

BLM National Survey of Paleontologists

Date _____ Record # _____
Interviewer # and full name: _____

INTRODUCTION

Hello, may I speak with _____ (*State the first and last name of the person on the list*)? Hello, I'm calling on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). My name is (*State your first and last name*) from Northern Arizona University's Social Research Laboratory. We are conducting an assessment of the BLM's paleontology permitting process. Your views are very important in helping the BLM improve the permitting process.

The questions I would like to ask will only take about 20 minutes to complete. Is now a good time to ask you some questions?

If Yes → continue

If No → set up a callback

Thank you. Focus groups were held with paleontologists to explore and identify issues related to the BLM permitting process. This survey was developed with paleontologists and BLM officials in order to better understand the experiences of paleontologists working on BLM lands. All of your answers are voluntary and if I should come to any question you would prefer not to answer, just let me know and I'll skip over it. The data gathered from this survey will be shared with the BLM management and evaluation office in an effort to improve the permitting process. Findings will be analyzed and recommendations will be made to local BLM offices. Survey responses will be used to make improvements in the program's performance. Follow-up monitoring of the BLM Field Offices will be done to ensure the recommendations have been implemented.

First, I need to inform you that the Paperwork Reduction Act requires approval of all Federal government surveys by the Office of Management and Budget. If you would like to know more about the approval of this survey, I can provide information. Would you like this information?

If yes → Continue below

If no → Skip to Q1

***Additional information provided upon request:**

This survey has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget. The designated approval number is 1040-0001, expiring January 31, 2005. You may direct comments that you have about any aspect of the survey to the BLM information collection clearance officer, Max Lockwood. Would you like his phone number? If yes → (202) 452-5075. As another option, you may call the principal investigator of this survey. Her name is Kristi Hagen. She is the director of the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. Would you like her phone number? If yes → You can call Ms. Hagen toll-free at (866) 213-5716.

Interviewer Note: If the R has comments between Q's, or would like to add comments to specific Q's, let them know that there is a comment section at the end of the survey.

GENERAL EXPERIENCE

Q1. First, I would like to know **approximately** how many paleontology permit applications you have submitted to the BLM to conduct work on BLM lands?

Interviewer: This would include all permit applications (survey and excavation) throughout their career, whether they were approved or not.

1. _____ (total N)
2. If none, → ***End survey : “Thank you but we are looking for people who have applied for paleontology permits with the BLM. Good bye.”***

Q2. At any time, did you apply for (*this / these*) permit(s) as ...

Interviewer: Read each category, check “yes” or “no”

*****Permit applications can come from university researchers, museum researchers, private consultants and other capacities***

Interviewer: This would include all permit applications (survey and excavation) throughout their career, whether they were approved or not.

	Yes	No
2a. A university researcher?		
2b. A researcher working with a museum?		
2c. An individual consultant?		
2d. As an employee with a private consulting company, or?		
2e. In some other capacity → <i>If yes, see below</i>		

If yes, in some other capacity → Q2f. What would that be?

Q3. How many of these permit applications have you submitted to the BLM during the last two years? ***Interviewer: This refers to applications (survey and excavation), whether they were approved, or not.***

1. _____ (total N)

GENERAL PERMITTING PROCESS

Q4. Now I'd like to ask you some questions about the permitting process. How did you submit your **most recent** paleontology permit application? (*Interviewer: This could be Survey or Excavation Permits*)

Did you... *Interviewer: If necessary, read list. Select One.*

1. Take a paper version to a BLM office,
 2. Submit it through the mail
 3. Submit it as a fax or
 4. Submit it through some other means → Q4a. How did you submit it?
-
5. Don't know
 6. Refused

Q5. In the future, what would be the **BEST** method for submitting permit applications?
Interviewer: If necessary, read list; Circle the ONE most preferred.

1. Taking a paper version to a BLM office
 2. Submit it through the mail
 3. Submit it as a fax
 4. Submit it electronically / on the Web
 5. Submit it through some other means → Q5a. What would that be?
-
6. Don't know
 7. Refused

Q6. How did you first learn how to complete a BLM paleontology permit application?
Interviewer: After initial answer Probe: Were there any other ways that you first learned how to complete the application? Circle all that apply.

1. Instructions from a colleague
2. Figured out the process yourself
3. On-line web instructions
4. Requested mailed package
5. BLM Local (Field) office
6. BLM State Office
7. BLM office (don't know if it is a State or a Local office)
8. Standard was set by previous permittees at university or agency, followed example
9. Joined existing permits
10. Emailed BLM for guidance

11. Other → What would that be? Q6a.

The following questions ask you to evaluate your **overall** experience with the BLM permitting process. If your experience with the BLM has changed significantly overtime, please evaluate your experience with the BLM permitting process based on your more recent experiences.

