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\$19,100 NSF grant supports study of ancient rocks

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\$19,100 NSF GRANT
SUPPORTS STUDY OF
ANCIENT ROCKS

MISSOULA--

The National Science Foundation has awarded \$19,100 to the University of Montana Foundation for research of marine life and environments associated with the formation of the phosphate beds in the Rocky Mountain area 200 million years ago.

The research is under the direction of Dr. James A. Peterson, UM professor of geology. Specific areas to be studied are Western Montana, Idaho, Western Wyoming and Northern Utah.

The award is a two-year extension of a four-year project. The funds will support the thesis work of four UM graduate students--George P. Cole, Missoula; Marvin Del Brittenham, Bigfork; Dennis C. Ahlstrand, Spokane, Wash., and Walter Charles Meyers, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. Peterson said the purpose of the study is to discover where phosphate, a rock often processed as fertilizer, occurs in the geologic strata. The study also is meant to gather information about the 200-million-year-old Permian Period during which phosphate rocks were deposited.

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