



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

www.amlands.org

Volume 10 Issue 1

January - March 2018

In the beginning ALAA was created as an arm of the AFMS. Membership in ALAA has fluctuated, sometimes because of issues in certain areas of the country, but we always knew YOU had our backs, and it didn't go unnoticed.

Over the years those of us dedicated to keeping those lands we hold dear available to recreational rockhounding have asked you to get involved and many of you have...but it hasn't been easy for any of us.

It has been the goal of ALAA to fight the privatization of public lands and to seek out those like organizations who are working for the same goals. We have aligned with off-road groups, and also local groups who have issues with management of our public lands....

Those of us who wake up every morning trying to get this vital job done have asked for your help over and over. Please continue your support and give us information on what's going on in your areas, it's vital for the survival of our hobby and our public lands.

ALAA is striving to keep American Recreational Rockhounds informed on issues that affect the ability to freely enjoy your public lands and continue for generations to come the ability to Rockhound on your public lands as have generations before. Many thanks to those who make it possible! *"The ALAA Team!"*

As a president of one of the AMFS' federations, I want to express my gratitude for the work that ALAA does to help our societies. One person in particular, I would like to thank is John Martin. We live in a different day and age, with so much change evolving all around us on so many issues, that it's hard to keep up with it all as an individual.

If it weren't for John's dedication in helping the members of our rock and gem clubs protect their collecting sites, we'd all be up a creek, but not in a creek hunting for those special beauties. The amount of time and thoroughness in the attention to details of this job is immense. When most of us would be dog paddling around trying to make sense of it all, John is on it, and making sure our hobby is taken care of. John has the hard job. Our job as individuals and societies in the hobby just got easier. We can respond to our public lands representatives easily, work together less stressfully, and have more quality time to work on building positive relationships with our local public lands employees. He and other are doing this for us.

Jennifer Haley, 2018 CFMS President

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**

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

"Congress on Strike - Government Shutdown Litter Runs Rampant on Public Lands 'Rockhounds to the Rescue' and Saves the Landscape!"



Once again Rockhounds gather in Quartzsite, Arizona on January 21, 2018 to remove litter and trash from our public lands. Though we were unable to have the on site support of the BLM due to the temporary Government Shutdown, the sixth annual Quartzsite ALAA- Rockhound Clean-Up took place on Gold Nugget Road just east of Quartzsite. Though three tons of trash was not collected there was more

trash than would fit in the only trailer that was available. So, the trash was secured and stacked by the side of the road for later collection and transport by our BLM Partners to the appropriate disposal site.

It is a curious accumulation of trash we had to clean up. I tried to stay away from the used diapers and "mystery liquid" plastic water bottles. The piece of trash that confused me the most was the Lean Cuisine box (did someone have a microwave in their car?) When I related what we did for the cleanup to someone that lived locally in Quartzsite they were very disturbed that all this dumping was going on just off the freeways. *Susy Martin - ALAA Secretary*

It's been a number of years since the ALAA group began picking up trash during the Quartzsite extravaganza each year in January. We had a large group the first year and unfortunately it's dwindled to just a few this past year. But when you think of the lack of publicity on our clean-up event I guess it's inevitable. In the past few years we had a group come down from the Northwest and they have been most welcome. The BLM was closed due to a screw-up as usual in Washington DC, but we got the job done as best we could and once the offices were open again they promised to come out and haul away the trash we had gathered.



We'll be back next year, and hope we can get a larger contingent to help and Washington DC won't go and shut everything down again. You know, there's a special bond between the folks who come out and clean-up, it makes us all proud to do our small bit for the local BLM. Bill Alexander, ranger and coordinator and John McDonald, Field Manager, Yuma BLM Office.

