loads of people headed for Afton Canyon. Due to the fact that I have been to Afton many times, I was asked to help guide the tour. Once arriving at the BLM campground, we decided that the best area to see was beyond the river crossing. Imagine a river in the middle of a dry desert, that's Afton. Well anyway, we needed to cross the river. The water was about one meter deep in the center with a hard bottom. I was assigned to the first van to cross. If we could make it everyone could. Well, we made it but in the process the van stalled in the middle of the river. In addition we got a flat tire. Needless to say none of the other vans attempted to cross. We did get out of the river and with some teamwork. We changed the flat. Then we had to return back across the river. With some positive mental attitude and some luck we made it. Now that's what I call an adventure.