



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

www.amlands.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug True

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First quarter, second quarter, hind quarter, how time flies! Things are changing in Quartzsite, Arizona. People slow in coming and blew out of town in two weeks. There are several factors that might be causing this, first the Canadian Dollar is really low, not many came this year. The cold weather in the Northern part of the US caused a lot of uncertainty and many did not or couldn't travel and last but not least the election could be a factor.

I hope that everyone received the information and signed on to the letters regarding our fossil collecting and get on the band wagon to keep our new National Monuments open to collecting. This is very important process and if we do not follow through millions of acres could be closed to collecting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the AFMS Convention and Show in Ventura, California on June 9 – 11, 2017.

ALAA Dues are now due for 2017

The new renewal and new member form is available on the ALAA Website
<http://www.amlands.org/6736.html>

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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ALBANY REPORT

Lauren Williams

ALAA Vice President

lauren.williams@amlands.org

July 30th was our Annual meeting held with the AFMS Convention in Albany, Oregon? President Doug True conducted the meeting. The minutes from the Executive Board meeting held in January in Quartzsite were passed. Lenora Smith replaced Jon Spunaugle as a Director and Dave Wayment replaced Tom Noe as a Director. On the State Representative side, Sandy Hansen replaced Shirley Metts for Southern Idaho, Albert Bolshazy replaced Norvie Enns for Nevada and Jan Bumeister was reinstated for South Dakota.

The 2017 Budget was approved. The 2016 Budget has a deficit of approximately 1,299 dollars. That means that we need to have 52 more people to join ALAA. Dues are our only means of raising funds. We need to have enough people to join ALAA and pay dues so that we at least break even with our finances. We do not have deep pockets so we will not be able to stand deficit spending very often.

Using Credit Cards to pay dues was reported on and PayPal will not work but the committee is still looking at other Company that looks promising. Amazon has a program where it will donate 0.05% of eligible products to ALAA if their customers will tell the check-out clerk out that that is what they want to do. I did not want to fill out Amazon's long information form when I have no information on how many of you would participate in the program or what is required of you or us to participate in their program or what eligible products mean.

ALAA is still in business, the paper work was filed with the State of Idaho on July 9th.

Mike Hunerlach, ALAA's Public Lands Advisor gave a short talk about what we need to do to keep protecting our Public Lands. I gave a short discussion of my attendance at the Gallatin-Custer Forest service plan held in West Yellowstone, Montana at the end of June.

Our next Business meeting will be Quartzsite, Arizona January 20th and our next Annual Meeting will be in July in Venture, California. Dates and times and places to be published later and subject to change.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

RUTH HIDALGO - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

ruth.hidalgo@amlands.org

Membership Dues are DUE January 1st (1/1/17) and are DELINQUENT February 15th, 2017 (2/15/17). To renew your membership, simply complete the Membership Application (attached to this newsletter for your convenience) and send in your payment.

Your continued support is most appreciated. Please see the **American Lands Access Association, Inc.** website, www.amlands.org for information on how your nominal membership fees are being put to good use.

Interactive Membership Application is available at: <http://www.amlands.org/6736.html>

ALAA MEETING in QUARTZSITE 2017



The Annual Quartzsite Meeting was again held at the Quartzsite community Center amid the hardest rainstorm so far this year. Even with the pouring rain the meeting was well attended by several dozen Rockhounds



from the local area as well as from several states. Lisbet Thoresen gave a very informative and interesting program on the proposed new rule further implementing the Paleontological Resource Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA) and the affecta on Rockhounding in the Mojave Trails National Monument. The program included a presentation titled "Preserving Hobby Collecting on ederal Lands. The program was well received by thoes in attendance. Thank you Lisbet for your hard work. Pictured at right is Shirley Leeson Past ALAA President - Lisbet Thoresen and Doug True ALAA President.

Shirley Leeson Past ALAA President - Lisbet Thoresen and Doug True ALAA President.

Fifth Annual ALAA - BLM Litter Clean-Up



With the lone Saguaro standing watch over Gold Nugget Road, 5 miles east of Quartzsite, Arizona, nine dedicated Rockhounds braved the cold and windy Sunday morning for the Fifth Annual ALAA/BLM Litter Clean-Up. The event was not a washout for the predicted rain storm did not appear, although there was some smatterings of the liquid sunshine, but not enough to deter the resolve of the dedicated Rockhounds.



