For research in the recreation aspect, there are several projects going on at the Capitol Reef National Park in Utah. Some of these projects include inventory, park resource reporting, and air/water quality. I think that inventory and air quality research would be the most relevant research in terms of recreation. Air quality would impact those who are hiking, and research can be done on the pollution caused by visitors driving on the 4x4 trails. Inventory would be relatively simple as you’re already exploring the park, so it could tie into your adventure. I couldn’t really find any specific needs, other than those ongoing projects already listed.