



What is Recreational Rockhounding?

That is a question that has been asked for many years. There have been many definitions of one and to now there is no accepted definition of what is a "Recreational Rockhound" or "Recreational Rockhounding".

There is a 90% legal definition of what defines a Recreational Rockhound and Recreational Rockhounding. Those are listed in the United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 43. However it is not explained in one paragraph and is spread through out the Title 43 documents in around a dozen different paragraphs. When time is taken to read, study and combine all of the bits of information in CFR Title 43 the following definition will become very apparent though this definition is not complete and still requires some clarification and additions to give a realistic legal definition of what "Recreational Rockhounding" is and that which will satisfy the legal aspects of the Hobby.

Recreation Rockhounding is best defined as:

"Recreational Rockhounding is the collecting of reasonable amounts of non-renewable resources such as rock and mineral specimens and materials, common invertebrate and common plant fossils, semiprecious gemstones and Petrified wood for noncommercial (Personal and Educational) purposes where permitted by law. Recreational Rockhounding is accomplished in a manner that prevents hazards to public health and safety, and minimizes and mitigates environmental damage."

This definition has been in the works for several years and ALAA in conjunction with AFMS and other groups will continue to refine it to encompass all aspects so a full legal description can be established and additions can be added to CFR Title 43 so all aspects are covered and understandable for the continuation of Recreational Rockhounding by the Recreational Rockhound.

Material from ALAA Newsletters may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes with appropriate credits. For commercial use, individual authors must be contacted for approval. Articles lacking bylines have been generated by the bulletin staff. Direct other questions to the Editor at: editor@amlands.org

Jennifer Haley
American Lands Access Association - Vice President
jennifer.haley@amlands.org

It's looking like this is going to be an active year concerning access to collecting areas on public lands. Remember, these public land access issues always involve a government process, and these processes do take quite some time, it can take years. Other processes come up fast and their public comment time period is short. Getting involved and staying involved takes commitment, and is vital for the future of Recreational Rockhounding. Rockhounds are continuing to show they have what it takes, but we need more of you to participate.

Communication is going to be key this year so more rockhounds can help. As a club, society or federation, you are always boots on the ground, but it doesn't mean you have to do it, all alone.

This is why in May this year, ALAA began reaching out to every American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' (AFMS) federation, to their presidents and public lands access committees. We wanted to reach out to everyone, whether or not they were an ALAA member. Why are we doing this? Because we need to create a wagon train of communication among rockhounds, so rockhounds can help each other.

One way ALAA can do this, is by sending out valuable updates of information in emails, in between our ALAA newsletters. Some information just can't wait for a quarterly newsletter to come out. We have some amazing people helping with the gathering of information regarding the Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM), so everyone can have and share the same important information needed in comment letters and talking points at BLM public meetings. That information continues to be sent to over 400 individuals.

Rockhounds have always been good at heavy lifting. Whatever the situation, whether it is figuring out how best to cut that stone for the best outcome, or lugging that heavy 5 gallon bucket of rocks home, we hang with it and find a way to do it. When we work with a valuable stone, we take time and care not to destroy it. In each case, we are eager to persevere because we have something we want and value. This is also true for getting involved in helping preserve your collecting areas for the future.

What happens in one rockhounding area, affects the future of your rockhounding areas. The MTNM is a public land issue which should concern all rockhounds. Whether or not you have collected in the MTNM area, or you live in another state far away from this generations old favorite collecting area, the MTNM needs the community of rockhounds across the county to pitch in and help. There are so many societies that will have so much to lose if at the end of the monument's planning, rockhounding is forbidden there. As rockhounds, we've made great progress in this issue, but the Bureau of Land Management process is still in the works. This means we needs to continue the good work.

Continued on Page 12.....

