



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

www.amlands.org

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How many of you had your club enter a Float into the 4th of July Parade in your town or country, for their 4th of July activities. The same goes for county and state fairs and Rodeos or sponsor a food booth at any of these functions. We need to keep trying new ways to promote our hobby and attract new members. Attend your county and state zoning and planning meetings. Write your local councilmen, state representatives, appropriate state bureaucrats, and your federal elected and federal bureaucrats. If congress does not have a bill on the floor for what you want to comment on, then it is not lobbying. A letter from you is not a form letter from your club. Give factual information to them. Give dates time, GPS location and exactly what happened. Do not give them "I feel like . . ." or "I just do not like it or Because." While this sounds like a Federation pitch for new members, it is. Your clubs need to get new members and then you need to get those new members to join ALAA and the have them actively attend BLM and Forest Service and National Grassland meetings and write letters and attend meetings and volunteer to help out the BLM and Forest Service and National Grassland offices in doing their thing. www.amlands.org

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the NEWSLETTER are DUE to the Editor by the
10th of January - 10th of April - 10th of July - 10th of October

For inclusion in each Quarterly Newsletter

Please send articles to: **editor@amlands.org**

Please send articles in plain text, MS Word (.doc)

Pictures in jpg format at not less than 96 dpi or more than 200 dpi.

Please do not send articles in PDF format.

**Concerns or questions on article format please contact the editor at
editor@amlands.org**

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News from Texas

Shirley Leeson

ALAA Ambassador

Deep in the Heart of Texas

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Each year, for any number of reasons, our public lands diminish. If you look deeply in to it you'll find people/organizations who want to 'save our land for our children'. Have you ever wondered what they mean? It's a code word for 'take away your rights.' In some cases the states take away public lands for their own purposes, like wind farms, solar fields, and what better place but public lands, who's going to complain, or who cares.....

I hope I am speaking to the choir when I say 'we need YOU, to help us keep public lands for multi-use, as it was originally intended.

Those of you who live in the east and only visit the great states west of the Mississippi, don't have the time or inclination to keep up with what is taking place in collecting areas out in the west. It's only when you include a famed collecting site to your vacation itinerary that you find the area has been closed. Then you're interested, but it's too late.

Our ALAA Newsletter is only as good as the people who put forth facts on what is currently going on. We've worked closely with off road people over the years because they are interested in keeping public land roads open, and many times those roads lead to our collecting sites. We're asking for your help in keeping us informed on what is going on in your state. There are many publications both nationally and locally you can subscribe to free to keep abreast of situations occurring in your area – when you do, please contact one of us and let us know – we can rally the troops, so to speak, and get you help....our collecting sites are relying on you.

Here's the possible consequence if you don't.... you can go to back yard sales of old rockhounds and find material there, you can go to local or regional or national shows and buy material from vendors who are finding material from the US harder to get, and are now relying on overseas distributors, or you can go on any of the social medias and buy material...BUT, what will happen when all this material is gone. Will our beloved hobby cease to exist?

Here's something YOU can do right now....go to the ALAA website and click on the left side and begin looking through all the material we have put there for your enlightenment.

The website is full of information on individual states, and currently what is going on there, but we can't do it alone....we need you to update and keep us informed. It has people to contact, places to visit on line, pending problems that need resolution, but it can't happen without YOU.

I hate to say it, but rockhounds do not have the time or interest in what is going on, unless something immediate to them happens and then they ask us, why didn't you do something.

Remember: we, ALAA, do not have a staff of hundreds or big bucks to keep our public lands open. But the environmentalists have been working for years to close public lands under various organizations like Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and so many others.

I spend each day going through material sent from those organizations and others because I want to know what they are up to next. I'm not asking you to do the same, but when you run across one of these, always asking for money, go to their website and see what they are about.

I am not on the front lines any more, having moved to the great state of Texas, but I can still help and do my part....will you, please.

News from Utah

Jack Johnston

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In the State of Utah we are up against groups like SUWA that has spent 9.6 million dollars in 2016, paid their lawyer and Executive Director 124 thousand, gave 20 thousand to Native American Rights Fund to possibly re-name and fight reduction of Canyon Lands/Bears Ears by the President Trump administration.

Over 6500 miles of roads have been closed in the State of Utah. We do not need more roads closed to give young healthy hikers a playground and shut out the rock hounds, four wheeler's, old, young and handicapped people.

