



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Your Public Lands

Greg Liggett BLM Paleontologist

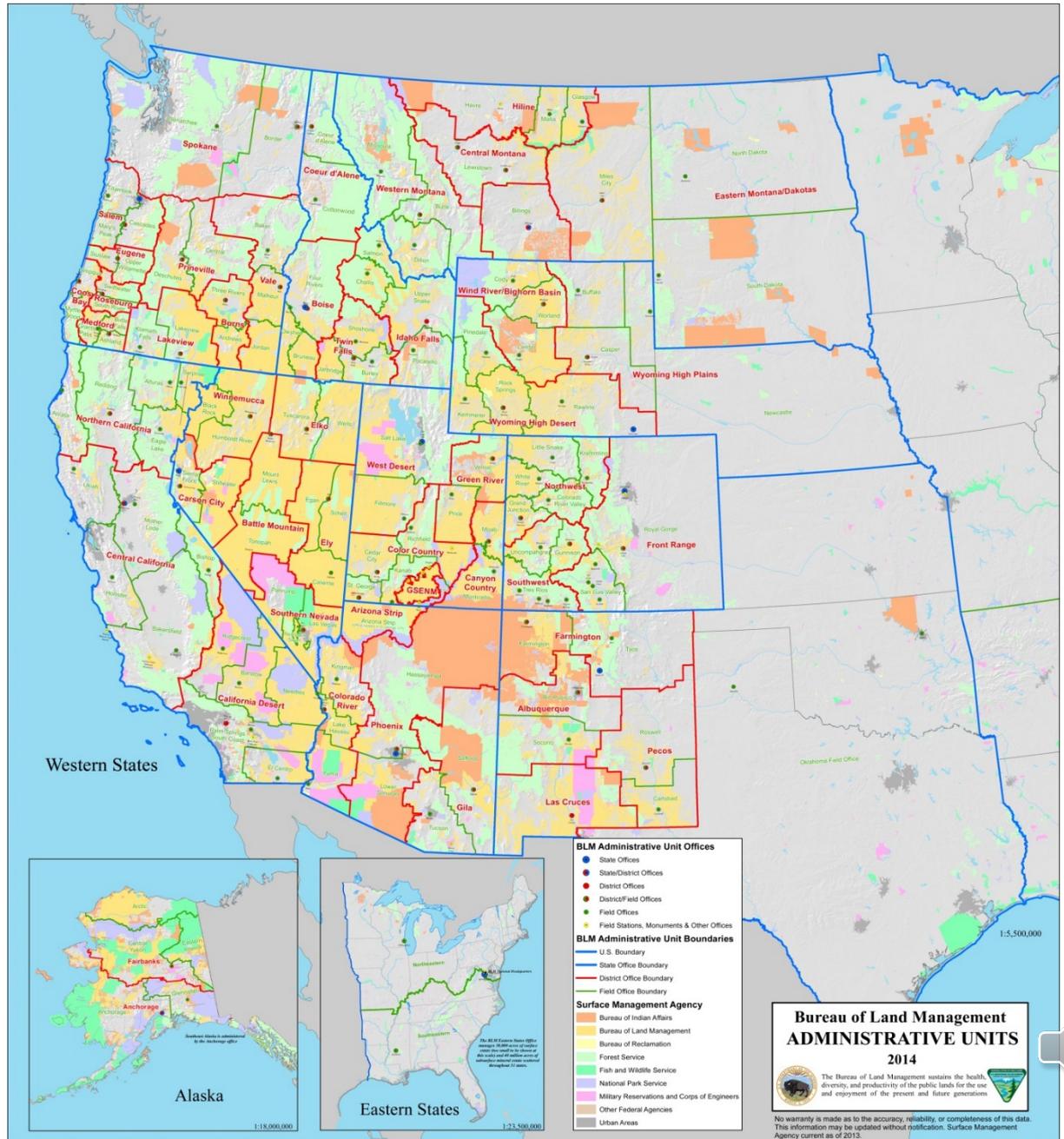






270 Million Surface
Acres

700 Million
Subsurface Acres





BLM Contacts

Contact	States
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There Ought to be a Law...

- Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, 2009





There Ought to be a Law...

Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, 2009

- Manage fossils with scientific principles and expertise
- Establish a program to increase public awareness
- Casual collection of common non-verts and plants is allowed
- Confirms removal without authorization is a crime





There Ought to be a Law...

Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, 2009

- Material collected remains property of the United States
- Fossils shall be deposited in an approved repository
- Prohibited Acts, criminal and civil penalties
- Information on the specific location shall be exempt from disclosure





Localities on BLM

- Public vs. Nonpublic localities
 - *In situ* resources
- The confidentiality clause of PRPA specifically protects these data from a FOIA request





What does confidentiality mean to me?

- How can I as a museum staff member know what I can safely share?
 - Enter into an MOU with BLM
 - Contact your regional person if you have any questions





What does confidentiality mean to me?

- Can museum staff share specific locality data with researchers?
 - Generally, yes, if there is a valid need to know
 - Is important for stratigraphic context
 - They want to revisit site





What does confidentiality mean to me?

- Can I share “obscured” data?
 - Yes. BLM is fine with publicly sharing lat/long data truncated (not rounded) at a single decimal degree
Example 45.4 N, 108.3 W
 - On average in the mid latitudes, this level of precision equals about 6 miles or a township





What does confidentiality mean to me?

- What should I do in my publication?
 - Generalized locality information in paleo papers has been practiced for several decades
 - Note in paper that precise information can be obtained from museum
 - Can use the single decimal degree criterion or cite the PLSS T and R

