Protecting the Past
For the Future

Important fossils and artifacts have been found by volunteers and hobbyists. By reporting their discoveries to the proper authorities, these people have helped museums and government agencies preserve and protect these pieces of Alaska's past. However, in other instances we have lost valuable information and a part of our national heritage because non-permitted fossil and artifact hunters removed and sold their finds, or put them in private collections — all of which are illegal activities.

By understanding the laws governing and protecting fossils and artifacts, we can ensure that present and future visitors will have an opportunity to make discoveries. Enjoy the ancient wonders as you explore your public lands. But remember — these Fragments of the Past are for all visitors to find and appreciate.

Laws Protecting Artifacts and/or Fossils
Alaska State Statute AS 41.35

Fossils & Artifacts
Collecting in Alaska

For more information contact your local agencies:

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 West 7th Ave., #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7504
(907) 271-5960

Anchorage
BLM Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 267-1232

Glennallen
BLM Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, AK 99588
(907) 822-3217

Fairbanks
BLM Fairbanks & Arctic District Offices
222 University Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3816
(907) 474-2200

Nome
BLM Nome Field Station
P.O. Box 952
Nome, AK 99762
(907) 443-2177

State of Alaska
Office of History & Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-8700

BLM Alaska Public Information Center (Public Room)
www.blm.gov/media/public-room/alaska

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLIC)
www.alaskacenters.gov

BLM Paleontology
www.blm.gov/programs/cultural-resources/paleontology

Edmontosaurus
- Late Cretaceous, 68-72 million years old
- Colville River, Alaska

What is legal.
What is not.

This brochure is a cooperative effort of the BLM and the State of Alaska, partners in the protection of archaeological sites and areas where fossils are found.

BLM/AK/G1-96/002+8152+930 REV2018
More than 65 million years ago, dinosaurs lived in parts of Alaska, including the North Slope above today’s Arctic Circle. Dinosaur remains in Alaska—teeth, bones, footprints, and skin impressions—have been discovered only in the last few decades. Traces of other prehistoric animals and plants, including bones and tusks from Ice Age mammoths and mastodons, are found throughout much of the state.

Over 10,000 years ago, people hunted and gathered food in Alaska. They traveled widely in search of plants and game in seasonal cycles that have continued in some areas to the present day. Stone tools, pottery fragments, house remains, and other artifacts of everyday life bear witness to their presence in Alaska’s unwritten past.

Over 250 years ago, the first non-Natives came to coastal Alaska. They were followed by miners, military personnel, settlers, and others. Today, remnants of log buildings and mining camps, plus bottles, tin cans, and other remains left behind are evidence of this pioneering past. These artifacts help define Alaska’s unique past and are protected from removal by state and federal laws.