



AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

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

April-May-June 2014

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SHIRLEY LEESON

president@amlands.org

I have been working on problems rockhounds are having not receiving the recognition we deserve. We have only ourselves to blame. For many years in the 1970s and 1980s rockhounds were involved in decisions by both the Forest Service and the BLM. Then complacency set in, we were told that 'getting involved would jeopardize our 501-C3- status and many of the clubs who had participated earlier went to the sidelines and sat.

A lot has taken place on our public lands since then and rockhounds, for the most part, have not been included. The sad outcome of this is now we are not recognized in many states. Under recreation, rockhounding was once identified, but now it's been eliminated and in Southern California, the BLM last year were under the impression that rockhounds and rockhounding was dead, which I objected to vigorously.

So here's my challenge to you. GET INVOLVED. Make your voices heard. The bitter truth is if we don't get out there and participate in decisions that will change the way public lands are administered, then we are all doomed to backyard garage sales to find suitable material.

Lots of things have taken place and are pending since our last ALAA Newsletter.

A booth at the Spokane, Washington, Rock Roller Show, March 27-30. Thanks to the Rock Rollers for inviting us. We met many people I had not met but had corresponded with in the past several years. The Rock Rollers voted to have the first ALAA Club Clean-up partnering with the Spokane BLM and set for this summer.



John George

An ALAA Meeting at the NFMS Mid-Year meeting at Kennewick, Washington, April 24-28. We once again had our 'energizer bunny' John George as our speaker. John drove seven hours to be with us. His lone fight with the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Service - who wants to basically shut down the forest in northeastern Oregon - has taken a decided turn. Many are getting involved because they realize what takes place here will eventually take place in their 'neck of the woods' so to speak. We also learned from John that his grandfather was sort of a rockhound who collected petrified wood and agates in the area of their property, Bates, Oregon. John hopes to bring some pieces to be identified at the NFMS Hermiston meeting August 14-18 and will be a featured speaker. Those of you in the Northwest, don't miss this.

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ALAA MEMBERSHIP

Hi!! My name is Cheri George and I have been appointed Membership Chairman for ALAA. As you know our previous Membership Chairman Ruth Bailey had done a fine job and when she passed away, the job was taken over by Colleen McGann. Colleen is getting ready to retire from her paying job and needed someone to take over the job of Membership from her to ease that process.



I am happy to be able to help out and hope you will be able to tolerate my occasional begging for more members. ALAA is important to me and to my husband as we have enjoyed our forays out into the wilds to look for interesting rocks and to join friends who are doing the same.

Many of our “Public Lands” are no longer “Public” there are lots of signs saying “Enjoy your Public Lands” but they don’t really mean for us to touch it, to do that. They mean drive through, go ‘ooh and aaah’ but keep our bloody hands off. I am personally affronted by their audacity, and feel that the BLM as well as the Federal Government have no idea what they’re dealing with. The Feds make a rule but then they sign the paper and file it away somewhere, all the while the Dept. of the Interior tells the BLM “just make it up as you go along”, at least that is how it feels to me. There are people out there who have filed claims on land to do their mining and metal detecting and looking for just that special something, even they are being pushed around. If a claimant can’t search on their own claim, what can they do?

We have to keep fighting the powers that be and keep writing to our Congressmen and stating our case. We have to keep on going and never give up. After all, these are “OUR PUBLIC LANDS”.

As a member of ALAA you can help by spreading the word and urging your friends and acquaintances to join ALAA. The membership fee is small, and every little bit helps us keep our program going. You will find a membership form on our website at www.amlands.org print out several and pass them out.



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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"President's Message" - Continued from Page 1

Pomona, California - Sunday June 1st, ALAA will present Randy Banis, Chair of the BLM's Desert Advisory Council. Randy is coming from Death Valley to speak, so let's fill the hall. What's coming for rockhounds in the desert is devastating. Can we stop it?

Our ALAA Annual Business Meeting will take place at the Host Hotel, Hilton Garden Inn, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Saturday Morning at 9:30am, July 12th.

The Inter-Federation Field Trip to Terry, Montana will be well attended. July 30 thru August 4. Hope you can make it. Doug True, Trip Leader has some great things planned.

As I mentioned, ALAA will have a part in the NFMS show in Hermiston, Oregon August 14-18. On Saturday, August 16, we will have an ALAA meeting at 10:30am. Then at 12:30om our own John George will speak. We are delighted that the show committee recognizes John's message as one of real importance.

Please keep in touch with us. See something; Do something. Contact us at: info@amlands.org or president@amlands.org

See you 'down the road'

Shirley

CURRENT ALAA SCHEDULE for 2014

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GROUP

Hatrockhound Gem & Mineral Society, Hermiston, Oregon
 Peoria Academy of Science - Geology Section, Peoria, Illinois

INDIVIDUAL

George Matyas, Redford, Michigan
 Gordon Bansemer, Orofino, Idaho & Quartzsite, Arizona

A LAST LAUGH?

A father passing by his son's room sees a letter addressed to 'Dad'. He opens it. "Dear Dad: it is with great regret and sorrow I am writing you. I had to elope with my girlfriend to avoid a scene with you and mom. I have been finding real passion with Stacey and she is so nice. I knew you wouldn't approve because she's much older, has tattoos and rides a Harley. It's the passion, she's pregnant and we want many more children. She has opened my eyes that weed really doesn't hurt anyone. We will grow it for ourselves and trade it with others for cocaine and ecstasy. I hope science finds a cure for AIDS so she can get better. Don't worry I am 15 and can take care of myself. Someday I will come to visit so you can get to know your grandkids. Love, your son, John. PS none of the above is true - I'm at Tommy's. I just wanted to remind you there are worse things in life than my report card - it's in my desk. Call me when it's safe to come home. Love you."

