

PALEONTOLOGY REQUIREMENTS  
WHEN WORKING ON  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)  
AND  
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

The purpose of this page is to transfer information regarding paleontological (dinosaur) policy on lands owned by the BLM and USFS. Under policy, practices installed on Class 3 or higher lands may require a professional paleontological survey prior to installation of the practice. Land classifications are based on geological units, topography, outcrops, elevation changes, slope, etc. Maps are not yet available; however when they do become available, they are for information purposes only. The need for a paleontological survey will be made by the Federal land owning agency, not the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Whenever NRCS plans to install a practice on BLM or USFS lands, a Paleontological Assessment must be acquired from a BLM Archaeologist or USFS Geologist. Whether the field office goes directly to the archaeologist/geologist or through a range conservationist or other Federal staff, will be decided locally. NRCS needs to make sure that the archaeologist/geologist has seen the project and provided an assessment. If a Professional Survey is required, contact the NRCS Archaeologist in the state office who will help facilitate scheduling of the paleontologist.

The archaeologist/geologist will need a map of the proposed practice location. Upon review, a written (email or paper) statement on the need or not for a professional paleontological survey should be returned to NRCS for placement in the file. BE AWARE that the paleontological assessment does not replace the requirement for an archaeological survey. When working on Federal lands, both an archaeological survey and a paleontological assessment must be completed. If a professional paleontological survey is required, practice implementation cannot occur until an okay has been received from the BLM or USFS.