Q7. Overall, how would you rate your BLM permitting experience? Would you say it has been....

Interviewer: Read list

1. Very positive
2. Somewhat positive
3. Somewhat negative or
4. Very negative
5. Don't know
6. Refused

Q8. Generally speaking, how supportive do you consider the BLM to be towards the science of paleontology? Would you say the BLM is... **Interviewer: Read list**

1. Very supportive of the science
2. Not supportive of the science, or → **Go to Q8a**
3. Neither supportive nor unsupportive of the science (neutral)
4. Don't know
5. Refused

Q8a. **[IF "2" NOT SUPPORTIVE]** Why do you say the BLM is not supportive of the science of paleontology?

Q9. Generally speaking, how knowledgeable do you think BLM staff members working with paleontology permits and permit holders are? **Interviewer: Knowledgeable = about paleontology**

Would you say they are... **Interviewer: Read list**

1. Very knowledgeable about paleontology
2. Somewhat knowledgeable about paleontology, or they
3. Lack knowledge about paleontology
4. Don't know
5. Refused

Q10. Have you ever applied for paleontology permits with other Federal land agencies?

1. No → **Skip to Q13**
2. Yes

Skip if "no" in Q13

Q11. Please tell me **all** of the other agencies that you have applied to for a paleontology permit:

Interviewer: Circle all that apply.

1. NPS (National Park Service) → **Go to Q12a**
2. FS (Forest Service) → **Go to Q12b**
3. Bureau of Reclamation → **Go to Q12c**
4. Other → What is the other agency? Q11a.

→ **Go to Q12d**

5. Don't know / Don't recall
6. Refused

Skip if "no" in Q13

Q12a. Overall, how would you rate your permitting experience with the NPS? Would you say it has been ... **Interviewer: Read list**

1. Very positive
2. Somewhat positive
3. Somewhat negative or
4. Very negative
5. Don't know
6. Refused

Q12b. Overall, how would you rate your permitting experience with the FS? Would you say it has been ... **Interviewer: Read list**

1. Very positive
2. Somewhat positive
3. Somewhat negative or
4. Very negative
5. Don't know

6. Refused

Q12c. Overall, how would you rate your permitting experience with the Bureau of Reclamation? Would you say it has been ... **Interviewer: Read list**

1. Very positive
2. Somewhat positive
3. Somewhat negative or
4. Very negative
5. Don't know
6. Refused

Q12d. Overall, how would you rate your permitting experience with _____? Would you say it has been ... **Interviewer: Read list**

1. Very positive
2. Somewhat positive
3. Somewhat negative or
4. Very negative
5. Don't know
6. Refused

SURVEY AND LIMITED SURFACE COLLECTION PERMITS (SLSC)

Now I am going to ask you about Survey and Limited Surface Collection (SLSC) permits.

Q13. Of all of the permit applications that you've submitted, about how many of your applications were for Survey permits? **Interviewer: If necessary, Survey permits are issued for broad ranging survey/ reconnaissance work to identify vertebrate fossils. Such activities can be expected to result in only negligible surface disturbance, that is, less than 1 square meter and can be done with hand tools.**

1. _____ (total N)
2. If none → **Skip to Q 23 Excavation Permit Section**

Q14. In what year did you submit your ("**first**" – **if more than 1**) application for a Survey Collection permit to the BLM?

1. _____ (**enter year-4-digits e.g. "1999" or "2004"**)

Skip if n=1 in Q13.

Q15. In what year did you submit your most recent application for a Survey Collection permit to the BLM?

1. _____ (**enter year-4-digits e.g. "1999" or "2004"**)

Q16. Have any of your Survey Collection permit applications been denied by the BLM?
Interviewer: If needed: This is different from withdrawing a permit application.

1. No
2. **If Yes** → Q16a. How many Survey Collection applications have been denied?
 _____ (total denied)

Skip if n=1 in Q13

Q17. Over the time that you have been applying for the BLM paleontology permits, has the application process for Survey Collection permits become ...

