



AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public
<http://www.amlands.org/>

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TOM BURCHARD - EDITOR
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ALAA MEETING - QUARTZSITE ALLIANCE CHURCH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE

SHIRLEY LEESON, ALAA PRESIDENT

The recent annual meeting of ALAA at Quartzsite was a resounding success! This after we found out our **two key note speakers cancelled!** Who stepped up? First it was Jack Caufield, ALAA's representative for Quartzsite and who issued the formal comments on the La Posa Travel Management Plan. This was basically the issue that had brought the people to the meeting, the closure of roads in the BLM area surrounding Quartzsite. In addressing his concerns, he made the public aware of what was going on under the cover of fun during the hectic days of 'the Quartzsite experience'. Many went away with a clearer picture of the roll of the BLM and the public lands they 'manage'. And do not forget, you must make 'comments' when they are asked for, and saying 'I don't want the roads closed isn't going to cut it.'

Next to step up was Harry Baker, President of CORVA, California Off Road Vehicle Assn. Harry has spoken to us in the past on the need for off road and rockhounds to work together to keep all the roads open on public lands. Stressing that we may have litigation in our future in order to keep the roads open. Harry is special because he comes from a rockhound background and also leads a successful off road organization.

Continued on Page 3

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society in Hamilton, Montana
Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club (700 members) in Quartzsite, Arizona
Shari Andresen in Quartzsite, Arizona / Nevis, Minnesota
Angel & Mark Lund in Parker, Arizona



This was Jay Valle's first article back in 2008. He has been true to his promise and we all thank him for his sterling work on our behalf. We will miss Jay, but wish him well in whatever he decides to do next.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.

My name is Jay Valle and I asked to be the bulletin editor for the 4-times yearly ALAA Newsletter. My first issue will come out at the end of March 2009. I see this job as a new challenge and a way to become aware of the issues we are facing as rockhounds and outdoors enthusiasts. Currently, I produce a monthly bulletin for the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society, a job I enjoy and have been doing for about 9 years. I have been a rockhound for many years and love and appreciate the "great outdoors". I enjoy off-roading, camping and the thrill of the hunt (for rocks). Right now I see our freedom to visit and enjoy our own lands being frittered away by pseudo-environmental groups, over-reaching judges and self-serving politicians.

One way to combat this encroachment on our chosen lifestyle is through the sharing of information regarding land closures, lawsuits and legislation affecting our public lands. With knowledge comes the ability to respond to these threats through the sharing of information and though contacts with Government Agencies and legislators (for example.) To this end the American Lands Access Association was founded. ALAA can make contacts with legislators and distribute politically charged information in a way that our Gem & Mineral Societies cannot without endangering their non-profit status.

In order for me to be successful at this job I need your help. The information contained in the ALAA Newsletter comes from many sources, but primarily from individuals who come into possession of facts that need to see the light of day. Many times bad legislation or illegal land closures occur in the dark of night, behind locked doors and with little public notice. I need you to pass on that information so it can be published and, hopefully, a timely response can be organized.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 Articles for the NEWSLETTER are **DUE** to the Editor by the **1st of The Month - PRIOR - to the Month of Publication!**

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AIRING DOWN YOUR TIRES
 VIA CORVA NEWSLETTER NOV 2013

One of the important tools for off roading is airing down tires. Reducing tire pressure for off road driving has several benefits:
 Larger tire contact patch for improved traction.
 Improved ride quality over bumpy, rocky surfaces.
 Less risk of punctures from sharp objects like rocks.
 A reduction in road and trail damage and erosion.



ALAA MEETING - QUARTZSITE ALLIANCE CHURCH

“President’s Message” - Continued from Page 1

Kim Campbell Erb is an ALAA Board member and also a member of the California BLM Desert Advisory Council where she works to support open space and multiple use of our Desert. Please see an article elsewhere on what may be in store for rockhounds if the BLM get a permit and fee process in place.

Jack Johnston, of South Jordan, Utah, a prominent member of the Utah Off Road organization. Jack also joined ALAA recently to coordinate their group with ALAA.

Helen Baker, Harry’s wife, a well known person in her own right on off road issues, and a strong opponent of the Marines taking Johnson Valley away and expanding their base even further, spoke last. She had a number of talking points on how to deal with the government. But the most important piece of information was to make yourself invaluable to legislators and their staff. Offer to help, give history and background on pending legislature and land issues. Make yourself known to the Forest Service and BLM in your area. Make yourself the ‘go to person’ on land issues.

And we also learned from the audience, that there have been interesting events for the miners in the Quartzsite area. Steve Hunt, a local miner has been in touch with us since the meeting. With suggestions from us, he was able to reach the right person to have the BLM rangers stop the harassment of him staying on his mining claim. More on this later.

But what we all came away with was there were a lot of angry and concerned citizens who don’t know what to do and need direction. And also the fact that there were far more off road people there than rockhounds who attended this important meeting. Go figure.

Unless we can all unite and work together, we will loose everything we hold near and dear, rockhound field trips on public lands.

