



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

www.amlands.org

Volume 9 Issue 3

July - September 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug True

doug_true@amlands.org

See you in Quartzsite ~ January 2018

COMMITTEE:

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

For inclusion in each Quarterly Newsletter

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

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

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

Please do not send articles in PDF format.

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

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VENTURA REPORT 2017

Lauren Williams
ALAA Vice-President

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The ALAA Meeting at the AFMS Show and Convention in Ventura, California to me was a strange one!

At first Doug canceled the meeting because all of the Officers and most of the ALAA Committee people were helping judge the 77 competitive cases that were submitted for judging at the show. So at the time appointed for the ALAA Meeting I decided to wander over to where the meeting was to be held to tell those who did not get the word that the meeting had been canceled. There is always someone who does get the word, generally that's me. There were two people there when I got there. Before we got through talking to each other people started to slowly show up, so we went inside and sat down. At this point we did not have enough members to make a Quorum, so far no official meeting was being held. We sat and talked some more and others started coming in. We counted noses a couple of times but still not enough of the right people to have a Quorum. Finally we had enough people to form a Quorum. We could start an Official Meeting, so we did. And the information I had brought to Ventura for the ALAA meeting was, still sitting in the back of my van. We had the meeting without that information. No one went over to the other building to tell Doug that we were having a meeting.

The Minutes from the Quartzsite meeting held in January passed, the election of officers and 1st year directors passed, the 2018 budget was discussed and approved, discussion about having a credit card to renew membership continued and nothing final was reached so the search goes on, the second quarter newsletter has been published, a motion to elect Lenora Smith and Shirley Leeson with 3rd director position open to 1st year directors passed.

I talked about the BLM travel plan meeting that I attended in St. Anthony, Idaho. The meeting was held between the NFMS Show and the AFMS Show. It was uneventful. All they had was maps of the areas that they administer strung around the walls of the room. The portion of the maps that they administered was shown well, but the other checkerboard areas such as state lands, forest service lands, school lands, private lands was barely visible so it was really hard to know what you were looking at. They wanted you to look at the maps and then talk to a BLM person about what concerned you. There was no formal meeting. This was the first go around for that area so ALAA is now one of the stake holders and will be further able to make comments when they go to the second and third stages of their travel plans. This was primarily for 4 wheelers and snowmobiles. Most of the area is primarily sand, lots of sand and lava rocks. The area concerned is from about Spencer south to Sage Junction, where I-15 and the road to Salmon and Rexburg junction is, then follow a rough line east to the Snake River towards Rexburg, then follow the Snake River northwards to about Ashton then north towards West Yellowstone. At this time what really matters is not that this is the first travel plan for this office of the BLM, and that ALAA is now an official stake holder so that we can say what we want too at later meetings. The immediate important thing for this area is Sage Grouse! Like all of the Desert in Southern Idaho, Eastern Oregon, and a good portion of Montana and Washington, northern Nevada and most of Wyoming. Sage Grouse will trump, dictate travel plans.

I want to thank Susy for getting me the minutes from Ventura so I could remember what went on there. Thank you Susy!

The Quartzsite meeting will be January 20th 2018.

MEMBERSHIP

Ruth Hidalgo

Membership Chair

membership@amlands.org

Please spread the word to your fellow rockhounds about ALAA. Mention the organization at your club meetings and make sure club members knows individual memberships with ALAA are just as important as club memberships. In addition to your financial support, it is important to stay involved with access issues affecting our hobby in your area.

National Monuments Review

On April 26, 2017 President Trump issued Executive Order 13792 requiring the review of National Monuments created by Executive Actions from several preceding Presidents. The task of the review was assigned to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The review process included inputs from government agencies, state governments, local stakeholders and the public. Over 2.7 million comments were received. On June 30, 2017, seventeen members of congress united and signed a final letter to Secretary Zinke addressing 27 of the National Monuments under review. The letter is 28 pages in length and is available in PDF Format. The letter addresses 27 National Monuments and suggests recommendation to Secretary Zinke.

