

Table 2.1.11 Proposed RMP and Alternatives – Paleontology Resources

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PROPOSED RMP	Alternative A (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D Current Management (No Action)	Alternative E
PALEONTOLOGY RESOURCES					
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
Locate, evaluate, and manage paleontological resources, and protect them where appropriate. Facilitate suitable scientific, educational, and recreational uses of fossils. Ensure that significant fossils are not inadvertently damaged, destroyed, or removed from public ownership as a result of surface disturbance or land exchanges. Foster public awareness and appreciation of the area's paleontological heritage.					
MANAGEMENT COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational collectors may collect and retain reasonable amounts of common invertebrate and plant fossils for personal, non-commercial use. Surface disturbance must be negligible, and mechanized tools may not be used. Vertebrate fossils may be collected only under a permit issued to qualified individuals. Vertebrate fossils include bones, teeth, eggs, and other body parts of animals with backbones such as dinosaurs, fish, turtles, and mammals. Vertebrate fossils also include trace fossils, such as footprints, burrows and dung. Fossils collected under a permit remain the property of the federal government and must be placed in a suitable repository (such as a museum or university) identified at the time of permit issuance. Lands identified for disposal or exchange would be evaluated to determine whether such actions would remove significant fossils from federal ownership. In areas where surface disturbance, either initiated by the BLM or by other land users, may threaten significant fossils, the BLM would follow its policy (see Manual and Handbook 8270-1) to assess any threat and mitigate damage. The BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-009, Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) System for Paleontological Resources on Public Lands, dated October 15, 2007, revised the classification system of Handbook 8270-1. The BLM would work with local communities, interest groups, individuals, and other agencies to enhance the public's understanding and enjoyment of paleontological resources. Where scientifically significant fossils are threatened by natural hazards or unauthorized collection, the BLM would work with permittees and other partners to salvage specimens and reduce future threats to resources at risk. Implement regular patrols as feasible to protect areas where unauthorized use may occur. Modify the existing General Agreement between the VFO, the NPS, the Vernal Field House of Natural History, and the Friends of Paleontology Chapter to encourage protection of paleontological resources planning-area wide. The modified agreement would ensure proper storage and curation of paleontological resources and include methods to promote interpretation and education. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas with significant fossils would be identified through predictive modeling and broad-scale sampling. Assessment and mitigation would be required as needed in these areas. 	Same as the Proposed RMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to significant fossils would be prevented through lease notices, stipulations, and other requirements. Impacts would be mitigated in response to reports of finds 	Same as Alternative A, but would require assessment and mitigation in all Class 4 or Class 5 areas and in Class 3 areas as needed	Assessment of fossil resources would be required on a case-by-case basis; mitigation would be required as necessary before and/or during surface disturbance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas with significant fossils would be identified through predictive modeling and broad-scale sampling. Assessment and mitigation in all Class 4 or Class 5 areas and in Class 3 areas would be applied as needed.
Information on fossils and collecting rules would be provided to public through websites, publications, and personal contacts.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as Alternative D.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest groups and public land users would be contacted to provide information about fossils and appropriate uses. Class 4 or Class 5 areas that receive high levels of development or visitor use would be identified and monitored. 	Reports of theft or damage to fossil resources would be responded to.	Same as Alternative C.
Written and web-based information would be provided about fossils, hobby collecting, and local interpretive sites to promote visitor education.	Written and web-based information would be provided about fossils, hobby collecting, and local interpretive sites.	Same as Alternative D.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New websites and publications would be developed and maintained to promote visitor education. The BLM would assist in development of local museum exhibits on paleontology. 	Written information about fossils and hobby fossil collecting would be provided.	Same as Alternative C.
Paleontological Resources Use permits would be issued for scientific study, promoting or supporting investigations in poorly known areas.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as Alternative D.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paleontological Resources Use permits would be issued for scientific study, promoting or supporting investigations in poorly known areas. The BLM would support investigations in lesser-known areas and in areas where surface disturbance is occurring or anticipated. 	Paleontological Resource Use permits for scientific study would be issued.	Same as Alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils would be allowed for personal, non-commercial use. Areas for hobby collection would be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils would be allowed for personal, non-commercial use. Areas for hobby collection would be 	Same as Alternative D.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils for personal, non-commercial use would be allowed.	Same as the Proposed RMP.

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identified, publicized, and monitored. • Areas with rare and significant invertebrate and plant fossils would be closed to hobby collection.	identified, publicized, and monitored.				
Permit excavation of fossils in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Unspecified in the Draft EIS.	Unspecified in the Draft EIS.	Unspecified in the Draft EIS.	Unspecified in the current management plans.	Same as the Proposed RMP.