CURRENT ALAA SCHEDULE for 2014

Northwest	March 28-29	Spokane, WA	ALAA Booth
Northwest	April 25-26	Kennewick, WA	ALAA Meeting
California	May 30-311-June 1	Pomona, CA	ALAA Booth & Program
AFMS/Rocky MT	July 9-13	Tulsa, OK	ALAA Booth & Annual Business Meeting
Fed I.R. Field Trip	July 31-Aug 4	Terry, MT	ALAA Clean Up
Northwest	Aug 15-17	Hermiston, OR	ALAA Booth & Program
California	Nov 7-9	Visalia, CA	ALAA Meeting

List of Commonly Used Acronyms

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	*****
APD	Application for Permit to Drill	*
BA	Biological Assessment	* "This is 'governmentese'!
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	* Or, 'government speak'.
BMP	Best Management Practice	* If you come across anything
BO	Biological Opinion	* not on here, please notify us at
CAA	Clean Air Act	* info@amlands.org
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	* Shirley
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	*
COA	Condition of Approval	*****
CSU	Controlled Surface Use	
CWA	Clean Water Act	
DM	Departmental Manual (Department of the Interior)	
DOI	Department of the Interior	
EA	Environmental Assessment	
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	
EO	Executive Order	
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	
ESA	Endangered Species Act	
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement	
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976	
FO	Field Office (BLM)	
FWS U.S.	Fish and Wildlife Service	
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	
IB	Information Bulletin	
IM	Instruction Memorandum	
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969	
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended	
NOA	Notice of Availability	
NOI	Notice of Intent	
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places	
NSO	No Surface Occupancy	
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle (has also been referred to as ORV, Off Road Vehicles)	
PA	Plan Amendment	
RFDS	Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario	
RMP	Resource Management Plan	
ROD	Record of Decision	
ROW	Right-of-Way	
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer	
SO	State Office	
T&E	Threatened and Endangered	
USC	United States Code	
USGS U.S.	Geological Survey	
VRM	Visual Resource Management	
WA	Wilderness Area	
WSA	Wilderness Study Area	
WSR	Wild and Scenic River (s)	



**QUARTZSITE CLEAN-UP
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014
SHIRLEY LEESON**



A picture is worth a thousand words. So it seems. Our second annual, BLM hosted, Clean Up at Gold Nugget Road off ramp, east of Quartzsite, was a resounding success. Our trip leader, BLM Ranger Bill Alexander, estimated we cleaned up 2 ton of garbage/waste at this site. Not as much as last year and he says, ‘that’s a good thing’.

Next year we will again help the BLM clean up but Bill will select a different location, word will be out ahead of time so you can plan ahead.

We’ve been asked why the last Sunday of the QIA Event? Why not earlier? It’s a case of logistics. Many of us are only there a few days and not a month or more.

Thanks to the following rockhounds who came from far and near to help:

ALAA ATTENDEES at QUARTZSITE CLEAN UP - “THE ALAA TRASH BRIGADE”

BLM Park Ranger, Bill Alexander and personnel

Shirley Leeson	San Diego Mineral & Gem	California - Coordinator
Dee Holland	Bitterroot Gem & Mineral	Montana
Bob Boisjolie	Spokane, Rock Rollers	Washington
Carol Boisjolie	Spokane, Rock Rollers	Washington
Marion Roberts	Calaveras Gem & Mineral	California
Vivian Roberts	Calaveras Gem & Mineral	California
Elvin C. Holmes	Miner	Washington/Arizona
Don George	Palmdale Gem & Mineral	California
Penny Luther	Bitterroot Gem & Mineral	Montana
Ralph Luther	Bitterroot Gem & Mineral	Montana
Tom Burchard	Golden Spike Gem & Mineral	Utah
Brenda Burchard	Golden Spike Gem & Mineral	Utah
Hidemi Kira	Clackamette Mineral & Gem	Oregon
Tomoko Kira	Clackamette Mineral & Gem	Oregon
Martin Dougherty	Prescott Gem & Mineral	Arizona
Linda Dougherty	Prescott Gem & Mineral	Arizona
Mary Cornelison	Palmdale Gem & Mineral	California
Bill Hopkins		California
Paula Magee		
Ted Magee		
John Martin	Palmdale Gem & Mineral	California
Susy Martin	Palmdale Gem & Mineral	California
Anna Christiansen	Calaveras Gem & Mineral	California
John Christiansen	Calaveras Gem & Mineral	California
Lauren Williams	Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral	Idaho
Shirlene Williams	Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral	Idaho

**QUARTZSITE CLEAN-UP
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014**



CONCERNS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GRASSLANDS - AGAIN!

BY JAN BAUMEISTER, SOUTH DAKOTA REPRESENTATIVE FOR RMFMS AND ALAA

Since 1980, we rock club members, later joined by cattlemen and other organizations of people who use our Federal land, started fighting to keep total wilderness designation out of the most scenic areas of the Buffalo Gap Grasslands areas namely Indian Creek, Red Shirt, and original Fairburn beds east of Hermosa. *These areas and are highly desired areas for hunting our State Agate, the Fairburn.* The original Fairburn Agate allotment east of Hermosa became instant wilderness when the Forest Service closed all trails except one mile with a turn-around trail north of the picnic site 15 miles east of Fairburn!

The beautiful scenic area of Indian Creek is viewed with just one stop on the mesa overlooking this huge valley, you see hundreds of buttes, formed with grey Pierre Shale at the bottom, different layers of soil a deep gold or a shade of dark pink, topped with white clay with cedar trees. You can look across the miles while viewing the dry creek bed coming out of the badlands draining to the Cheyenne River. The Forest Service put in a nice rock trail down this steep ‘Cardiac Hill’, bulldozed a new trail with sloped creek crossings southward for 8 miles, and have been doing a great job of keeping the trail maintained after floods. This is what wilderness groups have been trying to turn into a land prison to keep out only those who can not hike for miles or can afford the luxury of owning or renting horses to enjoy agate hunting, photography and activities enjoyed by families. Red Shirt area has beautiful Fairburn Agates of a rare color combination and well known variety of highly agatized wood in the badland buttes and drainage creeks. This winter the public has an opportunity to ask for re-opening of certain trails presently closed this winter for new Forest Service trail evaluations!

