



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

www.amlands.org

Volume 12 Issue 2

April - June 2020

CERRO GORDO CALIFORNIA A Mining Ghost Town

We have learned through social media and local contacts that a fire has destroyed three historic structures in the historic town of Cerro Gordo, California. It is located in the Inyo Mountains near Owens Dry Lake. One of the historic building that has been destroyed is the American Hotel built in 1871. A living museum of a time passed. The others were the Carpo House and the Ice House. Gone but not Forgotten. (See Page 12)



Pictures taken in 2004

<https://www.sierrawave.net/fire-in-cerro-gordo-ghost-town/>

Fieldtrip Journal for Public Lands (Blank Forms are on Page 4 & 5)

This is the simple Journal to document your Fieldtrip Activities and record the access routes needed to get to and from collecting sites. This data will be useful when asked to submit comments to Public Land Managers during the Public Comment Period on potential Public Land Access Closures proposals.

Your information could save your collecting sites from route closures and access restrictions.....

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**

Permission to Reprint All or Any Part of this Newsletter is Hereby Granted,
Provided, Credits and Citations are Maintained.

Material from ALAA Newsletters may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes with appropriate credits. For commercial use, individual authors must be contacted for approval. Articles lacking bylines have been generated by the bulletin staff. Direct other questions to the Editor at: editor@amlands.org

News from California

Recreational Rockhounding in the Mojave Desert

From the Ridgecrest and Barstow BLM Field Offices

June 4, 2020

“With the modified stay-at-home order, yes you can. Remember to bring along hand sanitizer or disposable gloves and use it when at the gas station and touch high-use things. Stay safe!

A High percentage of BLM staff continues to telework, and we do have staff working in the field, as well as Law Enforcement Rangers and fire personnel. All is good.”

“Happy Rockhounding and Enjoy Your Public Lands”

Idaho News

Lauren Williams

lauren.williams@amlands.org

“U.S. Forest Service Sage-Grouse Bulletin 16 May 2020

Summary: Sage-Grouse Bulletin #16 provides an update on the Forest Service objection process.

The Objection and Resolution Process – Next Steps.

The Reviewing Office, Allen Rowley, Associate Deputy Chief for National Forests Systems from the Washington Office, is working on concerns identified in the objection letters as clarified in discussion with objects and interested person during the December in-person meeting.

A follow-up call with the objectors is being planned during May or June.

The process will conclude when Allen Rowley provides written guidance to the Responsible Officials (the Regional Foresters in Regions 2 and 4) with any required changes to the greater sage-grouse plans based on what was learned during the objections process

The time-line for final decisions is uncertain until the scope and scale of changes to the plans are determined.”

OREGON NEWS

Jennifer Haley

Oregon State Director

jennifer.haley@amlands.org

In Oregon all BLM offices are closed or have limited public access, however staff are available by phone and email. All campgrounds, most day use sites and many restrooms are closed. Trash pickup and sanitation services are temporarily suspended at many BLM recreation facilities. Despite the closure of these facilities, many BLM-managed trails and open spaces are still available for people to visit. Because of the ongoing changing concerns in specific BLM areas be sure to check out: <https://www.blm.gov/oregon-washington/covid-access-restrictions>

At this time BLM recommends when visiting public lands; travel close to home; no large groups; stay 6ft apart; pack out what you pack in; take your own soap and hand sanitizer; stay home if you are sick. We are fortunate that Recreational Rockhounding is something we can still enjoy, maybe not as a society group just yet due to the virus precautions, but I can't think of a better way to heal one's self of "cabin fever," than getting out for some fresh air while looking for pretty rocks. There's something about looking for rocks that just cheers us up.

Reports say bears are out and about enjoying the great outdoors just like us. I like to wear brass hawk bells on a swivel eye latch attached to my jean's loop just to let them know I am out and about, knowing they want to avoid me as much as I want to avoid them. If you are going collecting in bear territory, this is a very good website to learn about the various bear signs besides the obvious and what to do. <https://bear.org/bear-tracks-and-trails/>

I checked in on all the Oregon State Resource Advisory Councils-RAC's. Of the councils listed on the BLM website at the time I write this article, mid-May, there aren't any future dates listed for public meetings. Based on what I am reading, it looks like when the BLM needs to meet, meetings will be conducted as teleconferences given the nature of the covid19 virus situation. BLM has a link on their website for, Trouble Shooting,-Advice for watching and participating in the live meetings. To stay in touch with the various RACs in the state, here's the link. <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/apply>

One thing I did notice about the Oregon RACs is that Recreational Rockhounding was not listed as a Represent Group within any of the councils. A few RAC members listed themselves as Dispersed Recreation, but these particular members may not even know about rockhounding. It's possible there isn't rockhounding in these areas, but maybe there is, so I want to call on all Rockhounds to get in touch with ALAA about your collecting areas.