Via Stratagem – 10/10

TREASURED LANDSCAPES

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS IS A "BLM INTERNAL DRAFT - NOT FOR RELEASE"
 THIS PAPER WAS NOT MEANT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEE)

The following three (plus) pages (pages 4, 5, 6 & 7) are from a document presented to us by Kirk MacKenzie of "Defend Rural America". www.DefendRuralAmerica.com.

The complete 21 page document is/will be available on our web site.

Internal Draft – NOT FOR RELEASE

DISCUSSION PAPER
Bureau of Land Management
Treasured Landscapes

Our Vision, Our Values

I. Introduction – BLM's Vision for Treasured Landscapes in the 21st Century

Of the 264 million acres under BLM management, some 130- to 140-million acres are worthy of consideration as treasured lands. These areas, roughly equivalent in size to Colorado and Wyoming combined, are valuable for their unspoiled beauty; the critical role they play in habitat conservation; their historical, cultural, and paleontological significance; and their importance in maintaining the proper functioning of the larger ecosystems in which they exist.

In order to preserve these treasured landscapes for the 21st Century, the BLM proposes to manage them not as individual parcels, but as components of larger landscapes, ecosystems, airsheds, and watersheds. We now know that these large-scale ecosystems, watersheds, airsheds, and migratory pathways exist and function only at their natural scales, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, in order to facilitate the transition from the current land management system, which is based on jurisdictional boundaries, to a modern landscape-level management system, the BLM proposes to "designate, rationalize, and manage-at-scale" its treasured landscape holdings.

Over the next 25 years, the BLM intends to: (1) finalize appropriate conservation designations and fully account for the ecosystem services values of its lands; (2) rationalize and consolidate its fragmented landholdings; and (3) commit to planning and allocating resources and resource uses and at their natural scales, in effective coordination with other Federal, State, and Tribal governments. The BLM believes that together, the three components of this vision will allow us to utilize 21st century science to preserve our celebrated assets and guarantee that our treasured landscapes will be conserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

To achieve our Treasured Landscape objectives, the BLM will need to enlist the aid of the administration and Congress to ensure that we possess both the legal tools and financial means to make our vision of integrated landscape-level management a reality.

II. Background – BLM's Treasured Lands: Vast, Varied, and Vital

The BLM's lands include fragile ecosystems essential to rare animal and plant species, cultural resources that date back to the beginning of America's Native populations, stunning paleontological resources that increase our understanding of the natural world, breathtaking vistas and recreational areas, and nationally significant historic sites and trails that tell the story of our growing Nation.

The bulk of the BLM's existing treasured lands have been arrayed, by Presidential declaration, legislative enactment, or administrative management, into four separate management categories, together amounting to nearly 130-million acres—about half of BLM's total land portfolio:

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- **The National Landscape Conservation System:** The BLM's transition to public land management on a landscape scale began a decade ago when then-Secretary Babbitt created America's newest, permanently protected collection of public lands—the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). By statute, the NLCS now consists of all BLM-managed National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, Outstanding Natural Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands within the California Desert—a set of public lands together comprising almost 27 million acres. These lands have been designated by Congress or Presidential proclamation to be specially managed to enhance their conservation values, while allowing for the continuation of certain multiple uses. The mission of the NLCS is to conserve, protect, and restore, for present and future generations, the nationally significant landscapes that have been recognized for their outstanding archaeological, geological, cultural, ecological, wilderness, recreation, and scientific values.
- **Special Areas identified and designated through the land use planning process:** Outside the NLCS, BLM land-use plans have designated about 75 million additional acres for the primary purpose of conservation and recreation. These areas include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Special Recreation Management Areas, Globally Important Bird Areas, Significant Caves, Research Natural Areas, National Natural Landmarks, and others.
- **Areas that provide critical habitat for listed and sensitive wildlife and plant species:** Further, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated 25-million acres of BLM lands (not included in either of the two previous categories) as critical habitat for listed and sensitive wildlife and plant species.
- **Wild Horse Preserves:** Finally, as a result of the Secretary's October 2009 proposal to create a sustainable wild horse program, the BLM now has the opportunity to acquire preserves in the Midwest or East as part of the BLM's Treasured Landscapes initiative. America's iconic wild horses are powerful national symbols of the West, and adding federally owned wild-horse preserves to the BLM's Treasured Landscapes portfolio will provide an opportunity to expand appreciation of the BLM's conservation mission to new areas.

Because the BLM's vast landholdings hold such great promise for the Department's ambitious conservation objectives, the BLM's landscape-level preservation efforts should play a central role in the Department's Treasured Landscapes agenda.

III. The Vision: A Well-Managed System of Treasured and Protected Lands

The BLM believes that the successful management of its treasured landscapes over the next twenty-five years will require BLM to undertake three initiatives:

- First, so that lands are placed in appropriate management regimes and land-use decisions are well-informed, the BLM should ensure that its existing landholdings have received appropriate conservation designations and that the ecosystem-service values of its lands (including benefits such as carbon sequestration and air and water purification) have been adequately inventoried and considered.
- Second, to allow for more effective landscape-scale management, the BLM should aim to rationalize its land holdings by eliminating existing "checkerboard" land-holding patterns where possible, and by acquiring parcels adjacent to its current holdings, if important to preserve ecosystem integrity.
- Third, to ensure that BLM's specific land-use decisions are properly situated in their broader contexts, the BLM should commit to managing its consolidated and expanded landholdings at their natural scales, and to coordinating with other federal, state, and tribal land owners for the purposes of maintaining healthy wildlife populations, ecosystems, airsheds, watersheds, and riparian areas.

A. Completing Conservation Designations and Accounting for Ecosystem-Service Values: Expanding the NLCS, Designating New National Monuments, and Managing for Conservation in the Land-Use Planning Process.

The first component of BLM's treasured landscapes vision would ensure that the special lands already in BLM's ownership are managed under the appropriately protective management regime.

