

SUU Outdoor Initiative Inventory

revised March 2010

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
I. EDUCATION & ACADEMICS	1-5
II. FACILITIES	6-7
III. OUTDOOR RECREATION	8-9
IV. PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL SERVICES	10-13

I. EDUCATION & ACADEMICS

Alliance for Education with Bryce Canyon National Park

Formalized in July 2006, the Alliance provides a world-class education and research venue for SUU faculty and students. In return, Bryce Canyon National Park gains access to the resources and expertise of the University. This is a model for collaboration SUU hopes to replicate with other state and national parks and monuments in the region.

Archaeology Field School

The SUU Archaeology Field School has been in existence since the early 1960s, beginning with the excavation of local Fremont sites. Since that time, summer fieldwork has been conducted at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, the Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation in Arizona, Little Creek Mesa in Washington County, UT, and, most recently, in Kanab, Utah. The 30 field school seasons have attracted SUU undergraduate and graduate students, along with high school and non-traditional students from Utah and across the United States, Canada and Europe. In 2010, field school will continue at a Basketmaker III and late Pueblo II habitation site, located on Kanab Creek, in Kanab, under the direction of Dr. Emily Dean, Asst. Professor of Anthropology, and Barbara Frank, director of the SUU Archaeology Repository.

Brian Head Field Ecology

Brian Head Field Ecology is a cooperative project between SUU, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Dixie National Forest, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and the Utah State Office of Education. The week-long course, held each year during June, is designed to facilitate

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

learning for science teachers and to fill information gaps in the Brian Head, UT, area. Hands-on, in the field skills to strengthen and supplement current secondary science curriculum is the focus.

Cedar Mountain Science Camps

Started in 1999 as a teacher development and environmental education initiative, the College of Science's Cedar Mountain Science Center (CMSC), in cooperation with the School of Education, offers summer science camps for 4th-6th graders based at SUU's Mountain Center. Elementary students and teachers from across Utah (in 2009, 375 4th-6th grade campers, 23 elementary education college students, and three elementary teachers) convened in nine, three-day camps. While demand for Science Camps is now more than can be accommodated with available staff and facilities, CMSC continues to explore new opportunities and will include a middle-school age camp for the first time in 2010.

Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

SUU joins 22 non-federal partners along with seven federal natural resource management agencies to form the Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CPCESU). The CPCESU creates opportunities for research, education and technical assistance to support stewardship of natural and cultural resources by federal agencies on the Colorado Plateau. The CPCESU ensures that the expertise of academic and non-governmental partners is made available to assist federal resource managers in accomplishing their agency missions. The federal partners allocate funding to a wide variety of projects and non-federal partners and support their research, education and outreach missions.

Earth Day at SUU

SUU held its first-ever Earth Day celebration in April 2009. This now-annual event was a great success for the student body, faculty and numerous community partners. Future Earth Day events will feature more outdoor activities, both recreational and educational, as this prime spring-time celebration grows.

Environmental Research Opportunities

Surrounded by unmatched natural environments, exciting outdoor research and course offerings await undergraduates at SUU. Current social scientific research examining park soundscapes, alternative transportation, recycling, and night sky visibility has produced award winning projects. SUU students have collaborated with faculty, resource managers, gateway communities and other local organizations, and they have presented their findings at regional, national and international conferences. Undergraduate students have made use of their research experiences at SUU to propel them into graduate school and beyond.

Equine Program

Located at the SUU Valley Farm (West Campus), SUU's Equine Program is unique in the state and continues to increase in popularity and demand. Since the 2000-01 academic year equine

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

classes have experienced a 95% increase in enrollments. A new Associates of Applied Science degree in equine sciences enhances SUU's opportunities in this exciting academic and recreational endeavor.

Geology Program

Situated in the greatest natural outdoor laboratory in North America, SUU science students enjoy field work in some of the most geologically-unique landscapes in the nation. While researchers come from around the world to visit and study southern Utah's geologic wonders, SUU students get to experience it every day. Geology field camps and field trips are also offered to non-science students, making this world-class learning experience available to everyone on campus.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Educational Partnership

Signed in early 2009, the objectives of this Memorandum Of Understanding between SUU and Grand Staircase-Escalante NM are to establish a general framework of cooperation upon which mutually beneficial science, research, and education programs; service projects; training seminars; internships; and curriculum development opportunities and other activities may be planned and accomplished in such a ways as to complement the missions of the BLM, GSEP, and SUU, and is in the best interest of the public.