Attending a recent public meeting of one of the fifty wilderness organizations, I learned that there is a **proposed draft is being drawn up for a Conservation Management Area Designation bill to be presented to SD Senator Tim Johnson.** He tried in 2010 with the backing of over 50+ of these wilderness organizations, but the bill never came to vote, thanks to our military that use these areas for military training, especially for the helicopters.

This organization voiced stating since this is Senator Johnson’s last year in office, the wilderness groups are trying one more attempt to close this land! It takes a full SD State delegation to pass such a bill. The only difference in a **Wilderness bill** and their future **proposed Conservation Management Plan** is their idea of healthy conservation emphasis to meet the land’s dominant uses, *just livestock grazing and primitive recreation allowed and-no motorized vehicle use, which includes atv’s the ranchers use!* The lady spokesperson said there are a dozen ranchers they are trying to change their opinions against the present regulations set by the Forest Service!

Worried about various public influences, they are trying to halt the various usages of our government land! They state that Forest Service receives “on-going requests for special uses, increased use of ORV’s, filming crews”, etc and “*military training exercises could resume*”. National Guard training still may presently be halted by a law suit from one of these wilderness organizations the past year stating “their concern about uranium in this soil”. Yet they are not concerned about letting Canada mining corporation’s workers and the use of a deep aquifer to wash out uranium pollution near Edgement in southwestern Black Hills.

Our National Grasslands belong to every citizen in the United States. No matter what state you live in, you can stop any future legislation *ahead of time and the future of our major Fairburn Agate Beds!* Outdoor organizations and rock clubs can provide information to their members, pass the word to the outdoor groups, their headquarter federations via their newsletter or in local newspapers. **Urge them to write/call/e-mail our SD Congressmen asking them NOT to allow proposed Wilderness bills to get registered and pass in the Senate for Indian Creek and Red Shirt areas of Buffalo Gap Grasslands, South Dakota.** The more e-mails and phone calls are in there ahead of a future proposed bill will greatly help!

SD Senator Tim Johnson	http://johnson.senate.gov	(292) 222-5842	or	(800) 537-0025
*SD Senator Tom Thune	http://thune.senate.gov	(202)-224-2321	or	(800)850-3855
*SD State Representative	http://noem.house.gov	(202)-235-2801	or	(855)-225-2801

ALAA PRESENCE AT A CLUB SHOW?

**HELLS CANYON GEM CLUB - ANNUAL SHOW OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2013 - LEWISTON, IDAHO
LAUREN WILLIAMS - ALAA VICE-PRESIDENT**

So what is a gem club show report doing in the ALAA newsletter? The Hells Canyon Gem Club president sent ALAA a letter asking for ALAA to come to their show so that their club members would have a better idea of who ALAA is and what ALAA does. I have always wanted to go see what the rock club show was like in Lewiston so I borrowed the tub of ALAA's stuff from Shirley and then I had the excuse I needed to go to Lewiston.

Saturday morning we, Shirlene and I, had the ALAA table set up and ready to go by quarter to ten. From ten o'clock Saturday until closing at five a clock on Sunday we had some very interesting conversations. Our pitch was, your club belongs to ALAA now what we need is for you as an individual to join ALAA. As one nine year old said, as we were talking to her mother, "you want a gazillion members" and I responded that that would be a nice round number. At the other extreme someone said, and I am paraphrasing, "take out your gun and kill the sob's". There are some really angry people out there. I'm sure that most of you have heard the story about an off-road organization that did a clean-up for a BLM or Forest Service and after the clean-up was over with they were told that they could not ride on or use the area that they had just cleaned up, one of those guys came by the table. One person told us how he couldn't even get to his private property, yes they will continue charge him property taxes.

Did we do any good by going to Lewiston? Will ALAA get new members? I don't know! If it works we can make more tubs of ALAA's stuff and some of you can visit shows of any kind you want, this includes fairs, in your area and your travels. ALAA will be at the NFMS mid-year meeting, which is also the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club show in Kennewick, Washington April 26 & 27, 2014. So stop by and see us and tell us your story.

Oh! The other thing I learned is, DO NOT take a 5th wheeler or anything larger than a one ton pickup down the highway from Enterprise, Oregon to Clarkston, Washington. Too many switch backs and too narrow of road, and no place to turn around. Clarkston is the sister city to Lewiston separated only by the Snake River.

**PREAMBLE TO:
REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN THE
BLM'S SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT SUBGOU**

Dee Holland and I attended the Desert Advisory Council sub committee meeting Kim Campbell Erb was chairing. We experienced several things when we attended that meeting back in December 2013. First, the meeting was to **start on the permits for others using the California Desert**. The commercial permits have been finalized and now 'they' are searching for others to control and contain. The pages of the Recreation permit proposal is from Moab, Utah (they didn't even write their own) but as you can see, it can easily be adopted to cover the California Desert. While rockhounds in the past have been lumped under "recreation, casual use, and casual rock collecting" it is suggested we now come under 'special permits'. Instead of going to the desert when we want, we'd have to apply 60 - 90 days ahead of time and after jumping through all the hoops listed, we could be turned down by the BLM for any number of reasons. Something else, we were told on a number of occasions during that meeting, by the BLM District Manager, that 'using the desert is a **privilege**, not a right, and a group has been defined as 'one or more'.