Shirley Leeson - ALAA Past President, AFMS Past President, CFMS Past President

Continued on Page 3

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We need to have more people show up at the clean up. As you can tell from the pictures all that is there is most of the Executive board and a few of the Committee people and their spouses. You are in Quartzsite anyway waiting for the show to close so that you can move on to the Tucson show. So why not come out and help with the clean up while you are waiting to move on. – Lauren Williams – ALAA VP (Past President AFMS)



My wife, Tomoko, and I have been participating in this event from the second year and have always had a good time being with the people who came from other areas. We feel that we are trying to make a good relationship with the BLM and to see that the public lands being cleaned. It is a little sad the number of people showing up for the clean-up has been declining for these few years, so we need to advertise this event more heavily and far in advance. This event is always on the last day (Sun) of the QIA Show, so for the people who come to Quartzsite, please keep this in mind. Hope to see more people coming next year!

I am hoping many of the rock clubs will make arrangements with the BLM in the area they go rockhounding and do the same thing. You can designate maybe 1 or 2 hours of your time for cleaning before you start rockhounding.

Please check out:

http://amlands.org/media//DIR_139834/de00aa25dca03b5fffff8489ffffe904.pdf on the ALAA website. This is an article regarding the instructions for those who are willing to do the clean up and is written by Shirley Leeson.

Hidemi Kira ALAA Director, NFMS Past President

It is puzzling why some people think it's ok to dump trash out on the desert. You name it, it's out there. I guess they don't "get it" or value that these are our Public Lands we all share. Fortunately Rockhounds do, who will always support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found. This was one of the first things that really impressed me when I joined my first rock & gem club years ago. We had a good time together picking up trash. *Jennifer Haley - CFMS President 2018*

Yes, it's amazing to see all the TRASH that is dumped out where ever people decide to DUMP! All the mountains and rocks are so beautiful all around Quartzsite and it is very sad to see that some people are so careless and unthinking. Troy and I helped with the trash pickup last year and this year. It is good exercise and does get us out early. We enjoy being with the group of people from ALAA and making that area clean of trash!

We do need to advertise the event more! Make sure it is advertised in all the Club Rock and Gem Bulletin's in November before people leave for Arizona and of course advertise the meeting and the clean up in the ALAA Bulletin and Web Site in November. Maybe some signs would help as you come off the interstate by the BLM, such as "NO DUMPING OF TRASH ALLOWED and the violation if it is done. Also I noticed that the pictures of the clean up were taken by John Martin and he isn't in any of the pictures.



Continued on Page 4

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Next year we will have to get him in the picture also! Thanks.

Lenora Smith, ALAA Director, NFMS



As we leave Gold Nugget Road this year we leave the collected litter, trash and discarded car and truck parts gathered, wrapped and in a neat pile ready for our partners in the annual Quartzsite event, the good people of the Yuma BLM Field office, ready for pick up and proper disposal helping to keep our public lands clean and free of the contaminants of litter and trash. We do our best to adhere to H.E.L.P (**H**elp **E**liminate **L**itter **P**lease) and show that **Recreational Rockhounds** are good Stewards of our public lands.

Thank you to all of the Rockhounds who made this year's Quartzsite area Public Land Clean up a success. **American Lands Access Association**

IDAHO MEMBERS, HELP !!!

Lauren Williams - ALAA Vice President

ALAA needs your help. Dee Holland and I are residents of the State of Idaho. We need your help to be an eligible ALAA Register Agent for the State of Idaho. You **MUST BE** a Resident of the state of Idaho. ALAA needs to know who you are. The job consists of having your name on file with the Idaho Attorney General who once a year mails you a e-mail which you fill out and send back to the Idaho Attorney General. That is it. You must know who ALAA's Board of Directors are and who the Executive Board is. This is available on ALAA's web site. The card from the Attorney General is mailed to you about June and you mail it back as soon as you fill it out or by July. The dates required are printed on the form.

Dee is not in that good of health, I am 77 and so I never know when I will meet my honorable, and not so, ancestors. We need a youngster, someone younger than 70 who has some years left.

If the card IS NOT Returned to the Idaho Attorney General, legally ALAA is out of business. This is true for all corporations in all states that fail to re-register in their state of incorporation. Idaho has one of easier process for forming a corporation, business. If our registration lapses, then it will take about 9 - 18 months to get re-registered and I do not know if there are any fines associated with it. Being the government, who knows what changes they have made to the process and once a year they can change what they want.

