

Curation Services Agreement

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Date of Last Revision: 6/3/2024



Conditions of Curation Services Agreement

Curation Services Agreement Submittal

The University of Colorado Museum of Natural History (CUMNH) will accept Curation Services Agreements from qualified researchers (as determined by the CUMNH Paleontology Section) or persons working for cultural, paleontological, and natural resources management companies applying for or renewing a paleontological permit to do work on public lands managed by government agencies. The CUMNH Paleontology Section must have a current, written, and signed agreement from the appropriate government agency to take in specimens collected from those public lands. If part of the principal investigators (PI) project involves private land, then the PI must obtain a signed Deed of Gift from the private landowner before specimens collected from that private land can be accepted. In addition to the Deed of Gift, the PI is encouraged to obtain a signed letter from the private landowner giving permission for the PI to collect on their lands. See CUMNH's Curation Services Agreement Instructions for additional information.

PIs can submit one Curation Services Agreement for all the permits or one for each permit they are obtaining or renewing. PIs should clearly mark which government agency or agencies and permit type or types this Curation Services Agreement is for. The more detailed the project description, the more it will help the CUMNH collection managers and curators determine if they approve of the agreement.

Please allow three weeks for this agreement to be approved and processed.

Submission of Specimens and Materials

The PI may, but is not required to, prepare the specimens before submittal to the CUMNH Paleontology Section. Sediment collected from localities should be screenwashed and fully dried before submittal to the CUMNH Paleontology Section. The PI may, but is not required to, pick the sediment for fossils. See CUMNH's Curation Services Agreement Instructions for additional information regarding fossil preparation and sorting sediment prior to submittal.

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, destructive analysis, CT scanning, 3D scanning, molding and casting, 3D printing, or other research quality imaging and replication of the specimens prior to their submittal is not permitted. Basic images made by the PI of the specimens for documentation, inventory, and/or condition reporting purposes is allowed.

The PI must notify a CUMNH collection manager at least two weeks prior to submitting specimens and materials to the CUMNH. The PI is responsible for all the costs related to the submittal of the specimens and materials. To create a complete accession and catalog record for the specimens, the PI must submit all the items and data as outlined in the CUMNH's Curation Services Agreement Instructions. PIs who submit specimens and material not according to these conditions and instructions may be denied future Curation Services Agreements. PIs are discouraged from submitting bulk samples, non-diagnostic redundant material (i.e., specimens with low scientific value), and specimens in poor condition. The CUMNH Paleontology Section can't afford to permanently store and maintain these types of specimens.

Evaluation of Specimens and Materials for Acquisition

All specimens submitted to the CUMNH Paleontology Section will be evaluated for acquisition by the appropriate collection manager and curator. Specimens will be evaluated based on the acquisition criteria outlined in the CUMNH Paleontology Section's Collections Management Policy. The CUMNH Paleontology Section is not obligated to acquire any specimen submitted, regardless of whether it meets the acquisition criteria. The Paleontology Section continues to grow and develop its collections, emphasizing the acquisition of high quality and relevant specimens rather than increasing the overall quantity of specimens.

The CUMNH acknowledges that specimens collected from public lands managed by government agencies are not the property of the University of Colorado, the CUMNH, nor the CUMNH Paleontology Section. Instead, the CUMNH Paleontology Section holds these specimens in-trust for the government agency. Actual ownership of the specimens and records rests with the government agency who manages the land they were collected from.

The PI is responsible for the proper legal and ethical collection of specimens. If it appears that any specimens were collected illegally or in a fashion that could jeopardize the integrity of the University of Colorado, the CUMNH, and/or the CUMNH Paleontology Section (e.g., without a permit, Deed of Gift, other permissions and legal documentation, etc.), then those specimens will not be acquired, and the PI will be reported to the appropriate government agency. Furthermore, any archaeological or ethnological materials or any modern biological specimens will not be acquired and will be returned to the appropriate government agency.

See CUMNH's Curation Services Agreement Instructions for additional information.

Disposal of Unwanted Specimens

Any specimen submitted to the CUMNH that is deemed not acceptable by a collection manager or curator or is outside the limits or conditions imposed on acceptable specimens as stated on this Curation Services Agreement will be dealt with following the procedures outlined in the CUMNH's Curation Services Agreement Instructions.

Fees

The CUMNH charges a fee to the PI if they work for a paleontology monitoring company, environmental consulting firm, or some other for-profit company for the accession and locality documentation creation and specimen curation, preparation (if necessary), and storage. These fees are assessed so that the CUMNH Paleontology Section can assure the proper long-term storage and care of the specimens provided. These fees are specified in the fee schedule located in CUMNH's Curation Services Agreement Instructions. PI's who work for a museum, educational or research institution, or some other non-profit organization will not be charged any fees.

Termination

Curation Service Agreements are not perpetual. All Curation Service Agreements will terminate at the end of the calendar year (December 31) the year the agreement is issued for.

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