Gold Nugget Road - January 22, 2017

All though there was not a large gathering, there was a showing of concerned ALAA Member representation from Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California. They pick up litter, trash, glass and cans from our public lands. In the two hours, which seemed like a lot more, they were able to collect enough litter and trash to fill the bed of the BLM truck. Once again ALAA wants to thank the Yuma BLM Field Office, BLM Ranger Bill Alexander and all of the ALAA Members who made this year's Trash & Litter Removal a success.



Gold Nugget Road - January 22, 2017
Bill Alexander and Doug True



Gold Nugget Road - January 22, 2017

COLLECTING INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Mike Nelson csrockguy@yahoo.com

On March 30, 2009, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) became law on lands managed by various agencies of the federal government. The law had been through numerous drafts before approval by the US Congress and subsequent signing by President Obama. Although in 1999 the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee asked federal agencies to prepare a report on fossil resource management, most rockhounds, and many professional paleontologists, believed that any new regulations would be written to protect vertebrate fossils (in my opinion). However, unbeknownst to most amateur fossil collectors, the United States Forest Service (USFS) published (May 23, 2013) draft regulations concerning the collection of invertebrate fossils and plant remains on land managed by the Agency. The comment period was 60 days and the Agency received few legitimate (non-form letters) concerns. Candidly, the proposal caught most rockhounds "off guard" and it was tough for rock and mineral clubs to organize informative responses. In my opinion, rockhounds lost many, many collecting privileges associated with invertebrate fossils as the proposed rules are now codified as 80 FR 21588. However, in defense of the USFS, the Agency was simply interpreting tenets of the PRPA, and that is the magic word, at least for me---interpretation.

In December 2016, proposed regulations for lands managed by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Land Management [BLM]; National Park Service [NPS]; Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS]; Bureau of Reclamation [BR]) were published in the Federal Register and became available for comments (received no later than February 6, 2017). The proposed rule [of Interior] would address the management, collection, and curation of paleontological resources from federal lands using scientific principles and expertise, including collection in accordance with permits; curation in an approved repository; and maintenance of confidentiality of specific locality data.

Most of the proposed regulations (formally known as A Proposed Rule by the Land Management Bureau and the Fish and Wildlife Service on 12-07-2017), but specifically subparts A through H, applies to all four bureaus---BLM, FWS, BR, NPS. Parts A through H are also very similar, perhaps mostly identical, to current USFS regulations (80 FR 21588). However, Part I of the proposed rules notes some differences between Interior (BLM and BR) and the USFS regulations regarding actual field collecting of common fossil plants and invertebrates. I should also note that PRPA does not allow casual collecting in areas administered by NPS or FWS.

So, what are some of the proposed items in Interior's new rules and regulations--hereafter known as the Rule? I will only hit on a few sections as the proposed Rule, as published in the Federal Register, is tens of pages long.

The Rule does not impose additional requirements regarding fossil collecting activities on permitted lands associated with general mining or mineral laws. It appears that if you have a permitted mining claim the fossil plants and invertebrates are fair game for any collecting (§49.15 ...states that the proposed rule does not impose additional requirements on activities permitted under the general mining or mineral laws). Does this mean that if you are mining sedimentary rocks for minerals (such as barite or uranium) that any and all invertebrates may be collected? I don't know; however, that seems to be a reasonable assumption to me. But remember, my interpretation of various regulations and codifications found in the Federal Register may be subject to suspect. I do know, however, that a mining claim will not be approved by an Agency simply to allow a person/company to collect fossils. Any approved mining claim must include some sort of a commodity and fossils are not such.

The mining claim section of the Rule is an interesting one. Around this part of the country one permitted mining claim would create more surface disturbance, and could destroy more fossils, than all the Colorado rockhounds added together. BLM and USFS manage multi-purpose lands; however, some activities are much higher on the pecking order than rockhounding.

Fossils found in an archaeological context are archaeological resources, and are not considered paleontological resources. It is always best to not disturb archaeological resources.

An authorized federal officer at BLM or USFS (the person in charge) may decide that specific rocks/minerals, such as coal, chalk beds, diatomites, etc. are not subject to PRPA rules as paleontological resources. However, there are a myriad of other federal regulations that may protect them.