Mojave Trails National Monument Update

Gregor Lorsson
ALAA Ambassador
gregor.lorson@amlands.org

Hello Recreational Rock Collectors, thank you to those that attended the public meetings for the MTNM planning process. Nearly every attendee at the Barstow meeting was a Rockhound. In Twentynine Palms we had Collectors with knowledge of the history of our access battles. Rock Collectors representing the Arizona and Nevada clubs attended the Needles meeting. The meetings were designed to explain the planning process, including how we can participate and they concluded with time for attendees to meet the MTNM management team and speak with them about the Monument. Your fellow Rockhounds were very involved in the meetings and represented our hobby well. The in-person meetings were helpful for everyone involved. The BLM was able to personally meet the Rockhounds that visit the MTNM, and we got an understanding that our comments are to be received under the law of NEPA, but also by a MTNM management team that is asking to understand what the public stakeholders want for the Monument.

Right now is your chance to tell them what you are asking for. For those of you who have been continuously submitting roads and localities for years, please do not be discouraged. All of that previous work was to inform the 13 years of the WEMO/WMRNP route planning, and the multiple years of the DRECP land zoning. Your previous work was a success, did not go to waste, and is why we can currently access the northern Cady Mountains collecting areas! Your hard work has resulted in a road plan in areas of the western MTNM, such as the Cady Mountains, that will most likely be applied to the Monument.

But with that success, we have also known year after year of the loss of collecting. The ALAA website has examples such as Tick Canyon Howlite, Stone Canyon Jasper, Horse Canyon agate, Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper, Last Chance Canyon Petrified Wood, Pink Thulite, Celestite, and Owlshead Sagenite now in Death Valley National Park, Soda Mountains Conichalcite, Caruthers Canyon Azurite, secondary lead minerals of the Lava Hills, and Chapinite localities now on Fort Irwin. Think of the other known sites, and also unexplored mines and jasper hosting volcanics, that have been declared off limits to collecting.

In front of you is the chance to save 1.6 million acres, 14 mountain ranges, and historic Recreational Rock Collecting areas such as the Cady Mountains, Lavic Siding, Marble Mountains, and Sleeping Beauty. Take some time and write thoughtful, detailed, substantive comments. Tell the BLM what you are asking for and teach them about what you do, your values, history, your respect for the desert. Your comments, hopefully, will help prepare the draft management plan. The next time we comment it will be on what has been drafted, so now is your chance.

Fieldtrip Journal for Public Lands ***(Blank Forms are on Page 4 & 5)***

This is the simple Journal to document your Fieldtrip Activities and record the access routes needed to get to and from collecting sites. This data will be useful when asked to submit comments to Public Land Managers during the Public Comment Period on potential Public Land Access Closures proposals.

**ALAA – DATA BASE OF COLLECTING SITES
BY STATES
PRIVATE COLLECTING SITES**

NAME OF SOCIETY/CLUB: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Field Trip Leader:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

Collected Material: _____

Name of Company, Ranch or Owner: _____

General Manager: _____

Contact Person: _____

Liability Insurance Requirement: Yes: _____ No: _____

Location (Address): _____

GPS: _____

Distance from your Club: _____

Frequency of leading trips to this location: _____

Number of attendance: _____

Day trip or Overnight: _____

Closest Town: _____

Groceries, gas, restaurants, motels, hardware stores or other impact on the town:

Other Comments for this site:

Date Filled in Form: _____

Please keep copy for your files, send a copy to fieldtrip@amlands.org

**ALAA – DATA BASE OF COLLECTING SITES
BY STATES
GOVERNMENT COLLECTING SITES**

NAME OF SOCIETY/CLUB: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Field Trip Leader:
Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Collected Material: _____

FOREST SERVICE _____ GRASSLANDS _____ BLM _____
Did you contact District Manager? Yes: _____ No: _____ Contact Name: _____

Did you have to register your group? Yes: _____ No: _____

Routes to the exact collecting site: _____

GPS: _____
Closest Town: _____
Groceries, gas, restaurants, motels, hardware stores or other impact on the town: _____

Other Comments for this site: _____

Date Filled in Form: _____

Please keep copy for your files, send a copy to fieldtrip@amlands.org

New Mexico's answer to Yellowstone: The geological story of Valles Caldera

Provided by the USGS

Although Yellowstone Caldera might be better known, the slightly older Valles Caldera, in New Mexico, was where some of the fundamental characteristics of caldera systems were first explored and understood.

