



# American Lands Access Association, Inc.

[www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)

Volume 9 Issue 2

April - June 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug True

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Two months of working on a mining project in southern California and now back in Montana getting things ready for the Billings Gem and Mineral show.

Two trips to the Yellowstone River for Montana agate. Getting ready for NFMS show in Hamilton, Montana. Need more hours in the day.

Fieldtrip scheduled at Blue Forest May 25-28th all welcome.

I have an on-line conference call with the BLM in regards to the new use plans in Arizona on the 3rd of May, this is the 2nd of these in the past 2 months.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Hamilton and Ventura.  
Hope everyone has a great summer

### A Bit of Trivia

Arizona state's official neckwear is the *bola tie*!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@amlands.org)**

Permission to Reprint All or Any Part of this Newsletter is Hereby Granted,  
Provided, Credits and Citations are Maintained.

## **QUARTZSITE 2017**

**Lauren Williams**

**ALAA Vice-President**

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Quartzsite, Arizona, windy and cold. Saturday the sun was out and it was still windy and cold. This was my fifth time in Quartzsite and the first time I had to wear a jacket.

ALAA meeting on Friday night had about 20 people there. The talk was presented by Lisbet Thoresen, editor of the San Diego Gem and Mineral Club. The subject was about Paleontology and a new BLM Rule/Regulation that implements more of the Paleontological Conservation Act of 2009 and getting support for it. It will be long done by the time you read this.

At the Saturday morning Business Meeting funds were approved to repurchase more Membership Cards and Stickers. Also on the agenda was the usual what is going on in the various states concerning the BLM and Forest Service? Still do not know what President Obama did concerning National Monuments as he was leaving office.

The Sunday morning clean-up had 7 people there. California, Montana, Oregon and Idaho were represented. Oregon found the only tire in the clean-up area.

## **BLM Planning Rule 2.0**

This planning rule was finalized in the closing days of the Obama Administration and caused quite a stir among many western states. So much so that six western states filed suit against the rule because they felt it would "severely impair their ability to work with BLM on future planning and management issues."

Planning Rule 2.0 was criticized as a Washington top down planning rule that would diminish the role of state and local governments in the land management process. In April of 2017, President Trump took the final step in nullifying the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) updated planning rule (2.0) when he signed H.J.Res.44.

Secretary Zinke was present for the signing ceremony as were several state governors. For BLM it is now back to square one. No one knows exactly what the agency will do next in terms of rewriting a planning rule especially since they are still waiting for a new Director to be named. Meantime, Mike Nedd, a BLM career employee, has been named as Acting Director.

The text of Joint Resolution 44 is available at this website:

<https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hjres44/BILLS-115hjres44enr.pdf>

## MEMBERSHIP

Ruth Hidalgo

Membership Chair

membership@amlands.org

I would like to welcome new members David Ball, Nolan & Ruth Sauerbreit and the Culver City Gem and Mineral Club to ALAA. To all those that have renewed their Membership for 2017, THANK YOU!! Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

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.

### ALAA Meetings at the AFMS Convention and Show

ALAA Meeting - Friday, June 9, 2017 12:00 Noon Callahan Building

**Mike Hunerlach, ALAA, "BLM, the Desert, Monuments, & Rockhounding"**

ALAA Business Meeting - Friday June 9, 2017 2:00 PM McBride Hall

## American Lands Access Association at the 2017 AFMS Convention and Show

ALAA has a booth at the convention and requires help to staff the table during the open hours of the show. If you are going to attend the show please consider spending a couple of hours a day to support ALAA and the Recreational Rockhound. The goal is to disseminate information on issues of access to public lands regarding Recreational Rockhounding and to increase our membership.

Information on the show is available below.

See you there!

**June 9, 10 & 11, 2017: VENTURA, CA**

VENTURA ROCKS THE NATION!