ALAA needs a list of back-ups for who would be willing to take the position when the time comes. This is not an **IF**, but a **When**.

YOU, YES YOU!
YOU COULD HAVE PUT YOUR THOUGHTS OR INFORMATION HERE!

California News

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) covering 22 Million Acres of California Deserts was finally signed by all the stakeholders in 2016 and has been engaged in the process of implementation. Of the 22 Million Acres around 7% of the Public Land had been deemed suitable for possible Renewable Energy Projects. In the latter months of 2017, a Presidential Executive Order was signed requesting a review of all Public Lands managed by Government Agencies for suitability for Renewable Energy Projects. As a result of this action the BLM has opened for review the public lands contained in the DRECP. Public Scoping has started and Nine public meetings have been held and public comments and concerns have been recorded for possible action. Many Recreational Rockhound Activists have attended some of the nine public meetings and expressed their concerns. The public Scoping meetings were well attended by Recreational Rockhounding Activists and making the voice of the Rockhound heard. The Public comment period has closed and the information is being reviewed. There has not been a date released when the review will be complete and made public.

Camping on California's Public Lands

Do you Camp or recreate on Public Lands in California?

Do you use a Campfire or Cookfire? (Even an open flame Propane Stove)

Do you know to be legal you must have a valid California Campfire Permit in your possession?

Do you know where and how to get your Free "California Campfire Permit"?

Get Your California Campfire Permit Online

Visit www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit

Watch a short video-take a quiz-get your on-line permit - save or print pdf or just bookmark the link on your mobile device to display when needed.

Do not get caught with a campfire without your Campfire Permit!

News from Nevada

From Nevada BLM

Collecting on Public Lands

The public lands offer a broad range of outdoor activities that include collecting resources such as firewood, gemstones, pine nuts and fossils for personal enjoyment and use. This is a summary of what may be collected from public lands. The BLM encourages people to explore the nearly 48 million acres of public land in Nevada.

Please use care in collecting. Avoid activities which damage public resources such as vegetation, scenery and archaeological sites, or which create hazardous conditions such as pits or trenches. Power equipment and explosives may not be used except for woodcutting and certain dredging operations. Reasonable amounts of the following may be collected for noncommercial purposes:

- **Flowers, berries, nuts, seeds, cones, and other plant parts.**
- **Campfire wood.**
- **Rocks, mineral specimens, common invertebrate fossils and semiprecious gemstones.**

Exceptions

Exceptions include specifically protected plants, campfire wood in posted areas, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, areas of critical environmental concern including Stewart Valley, near Gabbs, Nev., Red Rock Canyon and Sloan Canyon National Conservation Areas, historic and prehistoric sites and districts, and national natural landmarks. Maps and information on specific restrictions are available at Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices in Las Vegas, Tonopah, Carson City, Reno, Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, Elko, Ely and Caliente.

Minerals

Gold and silver may be prospected for with hand tools including pans and metal detectors. Minerals such as gold, silver and opals found on mining claims belong to the claim holder. Mining claim records may be viewed at BLM and county recorder offices. Sluicing, dredging and commercial mining require permits. Recreational panning which does not involve mechanical equipment is permitted in wilderness and wilderness study areas if it does not create surface disturbance or impair the environment.

Saleable minerals, such as sand, gravel, cinders, topsoil and other common mineral materials must be purchased by prior arrangement with the BLM. Gemstones and common rock specimens may be collected for private use on unclaimed sites. Commercial production of common rocks on an unclaimed site requires a permit. Only hobby collecting is allowed in wilderness and wilderness study areas and must not involve surface disturbance. Collection of prehistoric tools and chips made of precious or semiprecious stones is not allowed.

Fossils

Vertebrate fossils such as dinosaurs, mammals, fishes and reptiles, and uncommon invertebrate fossils may be collected only by trained researchers under BLM permit.

Continued on Page 7.....

Collected fossils remain the property of all Americans and are placed with museums or other public institutions after study.

Common invertebrate fossils such as plants, mollusks, and trilobites may be collected for personal use in reasonable quantities, but may not be bartered or sold.

