

## Curation of Paleontological Resources

OPLA-PRP requires that paleontological resources collected under a permit remain United States property and must be preserved for the public in an approved repository, to be made available for scientific research and public education.

## Confidentiality of Locality Data

In order to protect the resource from theft and vandalism, OPLA-PRP requires that the nature and location of paleontological resources on public lands be kept confidential.

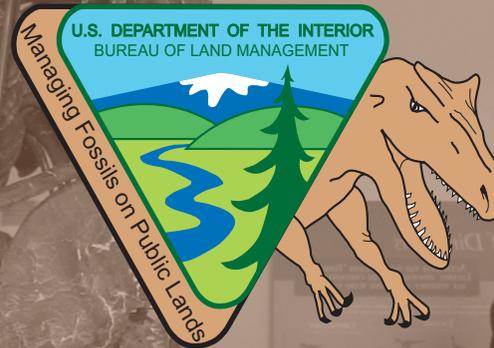
## Prohibited Acts and Penalties

Theft and vandalism to publicly owned paleontological resources results in a loss to all of the people of the United States. Civil penalties include fines based on value of the paleontological resource, and damage to the fossil as well as to the land. Criminal penalties include imprisonment up to 5 years or fines, or both.

Regulations:

**BLM is currently developing regulations to implement the OPLA-PRP.**

P.L. 111-11, Title VI, Subtitle D,  
Sections 6301–6312, 123 Stat. 1172,  
16 U.S.C. 470aaa



**The full text of the OPLA-PRP is available at:**

[www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/Paleontology.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/cultural/Paleontology.html)

**For more information visit:**  
[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

# A New Paleontology Law

## Paleontological Resources

## Preservation under the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009

**Bureau  
of  
Land Management**



# Paleontological Resources Preservation

*By passing the Omnibus Public Lands Act, Paleontological Resources Preservation subtitle (OPLA-PRP), Congress has recognized the value of paleontological resources on public lands as a natural and irreplaceable part of America's heritage.*

## What is a Paleontological Resource?

OPLA-PRP defines a paleontological resource as: any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth.

## Public Awareness and Education

Programs to increase public awareness about the significance of paleontological resources are required under OPLA-PRP. The BLM will establish opportunities and update existing programs to offer more information about paleontological resources on public lands.

## Management of Paleontological Resources

Under OPLA-PRP, paleontological resources must be managed and preserved on public land using scientific principles and expertise. Appropriate plans must be developed for inventory, monitoring, and the scientific and educational use of paleontological resources. In the BLM, management of these resources will emphasize interagency coordination and collaborative efforts with partners, the scientific community, and the general public.

## Do I need a Permit to Collect Paleontological Resources?

A paleontological resource use permit is required to collect paleontological resources of scientific interest. Collections made under a paleontological resource use permit remain the property of the United States and will be preserved for the public in an approved repository, to be made available for scientific research and public education.

## What about Hobby Collecting?

Casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils will continue to be allowed without a permit for noncommercial personal use. Check with local BLM offices for specific areas that are identified for hobby collecting.

