

Man pleads not guilty to stealing dinosaur print

April 30 2014, by Michelle L. Price



Jared Ehlers, of Moab, walks from the Federal Courthouse after appearing in court Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in Salt Lake City. Ehlers has has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of stealing a fossilized dinosaur footprint. He is accused of dislodging a piece of sandstone with a three-toed ancient dinosaur track from the Hell's Revenge jeep Trail in the Sand Flats Recreation Area near Moab. Ehlers is charged under a federal law passed in 2009 to protect paleontological artifacts. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

A Utah man has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of stealing a

fossilized dinosaur footprint.

The 35-year-old Jared Ehlers of Moab appeared in court Wednesday in Salt Lake City.

He is accused of dislodging a piece of sandstone with a three-toed ancient dinosaur track from the Hell's Revenge jeep trail in the Sand Flats Recreation Area near Moab in eastern Utah. Bureau of Land Management paleontologists say the print is from the Jurassic Period and up to 190 million years old.

The U.S. attorney's office in Utah announced in March that a grand jury returned an indictment against Ehlers, who is facing up to 20 years in prison on the most serious of four counts.

Ehlers is charged under a federal law passed in 2009 to protect paleontological artifacts.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Man pleads not guilty to stealing dinosaur print (2014, April 30) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-04-guilty-dinosaur.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--