

Late Cretaceous stratigraphy, depositional environments, and macrovertebrate paleontology of the Kaiparowits Plateau, Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, Utah

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ABSTRACT

The Kaiparowits Basin, located mostly within Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, preserves an outstanding record of Late Cretaceous sedimentation in a foreland basin setting. Hosted in these rocks is one of the most continuous and complete records of this period's ecosystems known from any one geographic area in the world. Recent work in the basin has emphasized macrovertebrate remains and documented many new sites of high scientific value. Recent stratigraphic studies have further refined our knowledge of the depositional systems and chronostratigraphic relationships. Provided is an overview of some of these recent advances, along with the necessary background to provide context.

Keywords: Late Cretaceous, paleontology, Kaiparowits, vertebrate, stratigraphy, Utah.