BLM-managed public lands include rugged mountains, wild deserts, and America's last vestiges of large, untamed landscapes. These landscapes first captured the pioneer spirit and cultivated America's romantic ideals of the Wild West. In order to expand this network of treasured lands to include the diversity of landscapes currently managed by the BLM and to protect world-class ecological and cultural resources, the BLM believes that lands especially deserving of protection should be placed in the National Landscape Conservation System; that the administration should consider designating significant and immediately threatened lands as national monuments; and that the BLM's land-use planning process should properly account for ecosystem-service values and manage for conservation values.

To that end, the BLM proposes that the Administration:

1. Support Congressional efforts to expand the NLCS legislatively through the designation of new National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Historic Trails. Designation efforts should not be focused solely in the West, but should also include areas in the rest of the country that warrant such protection.

"Treasured Landscapes" - Continued from Page 6

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2. Consider use of the Antiquities Act to set aside new National Monuments where there are immediate threats to nationally significant natural or cultural resources on lands deserving NLCS status. However, the BLM recognizes that public support and acceptance of preservation status is best achieved when the public has an opportunity to participate in a land-use-planning or legislative process.
3. Use the BLM's land-use planning process to manage for conservation values. This will allow the BLM to protect lands that, while ineligible for Monument designation and/or unlikely to receive legislative protection in the near term, are nevertheless worthy of conservation.

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This section of Page 4 is an incomplete redaction of the full page

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(Author's Note: To be used as a guide at BLM or Forestry meetings as a way of getting 'rockhounds' on the record)

FOR THE RECORD

BY JAY ERB

DAC stands for Desert Advisory Council, a group of volunteers who advise the BLM on behalf of the public.

Good Morning Madame Chair and members of the DAC, my name is Jay Erb and I'm a rockhound. I apologize if this sounds more like a lecture, but I'm not used to public speaking.

I understand that you as DAC members are not part and parcel with the BLM, but are volunteers simply here to advise them. I would like you to think about some of these ideas and definitions when you advise them.

My cause is access to public lands. I do not believe that the public, the people of the United States, should be denied access to public lands for any frivolous reason.

Recently I've heard some talk about rights and privileges. The worrying part of this is that the definitions are backwards.

From my Webster's 1993 Collegiate dictionary; definitions of Rights and Privileges:

Right - Something to which one has a just claim; as the power to which one is justly entitled by laws or customs, OR something that someone may properly claim as due, OR the cause of Truth or Justice (and may I add the American way!) (Author's note – yeah I said that on the record)

The use of public lands has been a custom that pre-dates the BLM by several centuries. These United States became populated and strong through our expansion from the east coast to the Pacific Ocean. Also the ingenious use of public lands, whether in farming, ranching, hunting, fishing, mining, and yes by recreational travel and scientific research by our forefathers made this country a force of Liberty throughout the world. The use of public lands is a right. Veterans like myself and many of my fellow rockhounds have fought for these rights since colonial times.

Privilege - Immunity granted as a specific benefit, advantage or favor.

The use of public lands is specific to no one individual; they are for use by ALL citizens, hence the term Public. The use of public lands advantages or favors no one, it favors ALL citizens who desire to use them. The use of public lands IS NOT a privilege, but a right.

It looks like I'm out of time. Thank you.

**THE DYNAMIC DUO WILL NOW REST IN PEACE....
GLENN LEE**

Glenn Lee, surviving member of the dynamic Duo of Dorothy and Glenn Lee passed away in April 2014, at age 99. Notified by his daughter Peggy, of the sad news, all rockhounds from throughout the US mourn the passing of one of the most influential families in the rockhound community.

Dorothy was President of the Northwest Federation in 1964. Glenn followed in 1973-74 and Dorothy became the third woman president of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1974.

You found them at all the Northwest Federation annual meetings offering their perspective and support in all manners of our hobby. They exhibited competitively, cut and polished the rocks they collected all over the country, shared their knowledge with local school children as well as those of us who wandered into their sphere of influence.

They were in the forefront of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation inception and Glenn was president of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation from 1971-1983, during which the Foundation grew by leaps and bounds. Dorothy and Glenn were Honorees in the NFMS in 1985 and drew great pride in selecting two students for AFMS Scholarship at the University of Washington. At the time the Award was \$1,500 for two years for each student.

Dorothy and Glenn also attended almost all of the American Federation annual meetings and were among those instrumental in establishing the AFMS Endowment Fund. You could find them for many years along with Charley and Betty Leach hawking their donations to get the funds we now have for the AFMS Endowment Fund.

Both Dorothy and Glenn were among the first of the notables who supported the newly established American Lands Access Assn. founded in 1992, and Glenn was a member when he passed away. ALAA will miss their combined support of our important arm of the AFMS.

We shall never forget. Dorothy and Glenn will be in our hearts forever....
Shirley Leeson

**THE PASSING OF A GRAND LADY
JOYCE HANSCHU**

In January 2014 Joyce Hanschu passed away peacefully in her sleep. She is now with Norm, her late husband.

Joyce was the ALAA interim Treasurer during a transition period several years ago. Her husband Norm Hanschu was Marvin Starbuck's right hand man and took over the ALAA Treasurer's job when Toby Cozens passed away. When Norm passed away unexpectedly Joyce stepped in with the help of her son until we could find a new Treasurer. We were fortunate having Norm because his books were concise and easy to read and follow along. Joyce had never done the job nor spoke with Norm about what he did, but she took over, and her son guided her through it.

Because of her dedication, ALAA made her a life member and deservedly so. We acknowledge her life of dedication, even in the throws of sorrow and grieving and we will always be eternally grateful for the roll she played for a little while in moving ALAA forward.

Rest in peace with Norm, Joyce....you deserve it.

The ALAA Officers and Directors

**ROCK ROLLERS OF SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
THE FIRST TO HAVE A CLEAN-UP PROGRAM.**

SHIRLEY LEESON

At the recent Rock Roller show in Spokane, I had a number of pictures of the 1st and 2nd year Clean-up at Quartzsite, AZ. along with a sample ALAA trash bag and a 'how to' have a BLM or Forest Service Clean-up. I asked folks to consider doing a clean-up in their area. It's important rockhounds show we also give back to keep our public lands clean.

