

A Proposed Rule under the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA)

**Comment period deadline:
Monday, February 6, 2017**

What's at stake? Hobby collecting fossils • rocks • mineral

If you write your own letter, cite facts targeting exact language in the Proposed Rule
Make your letter personal and unique
– duplicating the content of another comment letter, even if it is modified slightly, is counter-productive
all the letters, including the original, will be put aside.

The Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS) has prepared a formal comment letter on the proposed regulations governing fossil collecting on BLM lands, but individuals are also encouraged to comment, since the number of comments received is an indication of public concern.

If you decide to comment as an individual, you may benefit from reading the regulations and supporting documents, the SCPS draft letter, and other resources listed below.

Current draft of SCPS letter:

http://www.sdmg.org/blmdocs/PRPA_comment_draft.pdf

Make comments or upload a comment letter online:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-29244>

Text of the proposed rule with an explanation of the meaning:

<https://goo.gl/YvaPQ7> (short url)

The Environmental Assessment for the proposed rule:

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/programs_paleontology_quick%20links_BLM%20draft%20EA%20for%20casual%20collection.pdf

The 2009 PRPA law, for which the new rule is proposed:

<https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Paleontological%20Resources%20Preservation%20Act.pdf>

The BLM Paleontology web page, with PRPA fact sheets:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/cultural-resources/paleontology>

The 2015 Forest Service rule, parallel to the BLM proposal:

<https://goo.gl/Y9kaHg> (short url)

FAQ by the Paleontological Society regarding the proposed rule:

<http://www.myfossil.org/faq-from-the-paleontological-society-regarding-the-paleontological-resources-preservation-act/>

Articles by Andrew Hoekstra and by Mike Nelson, in the SDMG bulletin:


<http://www.sdmg.org/peg-online/sdmg-pegmatite-2017-jan.pdf>

Article by Glade Gunther:

<http://www.aaps.net/pdf/Gunther-BLMRuleArticle.pdf>

Commentary by Matt Heaton and others:

<https://www.savefossilcollecting.org/>



**HOW TO COMMENT ON
THE PALEONTOLOGICAL
RESOURCES PRESERVATION ACT
(PRPA) PROPOSED RULE**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
WWW.MYFOSSIL.ORG

FIRST STEPS

Open your web browser and navigate to
www.federalregister.gov
This is where Federal agencies publish documents, including proposed and final rules, public notices, and Presidential actions.

SEARCH FOR IT

Use the search box at the very top of the page OR the search box in the middle of the page (labeled Search All Federal Register Documents Since 1994) for **1093-AA16**, the PRPA's Regulation Identification Number.

CLICK IT

Searching for 1093-AA16 should open a search result with one document. Click on the text that reads "**Paleontological Resources Preservation**," it opens a new page to the proposed rule.

READ IT

The whole document is important, but amateur paleontologists will find **Subparts A, B, D, and I** particularly important to them. Professional paleontologists will find **Subparts B-D and G** of particular interest.

COMMENT ON IT

Comment by clicking on the **dary grey speech bubble on the left hand side of the page** OR the **green "submit a formal comment" button at the top of the page**. Comments that will be of most use are those that present thoughtful and meaningful feedback as to the implications of the proposed rule.

SPREAD THE WORD

The comment period ends **February 6, 2017**. Everyone with an interest in paleontology has a voice in this matter: use yours and encourage others to do the same.

Resource sheet and graphic prepared by A. Hoekstra.
www.myfossil.org
<https://www.facebook.com/TheFossilProject/>

Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM)

Resources for Rockhounds

updated 11/17/2016
(check back frequently)

Public Lands use policy in California and many states throughout the U.S. is being driven by planning efforts of immense complexity and long term consequence. They impact all users concerned about preserving wildlands and access to them.

Download/view articles, reports, PowerPoint presentations (as PDFs) below.

- [SDMG]. 12 November 2016. Call-to-Action flyer: Sign the SDMG-CFS joint comment letter on the Mojave Trails National Monument Management Plan. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/calnatmonuments/mtnm_flyer_v3.pdf.
- L. Thoresen. 12 November 2016. Preserving Rockhounding in Mojave National Trails. Presentation made at the CFMS business meeting held in Visalia, CA. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/calnatmonuments/Thoresen_CFMS_Visalia_201611012.pdf.
- L. Thoresen. 31 October 2016. DAC meeting report: Progress and process on managing desert public lands. www.sdmg.org. Available online at: <http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201610/oct-2016-dac-mtg-report/>.
- San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc. and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. 17 October 2016. Comment letter on San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/blmdocs/SDMG-CFMS_comment_letter_SGMNM_Management_Plan_final.pdf.
- Editor's comment:* This letter will be the template for SDMG-CFMS comment letters, including the MTNM letter. It addresses several key topics: exposition/statement of personal (rockhounding) values; respect and support for BLM/Dept of Interior conservaton values; prescriptive comments targeting specific language in the draft Management Plan; collecting area information (name/site label, collecting material, location). This letter includes maps.
- L. Thoresen. 4 October 2016. Public lands update: Three major land use policy milestones in 2016. www.sdmg.org. Available online at: <http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201610/public-lands-update/>.
- L. Thoresen. 26 September 2016. Rock collecting on public lands in Southern California: An update on land use policy. Presentation at the general meeting of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201609/thoresen_public_land_report_2016_v4.pdf.
- Editor's comment:* This presentation provides background on the significant planning efforts that impact rockhounding as a recreational activity, the "players" and Stakeholders concerned with public access, calls-to-action for rockhounds to provide input on LUPAs (Land Use Plan Amendments), including resources for staying informed, understanding the issues better, and tips on writing an effective comment letter.
- L. Thoresen. 1 June 2016. Report: BLM Field Tour (Lavic Siding) May 20, 2016. *The Pocket Pegmatite*, bulletin of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, June 2016: 7–8. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201606/DAC_field_tour_bus_mtg_2016May20-21.pdf.
- L. Thoresen. 1 June 2016. Report: Desert District Advisory Council Business Meeting – May 21, 2016. *The Pocket Pegmatite*, bulletin of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, June 2016: 10–11. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201606/DAC_field_tour_bus_mtg_2016May20-21.pdf.
- S. Leeson. 29 May 2016. Her Contribution Recognized [Kim Erb, DAC Rockhounding representative, ret.] and Hauser Geode Beds MOU: signed, sealed and delivered. *The Pocket Pegmatite*, bulletin of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, June 2016: 9–10. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201606/DAC_field_tour_bus_mtg_2016May20-21.pdf.
- L. Thoresen. 28 February 2015. The DRECP comment period ended February 23, 2015: What's next? www.sdmg.org. Available online at: <http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201502/drecp-whats-next/>.
- SDMG. 21 February 2015. DRECP comment letter. Available online at: http://www.sdmg.org/sdmg-public/resources/blm-resources/SDMG_DRECP_comment_ltr_20150223.pdf.
- L. Thoresen. 26 January 2015. Storm clouds gather over the California desert. www.sdmg.org. Available online at: <http://www.sdmg.org/articles/201501/storm-clouds-gather-over-the-California-desert/>.