If this is to pass, the days of field trips to the Southern California Desert by clubs from anywhere would seriously be jeopardized.
Shirley Leeson.

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN THE BLM'S SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT SUBGROUP

BY KIM CAMPBELL ERB

Following a fatal accident during commercial racing competition in Johnson Valley a few years ago, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) established a Special Recreation Permit Subgroup to review the Special Recreation Permit (SRP) documents process and to create a new booklet for use with respect to competitive events. That process is now complete, and the focus is now on Special Recreation Permits for **non-competitive** events. Because this would encompass rock/gem/mineral field trips, I have been very concerned and expressed my interest in being involved, and offered to chair the Subgroup when the previous Chair stepped down.

Thus far, the Subgroup has mainly been getting a feel for the different types of non-competitive Special Recreation Permits, which are for use of special areas, for commercial use or for organized group activities or events (see Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations § 2931.2). Generally, if you charge a fee for participation in an event, you are required to obtain a Special Recreation Permit. The regulations are reasonably clear for that requirement. However, what is less clear is **when** an organized group activity **requires** a SRP. Pursuant to § 2932.5, an “*organized group activity* means a structured, ordered, consolidated, or scheduled event on, or occupation of, public lands for the purpose of recreational use that is not commercial or competitive”. BLM Manual H-2930-1 Recreation Permit Administration states that “A group is loosely defined as more than one person participating in a recreation activity or event”. That manual expressly states that “the threshold size of a group requiring a permit would be impossible to establish on a national basis, so it must be determined for each area”, but to my knowledge there is no field office that discloses to the public what the threshold size is for any area.

Because our clubs are non-profit corporations, each club’s field trips are considered organized group activities. Whether a given field trip is deemed to require a permit or not is determined by the “authorized officer”. BLM officials have indicated that the manager for each field office is the “authorized officer” for the BLM lands under that particular field office’s jurisdiction. So, for example, the “authorized officer” for the BLM land under the jurisdiction of the Ridgecrest field office at the time of this writing would be Carl B. Symons. Each field manager has considerable discretion in determining what amount of risk will be tolerated with and without an SRP permit.

The BLM requires that SRP permit applications be submitted at least six (6) month’s in advance of the activity. If they determine that a permit is required for the event, a list of conditions will be imposed which will likely include insurance, monitoring, a waste management plan, etc. The conditions imposed could be very costly and difficult to comply with. And, if the BLM determines that a field trip required a permit but no such permit was obtained, each participant could be cited and fined.

In the past, there has been a pretty “lax” attitude within the BLM that rockhound field trips fall under a “casual use” exception, but many of us fear that the very fact that the BLM is now focusing on this topic could mean that their attitude is changing, perhaps due to the need for additional funding to run their agency through permit fees.

At public meetings, BLM staff and management have repeatedly told the participants that having access to public lands “is a privilege, not a right”. This is *OUR* land; the BLM are merely stewards of it. But we, as citizens, must exercise our rights or we will lose them.

Attending and participating in these subgroup meetings is your opportunity to learn more and to influence the rules and administration of Special Recreation Permits. If you want to continue to have rock hound field trips without overly burdensome rules and requirements imposed on them, please attend and participate in these meetings.

Continued on Page 10

"Reasons Why" - Continued from Page 9

The next SRP Subgroup meeting is scheduled for **6:00 PM, on Tuesday, April 22**, and will be held at the **Bureau of Land Management's District office at 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA, 92553.**
SEE YOU THERE!

**SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT
EVENT OPERATING PLAN**

The Operating Plan must accurately identify the use and activities, the use area, and the dates of use proposed on public land. Make sure the information is complete and that all proposed services, facilities and dates of use are described. Failure to respond to any of the items, or inaccurate disclosures may result in delays in processing, or rejection, of the application. This outline is provided for convenience only, it is not a required form. Other formats are acceptable. Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

I EVENT ORGANIZER INFORMATION

A. Organizer Name and Address:

B. Type of Organization:

Family Partnership Corporation Social Club

(Attached copies of Articles of Incorporation, Corporate Certificate from the Utah Secretary of State, and any other business license issued by the State of Utah or its political subdivisions)

C. Date Established: _____

D. Name of Primary Contact: _____

E. Telephone Number: _____ Emergency Telephone Number: _____

FAX Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Web Site Address: _____

II PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PERMIT

A. Describe the need for the service or activity offered:

B. Describe how the activity enhances the opportunity for visitors to enjoy public lands and their recreational experience:

C. Describe how the proposed use area is suitable for and not in excess of the size needed to accomplish the purpose:

D. Is your event (check all that apply)

- ___ **Competitive.** (Participants compete against each other or against the clock) If competitive, describe any prizes to be awarded. Also describe how the start and finish will be conducted. If entry fees are charged, the event may also be commercial.
- ___ **Commercial.** An event is commercial if it raises funds for any purpose, including donation to non-profit or charitable organizations. An event is commercial if fees are charged excess of cost sharing for actual expenses incurred during this event. If any person or organization, makes a profit, makes money, or increases their net worth, the event is commercial. If paid staff are used to conduct the event, the event is commercial.
- ___ **Organized Group.** An event that is neither competitive or commercial.

