

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

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## **PROJECT ABSTRACT**

### **Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (Cooperative Agreement # H1200-09-0005)**

**Park:** *Bryce Canyon National Park*

**Project Title:** **Santonian (Late Cretaceous) Microvertebrates of Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah**

**Funding Amount:** \$30,099

**CPCESU Partner Institution:** *Weber State University*

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**Start Date:** *December 30, 2010*

**End Date:** *May 31, 2013*

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**Abstract:** A paleontological inventory was conducted in Bryce Canyon National Park from 2006-2010. Three particularly rich localities identified during this inventory could provide important information on the taxonomic diversity of the Late Santonian. Locality UMNH VP 424 is the richest microvertebrate locality of this age in our hemisphere. A limited collection of matrix from UMNH VP Locality 424 has resulted in an extensive faunal list. However, many of the specimens are only questionably assigned to taxa and other specimens are only conferred to species. The study of these three localities in Bryce Canyon will:

1. Increase our knowledge of taxonomic diversity from the Late Santonian.
2. Improve the ability to taxonomically assign specimens.
3. This will provide a basis on which to compare older faunas recovered from the John Henry Member (Coniacian-middle Santonian) on USDA Forest Service lands.

**Keywords:** **Geology – Paleontology**