The letter may be read on the *Active Access Issues* page under **Comments On National Monuments Under Initial Review** on the ALAA Website www.amlands.org or by clicking on the Hyperlink below.

<https://westerncaucus.house.gov/sites/westerncaucus.house.gov/files/documents/6.30.17%20Final%20letter%20to%20Zinke%20Antiquities%20Review.pdf>

MONUMENT MANAGER ATTENDS CFMS/AFMS SHOW IN VENTURA

Ruth Hidalgo

membership@amlands.org

The Mojave Trails National Monument declared by Proclamation under the antiquities act by President Obama in February of 2016 stands to close dozens of collecting sites over 1.6 million acres in Southern California. During the management planning process, collecting is still allowed. Thankfully the local BLM managers know Rockhounds have been collecting on these lands for decades. Kyle Sullivan is the Monument Manager tasked with creating a management plan for the monument. He attended his first Desert Advisory Council Meeting in February of 2017 to find HALF the people in attendance were Rockhounds concerned about whether or not our hobby would be allowed to continue in the final management plan. Unfortunately, Kyle cannot answer that question, but he has certainly made every effort to learn about our hobby and what stands to be lost if it is not.

While the current administration reviews the monument designation to ensure its designation meets the criteria of the Antiques Act, Recreational Rockhounding and other recreational activity will be allowed to continue.

National Monuments

Shirley Leeson

ALAA Director - California
shirleyleeson@amlands.org

I just received a message from the Wilderness Society. They were touting that the government had received 2.7 million comments on the National Monuments 'review' and the vast majority were in favor of keeping national monuments intact.

Did any recreational rockhounds send in a letter regarding the national monuments under review?

Here are some of the monuments:

Mojave Trails, California - 1.6 million acres

Miners, hunters, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and collectors of rocks and minerals opposed the presidential monument designation fearing they would be shut out from enjoying the land.

Recommendation: the reduction of the size of Mojave Trails National Monument so that the monument is 'confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected. Working with private landowners within the national monument to resolve conflicting uses.

Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks, New Mexico - 500,000 acres

Congressman Steve Pearce, (NM-02) introduced a bill with close involvement and significant input from local ranchers, business owners, conservationists, sportsmen and other constituents. Pearce's proposal to protect the area but by only 54,800 acres.

Recommendation: Reduce the size to the original proposed 54,800 acre footprint proposed in Representative Pearce's Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act during the 113th Congress.

Bears Ears, Utah - 1.3 million acres

San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally, a Dine and Navajo woman stated, 'Bears Ears National Monument campaign is a cynical political stunt that ...will deny grass roots Utah Navajos access to their sacred spiritual grounds.' Further, 109,000 acres of Utah School and Institutional Trust Administration land was lock up. Only 17% Utahans favored the designation.

Recommendation: a total rescission of the Bears Ears National Monument.

Cascade Siskiyou, Oregon - expanded by 47,624 acres

The original Clinton designation was for 52,000 acres

The American Forest Resource Council and BLM identified the lands with monument expansion as being at high risk for wildfire. The administration ignored compelling evidence that this designation was illegal and ignored the will and intent of Congress by violating the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act.

Recommendation: a complete rescission of the Clinton-era and Obama-era Cascade Siskiyou National Monument designations.

There are a number of additional monument and recommendations, but far too long to put in this Newsletter, You can go to the ALAA website **www.amlands.org** and read it all. You can also see those signed the letter to Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior and Acting Director Micah Chambers. In my opinion, there should be far more signatures especially from Southern California.

Where do YOU stand on this? Did you write a letter, even if it was for a monument in your own state? Or did you sit by on the sidelines.