III CONDUCT OF EVENT

A. Event Parameters:

1. Maximum and Minimum Group Size. Break down into: competitors or other participants, spectators (including, pit crews, camp followers etc) and event staff (those people with defined roles in operations and conduct of the event).
2. Dates of Activity _____
3. Activities to be engaged in, including the equipment, vehicles or livestock to be used and services/activities offered.
4. Describe any vending, rentals or sales of consumer products or services:
If none, check here (___)
5. Will there be any paid entertainment? If so, describe:
6. Will people involved in the event camp in the area either before or after the event? If so, describe:
7. Is the event sanctioned by another organization? If so, identify the sanctioning body and provide the name, address and phone number of the contact person.

B. Operations Area:

1. Provide a map at a scale of 1:24,000 of the public land operations area. Additional, more detailed maps may be required. Place your name and the event name on each map.
2. Include on the map, all staging areas, camping locations, attraction sites and routes, and direction of travel.

C. Environmental Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources:

1. How will your operations comply with the environmental protection stipulations of the permit?

2. How will your operations incorporate *Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly* principles?

D. Health, Safety and Sanitation:

1. Describe the first aid (including universal precautions) and evacuation equipment that will be present during your operations.
2. What emergency communications will be available?
3. What is your emergency evacuation plan?
4. What environmental hazards exist - exposure, flash flood, avalanche, weather, fauna, terrain, etc? How do you manage those hazards?
5. What hazards are inherent to the activity? How are they managed?
6. What safety equipment is used and how is it inspected and maintained?
7. What are your provisions for toilet facilities, dealing with human waste and washing? How will you contain and remove trash and garbage?
8. Demonstrate how you will comply with other federal, state and local laws pertaining to your activity, including but not limited to:
 - a. If you are going to serve any food or beverage to participants, show compliance with Utah State Law regarding food service sanitation.
 - b. If the activity will involve more than 500 people at a single activity or event, show how you will comply with Utah State Law regarding mass gatherings.
 - c. If your activity involves the use of water craft show how you will comply with Utah State Boating Laws.
 - d. If you are commercial, attach a copy of your business license or other permit to conduct business in the jurisdiction.
9. If firearms are involved, what are the provisions for safe storage, transportation and use?

E. Staff Experience and Training

1. What level of first aid is required?
2. What level of training or experience for the specific activity is required?
3. What is the level of knowledge of the natural resources and environment of the operations area?
4. If your activity involves visitation to cultural sites, prehistoric and/or historic sites, demonstrate a basic knowledge of the laws and regulations dealing with protecting and preservation of antiquities, objects of historical interest and graves. Demonstrate a factual knowledge of the sites to be visited.
5. Have any of your company owners or employees ever been denied a permit, had a permit

revoked, or surrendered a bond related to a permit for operations on BLM or US Forest Service Administered lands? If so, provide details.

6. Has your organization or its owner/operators ever been denied a permit, had a permit revoked, or surrendered a bond related to a permit for operations on BLM or US Forest Service Administered lands? If so, provide details.

F. Customer Information:

1. Attach a copy of the participant contract including any risk acknowledgement and/or waivers.
2. Attach a price list.
3. Describe any paid advertising that will be used. Attach copies if available.

G. Other Required Permits

1. List any permits required by other federal, state or local agencies to conduct your activity.
2. Permissions or contracts required to use private lands you do not own or control.
3. List any permits, current or expired, you have held to conduct activities on BLM or US Forest Service Administered lands.

H. Filming:

1. Will there be video, movie or still photography of the event produced for a commercial purpose? Yes No
2. If yes, describe how filming will occur - number and types of crew and equipment etc.

IV CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information given by me in this proposed Operating Plan is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that I (we) am (are) required to comply with the requirements and stipulations on **Form 8370-1** and any additional stipulations which the field manager may deem necessary. I further understand that providing false information, or failure to keep this Operating Plan or other permit requirements up to date are grounds for probation, suspension or revocation of the permit.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

TOXIC LEGACY

JAMES HUTCHINGS - FORESTHILL, CALIFORNIA

I got a call from GPAA Chapters in Idaho, wanting to know if it was true. Did I take a stand! Yes I did. I am sure that it is not without a personal price and a loss of business in a small community. Prior to the meeting, I was contacted by a local customer who had attended the meeting to “learn about the toxic effects of mercury” on the fish she catches and eats. She wanted factual information on just what might be the impact of eating the local fish she enjoys.

She stopped by my house to look at some products a day or two later and the meeting came up in discussion. Her words were, I have known you for years to be a reasonable, rational, intelligent, and well spoken member of the community. I could not believe I was seeing the same person. She, as I am sure others were, was appalled at my behavior and she was not afraid to tell me so.

I told her thank you. Thank you for allowing me to get your attention! And now, I can give you the full and factual information on this mercury issue. As many of you know this is a complex issue, and the environmental extremist organizations like The Sierra Fund are taking advantage of the short attention span of modern Americans and our representatives in the Legislature.

I told her this. It is like you just walked into the last five minutes of a great movie. You have found the audience out of their seats in a rage over the evil doer and what he is about to do to the innocent people in the town. Yes, you heard about the movie. You read the reviews. You might have read some commentary on it. You thought you might attend the movie and take it in personally. But you didn't show up for the whole movie. You had more pressing things to do. Then, when you decided to get involved, you got there late. The audience was fully ready for rage, and you had no idea why they would behave that way, because you missed it.