**2017 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention**

Hosted by Ventura County Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds

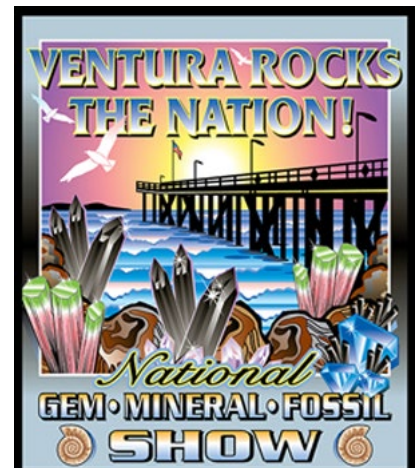
10 West Harbor Boulevard

Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Diane Cook, (805) 312-8467

Email: info@vgms.org

Website: www.2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com



## **ALAA Membership Statistics for 2017**

Here are the current records of ALAA Membership by Federation

**CFMS** - 20 individuals 21 clubs/societies

**NFMS** - 18 individuals 16 clubs/societies

**MWF** - 7 individuals 12 clubs/societies

**EFMS** - 5 individuals 3 clubs/societies

**SCFMS** - 3 individuals 5 clubs/societies

**SFMS** - 3 individuals 1 club/society

**Totals - 53 Individuals and 58 Clubs and Societies**

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Doug True

President ALAA, 1st VP AFMS

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The new paleo act is called a preservation act. Is that correct?? Does it really save?? Does it protect, partially it protects the fossils from us, But NOT FROM exposure or weather conditions, We have literally millions of acres of fossil exposures in the United States. My guess is that maybe 10% of the exposed fossils are documented and extracted from the ground and maybe only 1% are prepared and exhibited for the public to see. The other 90% are left and or undiscovered because those exposed are common and not of interest to Paleontologist or there are not enough of these permitted scientists in the field to collect or search. This is a losing battle with the weather conditions (one example, in the Hell Creek Formation, Montana) we have anywhere from a quarter of an inch to one half inch of erosion per year, once the fossil is exposed, you might have a year or two and the fossil is gone or past preservation. Is this preservation??? You be the judge!! Discuss this with friends, local government, or your congressmen or women. Lets look to protect our treasures through working together. Train lay people to identify and or extract these fossils, if they are not wanted by a Museum or College then issue permits to those who would and lets start saving all of our fossils Make it a true preservation act not a DISTRUCTION ACT

**Comment letter on the Proposed Rule under the PRPA  
and DAC meeting report: Focus on Fossils  
April 2, 2017  
Lisbet Thoresen**

lisbet.thoresen@amlands.org

Representative of Public Lands for San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.  
Chair, PLAC-South, California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

The Desert District Advisory Council (DAC) convened in Barstow on February 25th in a day-long meeting that marked significant transitions in BLM personnel and in the council itself. The agenda featured presentations on key land use plans and proposed regulations that will affect hobby collecting on public lands. Fossils were a recurring theme carried over from the previous day's field tour – an entire day devoted to visiting some of Southern California's most famous fossil localities: Amboy Crater, Marble Mountains, and Pisgah Crater. All three are now within the boundaries of the Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM). A brief overview is posted on BLM's Facebook page (see short URL: <https://goo.gl/BuUXIM>). The article features photos that captured a beautiful day.

A main feature of both the Field Tour and the DAC meeting agenda was the Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 2009 (PRPA). As most CFMS members are aware, on February 6, the comment period concluded on a Proposed Rule under the PRPA. More than 460 comment letters were submitted, including a detailed letter written by Karol McQueary, president of the Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS). Her letter incorporated input from Andrew Hoekstra, Paleontology Resources Specialist, CFMS; Linda McCall, president, North Carolina Fossil Club; Mike Nelson, PLAC Chair, RMFMS; and Lisbet Thoresen, PLAC-South Chair, CFMS. The letter addressed problematic language in the proposed rule. The application of both its general intent and detailed specifications exposes hobby collecting of fossils, minerals, and rocks on federal lands to potentially onerous constraint or curtailment. Given the scope of PRPA's authority and the far-reaching impact of implementing its regulations, the SCPS letter garnered a lot of support. It was submitted by Karol McQueary with 64 signatures of officers representing gem-mineral, lapidary and fossil clubs from throughout the United States, AFMS and five of its seven regional federations, including CFMS, several other non-profit organizations, and several credentialed professionals.

The BLM's Fossil-focussed agenda for the February Field Tour and DAC meeting was a welcome nod to the Rockhound-Fossil community's input on the proposed Rule under PRPA.

