



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

www.amlands.org

Volume 10 Issue 4

October - December 2018

Now is the time to renew your membership in the American Lands Access Association for the 2019 Recreational Rockhound Season... For more information on ALAA Membership contact the new Membership Director, Ronna Watkins through membership@amlands.org.

Lauren Williams, ALAA Vice President

lauren.williams@amlands.org

ALAA has a problem and you are it. Doug True resigned to be AFMS President, so we need a ALAA President. My elected term as vice-president ends November 1, 2019; I will not run again, so ALAA also needs a new Vice-President. At my club meeting after explaining what is happening to another club member, he said, you have the same people just roaming around from one position to the next. I agree with that statement. This leads to the problem of we do not get any new people into the system, with new fresh ideas. We need one or two of you to step up and volunteer for the position of President and Vice-President. The job is not hard. You just have to write an article or two twice a year. There are plenty of people who will help you. Our Executive Board meeting is in Quartzsite in the middle of January and our Annual Meeting is wherever the AFMS has their Show and Convention; this year it is in the middle of March at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And oh yes, to digress from this subject.

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation needs a new President for the same reason sited above. I am 78 years old and I would like to have a couple of years for my bucket list. My biggest fear is dying at some rest stop in the middle of Nebraska. - Lauren

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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Custer Gallatin National Forest

September 14, 2018 Big Sky, Montana

Lauren Williams, ALAA 1st Vice President

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I attended the Custer Gallatin National Forest symposium on the Science of National Forest Planning. There was no clearly defined step by step of how it worked. Instead there were 12 speakers on different subjects. Below are some of my notes on what some of the speakers said. I am not saying that I make sense.

The first speaker said that he thought that one-half of the National Forests are past due on their Forest Revision Plan.

A plan is lines on a map and the Plan must be written, measureable and enforceable.

When talking or writing about biological diversity use language that is understandable. Do not assume that everyone knows the words that you know. Every discipline has their own set of words. Chose your words wisely and define the definitions of your words to help minimize law suits. Enforce the law not your feelings.

Climate Change, snow and water, is projected to decline in the coming years and this will lead to increase in fires. And from here-on this is where greater emphasis of the remaining part of the symposium went. And there was talk about the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Greater Yellowstone area is loosely the area between I-15 on the west side, I-25 on the east side, I-80 on the south side and I-90 on the north side. This Greater Yellowstone information was driven from the two days before when the Greater Yellowstone Area had its two day symposium.

Fire – They did talk about Fire as multi-burns and that Native Americans used fire for their purposes. Fires will be with us until new growth forests are complete, whatever that means. Someone said, more fires less logging. The Forest Service does not budget money for fighting fires, the money comes out of other Forest Service programs and so the funding in those other Forest Service programs suffer. Spatially wildfire: “Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessments are a spatially explicit integrated approach to analyzing the effects of wildfire across various Highly Valued Resources and Assets (HVRAs)”.

Riparian Areas are defined as areas along road sides because in most cases they parallel streams and rivers.

Panel discussion – The lack of continuity and accomplishments and having to go over the same stuff again and again in planning was brought up as an area where improvements need to be made. Just because one Supervisor’s ideas and goals are not the same as the next Supervisor’s ideas and goals. Most speakers agreed that the lack of continuity and accomplishments is closely related with the Forest Service habit of Shuffling personal around every five years or so. Chose your words wisely and define your definition, what the word means to you, to help minimize law suits. Enforce the law not your feelings.

For your use – All of those maps that you see in Forrest Service and BLM and other organizations Power Point presentations. They probably did not make them. There is a company called STRAVA where you can buy them. And there are maps available from the Montana Connectivity Modeling Project, these should be free since Montana State and University of Montana are government entities. I have not checked any of these out.

News from Texas

HERE'S A THOUGHT....

Shirley Leeson, ALAA Director,
now from the great state of Texas
ambassador@amlands.org

How many of you have visited Washington, DC and visited your Congressman or Senator's office? I can say, I'm among those who have never had the opportunity of visiting my Congressman or Senator's Washington office. But, those same Congressmen and Senators have offices and staff in your area....so much closer for a visit.

So, here's my thought..... Why not set up a visit to either your Congressman or Senators local office and get to know the staff members there. Let them know you're a 'Recreational Rockhound' and explain what 9+1 that is and what it means to you. Bring a small gift with you...something a staff member can display on their desk, something you found, cut and polished with a note on where it came from.....especially if it came from public lands within the Congressman's district. If this isn't possible, make sure the staff knows where the material came from....public lands, designated as multi-use public lands.