In this case, this has been a nightmare of a movie in progress for the last four years. And you missed it. While there are, “recreational” weekend warriors that mine gold, and on public lands

without mining claims, there are far more like myself who have invested decades and a small fortune in equipment and time in prospecting, developing, and turning a profit in my mining venture.

The customer asked, well why did you not just calmly present your questions and let them answer? Because, again, you missed it. This road show has been playing in several cities and when these questions were presented, they were blown off and “let’s move on” was the response. Their strategy was changed to only allow written questions and answers. Those who submitted these questions for discussion marked the back of their cards with bold stars so they could see them. Those cards were passed over and put to the back of the deck and ignored. The moderator, Izzy Martin had no use for any question that would put their presentation **at risk of actual discussion**.

The Western Mining Association (WMA) and it's members have put together volumes of actual science rebuking all aspects of the justifications for a dredging moratorium. This material and our comments have been submitted to each and every public hearing, noted, and then shoved to the bottom of the stack and never responded to nor considered in modifications to the moratorium. Having attended many of these government policy public hearings, I have found this. While the law demands public comment periods and hearings, the input and information is completely ignored. No contact is made with those who provided the information or the source specialists to determine if, in fact, there is merit to the information provided. Government public comment periods are now a **check in a box** on a government procedure document, just to make sure they did it. There is no attempt to follow the intent of the legislation.

The WMA has provided press releases with the best science written in the best manner to refute the statements of the environmentalist movement in the private and government sector. They have submitted them to every news paper and publication of public interest in every market. They have outright refused to print it! Letters to the editor are similarly refused for publication with exception. My own home town papers, the Foresthill

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Messenger and the Auburn Journal were willing to print our positions and we thank them for it.

So, surveys and poor studies are promoted as science, and real science is ignored. Year after year, we sit and watch the gold rest in our streams, our equipment in mothballs, and our personal property rights denied. So, if the science absolutely refutes the public health aspects and the other presumptions made for ending dredging, then why would fairly smart environmentalists work so hard to end this industry? Well, it's not just this industry, its logging, agriculture, grazing, hunting, rock hounding and fishing in the Sierra Nevada. There is a larger agenda and this movement is part of the framework to establish these human free zones for animal priorities.

The appalling thing to see at that meeting the other night, was the sport fisherman groups supporting this effort. An unholy alliance! I believe that they really think, that by supporting The Sierra Fund and other such groups, volunteering for stream clean up and such, that these groups will leave them alone. I have it on good authority that they are next. Their boots, cross contaminating streams with bacteria, crushing the food casings and spawning beds along the stream bed, and their insistence on feeding their families toxic mercury laden fish, will be the end of them also. The data through phony surveys are being built to end their hobby. It is only a matter of time and the first fish kill that can loosely be blamed on a fisherman's boot. Besides, fisherman actually kill fish. Lead free ammunition is already on the books in California and will spread across the country. Hunters, your next. The same kind of pseudoscience is and will continue to be used against you.

May I make one more comment here? We have common sense on our side! The question that I raised was, "Did the Sierra Fund take and examine tissue samples from the survey sample group?" No, they did not. So they tell you that fish have X amount of mercury, people eat X amount of fish. It would seem that a simple mercury tissue test would establish the theory that X amount of fish, consumed by each of the survey group, would clearly establish that those people are harmed.

They won't do that, as I am sure the results would not be helpful to them. Why would there be no detectable mercury impacts? Because all fish in all bodies of water in the world contain mercury. The "baseline" for each species has been established. With a few exceptions, our fish are just slightly above the "baseline". Well, what does that mean? Our fish are not so much more toxic than any other fish, by species, in the world. The reason the fish do not go "mad hatter" crazy, is that they consume Selenium, another common mineral dissolved in our water from the volcanic rocks all around us. Selenium and mercury bond, to each other, allowing the selenium to isolate the mercury away from doing damage to the fish, and us. The fish, sequester the mercury with selenium, primarily in their skin and liver, and not so much in their flesh. Unless you eat sushi, you probably don't eat a lot of fish liver and skin. So when they tell you a fish has X amount of mercury, they are grinding the whole fish into soup, extracting the mercury, and measuring it. Not hardly a good method for establishing harmful levels of mercury from an actual fish filet.

For that reason, the California Department of Health Services has no records of mercury toxicity or resulting neurological impacts in any human in California, attributable to eating fish from our water shed.

If we have been dredging California waters for more than 60 years, and there were over 13,000 dredge permits operating in California during the last gold rush of the 1970's and 1980's, would you not think that there would have been a notable epidemic of fish kills and human mercury contamination? Nope, there was none, not even a noted singular case. So how is this a public health crises with only 3,000 dredge permits operating at the time of the moratorium?

Then there is this. It is estimated that 2 million pounds of mercury has been removed from California waters by, wait for it, dredgers! Along with that mercury, tons of lead, nails, glass and other human trash is sucked out of the rivers by miners. The Stockton Chapter of GPAA has a monthly contest and tally of materials removed by miners. It is an impressive pile monthly, and I am

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sure they have a total tally that would knock your socks off.

