

You Mean We Are Partners?

Working with repositories to preserve
national paleontological heritage

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Am I working with partners?

- Entire Paleontology Program is based upon partnerships
- This is not a specific case study, but an overview of the program's need for strong partnerships
- Discuss historic context for partnerships



Am I working with the BLM?

- How the BLM is currently working to strengthen partnerships
- (In extreme cases) Educating partners that they are in partnership with us
- What are the challenges



Welcome ideas . . .

Background

- BLM manages 247 million acres of public land
- Much of the land is prime fossil land



Background



Background—Prior to 2009

- Early authority to manage fossils vague
- Managing and permitting for archaeological resources has longer history
- Consistent permitting for paleontology resources since the 1980s in BLM
- Education about the need for permits grew through the 1990s



PALEONTOLOGICAL
RESOURCE USE
PERMITS

Wild, wild west



BLM Depends Upon Partners

- Resources collected from federal lands remains federal property
- BLM does not maintain any collection facilities for fossils
- All federal fossils are stored in non-federal repositories (museums)



What is a repository?



What is a repository?

- Museums/universities typically
- Catalogue, clean, store fossils for
 - Research
 - Education
- Not a small commitment of resources keeping fossils in trust in perpetuity
- Serve a vital role in preserving our national natural heritage



PALEONTOLOGY
NEWS

Changes

- Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) 2009

“...manage and protect paleontological resources on Federal land using scientific principles and expertise.”



Challenges

- BLM has ~11,600 permanent employees
 - 7 are professional paleontologists
- Now legislatively mandates involvement in the fossil management
- Education of peers
 - Reaching out to museums with known collections
 - Inventorying and accounting for fossils collected in the past
 - Regulations will apply to ALL fossil resources

Vertebrate, Invertebrate, Plants



Past management focused on vertebrates, but now all fossil resources are to be managed

Challenges

- Education of peers
 - Outreach through professional organizations/meetings
 - Clarifying permit process and requirements
- Firming up existing partnerships
 - We are in this together
 - They need to understand we have an interest in fossil management in their collections
 - We need to be sensitive to their concern (illusion) about loss of control



Tools

- Permits, stipulations
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Current tool to open dialogue
 - Non-binding
 - Outlines mutual roles and responsibilities
 - Justify continued investment of resources by facility
 - Financial assistance from BLM

Partnerships—40 Museums

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
American Museum of Natural History
Burke Museum of Natural and Cultural History
Burpee Museum of Natural History
Carnegie Museum of Natural History
Carter County Museum
Cincinnati Museum Center
Concordia College Biology Department
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Dinosaur Discovery Museum--Kenosha Public
Museums
Duke University
Emporia State University
Field Museum of Natural History
Houston Museum of Natural Sciences
Idaho Museum of Natural History
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
Milwaukee Public Museum
Museum of the Rockies
New Jersey State Museum
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
North Dakota State Fossil Collection
Peabody Museum of Natural History
Pioneer Trails Regional Museum
Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology
Saint Louis Science Center
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
Science Museum of Minnesota

Sheridan College Geology Museum
Sierra College Natural History Museum
Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Spokane Falls Community College
Tate Geological Museum
University of California Museum of Paleontology
University of Kansas Natural History Museum
University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology
University of Montana Geosciences Paleontology Center
University of Notre Dame
University of Wisconsin Madison Geology Museum
Virginia Museum of Natural History

Museums confirmed to
have BLM fossils from
Montana/Dakotas

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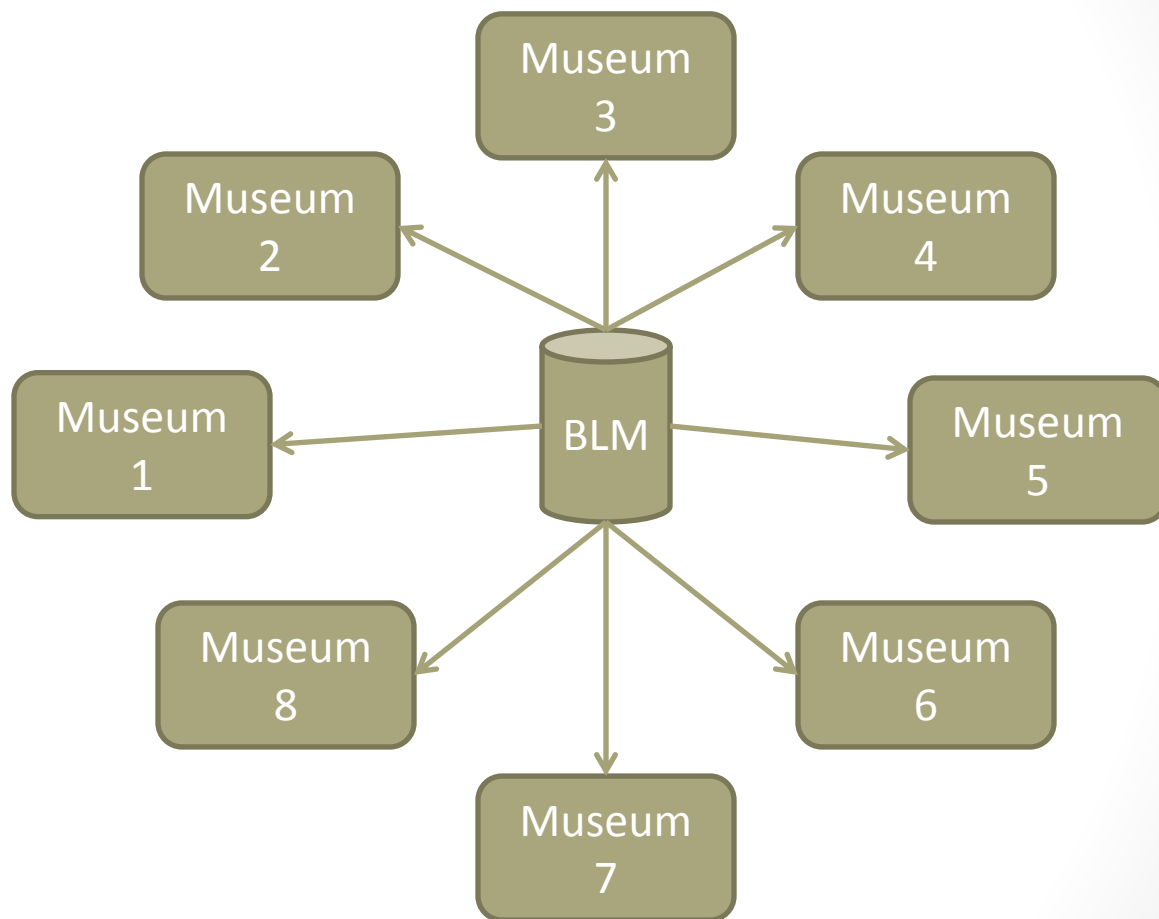
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Museums with current
MOU with BLM-MT

Challenge of current system

- Very labor intensive
- Each museum has its own culture, history, traditions to recognize
- Still a small program with few people, so the future is full of promise



Working together

