

ALAA Newsletter
Jay Valle, Editor
1421 Latchford Avenue
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

<http://www.amlands.org/>

July August September 2013



AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

(Must be postmarked or received by December 31 each year)

Member/Contact Name: _____
Last First

Last First

Organization Name _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different than above)

Phone Number: _____
Primary Residence Primary Business (if any)

Email Address _____
Name Address

Name Address

Member Signature _____ **Date:** _____

**Send Completed form with renewal Dues to: Dues are: \$25.00 for individual/couple
\$50.00 for a club or society**

New Member _____ **(X) Renewal** _____ **(X) Amount Enclosed \$** _____

American Lands Access Association

C/O Membership Chairman

P O BOX 54398

San Jose, CA 95154

Email to: membership@amlands.org

Make Checks payable to: American Lands Access Association (ALAA)

A grassroots 501-C-4 Educational, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping public lands open for the public



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

July August September 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shirley Leeson

president@amlands.org

Our ALAA Newsletter comes out four times a year. This issue is the 3rd Quarter issue. I'd like to share what we have accomplished this year, so far.

We had an ALAA meeting in Quartzsite, Arizona during the Quartzsite Improvement Assn. Rockhound Days in late January. (At that time, the ALAA board of directors also met) In April ALAA had a meeting in Kennewick, Washington during the Mid-year meeting of the Northwest Federation. In May, we had a booth at the Rocky Mountain show and convention in Sandy, Utah. In late May, we had a booth and meeting at the California Federation show and convention in Ventura, California. And we recently returned from the Northwest Federation show and convention in Butte, Montana where we had a booth and meeting. I bring this to you because I need you all to know we are working all over the country for YOU. To keep your public lands, whether they be US Forests, BLM or state and local park lands open for public access.

We have a number of new State ALAA REPRESENTATIVES. What they do is keep informed on issues that may effect the closing of public lands in their respective states. What we advocate is multiple use for all public lands and not areas closed to most, except special interests groups.

ALAA now has a color brochure (thanks to John Martin for design and printing) giving the viewer a short picture of what ALAA is about and also an application to join ALAA. This is going over very well with those who have picked them up at the various meetings above.

ALAA's website is growing and we are fortunate that we have a webmaster, John Martin who is on top of everything that comes our way. If you haven't searched it yet, please do so. www.amlands.org

We have a new membership chair, Colleen McGann and you can reach her at: membership@amlands.org And a new Treasurer, Frank Mullaney who can be reached at treasurer@amlands.org and both can be reached at our new Post Office: American Lands Access Assn. P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154.

We now feel we are in a position to ask YOU to join ALAA. We will have 100 copies of this issue of ALAA to give out to AFMS officers and directors at their meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in September. We hope these complimentary copies of our newsletter will find their way back to the regional members and you will feel compelled to join us.... We can't do this alone. When you join you are becoming a member of the team. Will you make it your duty to keep informed of what is going on in your area and let us know so that we can help you.

There is STRENGTH IN NUMBERS. Governmental agencies take note of the number of members of an organization they are dealing with. Won't you become part of the growing numbers of concerned rockhounds and help us save what little public lands there is left.

Let me leave you with something that you should know. In signing in at a governmental agency meeting some time back I noted I was a rockhound. With my back turned, two BLM people were talking and one noted "there are rockhounds here at this meeting, I thought they were all long gone." Well, things are changing, they are beginning to recognize us when we attend. Help us make this a reality everywhere. Attend meetings when you can, I know isn't easy, but it is necessary.

For current information and alerts go to the ALAA Web Page at <http://www.amlands.org/>. You can also download a copy of the current newsletter or peruse the archive of previous editions.

ALAA REGISTERED AGENT REPORT

Dee Holland, ALAA Registered Agent
for the State of Idaho

Our yearly report to the State of Idaho has been duly received by the state, via email.

Public Land News for July

by Jan Baumeister

South Dakota Rep for ALAA and RMFMS

Senator Tim Johnson has a Boundary Maps Proposed-mapping out 48,000 acres of Indian Creek, Red Shirt and Chalk Hills. This must be done before any wilderness designation can only be made through an act of Congress.

Upon calling Senator Johnson's office recently I found out that all of Buffalo Gap Grasslands is currently "being managed as wilderness" by the Forest Service "in their wilderness qualities".

Information from the Black Hills Multiple Use Coalition reports the *Cattlemen's Associations are strongly against any Wilderness designation.*

As a representative for the other major users, the local and visiting rockhounds from different states who enjoy hunting here, I've talked to the Washington office of Senator Thune to help fight against this new Boundry map proposal and any Wilderness bills- which will STOP the Nature Conservation Network "visions" in the future.

I believe with help of Senator Thune and other Western states senators, and their working the National Guard, there will be no Wilderness for South Dakota.

Sierra Club has been trying to get wilderness in here since 1980 and as RMFMS SD REP, with being an editor of a rock club bulletin for 21 years, this has been a great tool to spread the word before computer age!

Julaine Mullaney

The rockhound community was shocked by the passing of ALAA Treasurer Frank Mullaney's wife Julaine on June 2, 2013. Rushed to the emergency room at the local hospital, there was nothing that could be done to save her. Julaine was the rock to which the family clung, her inventive ideas and creativity was a boon to their business, Rocky-5. Frank & one of his sons and daughter-in-law will continue on with the business.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Frank and his family.

Shirley

JUST IN: BREAKING NEWS**Inter-Regional Field Trip to Terry, Montana**

July 31, August 1, 2,& 3, 2014

Doug True, AFMS/NFMS Fieldtrip Leader,
dtruefossils12@yahoo.com

Watch for more information in the AFMS, NFMS and ALAA newsletters.

This will be a special trip, the town of Terry, Montana will be our hosts. Camping in the town park. Pot Lucks and Bar-B-Qs, music, speakers and field trips for MONTANA AGATES and other important rockhound material.

ALAA will have a clean-up, with the town included. They will select the site of the clean-up. Put this on your 2014 calendar. More next ALAA Newsletter.

