

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19150

Title 67, Chapter 41, Sections 67-4119, 67-4120, 67-4121, and 67-4122, Idaho Code, makes reference to vertebrate paleontological sites, resources, and deposits. The law was enacted in 1963 when it seemed appropriate to place historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources within the scope of the Idaho State Historical Society. However, it is now clear that vertebrate paleontological resources should be permitted and regulated under a qualified professional with appropriate training, education, and resources. These resources only briefly overlap human history in Idaho, and their care, study, and interpretation are outside the agency's purview.

To date, the existing language has only been a minor problem. However, the agency anticipates that with stimulus-driven increases in energy corridor activity across much of the state, permits for excavation or vertebrate paleontological deposits on state land will become more common. Title 33, Chapter 30, Section 33-3012, Idaho Code, provides for the creation of a state museum of natural history at Idaho State University. The Idaho State Historical Society believes the responsibility for vertebrate paleontological sites, resources, and deposits should be shifted to an appropriately qualified agency such as the Idaho Museum of Natural History. The proposed legislation will eliminate references to "vertebrate paleontology" from the State Antiquities Act and will add references to protect vertebrate paleontological sites, resources, and deposits under Title 33, Chapter 30, Sections 33-3013, 33-3014, 33-3015, and 33-3016, Idaho Code.

FISCAL NOTE

None.

Contact:

Name: Suzi Pengilly

Office: Historical Society

Phone: (208) 334-3847