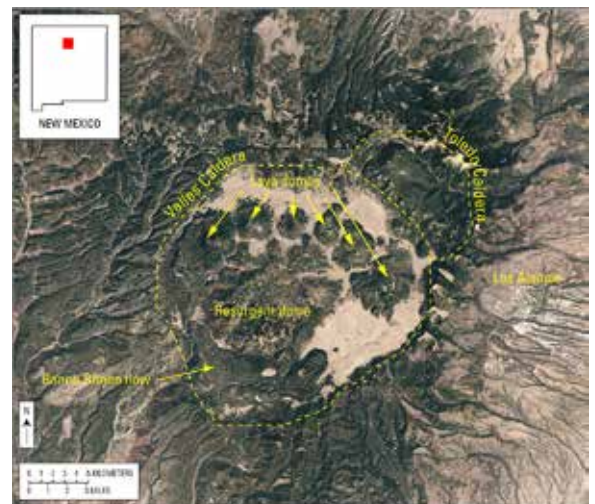
Yellowstone Caldera Chronicles is a weekly column written by scientists and collaborators of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory. This week's contribution is from Michael Poland, geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey and Scientist-in-Charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory.

New Mexico is a volcanic wonderland, home to numerous types of volcanic features like lava flows similar to those in Hawaii and eroded stratovolcanoes that once resembled the giants of the Cascade Range. The youngest eruption in the state occurred about 3,900 years ago near Grants—the McCarty's lava flow.

One of the most noteworthy volcanic areas in New Mexico is located in the Jemez Mountains, in the north-central part of the state. That's where you'll find Valles Caldera, a volcanic system that is similar to Yellowstone Caldera in many ways.

The Jemez Mountains are located at the intersection of two important geologic structures. First, the Jemez Lineament angles across the state along a southwest-northeast trend, from southern Arizona through northeastern New Mexico. There are numerous volcanic fields along its length, including the San Carlos and Springerville volcanic fields in eastern Arizona and the Zuni-Bandera, Mount Taylor, and Raton-Clayton volcanic field in central and northeastern New Mexico. Second, running from south to north through the center of New Mexico and into Colorado is the Rio Grande Rift, an area of crustal extension that also hosts several volcanic vents, like those near Albuquerque and Carrizozo. It should come as no surprise that where these two "leaky" structures come together, there is a lot of volcanism.

Volcanic eruptions in the Jemez Mountains began about 14 million years ago. There was never a main central volcano that developed, but instead volcanic vents were scattered throughout the region, with eruptions building up a high plateau. About 1.61 million years ago, a major eruption occurred—the first caldera-forming eruption in the Jemez Mountains.



Sources/Usage: Public Domain.

Landsat-7 satellite image of Jemez Mountains and Valles Caldera, New Mexico. The Valles and Toledo Caldera margins are approximated by dashed yellow lines, and the resurgent dome and lava domes are labeled. The Banco Bonito lava flow is the youngest in the region at 68,000 years old. The town of Los Alamos is located just east of the caldera. Satellite image was acquired on May 22, 2001, and is available from <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/50666/valles-caldera-new-mexico>.

Continued on Page 7.....

The collapse scar that resulted is called Toledo Caldera, and the associated deposit makes up the Otowi Member of the Bandelier Tuff. But that wasn't the end of caldera-forming eruptions.

About 1.25 million years ago, a second caldera formed—Valles Caldera. The eruption was about the same size as that which formed the Toledo Caldera, and it deposited the Tshirege Member of the Bandelier Tuff. The Valles Caldera cut into the Toledo Caldera, partially destroying that earlier structure. Although huge in volume, each of the caldera-forming eruptions in the Jemez Mountains was less than half the size of that which formed Yellowstone Caldera 631,000 years ago.