GO IMMEDIATELY TO OUR WEBSITE: www.amlands.org and click on any item on the left hand side. NOW!

Fact-Check Sheet and Sources for Federal Lands and Designations

Joanne Spivack, February 28, 2013

I've included extra Wilderness data since that is always a big issue. The numbers are tricky to pin down. Websites on NRA's or National Monuments include all the different management agencies. Some categories include others (NPS lands include wilderness areas and other designations like monuments.). I've been very careful to not double-count any acreage, but errors might have slipped in. **The totals are at the end. There could well be some designations I've missed. Tell me if you know of any.**

1. Land Mass of U.S. and percentage of federal lands:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42346.pdf> CRS Report prepared for Congress: "Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data", dated Feb 8, 2012:

"The federal government owns roughly 635-640 million acres, 28% of the 2.27 billion acres of land in the United States. Four agencies administer 609 million acres of this land: the Forest Service (USFS) in the Department of Agriculture, and the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), all in the Department of the Interior (DOI). Most of these lands are in the West and Alaska. In addition, the Department of Defense administers 19 million acres in military bases, training ranges, and more. Numerous other agencies administer the remaining federal acreage."

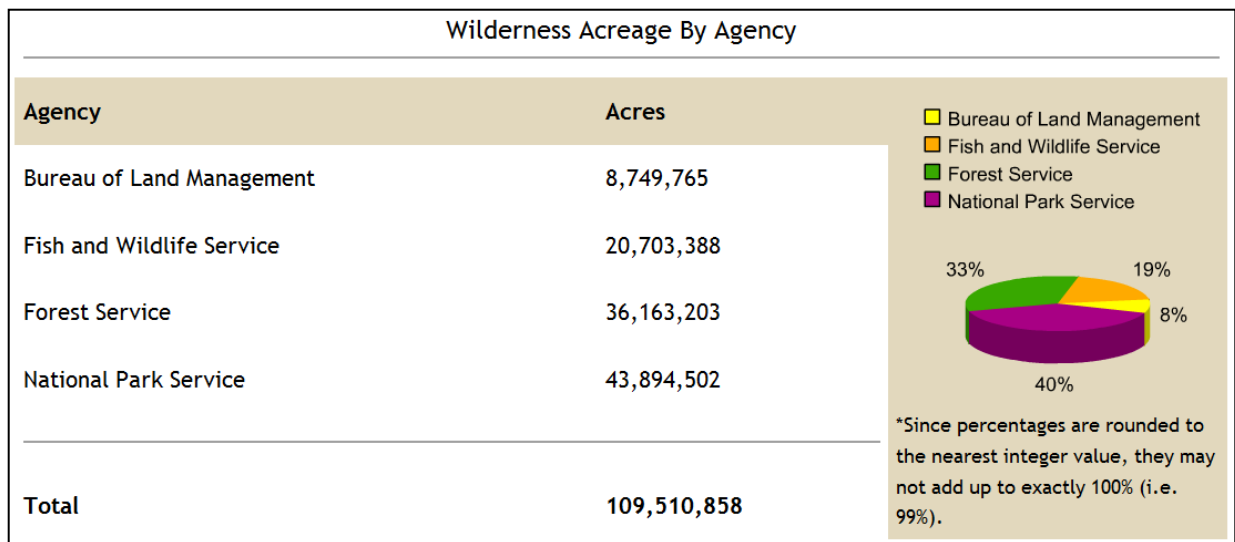
The BLM: 248 million acres and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral resources.
 The USFS: 193 million acres
 The FWS: 89 million acres of federal land (plus several large marine areas)
 The NPS: 80 million acres

"Federal land ownership is concentrated in the West. Specifically, **62% of Alaska is federally owned, as is 47% of the 11 coterminous western states. By contrast, the federal government owns only 4% of lands in the other states.** This western concentration has contributed to a higher degree of controversy over land ownership and use in that part of the country."

Exact acreages from the report are 628,801,639 acres of federal land, out of the 2,271,343,360 acres in the U.S. Alaska is 365,481,600 acres, and 225,848,164 acres is federal owned (61.8%). That is not unusual, federal ownership in Nevada is 81.1%, Utah 66%, Idaho 61.7%, Oregon 53%, Wyoming 48.2%. (see maps at last page.)

Footnote states the total federal ownership is understated because the table doesn't show other federal agencies, such as Agricultural Research Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Energy, NASA.

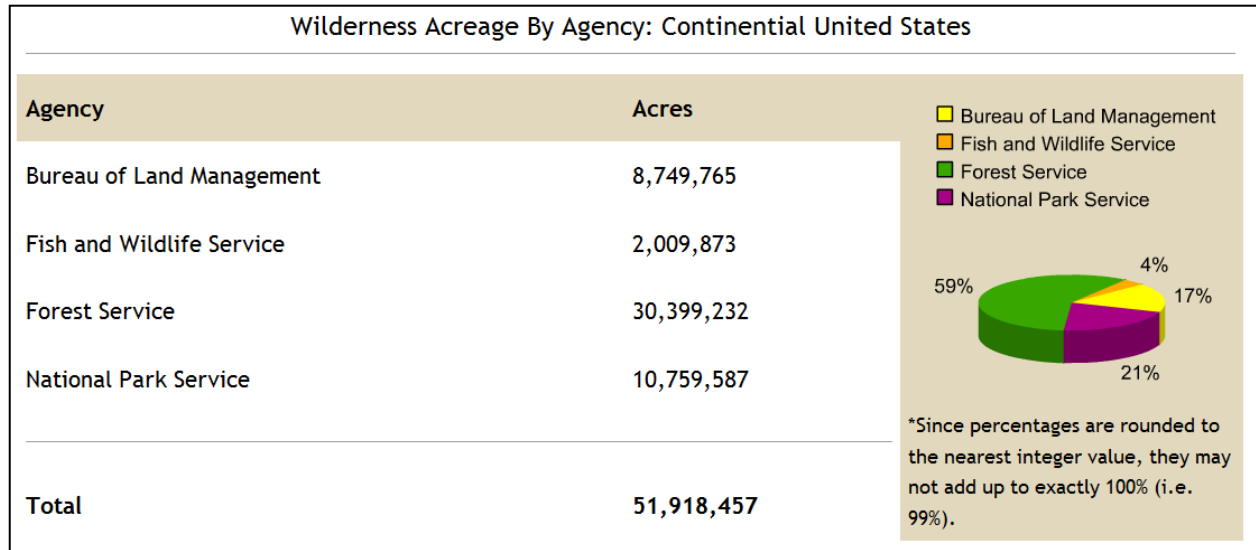
2. 109,510,858 acres of Wilderness as of 1/28/13 from www.wilderness.net, the website co-run by the University of Montana and the 4 agencies that manage wilderness areas. Here's how it breaks down:



Fact-Check Sheet and Sources for Federal Lands and Designations

(Continued from page 5)

Alaska holds 52% of the Wilderness, but it also holds a large percent of the land mass of the country. Wilderness is 57,425,992 acres out of a land mass of 365,481,600 acres in Alaska. Here is the summary for continental U.S. from wilderness.net.



How Does Wilderness Look If You Take Out Alaska? Someone might argue, ‘Yes, but so much of the wilderness is in Alaska.’

Answer: true, but Alaska is big, and is 62% federal land. Alaska holds 37% of all federal lands,. Alaska has 225,848,164 acres of federal lands. Without Alaska, the total acreage of federal lands is reduced from 609 million acres to 383 million acres.

Here are the numbers:

All U.S. 109 million acres of wilderness / 609 million acres of fed land: 17.9% wilderness
Minus Alaska: 52 million acres of wilderness / 383 million acres of fed land: 13.8% wilderness

3. 73.6 million acres of National Park Service (non-wilderness lands)

www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s1255.xls

The NPS is 84,383,361 acres which includes 10,759,587 acres of wilderness. So for our total, we will count the NPS as 73.6 million, so we do not double-count the wilderness.

4. 89 million acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42346.pdf>

5. 23.7 million acres of BLM lands with national designations

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/NLCS/National_Conservation_Areas.html

The BLM National Landscape Conservation System includes national monuments, NCAs and other designations. I’m breaking them out by type to avoid double-counting wilderness.

(Continued on page 7)

Fact-Check Sheet and Sources for Federal Lands and Designations

(Continued from page 6)

4.12 million acres of National Conservation Area (NCA)

12.7 million acres of BLM Wilderness Study Areas

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/NLCS/wilderness_study_areas.html

5.59 million acres of national monuments (includes 762,308 acres of non-BLM federal acres)

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Law_Enforcement/nlcs/online_electronic.Par.98873.File.dat/NM%20Detail%20table%20April%202012%20final.pdf

1.16 million acres protected under Wild and Scenic Rivers

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/NLCS/Rivers.html

6. 3.15 million acres of National Recreation Areas (2.95 million is USFS)

http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/lar/LAR2012/Table_15.pdf

7. 58.5 million acres of USFS Inventoried Roadless Areas (one-third of all USFS lands)

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gDfxMDT8MwRydLA1cj72BTfzMTAwjQL8h2VAQAJp-nEg!!/?ss=119930&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&navid=0910000000000000&pnavid=null&ttype=roadmain&cid=FSE003853&position=RELATEDLINKS&pname=Roadless-Home

“Inventoried roadless areas constitute roughly one-third of all National Forest System lands, or approximately 58.5 million acres. Although the inventoried roadless areas comprise only 2% of the land base in the continental United States, they are found within 661 of the over 2,000 major watersheds in the nation and provide many social and ecological benefits.”

8. 6.53 million acres Congressionally Designated Areas in USFS (other than the NRA's)

There are 9.48 million Congressionally Designated Areas in USFS, including the two categories below. I took out the 2.95 million acres of NRA's in the USFS, so they don't get double-counted.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/cda/special-areas.shtml>

7.385 million acres are under these designations

“Congress has designated several areas unique for their special characteristics and the opportunities they offer. In addition to congressionally designated wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, they include these National Historic Landmarks (NHL), National Volcanic Monuments (NVM), National Historic Scenic Areas (NHS), National Recreation Areas (NRA), Scenic Recreation Areas (SRA), National Scenic Areas (NSA), National Preserves (NP), and National Monuments (NM).”

2.1 million acres in ‘Other Congressionally Designated Areas (National Management Emphasis Areas)’

9. 6.6 million acres of USFS Wilderness Study Areas

<http://www.gao.gov/products/RCED-93-151>

1993 GAO report, page 8 claims a lot of areas allow motorized use. Often that means a few roads begrudgingly allowed and always under attack. This report dated 1993 shows 26.3 million acres of BLM WSA. 603 out of 752 WSA's were designated under FLPMA. The BLM recommended at that time that 336 areas, 9.5 million acres, are suitable for wilderness. (The USFS has 117 WSA's totaling 6.6 million acres. As of 1993 the USFS has recommended 4.6 million acres (about 70%) for wilderness.)

(Continued on page 8)

Fact-Check Sheet and Sources for Federal Lands and Designations

(Continued from page 7)

10. National Trails System: over 60,000 miles in all 50 states

National Historic and National Scenic trails are managed by the BLM, USFS and NPS. I can't provide acreage because they are measured in miles not acres. The best database I could find was on:

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/feds/40yearfact.html>

It says there are 11 National Scenic Trails and 19 Historic Trails designated by Congress. The trails are managed by the federal agencies, but not necessarily all on federal lands.