Petrified wood may be collected up to 25 pounds plus one piece per person per day, with a maximum of 250 pounds per person per year. Permits are required for pieces over 250 pounds. Petrified wood may not be traded, bartered or sold without permit.

Cave resources, including plant, animal and geologic features, are federally protected and may not be altered, damaged or removed.

Cultural Artifacts

Cultural materials on public lands may not be removed, damaged, disturbed, excavated or transferred without BLM permit. Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic artifacts and sites, broken objects and debris more than 100 years old that were used or produced by humans. Protected materials include arrowheads and other stone tools, grinding stones, beads, baskets, pottery, old bottles, horse shoes, metal tools, graves and trash scatters.

Historic sites such as cabins, sawmills, graves, trail traces, mining areas, townsites, ranches and railroads are not open to collecting.

Metal detector use is allowed on public lands. Modern money may be collected, but coins and artifacts more than 100 years old may not be collected.

Wood, Plants and Pine Nuts

Various species of trees are available for firewood with a personal use permit, which allows the cutting of up to 10 cords per family per year in specified areas for a nominal fee. Permits for woodcutting are required even on an individual's mining or exploration claim. Collection of dead and down wood for immediate campfire use is allowed except for posted sites. Christmas tree permits are available for a nominal fee during the holiday season. Check with local BLM offices for permits and tree cutting area maps.

Small amounts of plants, plant parts, seeds, flowers and berries may be collected for personal use in most areas.

Cacti, yuccas, succulents and evergreen shrubs and trees are protected by the state. Species listed as threatened or endangered are protected by the federal government and may not be collected without permit. Collection of species listed as sensitive or candidates for threatened or endangered status should be avoided.

Pine nuts in amounts up to 25 pounds per person per year may be collected for noncommercial use. Although there are some designated commercial collecting areas, these are fully open to the public as well.

Harvesting plants or plant materials such as seeds, pine nuts, landscaping materials, firewood and timber for commercial purposes requires a permit.

Animals

Collection or harvest of game and nongame animals, including fish, is regulated by the State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Information for hunters, trappers, fishermen and collectors is available from the Nevada Division of Wildlife.

Threatened and endangered species, including desert tortoise and some other reptiles,

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whether federal or state listed, may be collected only under permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or state of Nevada. Lahontan cutthroat trout may be taken with a Nevada fishing license in permitted areas and seasons. Lists of protected species are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nevada Division of Wildlife and BLM offices. Wild, free-roaming horses and burros may not be harassed, harmed, collected or sold under any circumstances. Their water sources are also protected. Wild horses and burros gathered under BLM supervision and prepared for private ownership may be adopted from the BLM.

Violations of regulations under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, state and federal wildlife law, and other laws may be punishable by fines, imprisonment, and forfeiture of equipment and vehicles used in commission of the crime.

Source: https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/collecting_on_publiclands.pdf

2018 Fee Free Days on Federal Public Lands Announced!

We wanted to give you a reminder about the 2018 fee free days offered for recreation sites under the management of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. While many parks, facilities and services associated with these agencies are free, some require a fee. Recreation fees, authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, enable federal land management agencies to reinvest in the management of various recreation sites.

2018 Fee Free Days

January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
National Park Service/U.S. Forest Service

February 19 - Presidents Day
U.S. Forest Service

April 21 - First Day of National Park Week
National Park Service

June 9 - National Get Outdoors Day
U.S. Forest Service

September 22 - National Public Lands Day
National Park Service/U.S. Forest Service

November 11 - Veterans Day
National Park Service
U.S. Forest Service (11th and 12th)

Additional Info:

National Park Service
U.S. Forest Service

News from Utah

Three and a half million acres of public land had been withdrawn and included in 2 National Monuments in the State of Utah. The Bear Ears National Monument comprised of 1.35 Million Acres and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument comprised of 1.7 Million Acres of public lands. As a result of the Presidential Executive order that reviewed National Monuments both of these National Monuments were reduced in size which allowed for Recreational Rockhounding in the areas not covered by the reduced size. While these reductions in size were accomplished the intent of the Antiquities Act of 1906 still protects the Historical, Archaeological and Cultural areas with National Monument Protection.