Resource Advisory Council nominations: Nominations are closed and I have not received word of anyone nominated.

Chris Stewart (R-Utah)

H.R. 5058: Wild Horse Oversight Act

The Wild Horse Oversight Act of 2014 would preserve all protections under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, and simply allow states to implement horse and burro management plans that address the specific needs of their own state. [Read More >](#)

H.R. 4256: Endangered Species Improvement Act of 2014

This bill would amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to require that the federal government count all species dwelling on both public and private lands, in determining species recovery. [Read More >](#)

H.R. 1422: EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act

Makes changes to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) to enhance public participation, improve the process for selecting expert advisors, expand transparency requirements and limit non-scientific policy advice. [Read More >](#)

H.R. 758: Utah Land Sovereignty Act

Would prevent the extension or establishment of national monuments in Utah without authorization from Congress. This bill adds Utah to an agreement made in 1950 between the federal government and Wyoming. [Read More >](#)

Summary: H.R.4532 — 115th Congress (2017-2018) All Information (Except Text)
Introduced in House (12/04/2017)

Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act

This bill withdraws all federal lands and interests within the exterior boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah as declared under Presidential Proclamation 9558, dated December 28, 2016, from:

- entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;
- location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

The bill declares that such proclamation is null and void.

H.R. 3311: PARC Act

Provide Access and Retain Continuity Act, otherwise known as the PARC Act. In the event of future government shutdowns or lapse in appropriations, this bill enables states to fund and continue operating National Parks and other federal facilities or programs that have direct economic impacts on tourism, mining, timber, or general transportation in the state. [Read More >](#)

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Legislative Hearing on:

H.R. 1107 (Rep. Mark Amodei)

To promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act”;

Bill has passed in the House and is now in the Senate. Let your senators know your input.

02/07/2018

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held.

Action By: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

H.R. 2199 (Rep. Kevin Cramer)

To improve Federal land management, resource, conservation, environmental protection, and use of Federal real property, by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop a multipurpose Cadastre of Federal real property and identifying inaccurate, duplicate, and out-of-date Federal land inventories, and for other purposes. “

Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017.” Introduced in the House

09/25/2017

Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 232.

Action By: House of Representatives

H.R. 2423 (Rep. Chris Stewart)

To implement certain measures relating to management of Washington County, Utah, required by Public Law 111-11. Introduced in the House

09/14/2017

Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 222.

Action By: House of Representatives

H.R. 2425 (Rep. Jared Huffman)

Washington County, Utah,

Public Lands Management Implementation Act”;

To support the establishment and improvement of communications sites on or adjacent to Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture through the retention and use of rental fees associated with such sites, and for other purposes.

06/27/2017

Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.

Action By: Committee on Natural Resources

Stewart/Hatch

Hatch, Stewart propose bill to ensure ATV access to ...

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865677272/Hatch-Stewart...>

Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Chris Stewart have introduced legislation to ensure access to 20,000 acres in

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Washington County to off-highway vehicles.

Hatch, Stewart propose transfer of Sand Mountain OHV area ...
www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2017/04/07/jla-hatch-stewart...

Apr 07, 2017 · ST. GEORGE – A bill introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Chris Stewart in Congress would turn management of the popular Sand Mountain off-highway vehicle area over to Washington County and guarantee that the area stays open to OHV and other recreational uses – but also allows two pipelines ...

Stewart, Hatch introduce bills allowing states to manage ...
www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2015/07/24/stewart-hatch...

Jul 24, 2015 · WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Chris Stewart and Sen. Orrin Hatch introduced legislation Thursday giving states and Indian tribes the option to take over the management of wild horses and burros. The Wild Horse Oversight Act of 2015 would preserve all protections under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses ...

Stewart, Hatch, Lee introduce bills to protect Utah's ...
www.cedarcityutah.com/news/archive/2015/02/06/stewart-hatch-lee...

Stewart, Hatch, Lee introduce bills ... This bill directs the BLM to continue any grazing that has been established either before or after the designation of the designation of the

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek Obsidian

Richard Pankey

Field Trip Leader and a user of our Public Lands

I led the CFMS Field Trip-North field trip to the Davis Creek/Lassen Creek area on Buck Mountain in the Modoc National Forest in July. This is a historic obsidian collecting area that I have visited and collected at since 1991. Prior to May, 2015 collecting of obsidian was controlled by a free permit program regulating digging of obsidian to 4 designated locations. Surface collecting throughout the forest was allowed under the USFS regulations, 36 CFR 228 Subparts A and C.