So, currently, The Sierra Fund has applied for ungodly amounts of tax payer money to, guess what, dredge mercury out of Lake Crombie. So, their hydrologist, working at her desk for The Sierra Fund writes a slamming damnation of dredging for losing 3% to 5% of the mercury they collect, out the back of their dredge. Then, I am sure she is getting paid handsomely, from her private hydrologist consulting desk on the other side of the building, to write a glowing support for The Sierra Fund project to have the NID dredge mercury out of lake Crombie, where a 5% loss of mercury out of the backside of their dredge, is not such a big deal.

So, I have to ask, if a dredger sucks 97% of a glob of mercury out of a glory hole in his stream, and he loses 3% back to the stream, and the next year, sucks 97% of the 3%, how long would it be before that section of stream is free of mercury, forever. What really sucks, is that on my mining claim, if mercury was ever used, there is none now. 25 years of mining and I have no occurrence of mercury puddles or gold amalgamation.

OK, do you get it now? Do you know why I am outraged? If you stayed with me this long, it's because you have a dog in this fight. If you lost interest, it's because you really don't have the time to watch the whole movie.

The movie is at the end. We have, reasonably, rationally, intelligently, and in a well spoken manner, tried to roll back the plague of regulation and outright dismissal of our mining operations. We are out of our seats and we are in a rage. For those timid souls who don't like conflict, well, you would have not done well when our founding fathers rebelled and revolted against imperial tyranny from their government. This government is not protecting us in fair and level playing field. They are complicit and in bed with the environmentalist extremist movement. We are mad as hell, and not going to take it anymore.



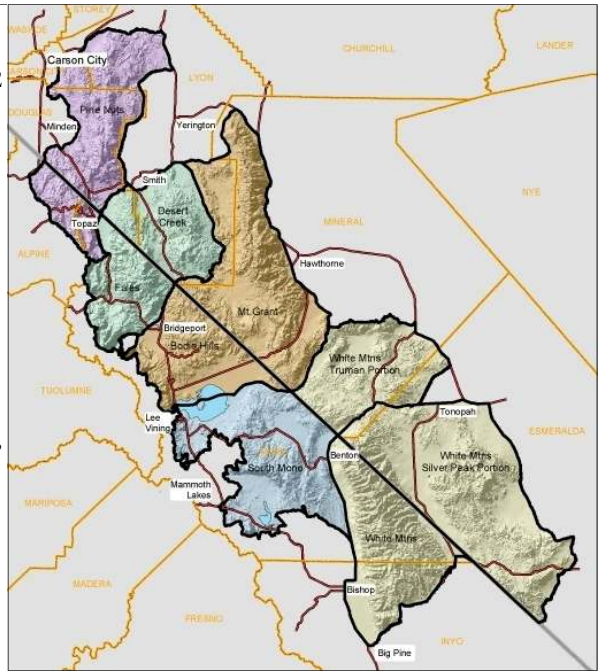
SAGE GROUSE ISSUE IN NEVADA
NORVIE ENNS, NEVADA ROCK HOUND AND SAGE
GROUSE HUNTER FOR 30 YEARS
ALAA NEVADA REPRESENTATIVE

The proposed legislation by Senator Harry Reid and Senator Dean Heller is good and has merit, but needs to address a few more options.

Areas that are proposed wilderness areas should not be made wilderness but remain study areas for now (defacto Wilderness).

Predator control, as well as renewable energy restriction, need to be addressed. The crow and coyote population is growing wherever there are sage grouse.

Now the Wilderness Guardians are saying that overgrazing is destroying sage grouse habitat. The BLM and Forest Service watch for overgrazing and control the amount of livestock in units where it shows distress.



LET US NOT MAKE THIS OUR SPOTTED OWL!

RE-OPENING OF CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA SAN BENITO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

BILL SPENCE - CENTRAL COAST ALAA REPRESENTATIVE - BAY AREA MINERALOGISTS

The Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) will re-open to the public on March 15, 2014 after a nearly 6 year Resource Management Plan (RMP) process. This article describes the essential features of the approved RMP as they affect rockhounds within the so-called ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) which is essentially co-extant with the area of serpentine and related rocks which host the majority of collectible minerals in that area. On BLM maps the ACEC will be shown as a solid line encircling the serpentine zone and all of the routes discussed here. The “number of days” limits are derived from the EPA study and are based on the alleged health risks associated with the kinds of recreation we do in CCMA.

Some basic overall points:

- First, off-road motorcycling is prohibited within the ACEC.
- Overnight camping within the ACEC is prohibited unless on private property with the permission of the owner
- Camping is available at 3 campgrounds just outside the ACEC boundary (Live Oak, Jade Mill and Condon/County Line. Another is north at Laguna Mountain)
- Access into the ACEC by vehicle is limited to 5 days per year and by permit only
- At this time access is via the Clear Creek entrance (West) or New Idria entrance (NE) only. By Fall 2014 BLM intends to open another entrance from the Condon campground.
- Permits are issued to individual people, not vehicles, so everyone in the car needs a permit
- Any permitted vehicle must be highway licensed, and most backcountry roads will require 4WD
- Personal access to the ACEC by foot may be permissible to a maximum 12 days per year if you can hike into and out of the ACEC between dawn and dusk on each day.
- Permitting processes will be cumbersome, so allow adequate lead time for application and mail delivery of permits from the Hollister office, or pick them up in person in Hollister.
- No permit issued by BLM implies BLM’s permission to collect on private property or on any land (such as the San Benito Mountain Reserve) designated off-limits.