I have just received word from Ben Odum that his club has voted enthusiastically to contact the BLM and have a clean-up as one of their planned field trips this summer.

Stephen Smith, BLM Outdoor Recreational Planner of the Spokane BLM district office has contacted Ben to work out dates and particulars.

WAY TO GO, ROCK ROLLERS!

DO-IT-YOURSELF CLEANUP TOOL KIT

1) PICK A LOCATION

FIND A LOCATION THAT NEEDS CLEANUP

MAKE SURE IT IS SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE

GET PERMISSION TO BE THERE; A FORMAL PERMIT MAY BE NECESSARY

PICK AN EASY TO FIND MEETING SPOT

2) CONTACT YOUR CREW

ENCOURAGE CO-WORKERS, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR CLEANUP

MEET TO PLAN THE EVENT

SPREAD THE WORD

3) GET PREPARED

GATHER SUPPLIES SUCH AS WORK GLOVES, TRASH BAGS AND REUSABLE WATER CONTAINERS

BRING A FIRST-AID KIT AND EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

PLAN AHEAD FOR HANDLING SHARP ITEMS SUCH AS BROKEN GLASS

MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRASH DISPOSAL OR PICKUP FOLLOWING THE EVENT

4) CLEANUP

ARRIVE EARLY TO SETUP, HANG POSTERS AND LABEL YOUR TRASH DROPP-OFF SITE

SUGGEST VOLUNTEERS MEET BACK AT A DESIGNATED TIME FOR A GROUP PHOTO AND CELEBRATION

5) DOCUMENT THE CLEANUP

TAKE BEFORE-AND-AFTER PHOTOS OF THE CLEANUP SITE, ACTION SHOTS AND A GROUP PICTURE WITH THE TRASH COLLECTED

WEIGH YOUR TRASH OR ESTIMATE THE RESULTS

6) SHARE YOUR RESULTS

SAY "THANKS" TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CLEANUP

SHARE THE PHOTOS WITH ALL WHO SHOULD BE INTERESTED

WASHINGTON STATE'S NEWEST FOREST

BY ANDY JOHNSON

On October 1, 2013, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources purchased Washington's first state-managed Community Forest - The Teanaway Community Forest is a 50,272-acre property situated at the headwaters of the Yakima Basin watershed. The Teanaway acquisition in 2013 was the largest single land transaction in Washington State in 45 years and reflects more than a decade of collaboration involving a number of organizations and individuals.

This property is Washington's first state-managed community forest under the terms of legislation enacted in 2011. That law established a model for managing state trust lands that empowers communities to partner with DNR to purchase forests that support local economies and public recreation. Acquisition of this property was a key step in implementing the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, an initiative developed by a coalition of public and private organizations to safeguard the basin's water supply, restore fisheries, conserve habitat, preserve working lands, and enhance recreational opportunities. The forest will be managed through a partnership between DNR and WDFW, with input from the local communities and interested stakeholders.

A citizen-based Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee is being formed, that will advise DNR and WDFW, as the two agencies develop a management plan for the forest. State lawmakers have directed the agencies to complete the plan by June 30, 2015.

With that deadline in place, advisory committee members will be asked to make a significant time commitment to develop recommendations to the two agencies. The committee will begin meeting later this winter, and meetings will take place in the Kittitas County area.

When they approved the purchase of the Teanaway property last year, lawmakers directed DNR, in consultation with WDFW, to establish an advisory committee whose members include local residents and representatives of a wide range of interests, including agriculture and land conservation, as well as the Kittitas County Commission, the Yakama Nation, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

In addition to forming the advisory committee, DNR and WDFW will seek significant public input to help them develop an inclusive and robust management plan. The public will be able to participate by attending meetings, completing an online survey, and communicating with the two agencies throughout the process.

GRASSLANDS WILDERNESS - A DIRE WARNING

BY: AUTHOR REQUESTED NAME BE WITHHELD

As a former federal land manager and avid rockhouser I am deeply alarmed by efforts to turn National Grasslands into wilderness areas; <http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/other-resources/dispatch-from-the-buffalo-gap-national-grassland-85899426728>

This effort is being driven by the special interest of a selfish group of do-gooders. Unfortunately, once these efforts begin to gain momentum they are all but unstoppable.

Unless rock hounding clubs stand together with a common voice against this effort there will be little chance of being heard by decision makers.

May I suggest that clubs focus attention on their legislative representatives to get this move stopped dead in its tracks. If folks think they are going to get anywhere with the Forest Service they are dead wrong. The Forest Service will ramrod this designation unless stopped by Congress. I know, I have been there and seen it done and it is most likely that the decision in favor of wilderness has already been made internally within the Forest Service. They can accomplish off-road vehicle management without a wilderness designation, and I believe this to be the real issue driving this effort.

Again, to stop this it must be accomplished through legislative intervention. You will be wasting your time trying to talk sense to the Forest Service!

CLEAR CREEK UPDATE 5/9/14

BY BILL SPENCE - ALAA CENTRAL COAST REPRESENTATIVE

As it relates to rockhounds, access to BLM's Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) in San Benito County, California is now subject to a 3-tier permitting process. It's complicated, but I'll try to explain as clearly as I can.

1. Each person entering CCMA must obtain a **recreation permit**. Every person in a vehicle (or on foot if you're hardy enough to hike in) must have one; this is how BLM tracks the number of days exposure to the dread asbestos you have been exposed to. The form for this permit can be found on the BLM website. It needs to be filled out, signed and submitted to BLM Hollister for approval. This can be done in person during business hours or by fax or e-mail (or if you're in no hurry, by US Mail). The approved permit must be carried in your vehicle (or on your person if you're hiking) on the date of your trip. The recreation permit allows the bearer to enter CCMA and to travel on the "scenic loop" comprised of Clear Creek Road, Ridge Road and a loop that goes past the benitoite mine, KCAC mine, up a hill and back to Ridge Road. It authorizes the bearer to hike anywhere using the scenic loop as a starting point. Rockhounds should note that almost all localities of interest to lapidarists are within walking distance of the roads that comprise this loop, so in most cases you will not need a backcountry permit (#3 below). When approved, the recreation permit will provide the combination for the locked gate at the CCMA entrance.