SUMMARY

- **109.5 million acres of Wilderness**
- **73.6 million acres of National Park Service (non-wilderness lands)**
- **89 million acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **23.7 million acres of BLM lands with national designations (not including NRA's)**
- **3.15 million acres of National Recreation Areas (2.95 million is USFS)**
- **58.5 million acres of USFS Inventoried Roadless Areas (one-third of all USFS lands)**
- **6.53 million acres Congressionally Designated Areas in USFS (other than the NRA's)**
- **6.6 million acres of USFS Wilderness Study Areas**

Total: 370.58 million acres of federal lands have special designations

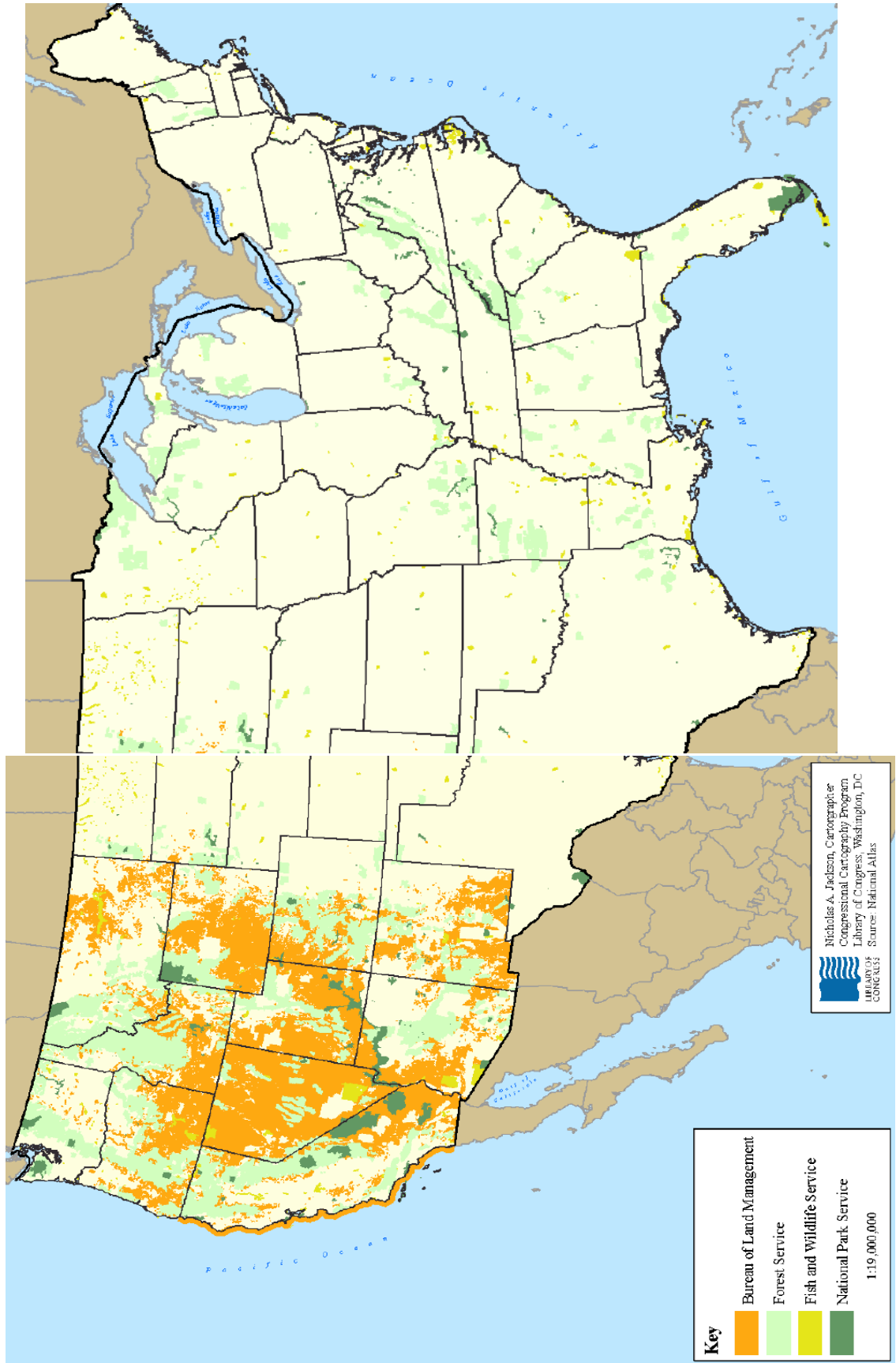
With 640 million acres of federally managed lands, that is 57.9%.

57.9% of our federal lands are NOT being managed for multiple use. They are managed for other goals and purposes.

Three things to note:

- 1. These designations do not include the thousands of restrictive designations imposed at the local level, by individual USFS and BLM offices. ('non-motorized areas', ACEC's etc.)**
- 2. The Inventoried Roadless Areas are one-third of our national forests are being managed for 'wilderness characteristics' to maintain their 'suitability' for future wilderness designation.**
- 3. The BLM's national directive about 'wilderness characteristics' has the same effect.**

**Maps from Congressional Report Feb 2012
Federal lands in the West compared to the East**



NEW PROPOSED PALEO RESTRICTIONS

The comment period ended on July 22nd, but please take the time to read this. Forwarded to ALAA from Doug True, ALAA Director.

Read the proposal here

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/05/23/2013-12173/paleontological-resources-preservation#h-10>

Submit your comments here

http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=FS_FRDOC_0001-1610

Because these comments are lengthily, ALAA will only print the first section, and print more in the 4th Quarter ALAA Newsletter....

Review of the rule by section:

I have organized my comments by section numbers within Part 291—Paleontological Resources Preservation.

291.1 Purpose.

(a) The regulations in this part implement provisions of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470aaa through 16 U.S.C. 470aaa-11 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), which provides for the management and protection of paleontological resources on Federal lands and encourages the scientific, educational and where appropriate, the casual collection of these resources. Paleontological resources are nonrenewable, and are an accessible and irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage.

Comment: I just want to highlight the word encourages. As a general rule making restrictive rules that limits collecting of paleontological resources would not be defined as encouraging. Within the realm of casual collecting this rule does nothing to encourage collecting. Casual collecting is an important way for professionals to understand the types of fossils that are collected from sites. I would also like to recognize the fact that while they are indeed nonrenewable, in general most invertebrate and plant fossils are widely distributed. The only limit to fossils tends to be the

amount of rock that is easy worked and exposed. Most fossil containing rock is “safely” locked away underground for professionals and for future generations to explore. Anyone familiar with geologic conditions could show that a fraction of a percentage of fossil bearing rock is actually collected and any concerns about running out of the vast majority of fossils to study are frankly unfounded. Scientists can always petition for a permit to use heavy equipment to uncover rock to collect specimens whenever it is approved and prudent, this would not generally be considered as a remedy for the casual collector.

