

## PROJECT ABSTRACT

Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit  
(Cooperative Agreement # H1200-004-0002)

**Park:** Zion National Park

**Project Title:** Inventory of Aquatic Macroinvertebrates in Park Streams

**Funding Amount:** \$15,000

**CPCESU Partner Institution:** Utah State University

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**Start Date:** September 20, 2008

**End Date:** September 30, 2011

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**Abstract:** Macroinvertebrate fauna, which are widely recognized as valuable indicators of stream health, have been inventoried in the Zion Narrows section of the North Fork of the Virgin River. But several other park waters have no sampling, or only reconnaissance level sampling. Specifically, the East Fork of the Virgin River, North Creek, La Verkin Creek and several of the park's springs and hanging Gardens, have not had the aquatic invertebrate fauna inventoried. The overall purpose of the project described herein is for the BLM/USU-BugLab National Aquatic Monitoring Center, Logan, UT (USU- BugLab) to collaborate with ZION to collect, identify and enumerate aquatic macroinvertebrate samples collected as part of an initial inventory and monitoring effort of previously unsampled park waters. The highest priority for inventory is the East Fork of the Virgin River in Parunuweap Canyon. Sampling will be conducted in two seasons (post-spring runoff and fall base-flow conditions) in each of two years (2009 and 2010).

**Keywords:** Animals - Surveys / monitoring, Animals – invertebrates, Hydrology – water quality