What many Rockhounds learned the hard way in California, one time before it was too late, is that it pays to document your collecting areas early with ALAA, even before there are potential BLM changes within and around your collecting areas. You can imagine the stress on all our minds when BLM makes an announcement about opening up public comment for a new planning project in a designated area that will affect us.

There is usually a scenario of possibilities about how changes like these will impact our recreation. The impact could be the collecting area itself or part of it, and/or involving the access of how or if we can still even use the same access to get there, and there may be no other way to access the site except the way we've always gone before. This means it's important for many to become part of the equation, as Rock & Gem Societies and as Recreational Rockhounding individuals who love what we do and want to keep it that way for the future of our wonderful recreation.

**ALAA – DATA BASE OF COLLECTING SITES
BY STATES**

PRIVATE COLLECTING SITES

NAME OF SOCIETY/CLUB: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Field Trip Leader:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

Collected Material: _____

Name of Company, Ranch or Owner: _____

General Manager: _____

Contact Person: _____

Liability Insurance Requirement: Yes: _____ No: _____

Location (Address): _____

GPS: _____

Distance from your Club: _____

Frequency of leading trips to this location: _____

Number of attendance: _____

Day trip or Overnight: _____

Closest Town: _____

Groceries, gas, restaurants, motels, hardware stores or other impact on the town:

Other Comments for this site:

Date Filled in Form: _____

Please keep copy for your files, send a copy to fieldtrip@amlands.org

**ALAA – DATA BASE OF COLLECTING SITES
BY STATES
GOVERNMENT COLLECTING SITES**

NAME OF SOCIETY/CLUB: _____

Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Field Trip Leader:
Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
Collected Material: _____

FOREST SERVICE _____ GRASSLANDS _____ BLM _____
Did you contact District Manager? Yes: _____ No: _____ Contact Name:

Did you have to register your group? Yes: _____ No: _____

Routes to the exact collecting site: _____

GPS: _____
Closest Town: _____
Groceries, gas, restaurants, motels, hardware stores or other impact on the town:

Other Comments for this site:

Date Filled in Form: _____

Please keep copy for your files, send a copy to fieldtrip@amlands.org

Recreational Rockhounding

As defined in the

United States Code of Federal Regulations

43 CFR § 8365.1-5 Property and resources.

(a) On all public lands, unless otherwise authorized, no person shall;

- (1) Willfully deface, disturb, remove or destroy any personal property, or structures, or any scientific, cultural, archaeological or historic resource, natural object or area;
- (2) Willfully deface, remove or destroy plants or their parts, soil, rocks or minerals, or cave resources, except as permitted under paragraph (b) or (c) of this paragraph; or
- (3) Use on the public lands explosive, motorized or mechanical devices, except metal detectors, to aid in the collection of specimens permitted under paragraph (b) or (c) of this paragraph.

(b) Except on developed recreation sites and areas, or where otherwise prohibited and posted, it is permissible to collect from the public lands reasonable amounts of the following for noncommercial purposes:

- 1) Commonly available renewable resources such as flowers, berries, nuts, seeds, cones and leaves;
- (2) Nonrenewable resources such as **rock and mineral specimens, common invertebrate and common plant fossils, and semiprecious gemstones;**
- (3) **Petrified wood** as provided under subpart **3622** of this title;
Subpart 3622—Free Use of Petrified Wood
- (4) Mineral materials as provided under subpart **3604**; and
Subpart 3604—Free Use of Mineral Materials
- (5) Forest products for use in campfires on the public lands. Other collection of forest products shall be in accordance with the provisions of Group **5500** of this title. **PART 5500—NONSALE DISPOSALS; GENERAL**

(c) The collection of renewable or nonrenewable resources from the public lands **for sale or barter to commercial dealers may be done only after obtaining a contract or permit** from an authorized officer in accordance with part **3600** or **5400** of this chapter.