Sources/Usage: Public Domain

Panoramic image of Valles Caldera, New Mexico, looking at the Valle Grande, part of the calderas "moat." The resurgent dome is the high topography at the left side of the image, while the hills at the center and right are lava domes. USGS photo by Mike Poland, June 10, 2022.

After the formation of Valles Caldera, uplift occurred as magma reoccupied the collapsed reservoir beneath the surface. This uplift built a "resurgent dome" in the caldera center. In fact Valles Caldera was one of the first locations worldwide where this process was studied and understood. Following the resurgence, eruptions of thick, pasty rhyolite lava occurred in the caldera's "moat"—the flattish area between the caldera wall and the resurgent dome. Each lava dome was built by a series of successive eruptions over the course of thousands to tens of thousands of years before activity ceased. After pauses of tens to hundreds of thousands of years, a new lava dome formed. Interestingly, these domes erupted in a sequence, with activity migrating in a counterclockwise direction around the caldera.



Sources/Usage: Public Domain.

The Bandelier Tuff near Los Alamos, New Mexico. The Jemez Mountains, home to the Valles and Toledo calderas where the tuff originated, rise in the distance. The tuff was hot and thick when it was deposited by caldera-forming eruptions 1.61 and 1.25 million years ago, and so it is welded in places, forming a dense and resistant rock. USGS photo by Mike Poland, June 7, 2022.

Continued on Page 8.....

The most recent eruptions included an explosive event about 74,000 years ago that deposited the El Cajete pumice and Battleship Rock ignimbrite, with the Banco Bonito rhyolite lava flow erupting from roughly the same area about 68,000 years ago. Since that sequence of eruptions, Valles Caldera has been dormant.

The general sequence of activity—resurgence followed by emplacement of lava flows during episodic eruptions—is similar to that experienced by Yellowstone following its caldera-forming eruption 631,000 years ago, although the Yellowstone eruptions (both the explosive events and lava flows) were much larger in size.

Another similarity between the Yellowstone and Valles Calderas is hydrothermal activity, although again the scales differ. Yellowstone National Park is well known for its geysers and hot springs. While such activity is not as prominent at Valles Caldera, there is a noteworthy hydrothermal area, called Sulphur Springs, that is similar to the acid-sulfate thermal areas in Yellowstone, like the Mud Volcano region.



Sources/Usage: Public Domain.

Panoramic image of the Sulphur Springs thermal area in Valles Caldera, New Mexico. The altered surface, composed of clays, strongly resembles acid-sulfate thermal areas in Yellowstone National Park, like the Mud Volcano region. USGS photo by Mike Poland, June 10, 2022.

And still another similarity is the presence of a partially molten region about 5–20 kilometers (3–12 miles) beneath the surface of both caldera systems. These magma reservoirs are mostly solid, but still hot. A major difference between the two locations, however, is the activity recorded by monitoring networks. While Yellowstone is a site of thousand of earthquakes every year and both uplift and subsidence of the ground, seismicity at Valles Caldera is rare, and there is no evidence for significant ground deformation.