291.5 Definitions.

Casual collecting means the collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools, resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth's surface and other resources.

Comment: Per PUBLIC LAW 111–11 SEC. 6304. COLLECTION OF PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES. (2) CASUAL COLLECTING EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall allow casual collecting without a permit on Federal land controlled or administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service, where such collection is consistent with the laws governing the management of those Federal land and this subtitle.

It is **my opinion** that the rule being proposed to limit the amounts of fossils, the types of hand tools used to collect them, and other definitions found below, are reaching beyond the intent of this law. The intent of the law is to protect fossil resources from being exploited for commercial gain. To restrict them further harms the future of interest in paleontology and does not further the interests of science or the public interest in fossils. Maintaining this public interest is the key to the future of paleontology.

Common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources are invertebrate or plant fossils that are of ordinary occurrence and wide-spread distribution. Not all invertebrate and plant paleontological resources are

(Continued on page 11)

NEW PROPOSED PALEO RESTRICTIONS

(Continued from page 10)

common.

Comment: To bring this up without defining it further will only create additional confusion amongst collectors. What is rare and what is common is somewhat irrelevant when someone is collecting. Rare and common fossils are most often found within the same rocks. To restrict the collection of rare fossils, will ensure that common fossils will also not be found. To not encourage the collection of common fossils will also ensure that rare specimens will not be found and turned over to the proper scientific institutions to be studied. Only by collecting and becoming familiar with what is rare and what is common can a person be sufficiently knowledgeable regarding the scientifically valuable nature of specimens. It is unreasonable and unrealistic for an authorized person within the Forest Service to have the necessary education or experience to be able to interpret this appropriately in all circumstances.

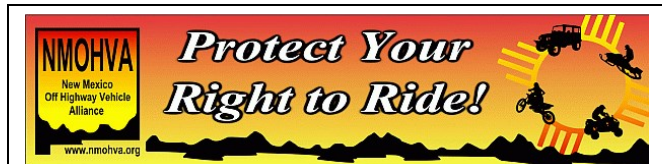
Proposal: The definition should read: All invertebrate and plant fossils are considered common except specimens that have not been formally described, or are awaiting description. Once a species has been described in a peer reviewed scientific journal it is no longer considered rare. When a casual collector discovers a new species they should properly collect and package the specimen. Included with specimen should be the following information: Formation in which it was found, approximate elevation with the formation if known, GPS coordinates or quarter section location, associated specimens if any are known. The collector should contact an appropriate professional paleontologist for review. If it is confirmed to be rare the specimen(s) should be provided to an approved federal repository within 90 days of discovery. A list of professional paleontologists and their field of expertise as well as a list of approved repositories is available at USFS field offices or a published website. Publications using specimens discovered by casual collectors must credit the collector in the acknowledgements.

.....more in the 4th Quarter ALAA Newsletter.

ALAA has received permission to take excerpts

from Glade Gunther's submission to the Federal register/Paleontological-resources-preservation #h-10. and share some of his comments he submitted.

Glade can be reached at: Geological Tools and Outfitter, LLC www.geo-tools.com



LAWSUIT UPDATE #5

August 5, 2013

Judge Grants 'Stay' of Proceedings While Waiting for Intervener Appeal

In our last update, we described how a judge denied the intervener status requested by Big Green. We didn't expect the Center for Biological Diversity/WildEarth Guardians/Sierra Club to meekly accept that surprising development. They did not.

They promptly filed an Appeal of the decision and asked for a 'stay' on the lawsuit proceedings until they get a decision. Not surprisingly, the court has granted them the 'stay'. Since the original denial for their intervener status came from a US District Court judge, the decision on the appeal gets made at the next level up: The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Simply put, our lawsuit is on hold until the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals makes a decision on Big Green's request to intervene. Unfortunately for those of us wanting a quick decision on NMOHVA's lawsuit, the Court of Appeals can take several months to hear the appeal and render a decision. In the meantime, the schedule for our lawsuit is "frozen" in place until after the decision.

WHILE WE WAIT...

So what do we do while we wait? We continue to do exactly the same thing we have been doing...we now have additional time to educate more of the public as to why this lawsuit is so important and continue to raise the funds needed for the lawsuit.

(Continued on page 12)

LAWSUIT UPDATE #5*(Continued from page 11)*

Use this additional time wisely! Help NMOHVA spread the word about the Forest Service's lousy decision and how everyone will be affected. Educate your friends, family, co-workers about their loss of access to their Forest and how NMOHVA's lawsuit is the **ONLY** remaining way to restore their access.

Help NMOHVA continue to raise the necessary funds to successfully complete this important challenge. We don't get our money from big trusts or a fat bank account. The money necessary for this lawsuit comes from our members and friends who realize what will be lost if we don't fight.

We can not afford to do is lose interest, take our eyes off the ball, or lose momentum. We need to treat this delay as an **OPPORTUNITY** to further strengthen our position. We need to continue to aggressively spread the word and raise money for the Access Defense Fund.

And again, THANK YOU!!!! Without you, none of this would be possible.

You can **DONATE** online to the **ACCESS DEFENSE FUND** by simply "clicking" on the button below:

**UTAH**by **Evan Day****Director and Utah Representative.**

Utah is in a curious position regarding land use and access issues. On one hand; State and local government entities and individual officials are actively endorsing and supporting public use and access. On the other hand; groups such as the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) are infuriated by this stance and actively pursuing multiple lawsuits to stop access wherever they can.