The key DAC meeting agenda of particular interest to Rockhounds included the PRPA, MTNM, Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), and Disturbance Caps. Damage caused by OHVs during the King of the Hammers event (February 3-11, 2017) elicited spirited and extended discussion initiated by Council member Billy Mitchell, who represents Ranching and Grazing. Conversely, the desert tortoise relocation program received scant mention, despite being both controversial and enormously ambitious – 1500 tortoises are slated to be relocated onto BLM land (see: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/update-blms-record-decision-tortoise-relocation-public-lands> ). A few members of the public managed to enter a few choice words into the record.

A full report of the DAC meeting appears in the April 2017 issue of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society's bulletin, The Pegmatite (<http://www.sdmg.org/peg-online/sdmg-pegmatite-2017-apr.pdf>). A condensed overview of the three primary presentations and comment on them is given below.

## **I. PRPA**

BLM has few paleontological specialists, so Phil Gensler from the Santa Fe, New Mexico field office was tapped to come and make a presentation. Ms. Thoresen took the opportunity to give him a copy of the SCPS comment letter on the PRPA letter and spent time reviewing it with him. The letter was also entered into the DAC record as part of comments delivered by Lisbet Thoresen and other Rockhound advocates, including Marcia Goetz, Ruth Hidalgo, Sam Merk, and Ofelia Warthen. The number of signatories (64) to the letter was recited aloud to impress upon all present that the Rockhound community is a consequential Stakeholder whose opinion on the PRPA's rule matter. Chairman Randy Banis asked Thoresen to show the 10 pages of signatures appended to the 6-page letter to impress upon the Council members and BLM staffers that our community rallied together in huge numbers out of concern about parts of the Proposed PRPA rule.

## **II. MTNM – Management Plan**

Kyle Sullivan came from Colorado to take on management of the MTNM. At this point in time, the Stakeholders are much more familiar than he with the traditional uses of public lands in the Southern California desert and the accommodations made in deference to renewable energy projects which disadvantage Stakeholders. It is now a sobering realization that overlaying management plans, travel plans (e.g., WEMO), and land use amendments (DRECP) cannot be reconciled to produce a management plan for MTNM within three years of the national monument proclamation. Despite the federal mandate that a plan should be published within three years of a proclamation, it is not a binding rule. Sam Merk, representing rockhounds, reminded the Council that 23 years have passed and Red Rock Canyon still has no management plan. No one at BLM is going on record saying that the federally mandated deadline will slip, but unofficially, five years is looking like an optimistic goal.

In the meantime, a subgroup to the DAC for MTNM has been created. Applications are being accepted through April 10, 2017 (see: <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/get-involved-rac-california-desert-district-mojave-trails-subgroup-application.pdf>). The successful candidates will be announced at the June DAC meeting. Only then can the management planning process really begin. A Rockhound advocate needs to be on that sub-group.

Unofficially, one of the new DAC members confided to Lisbet Thoresen that the MTNM Management Plan is being observed from Sacramento and Washington D.C. as the beta model for BLM administration of public lands under the National Monument designation. MTNM could have been brought into the National Park Service. Instead, the MTNM administered by the BLM will test the efficacy of making accommodations traditionally disallowed under some protective designations or under administration of agencies other than BLM (i.e., National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service). MTNM needs to be successful under BLM administration, not only for BLM and local special interest groups, but also because, if done well, it will be a blueprint replicated elsewhere in the United States. A bad process or a bad outcome for MTNM could be portend the end of accommodations that otherwise might be contemplated for BLM management of other National Monuments in the future. This Management Planning Process needs to go well, and Rockhound need to engage in a full court press.

### **III. DRECP – Transitioning to Implementation (100 Day Plan)**

Russell Scofield relocated to Southern California from the BLM office in Sacramento last year to oversee implementation of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) with the local counties. He announced the drafting of the First 100 Days Plan at the DAC meeting held in Riverside in October 2016. The Plan is a schedule of actionable items, then priorities, budget, and scoping. He assured the DAC members and the public that the Plan would be developed in consultation with Stakeholders, including recreation groups. Omitting Rockhounds from the recreation groups he cited, several Rockhound advocates self-identified as Stakeholders gave public comment, speaking about Rockhounding values and asking to be consulted during the planning and implementation process.