I spoke with Chris Bielecki, a supervisor in the engineering department at the Alturas offices last week. He informed me about the May, 2015 Revised Obsidian Management Policy for the Warner Mountain Ranger District, of the Modoc National Forest and changes to the Free Use Permit program. He informed me that obsidian collecting in this forest is now restricted to only the 4 sites designated in the Free Use Permit and that collecting (i.e. picking up) any obsidian anywhere else in the forest and roads was prohibited. Prior to 2015 you were allowed to collect 500 pounds of obsidian from the 4 designated sites and surface collect every place else in the Warner Mtn. The reason given for the new restrictions was for "cultural sensitivity". This is a drastic change from the previous way that obsidian collecting was managed. I asked him when and how this change was made he told me this was done about 4 years ago and was prescribed in the updated NEPA plan for this forest.

This change to the management of the collecting is extremely restricting and an extreme divergence of previous management plans and programs. We need to get further clarification about these changes and why they are so different to the stated USFS regulations, 36 CFR 228 Subparts A and C. We need participate with the USFS to develop a more rockhound/casual collector friendly management plan. It seems strange that we can not walk through our National Forest or down the FS roads and not be able to pick up a rock.

I will continue to address these issues with Chris Bielecki and the staff of the Modoc National Forest on behalf of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and all users of this National Forest.

RECREATIONAL ROCKHOUND

Shirley Leeson
ALAA Ambassador
Deep in the Heart of Texas
shirleyleeson@amlands.org

We are asking you to help us re-brand our name, who we are and what we do....

Currently, Rockhound,
What does that word mean?

When the general public sees us:

- someone who sees huge holes left where rockhounds dug out rocks.
- someone who found their gates open because of rockhounds, and this could be a property owner, or a company owner who has granted you access to something they consider useless, but is of real interest to a rockhound.

When we ask to have public lands areas kept open for multi-use, how does Washington, DC look upon us?

- the environmentalist who see you as 'stealing natural resources' and wish them left in the ground, or
- a governmental employee who sees you taking a truck load of material off public lands only to put it up for sale on social media.

As a 'rockhound', what does that word bring to mind to you? A grandfather or uncle taking you on a collecting trip for pretty rocks? A teacher opening up the wonders of the environment by showing you rocks, minerals and fossils in their classroom setting? A rockhound visiting a school and bringing rocks that have been cut and polished to show the inside of a very plain rock? A rockhound club putting an exhibit of gems, minerals and fossils in the library or the entry to a public building? A rockhound club inviting you to their show and showing you what collecting rocks is all about. A demonstrator showing you how a gemstone is cut. A county fair where there is a gem and mineral department showing you all the joyous things about being a rockhound.

Here's the problem, our image has been tarnished by some. What can we do to restore it to a good image – a good brand?

ALAA has tried to change the image, we're asking you all to begin to use the term, 'recreational rockhound' like 'recreational off-roading' -- that implies we are on public lands as a recreational occupation and using it as a teachable moment, a pleasant experience for those attending....maybe for the first time.

We're asking you to look around and see what you can do personally to making recreational rockhounding a noble occupation once again, please.

.....and just maybe, when we attend management meetings for the BLM or Forest Service, they will look upon us as 'recreational rockhounds'. Don't forget, most recreational rockhounds belong to a society or club regionally, and nationally we have a code of ethics....let's follow them.

California News

ROCKHOUND SOAPBOX Public Lands Travel Management Plans

John Martin

CFMS Public Lands Advisory Committee

john.martin@amlands.org

Travel Management Plans are becoming the big thing this year with in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. Both the BLM and The USFS have been conducting studies on the public lands they manage over the last several years to determine which roads, Routes and Trails to keep open, to close and to de-commission. This year most of these studies are coming to a close and the management agency is opening up a 45 to 90 days Public Comment Period. During the Public Comment Period, the public may, submit in writing, comments, ideas, requests, concerns about the released Travel Management Plan which will have the roads, routes and trails identified as open to motorized use, closed to motorized use and decommissioned. During this Public Comment Period the Recreational Rockhound has time to voice their opinion on the Road closures. Some of the roads and routes and trails may be your access to Recreational Rockhounding collecting sites. If the roads leading to collecting sites are identified as open there is no problem. However it has been shown, on most of the Travel Management Plans released, that most of the roads leading to collecting sites are scheduled for closure to Motorized Travel and there by closing the collecting sites for recreational Rockhounding.