1. Easier
2. Stayed the same or
3. Become more difficult
4. I do not have experience overtime. e.g. I have had only 1 permit. **(Do not read)**
5. Don't know
6. Refused

Q18. Now I'm going to read some statements about the Survey Collection permit application process. Please rate each statement on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being the lowest rating and 5 being the highest rating. Overall, how would you rate ... **Interviewer: After R gives 1st rating, confirm rating as "high," "medium," "low" to be sure they understand the scale**

How would you rate...	Lowest 1	2	Medium 3	4	Highest 5	DK / Refused	N/A
18a. The ease of obtaining the application?							
18b. The clarity of the instruction to complete the application?							
18c. Locating information necessary to complete your application?							
18d. Communication from the BLM staff regarding your application?							
18e. The timeliness of the application processing?							

18f. How long, on average, has it taken to have your survey collection permit applications processed? **Interviewer: If respondent provides a range, record the range and also probe for an average. For example: "between one week and six months."**

Now I'd like to know if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Q19. The BLM Survey Collection paleontology permit application process is more difficult than it needs to be. Would you say you agree or disagree with this statement?

1. Agree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree or disagree (neutral)
4. Don't know
5. Refused

Q20. Survey Collection permit applications are processed in a fair and unbiased manner. Would you say you agree or disagree with this statement?

1. Agree → *Skip to Q21*
2. Disagree → *Go to Q20a*
3. Neither agree or disagree (neutral) → *Skip to Q21*
4. Don't know → *Skip to Q21*
5. Refused → *Skip to Q21*

Q20a. Why do you disagree ?

SLSC PERMIT REPORTING

Q21. Now, thinking about the BLM reporting requirements for Survey Collection permits, please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements. The reporting requirements (are):

The reporting requirements:	Agree	Disagree	Neither Agree/Disagree	DK / Refused	N/A
Q21a. Are clear and understandable?					
Q21b. Provide a workable timeframe for reporting?					
Q21c. Are applied in a standard and consistent manner across the BLM offices?					

Q22. Thinking about the Surface Collection permit reports themselves, do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Agree	Disagree	Neither Agree/Disagree	DK / Refused	N/A
Q22a. Survey Collection reports are read and reviewed by the BLM staff.					
Q22b. Survey Collection report authors are provided feedback by the BLM staff.					

EXCAVATION PERMITS

Now I am going to ask you about excavation permits.

Q23. Of all of the permit applications that you've submitted, how many of your applications were for Excavation permits? **Interviewer: *If necessary, Excavation permits are issued for the collection of vertebrate fossils where surface disturbance exceeds the limits permissible for the survey and limited surface collection work, that is, for surface disturbance greater than 1 square meter.***

1. _____ (total excavation)
2. If none → ***Skip to Q35***

Q24. In what year did you submit your ("***first***" – ***if more than 1***) application for an excavation permit to the BLM?

1. _____ (***enter year-4-digits e.g. "1999" or "2004"***)

Skip if n=1 in Q23

Q25. In what year did you submit your **most recent** application for an excavation permit to the BLM?

1. _____ (***enter year-4-digits e.g. "1999" or "2004"***)

Q26. Have any of your Excavation permit applications been denied? **Interviewer: *If needed: This is different from withdrawing a permit application.***

1. No
2. Yes → Q26a. ***How many?*** _____ (total denied)

Skip if n=1 in Q23

Q27. Over the time that you have been applying for the BLM paleontology permits, has the application process for Excavation permits become ...

1. Easier
2. Stayed the same or
3. Become more difficult
4. I do not have experience overtime. e.g. I have had only 1 permit. **(Do not read)**
5. Don't know
6. Refused

Q28. Now I'm going to read some statements about the excavation permit application process. Please rate each statement on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being the lowest rating and 5 being the highest rating. Overall, how would you rate ... **Interviewer: After R gives 1st rating, confirm rating as "high," "medium," "low" to be sure they understand the scale**

How would you rate...	Lowest 1	2	Medium 3	4	Highest 5	DK / Refused	N/A
Q28a. The ease of obtaining the application form?							
Q28b. The clarity of the instruction to complete the application form?							
Q28c. Locating information necessary to complete your application form?							
Q28d. Communication from the BLM staff regarding your application form?							
Q28e. The timeliness of the application processing?							

28f. On the average, about how long has it taken to have your excavation permit applications processed? **Interviewer: If respondent provides a range, record the range and probe for an average. For example: "between one week and six months."**

Now I'd like to know if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Q29. The Excavation permit application process is more difficult than it needs to be.

1. Agree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree or disagree (neutral)
4. Don't know
5. Refused

Q30. Excavation permit applications are processed in a fair and unbiased manner.