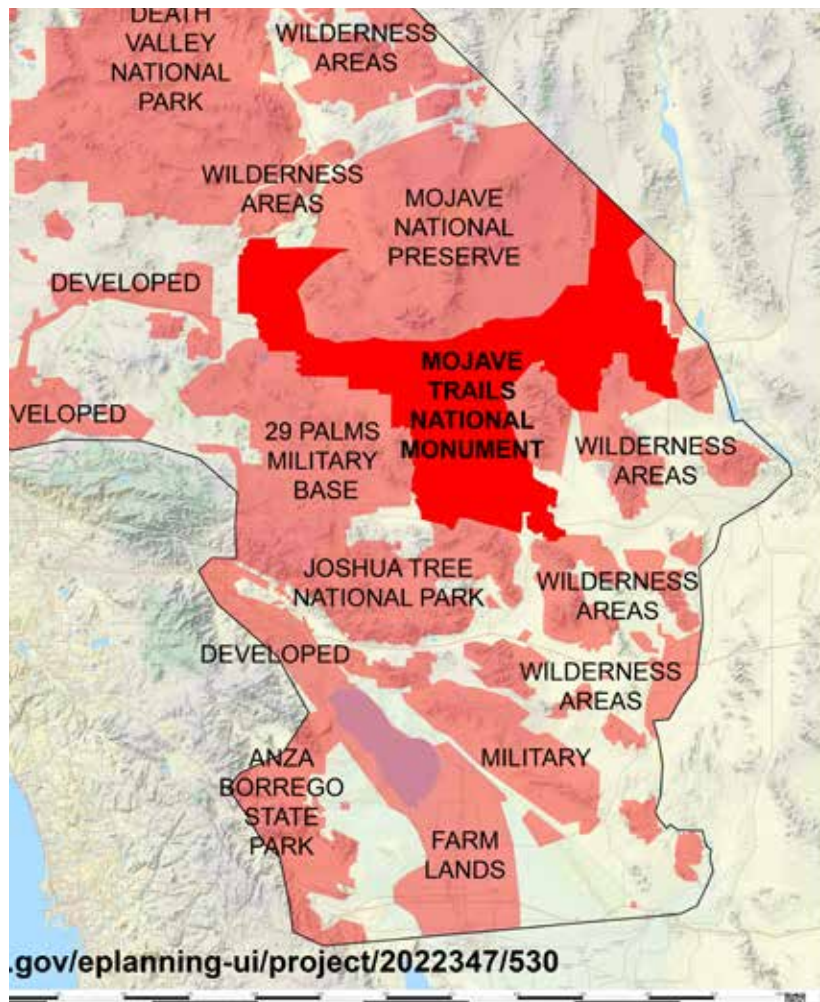
Given its long geologic history, there is no reason to think that Valles is “dead.” It may very well erupt again, but like Yellowstone, the most likely form of future eruptive activity is a lava flow, and the event would be preceded by significant changes in monitoring data.

Much of what was learned at Valles Caldera about how calderas formed and evolved over time was applied to other caldera systems in the USA and around the world. We know more about how Yellowstone works thanks to studies of its older sibling in the southwest USA.

Source:

<https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/yvo/news/new-mexicos-answer-yellowstone-geological-story-valles-caldera>

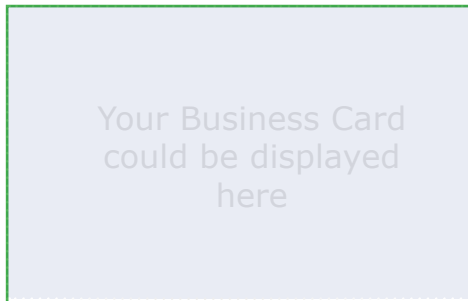
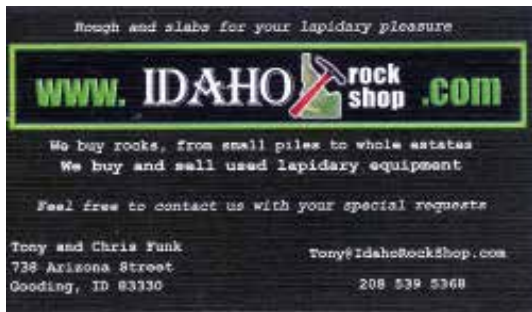
No Collecting Map of Southern California