So, what can be done in 45 – 90 days to save Recreational Rockhounding on your Public Lands? First you, yes you, need to make contact with the local Public Land Manager whether it is BLM or USFS and ask for the information on the Travel Management Plan for your concerned collecting areas and when it will be released for Public Comment. Attend any public meeting sponsored by the Public Land Management Agencies and collect as much information as is made available.

Next, get the maps for all of the alternatives being proposed, they will be available on the BLM or USFS Websites for the areas of concern. Study the maps and determine where the collecting sites are located. If there are roads, routes or trails leading to the collecting sites, determine if the roads, routes or trails are open or being closed. If the route is scheduled for closure, you as a Recreational Rockhound, will need to determine the present day route numbers leading from an open road to the collecting site and through a written report (Letter) to the Public Land Manager request that the proposed route numbers remain open to motorized travel because they lead to a Recreational Rockhound collecting site where "material" is collected. (Identify the type of "Material" as in Agate, Jasper, Travertine, legal Fossils, etc.) This will need to be accomplished for each and every Recreational Rockhounding Collecting Site with in the area of concern. A word of caution here, the reference of 20th Century publications on Rock Collecting as in Gem Trails will not work as reference and reasons to keep Roads, Routes and Trails open for motorized Travel in the 21st Century.

This sounds like a lot of work and it is. If access to collecting sites by the disabled, elderly, and future Rockhounds are to be available the roads, routes and trails must remain open and approved for Motorized Access. If the Recreational Rockhound is going to survive in the 21st Century this is a must accomplish task. Once the Travel Management Plans are approved and implemented they will be in place and the law of the land for the next 20 years or longer and until the next Travel Management Plan is up for review. The fate of the Recreational Rockhound is in the hands of the Rockhounds of today. Reprinted from CFMS August Newsletter

Clean up on Buck Mountain

Richard Pankey

Field Trip Leader and a user of our Public Lands

dickpankey@juno.com

As part of our CFMS FT-N trip to the Davis Creek/Lassen Creek obsidian area in July we conducted a cleanup of the 4 designated collecting sites, the Lassen Creek Campground and the FS roads that we drove on to the digs. I have led and attended many trips to this area since the early 1990's and the area shows the signs of responsible rockhounds. No (very little) litter or trash. We have conducted cleanups of this area in the past with similar results. 78 rockhounds spent 4 days driving the roads, hours at the collecting sites and they found very little trash. See the pictures! But we did find a lot of obsidian. We can be proud of ourselves; we have been practicing "Leave No Trace" and "Pack It In/Pack It Out".

The little trash that we did find was piled behind my truck during the 4 days of our field trip (to make room in our trucks for all of the obsidian that we collected.) On Monday morning at the conclusion of our event I loaded the collected trash for transport to the USFS office in Alturas. Even though the amount of trash and litter was small we left the area cleaner than when we arrived which is always a good feeling.



Openings on the **American Lands Access Association, Inc.**, Board of Directors for the year 2019:

President

Vice President

Membership

Newsletter Editor-Publisher (Permenate Member of the Board)

3 Board Members at Large for a 3 year term

Candidate must be an ALAA Member in good standing and a member of ALAA for a minimun of one year. Board Members must attend one of the two board meetings each year. (One meeting is in Quartzsite, AZ in January and the other is during the AFMS Convention and Show.)

Quartzsite Shows and Events 2018 - 2019

It is never too early to plan your Quartzsite Adventure!

Quartzsite Market Place Street Fair
Oct. 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

Tyson Wells Market Center Swap Meet
Oct 01, 2018 -April 1, 2019

Grease Wood Swap Meet
November 2018 - April, 2019

Desert Gardens - **Gem & Mineral**
January 01 - February 28, 2019

Prospectors Panorama
January 01 - February 27, 2019

Annual Hi Jolly Daze Parade - Town Park

QIA Pow Wow - Gems, minerals & jewelry Show
January 16 - January 20, 2019

ALAA 7th Annual Rockhound-BLM Clean Up
January 20, 2019 - 09:30 am MST
Location TBD at this time.....