1. Agree → *Skip to Q31*
2. Disagree → *Go to Q30a.*
3. Neither agree or disagree (neutral) → *Skip to Q31*
4. Don't know → *Skip to Q31*
5. Refused → *Skip to Q31*

Q30a. Why do you disagree ?

Q31. Now, have you ever experienced a site being vandalized while your application to work on the site was being processed by the BLM?

1. Yes → *Go to 31a*
2. No → *Skip to Q32*
3. Don't know → *Skip to Q32*
4. Refused → *Skip to Q32*

Q31a. Can you describe the vandalism that occurred?

Q31b. Did you, or someone else report it? (**circle one**) **Yes**
No

Q31c. Was there any action taken on the part of the BLM? If yes, please describe

EXCAVATION PERMIT REPORTING

Q32. Now thinking about reporting requirements for Excavation permits, please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements. The Excavation reporting requirements (are):

The Excavation reporting requirements...	Agree	Disagree	Neither Agree/Disagree	DK / Refused	N/A
Q32a. Are clear and understandable.					
Q32b. Provide a workable timeframe for reporting.					
Q32c. Are applied in a standard and consistent manner across the BLM offices.					

Q33. What about the Excavation permit reports themselves? Do you agree or disagree with the two following statements:

	Agree	Disagree	Neither Agree/Disagree	DK / Refused	N/A
Q33a. Excavation reports are read and reviewed by the BLM staff.					
Q33b. Excavation report authors are provided feedback by the BLM staff.					

FOR R'S WHO'VE HAD BOTH SLSC(SURVEY) & EXCAVATION PERMITS

[If respondent has experience w/ BOTH Survey and Excavation permits]

If not → Skip to Q35

Q34. Do you notice a difference in the processing of Survey Collection permits as compared to Excavation permits?

1. Yes → *Go to Q34a*
2. No → *Skip to Q35*
3. Don't know → *Skip to Q35*
4. Refused → *Skip to Q35*

Q34a. *[IF YES to Q34]* Overall, which applications get processed more quickly?

1. Survey Collection permits (SLSC) → *Go to Q 34a1.*
2. Excavation → *Go to Q 34a1.*
3. Neither (about the same) → *Skip to Q34b.*
4. Don't know → *Skip to Q3b.*
5. Refused → *Skip to Q34b*

Q34a1. *[IF 1 or 2 in Q34a] Please explain:*

Q34b. *[IF YES to Q34]* Overall, which applications get processed most objectively?

1. Survey Collection permits (SLSC) → *Go to Q 34b1.*
2. Excavation → *Go to Q 34b1.*
3. Neither (about the same) → *Skip to Q35*
4. Don't know → *Skip to Q35*
5. Refused → *Skip to Q35*

Q34b1. *[IF 1 or 2 in Q34b] Please explain:*

PERMIT CLAIMS AND SPACE ISSUES

The next set of questions has to do with permit claims and space issues.

Q35. Have you ever experienced other paleontologists receiving permits to work on lands in the same area or in close proximity to where you were working?

1. Yes → *Go to Q35_1*
2. No → *Skip to Q 37*
3. Don't know → *Skip to Q 37*
4. Refused → *Skip to Q 37*

Q35_1. *[If yes Q35]* Was it a Survey or Excavation permit?

1. Survey → *Go to Q37*
2. Excavation → *Go to Q35a*
3. Both Survey & Excavation → *Go to Q35a*
4. Don't know → *Skip to Q37*
5. Refused → *Skip to Q37*

Q35a. [If “Excavation” or “Both” in Q35_1.] How would you rate the process by which the Excavation permits for the same area or in close proximity were awarded? Would you say the process was ... **Interviewer: Read list.**

- 1. Very fair → *Skip to Q35b*
- 2. Somewhat fair → *Skip to Q35b*
- 3. Not very fair or → *Go to Q35a1*
- 4. Not fair at all → *Go to Q35a1*
- 5. Don’t know → *Skip to Q35b*
- 6. Refused → *Skip to Q35b*

Q35a1. [IF “not very or not fair at all” in Q35a] Please explain.

Q35b. [If “Excavation” or “Both” in Q35_1] Did you experience any problems with working with different Excavation permit holders on a location with more than 1 permit?

- 1. Yes → *Go to Q35b1*
- 2. No → *Skip to Q36*
- 3. Don’t know → *Skip to Q36*
- 4. Refused → *Skip to Q36*

[IF yes Q35b] Q35b1. What were those problems? Please explain.

Q36. In the future, do you think permitting claim disputes should be resolved by

...