PART 3600—MINERAL MATERIALS DISPOSAL

PART 5400—SALES OF FOREST PRODUCTS; GENERAL

[48 FR 36384, Aug. 10, 1983; 67 FR 68778, Nov. 13, 2002; 75 FR 27455, May 17, 2010; e-CFR data is current as of October 18, 2019]

Subpart 8364— Closures and Restrictions [Read them here..](#)

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations: [43 CFR....](#)

Do **you** have a definition of “**Recreational Rockhounding**”? If you do please let us know, we would really like to see your definition... info@amlands.org

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

Last revised July 7, 1999 at AFMS Annual Meeting

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill in all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
11. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
12. I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
13. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (**H**elp **E**liminate **L**itter **P**lease) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
14. I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those designated authority in all collecting areas.
15. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
16. I will observe the "Golden Rule" will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

News From Wyoming

Public Comments Encouraged on Impacts of Potential Paving of Private Property Access Route

Subscribe RSS Icon | What is RSS

Date: June 4, 2020

Contact: Denise Germann, 307-739-3393

The National Park Service is encouraging public comment on an environmental assessment that examines the proposed paving of a private property access route known as Meadow Road within Grand Teton National Park.

The purpose of the assessment is to analyze the potential environmental impacts on park resources from paving a one-mile segment of road located within the park boundary. The environmental assessment analyzes two alternatives: Alternative 1, the road remains unpaved (no action) and Alternative 2, the road may be paved (preferred alternative). The National Park Service is not authorizing the paving of Meadow Road at the present time. The assessment is available for public review online at parkplanning.nps.gov/meadowroad and comments are being accepted through July 3.

Meadow Road is located about 1.5 miles north of the Jackson Hole Airport Road. Meadow Road provides year-round access from U.S. Highway 26/89/191 west to residences within the subdivision. Through the 1950 Act that established Grand Teton National Park, the National Park Service provides regulated access for the movement of persons and property to or from private lands located within and outside of the park's administrative boundaries. The National Park Service has determined the singular purpose of the access route known as Meadow Road is to provide property owners and residents access to the subdivision. The access route does not provide an official visitor or administrative park use or service.

The need for the paving of Meadow Road is based solely on correspondence the National Park Service has received from some property owners of the Meadows subdivision beginning in 2015 and continuing through the assessment's public scoping in the summer of 2019. The need is focused on improving emergency access, accommodating increased traffic levels, and decreasing road maintenance costs.

Comments on the Meadow Road Paving Improvements Environmental Assessment can be submitted online at parkplanning.nps.gov/meadowroad or may be mailed to Grand Teton National Park, Planning Office, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012. **Comments should be submitted or postmarked by July 3, 2020.**

What's open?

Backcountry camping is not allowed in the park at this time. Permits are anticipated to be available later in June.

It is expected later in June that the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, Colter Bay Visitor Center, and Jenny Lake Ranger Station will be open. Backcountry permits will be available once visitor centers open. **Continued on page9.....**

..... **Contuned from page 8**

Multiple area closures exist in the park see Temporary Closures and Compendium Amendments.

Campgrounds and cabins have begun to open. Some take-away food services have started. Park waters have opened to boating and floating for the season, be sure to get a park boat permit and WY AIS decal. Boat permits are available for purchase by phone at 307-739-3309. Aquatic invasive species inspection stations are operating, be sure to get your watercraft checked.

Visitors can drive the Teton Park, Moose-Wilson and North Park roads. South Jenny Lake and the Colter Bay areas are accessible with limited public restrooms in those locations. Vault toilets are open in accessible areas. Day hiking is allowed. The multi-use pathway system in the park is open.

Grand Teton National Park is Open

Grand Teton National Park is open 24 hours every day, year-round. The most popular months to visit are May through September. During the busy summer season, most roads and facilities are open and a full range of programs are available to enjoy. From November through April, some roads, all campgrounds, and most visitor facilities are closed or have reduced hours. Check out the links below for more information. Alerts and other closures also occur please see [Alerts & Current Conditions](#) page.

BLM Wyoming Offices

Continuing our service to the public while doing our part to address COVID-19 is very important. Following guidance from the CDC and recommendations from state and local public health authorities, the BLM is temporarily restricting in-person public access to visitor centers and public rooms in our Wyoming offices. Please check with individual offices regarding customer services available by phone or email.