Utah's Legislature and Gov. Herbert are at the forefront of legal action to force the Federal Govt. to cede ownership of BLM & Forest service controlled lands to western States. This will be a long drawn out constitutional battle, with uncertain outcome. If successful, it would enable the States to control western land development and recreational use, instead of eastern environmental groups. However, a Federal Judge recently stayed a new State law forbidding Federal agents from enforcing local, county or state laws on Federal land. Most of the counties in Utah have cooperatively surveyed existing roads and trails and passed ordinances declaring them their property, hopefully thwarting attempts to close access by BLM and USFS. In fact, Utah's county commissioners and our ranchers are the most reasonable and supportive people in the world!

Unfortunately; SUWA, the Sierra Club, Western Wildlands and similar groups are well funded and enthusiastically suing anybody and everybody in sight. For example, in order to halt implementation of a travel plan for the Richfield, UT Field Office, SUWA has sued to invalidate the BLM's well considered and evenhanded Resource Management Plan. SUWA is assembling a team of about 20 lawyers to fight Utah's move to assume Federal lands. Meanwhile these folks are pushing the President to establish the "Redrocks National Monument", locking up most of south and eastern Utah, with parcels scattered through the state.

It is difficult for us ALAA members to travel the long distances to attend all the meetings that BLM and USFS hold to properly scope the recreational use of the lands under their jurisdiction. Fortunately, Utah's very active Off-Road Vehicle organizations have goals identical to ours, and support reasonable access just like us. The BLM state and field offices welcome our input whenever offered, and the Resource Advisory Council has been very open in listening to our suggestions and concerns. The BLM "RAC" also functions as the USFS "Recreational Advisory Council", so we have some ability to affect forest lands as well. Both agencies are working very hard to come up with good plans for maintaining the Sage Grouse habitat and bird populations, thus hopefully avoiding Endangered Species designation. Such an event would be disastrous in locking up enormous amounts of land and roads. One really bright spot in

(Continued on page 13)

UTAH

(Continued from page 12)

all of this, is that Rep. Rob Bishop is chairman of the US House of Representatives sub-committee responsible for legislation in this arena. Rob represents northern Utah, is easy to contact, and definitely supports multiple use of Federal lands.

This if from our ALAA rep in Eastern Oregon, BUT he attended, see below the Plumas National Forest meeting in Oroville, CA. Northern California??? John has sent this email to Tom Vilsack, US Dept of Agraculture, Big Shots in Forest Service in Washington DC, and two house staff people along with district supervisors for Oroville, CA. The last paragraph is a doozy.... asking for the District Forest Supervisor conducting the meeting to be compensated....you can't make this stuff up.
Shirley

----- Original Message -----

From: [John D. George](mailto:John.D.George)

To: eford@fs.fed.us ; rmoore@fs.fed.us ; ttidwell@fs.fed.us ; tom.vilsack@usda.gov

Cc: brenda.haynes@mail.house.gov ; colby.marshall@mail.house.gov ; terrellswoford@sbcglobal.net ; kevin.goss4district2@gmail.com ; sherie.thrall@gmail.com ; lorisimpson.plumas@gmail.com ; district5supervisor@hotmail.com

Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 9:48 AM

Subject: Plumas National Forest Sub Part A Meeting @ Feather River Ranger District 8/13/13

Good Morning Mr. Ford,

I recently attended a meeting at the Feather River Ranger District Office in Oroville Ca, on Tuesday Aug. 13th and wanted to write you to formalize my comments as I do not feel they were adequately noted during the discussions, nor did I care for the tenure of your staff during the meeting.

To start off, I drove from Eastern Oregon to attend the meeting at great personal expense to myself in both gas and time away from my job. The meeting started out with your District Ranger very firmly telling the group the things she would not accept in the meeting and that if people just wanted to repeat what they had said in the last meetings they could but would be just wasting everyone's time. As it was my first opportunity to attend a meeting on your forest I was very shocked to see a federal employee telling people what she deemed acceptable and what they would accept for comments and if people crossed that line they would simply close down the meeting, you could see it put everyone on edge and came across to me as a complete outsider as not only very condescending set of remarks, but a way of telling people that no matter what they said things were going to be pushing forward, and in all honesty, at that very moment I felt like getting up and leaving, but realized what I had done to get there and didn't want my time nor money wasted.

I found it shocking that a great deal of the questions asked by the public were met with a response of "I don't have an answer for that" or "that's Earls office issue to deal with." And I also find it very strange that this was suppose to be a meeting for taking public comment, however when people spoke not one of the 8 employees at the meeting once asked for people to give their names so they could note the individual comment, nor were most comments recorded. I did bring this up to your District Ranger during the meeting, and she stated one lady was taking "notes" however I watched throughout the meeting and she nor any of the staff took very few if any notes during the meeting. I don't really understand how you, nor any USFS staff are suppose to utilize public comment if your staff are not taking full comments from the public and fully integrating them into your planning work. I will however note, one member of your staff did take detailed notes of "an official comment" spoken by a gentleman from a white water rafting interest group,

(Continued on page 14)

Good Morning Mr. Ford

(Continued from page 13)

but once he was done speaking your staffer never took another "comment for the record" for the rest of the meeting while I was there that I saw.

I personally asked your district ranger, and all the staff, how subsistence use of the forest was analyzed for determining what roads were "needed" on the forest and the answer was "it was not analyzed." They did state that they did know that all of the Environmental, wildlife, and legal issues were analyzed on how they would meet the "regulatory" needs of the forest, however your staff made it very clear to me that how the general public uses the forest was not ever considered. I know that this meeting was suppose to help address this issue, but honestly, with opening remarks like where stated, along with what I perceived to be the closing (I'll get to those in a minute) it's hard to believe anyone thought true public comment would be taken at this meeting, as every time a person would state their need for open access to the forest, one of your staff would come back with the needs of a frog, a budgetary limitation, or a staffing issue, none of which have anything really to do with the public's open access to their lands, but has everything to do with you and your staff finding reason to eliminate certain kinds of access to the mountains of Plumas County and the entire National forest that you administer to.

I would like to ask, what has been the budgetary request from the Plumas National Forest Supervisors office, and from the Region 5 office to maintain roads over the last 10 years on the Plumas National Forest?

