

Utah Rockhound Land-Status Cheat Sheet

Who owns the ground decides the rule. Last verified October 2026 · landstatusguide.com

Land type	Can you collect?	Key limit	Permit?
BLM (ordinary)	Usually yes	“Reasonable amounts,” personal use, hand tools. Commonly read as 25 lb/day + 1 piece, 250 lb/yr. No sale.	No (commercial needs one)
BLM petrified wood	Limited	25 lb + 1 piece/day, 250 lb/yr (43 CFR 3622). No pooling, no sale.	Over 250 lb piece: yes
Fossils on BLM	Invertebrates/ plants only	Common invertebrate & plant fossils, 25 lb/day, personal use. Vertebrate fossils: never.	Vertebrate: research permit only
ACEC / Wilderness / WSA	Check	Overlay can close or restrict collecting. Read posted rules.	Ask field office
National monuments (GSENM, Bears Ears)	Restricted	Monument plan governs inside current boundaries.	Generally not for hobby
Lands removed from monuments (2026)	Unclear	No clear published rule yet. Call Kanab/Escalante (GSENM) or Monticello (Bears Ears).	Ask first
National forest (USFS)	Usually yes	Small amounts, personal, noncommercial. No forest-wide weight limit. Check local forest, closures, wilderness.	No (commercial: yes)
SITLA state trust land	With permit	Permit terms apply. BLM limits do not travel.	Yes, SITLA permit
Utah State Parks	Almost never	Removing natural resources needs written authorization.	Written authorization
National parks	No	Zion, Bryce, Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef: nothing leaves.	No hobby permits
Mining claim on BLM	Check MLRS	Claimant may hold mineral rights. Don’t collect the claimed mineral.	Claimant’s permission
Private / tribal / military	Not without permission	Owner or tribe sets the rule. Military ranges: no.	Owner/tribal permit
Artifacts (any land)	Never	Arrowheads, flakes, sherds, historic items: leave in place (ARPA).	—

Before you dig: 1) Confirm owner on an official layer (not Google Maps). 2) Check overlays & monument boundaries. 3) Check MLRS for claims. 4) Weigh your take. 5) No clear yes? Don’t collect.

Informational only — not legal advice. Rules change; the managing agency’s current rules control. Independent; not affiliated with any agency. Full 35-page field guide coming soon at landstatusguide.com/free-cheat-sheet.