On June 10th, 2013 I started my first day as the Environmental Health Intern for Clear Creek County. Clear Creek is located in the mountains roughly between Arvada and Summit County. It is considered a rural county in a very mountainous area. I was the first intern that they have had for the department of Public and Environmental Health. Since the county is small, there is currently only one full time Environmental Health Specialist. My duties during my internship would include plan reviews, different types of inspections (pool, septic, restaurant, etc), disease control, and emergency preparedness, permit issuing and so many other responsibilities were included as well.

What was so great about this internship is that each day on the job was completely unique. I worked 4 days a week, 10 hours a day. Of those 10 hours roughly 4 of them were spent at a physical desk and the other 6 were spent four wheeling to remote properties to do site visits, reviewing building plans and doing various inspections. I got to spend time on top of Mount Evans (at 14,000 ft), work closely with Loveland Ski Area for their expansion project, play a large role in putting on special events such as Sonic Bloom Music Festival, help open several different restaurants, and attend a two day course in Denver to become certified as the Infection Control Officer for Clear Creek County.

I got to live in Silverthorne, CO - and I would argue that my commute to work every day was one of the prettiest in the world. I left the internship with a full time job offer (which I accepted, wahoo!), 5 emergency preparedness certifications, legal designation and the Infection Disease Control Officer, and an immeasurable amount of experience and knowledge that I don’t believe I could have gotten anywhere else. After leaving my internship I now understand how critical environmental health is for the development of communities. I am so thankful for this opportunity and could not have imagined interning anywhere else 😊