

DESTRUCTIVE SAMPLING POLICY

Dear Colleague:

Requests to use specimens for the purpose of sampling or analysis that result in the permanent alteration of museum specimens require serious evaluation in order to balance the legitimate needs of current scientific study with the long-term preservation of the collections for future needs. After much discussion and a review of policies recently developed at other institutions, we have come up with a set of policies and procedures to guide in the evaluation process (see attached).

To assist us in evaluating destructive sampling and analysis requests, we ask your cooperation in providing:

1. a brief description of your project;
2. a description of the techniques to be used and why these are appropriate; and
3. the names of individual(s) responsible for the project and for carrying out the procedures involved.

Publications or other documentation that demonstrate the efficacy of the technique and the investigator's proficiency with it would be appreciated. NMMNH is in no way obligated to make loans for funded projects without prior knowledge or approval of the intent to sample NMMNH specimens.

Attached is the Destructive Analysis Agreement that must be signed before specimens may be sent to you. As a reciprocal responsibility of loan approval, we ask that usable samples be returned for storage at NMMNH, where they may be made available to other researchers.

We appreciate your cooperation and willingness to abide by our policies and procedures.

NMMNH Science Division
25 March 1998

NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

DESTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS AGREEMENT

The sample of _____ from the collections of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History is provided for destructive analysis with the following conditions:

1. usable samples and unused portions of specimens will be returned to NMMNH so they can be retained for future use;
2. methods and the extent of sampling are thoroughly documented for each specimen; and
3. two copies of any publication including information resulting from the analysis on the specimens will be provided to the NMMNH Biosciences Collections Manager.

RECIPIENT

NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Principal Investigator

Curator

Address

Collection Manager

Date

Date