The Department of Interior has specific Agency regulations concerning the collection of petrified wood on their managed lands. *Petrified wood is managed as a paleontological resource when on or from lands administered by NPS, Reclamation, and FWS. On lands administered by BLM, petrified wood (defined by the Petrified Wood Act of 1962, Pub. L. 87-713, 76 Stat. 652, Sept. 28, 1962 as agatized, opalized, petrified, or silicified wood, or any material formed by the replacement of wood by silica or other matter, and identified as a mineral material under the Materials Act of 1947) is subject to commercial sale at 43 CFR part 3600 and free use regulations at 43 CFR part 3622. Therefore, on BLM lands, petrified wood may be managed as a paleontological resource, but the savings provisions in PRPA (16 U.S.C. 470aaa-10) prevent the imposition of additional restrictions on the sale or free use of petrified wood. When it is not subject to sale or free use, petrified wood on BLM-administered lands may be managed as a paleontological resource and/or under the authority of FLPMA.* My old and used mind fails to understand this latter statement! Why would not all petrified wood collected on BLM-managed land be free use?

PRPA rules do not apply to "Indian lands." However, lands managed by Native Americans always have collecting rules so avoid trespassing.

A federal authorized officer may restrict access or close a collecting area at any time. Therefore, fossil collecting on federal lands will now essentially involve a visit or call to an agency office.

Microfossils, such as foraminifera and radiolarians, are paleontological resources and are subject to collecting rules---except if you are drilling a permitted energy well. The drilling bit may then grind up as many microfossils as the driller pleases. Yes, that last sentence was cynical.

Most individual rockhound collecting of invertebrate and plant fossils (excluding petrified wood) falls under the definition of casual collecting; therefore, such individuals may collect on BLM lands that are not restricted or closed--lands such as BLM-administered national monuments would be closed. The Rule notes casual collectors may collect common invertebrate and common plant paleontological resources...casually. Common invertebrate and common plant paleontological resources are invertebrate or plant fossils that have been established by the bureaus, based on available scientific information and current professional standards, as having ordinary occurrence and wide-spread distribution. But, and there are many "buts" in the Rule, not all invertebrate or plant paleontological resources are common. When in doubt, collectors should err on the side of caution and collect only the resources that they know are common. In other words, pay a visit to an Agency to find out what fossils an officer has decided are "common."

So, what is a casual collector as defined by the Rule? Casual collecting means the collecting without a permit of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate or plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use

of non-powered hand tools, resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth's surface or paleontological or other resources. Although this seems a restrictive definition, it is much better than the USFS definition: causal collecting is generally happenstance without intentional planning or preparation..., the view of casual collecting as an activity that generally occurs by chance without planning or preparation. The "good thing" about the Rule and the USFS regulations is that they clarify the allowance of collecting certain fossils from their managed lands.

But here are additional "buts" of the Rule. The casual collector may only collect 25 pounds per day, not to exceed 100 pounds per year---and this weight includes matrix. This part of the Rule was modified after the codified collecting rules long established for petrified wood; however, there is a big difference between specimens of petrified wood and invertebrate fossils. Petrified wood is usually collected without matrix while many invertebrate fossils are collected with matrix. Rockhounds do not want to take a chance of breaking the specimen by chipping away the matrix in the field. Collectors also may not pool a total weight with their buddy in order to collect larger specimens. What does this mean for the collection of larger fossils weighing over 25 pounds? I don't know. Perhaps it indicates a permit is required? However, an issued permit requires a collector give up his/her specimen to a museum or repository!

Collectors also may not disturb over 1 square yard of the landscape, and your digging buddy must be at least ten feet away from your land disturbance. I am uncertain if a collector may have several disturbances per day? At any rate, like all good rockhounds, collectors must fill in their disturbance holes.

This restrictive regulation on land disturbance continues to be a problem for me. If the BLM really wants to stop major land disturbance, then I suggest examining extensive disturbance by domestic livestock, off-trail ATV and OHV riders, and even off-trail mountain bikers and hikers (among others). I support these multi-use land activities, in moderation, but simply want to point out that land disturbance by rockhounds is minimal compared to these other large-scale activities.

Casually collected fossils may only be used in a personal collection and may not be sold, bartered, used for financial gain, or research! I presume this section also means that club members may not use the collected common plants and animals in their club silent auctions. What about gifting a common plant or invertebrate during a club gift exchange? Does bartering mean that fossil interest groups may not trade collected fossil specimens? I don't have those answers. But to me the interesting aspect of this tenet is that the casual collector may not use his/her collected fossils for research! The federal agencies want the collector to get a permit if any of the fossils are used in a research project. I presume the point behind this requirement is to make certain that fossils in the research project are documented as to provenance and placed in an accredited repository. However, I would like to suggest that any casually collected fossils could be turned voluntarily over to a repository before results of the research are reported. A case in point---our rock club-sponsored Pebble Pups and Junior Scientists collect fossils and actually write up reports (sometimes published) and present results at meetings where abstracts are refereed. How can an agency expect a group of Pebble Pups to submit a permit application (see below)?

