**Award Number (for administrative use only:**

**PR/J Number: R1360110060**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

**Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**(Cooperative Agreement # H1200-09-0005)**

**Park:** Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR)

**Project Title:** CEBR Hazardous Tree Removal FY2011 Project - Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC)

**Funding Amount:** $12,000

**CPCESU Partner Institution:** Southern Utah University (SUU)

**Principal Investigator:** Seth Ohms, Campus Coordinator, Southern Utah University, 900 W. 209S, Cedar City, UT 84720, 435-586-1981, Fax: 435-865-8236 sethohms@suu.edu.

**NPS ATR:** Paul Roelandt, Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument, 2390 West Hwy 56 , Suite #11, Cedar City, Utah 84720, (435)586-9451 ext 21, Fax: 435-586-3813 paul\_roelandt@nps.gov.

**Start Date:** May 1, 2011

**End Date:** January 31, 2014

**Abstract:**

Background:

The Southern Utah University (SUU) Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) has partnered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Southern Paiute Agency to engage tribal youth in career development experience with the IIC partner public land agencies. A crew of SUU students has been selected to be the IIC Career Internship Corps - Natural Resources crew. These students are in Natural Resources or related degree programs here at SUU. In the summer of 2010, the BIA had a similar crew for firefighting that was paid only while fighting fire, due to the very slow fire season this crew did not get called to many fires. As a result of last year’s slow fire season some of these highly trained students could not afford to return school in the fall.

The project management information system (PMIS) project #144886 is to Remove Hazardous Trees for Visitor Safety. In Cedar Breaks National Monument, there has been a severe spruce bark beetle epidemic which has affected 90 percent of Engelmann spruce trees in the park as well as the adjacent and surrounding Dixie National Forest. These trees need an assessment and maintenance to ensure the public and park employees have a safe park experience.

Objectives:

The primary objective of this project is to give Native American youth in Natural Resources or related degree programs, practical experience in a NPS setting. This program will expose these Native American students to the NPS mission and environment. This crew will have training and experience with tools and safety procedures that are typically under-utilized.

A secondary objective of this opportunity is to improve university retention of Native American students by offering fiscal support while obtaining field-of-major related experience.

This project will use qualified students that are part of a Southern Utah University IIC CIC Natural Resources crew in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Paiute Agency to perform park-wide assessment and removal of dead, dying, or hazardous limbs and trees in public use areas including the visitor center, campground, picnic, overlooks, parking, trails and roads.

This project will directly benefit Native American youth, visitors and resources by reducing the occurrence of standing dead trees posing a hazard to public safety and park infrastructure while providing practical learning experiences to Native American students.

**Keywords:**

**Education, Native American, Natural Resources** ,**Tribal, Collaboration, Youth Internship Programs, Career, Mentoring**