



# Colorado Scientific Society

## Lecture Announcement

Thursday, March 19, 2026, Calvary Church Golden

## Mitigation Paleontology in CDOT's Environmental Program

**Nicole Peavey**, Colorado Department of Transportation

### Lecture Highlights:

Mitigation paleontology entails the recovery and conservation of fossils that are threatened by human activities, including ground disturbance, vandalism, and poaching. Those activities have resulted in the recovery and preservation of countless scientifically significant fossils worldwide. The mission of the Paleontology Program at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is to collect, preserve and facilitate the scientific study of important fossils and associated geologic and paleontological data that might otherwise be damaged or destroyed by road construction and maintenance throughout Colorado. Dr. Peavey will describe her work with environmental policy related to paleontology, fossil resources preservation, and project impact mitigation.



### Speaker Background:

Dr. Nicole Peavey is the staff paleontologist at the Colorado Department of Transportation, an unusual job made possible by a quirk of Colorado law and the rich fossil resources of the Centennial State. As part of the department's Environmental Programs Branch, she works with other scientists and specialists to ensure that CDOT follows the rules that protect and manage our natural resources throughout the state of Colorado.



### Education

BA in Geology: Whitman College, Walla Walla WA

MS in Geosciences & Vertebrate Paleontology: Fort Hays State University of Kansas

Ph.D in Geosciences; Texas Tech University: Lubbock TX

[Nicole Peavey — Museum of the Earth](https://www.museumoftheearth.org/daring-to-dig/bio/peavey) (<https://www.museumoftheearth.org/daring-to-dig/bio/peavey>)

### Keywords

Mitigation paleontology, fossil preservation, field surveys, specimen recovery, data management and reporting

