

# Final Report on the geologic and paleontologic investigation of the Cimarron National Grassland



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View of area south of the Cimarron River in the Cimarron National Grassland. View shows the typical landscape of the area.

## **Introduction**

Fort Hays State University (FHSU) and the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service entered into a mutually beneficial agreement (#CC2-2-12-94-07-028) in 1994 to explore the paleontologic resources on parts of the Cimarron National Grassland in Morton County, Kansas. This agreement called for the inventory of paleontologic resources by:

- producing a map of the surface geology
- producing hard-copy maps on mylar
- producing digital maps of the paleontology and geology
- and curating and cataloging the fossils recovered.

The Sternberg Museum of Natural History (a department of FHSU) supervised all aspects of this project. In addition, the museum is developing educational material, including a portable exhibit, for the Forest Service.

Such agreements are beneficial for all parties involved. Through this project, the museum trained three graduate and two undergraduate students in paleontologic field and lab work. One student used part of this study for his masters thesis. Additional students gained experience in the techniques of museum curation, exhibition, and education.

The Forest Service benefits by having quantified information on which to base management decisions. Presentations, exhibitions, and activities that grow out of this project will provide positive public relations for the agency.

The mylar maps and digital data produced for this project have been forwarded to the Forest Service under separate cover. This final report presents the results of field and laboratory analysis as required by the agreement.

Herein, the type and extent of fossil resources