Another set of questions, then, involves the definition of research. If a collector completes a study on a casually collected fossils and later presents information on such organisms at a rock/mineral club meeting---is this research? What if the collector "publishes" results of their study in a club or federation newsletter, or on a Blog---is this research? Questions to be answered. I do not want some of these restrictive clauses in the Rule to stifle the interest of our children and young adults.

As with the USFS regulations, the Rule requires that only hand tools may be used in collecting fossils. These excavation tools may not be motorized and must be light and small enough to be hand-carried by one person. Does this mean that my geological hammer may not be carried in my backpack, or must it be hand-carried? Does it mean that I cannot bring along a two-wheel cart to pack a 25-pound specimen back to the vehicle (my knees will not allow carrying 25 pounds plus equipment)? Luckily, Interior listened to criticism directed at USFS over their regulation about size of collecting tools-- but not large tools such as full-sized shovels or pick axes. I don't have any trouble carrying a full-size shovel in my hand!

Unfortunately, Interior chose not to rid the regulations of the permitting process for small groups of rockhounds. I argued against this rule implemented by the USFS without success. As I read the rules, and perhaps they are beyond my comprehension, it is my understanding that groups of rockhounds heading out to collect some invertebrate fossils must have a permit. I can understand permitting a group of professionals going out to quarry a marine limestone looking for specific ammonites. I cannot understand requiring a permit in order for a club's fossil interest group, or a group of Pebble Pups, heading out on a beautiful fall afternoon to do some prospecting for fossils! If a group of Pebble Pups, some as young as six years old, go fossil hunting at a locality where both common and uncommon invertebrate fossils may be found, then a permit is required (as I try to understand the Rule). For example, I can envision local localities, actually a number of old quarries, where there is a mixture of common and uncommon lower Paleozoic fossils represented. These quarries have been prospected for years and rockhounds have almost always submitted their interesting specimens to museums and repositories. However, the permitting process is a very onerous experience for "ordinary" rockhounds, so what happens? Collection without a permit continues, with loss of interesting specimens heading to a museum due to a fear of prosecution, or collecting stops and children and adult rockhounds simply drop out.

Assume that a permitted fossil prospecting activity could be pulled off, please note that all prospectors must deposit their fossil finds in a designated repository. Can you imagine taking kids on a fossil hunt and then taking away their finds? In addition, the rules and regulations concerning report writing are onerous (for most rockhounds) and would require additional time.

As a former classroom instructor, I could not imagine applying for a permit every time I took my students fossil hunting. Certainly, a permit was required whenever a student researcher was out collecting fossils and describing stratigraphy---these collected fossils were deposited in a repository. In fact, during my early days of writing environmental impact statements (fossils) for projects crossing federal lands I devised my own permits (with approval from the agencies) from items like logging permits. I am not against permits; however, I simply want to allow for some slack with non-professional collectors. In addition, mandating that all permittees must deposit their fossils in an approved repository creates other concerns since the requirements for establishing a repository are pretty stiff. Most colleges and universities with a scientific staff have something, a museum or curated collection, that could qualify as a repository. But what about the poor old group of rockhounds---would nearby repositories curate their specimens without monetary assistance (Permittee is responsible for the costs, monetary and otherwise, of the permitted activity, including fieldwork, data analysis, report preparation, curation of the collection and its associated records consistent with subpart C of this part)? I don't know. Once fossils are collected under a permit they remain the property of the Agency in perpetuity. Even if a federal authorized officer removes the collected fossils from the research collection the specimens still remain in repository collection "somewhere."

My comments pertain to only a small part of the Rule but are, in my opinion, most directly related to fossil collecting by rockhounds and other amateurs. I want members of our rock and mineral clubs, including Pebble Pups and Junior Scientists, to have an opportunity to collect fossils without fear of "breaking the law." I want these members to have an opportunity to study and photograph and learn about specimens without fear their work is research and requires a permit. I want members, especially younger members, to have an opportunity to present information at professional meetings about their fossils finds without fear their study requires a permit. But, I would also expect the mentors of the collector to require fossil specimens be offered to a museum and/or repository along with appropriate provenance information. I believe there must be some middle ground in this entire permitting and land disturbance issue. If not, we may begin to lose generations of future STEM graduates that our nation badly needs.