You might even bring a gift of a piece of material that can no longer be collected because of special interest restrictions. Show the staff what it's like to know beautiful material is 'out there' but now unavailable because of restrictions. Those restrictions could be the fact that vehicles can no longer go on the roads and trails they once traveled because of 'wilderness' restrictions, or material that can no longer be gathered because you can't penetrate the earth to reach your objective in restrictive areas.

Offer help to the staffVolunteer your time and expertise. Let them know you are there for them; they can count on you for help.

Find out if your Congressman is on the Natural Resources Committee and if so, offer to do research for the staff members on current projects.

That's my thought....what's yours? ambassador@amlands.org

AFMS/MWF 2019 Annual Convention & Show

Cedar Rapids, IA

March 21-24, 2019

Information, Schedule, Registration, Flyer, etc.

The Show is held at Hawkeye Downs ~ 4400 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Idaho News

Hells Canyon Gem Club Annual Show October 20, 2018

Lewiston, Idaho

Lauren Williams, ALAA 1st Vice President

lauren.williams@amlands.org

Having gone to Lewiston, Idaho for the Hells Canyon Gem Club Show and after depositing ALAA's tri-fold folders on one of the information tables I wandered around and saw the show while waiting for the 2:00 NFMS Organizational meeting to start. The one dealer space that should interest all of us was the IDAHO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, based at the University of Idaho in Moscow. The Idaho Geological Survey has a large data base on many of the Geological facets of the State of Idaho. The one that interested me most was the Mining Claims. Reed Lewis who was at the table said that the Idaho Geological Survey had an interactive map of all the mining claims in the state in their data base along with who applied for the claim, the GPS coordinates to pin point the location of the claim, and a whole lot of other stuff about the claim such as what the material that they were mining for. Anyway, you could spend hours going through the material in the Idaho Geological Survey data base this winter while you are waiting for the snow to melt and the mud to dry out so that you can get out and play in the dirt next spring. The email address below works, at least it did October 22 on my computer.

www.idahogeology.org/webmap It takes a couple of minutes to open up because it is a really large file. You can look and you can buy on this website.

QUATZSITE 2019

Dates and things to Remember

QIA Pow Wow - Gems, minerals & jewelry Show
January 16 - January 20, 2019

Ye Old Timers Auction
January 17, 2019 - 7:00 PM MST
Quartzsite Senior Center - Moon Mountain Road

ALAA 7th Annual Rockhound-BLM Clean Up
January 20, 2019 - 09:30 am MST
Location Dome Rock Road - West of Quartzsite on I-10

California News

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Public Lands Advisory Committee

John Martin

john.martin@amlands.org

This year CFMS has submitted several letters to the BLM and USFS on preserving Recreational Rockhounding as a Recreational Activity in the Southern California Deserts including the Western Mojave Management Plan (WEMO), Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and the Sequoia National Forest where over 17,000 acres of public lands are being proposed for closure to access for any recreational activities. The final review and decision of these plans have not been released to the public so whether or not the comments that were submitted were incorporate in the Management Plans is not known at this time. The Mojave Trails National Monument Management (MTNM) Plan is still being written and there is still time to submit inputs on collecting site locations and access roads to the sites. If these locations and access roads are not identified in the final Management Plan, collecting within the MTNM will not be allowed and the sites will be closed. Remember that the Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and the Castle Mountain National Monument are the only National Monuments in the United States that allow Recreational Rockhounding and that is only temporary until the final Monument Management Plan is released and approved.

Note: All Collecting in the Castle Mountain National Monument will end in 2026 when the current mining claim expires and the monument becomes part of the Mojave National Preserve.