I am very disappointed in the quality of work that was reflected in the maps that were presented to the public for comment and how your staff went about presenting them. I received a very mixed message about what the maps represented, and when people asked what the "red lines meant"

your staff said they meant alot of different things, and they were unaware as to what they all meant. There was also 4 times your staff told the group there were known mistakes on the maps and there would continue to be mistakes on the map. This was all extremely disappointing to me as I had traveled so far to attend this meeting, to become informed for both myself, as well as the people I know in two groups I'm a member of, I could not report anything other than; They didn't know what the red lines mean, and they know there are still mistakes on the map. How am I, or any member of the public suppose to give informed input if your own staff doesn't know what the map means, and openly knows they are not correct? The feeling I got from the meeting was that your office, the supervisors office, has already made up it's mind as to what you want to do, and it really doesn't matter if things are understandable, or correct, we are just going to march down the path you tell us and that will be the end of it.

I would like to make an official comment for the record that I am not in support of this set of road closures. The Plumas National Forest has already closed 800 plus miles of needed roads to the public along with implementing a "closed forest system" that are needed for day to day subsistence living and any further road closures coupled with the closed forest system, only cause greater harm to the human environment that NEPA is suppose to protect against. I am requesting that no more roads be closed, nor identified to be closed on the Plumas National Forest.

In closing, I would like to make a request to you, as I felt very bad about a comment that was made by your District Ranger and it caused me to stop asking questions and head home. Could you please find a way to make sure she is compensated for the work she is doing. I understand from a statement she made to the entire group at a quarter to 7 that she was not being paid for her time that she was there and that we could go on

(Continued on page 15)

Good Morning Mr. Ford

(Continued from page 14)

all night but that she didn't not want to waste tax payer funds by paying unnecessary wages to the staff that was there and getting paid (Overtime I'd assume) and that she personally was not being compensated at all after 6 pm. I find it very unfair for her that she be asked to attend a meeting that gives the public an opportunity to give input, but that she be forced to bear the burden of attending uncompensated. I feel that at a minimum she could have at least received some sort of Compensatory Time off for her efforts, but to just wholeheartedly ask her to work for free seems completely unfair to her. Once she clarified that point, I immediately felt awful for taking her time from her family and decided I should cut my questions off so that she could go home for the evening. I'm not sure if the meeting continued on or not as I left, I'm sure did for a bit, and I hope she is given the opportunity to be compensated for the work she did.

I look forward to your response and working with you on these issues.

John D. George
Bates, Oregon

Rockhounding and ALAA

By John Martin

webmaster@amlands.org

Greetings to all ALAA Members and Rockhounds from Southern California. That's correct, Southern California, where many Rockhounds live and play. Without your watchful eye, both the positive and negative experience of Rockhounding gets overlooked and is missed. So, in order to move forward and remain fair and balanced, your help is greatly needed.

When legislative or Land Management issues arise in your Rockhounding area, whether

on public lands (BLM, USFS, State, County or City) or even on privately owned land, let the American Lands Access Association State Representative <http://www.amlands.org/6715.html> or any ALAA Officer <http://www.amlands.org/6694.html> know about the issues and the details that are affecting your Rockhounding Experience. (If you do not have a state representative, join ALAA and become the State Representative for your state.)

The issues can then be investigated and a course of action may be suggested to help correct or enhance the issue of concern. When noteworthy Rockhounding issues pop up, just drop an email to ALAA Information e-mail at info@amlands.org with the details of the issues and concerns, they then can be addressed.

More information about Rockhounding and ALAA can be found on the ALAA Website www.amlands.org.

More ALAA Publicity for the MWF

By Tom Noe

I've been trying to get the Midwest clubs up to speed on land access issues, because it's not something that's on our radar screen very often. We've got a lot to learn.

Recently I sent around some background information to most of our Midwest clubs. I collected several of the mailings I'd received from the Blue Ribbon Coalition, one of our ALAA partners. I wanted the mailings to show Midwesterners the broad nationwide scope of access issues, so I sent attachments with information about Cape Hatteras, Yosemite, South Dakota and Idaho. I figure, the more publicity the better.

I'll also be contacting the clubs that used to be in ALAA but are no longer members, making a special effort to get them to sign up again.

Park Service Wants to Ban Most People from Yosemite

July 12, 2013 By Katy Grimes

Yosemite National Park is one of America's greatest natural treasures, set aside as a national park nearly 150 years ago by Abraham Lincoln specifically for **"the public use, resort and recreation...for all time."**

Yet a proposal by the [National Park Service](#), whose motto is **"Experience Your America,"** fundamentally changes the entire purpose for which Yosemite was set aside in the first place.

This week I interviewed Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif. He said the National Park Service has been pushing to radically alter the purpose, nature and use of Yosemite National Park in order to remove most visitors.

McClintock has been waging a battle against the National Park Service and what it has been doing behind closed doors, with the help of radical environmentalists.

A few months ago, McClintock discovered that the [National Parks Service](#) "opposes commercial activities" in the park, and has been working very quietly to get them removed. **Bicycling, rafting, camping, snowshoeing and horseback riding were all put on the hit list.** It also opposes the souvenir shops, snack stands and hybrid [bus tours](#). These "commercial ventures" apparently offend **environmental justice** seekers and a **new brand of enviro-park rangers** who are hostile to park visitors, most of them taxpayers who pay the rangers' salaries.

According to McClintock, the park service has already begun the process of removing human activity in Yosemite.

The Royal Forest

"Ninety-five percent of the park is already in wilderness," McClintock explained. "Yet the overwhelming majority of park visitors come to that five percent where amenities are available for public recreation: where they can rent a bike; where they can stop at the snack shop to get ice-

cream cones for the kids; where they can pick up souvenirs at the gift shop; where the family can cool off at a lodge swimming pool. **And it is precisely these pursuits that the National Park Service would destroy."**

For more than a century, the mission of helping the American people enjoy the grandeur of their national treasure was honored by the park's stewards. But no more. The new plan would radically alter the visitor-friendly mission of the park with a new, **elitist maxim**: "Look, but don't touch; visit, but don't enjoy."