The initial draft version of the First 100 Day Plan was presented at the February 25th meeting in Barstow. A hard copy of the 51/4-page document was distributed to the DAC members but not to the public at the time the presentation was made. It was emailed to the attendees who requested it on February 27th. It has been uploaded to the SDMG website at (short url) <https://goo.gl/mfxls6>. During his presentation, Mr Scofield reiterated his commitment to public engagement, saying that the First 100 Day Plan had been developed in consultation with Stakeholders. The hard copy document included a list of solar project permit petitions, but Mr. Scofield did not cite them in his oral presentation.

Critical comments were made by both DAC members and the public. First, upon reviewing the document just made available to the Council members, Leslie Barrett cautioned Mr. Scofield on the importance of public engagement and transparency throughout the process, admonishing him to make documents available for public review in advance of the DAC-BLM meetings. Mr. Barrett cautioned that the DRECP team could not expect to enlist public trust late in a process that did not include their input or consultation from the beginning. Perusing the hard copy of the draft, DAC chairman Randy Banis alerted Rockhounds in the audience to the list of solar project applicants petitioning for permits to build in Development Focus Areas (DFAs) that encroached into known Rockhounding localities.

The comments by Mr. Banis and Mr. Barrett prompted Lisbet Thoresen to give comment that no one at CFMS had been consulted on the First 100 Days Plan despite Thoresen having reached out to Mr. Scofield in October. Ms. Thoresen also called attention to the explicit assurance made by DRECP Program Manager Vicki Campbell in a conference call on September 13, 2016 that DFAs were changed in the final Record of Decision (ROD) where they intruded Rockhounding localities. Ms. Campbell said that the changes were made in response to numerous detailed comment letters submitted to the DRECP (comment period closed on February 23, 2015).

Needless to say, the DRECP implementation process is not off to a confidence-inspiring start. A DRECP subgroup to DAC was formally approved at the February meeting and applications may be found on the BLM Web site at: <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/get-involved-rac-california-desert-district-drecp-subgroup-application.pdf>. Clearly, a Rockhound advocate needs to be on the DRECP subgroup advising the DAC. The deadline for applications was April 17, 2017.

# M-44: Who, What, When and How

John Martin – CFMS PLAC

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Thanks to Keith Fackrell, 1st Vice President of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and Lauren Williams, Vice President of the American Lands Access Association for bringing this issue to my attention.

While Rockhounding on Public Lands, mostly in the Western States, and on private lands, with the permission of the land owner, be aware that the M-44 in use in areas where coyote, feral dogs and other predator wildlife are a threat to grazing livestock and domestic farm and ranch animals. If a M-44 device is found, "Let it Be", Do not touch, consider it as a "Live Bomb" – because it is and it can Kill People and domestic dogs!

Safety tips for people to follow are talked about, discussed and even published. Some people are trained to take care of most dangers that are encountered while hiking, camping and, yes, even rock hunting. One danger that I have never seen on a list of safety tips out there is the M-44. In some areas where Rock Hounds are, there may be an M-44 "cyanide bomb", which is EXTREMELY LETHAL!

The M44 cyanide device (also called a 'cyanide gun' or a 'cyanide trap') is used for the elimination of coyotes, feral dogs, and foxes. It is made from four parts: a capsule holder wrapped with cloth or other soft material, a small plastic capsule containing 0.88 grams of sodium cyanide, a spring-powered ejector, and a 5-7 inch stake. When the trap is triggered, the spring propels a dose of sodium cyanide into the animals' mouth, and the sodium cyanide combines with water in the mouth to produce poisonous cyanide gas. In addition to the cyanide, the capsule contains Day-Glo fluorescent particle marker (orange in capsules used by the Wildlife Service, and yellow in capsules prepared for other users).



*When the trap is set, only the capsule holder and capsule protrude above ground level.*



*The M-44 consists of a capsule holder, a cyanide capsule, a spring-activated ejector, and a stake. Bilingual signs warn about the device.*

The M-44 device uses a cyanide capsule that is registered as a restricted-use pesticide



by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). can be used only by trained certified applicators. Wildlife Service Officers are authorized to use M-44 cyanide capsules to control coyotes, wild (feral) dogs, and red, gray, and arctic foxes which are: suspected of preying upon livestock, poultry, or federally designated threatened and endangered species; or are vectors of communicable disease. The program's use of M-44 devices strictly conforms to EPA label instructions, directions, and use-restrictions; applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; and agency and program directives and policies.

