

Assessing Fossil Resource Potential (likelihood of fossil occurrences) based on Deposit or Rock Type

Fossil Resource Potential / Likelihood of Fossils	Deposit Type				Management Concern
	Quaternary (unconsolidated, loose)	Sedimentary Rock (layered, cemented)	Igneous (Volcanic) Rocks	Metamorphic (altered) Rocks	
High Potential/ Fossils Expected or Certain	Cave; beach; pit; and marine deposits	Fossiliferous to highly fossiliferous with regular to consistent and predictable yield of significant fossils at risk of impact; e.g., marginal marine deposits, organic-rich rocks.			Concern is high, with FIA and field survey and monitoring of bedrock disturbance justified or necessary.
Medium Potential/ Fossils Possible or Unknown	Moraines; outwash; lacustrine; travertine	Units in which fossil content varies, is unpredictable, scattered, or unknown; e.g., non-marine to distal marine deposits.			Careful consideration, with FIA and field survey likely justified.
Low Potential/ Fossils Unlikely	Thick glacial sand; colluvium; reworked gravel; high altitude fluvial	Units not known or likely to contain significant fossils; e.g., thick, uniform shale; coarse-grained sandstone; conglomerate.	Fossils can rarely be preserved in volcanic rocks		Concern is generally low.
Very Low Potential/ Fossils Rare	Highly weathered or slumped deposits	Weathering, corrosion, and recrystallization	Nearly all igneous rocks are void of fossils	Low grade metamorphism can occasionally preserve fossils	Concern is negligible or not applicable.
Nil				High grade metamorphism destroys nearly all visible fossils	Concern is negligible or not applicable.

See Fossil Impact Assessment (FIA) Guidelines for more detailed information on assessing risk and the Fossil Impact Assessment process.