



Deadline for public comments on “The Rule”

Monday, February 6, 2017

**Have your say about hobby collecting of
fossils • rocks • minerals**

A Proposed Rule for Paleontological Resources Preservation

The “Elephant Knees” above the Mud Hills, Fish Creek, Carrizo Badlands, Anza Borrego State Park.
Art based on a photo by Andrew Hoekstra.

JOIN THE EFFORT TO PRESERVE HOBBY COLLECTING ON PUBLIC LANDS

Sign onto the comment letter
prepared by Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS)
(this is not a boilerplate/form letter! please do not duplicate it)

What we are asking you to do (3 easy steps):

1. Download the current draft of the comment letter by Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS) from the SDMG website at:
http://www.sdmg.org/blmdocs/PRPA_comment_draft.pdf
2. Take the SCPS letter to your board for approval ASAP.
3. Upon approval, email Karol McQueary (socalpaleo@yahoo.com) your club contact info to add to the letter:
 - Club/org/school name
 - Officer name and title (usually club president)
 - Number of members in your club
 - Club mailing address

***SCPS comment letter on the Proposed Rule under the PRPA
benefits the entire community
of hobby fossil collectors & rockhounds***

Lisbet Thoresen editor@sdmg.org

Public Lands Representative for San Diego Mineral & Gem Society (SDMG)

Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS) has prepared a detailed comment letter on the Proposed Rule under the **Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA)**. SDMG and CFMS are lending our support to SCPS and its president, **Karol McQueary**, who has taken the lead on drafting the letter.

Because the Proposed Rule will affect hobby collecting of fossils and rocks and minerals everywhere, we are helping SCPS, and we have been reaching out to other AFMS federations and their clubs to ask them to sign onto the SCPS letter.

***The intent of the original call to action
appears to need clarification***

We appreciate the positive response so far. However, it seems that some clubs are using the SCPS letter as a boilerplate or form letter to submit it as their own under their letterhead. I am asking for your help to reach constituents in your federation to clarify the objective of distributing the SCPS letter. It is not a boilerplate/form letter. We regret any misunderstanding on this point.

Karol McQueary, with input from members of CFMS-affiliated clubs, invested considerable effort and many hours crafting a detailed letter. The purpose of distributing the SCPS letter is to obtain as many club and federation signatures as possible onto the SCPS letter in order to lend authority to it. We are collaborating because we agree this is the best way to be effective with a comment letter.

***A proven model
for an effective comment letter***

The campaign seeking your support for the SCPS letter is modeled after the letter submitted to the San Bernardino County Supervisors encouraging them to deny a permit for the Soda Mountain Solar Project. It was signed by one author and had 70 scientists as signatories. Not 70 letters. One effective, well-written letter signed by many. The permit was denied. Let's learn the useful lessons of others who have been successful.

We agree with **Mike Hunerlach**, geologist, ret., 35 years with USFS and BLM, and currently CFMS PLAC-

Central Chair, who has advised us that one authority letter with many signatories is critically important. Individual form-type letters are counter-productive.

To the extent that you may be aware of the SCPS letter, we ask for your support encouraging recipients to please respect our intent by sharing the SCPS letter. We respectfully ask your federation board and affiliate clubs to sign onto this letter, please don't duplicate it.

Boilerplate/form letters are unhelpful

Anyone who uses the SCPS letter as a boilerplate and then submits it separately will dilute the hard work that went into crafting it. All the letters, including Karol's original SCPS letter, will effectively negate all her hard work. The effectiveness of all the variant form letters will be likewise diluted. Anyone who does not agree with this opinion should craft their own original letter.

***A lot of unique, personal
letters is a good thing!***

We do not want to discourage anyone or any group/club from submitting individual letters. Certainly, if someone does not agree with us that one authority letter with many signatories is not as effective as many letters, then by all means clubs or individuals who wish to write their own letters should prepare their own separate letter written in their own words (changing a few sentences is plagiarism, it will be perceived by the Department of the Interior as a form letter, and most important, minor variations will undercut the SCPS letter, which is very disheartening).

If you would like to write your own letter, check out some useful tips and resources at:

www.sdmg.org/blmdocs/PRPA_proposed_rule_flyer.pdf

***Support Rockhounds everywhere
by supporting the SCPS letter
Do it now***

Email **Karol McQueary** at socalpaleo@yahoo.com, and add your club's signature to the letter.

January 9, 2017