Hospitality Research Center

Currently being developed by the Hotel, Resort and Hospitality Management Program, the Center will focus on hospitality and tourism issues that assist hospitality and tourism organizations to be more effective. Initial funding for the Center was from the state legislature in 2007 and after extensive investigation of hospitality research centers at other universities that serve rural audiences, along with focus groups with hospitality industry executives and additional focus groups and stakeholders in southwest Utah, the Center was successfully launched in 2008.

Hotel, Resort and Hospitality Management Program

The Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel, Resort and Hospitality Management (HRHM) is meeting the needs of students who want careers in the hospitality industry—a professional field that is rapidly growing in Utah and across the western U.S. With our proximity to national parks, public lands, and the businesses that provide recreation opportunities on these lands, SUU is ideally located for practical, hands-on HRHM learning and training in an outdoor recreation environment.

Outdoor Education Series

Sponsored by SUU Outdoors and the Outdoor Recreation in Parks & Tourism Program, the weekly Outdoor Education Series presents speakers to improve access to outdoor information and opportunities for SUU students, faculty, staff and the local community.

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

Outdoor Recreation in Parks and Tourism Program

The Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Recreation in Parks and Tourism (ORPT), created in 2006, now has over 40 majors. Outdoor Recreation in Tourism, Outdoor Education, and Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management form the three areas of curriculum emphasis. All ORPT students are required to successfully perform a 10-hour volunteer practicum and a 400-hour capstone internship, which typically involves a project with a land management agency or an outdoor recreation provider. Many courses within the ORPT Program also require service learning projects in partnership with land management agencies or local recreation organizations.

Parowan Gap: “God’s Own House” Student Art Project and Exhibit

Following on the heels of the successful “Zion: A Creative Response” project, the SUU Art Department and Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery showcased Iron County’s Parowan Gap during the 09/10 academic year. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Parowan Gap is world-renowned for its rock art “gallery” and archeo-astronomy connections. Art Departments students spent the 2010 academic year creating art inspired by their time at the Gap. This art was then juried and exhibited at Braithwaite Gallery and elsewhere in Iron County as well as featured in the annual student publication *Kolob Canyon Review*.

Partners in the Parks

Recognized by the National Park Service (NPS) as a 2016 NPS Centennial Initiative Project, SUU created and manages this National Collegiate Honors Council program. In its inaugural 2008 season, seven in-park programs were scheduled with partner universities and park units across the country, with three being SUU-based (Bryce Canyon NP, Zion NP, Grand Canyon-Parashant NM). A faculty training institute, co-sponsored by SUU and the University of Arizona, was also provided in 2008 at Saguaro NP in Arizona. In 2010, seven week-long academic adventures range from Alaska (Denali NP) to Utah (Zion NP) to North Carolina (Cape Hatteras NS).

Southwest Utah Visitor Profile Study

Managed by SUU’s Hotel Resort and Hospitality Management Program, this informative 2009 study is the most comprehensive and current analysis of visitors and tourists to southwest Utah and their preferences.

Wilderness Education Association

The SUU Outdoor Recreation in Parks & Tourism Program is an affiliate of the Wilderness Education Association (WEA). This relationship allows SUU students to benefit from WEA course curriculum as well as on-campus access to WEA courses such as Wilderness Stewardship and the National Standard Program, which can lead to earning an Outdoor Leadership Certification.

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

Wilderness First Responder Training

In partnership with the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association at Bryce Canyon National Park, SUU Outdoors and the Outdoor Recreation in Parks & Tourism Program hosts an annual Wilderness First Responder certification training.

Youth Science and Outdoor Education Director

This exciting new position at SUU was created in early 2010 by the College of Education & Human Development, College of Science, and Office of Government Relations and Regional Services. Along with oversight of the Cedar Mountain Science Camp program and the University's new Voyager Science Lab, positive success is also being achieved by working with local school districts and public lands agency partners to develop new programs such as the U.S. Forest Service's More Kids in the Woods program, National Park Service's First Bloom program, and numerous other agency-desired partnership projects.

Zion Group Alliance for Education

Signed in November 2008, SUU's newest Alliance for Education is with the Zion Group—Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument and Pipe Spring National Monument. This association, similar to the formal agreement SUU has with Bryce Canyon National Park, greatly enhances the relationship between the four entities. SUU's Office of Government Relations and Regional Services, as is the case with Bryce Canyon NP, serves as the point of contact for this Alliance.