BLM visitor maps will designate two types of routes, public routes and so-called “backcountry” routes, and each has its own permitting process.

PUBLIC ROUTE PERMITS All parties entering the ACEC by vehicle must obtain a public route permit. This permit will cost \$5/person and will eventually be obtained via www.rec.gov. As of this date, the rec.gov link has not been set up, so temporarily these permits can be obtained only from the Hollister BLM office by phone or mail. A public permit entitles you to drive the “Scenic Loop” comprised of Clear Creek Road, the Ridge Road from the New Idria gate to the Joaquin Rocks gate and a loop that begins and ends on Ridge Road that most notably goes past the entrance to the benitoite mine. You are entitled to hike and collect on any BLM land that you can access by foot from any point on this Scenic Loop. Most of the collecting localities of interest to lapidaries are closely adjacent to the roads that make up the Scenic Loop, and if that is the case, you may have no need for a backcountry permit.

BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS Officially the backcountry routes are designated by BLM as “Closed/Admin” routes. Historically most of the mineral collecting localities for garnets, clinocllore, perovskite, chromite, artinite and other mineral specimens have required transit on one or more of these Admin routes to avoid a long and difficult hike. Under its “adaptive management” rules, BLM is making most of these routes available for limited access by rockhounds, hunters, botanists and others by means of a “backcountry permit”. Such permits are in addition to the public permit and will always be obtained from the Hollister office, even after public permits become available online. Current plans call for no

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additional fee for a backcountry permit, but to obtain one, you must specify your collecting destination to BLM, and BLM will specify the routes you are permitted to drive on to get there. Information assembled from permit applications will provide BLM with guidance relevant to future route adjustments and route maintenance.

Based on recent discussions with BLM, most of the historically active mineral locations will be accessible; some clarifications are still in progress. Condition of Admin roads will be highly variable from the smooth and wide open R002 to the barely negotiable T169. The northern portion of R008 will probably continue to be off limits for a variety of reasons, as will R019 through the Atlas Superfund site. As a result of the latter, the White Creek area will be accessible only via an old ATV trail from the Ridge Road, making collecting there difficult. While the Clear Creek Mine sits astride the Scenic Loop, and lapidaries' needs may be fulfilled with only a public permit, mineral species collectors who want access to the upper workings should apply for a backcountry permit to drive on R004, R002 and/or R006. As with the public permits, you may collect on any BLM land to which you can hike from your permitted route.

This is intended as a quick overview of the new system. The official policies are set by BLM, and in the event of any question, check with the BLM website or the Hollister office.

REGULATION NATION - OUR PUBLIC LANDS

BY ANDY JOHNSON

In his book, “Public Lands – Public Debates” (OSU Press/2012), Author Char Miller points to a November 2006 memorandum of understanding that the BLM and the Forest Service signed in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Parks Service. This pact committed the four agencies “to carry out shared joint management activities to achieve mutually beneficial resource management goals”.

This is now all playing out and unfolding as the Federal land management agencies promote the implementation of their Travel Management Plans (FS), Resource Management Plans (BLM), and the Endangered Species Act (USFWS) throughout the country. These agencies have lost their capacity to listen to the American people and address their varied concerns regarding the nature of public lands management.

As I have written before, it has become increasingly clear to me that the underlying intent and mission of our federal land management agencies is to restrict and limit the recreating public's ability to use and enjoy the public lands in a multitude of ways. As we begin this new year, let me say again that the future of our Public Lands and the access and use we enjoy on them are more threatened and in danger, than at anytime in the past.

No relief is in sight from the onslaught of regulations which are being proposed to guide and govern our Public Lands over the next 15-20 years. With a congress that is stagnated and fiscally corrupted one can only hope that common sense, honesty and integrity will some day return to the American scene. However, until that happens, which is unlikely, rock hounds, recreationalalists and the public in general will continue to get the short end of the stick.

On a more positive note, the Bureau of Land Management, in conjunction with other agencies within the Department of the Interior, will waive recreationalist related fees for visitors to the National System of Public Lands for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan 20), Presidents Day weekend (Feb 15-17), National Public Lands Day (Set 27), and Veterans Day (Nov 11) in 2014.

BLM Deputy Director Linda Lance said, “I'm pleased to announce the fee-free days for 2014 and I invite people to take full advantage of these opportunities to explore and enjoy their public lands. BLM managed lands offer more diverse recreational opportunities than any other federal agency.”

More details about fee-free days and activities on BLM-managed public lands are available at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/Recreation/BLM_Fee_Free_Days.html

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PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION
(Must be postmarked or received by December 31, each year)

Are You Applying As? (Please Circle Which)

Individual / Couple: _____

OR

Last Name

First Name

Club / Society: _____

Club or Society Name

E-Mail Address: _____

(An E-Mail Address is Essential for Our Organizations Communication Process)

NEW: Individual / Couple OR Club / Society (Circle Which)
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Address: _____
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Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Send Completed form with Dues to:
American Lands Access Association
C/O Membership Chairman
P O BOX 54398
San Jose, CA 95154

Dues are: \$25.00 for Individual / Couple
\$50.00 for Club / Society

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

ALAA Newsletter by E-Mail _____ (✓) or Snail Mail _____ (✓)

For more information or questions on membership E-Mail to: membership@amlands.org

**A Grassroots 501-C-4 Educational, Non-Profit Organization,
dedicated to keeping public lands multiple use for all.**

ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2014 (Distributed each year in October)

atb - 3/16/14