Tyson Wells **Rock & Gem Show**
January 04 - January 13, 2019

Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama
January 18 - January 27, 2019

Tyson Wells - Sports, Vacation & RV Show (The Big Tent)
January 19 - January 27, 2019

Tyson Wells Arts and Crafts
February 01 - February 10, 2019

Gold, Treasure & Craft Show - QIA 9 am - 5 pm
February 8 - 10, 2019 tbc

Quartzsite Quilt Show - Quartzsite SR Center
February 1 - 2, 2019 tbc

Quartzsite Gold Show
February 8-10, 2019 QIA building. Friday - Saturday 9-4 Sunday.

Read more: <https://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html#ixzz5N7a1W7Ow>

See Ya' There!

Some Accomplishments of ALAA for 2018

The American Lands Association, Inc., (ALAA) has submitted letters of comment on Travel Management Plans in Arizona, Utah and California requesting that Recreational Rockhounding be a recognized recreational activity and motorized access be opened and maintained to known Recreational Rockhounding Sites. ALAA has co-signed comment letters on 71,000 acres of National Forest Lands being withdrawn from public access and managed as "Wilderness" from California National Forests. ALAA has also submitted letters of comment and concern on the possible re-opening of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Covering 22 Million acres of land in the Southern California Deserts and submitted letters of concern and comments on the West Mojave Desert Travel Management Plan (WEMOTMP) requesting that Access roads and trails leading to known collecting sites remain open to motorized travel. Without the support of the members of ALAA this could not have been accomplished. We are working for the rights of the Recreational Rockhound. Thank You, ALAA Members for your support!

Arizona BLM Update **Bouse & Cactus Plain Travel Management Plan** **Jack Caufield**

jack.caufield@amlands.org

The Lake Havasu BLM office as part of their Travel Plans has prepared a draft EIS and proposal to close many of the roads in the Bouse, AZ area including BLM managed land extending South past Brenda, AZ to Interstate 10. To the West of the area the Travel Plan has already been issued by the BLM Yuma office. The Yuma office made many changes for rockhounds, miners and off roaders.

The Lake Havasu BLM office has basically ignored rockhounding in their Draft EIS with only one comment. They apparently didn't realize that the rockhounds in Quartzsite and surroundings areas use these areas for rockhounding.

The Cactus Plain Travel Management Plan is also included and there are many mines and other rockhounding, mining and off-road areas where the roads are planned for closer. Anyone that also uses this area should submit comments.

There are many mines with wonderful mineral specimens in the Cactus Plain Area. It is a large area and likely has many other rockhounding sites.

The BLM has extended the Public Comment Period through August 13, 2018. We asked that it be extended to March 1, 2019 so rockhounds and off roaders can return to the area, review the specific roads that are being closed and comment.

One new option in the Draft EIS is to increase the number of roads over the option of no change.

We all need to understand that all these areas have severe wind, dust and rainstorms in the summer monsoon season and also in the winter. It is even difficult finding the trails the next year. We are doing little damage to these lands.

The Quartzsite Gem and Mineral club reached 900 members before closing at the end of March until late fall. So do the off road clubs close. Few are left in the Quartzsite areas to comment by August 13. Members are from all over the United States and Canada. We need to get as many as we can to comment to preserve these trails. One option is to ask the BLM to choose the increased recreation option instead of closing roads and trails.

Bouse and Cactus Plain Travel Management Plan Information including maps and Contact information is available at <http://www.amlands.org/6652/128034.html>

Rockhounding in Oklahoma

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge Selenite Crystals

Crystal digging is permitted from April 1 through October 15, sunrise to sunset. The digging area is closed from *October 16th through March 31st*, as the entire refuge is designated critical whooping crane habitat. No exceptions are made to these dates.

When collecting, no special permit is required. Collectors are permitted to remove up to 10 pounds of crystals plus one large cluster for their personal use in any one day. ***Crystals taken from the refuge cannot be sold, under penalty of law.***

Safety Precautions

Once in the digging area, please stay on the designated road. Shorebirds nest on the flats. Their nests are camouflaged to the soil so you may not see them. Additionally, the ground is much softer than expected off the road.

Be sure to thoroughly wash your car after leaving the flats.

