

BLM Direct Hire Authority for Resource Assistant
Program
Paleontology Projects – Occupational Series 1350

GSA Project ID: 2017662

Project Title: Geology/Paleontology Outreach Resource Assistant

Location: BLM Canyon Country District Office, Utah

Related Degree: Geology/Paleontology/Geography/Geographic Information Science

Project Mentor: ReBecca Hunt-Foster

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Project Description

In 2016 we launched our first year of free guided hikes and talks for visitors to our public paleontological sites. We had a paleontology intern give three guided hikes a week at rotating fossil sites, as well as doing three talks or activities in the early evenings at the Moab Information Center, as well as other scheduled tours and school presentations. These programs allowed for the intern to interact directly with the public, and discuss ways to respect and protect our public lands, as well as educating them about our amazing fossil resources. The development of these types of programs was mandated in the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA), and in 2016 we interacted with over 1300 people.

The goals of this position are to develop educational materials for the public, to lead guided tours and educational presentations for the public about fossil resources. The work will vary from day to day but its focus will be on programs for adults and children, and associated activities. They will also develop and give patio talks to the public at the regional Information Centers and six different guided hikes. Projects may include creating new education and exhibit materials, engaging with the public through onsite tours, and writing exciting content that will interest visitors. Having someone in place from mid-May to mid-September would be key, to interact with visitors during the key visitation times. Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree in geology or biology, preferably with an emphasis in paleontology. Graduate students and recent graduates are welcome to apply. Intern would need to be able to understand the concepts of local geology and paleontology, and be able to convey these to visitors in a clear and concise manner. The participant must be able to work well independently, both in the office and in the field with little supervision

Project Expectations

- Develop paleontology presentations, guided hikes and talks.
- Deliver paleontology presentations, guided hikes and talks.
- In office project wrap up and documentation, product review and completion

BLM Direct Hire Authority for Resource Assistant
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Paleontology Projects – Occupational Series 1350

GSA Project ID: 2017663

Project Title: Geology/Paleontology Education Resource Assistant

Location: BLM Canyon Country District Office, Utah

Related Degree: Geology/Paleontology/Geography/Geographic Information Science/Education

Project Mentor: ReBecca Hunt-Foster

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Project Description

Project Paleontology will use paleontological investigations to foster understanding of the past; improve Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematical (STEAM) education; and increase education to help protect our fossil history. Project Paleontology will include curriculum guides, professional development documents and opportunities for educators, work with local schools and scout groups to develop student opportunities. Using an innovative hands-on approach to learning about the past, Project Paleontology teaches scientific method, along with personal ethics and character. Educational materials developed will align well with Utah Common Core State Standards for grades K through 5 as well as Next Generation Science Standards (Practices).

Goals for this project would be to hire a student or recent graduate with an education background to help develop, test and implement curriculum guides and activities on fossil resources from public lands for local Grand and San Juan County students and educators. Activities would emphasize STEAM education and develop personal responsibility ethics, and would join forces with the local Utah Friends of Paleontology and Moab Festival of Science group to plan events and activities towards end of internship.

Project Expectations

- Learning background information on area fossils and significance, line up meetings and events
- Work with local educators to determine their needs, and develop professional contacts
- Curriculum development
- Curriculum testing and educator professional development opportunity
- Curriculum revising and activity planning
- Curriculum implementation
- Community activities

BLM Direct Hire Authority for Resource Assistant
Program
Paleontology Projects – Occupational Series 1350

GSA Project ID: 2017664

Project Title: Geology/Paleontology Education Resource Assistant

Location: BLM Canyon Country District Office, Utah

Related Degree: Geology/Paleontology/Geography/Geographic Information Science/Education

Project Mentor: ReBecca Hunt-Foster

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Project Description

The Late Jurassic aged Morrison Formation and Early Cretaceous aged Burro Canyon Formation in San Juan County, Utah, are not well known from a stratigraphic and paleontological standpoint, and represent a major transition zone in the local geology of the Colorado Plateau. We propose to have an intern measure stratigraphic sections and work to correlate the local units to better understand the interactions of the different members of these units. These products would help the paleontologist to make better management decisions about the potential fossil yield classification (PFYC) for that area, for inventory and monitoring purposes, as mandated in the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA).

Goals for this project would be to measure sections and correlate the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous units within the focusing on the Black Mesa Butte, Hotel Rock, and No Mans Island Quadrangles, as well as the Big Bench, Blanding South, Recapture Pocket, Bluff, Montezuma Creek and McCracken Springs Quadrangles, which have not previously been correlated. Previously known fossil localities would be monitored and any new sites would be inventoried.

Project Expectations

- Vehicle training, CPR and safety training, acquisition of needed supplies and maps, field orientation with District Paleontologist
- Office visit with the Utah Geological Survey Mapping Division (Tuesday – Thursday, travel Monday and Friday)
- Field Mapping of Black Mesa Butte Quadrangle
- Field Mapping of Hotel Rock Quadrangle
- Field Mapping of No Mans Island Quadrangle
- Field Mapping of Big Bench & Blanding South Quadrangles
- Field Mapping of Recapture Pocket & Bluff Quadrangles
- Field Mapping of Montezuma Creek & McCracken Springs Quadrangles
- In office map work
- Field proofs
- Project write up and completion