

Exploring a Career in the Paleontology Field

Wednesday, 24 April 2019, 11 a.m. MDT

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About the Webinar

Paleontological resources are considered to be non-renewable natural resources that provide direct evidence of ancient life. Paleontologists study these fossil remains and work in a variety of career paths, including academia, museums, secondary education, non-profits, as well as on public lands or as mitigation paleontologists. This webinar will feature two presenters representing mitigation and federal paleontology careers. Speakers will provide information on the typical daily activities, how to prepare for a career in this field (including curriculum, résumé, and interview tips), common career trajectories of the profession, and where to find these career opportunities.

Mitigation paleontologists work on a variety of land, transportation, and energy development projects focusing on the documentation, recovery, and preservation of paleontological resources that are threatened by ground disturbances associated with such development projects. With increased development throughout the western United States, the need for qualified paleontologists in the paleontological mitigation industry has increased steadily over the past twenty years, with employment opportunities expanding in the private environmental consulting industry. Federal paleontologists often work for the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or the Forest Service, and are tasked with a wide varieties of duties. They work to manage and protect fossils using scientific principals and expertise, coordinate and facilitate research, planning and activities with a variety of academic, museum, and educational partners, and increase awareness about the scientific and educational values of fossils.

About the Presenters



ReBecca Hunt-Foster is the new Monument Paleontologist and Museum Curator at Dinosaur National Monument. She was formerly the District Paleontologist for the Canyon Country District of the BLM, located in Moab and paleontology collections manager at the Museum of Western Colorado. ReBecca holds a master of science in geology (emphasizing in vertebrate paleontology) from Texas Tech University, and has a bachelor's of science in earth science from the University of Arkansas. ReBecca has worked as a paleontologist in western Colorado and eastern Utah since 2007.



Mathew Carson is a senior paleontologist at Paleo Solutions Inc. in Los Angeles County, California. Throughout his mitigation paleontology career, he has worked on a variety of energy, transportation, telecommunication, land development, and federal projects throughout the western United States. He holds both a master of science in geology (emphasizing in invertebrate paleontology) and a bachelor of science in geology (specializing in paleobiology) from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. Mathew has worked in the private environmental and paleontological mitigation sector for nearly six years, conducting paleontological analyses as required by various federal, state, and local regulations.

For questions email Tahlia Bear, tbear@geosociety.org