Wildlife Service personnel do not use M-44s on any property unless requested by the land's owner or manager; a valid written cooperative agreement, agreement for control, Memoranda of Agreement, or other applicable document must be in place.

**USDA Fact Sheet – 2010:**

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife\\_damage/content/printable\\_version/fs\\_m44\\_device.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/content/printable_version/fs_m44_device.pdf)

Bottom Line: When Rockhounding be aware of your surroundings and if one of these M-44 devices are found, keep away. If you have your pets with you, be sure to keep a close eye on them. Pet dogs have been known to find and set off these devices and in most cases it is fatal for your family pet.

I have sent inquires to 4 state legislators and 3 federal legislators asking what the status of the M-44 usage is in California. I have not received any response as of this being published.

## **Top Forest Ranger Takes Oath of Office**

(Washington, D.C., April 25, 2017) – Sonny Perdue was sworn in as the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture by fellow Georgian and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Clarence Thomas in a brief ceremony today where he addressed employees at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) before getting to work on his first day. Also this morning, USDA launched his official Twitter handle: **@SecretarySonny**.

Under Secretary Perdue, the USDA will always be facts-based and data-driven, with a decision-making mindset that is customer-focused. He will seek solutions to problems and not lament that the department might be faced with difficult challenges

Perdue is a strong believer in good government, in that it should operate efficiently and serve the needs of its customers: the people of the United States.

You can follow Secretary Perdue on Twitter.

Read More: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOOC/bulletins/19684c2>

# Rockhounding in Oregon

Lenora Smith

American Lands Access Association Director

Past President Mt. Hood Rock Club, Secretary Oregon Rock Club Council

lenora.smith@amlands.org

We are trying to get Susie Koppert approved on the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) planning board in the Burns, Oregon Area BLM for next year. We have sent out recommendation letters to the BLM hoping for approval. It would be wonderful if all clubs in the areas of the planning RAC would try to get a rockhound approved. Susie and I attended the RAC planning meeting in Salem, Oregon last month. The BLM was very friendly and allowed us to tell about our Recreational Rockhounding with Show & Tell some of our Rocks and Minerals found in Oregon. They also did not know that the Oregon Rock Club Council has an all Oregon material Display Case in the Capital Building, that we take turns changing the display every 6 months! The BLM invited us to apply for the RAC for next year in the Salem area. Susie and I decided it would be better to get on the Burns RAC, since there are many Rockhounding Areas in the Burns area. And the Salem area is mostly private land areas except the Roger Mountain Area and it is presently under claim by a Gold Miner.

I would like all the clubs to know that the Oregon Rock Council is and has been trying to work with BLM and Forest Service to keep our lands open for Recreational Rockhounding. We have sent many letters and emails out also, even to the new Secretary of Interior (which we have not received a response as yet). Maybe need to send more!!

## **President signs Executive Order requiring Review of National Monuments**

On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) requiring the review of National Monument Designations.

### **What the Executive Order does do:**

The Executive Order directs the Department of the Interior to review monuments designated using the Antiquities Act as of January 1, 1996, that are in excess of 100,000 acres, or monuments that were expanded without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders.

This Executive Order restores trust between local communities and Washington and roots out abuses of power by previous administrations.

This Executive Order puts America and the Department of the Interior back on track to manage our federal lands in accordance to traditional "multiple-use" philosophy by directing the Secretary of the Interior to make recommendations to the President on whether a monument should be rescinded, resized in order to better manage our federal lands.

This Executive Order gives rural communities across America a voice and restores land use planning by directing the Secretary of the Interior to consult and coordinate with the Governors of States affected by monument designations or other relevant officials of affected State, Tribal, and local governments.

***Continued on Page 12.....***



# AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

## NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Must be postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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  
2010 West Ave. K #528  
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

.....*Continued from Page 10*

**What the Executive Order doesn't do:**

This Executive Order does NOT strip any monument of a designation.  
This Executive Order does NOT loosen any environmental or conservation regulation-  
son any land or marine areas.

**The Executive Order may be read at:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/26/presidential-executive-order-review-designations-under-antiquities-act>