2018 Quartzsite Report

Lauren Williams, ALAA 1st Vice President
lauren.williams@amlands.org

ALAA's 2018 Board Meeting met January 19, 2018 at the Quail Run RV Park Club House in Quartzsite at 9:30. We had enough members to form a Quorum. The minutes from the Ventura Meeting were approved. Doug True resigned as ALAA President. Jack Johnston will replace Evan Day as the Utah State Representative and an ALAA Director. Ruth Hidalgo resigned as Membership Director. I will be going to the Twin Falls show March 10th and talking to Sandy Hansen about being put on the list for a possible Idaho State Registered Agent for the State of Idaho, when the time comes. Idaho is the state that ALAA is registered in. The Budget was approved. ALAAs only source of income comes from clubs and individuals joining ALAA. We do not have any other source of income. Shirley Lesson will write a Withdrawal letter to the Blue Ribbon Coalition as to why ALAA is withdrawing from the Blue Ribbon Coalition. The Vote was NO to add a Terrorism rider to our Insurance. It was voted YES to join the Western Caucus, a Washington D.C. information source, no cost. You can join too if you want, no cost. ALAA still needs an Editor. You State Representatives need to write something to put in the ALAA Newsletter. The President and Founder of the Boondockers United attend our meeting and said the Boondockers would like to join ALAA. Boondockers are a mobile community dedicated to camping. It is just getting started. And OH YES, Shirley Lesson is leaving sunny California and moving to Texas. Our next ALAA meeting will be April 5, 2018 at 3:00 pm at the Headquarters Hotel of the AFMS/EASTERN Federation show and convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. Despite the government shut down we had our clean up session on Sunday morning. There were 10 of us there to do the dirty deed of picking up what other people had thrown on the ground.

AFMS/EFMLS Annual Convention & Show
Raleigh, NC
April 4-8, 2018
Hosted by Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club
See Flier

UTAH UPDATE

Jack Johnston, UAR, U4WDA, ALAA, RMFMS
jack.johnston@amlands.org

This is a comment I sent to regulations.gov

I would like to see the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument deleted or reduced in size. This is the wrong way to protect our Public Lands. 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.

Comment Tracking Number: 1k1-8wul-jeih

This is from Aaron Curtis, BLM
Aaron Curtis, Branch Chief for Outdoor and Heritage Resources
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office
Salt Lake City, Utah
801.539.4225

Georeferenced Maps: Jack and Ron are welcome to contact Evan with suggestions on places where georeferenced route maps would be the most useful. We recognize that you recommended we have maps in place for wherever we have a designated route system in place, but we can only do so much at once, so we would also appreciate hearing any of your thoughts on where the priority areas should be. For your reference, all of BLM-Utah's existing georeferenced maps can be found here: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>.

I urge all rock hounds to make use of these maps and be sure to let them know of any corrections. It is up to use that they know all roads and collecting sites.

Resource Advisory Council nominations: We also discussed whether there were any upcoming opportunities to apply for the BLM-Utah RAC, and we are currently accepting applications through 12/1. Information on the application process can be found at these two websites: Ti You can apply for this year but remember in December next year <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-seeks-nominations-resource-advisory-councils-and-other-blm-land-management>

<https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/about-rac>

Again, please let me know if there's anything else that I may have missed when it comes to working together in the future. Thanks, we really appreciate both of your continued engagement on our travel planning efforts.

Chris Stewart (R-Utah)

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument resides in my district. I have seen firsthand the damage that the monument has caused to the local economy. The local communities have been in a desperate need of change, and this week they got that change.

President Trump had the courage that no other president had. He listened to local voices that had been left out of the decision-making process for too long. Decreasing the size of the

Continued on Page 11

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Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments was the right call for Utah.

New national park in Utah

This week, Chris Stewart introduced legislation to create Utah's sixth National Park, Escalante Canyons. With their deep narrow canyons, high plateaus, sheer cliffs, incredible vistas, and vibrant colors, the Escalante Canyons are a crown jewel in the state.