The map on the left shows most all of the Southern California Desert areas which at one time, with the exception of Private Land and Military Land was open to all forms of Recreational Rockhounding. Starting in the mid 1960s the Open Public Lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was conserved by Congress Legislation into small areas called Wilderness Areas which disallowed any form of mechanical travel in the areas. Recreational Rockhounding was allowed in most cases and the only way in to or out of a collecting area was by foot or horseback. Then the government starting creating more conserved lands and removing them from all forms of Recreational Rockhounding and called them National Parks and Preserves. Vehiculat travel was allowed within the Parks and preserves. Everything in the light red is now restricted Public Land usage. The Wilderness Areas are still open to limited Collecting

of Rocks, Minerals and plant fossils. Most all other areas collecting of any kind is not permitted. Now we are in 2023 and the bright red area is the 1.6 Million Acres of land that in 2016 by Presidential Proclumation, was turned into the Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM) and by federal definition of a National Monument there is absoulty no Recreational Rockhounding allowed and no removal of any Natural Resource without a Permit. A small group of local rockhounds and the help of the Los Angeles Times we were able to convince then Senator Diane Feinstein, who created the plans for the MTNM, that Rockhounding in the area was a Recreational Activity for more than 100 years and many generations of Americans have collected in the area. Senator Feinstein listened and agreed to contact the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI) and request that the Secretary allowed Rockhounding to continue. The Secretary of the DOI agreeded and contacted the Head of the BLM to allow Recreational Rockhounding to continue. All three of them agreeded to conditionally allow collecting during the time of the creationg of the MTNM Management Plan and if Recreational Rockhounding was not included in the MTNM Management Plan all Recreational Rockhound, the removal of any Natural Resource, shall stop. That brings us to where we are today in June of 2023. The MTNM Management Plan is in its final review process and it is up to ALL Recreational Rockhounds to make their voices heard through the Review and Public Comment Period that is in progress at this time and will most likely end by the end of June 2023. If the BLM is not convinced to include Recreational Rockhound as a Recreational Activity in the Final MTNM Management Plan, all Collecting is over. **Let your Voice be Heard!**

Gem and Mineral Dealers Who Support ALAA with Memberships



Are you a Rock and Mineral Dealer?
A Lapidary Arts Dealer?
Join ALAA
Your Business Card could be displayed here

We invite interested dealers/vendors to become a member of the American Lands Access Association and help support Recreational Rockhounding Activities.

An Annual Dealer Membership is for vendors with a valid resale license, who sell rock and gem hobby related merchandise such as; jewelry, minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, lapidary art and crafts, equipment and supplies, metaphysical and decorative items.

Interactive Membership Form (PDF) is available on the ALAA Website - Membership Page. Open with Adobe Acrobat Reader - Complete, Print, and mail to the address on form.

<http://www.amlands.org/634600.html>

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

For inclusion in each Quarterly Newsletter

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

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

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

Please do not send articles in PDF format.

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

Permission to Reprint All or Any Part of this Newsletter is Hereby Granted,
Provided, Credits and Citations are Maintained. *ALAA Does not sell Email 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: \$25 for an individual or couple
\$50 for a Club or Society
New Member: Donation:
Renewal: Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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 Acrobat Reader)**

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



Remember to Renew your
ALAA Membership before
December 31, 2023

.....*Continued from Page 2*

Coming up, we also have some good success stories to share with you concerning preserving Recreational Rockhounding areas. These will inspire and help educate everyone in what is actually possible, when you get involved and stay involved, and work with public land management.

We hope to hear from more of you. Please feel free to contact us. The communication from you has been great this year, as you continue to ask questions, so you can help us help you. This can be a year of creating great progress in keeping the future of Recreational Rockhounding very much alive and well for our own enjoyment, and for the future generations of Rockhounds and their clubs.

Bear Canyon Agate Project-Montana

This is a very good example of Recreational Rockhounds and public land management working together. The Bureau of Land Management is currently working on mapping the area Bear Canyon Agate is collected, to create a designated collecting area. Most likely there will be a small fee for collecting, but you will be able to legally sell what you collect if you want to. This will keep the area open for collecting instead of closing it down. There's a good possibility that Recreational Rockhounds will be involved in the monitoring of this designated collecting area.