California News

California Assembly Bill ~ 1540 State Dinosaur: Augustynolophus morrиси Fact Sheet

PURPOSE

California has a collection of state emblems to symbolize California, and pride for the golden state. Existing law establishes the state flag, state flower, state marine reptile and the state's emblems, including, among other things, the saber-toothed cat as the official state fossil. Seven states, as well as the District of Columbia, have declared a state dinosaur to pay homage to the original creatures to walk the land.

SUMMARY

AB 1540 would amend section 425.7 of the Government Code to establish the Augustynolophus morrиси as the official state dinosaur of California.

SPONSOR

Southern California Paleontological Society

BACKGROUND

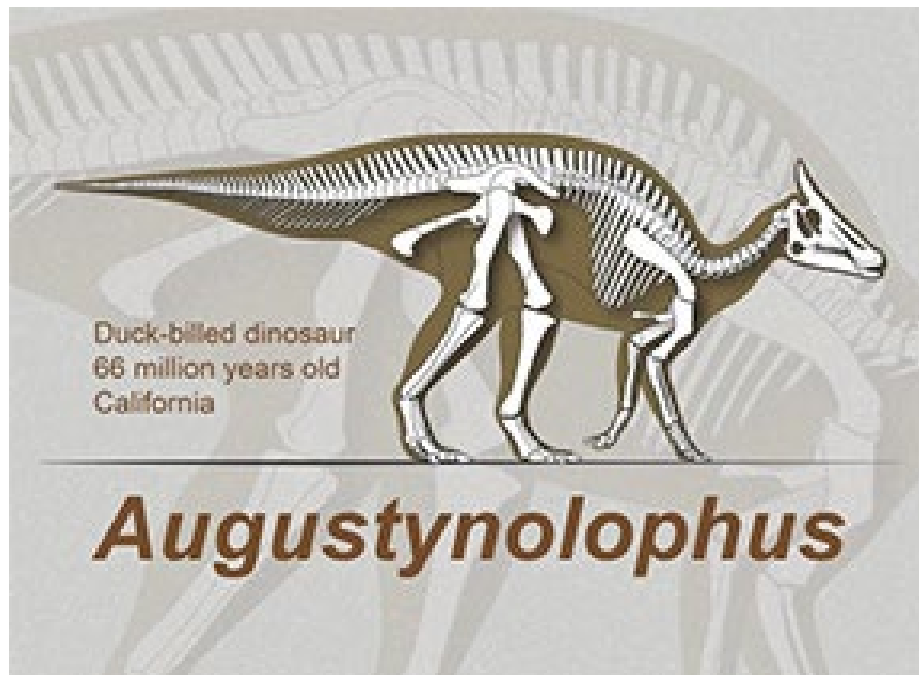
Augustynolophus morrиси has only been found in California. Augustynolophus belongs to a family of dinosaurs, Hadrosauridae or the "Duckbill Dinosaurs." The fossils were unearthed in the Moreno Formation of Fresno County which means that Augustynolophus comes from near the "geographical center" of our state. The Augustynolophus morrиси roamed California during the Maastrichtian Age, which makes it a contemporary of other well-known dinosaurs such as Tyrannosaurus and Triceratops. The species is named after two notable Californians, Dr. William J. Morris, and Mrs. Augustyn.

Augustynolophus is the most complete dinosaur known from California, and includes skull material, making it easier for scientist to show an accurate picture of what the animal actually looked like.

A State Dinosaur is important to California as a means to increase children's interest in science, and to recognize the unique dinosaur that is native to the golden state.

SUPPORT

Los Angeles Museum of Natural History Foundation
Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



News from New Mexico

Forest Plan Revision Update

Here are the latest developments and public engagement opportunities for each of New Mexico's National Forests as of July, 2017:

Carson National Forest: The first draft of the revised plan is scheduled to be released for public comment later this year. The Carson is also still holding informal monthly "open house" meetings at the Supervisor's office. The next scheduled meeting is July 19th from noon to 2:00 pm. You can keep up with the Carson National Forest Plan revision process [HERE](#).

