THE RED THREAD

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The Grand Canyon is a place of wonder and unparalleled beauty as it meanders through the landscape. While working with the National Park service in 2008, I joined a group of volunteers that I was working with on a hike that would bring us to the base of the canyon and back. Ten hours and twenty six miles later, we completed the journey. Later on as I reflected on my experience, I thought about how each perspective of the canyon was more spectacular than the last. As we made our way down, plants that appeared to be surviving on the rim were thriving at the bottom along with plants that just disappeared. The canyon walls also changed colors as we moved lower in elevation, providing us with a geologic timeline of some of the oldest rock that you will ever see. Geology, ecosystems, temperature all changed as we navigated the trails telling a story of how this landscape came to be and how it functions.