Many people think it was the Monument that closed the Paria Canyon, when it actually happened more than ten years before the Monument was designated...It was closed when the WSA's were created, and WSA's can only be designated as wilderness, or released from WSA status by Congress. In this case Paria was originally open and SUWA sued to have it closed. I am following this to make sure no roads or collecting sites are closed. Let me know of your comments. jack.johnston@amlands.org

These suggestions are from Brian Hawthorne formerly of BRC
<http://fivemilesoffun.com/>

- 1.** Create or revise the County/BLM Planning agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) to specifically allow the County to view and comment on all aspects of the planning process, especially:
the revision of the Utah 2012-066 Instruction Memo provisions under Paragraph 22 – Pages 17-18, “Consideration of Considerable Adverse Effects”
real-time participation and review of the “monitoring” program described in Paragraphs 20-21 – Pages 14-17.
- 2.** Prioritize efforts to introduce and pass the Emery County Public Lands Act of 2017.
- 3.** Pass “no net loss” resolutions (one supporting the passage of HCR 023 and another similar County Resolution).
- 4.** Begin immediately to formulate two stand alone “action alternatives.” One alternative should mirror the existing travel plan but with mitigation measures to address any cultural concerns, and another should seek to enhance and promote both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. Once formulated, the county should adopt these alternatives as official recommendations via resolution and enlist assistance and support from U.S. Congressional Representatives and the State of Utah in the adoption of both alternatives as specific action alternatives in BLM’s planning process.
- 5.** Facilitate public meetings that will provide a “narrative” for each route in order to provide the BLM with a “compelling need” for the route and to describe its importance in recreation management.
- 6.** Insist that no formal planning activities begin unless and until BLM provides a functioning website.”

Note number three no net loss.

I have contacted Mia Love, Chris Stewart, Orin Hatch, and John Curtis On behalf of the UAR and have been impressed by their response and interest in keeping public lands

Continued on Page 12

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public.

I have my fingers crossed that it will lead to more open roads and collecting sites. I have had good response from Gary Webster out of Chris Stewart's office.

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.

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

H.R. 2423

(Rep. Chris Stewart)

To implement certain measures relating to management of Washington County, Utah, required by Public Law 111-11. Introduced in the House

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.

Utah Division of Parks and Recreation Announcement



Rock Hounds and Four Wheelers lost a good friend. It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Fred Hayes, Director of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, passed away today at his home.

We extend our condolences to his wife Serena and his entire family. Thank you for all you have done for Utah and for us.

Fred Hayes, Director of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation

California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Public Scoping Meetings

February 27 & 28, 2018

John and Susy Martin

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts, will help provide effective protection and conservation of desert ecosystems while allowing for the appropriate development of renewable energy projects.

The DRECP is focused on 22.5 million acres in the desert regions and adjacent lands of seven California counties – Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. It is an innovative landscape-level plan that streamlines renewable energy development while conserving unique and valuable desert ecosystems and providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

The DRECP is a collaborative effort between the California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also known as the Renewable Energy Action Team.

The BLM signed the Record of Decision approving its Land Use Plan Amendment on September 14, 2016, completing Phase I of the DRECP. The BLM Plan Amendment covers the 10 million acres of BLM-managed lands in the DRECP plan area and supports the overall renewable energy and conservation goals of the DRECP.

Phase II of the DRECP focuses on better aligning local, state, and federal renewable energy development and conservation plans, policies, and goals. It includes building off of the Renewable Energy Conservation Planning Grants (RECPG) that were awarded by the California Energy Commission to counties in the plan area.

Presidential Executive Order on Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth March 28, 2017 and Presidential Executive Order on a Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals December 20, 2017 required all government agencies to review all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and any other similar agency actions (collectively, agency actions) that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources, with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy resources and renewable energy resources.

As a result of these Executive Orders the BLM opened the DRECP for Public Comment and scheduled nine Scoping Meetings around Southern California for public information and input. Two of these meetings were held in Ridgecrest, California on February 27, 2018 and Hesperia, California on February 28, 2018. As concerned Recreational Rockhounds, Officers of the American Lands Access Association, Committee Chairs of AFMS and CFMS, we attended both meetings. They were both within an hours drive of home.