2. All vehicles entering CCMA must get a pass at the "iron ranger" near the entrance. There is a \$5 fee per vehicle for this. It is only available to highway-licensed vehicles. Off-road vehicles are prohibited. Seniors 62 and over should note that the Iron Gate fee is waived for holders of a 'Federal Lands Senior Pass'. The Pass Number needs to be recorded on the fee envelope. The iron ranger is encountered at the entrance before the locked entry gate, so you must get a recreation permit to unlock the entry gate or you will have wasted your \$5 at the iron ranger.

3. Most of the mineral specimen collecting localities are in remote locations that require travel on roads and trails that are not part of the scenic loop. BLM now designates these roads as "administrative routes" which are closed to the public. However, rockhounds may use certain of these roads to access specified collecting localities by obtaining a **backcountry permit**. The form for this permit is NOT on the BLM website. You must contact Hollister for the form which they can send to you as a PDF file or hard copy. On it, you must specify your destination(s) and your trip date; you may request the route you want as well. BLM will review the permit application and approve (or disapprove) and specify the routes you are authorized to use. Logistically this permit can be gotten the same way as the recreation permit, but the recreation permit is a pre-requisite to the backcountry permit for any visit. Also note that BLM has stated (in person and on the application form) that they may take up to 15 days to bless a backcountry permit. This is contrary to what this representative was led to believe in mid-March when we suggested that the BLM route manager would compile a list of available routes and that the office personnel could issue permits for any listed route. There will be more discussions with BLM on this point.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Private Property: BLM-issued permits authorize travel on BLM roads only. If you wish to access any private property within CCMA (especially the benitoite mine), you should make appropriate arrangements with the owner.

Gated Roads: Some roads inside CCMA have been gated with iron gates and padlocked. At least one is at the request of the property owner. If there is a locked gate on the route you request for a backcountry permit, you will be given the combination to the lock or else passage at that gate is prohibited.

Rules: The CCMA RMP contains no language that guarantees rockhounds the

Continued on Page 12

“Clear Creek Update” - Continued from Page 11

right to collect in CCMA. Our friends in the off-road biking community saw to that. Backcountry permits are being made available under a principle that the government calls “adaptive management”.

In other words these permits are being granted at the discretion of the District Manager. So bear in mind that the right to collect at CCMA is fragile, and **FOLLOW THE RULES**.

Daylight Hours: Over night-ing on BLM land within the serpentine zone at CCMA (the so called “ACEC”) is prohibited. You cannot enter CCMA before sunrise, and you must exit by sundown unless you have permission to stay on one of the private in-holdings there. There are 3 BLM campgrounds just outside the ACEC, however, and another at Laguna Mountain just north of CCMA. Two are located on Clear Creek Road and one is located on the highway near the junction of San Benito and Fresno Counties.

Annual Limit: In accordance with the RMP, cumulative use of CCMA for rockhounding will be limited to 5 days per year per person.

Phone Service: Generally there is no cell phone coverage in CCMA except for a couple of places on high ridges. You cannot depend on the availability of phone coverage there.

Road Conditions: Reports are that backcountry roads are in better condition than was expected after 6 years without maintenance. BLM states that for the scenic loop, there has been a substantial amount of grading and other maintenance. Overall picture is not yet clear.

YELLOW-LEGGED FROGS TO GET 2 MILLION ACRES

Here is how government explains its actions:

“Sarah Swenty, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said people misinterpret what critical habitat means. ‘Critical habitat doesn’t remove land from public use; it just puts other federal agencies on notice that this area is where a species can thrive,’ she said. ‘It encourages other agencies to work with us and coordinate activities such as harvesting land. If a project is planned, it comes to us to review to see how impact on the species can be mitigated. Land does not change ownership and private land does not change ownership. If someone needs a federal permit for something being done on their land, then there would be discussions on how to mitigate any impact to the protected species in the critical habitat area. (But) people will still have access to 2 million acres.’ ” read the full article at <http://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/yellow-legged-frogs-to-get-2-million-acres/>

From: American Lands Access Association [mailto:alaanews@amlands.org]

Subject: **ALAA Information Alert - Route 66 Corridor Management Plan** - Importance: High

To all Rockhounds and Friends,

Here is an opportunity for Rockhounds in So. California and Arizona to become involved in the decision process that may have a large affect on collecting sites from Barstow to the California-Arizona border.

Check out the BLM Press Release below.

Apr-Oct. 23: Webcasts Scheduled to Solicit Comments on Route 66 Management Plan (BLM News Release) The California Historic Route 66 Association and BLM California Desert District have scheduled four webcasts to continue soliciting public comments on the preparation of a corridor management plan for the segment of historic Route 66. <http://ow.ly/vUesE>

Please consider taking some time to investigate this important issue. Thank you for your time and consideration

American Lands Access Association (ALAA)

info@amlands.org

www.amlands.org

Happy Rockhounding and enjoy your Public Lands.

A GRASS ROOTS SUCCESS**MONTANA SUPREME COURT OPINION IN PLWA VS. MADISON COUNTY**

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW JOHNSON

On January 16, 2014 the Montana Supreme Court overturned a lower court decision and assured public access to the Ruby River from bridges on land owned by Atlanta media mogul James Cox Kennedy. The decision sets a precedent that validates all Montana stream and bridge access laws. The Court affirmed a previous decision that two of the county road bridges - Duncan Road and Lewis Lane - have a 60-foot wide public easement intersecting the high water mark of the river. This is the decision that led to the Montana Bridge Access law. What's new is that the court essentially threw out the District Court ruling on the third bridge, a bridge on the Seyler lane road . The lower court had mistakenly ruled there was no recreational access on the bridge because it was on a road created by prescription or regular public use and recreational use was not a basis for creation of the prescriptive right -of- way. On Seyler Lane, the case was sent back to District Court with instructions to determine the width of the public road right-of-way which had been established by prescriptive use. Significantly, the Court held that once a prescriptive easement is established, access extends to all public uses including recreational use.

