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Park/NPS Unit: Capitol Reef National Park

Title of Project: Contemporary Tribes of Capitol Reef National Park

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CESU Partner: Utah State University

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PROJECT ABSTRACT:

In 2011, with support from the CPCECU, key relationships were developed between the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the NPS, and other academic institutions and non-profit organizations (Utah State University and Round River Conservation Studies.) These groups collaborated on valuable research concerning the Koosharem Band of the Paiute Tribe's strong ancestral ties to Capitol Reef National Park and surrounding lands. Through this work we have gained a better understanding of the Capitol Reef region and its recent historic use by various tribes. Round River has worked extensively with the Utah Navajo for several years documenting their historic and present day values of the San Juan County region, but have not had the opportunity to document similar traditional values and historic sites outside of the San Juan County boundary. This project would support expanding this work beyond San Juan.

The outcomes and products of this proposal, ranging from oral history interviews to bi-lingual children's book, will provide an important and essential source of information supplementing the park's current resource base of documents, studies, and artifacts. Research and documentation of these new materials would increase the ability of Park interpreters to accurately address this theme, and provide opportunities for the public to more

deeply understand the resources and landscape of Capitol Reef from the perspective of contemporary Native American Tribes. The development of a book exploring a traditional story and presenting it in both the native language and in English exemplifies this opportunity.