Santa Fe National Forest: There has been no change in status this past month. The Santa Fe is roughly the same stage of the plan revision process as the Carson. Their current timeline shows a draft EIS released for public comment this fall. They have announced information on a series of public open houses throughout the summer. The locations/times/dates and the place to keep tabs on everything related to the Santa Fe National Forest Plan revision process is [HERE](#).

Gila National Forest: The Gila National Forest is holding a pair of two-day works on "Frequent Fire Desired Conditions". While these workshops are not directly related to the ongoing Forest Plan revision, the desired conditions are very closely related to the information that will appear in the draft revised Forest Plan. These workshops are being held August 1-2 in Reserve, New Mexico and August 3-4 in Silver City, NM.

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

Cibola National Forest: There has been no change in status this past month. The Cibola has announced that their schedule is slipping due to a short staffing situation. The draft revised EIS/Forest Plan is now scheduled to be released for public comment late this year. All of the Cibola National Forest Plan revision process updates can be found [HERE](#).

Lincoln National Forest: No changes or updates for the past month. They are still working on the first draft of their initial "Assessment". It should be out for public scrutiny early in 2017 when they will also have a series of public workshops on drafting the "Need for Change" document. The best place to keep track of the Lincoln's Forest Plan revision process is [HERE](#).

These revised Forest Plans for all five of our New Mexico National Forests will be the basis for our recreation on Forest lands for at least the next fifteen years. That makes them **IMPORTANT!** Please continue to stay actively involved during the **LONG** Forest Plan revision process.

SENIOR PASS PRICE SKYROCKETING

Provided by Kitty Benzar

On Tuesday December 6, 2016, in the lame duck session of Congress, the House passed by unanimous consent a bill (HR 4680) that will eliminate the \$10 lifetime Senior Pass (formerly Golden Age Pass) which has been available to citizens and permanent residents age 62 and older since 1965.

In the early hours of Saturday morning December 10, in a nearly empty Senate chamber - most members having already left for the holidays - the Senate approved the House bill by unanimous consent. It was signed by President Obama before he left office.

The lifetime pass will track with the price of the annual America the Beautiful Pass. That price is currently \$80 but can be changed at any time by the federal land management agencies, without further legislation.

For those who prefer an installment plan, a new "Senior Annual" pass will also be established at a price of \$20, good for one year from the date of purchase. Four consecutive Senior Annual passes can be exchanged for a lifetime pass.

While there have been a multitude of bills introduced (and programs authorized) aimed at giving new groups free or reduced-cost access to the public lands - 4th Graders, military families, those with disabilities, veterans, volunteers - it is difficult to understand why Congress has taken this opportunity to reduce a long-standing benefit to seniors. The \$20-\$35 million in anticipated additional revenue (depending on whose estimate you choose) will make little dent in the Park Service's claimed maintenance backlog of \$12 BILLION.

All of this was done in the guise of celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service, although why making the Parks more expensive to visit constitutes a "celebration" remains a mystery.

BENEFITS

The benefits of the Senior Pass include entrance to all National Parks and Wildlife Refuges that charge entrance fees, for the passholder and everyone accompanying them in the same vehicle. Where an NPS unit or a Refuge charges a per-person fee, the passholder can bring in three companions age 16 or older. (Those under age 16 are free anyway.) The Senior Pass also covers Standard Amenity Fees at most Forest Service, BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, and Army Corps of Engineers sites. In addition, Senior passholders are entitled to a 50% discount on campground fees for the site they occupy, including any younger friends and family members who accompany them.

These benefits are grandfathered- (and grandmothers-) in for existing passholders. So if you have attained the age of 62 and have not yet purchased your lifetime Senior Pass, you should do it IMMEDIATELY. Passes are sold at National Parks, Forest Service, BLM and Bureau of Reclamation offices, National Wildlife Refuges, and Army Corps of Engineers recreation sites. Passes can be purchased online at the USGS Store, but online purchases will incur a \$10 service charge in addition to the (for now) \$10 price of the pass. Your pass is good for the rest of your life unless lost or stolen. Many people buy an extra to keep in a safe place. Doing so at this time is something to consider because buying a replacement in the future could cost you much more.