Due to the white salt surface, it is easy to get sunburned. Sunglasses, sunscreen and protective clothing are recommended. Drinking water is not available at the dig site -- bring water and a change of clothes, digging is a messy venture.

*** Past Military Use *** The refuge was at one time used by the military as a bombing and strafing range. If you come across anything unusual, err on the side of caution and call 911 or contact the refuge as explosive devices were used in this area.

Watch for Wildlife on the Salt Flats

The most productive area in which the selenite crystals are found has been divided into sections. Each section is used on a rotating basis to allow time for crystal growth replacement. It is also important to restrict crystal digging to particular sections because many bird species use the area for nesting purposes. Among these species are snowy plovers, endangered interior least terns, and American avocets.

Snowy plovers can be found throughout the crystal digging area. Interior least terns and American avocets are mostly seen along the streams. The birds will use the dig holes and consume the brine flies that hatch in the water in the dig holes after you have left the site. Old mounds from past dig seasons have been found being used as elevated nesting platforms. The mounds give shorebirds a place to nest above the floodplain during the rainy seasons and increases their nest success. Nesting beside the mounds can offer the eggs shade from the hot sun. It is important that these birds not be disturbed. Furthermore, it is illegal to harass or destroy the bird's eggs and nests.

How is it done?

1. Use a shovel to dig a hole about two feet deep and two feet across until you reach wet sand. You may feel the shovel break through the crystals as it goes down. This cannot be helped as there is no way of predicting exactly where a bed of crystals is located.
2. Allow two or three inches of water to seep in from the bottom. Use your hand or a container to splash water gently against the sides of the hole. The agitated water will wash the soil away from the crystals.
3. When you find a crystal formation, continue splashing to wash it free of the supporting sand and clay.
4. At this stage of the process, the newly exposed crystals are wet and fragile so use great care removing them.
5. After removing crystals from sand, place them where the sun and wind will dry them. Egg cartons or other containers are recommended for transporting the crystals.

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News from the Pacific North West

Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs Sweet Home Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 31, 2018
lenora.smith@amlands.org

excerpts from minutes:

BLM RAC Meetings and RAC (Resource Advisory Council) Membership Update: Our BLM RAC representative reported her membership applications have been filed and accepted by two BLM RACs (John Day - Snake River and Southeastern Oregon). The Oregon RACs have sent their membership applications to Washington, D.C., but final approvals have not been announced. She is frustrated because all the applicable timelines have been met, but Washington, D.C. is not moving ahead with the process of making selections for the RACs.

Susie also stated rock hounds need to contact their federal Senators and Representatives regarding the lack of movement on RAC membership applications. She has spoken with Kathleen Cathey, a Field Representative from Senator Wyden's office, at a Burns - SE Oregon RAC meeting. Ms. Cathey reported Senator Wyden and his staff felt strongly that form letters and petitions were not as effective as personal letters from individuals. It is important that letter writers express their concerns about access to public lands administered by the BLM and Forest Service for recreational rockhounding. They may wish to note that rockhounds engage in surface collecting using hand tools. We also adhere to a code of ethics regarding our activities. This serves to differentiate rockhounds from the larger mining industry. The BLM has noted funding is down which affects road maintenance and access for rockhounds. Susie indicated the delay in forming the RACs precludes addressing the concerns of commercial, recreational, oil/gas exploration, timber, farming, mining, cattle grazing and Native American interest groups. Recreational rockhounding is certainly the smallest and least visible activity on BLM lands.

Susie has attended 41 governmental agency meetings, at her own expense, to promote the interests of recreational rockhounds. She is a great ambassador for the OCRMC and certainly exemplifies the Council's mission.

Discussion

A member asked about any procedures we should be following when contacting various agencies. Do we have anyone higher on the chain of command we could talk with about our concerns?

We agreed a personal letter seems to elicit the best response. The group talked about how to get our club members to write to our representatives.

We will prepare a list of contact information for our Senators and Representatives.

Susie explained how the Southeastern Oregon RMP Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Map is used and also distributed RAC area maps.

Dave asked how her field trip to the Plush sunstone area was received by BLM staff. They had a wonderful time because for many it was their first time to go collecting. After the trip, Susie sent them back some polished sunstones.

In early February, Susie attended a wild horse round up with BLM staff. She was also selected to participate in a sage grouse field trip next month.

