

**Appendix D**

**BLM PALEONTOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION**

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## BLM: CONDITIONS 1–3

Paleontological resource classification is a ranking of areas according to their potential to contain vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils. These rankings are used in land use planning, as well as to identify areas that may warrant special management or special designation, such as ACECs. BLM (1998b) classifies public lands on the basis of the potential for paleontological “areas” to contain noteworthy occurrences of fossils by using the following criteria:

- **Condition 1.** Areas that are known to contain vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils. Consideration of paleontological resources will be necessary if the field office review of available information indicates that such fossils are present in the area.
- **Condition 2.** Areas with exposures of geological units or settings that have high potential to contain vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils. The presence of geologic units from which such fossils have been recovered elsewhere may require further assessment of these same units where they are exposed in the area of consideration.
- **Condition 3.** Areas that are very unlikely to produce vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils on the basis of their surficial geology, igneous or metamorphic rocks, extremely young alluvium, colluvium, or eolian deposits or the presence of deep soils. However, if possible, it should be noted at what depth bedrock may be expected in order to determine whether fossiliferous deposits may be uncovered during surface-disturbing activities.

Either Condition 1 or 2 may trigger the initiation of a formal analysis of existing data prior to the authorization of land use actions involving surface disturbance or transfer of title. Condition 3 suggests that further paleontological consideration is generally unnecessary.

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