The Supreme Court justices rejected the District Court ruling that a secondary easement existed to accommodate maintenance by state and county crews and recognized recreation travel as a legitimate use to road for prescriptive easement status. The Court also emphatically upheld Montana's stream access law, stating "that the State owns all the waters in trust for the People, and that a riparian owner takes his property interest subject to a dominant estate in favor of the public. " John Gibson, President of PLWA, stated "This ruling from the Montana Supreme Court confirms once again that our streams are public resources, and not the exclusive playgrounds for the select few. The public's right to wade or float any river or stream in the state has been recognized, as well as the right to access those streams at bridges crossed by public roads. We want to thank Montana Trout Unlimited and the Montana Wildlife Federation as well as our loyal members for their contributions."

"We have been involved in this case for over ten years and this decision has justified our efforts," Gibson says. He went on to say that "Much of our success is due to the great work of the Goetz Law Firm in Bozeman who lead us through the legal maze surrounding access to the public waters of Montana."

What does all this really mean? Stay tuned as the implications reverberate. Maybe it will cause some 'Rolex Ranchers' and misguided legislators to quit messing around with established law. The people have spoken and the law has spoken.

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ATTENTION USERS OF BLUE MOUNTAIN FORESTS

JOHN D. GEORGE - BATES, OREGON

Forest Access For All (FAFA) is preparing to kick off our outreach/education campaign to all interested parties on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision. FAFA will start holding meetings in June to help interested parties write comments and get them submitted by the Aug 15th deadline. We are already traveling to individual meetings across the Northwest to educate folks on what is going on, and plan on hitting many more throughout the summer. Attached is an advertisement FAFA would like to run or have posted around the area as much as we possibly can. **(Editor's Note: Advertisement will be available on our web site)**

Organizations - If you could please hang this or share it with your membership it would be greatly appreciated. If this could be worked into you monthly newsletter or website that would be great too.

Media - We would like to receive quotes on running this piece in your local paper or media source so that we can maximize participation in the meetings and help as many folks as possible. Our goal would be to have this in each paper around the region next week if that is at all possible. We are working with a limited budget and strategically placing the ad in your media source would be great, your assistance on to how to most cost effectively do that would be greatly appreciated. We are still working on our venues for the meetings, and will have an updated version of this flier to reprint by the end of May or very first part of June. Any questions please feel free to call me at 541-805-4609 or the number on the flyer.

SHARE ACT (H.R. 3590)

WOULD PROTECT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON PUBLIC LAND

Rockhound Don Van Dyke, a member of the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club of Wyoming, Michigan, was looking through the March 7th issue of *Huizenga Huddle*, a weekly report put out by Bill Huizenga, the U.S. Representative for his district. He saw the following paragraph regarding some recent legislation:

“Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act: As an avid outdoorsman, I believe that Congress needs to protect access to federal lands so that sportsmen can continue to fish and hunt, and that recreational activities (like snowmobiling) continue to increase economic activity in rural communities. This legislation passed the House by a vote of 268-154.”

Don says, “Upon reading this I sent him an e-mail requesting that ‘rockhounds’ be included as sportsmen, and received the following letter from him. As rockhounds we are ‘hunters’ and ‘sportsmen’ and should have the same privileges as they have.”

Representative Huizenga’s reply, March 17, 2014:

Dear Mr. Van Dyke:

Thank you for contacting me to share your support for the Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act, as well as your thoughts on opportunities for “rockhounds,” or citizens who wish to look for rocks and minerals for their personal use. I appreciate hearing from you and welcome this opportunity to respond.

The ability of sportsmen to hunt, fish, and shoot on public land is under constant threat from the Obama administration and overzealous environmental groups. Many of their proposals will block access to public land, prohibit many popular recreational activities, and ban certain types of ammunition.

Some recent examples include: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considering banning lead ammunition and tackle, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposing the elimination of recreational shooting on public lands, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) spending significant resources examining a ban on hunting and snowmobiling in our own Huron-Manistee National Forest.

Recently, Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH) took action by introducing the SHARE Act or H.R. 3590. This bill consolidates eight previously introduced pro-sportsmen legislation, many of which I already cosponsor, into one bill which has been referred to the House Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Judiciary. The SHARE Act passed the House of Representatives on February 5, 2014, by a recorded vote of 268-154.

Among other things, this bill protects the traditional right of sportsmen to fish and hunt by removing government roadblocks to these activities on certain public lands and guards against new threats. H.R. 3590 will also defend American jobs by supporting recreational opportunities on these federal lands and reaffirms existing law barring the EPA from banning certain types of ammunition and fishing tackle. Finally, this bill makes the electronic duck stamp permanent and prohibits additional fees from being assessed for commercial filming on federal land and waterways. You will be pleased to learn that I am a cosponsor of the SHARE Act and will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind should it come before the full House of Representatives for a vote.

Rest assured, I will continue to work in Congress to ensure the west Michigan traditions of hunting, fishing, and shooting are around for future generations, and in the future I will keep in mind the importance of keeping federal land open to rock and mineral clubs throughout the United States. Please do not hesitate to write or call me in the future.

Sincerely,
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

STINKINGWATER DRAINAGE, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON
GOLDEN OAK PETRIFIED WOOD
SHIRLEY LEESON

Recently I received a large manila envelope from Tom Robertson. In it was an article by Lindy Steeves, of the Burns Times-Herald with the headline "Ancient forest lost to collectors." There was no note, just the article. It was about Harney County, Oregon which is now high desert but early in ancient history, mid to late Cretaceous (145-66 millions years ago), and very early Paleocene (66-23 million years ago) much of the area lay under a warm, shallow sea. "Remnants of these time periods can be found in the prehistoric Forest near Stinkingwater Creek." "A large stand of fossilized oak trees lay scattered and preserved as stone replicas of the towering giants from prehistoric times." "The Stinkingwater 'Golden Oaks' unique color made them valuable to collectors, they have fallen prey to the commercial market for fossils and petrified wood". "Due to the increased demand for the fossilized wood, the Golden Oaks can no longer be found." "They have been slowly collected by 'rockhounds' and the stand is all but gone."