With that said, please note that I have several friends and acquaintances working in the federal agencies. In fact, I take pride in the fact that some Agency paleontologists were my students and we have remained friends for decades---they do excellent work. In visiting with these paleontologists, I have found they are, in their opinion, constrained by federal law found in the PRPA. Perhaps they are; however, I still believe in compromise and middle ground and "working things out." Is this possible with the rules in the PRPA? I don't know. Could interpretation of PRPA regulations be less "strict." I don't know. What I do know is that these new laws (USFS) and the proposed Rule (Interior) are almost impossible to enforce---I am not advocating breaking the law but simply stating my strong opinion that collecting of invertebrate fossils on federal lands will go underground. Unlike vertebrate fossils, where poachers are interested in selling their unlawfully collected specimens, rockhounds collecting invertebrate fossils are interested in building up a personal collection, trading specimens with club members, and perhaps most importantly helping young children and their schools build collections. Also unlike the somewhat easily identified vertebrate fossils (yep, that is a dinosaur skull so leave it alone), invertebrate fossils are much more difficult to identify. I am guessing that most rockhound amateurs will have great difficulty identifying uncommon fossils (need a permit) from common fossils (casual collecting).

So, what advice can I offer? Take the time to read, or attempt to read, the Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontological-resources-preservation>. After this little chore, rockhounds should submit personal comments, or even pooled comments by several members of the club; however, it is best to not use form letters. Also, remember as you comment:

- Provide first and last name, city, state, & country. All other fields of information are optional. Keep in mind that much of this information is publicly viewable.
- Comments may be typed in the box provided or they may be uploaded as attachments (Word docs or PDFs only).
- Comments may be brief or in-depth/well-researched. Comments with facts to support them are much more useful (e.g., examples of overlooked scenarios). Keep comments civil and straightforward. Comments using offensive terms, threats, or other inappropriate language will be disregarded.
- Comments on the proposed rule must be received by February 6, 2017.**

And finally, stop in Agency offices (especially BLM and USFS) and visit with the geologists—they are a nice group of people. The paleontologists in both the USFS and the BLM are stationed few and far between. But again, if you are in their area stop in and converse with them.

Perhaps I am just a crusty old guy remembering "the good old days" of collecting. But perhaps I am just an old guy seriously worried about the impact of the Rule (and

USGS regulations) on school children, Pebble Pups, rockhounds, and interested amateurs. I want to find a common ground with the USFS and Interior in the permitting processes, the land disturbance issues and the collecting limits. Will it happen? Another question that I cannot answer.

See the new Fossil Page on the ALAA Website <http://www.amlands.org/521567.html>

Desert Renewable Conservation Plan (DRECP) IS ROLLED OUT IN CALIFORNIA

IT ISN'T ALL BAD NEWS - By Ruth Hidalgo
ruth.hidalgo@amlands.org

The final decision on the DRECP was rolled out September 14, 2016. This plan covers 10.8 million acres in Southern California.

This might have been all bad news for our hobby. However, many, many Rockhounds spoke up and made formal comments during the comment period. Our voices were heard and changes were made in the final documents to some extent.

A MAJOR VICTORY, THE FOCUS AREAS (areas where the plan called for solar and wind to be streamlined) WERE REMOVED FROM GEM HILL AND LONELY BUTTE (Brown Butte). These two coveted collecting areas in the Western Mojave Desert have been visited by Rockhounds for over 50 years.

That was a straight forward problem and it was addressed. Other issues are much more complex. It remains to be seen how the rest of it will play out, with conservation lands overlays and the ACEC's that were thrown in there, but Rockhounds can be proud and celebrate that we accomplished something. This plan was going to happen, one way or another. It is politics., but we spoke up and it resulted in some changes we requested.

While the plan is likely to have an overall adverse impact on all recreation, including Rockhounding, the point is, PARTICIPATION DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

The final documents can be found at:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=95675>

The many comments made by Rockhounds can be viewed here too. Check them out. You may be surprised at how easy it is to make a formal comment on these kind of plans.

ALAA THOUGHTS

Lauren Williams
ALAA Vice President
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The ALAA NEWSLETTER is ALAA's only product. This is the only thing that members who join ALAA get for their membership dues. Those membership fees are ALAAs only source of income. To make ALAA grow each of us needs to get more individuals to join ALAA. And each member needs to write letters and emails, attend the federal meetings, report back to ALAA, their local clubs that they belong to, and to their own Federation PLAC committee and send a report to the ALAA Newsletter Editor.