Visitors may continue to enjoy BLM trails and open space areas. The health and safety of staff and visitors in these facilities is our number one priority. We continue to remind our visitors to follow the CDC's guidance to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including maintaining social distancing, covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, and staying home if you feel sick. Visitors are encouraged to "pack it in and pack it out" as future trash pick-up may be limited due to limited staff availability in some areas. [Wyoming BLM Offices](#)

Quartzsite Chamber & Tourism

Greetings Rockhounds,

The Big Tent recently issued a press release stating they are still planning to hold the 2021 Quartzsite Sports, Vacation & RV Show.

We have not heard from other swap meets, but Quartzsite Town Hall, our County Health Dept., swap meet owners and local organizations are all monitoring the COVID-19 situation.

Year-round restaurants and retail shops have reopened with limited seating. BLM camping areas and almost all RV Parks remained open during the crisis, which was very fortunate for our snowbirds- some stayed open later than usual to accommodate our visitors. It's been wonderful to see how everyone's working together during these unprecedented times.

We will update our Facebook page when we have more information...

<https://www.facebook.com/QtzTourism/>

Gem and Mineral Dealers Who Support ALAA with Memberships

Rough and slabs for your lapidary pleasure

WWW. IDAHO rock shop .COM

We buy rocks, from small piles to whole estates
We buy and sell used lapidary equipment

Feel free to contact us with your special requests

Tony and Chris Funk
730 Arizona Street
Gooding, ID 83330

Tony@IdahoRockShop.com
208 539 5368

Paleo-Enterprises

"Where True stands for quality"
Gems - Minerals - Fossils - Jewelry
Decorator items and Artifacts

DOUGLAS & JEANETTE TRUE
Owners

[406] 670-0506

dtruefossils12@yahoo.com



JL Gray Rock Shop

Jim & Leane Gray

P.O. Box 1351
Big Pincy, WY 83113

614 E. 3rd Street
Marbleton, WY 83113

(307) 260-6443
(307) 260-6442
graysrocks@wyoming.com

Rough Rock Slabs
Cabs, Beads, Findings
Vintage collectible bottles
Bookends
Jewelry, Belt Buckles, Bolas
Specimens & Fossils
Custom Cutting, Lapidary classes

Facebook: JL Gray Rock Shop

ROCKY FIVE

Lon Mullaney
408-691-6186

Michelle Powers
408-694-8686

email: rockyfive.f@gmail.com

Office Phone: 408-266-1791 web site: www.rockyfive.net



Oregon Rockhounding during COVID-19

Margie Tomlinson

Trails End Rock and Gem Club - Astoria Oregon

So when we started having church in the parking lot was when I originally thought hey, why not have the Rock Club meeting in a parking lot? In this case our College venue was out so we choose the local Astoria Safeway store. Well tonight was the night and the weather was mixed (brought an extra umbrella) but every one put up the hatch backs on their car and that was enough and we went around and shared what we'd found or polished and talked and talked and talked about what everyone had been doing. We shared ideas about projects then had an unexpected Rock Sale come up from an old former member to direct people to. Our next meeting in July is scheduled for a member's place. That gentleman has a working rock shop so we'll be able to have some things cut while we talk and watch and have access to rough rock to purchase. It can all be outside under canopy cover if needed. Very, very happy all around. Small group but that was all that was allowed. I'll send out a news letter to all tomorrow. We are heading out to Central Oregon Wednesday just to get away where there's not anything, especially news. Maybe stop and see if Kant's Rock shop is open in Prineville. Hope this is an encouragement to others to try something similar. We could have used the Hospital or Maritime Museum parking lot as those are open evenings we choose Safeway because of the location. I even ran in and got a Starbucks coffee since I was early to set up. If I find any good rock next week I'll shout it from the mountain tops. That old timer sale has some really nice petrified wood.

Just out of the tumbler is a sample of some Mexican Lace nodules I cut.





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 Acrobat Reader)**

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



Be sure to renew your ALAA
Membership by the end of
March 2020



The Historical American Hotel after the Cerro Gordo Fire of June 15, 2020
Olanca Cartago Fire Department Photos 6-15-2020

Twenty-one different minerals were collectible in the Cerro Gordo Mine Tailing Pile before the fire. Collecting condition at Cerro Gordo is unknown at this time.

THE BLM IS ON THE MOVE

The **B**ureau of **L**and **M**anagement is moving its Washington, DC office to Grand Junction, Colorado. The exact time frame of the move is not known at this time. Check on the BLM Website for more information. This will make contacting the main BLM Office easier for the Recreational Rockhound.

Another BLM Move is the California Desert District office is moving from its Moreno Valley, CA location to a new office in Palm Springs, CA.