Interactive Trail *Draft 4*

The trail begins at the Ela Sanctuary Information Station

Answer all questions in your notebook.

Exercise 17

Station 11

Old, But Not Worthless

This old dead cottonwood tree still performs several useful functions in the natural world.

1. Sit quietly about 30 feet from the tree for about five minutes. Your teacher will keep track of the time for you.
2. If you must talk, talk in a whisper and move very slowly.
3. Count the number of birdcalls you hear in one minute.
4. How many different types of birdcalls did you notice?
5. Can you identify any of the birds from the birdcall? Your teacher has a device that will play birdcalls for you. Listen to the birdcalls on the device and try to identify the birdcall. If you can list record the name of the bird, or birds that made the call?
6. Count the number of holes in the tree.
7. Estimate the size of the holes.
8. What are the holes used for?
9. How many birds came to the tree in the time you were sitting near the tree?
10. What were the birds doing in the tree?
11. Name three functions that the tree performs even though it is dead.
12. What will eventually happen to the tree and what function will it still be performing?
13. Write a brief story describing what one of the birds may have been thinking when it saw you. In other words, tell the story from the bird's point of view. *(4-7.04, 5-7.05)*
14. Now write a brief story describing what one of the birds or other animals may have thought when it observed you observing it. *(4-7.04, 5-7.05)*