ACT QUICKLY!

The price increase is going to take effect on August 28, 2017. That's well ahead of the previously announced effective date of October 1. So if you are going to attain age 62 before August 28, don't wait - it will cost you eight times more after that date!

News from Utah

Provided by Jack Johnston

News Release Utah State Office, Utah

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2017

Contact: Kimberly Finch
(801) 539-4195

BLM-Utah offers free recreation maps for mobile devices and encourages visitors to enjoy public lands

SALT LAKE CITY – Looking for inspiration in America’s great outdoors this Easter weekend? The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has developed over 50 georeferenced Adobe PDF maps that highlight world-class outdoor recreation opportunities found on Utah’s public lands. These free, user-friendly maps provide a fun and easy way to see a user’s location in real-time on any mobile device, and can be used as a navigation tool even without cellular reception.

Choose from exciting recreation opportunities for all abilities and skills. Visitors can use the georeferenced maps to hike slot canyons in Emery County’s San Rafael Swell; ride an ATV at Sand Mountain in Washington County; drive along the historic Transcontinental Railroad through Box Elder County; or mountain bike on the world-renowned slickrock of Moab. Family-friendly activities include playing disc golf near Cedar City or completing a Junior Explorer Activity Book at the John Jarvie Ranch trading post in Daggett County.

Popular Maps

- Moab Field Office, Gemini Bridges and Long Canyon: <https://go.usa.gov/xXRXX>; and Moab Camping: <https://go.usa.gov/xXR XU>
- Price Field Office, Temple Mountain Recreation Area (San Rafael Swell): <https://go.usa.gov/xXRXd>
- St. George Field Office, Sand Mountain OHV Area: <https://go.usa.gov/xXR X6>
- Monticello Field Office, Bears Ears National Monument: <https://go.usa.gov/xXR Xe>
- Salt Lake Field Office, Transcontinental Railroad National Back Country Byway: <https://go.usa.gov/xXR5D>
- Cedar City Field Office, Three Peaks Disc Golf Course: <https://go.usa.gov/xXR5Q>
- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Lower Calf Creek Falls: <https://go.usa.gov/xXR5H>
- Vernal Field Office, Green River (including John Jarvie Ranch): <https://go.usa.gov/xXRRv>

Visitors can download the Adobe PDF maps through any georeferenced PDF map application, such as Avenza Maps, or download the maps from the BLM website at <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>. To utilize the location feature, users will need to view maps using a geospatial PDF, GeoPDF®, or GeoTIFF reader app. BLM-Utah partnered with the Great Basin Institute’s Research Associate Program to develop the maps.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

-BLM-

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Rockhound Soapbox A Real Life's Hard Lesson

Though this is not related to Public Lands, Legislation or Conservation in may affect any of us at any time during the course of any day in the 21st Century.

I received this in an email from a very good friend of mine whom I worked with over 20 years. This really happened and Connie asked me to communicate her experience of this real life computer scam to all of you. It is really unfortunate that these things happen, but this is real life and they do. She is hoping that this reaches many people and all of us can learn from her mistake and that we do not fall victim to this kind of thievery though the telephone and Internet.

Here is Connie's real life experience. Please learn from her misfortune and do not let it happen to you.

John Martin

Hi my friends,

Although I hate to admit it, I received a call from "tech support" on Friday, July 22, 2017 to "update" my IP Security. The "technician" went through my computer remotely and showed me some IP Addresses that he said were from foreign countries. He "cleaned" them up and proceeded to convince me that I needed to purchase IP Security for \$399.99. With out any additional consideration I provide them with my debit card and the payment was processed through PayPal.

Almost immediately afterwards (within an hour), I was contacted by MY Real Tech Support team asking if I had received any contact from an individual claiming to be tech support.

I informed him that, yes; I had been contacted and paid for IP Security.