"Zion: A Creative Response" Student Art Project and Exhibits

This Art Department and Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery initiative was the highlight of SUU's active participation with the 2009 Zion National Park Centennial Celebration. Students from the College of Performing and Visual Arts as well as the College of Humanities and Social Sciences spent the 2009 school creating art inspired by their time at the park during fall 2008. This art—both visual and written—was juried and exhibited at SUU, the park and elsewhere across the state. It was also the highlight of the student-led annual publication *Kolob Canyon Review*.

II. FACILITIES

Archaeology Repository

The SUU Archaeology Repository has served as a curation facility for archaeology related material collections since the early 1960s when field school excavations were conducted at local prehistoric Fremont sites in conjunction with the anthropology program. Since that time the repository has become the Federal repository for the Bureau of Land Management, the Dixie National Forest, the State of Utah, and for contractors conducting projects in Iron, Beaver, Washington, Kane and Garfield Counties in Utah, and the Arizona Strip. Collections have been made available to students, from both SUU and surrounding institutions, and professionals studying relevant issues in archaeology, anthropology, and biology.

Ashcroft Observatory

While a boon to SUU science students, the Ashcroft Observatory also hosts Monday evening public astronomy viewings. This popular activity has grown beyond expectations and now requires a part-time staff to accommodate the growing interest.

Challenge Ropes Course

The SUU-Rocky Mountain Power Challenge Course (low-ropes course) provides outdoor learning experiences that challenge individuals and groups to exceed their perceived boundaries as well as serves as a catalyst for personal growth and change.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab

In today's world of natural resource and land management as well as the growing profession of outdoor recreation, understanding GIS technology is essential. SUU students are trained with cutting-edge technology in their preparation for outdoor careers. The lab is also available for partners' use and community projects.

Mountain Center

Located a short drive up scenic Cedar Canyon and surrounded by the University's Mountain Ranch, the SUU Mountain Center offers over 6,000 square feet of modern amenities for educational purposes, hosting an informal retreat or a business workshop, or as an entertainment venue for family and friends. The Mountain Center has everything you need -- all in a beautiful alpine setting.

Mountain Ranch

Surrounding SUU's beautiful Mountain Center 10 miles up Cedar Canyon, the 2,800-acre SUU Mountain Ranch supports the University's long-managed sheep herd. The Ranch also provides recreational and educational amenities unmatched by most universities. The SUU Mountain Ranch Resource Advisory Council, under the direction of SUU Government Relations and

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

Regional Services, is currently developing a comprehensive Resource Management Plan, which will guide the use and management of the ranch long into the future.

Museum of Natural and Cultural History

The SUU Museum of Natural and Cultural History is southern Utah's oldest and largest. With the current construction of the new SUU Science Center, plans are to triple its size and have it serve as a gateway to the southeast corner of campus. The museum will re-open, bigger and better than ever, in 2011.

Student Garden and Greenhouse

SUU's Student Garden, managed by the Biology Department, provides interested students with a garden plot along with gardening expertise and assistance. In partnership with the College of Science's greenhouse (currently closed due to construction of the new Science Center), students can cultivate their own flowers, fruits and vegetables right on campus.

Valley Farm

SUU's 826-acre crop and livestock Valley Farm serves as our West Campus and is located just minutes from the downtown campus. The University's Agriculture Program curriculum is recognized as one of the top academic programs on campus, providing experiential, hands-on learning at the farm, downtown campus, and the Mountain Ranch.

III. OUTDOOR RECREATION

Campus Arboretum and Tree Tour

The SUU campus is widely recognized as the most beautiful in the Utah System of Higher Education. Take a tour of campus following the Facilities Management Office's "Arboretum and Tree Tour." From the American Elm to the Yew, the awards-winning grounds crew maintains over 80 tree types across campus.

Campus Recreation and Intramural Sports Program

SUU Student Services' active Campus Recreation Office and intramural sports program provides all types of outdoor recreation fun. Just the football offerings alone range from flag to powder-puff to frisbee! Outdoor athletics and recreation, for the fun of it, is what Campus Recreation and the intramural sports program is all about.

Clubs and Student Organizations

With over 140 chartered clubs and student organizations, there are countless ways for students to be involved and enhance their SUU experience. Outdoor-type clubs on campus include Block & Bridle, Earth, Geology, Motorcycle, Mountain Biking, Ski & Snowboard, Alternative Winter Break, and others. These recreation clubs are joined by nation-wide academic organizations such as Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the physical sciences Honors Society.

Family Hiking Series

A partnership between SUU's Outdoor Recreation in Parks & Tourism Program, Cedar City Parks and Recreation, and the Dixie National Forest, family-friendly hikes are provided throughout the year in the Cedar City area.