"While the original Golden Oaks are gone, the surrounding slopes of the Stinkingwater Mountain are still covered with petrified trees. However they are located on private lands and visitors are not allowed to set foot on the property without direct permission from the owners."

In another on line site: www.oregon.com/eastern_oregon_cities/burns under Geology: it says "the petrified forest areas in the Stinking Water Creek Basin offer the best opportunities for the collector of petrified trees and have been posted by the Federal Government to preserve this unusual forest". The remainder of the basin area contains float material of petrified wood pieces. Off Highway 20, past milepost 167, east of Buchanan. (Thanks to Hidemi Kira for this information)

Do you get a slight hint of 'recrimination' of rockhounds for 'taking away' this petrified wood? Perhaps the writer, above, doesn't know that rockhounds donate some of this to museums, universities and other entities as well as share with the public their collections at gem and mineral shows.

All this piqued my interest. I contacted Hidemi Kira, 2nd VP of NFMS and a member of the Clackamette club and also an ALAA representative for his club. I asked him about the Golden Oak petrified wood from the area and if anyone would be willing to donate a piece to ALAA. Bea Settle sent, via Hidemi, two pieces of the Golden Oak slabs to me for our ALAA collection. The golden colors in the radiating rings of the slabs are truly beautiful. Now, because of this and the Morrisonite slabs donated by Evelyn and Dom Cataldo of the Lakeside G/M Society, ALAA has begun a collection of material found in the Northwest that may be currently, depending on who you talk to, depleted and no longer available. If anyone is willing to donate a slab of material to the collection, here is what we need; A) The name of the material; B) Where it is found, area and state; C) The name of the person donating it and their club. Contact me at president@amlands.org and I will try and arrange to get your material.

Not quite the 'end of the story.' I met Tom Robertson, a storied dealer and the gentleman who had sent me the article, at the Lakeside club show in Kennewick this past April 25-27, 2014. He had some of the material I've been looking for. Among them a beautiful piece of Golden Oak from Stinkingwater Creek Harney County, Oregon which is now in my personal collection. You know, I've looked at exhibit cases for the past 13 years in the NFMS and never really had a real concern about where the material came from and if it's still available to the public till now. That has changed!

RS 2477 ROADS**RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUR PUBLIC LANDS****BY ANDY JOHNSON**

Federal and State Public Lands Management Agencies are moving forward with their plans to update, revise and chart the course of Public Land Management policy on our lands for the next 15 to 20 years. We all need to be reminded and aware of some simple facts as this process plays out on Public Lands within Washington State and elsewhere in our nation. There are some fundamental truths regarding the “RS 2477” law which I would like to share with you in hopes they might not be forgotten and lost in this process of change.

What is RS 2477 you ask? It is a simply worded and straight forward law. The entire text of RS 2477 reads as follows, “The right-of-way for the construction of Highways across public lands not reserved for public purpose is hereby granted.”

In 1976 Congress specifically and clearly reaffirmed the validity and intent of RS 2477. Having become a law in 1866 there are those with a mindset now, who argue that RS 2477 is not relevant and consistent with modern public land management policy. But when Congress repealed RS 2477 twenty-two plus years ago and replaced it with many other laws found within the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLMPA) they also specifically and explicitly reaffirmed all RS 2477 grants previously made. RS 2477 was a self-executing law. When the conditions were met, the right-of-way was made. No further action by the grantee or by Congress was necessary to validate it.

Congress specifically by-passed the Executive Branch of the Federal Government in making RS 2477 grants. Under our Constitution, Congress has the exclusive power to manage and dispose of public lands and property. “”Article IV, Section 3: “The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other property belonging to the United States;””. In 1976 when Congress reaffirmed the RS 2477 right-of-way granting process as original established, it had the total power to do so. The Federal land management agencies really then have no authority over public lands beyond what Congress delegates to them.

This RS 2477 right-of-way grant is a property right. Therefore, it enjoys the same constitutional and legal protections as any other property. Legally, when the grant was made, the federal government’s interest in the land underlying the right-of-way became the “servient estate” and the interest of the right-of-way grantee became the “dominant estate”. That means that while the federal government is protected against unnecessary or undue damage to the land underlying the right-of-way, it cannot interfere with the grantee’s exercise of its rights.

The RS 2477 grant also conveyed a bundle of associated rights. These include the right to maintain the road and even upgrade the road. This federal law also is different because state law plays a major role. It can partially determine the scope of these associated rights, how the requirements of the grant offer were met, as well as the width of the right-of-way granted.

It is legally incorrect to call RS 2477 assertions “claims.” The term “claim” suggests that there is some process which must still be followed before the RS 2477 right-of-way is fully granted and valid. In reality, the grant was either validly made before RS 2477 was repealed in 1976 or it was not. If it was, then it is not a *claim* but a valid *grant*, and the *grantee* asserts its validity. If it was not, then it cannot be asserted under a repealed law. The anti-access activists and some federal bureaucrats like to talk about “claims” to confuse the issue. When someone talks about RS 2477 “claims,” they are either confused or deceptive.

Continued on Page 17

"RS 2477 Roads" - Continued from Page 16

Congress granted a right-of-way, not a road. In fact, RS 2477 rights-of-way can host a number of things besides roads. The legal definition of "highway" in the law means not only the frequently-traveled, periodically-maintained roads commonly associated with it, but also other kinds of public ways, including carriage-ways, bridle-ways, foot ways, trails, bridges, and even railroads, canals, ferries and navigable rivers. The essential element in defining "highway" is that whatever the means of transport, the public has the right to come and go at will.