A member looked into applying for membership on the Salem RAC. He found the application process excessively complicated with a decided preference for individuals with lots of advanced degrees. In the end, he did not pursue the application. Susie tried to assure him many members of RACs were not chosen based solely on their level of higher education. She knows of members who did not have college or even high school diplomas. The process can be more

complicated than people are used too, but that does not preclude an application. The agencies are looking for people with a passion for resource issues.

New Mexico Forest News

Forest Plan Revision Update

The revised Forest Plans for all five of our New Mexico National Forests will be the basis for our recreation on Forest lands for at least the next fifteen years. That makes them IMPORTANT! Please continue to stay actively involved during the LONG (and getting longer) Forest Plan revision process. Here are the latest developments and public engagement opportunities for each of New Mexico's National Forests as of July 6th:

Cibola National Forest: The Cibola National Forest currently plans to release its Draft Plan and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) sometime in late 2018 or early 2019. The public will have at least a 90-day comment period at that time.

All of the latest information on the Cibola National Forest Plan revision process can still be found [HERE](#).

Santa Fe National Forest and Carson National Forest: Per the latest contacts, it appears that both the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests are also planning on releasing their Draft Plan and EIS sometime close to the New Year. Both Forests have their latest "work in progress" preliminary Draft Plan documents posted for public input on their web sites and they continue the practice of informal monthly public meetings.

You can keep track of everything related to the Santa Fe National Forest Plan revision process [HERE](#).

You can keep up with everything on the Carson National Forest Plan revision process [HERE](#).

Gila National Forest: There have been no new developments for the Gila. We anticipate a Draft Plan and EIS sometime early in 2019.

Everything related to the Gila National Forest Plan revision process can be found at the Gila Forest Plan Revision page located [HERE](#).

Lincoln National Forest: And finally....(drum roll please!)...the Lincoln National Forest has just released their draft Assessment. They are asking for public comments on the draft Assessment (the first major step in the revision process) by August 31st. You can review the draft Assessment document [HERE](#).

The best place to keep track of the Lincoln's Forest Plan revision process is [HERE](#).
Source: NMOHVA July 2018 Newsletter

Recreational Rockhounds need to get involved. If YOU can't get there, YOU can't collect. Make your voice heard, become pro-active before it is to late!

Recreational Rockhounding Through the Years from California



Burro Creek, AZ - 1988



Pebble Pups - 2016



Cady Mountains, CA-1964



Gem Hill, CA - 1985



Dry Head Agate



Green Ash Hills, CA - 1985



Trona, CA - 1960



Wiley's Well District, CA - 1962



Recreational Rockhounds
Boron, CA 2010



Coalinga - Clear Creek, CA - 1968



AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Must be postmarked by December 31st of each year

Member / Contact Name: _____
Last First

Member / Contact Name: _____
Last First

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Mailing Address: _____
(if different from above) City State Zip Code

Phone Number: _____
Primary Secondary

Email Address: _____

Alternate Email address: _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dues are: **New Member:** **Donation:**
 \$25 for an individual or couple **Renewal:** **Amount Enclosed:** \$ _____
 \$50 for a Club or Society

Leave a note for us:

Please check an option to subscribe to our Email or Snail Mail list.

Please make checks payable to: American Lands Access Association (ALAA)

Please mail this completed form along with your check to the following address:

American Lands Access Association
C/O Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 54398
San Jose, CA 95154

For more information or questions, please email: membership@amlands.org

ALAA is a grassroots 501(c)(4) Educational, non-profit organization. Our organization is present wherever there are hobbyists and recreational users of public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level.

ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2016

***Click on the above Membership Form to use the interactive Form
 (Fillable when opened in Adobe Accrobat Reader)***

ALAA Editor
2010 West Ave. K #528
Lancaster, CA 93536-5229



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Directions To the Crystal Dig Area

Open April 1 - October 15, daily.

For information and map, please click [here](#).

From the Great Salt Plains State Park: Eight miles south on State Hwy 38 to Jet, OK. Six miles west of Jet on State Hwy 64 (look for a sign). Three miles north on a sand road and one mile east on a paved road to the gate and follow the orange signs to 'Dig Area.'

From Cherokee, OK: Three miles south of Cherokee on State Hwy 8. Turn east on the paved road (look for sign), five miles to the gate and follow signs to dig area.