The increasingly exclusionary and elitist policies of the National Parks Service and National Forest Service are part of the environmental justice movement. "These actions evince an ideologically driven hostility to the public's enjoyment of the public's land — and a clear intention to deny the public the responsible and sustainable use of that land," McClintock said.

"During the despotic eras of Norman and Plantagenet England, the Crown declared one third of the land area of Southern England to be the [Royal Forest](#), the exclusive preserve of the monarch, his forestry officials and his favored aristocrats," McClintock explained. "The people of Britain were forbidden access to and enjoyment of these forests under harsh penalties. This exclusionary system became so despised by the people that in 1215, five clauses of the Magna Carta were devoted to redress of grievances that are hauntingly similar to those that are now flooding my office."

"The National Park Service proposal would remove long-standing tourist facilities from Yosemite Valley, including bicycle and raft rentals, snack facilities, gift shops, horseback riding, the ice-skating rink at Curry Village, the art center, the [grocery](#) store, swimming pools, and even the valley's iconic and historic stone bridges," McClintock told me. "

These facilities date back generations and provide visitors with a wide range of amenities to enhance their stay at — and their enjoyment of —

(Continued on page 17)

Park Service Wants to Ban Most People from Yosemite

(Continued from page 16)

this world-renowned national park.”

The NPS seeks to use the [Wild and Scenic River designation of the Merced River](#) as an excuse to expel commercial enterprises and dramatically reduce the recreational amenities available to park visitors. Yet according to the author of the designation, former Rep. Tony Coelho, D-Calif., this was never the intent of the designation.

The Park Service says the restrictions are necessary to comply with a recent settlement agreement, reached with the most radical and nihilistic fringe of the environmental Left, according to McClintock. But McClintock said the settlement agreement was not mandatory and one in which the Park Service voluntarily entered, then paid \$1 million to the environmentalists.

The Enviro lawsuit

The changes are part of a new set of principles for the park known as the [Merced River Plan](#). Released only in January, the 2,500-page document comes after years of lawsuits over what should be allowed in Yosemite Valley and the Merced River that flows through it, according to McClintock.

The Merced River Draft Plan public [webinars and workshops](#) were held in early 2013, but McClintock said **they were essentially a farce**.

McClintock said the plan calls for the removal of stone Sugar Pine bridge, built in 1928 and located behind the Ahwahnee Hotel, because its abutments “impede the flow of the Merced River and cause erosion.” It also recommends rebuilding only 40 percent of the 406 campsites lost in the 1997 flood, restoring 203 acres of meadows and improving parking. Visitors still would be allowed to bring bikes, horses or rafts to the park but rentals would not be available any longer.

In fact, that agreement imposes no requirement on the government to do anything

more than adopt a plan consistent with current law, according to McClintock. “And current law is explicit: **the 1864 act establishing the park guarantees its use for public recreation and resort; the 1916 Organic Act creating national parks explicitly declares their purpose to be the public enjoyment of the public lands, and the Wild and Scenic River Act contemplated no changes to the amenities at Yosemite** — so says its author, [former] Democratic Congressman Tony Coelho. Yet the Park Service insists that the law compels these radical changes.”

Flood damage

In January of 1997, the Merced River flooded and caused significant damage to the park. The flood even left more than 2,000 park visitors stranded for several days, because the roads were damaged by the floodwaters.

Following the flood, Congress appropriated \$17 million to restore the parking and campgrounds that were wiped out. “That money was spent, but the parking and campgrounds were never restored,” McClintock said. He has made several formal inquiries to the National Park Service asking where the money went. Only just this week he received a report from Yosemite officials. Once he has thoroughly reviewed the report, I will share his findings.

Following the flood and Yosemite’s failure to restore the camp sites or parking, McClintock said the number of annual visitors to the park dropped from 4 million to 3 million, a 25 percent drop. Revenues also dropped about 25 percent.

Protected toads and frogs

Further complicating matters, and providing additional evidence of the radical environmentalist agenda behind the Yosemite proposals, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s announced it was going to list the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged

(Continued on page 18)

Park Service Wants to Ban Most People from Yosemite

(Continued from page 17)

frog and the mountain yellow-legged frog as endangered species, and the Yosemite toad as a threatened species. And service was going to designate a critical habitat for these species.

“These listings and the associated critical habitat will impact over two million acres of private, state and federal land,” McClintock said. He noted this was exactly why the Fish and Wildlife Service took the action it did. “Critical habitat designations will likely cause severe restrictions on land access and could limit or forbid activities such as grazing, trout stocking, logging, mining, and recreational use, resulting in a devastating impact on the local economy.”

(Katy Grimes is a longtime political analyst, writer and journalist, and CalWatchdog’s news reporter. Originally posted on [CalWatchdog](#).)

Read More with the links below:

<http://mcclintock.house.gov/merced-river-plan.shtml>

<https://mcclintockforms.house.gov/forms/contact-form.shtml>

Other Info of interest...

*Mostly from John Martin
ALAA Webmaster*

"Response Action to Begin at the Descarga Tailings Impoundment Site"

(News.bytes Extra)

The Rand Historic Mining Complex ("RHMC") is the subject of ongoing investigation by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") to determine

the nature and extent of contamination resulting from historic mining and milling activities in the area. One of the areas being investigated in the RHMC is the Descarga Tailings Impoundment ("Descarga"), located on public land just a half-mile west of the old mining town of Randsburg near U.S. Highway 395, in Kern County.

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsbytes/2013/588_extra_-_response.html

I found a new link that will list active legislation in each state.....

<http://www.amlands.org/6652/index.html>

NEW LINK: [Start tracking legislation in your state](#) (Beta Test) July 2013

Check out our new page.....

<http://www.amlands.org/6652/67112.html>

Deserts of California

[Protected areas of the Mojave Desert](#)

"NEW" Added July 31, 2013

NEW P.O. BOX for ALAA

You can now reach the ALAA Treasurer, Frank Mullaney and ALAA Membership, Colleen McGann at:

P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154

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