The present physical condition of a road is totally irrelevant to whether a valid RS 2477 right-of-way exists. This should be obvious, but this is the point on which the anti-access folks are spreading the most misinformation. Whether a road is barely visible on the ground or even has been obliterated for any other reason, the legal status of the right-of-way is not affected. The grantee can legally re-establish the road even if it has totally disappeared. It follows, then, that it is also impossible to determine whether a valid right-of-way exists simply by looking at it. A right-of-way can only be relinquished or abandoned in accordance with state law.

A valid RS 2477 road can be established merely by the passage of vehicles. The case law and federal policy for over a century are clear: construction by machinery is not required to do so. Anti-access forces are frantically trying to convince the public otherwise. Don't be misled. **No federal land management agency can determine the validity of an RS 2477 assertion.** The agency can only determine for its own administrative purposes whether or not it will recognize the assertion as valid. Constitutionally, only a court can determine the validity.

No federal agency has the authority to close an RS 2477 road for any reason, period. This follows logically, but many federal bureaucrats think they have this authority and try to act accordingly. When next you run into one, outline the points listed here and ask them to cite the legal authority by which they claim they can close an RS 2477 road. Ties them in knots.

Source: Western Counties' Resources Policy Institute

Reprinted from Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies; April, 2014 Newsletter

SUMMER SAFETY

BY CHERI GEORGE

MARCH 2011 - Albert and Rita Chretien left their home in British Columbia, Canada heading for Las Vegas. Armed with maps, GPS and a sense of adventure they took seldom used roads and got stuck.

After 2 days Albert left their van and went to find help. Seven weeks later Rita was found with the couple's van in Northern Nevada. She had survived on candy, trail mix and water. Albert has not yet been found.

I keep thinking about Albert and Rita. I don't know their particular situation and reasoning but it also makes me think about our fellow rockhounds.

How often have we as rockhounds traveled 'where no person in their right mind would go'? How often have we gotten into a situation and then enjoyed the telling of it with laughter? Have we given any thought to "what if"? It could even be something as simple as a dead battery or 2 flat tires. Had it not been for rationing that bag of trail mix Rita would certainly have perished.

I know all seasoned rockhounds never leave home without being prepared, but it does help to give it some deeper thought to our preparedness. Are you traveling alone? Are you with a group? Do you know where you are headed? Do others know where you are headed? Do you have enough food to last for more than an afternoon picnic?

As this rockhound season starts ramping up and we are all anxious to get out there on the roads not well traveled and still muddy;

PLEASE BE CAREFUL OUT THERE FOLKS!

**AN INVITATION FROM THE SPOKANE ROCK ROLLERS
TO SET UP A BOOTH FOR ALAA DURING THEIR RECENT SHOW**

SHIRLEY LEESON, ALAA PRESIDENT

I received an e-mail from Dean McGill, of the Rock Rollers asking if someone from ALAA was available for a free booth at their show. This was November, 2013 and the weather was good in Southern California. The Show was March 28-30, 2014 and the weather was awful. On top of that reservations for that weekend in Spokane Valley was nil because of a state tournament. So our closest motel was in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, 40 miles away. But everything turned out well in the end.

The booth was successful and we met a wonderful group of people attending the show from all over the eastern part of Washington, and Northern Idaho. Bev Bockman the ALAA rep for Northern Idaho Mineral Club and also a member of Rock Rollers was there and we enjoyed a visit. Everett Headrick, ALAA Representative for Northern Idaho was also there. It's always good to see Emmett.



EVERETT HEADRICK

There were lively discussions on closures of collecting sites by the Forest Service and BLM and strategy as to what we all might do to stop or at least slow it down.



BEV BOCKMAN

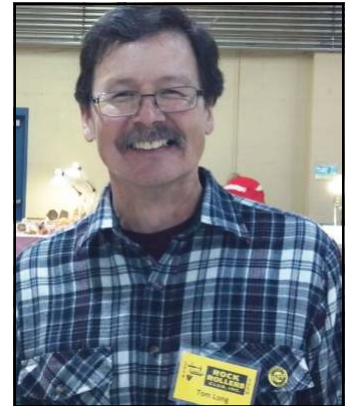
I saw some beautiful jasper from the northwest area that is famous, world-wide.

And that produced more concern and lots of rumors about claims, collecting sites and the availability of some of this famous material. Morrisonite and Willow Creek to name two of the most famous. And of course the Bruneau Jasper claims that have been closed down by the BLM in Idaho because the reclamation bond they wanted the claim owners to pay, per year, was in the thousands of dollars that they just didn't have.

We had a visit with the new Rock Roller ALAA representative Tom Long, who was enthusiastic about working with ALAA.

We told the crew that we were going to leave Sunday morning from Coeur D'Alene instead of driving back to the show 40 miles and then leaving from there at noon.

It was a good thing, as I mentioned earlier the weather was awful. On our way from Salmon, Idaho over the Lost Trail Pass on the border of Idaho and Montana we were our own snow plow. Slushy snow and driving winds. On our way back we passed the summit between Idaho and Montana with high winds and heavy rains. When we reached Missoula and settled in for the night we saw on TV that the pass we had gone over earlier had had a severe mud/snow slide and I-90 was closed. Boy, did we luck out.



TOM LONG

We want to thank the Rock Roller crew for a wonderful time during the show and for allowing me to pick their brains on jaspers of the northwest. I have learned a valuable lesson. More on this in another article.

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www.amlands.org

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Central Coast Bill Spence
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IDAHO

Northern..... Everett Headrick
Southern..... Shirley Metts

INDIANA..... Kathy & Bob Miller

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UTAH..... Evan Day

WASHINGTON

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AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM

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)
RENEWING: Individual / Couple OR Club / Society (Circle Which)

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone Number: _____
Residence Cellular (if any)

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,
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ALAA New Membership & Annual Renewal Form
Revised 3/18/2014 - atb
(Distributed each year in October)