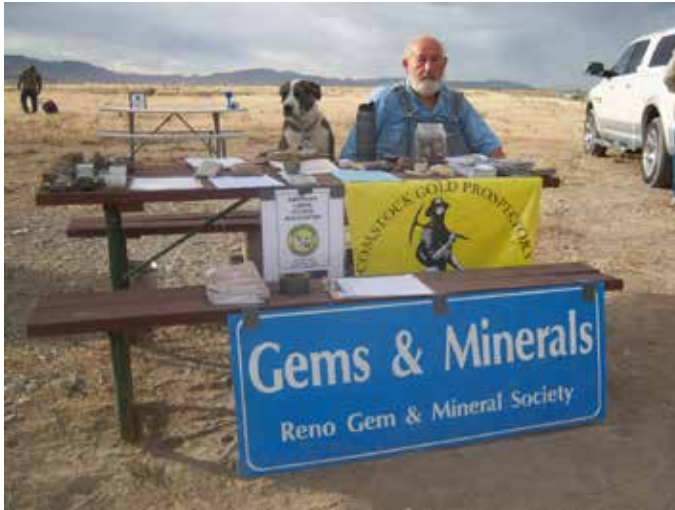
In January of 2018 several CFMS members made a tour of the Wiley Wells District and included the Hauser Geode Beds to comply with the BLM-CFMS-ALAA Memo of Understanding (MOU) which requires annual trash and litter removal if needed. It was determined that the area was void of trash and litter which would require formal action by the signatory parties of the MOU. A report of the trip through the area along with photographs of the various Geode Collecting areas was submitted to the BLM in El Centro and it was decided at that time that no further action was required. In October of 2018 CFMS PLAC contacted the El Centro Field Office of the BLM, as per the MOU, to determine if any changes to the MOU were warranted and no changes or additions were needed at this time. The BLM was ask if there was any need for a formal Trash and Litter removal of the area and the BLM replied that to the best of their knowledge there was not a trash or litter problem in the area and in the future there if there is a problem they will contact CFMS – PLAC of the condition. The BLM commented on how Rockhounds that have visited the area have kept it clean and free of litter. There is another scoping trip planed for January 2019 to asses if there is a litter problem that may warrant a formal clean up and removal trip.

To date ALAA, CFMS-PLAC has not received any requests for investigation or action regarding Recreational Rockhounding issues on Public Lands within the boundaries of the California Federation of Geological Societies. If there any areas of concern the ALAA, CFMS-PLAC Committee may be contacted through the information on the CFMS Website or directly by email to alaa@amlands.org

News from Nevada

Daniel (Webb) Varnum
daniel.varnum@amlands.org

The 2018 nugget shoot was a roaring success 100 prizes given away including 10 top rate detector 6hr of pleasure. Looking forward to 2019



National Park Service Announces 2019 Fee Free Days

The five entrance fee-free days for 2019 will be:

- Monday, January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Saturday, April 20 – First Day of National Park Week/National Junior Ranger Day
- Sunday, August 25 – National Park Service Anniversary
- Saturday, September 28 – National Public Lands Day
- Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/11-19-2018-fee-free-days.htm>

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

Last revised July 7, 1999 at AFMS Annual Meeting

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill in all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
- 11.** I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- 12.** I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
13. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (**H**elp **E**liminate **L**itter **P**lease) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
14. I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those designated authority in all collecting areas.
- 15.** I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- 16.** I will observe the "Golden Rule" will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

News from Oregon

Lenora Smith

lenora.smith@amlands.org

I constantly send out info from Western Caucus to our Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs. And any information I receive from Shirley Leeson concerning our Federal Lands and Recreational Rockhounding. I also sent in an Objection Letter to Washington DC concerning the Huge Plans for the Blue Mountain Forest in Washington and Oregon State (Mostly the forests are in Oregon). I am also registered to attend the Objection Meeting in Pendleton, OR Nov. 28, which is still about the Blue Mountain Forest! I also send emails to our Senators and Representative of Oregon.

I want to say to Lauren that I also am up there in years! I will be 82 in December. And as long as I am physically and mentally able, I want to stay busy with things I think could make a difference for in our Recreational Rockhounding Hobby! We are retired and have an empty nest at home now! Whereas people who are still working and with children do not usually have time to travel or follow up with emails, phone calls and meetings concerning our hobby. Just wish we could do more to keep our Federal Lands open to our Recreational Rockhounding! Lenora Smith, lover of beautiful rocks and minerals.

News from Utah

Jack Johnston

jack.johnston@amlands.org

UTAH UPDATE - 11-18-2018

BY: Jack Johnston, UAR, U4WDA, ALAA, RMFMS

Over 6500 miles of roads have been closed in the State of Utah. We do not need more roads closed to give young healthy hikers a playground and shut out the rock hounds, four Wheeler's, old, young and handicapped people.

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Resource Advisory Council nominations: Nominations are closed and I have not received word of anyone nominated.

Chris Stewart (R-Utah)

H.R. 5058: Wild Horse Oversight Act

The Wild Horse Oversight Act of 2014 would preserve all protections under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, and simply allow states to implement horse and burro management plans that address the specific needs of their own state. Died in a previous Congress

This bill was introduced on July 10, 2014, in a previous session of Congress, but was not enacted.

H.R. 4256: Endangered Species Improvement Act of 2014

This bill would amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to require that the federal government count all species dwelling on both public and private lands, in determining species recovery. Died in a previous Congress

This bill was introduced on March 14, 2014, in a previous session of Congress, but was not enacted.