Sculpture Stroll

Located across the SUU campus' award-winning grounds can be found over a dozen statues and sculptures. Take a guided walk and see for yourself the art and inspiration found throughout SUU!

SUU Outdoors

Founded in Spring 2003, SUU Outdoors is now comprised of the Outdoor Center, which offers a wide variety of year-round trips, equipment rentals and training, and other outdoor resources. The Outdoor Center also manages the on-campus low ropes challenge course and the popular new indoor climbing wall. Other special events are scheduled throughout the school year such as gear swaps and the annual Warren Miller ski film. SUU Outdoors maintains many formal partnerships and affiliations including local organizations such as the Color Country Cycle Club, Cedar Mountain Nordic Ski Club, and the Southern Utah Climbers Coalition. National and international affiliations include the Access Fund, Association of Challenge Course Technology,

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

American Mountain Guide Association, American Canyoneering Association, Association of Outdoor Recreation Education, and the Wilderness Education Association. SUU Outdoors is also active locally with SUU Clubs, SUU Athletics, Iron County School District and the Iron County Visitor Center, Boy Scouts of America, 4H, and various adjudicated youth programs.

Teens Outside Program

The ORPT Program, in partnership with Cedar City Parks and Recreation, is a local sponsor for the Teens Outside national initiative, which is provided by the National Recreation and Park Association and the Outdoor Industry Foundation. ORPT and SUU Outdoors also offer other outdoor recreation programming for community members of all ages.

Utah Summer Games

The Utah Summer Games is an Olympic-style sports festival for Utah athletes of all ages and abilities. For the past 23 years the Utah Summer Games has conducted this event in Cedar City, Utah, with an average total of 7,500 participants, 50 thousand spectators, and 1,000 volunteers in attendance each year. Add all that together and you have one of the premier sporting events in Utah. Utah Summer Games administration is housed at SUU and many of the events take place at campus venues.

Winter Fest

In partnership with the Dixie National Forest, SUU Outdoors hosts the annual SUU Winter Fest up Cedar Canyon canyon at the Forest Service's new Deer Valley non-motorized winter recreation area. Held in February when the snow is deep, this day of winter bliss includes cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and air boarding, along with workshops on winter camping techniques and other outdoor skills.

IV. PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL SERVICES

American Canyoneering Association's Annual Canyoneering Conference

Along with the American Canyoneering Association (ACA), SUU Outdoors is a co-sponsor of the annual Canyoneering Conference held in Cedar City. The 2008 conference was an international event that brought canyoneers from across the world for both the conference and to recreate in southern Utah's canyon country. SUU's partnership with ACA also provides unmatched access to canyoneering expertise as well as professional and recreational training and certification opportunities.

Cedar Breaks National Monument Potential Expansion and National Park Designation

SUU Government Relations and Regional Services is a lead participant with a local task force assessing the possibility of pursuing federal legislation to expand Cedar Breaks National Monument and designate it a national park.

Cedar City Native Plant Chapter

An affiliate of the statewide *Utah Native Plant Society*, the Cedar City Native Plant Chapter was created in 2009 by SUU Biology Department faculty. The Chapter meets regularly at SUU, and all gardeners, regardless of their background and experience, as well as those interested in preserving and protecting Iron County's beautiful native environment are invited to participate.

Five County Association of Governments Natural Resources Committee

SUU Regional Services is an active participant with the AOG's Natural Resources Committee.

Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative

Created in 2007 through the cooperation of regional land management agencies and SUU's Outdoor Recreation in Parks & Tourism program, the Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) is now a campus-wide program delivered through SUU's Office of Government Relations and Regional Services. The IIC provides easily accessible internships and employment opportunities for SUU students with numerous state and federal land and natural resource management agencies across southern Utah. A highlight of IIC's programming is summer youth crews, with projects in parks, monuments and forests across southwest Utah.

IIC Summer Youth Crews

A core program of the IIC is summer youth crews. Comprised of both local high school as well as SUU students, the youth crews are put to work in outdoor settings across the region with IIC's land management agency partners. Work projects range from forest management to trail building and benefit local units of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation.

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

Iron County Resource Management Planning

SUU Government Relations and Regional Services provided seed funding for and is now providing technical assistance to Iron County's new Natural Resource Specialist and Iron County Natural Resource Advisory Council. A key component of this position is to work cooperatively with land management agencies in the creation and implementation of an Iron County Resource Management Plan.