He exclaimed, "Oh My God; contact your bank right away and stop payment. It is a scam!!"

I contacted my bank and spoke with the representative telling her what had happened. Since it was paid through PayPal, she told me they could not stop payment; it had gone through. We initiated a Fraud Alert and a dispute to this charge.

I may never see that \$399.99 again and, God knows, I can't afford this. Hard lesson learned. . .

I felt extremely STUPID simply because these scams have been communicated on the Internet. I guess, I thought it wouldn't happen to ME. Boy was I wrong!!

So, I thought it would be a good thing to alert you to this.

My REAL Tech Support provides a security code that you must verify with anyone who calls claiming to be "Tech Support".

If they do not provide the code, hang up immediately and report it to your Real Tech Support people.

Needless to say, today is a XANAX DAY FOR ME!!!! I am just sick about this.

Continued on page 12.....

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Holly Pelka

Palmdale Gem and Mineral Club

Summer is definitely here, and the Antelope Valley is hot, hot, **HOT!** When you're out and about, remember the acronym **SHH!**

S is for Sunscreen. Use at least SPF 30, applying about 1 ounce (a shot glass-full), which seems like a lot, but is just right. Apply 15 minutes before going out; reapply every 2 hours or after going in the water. Remember: kids need SPF 50; lip balm should be SPF 30; check the expiration date; use on cloudy days, too; and apply all over since the sun can burn through clothing.

H is for Hat. When you're going to be outside, protect your delicate scalp, neck, and facial skin by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.

H is also for H₂O – good old water, to prevent dehydration. Adults should drink a minimum of ten to twelve 8-ounce glasses of water a day, and MORE if you're being active in the heat. Drinks with caffeine actually work to dehydrate your body, so for every glass of Coke or cup of coffee you have, drink an extra glass of water. Children's water requirements are age-based – check with your pediatrician. Increase your water intake if you're sick, or pregnant. Remember – by the time you're thirsty, you're already dehydrated! How else can you tell? If your urine is light yellow, you're doing things right. If your urine is dark yellow, you're dehydrated. So get that water bottle, and drink up!

RECIPE of the QUARTER

Creamed Tumbleweed

1/4 cup butter or bacon fat	1/2 cup boiling water
2 qt tender tumbleweed stems and leaves, cut up	1/2 cup light cream or half~and~half
1 tsp salt	1/8 tsp black pepper
1/2 tsp basil leaves	

Heat butter or bacon fat in a skillet or heavy sauce pan, add Tumbleweed, salt, basil and boiling water. Cover and cook until tender. Add cream and pepper and serve at once. Serves 4-6.

Tumbleweed has an excellent flavor and is very good cooked vegetable. It is related to spinach and may be added to other dishes as one would Celery.

Note: Use early plant shoots or clip the newest growth from older plant stalks that have been watered.



AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Must be postmarked by December 31st of each year

Member / Contact Name: _____
Last First

Member / Contact Name: _____
Last First

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

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

Phone Number: _____
Primary Secondary

Email Address: _____

Alternate Email address: _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Leave a note for us:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2016

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

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..... **Continued from page 9**

Protect yourself - please!!

If these scammers get into your computer, they can hack into your bank accounts, personal files, nothing is totally safe, private or protected on the internet.

Please learn from MY situation.

Love you all,
Connie

A Happy Ending: Connie continued to investigate and made a phone call to PayPal. PayPal's phone number is 888 221-1161. She spoke to a PayPal representative and the money will be totally refunded back into her account in 3 to 5 business days!! Since the scammer used PayPal, the transaction was protected and guaranteed under PayPal rules.

Bottom Line: If you need Technical Support for your computer, try to seek it your self. Ask for help through a friend or a reputable Technical Support Firm. Do not accept technical support from un-solicited sources through the Telephone or over the internet. Never give Credit Card or any personal information over an un-solicited call over the telephone or through the internet. Be Aware and stay Safe.