There needs to be a law passed saying that the President leaving office cannot just arbitrarily create National Monuments because a National Monument is the same a Wilderness area or a National Park. We cannot collect or pick-up anything. If you own any kind of property inside of one of these Instant Monuments then your right to do with your property what you want to is destroyed.

A New Era in Washington

Amy Granat

ALAA Director California – CORVA Managing Director

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Change is in the air as the new administration takes its place in Washington DC. There is excitement and uncertainty, as federal agencies face incoming leadership with very different priorities than they've seen in the past few years. For Rockhounds and off-road enthusiasts this may signal the start of good things to come, and ALAA is ready for whatever lays in store in regards to land use policy changes.

Through our connections in Washington and California, ALAA is finding one of our greatest contributions as a preface to change lies in educating officials about the contributions off-roaders make with managing and maintaining sustainable environmental conditions on public land. We mistakenly assume that agency personnel know about Rockhounding, Casual Collecting, adopt-a-trail programs, OHV stewardship organizations, trail work parties and all the volunteer efforts undertaken by Rockhounds and off-roaders on federal and state land. But the reality is that these activities still remain a secret except to those in our own community. We need Rockhounds and off-roaders to start publicizing their efforts and sharing their accomplishments with others online and in newspapers. We have a real opportunity now to change the conversation' about the importance of OHV and Rockhounding access and management, and become known as 'the good guys' we've really always been.

We are expecting much to change with upper management in the federal government, but it may be some time until we see any changes with on-the-ground policies. While the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior will change, along with the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, career line officers will stay in their positions and continue to administrate our federal lands in California and all states where there is Rockhounding. We are excited, we are anticipating and we are open to working with everything the new administration has to offer, but we also have to be patient as policies evolve.

We encourage people to keep the lines of communication open with those that manage their favorite areas. Numerous groups around the state have made real progress reopening trails and roads closed to Travel Management or Resource Management Plans, as well as keeping trails and roads open that would otherwise be closed due to a severe lack of maintenance dollars in federal budgets. Groups like: American Lands Access Association, Stewards for the Sequoia, Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests, Friends of the Rubicon, Central Coast Motorcycle Association, San Bernardino Adopt-a-Trail Program and many other great volunteer groups active around the state illustrate the successes OHV and Rockhound groups can have when they work together with land managers and help maintain their favorite trails. ALAA supports these local groups and appreciates all their hard work, and they support ALAA as we deal with state and regional land use managers protecting and promoting Rockhound and off-road rights to access.

A cautionary note: we are all proud to live and/or recreate in California, but state government is not taking well to the possibility of change in federal management. Both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have close relationships with Governor Brown and Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird. California state government is insisting that priorities, including adherence to climate change regulations, continue to hold a high priority in land use plans regardless if that priority is abandoned by the federal government. People often wonder if federal agencies have to comply with state law, and the truth is federal entities do not have to comply with state regulation with a few notable exceptions in regards to water law. But they can choose independently to adopt the priorities important to state officials, and that's exactly what these agencies have done in years past and will likely continue into the future.

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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 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)***

ALAA Editor
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Lancaster, CA 93536-5229

******* SHOW TIME *******

May 19-21, 2017

NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society
Ravalli County Fairgrounds,
First Interstate Center
100 Old Corvallis Rd. Hamilton, Montana

June 9-11, 2017

AFMS/CFMS NATIONAL SHOW & CONVENTION

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 West Harbor Blvd Ventura, California
Contact: info@vgms.org

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It is also important to note that environmental organizations around the country are gearing up to object to any policy changes they feel violate existing environmental law. They will not appreciate the new administration abandoning treasured environmental priorities and projects including Wilderness designations. That may mean many of the changes and corrections we, as off-roaders, have been waiting to see might be delayed as these policy 'corrections' are challenged in court. We certainly live in interesting times.

A final note as we move into this New Year; ALAA is dedicated to working with all Rockhound organizations and off-roaders of all kinds. The Rockhound and off-road family is very large and quite varied, but we all have a couple of important things in common. We highly value our access to public land, and we use motorized vehicles to access public land. Please treat your fellow hunters, rockhounds, and houndsmen as members of our extended family and when you see them enjoying public land greet them as friends.