Joint SUU/National Park Service Staff Position

The IIC Agency Coordinator is a unique shared position between Cedar Breaks National Monument and SUU. An NPS employee, this position is housed on campus as part of the Government Relations and Regional Services staff and provides a direct agency link for the Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative to federal land management partners. The position also works on other mutually-beneficial projects and initiatives for SUU, Cedar Breaks NM and the other members of the IIC.

Kanarra Canyon Recreation and Visitor Management Plan

Developed in response to concerns by the Kanarraville City Council about the impacts of large increases in visitation, this was a very successful student project by the ORPT Program.

Public Lands Employment Day

Coordinated by SUU's Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative, the Public Lands Employment Day (PLED) is an off-shoot of the highly successful Fall and Spring SUU Career Fairs. This PLED Fair, held for the first time in 2010 and now an annual event, spotlights the numerous state and federal land management agency partners across the region and outdoor employment opportunities for SUU students. Workshops on how to apply for federal jobs is also part of the Fair.

Southwest Utah Renewable Energy Center

SUU Government Relations and Regional Services is an active participant with the planning and development of this promising Beaver County project emphasizing the abundant renewable resources across the region for energy production. A highlight of SUTREC programming is the very successful annual Renewable Energy Fair and statewide Summit held at Milford High School in April.

Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council

Created in 1997 by then-Governor Michael Leavitt, SUU Regional Services hosts and chairs the Southwest Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC). SUPAC is a Governor-appointed regional planning council that includes local, state, federal, and private entities involved in project coordination and planning for southwest Utah. Public lands and natural resources planning and management are major areas of interest for SUPAC.

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Implementation Program

SUU Government Relations and Regional Services and the College of Science are participants with the recently-created Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Implementation Program (UPDRIP). UPDRIP's purpose is the establishment of a partnership effort to cooperatively implement the Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Plan while balancing and accommodating needs of the human population. The new UPDRIP Coordinator is a Government Relations staff person that is housed in the College of Science.

Utah Regional Planner Project

SUU Government Relations and Regional Services participates with the Utah Department of Community and Culture's Regional Planner Project (RPP). Funded by the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (State mineral lease monies), the purpose of the RPP is to mitigate socio-economic impacts resulting from natural resource development on federal lands by providing for continuous quality planning throughout rural Utah.

Washington County Resource Management Planning

Like the Iron County Resource Management Planning endeavor, the Office of Government Relations and Regional Services is providing technical assistance to the Washington County Planning Office in the updating of the Washington County General Plan. The principal elements of this new plan will be natural resource-focused following the recent passage of the Washington County Growth & Conservation Act of 2009 designating new federal Wilderness and other public lands designations across the county.

Zion Canyon Corridor Council (ZC3)

SUU Government Relations and Regional Services is a member of the Zion Canyon Corridor Council (ZC3), a regional planning initiative striving to apply the recently-completed Washington County Vision Dixie planning process and principles. Government Relations staff is providing technical assistance and funding for corridor and community planning to the Council and communities along State Route 9, the gateway to Zion National Park. The first planning project initiated by ZC3 was a Government Relations-funded partnership with Utah State University's Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning Program, which provided an extensive corridor study showing alternative futures for growth and development, along with addressing other critical planning elements identified by the Council.

Zion National Park Artist in Residence Program

The re-emerging Zion National Park Artist in Residence initiative is a new and exciting partnership between SUU's College of Performing and Visual Arts' Arts Administration Program, Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, graduate students in the Master of Fine Arts Program, Government Relations and Regional Services, and Zion National Park. The new and improved Zion NP Artist in Residence Program will host its first artist in early 2010 at the Park's recently restored Grotto House.

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

Zion National Park Centennial Celebration

SUU Government Relations and Regional Services represented SUU on the 2009 Zion National Park Centennial Planning Committee. Numerous activities were delivered throughout the year-long celebration including many from SUU faculty, staff and students. The highlight of the SUU projects was the Art Department's and Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery's "Zion: A Creative Response" student art project and resulting exhibitions at SUU and the park.

Zion National Park/Danxiashan World Geopark Sister Park

SUU's Office of Government Relations and Regional Services has been an active partner with Zion National Park in the development of a "sister park" relationship with Danxiashan World Geopark in Guangdong Province, P.R. China. Higher education is a key component of this relationship, which includes Guizhou Normal University and SUU. Visits to both parks and universities occurred in late 2009 and early 2010 by delegations from each country. Spectacular Danxiashan, with its similar redrock geology, has been recognized by all the partners as Zion with a tropical forest!