Scoping Meeting Format

Continued on Page 14.....

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The meetings were well attended by concerned citizens representing all aspects of the DRECP including the Renewable Energy groups, conservation groups and several Recreational Rockhounds. The meetings opened with BLM Introductions and a short presentation on the purpose of the Scoping Meeting, the requirements for holding the meetings and the proper methods to submit comments. The BLM was represented by several Field Office Managers along with staff members from Sacramento, CA office and Jerry Perez, the California State BLM Director. After the introduction and presentation the meeting broke up and we all ventured around the room where there were stations with maps and of the different activities and areas from the DRECP. Some included Recreation, Minerals and mining, Conservation, Renewable Energy Projects, OHV Areas, Wilderness and National Parks, National Preserves, National Monuments, Military Facilities

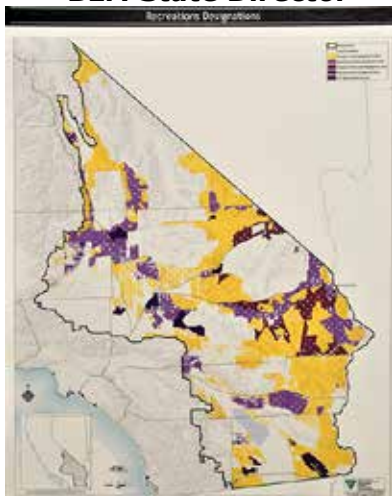


**Jerry Perez
BLM State Director**

through out the 22.5 Million Acres of the DRECP. During discussions with several BLM Field Office Managers they all made the comment that the BLM was NOT going to change the decisions and Land Use Designations of the Approved DRECP. If they received public comments that requested a change in use the BLM would investigate the proposal and determine if the change is warranted. If the change is warranted the process to change the usage designation would be required to start the process at the beginning and go through the entire process and including Public meetings and Public Comment. Right now Recreational Rockhounding may be safe in the California



**Randy Banis - OHV - Rockhound Advocate and
Jerry Perez
CA State BLM Director**



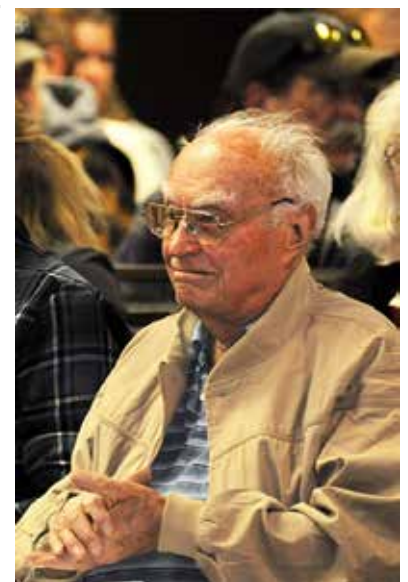
**DRECP Map of Recreation Designations
Yellow is BLM Lands
Dark is Recreation**



**Susy Martin of ALAA
Discusses Recreational Activities with the BLM
Recreation Specialist**



**Left - Samples of Cady Mountain Agate provided by Bill DePue
Right - Bill DePue of Diamond Pacific Tool Co. of Barstow, CA.**



Deserts. Only time will tell and we must continue to be Vigilant and Proactive.



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)***

ALAA Editor
2010 West Ave. K #528
Lancaster, CA 93536-5229



This Land Is No Longer Your Land

Hi Y'all, as you can see on the back page, I have left southern California for the great state of Texas. While there are no U.S. Forest or BLM land in Texas, I will still be involved with public lands. It will just be from a distance. I hope to get more clubs within

South Central Federation to involve themselves in our public land issues, after all, Texans do travel to other states on vacation, and even on business and can always find time for field trips.

We Bid Farewell to Rockhound Shirley Leeson



January 21, 2018
Gold Nugget Road

Shirley Leeson,
ALAA Ambassador and
now from 'deep in the
heart' of TEXAS