Interviewer: Read list

- 1. The BLM staff
- 2. The permittees themselves
- 3. The BLM staff in collaboration with the permit holders of the site
- 4. A team of paleontologists, or by
- 5. Someone else → Q36a. Who would that be?

- 6. Don’t know
- 7. Refused

REPOSITORIES

Now I have a few questions about repositories.

Q37. The BLM permit application process requires that a repository for collections be identified. How difficult has it been for you to find repositories for your collections? Would you say it's been....

Interviewer: Read list

1. Very difficult
2. Somewhat difficult
3. Somewhat easy or
4. Very easy
5. Don't know
6. Refused

Q38. The BLM has taken responsibility for creating repositories in the Dolores, Colorado and the Billings, Montana area for cultural and archaeological materials. Would you like to see the BLM create more repositories for the work of paleontologists or, is this something the BLM should not be concerned with?

1. BLM should create more repositories
2. Something the BLM should not be concerned with
3. Change the repository requirements (*Do not read, select only if the R has offered*)
4. Other Q38a.

-
5. Don't know
 6. Refused

Q39. Do you think the BLM does an excellent job, good, fair, or poor job of evaluating repositories for accreditation purposes?

1. An excellent job → *Skip to Q40*
2. A good job → *Skip to Q40*
3. A fair job → *Go to Q39a*
4. A poor job → *Go to Q39a*
5. Don't know → *Go to Q39a*
6. Refused → *Skip to Q40*

[IF 3-5 "Fair job," "Poor job" or "Don't know" in Q39] → Q39a. Why do you feel this way?

FEEDBACK AND RESPONSE OF BLM IN PALEONTOLOGY

Q40. Have you ever, in the past, provided feedback to the BLM about the paleontology permitting process?

Note: This does not include the recent focus groups conducted by the Social Research Laboratory.

- 1. Yes
- 2. No → *Skip to Q41*
- 3. Don't know → *Skip to Q41*
- 4. Refused → *Skip to Q41*

Q40a. *[IF YES Q40]* Did you provide that feedback in-person, electronically, by the telephone or in a letter format? *Interviewer: Probe for more than one, circle all that apply.*

- 1. In-person
- 2. Electronically
- 3. Telephone
- 4. Letter format
- 5. Don't know
- 6. Refused

Q40b. Was the person you contacted at the Field (Local) Office or State Office level?

- 1. Field (local)
- 2. State
- 3. Both
- 4. Don't know
- 5. Refused

Q40c. Did you receive a satisfactory response to your feedback? *[Open-ended; record verbatim]*

Q41. In your opinion, what is the **ONE best** improvement the BLM should make to the paleontology permitting process? *[Open-ended; record ONE best improvement, verbatim]*

Q42. Do you have any other comments that you would like to share with the BLM regarding the paleontology permitting process?

DEMOGRAPHICS

Now, just a few more questions so we can classify your answers.

D1. What state do you consider as your residence? _____

D2. In what state do you do **most** of your paleontology work? _____

D3. What is the highest degree that you've either earned, or are seeking? **Interviewer: Confirm they've "earned" or "seeking."**

1. Earned a Master's degree
2. Earned a Ph.D.
3. Seeking a Master's Degree
4. Seeking a Ph.D.
5. Don't know / Refused

D4. What is the specific field of your (Master's/Ph.D.)?

D5. Are you currently employed or enrolled at a university, a museum, a private company, as an independent consultant or something else? **Interviewer: Circle all that apply.**

1. University (student/employee)
2. Museum
3. Private company
4. Independent consultant
5. Something else What would that be?

D5a. _____

6. Refused

D6. How many years have you worked as a paleontologist? *Interviewer: Was this work performed as a paid professional, a student, a volunteer, or in some other capacity? Record number of years in each.*

1. Paid professional _____
2. Student work _____
3. Volunteer work _____
4. Other _____

D7. Would you be willing to have a BLM staff person contact you in the future to further discuss your experiences with the BLM permitting process? **(circle one)**

Yes No

If No in D7 → Skip

If Yes, what would be the best way for the BLM staff to contact you?

→ Fill in contact information from respondent.

Name

Phone(s)

Email(s)

Address(es)

Other

Those are all the questions that I have for you. Thank you very much for your time. Goodbye!

(END CALL)

Interviewer: complete info about the R below:

D8. Respondent's gender?

1. Female
2. Male
3. Don't know/refused

D9. In your opinion, how engaged was the respondent?

1. Very engaged
2. Somewhat engaged
3. Somewhat unengaged
4. Very unengaged
5. Don't know

D10. Interviewer: Do you have any other comments that seem important regarding the interview?