H.R. 1422: EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act

Makes changes to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) to enhance public participation, improve the process for selecting expert advisors, expand transparency requirements and limit non-scientific policy advice. Passed House

H.R. 758: Utah Land Sovereignty Act

Would prevent the extension or establishment of national monuments in Utah without authorization from Congress. This bill adds Utah to an agreement made in 1950 between the federal government and Wyoming. Died in a previous Congress

This bill was introduced on February 15, 2013, in a previous session of Congress, but was not enacted

Summary: H.R.4532 — 115th Congress (2017-2018) All Information (Except Text)

Introduced in House (12/04/2017)

Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act

This bill withdraws all federal lands and interests within the exterior boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah as declared under Presidential Proclamation 9558, dated December 28, 2016, from:

entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

The bill declares that such proclamation is null and void.

01/30/2018

Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Action By: House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands

H.R. 3311: PARC Act

Provide Access and Retain Continuity Act, otherwise known as the PARC Act. In the event of future government shutdowns or lapse in appropriations, this bill enables states to fund and continue operating National Parks and other federal facilities or programs that have direct economic impacts on

tourism, mining, timber, or general transportation in the state.

Status:Died in a previous Congress

This bill was introduced on October 23, 2013, in a previous session of Congress, but was not enacted.

Legislative Hearing on:

H.R. 1107

(Rep. Mark Amodei)

, To promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, and for other purposes. "

Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act";

Bill has passed in the House and is now in the Senate. Let your senators know your input.

02/07/2018

Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held.

Action By: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

No change as of 11/01/2018

H.R. 2199

(Rep. Kevin Cramer)

, To improve Federal land management, resource,conservation, environmental protection, and use of Federal real property, by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop a multipurpose Cadastre of Federal real property and identifying inaccurate, duplicate, and out-of-date Federal land inventories, and for other purposes. "

Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017." Introduced in the House

09/25/2017

Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 232.

Action By: House of Representatives

No movement as of 11/01/2018

H.R. 2423

(Rep. Chris Stewart)

, To implement certain measures relating to management of Washington County, Utah, required by Public Law 111-11. No change

09/14/2017

Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 222.

Action By: House of Representatives

H.R. 2425

(Rep. Jared Huffman)

Washington County, Utah,

Public Lands Management Implementation Act"; To support the establishment and improvement of communications sites on or adjacent to Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture through the retention and use of rental fees associated with such sites, and for other purposes. No change

06/27/2017

Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.

Action By: Committee on Natural Resources

Stewart/Hatch

S 2809 A bill to establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, to designate wilderness areas in the State, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes.

Oct 2, 2018

Ordered Reported

A committee has voted to issue a report to the full chamber recommending that the bill be considered further. Only about 1 in 4 bills are reported out of committee.

H r 5727 To establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, to designate wilderness areas in the State, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes.

Sep 26, 2018

Ordered Reported

A committee has voted to issue a report to the full chamber recommending that the bill be considered further. Only about 1 in 4 bills are reported out of committee.

There is much controversy about these two bills because both SUWA and BRC are saying there are bad things in the bill. Checking now to see if the working has changed. Check this: file:///C:/Users/Jack%20Johnston/Downloads/Public_Comment_Period_Open_on_Southern_Utah_monuments.pdf

Hatch, ATV access to ...

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865677272/Hatch-Stewart...>

Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Chris Stewart have introduced legislation to ensure access to 20,000 acres in Washington County to off-highway vehicles.

No bill number and no new news.

Hatch, Stewart propose transfer of Sand Mountain OHV area ...

www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2017/04/07/jla-hatch-stewart...

Apr 07, 2017 · ST. GEORGE – A bill introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Chris Stewart in Congress would turn management of the popular Sand Mountain off-highway vehicle area over to Washington County and guarantee that the area stays open to OHV and other recreational uses – but also allows two pipelines ...

No bill number and no new news.

Stewart, Hatch introduce bills allowing states to manage ...

www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2015/07/24/stewart-hatch...

Jul 24, 2015 · WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Chris Stewart and Sen. Orrin Hatch introduced legislation Thursday giving states and Indian tribes the option to take over the management of wild horses and burros. The Wild Horse Oversight Act of 2015 would preserve all protections under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses ...

Stewart, Hatch, Lee introduce bills to protect Utah's ...

www.cedarcityutah.com/news/archive/2015/02/06/stewart-hatch-lee...

Stewart, Hatch, Lee introduce bills ... This bill directs the BLM to continue any grazing that has been established either before or after the designation of the

No bill number and no new news.

Make sure to renew your membership in the American Lands Access Association before December 31, 2018 to ensure you will be included in the 2019 membership. See www.amlands.org or contact Ronna Watkins at membership@amlands.org for more membership information.



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

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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)***



A moment of silence for all the lil
creatures who lost their lives in the
fire

