



PATRICK J. FITZ
WETLANDS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
To inspire research, education & conservation of the wetlands & watersheds of the Pajaro Valley

Day 5- Field trip to Pajaro Dunes

10 minutes -Introduction at confluence of Watsonville Slough, Pajaro River, and Pacific Ocean:

-Welcome students to the dunes. Ask questions about what they think the different bodies of water are. Where are they coming from? Where do they lead? How might it look different at other times of year? What is an estuary? What kind of animals might live here?

-Introduce stations

-introduce docents

-Safety- Rogue waves, rules **No touching the water allowed,**

45-60 minutes- **Group Activities-** Break into groups and cycle through 3 stations:

- Animal sign photo scavenger hunt- students look for and take pictures of signs of animal presence on the beach near the dunes such as foot prints, shells, scat, etc.
- Beach exploration with binoculars and spotting scope- look for wildlife (snowy plover and whales, etc!)
- Water quality- students measure water quality and compare to data taken at headwaters and Watsonville Slough

If extra time: Open beach time, beach clean-up, or beach scavenger hunt

10 minutes – Closing and snack – Students share their favorite part of the day or something interesting they saw

Materials:

-Mentor backpacks

-water quality materials (meter, turbidity tube, water quality bin)

-Animals track guides

-Cameras

-Binoculars and/or spotting scope and bird guides

-Snacks and water

-Optional: trash bags or beach scavenger hunt handout