



**American Lands Access Association, Inc.**

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

[alaa@amlands.org](mailto:alaa@amlands.org)

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## **American Lands Access Association**

Please join us in helping to preserve Recreational Rockhounding. Together we have a much better chance of doing this if we all pull together.

If you aren't already on our email list for updates and progress reports, please let us know.

Thank you. A big thank you to all of you who are already helping to keep the enjoyment of collecting on public lands accessible now, for the future of rockhounding clubs.

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

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

**~ Looking Forward ~**

## **Ways You Can Help Preserve Your Collecting Areas**

Documenting your collecting areas. ALAA has advised for several years now, that AFMS Societies, Federations and individuals document their collecting areas with the site-specific routes used, and the identification of the material collected, along with your valuable history at these places.

We suggest this, because if/when a collecting area is threatened of being closed, you want to be more ready ahead of time to address the issue with good input. If you or your club haven't collected this information already, best to get going on this project asap, so you have it.

Remember, some of your collecting areas aren't very accessible during the winter and summer months due to extreme heat, snow, melting of snowpack mountains, desert flash floods.

Your club's hand drawn vintage field trip maps are always wonderful to look at, but may not be up to date any longer when it comes to the route numbers, and that old tree that was a sign post of where to turn. Sometimes, the signage to your routes changes over the years due to weather, human folly or BLM makes a change, all which may not match up with your old map. Make sure your maps are up to date, even if you know them by heart while you are driving. Best to make sure your documenting is current while you enjoy the good weather on your field trip.

There is a reason ALAA has asked over the years to send us a copy of the ALAA Field Trips Journals. Without this information, ALAA won't be able to include that information when we send in our comment letters in support of Recreational Rockhounding on your behalf. We keep a file of this information, but we don't share that information, unless there is a critical collecting access issue at hand.

When public lands begins talking about closing access to your collecting areas, it's been important to share that information with other AFMS societies. That way they can use the same site-specific route information with the list of collected material in their comment letters, in their support of you. One rockhound can have a lot of positive impact with their comment letter. More rockhounds with the same site-specific information in their public comments and public comment letters, adds even more positive benefit.

Getting to know your Public Lands Managers. We've found stopping by the field office near your field trip to say "hello" is a great way for the managers to get to know Rockhounds. We are good people and great to work with, but many of them still don't know much about us. Mention you are affiliated with the national organization, American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), and that members abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics. Give a copy of the "code" to them. The managers are always impressed we have a code of ethics. There are many ways Recreational Rockhounds can work together with Public Lands Management. It is important that we develop good working relationships

***Continued on Page 3.....***

ALAA Field Trip Journal Forms to Help You Document Your Collecting Site Information  
[American Lands Access Association, Inc. \(amlands.org\)](http://amlands.org)

with management. Volunteering to give them a hand is a great way to do that. If you see a disturbance that you know is not right, like a lot of trash scattered around, uncovered holes, evidence someone had come in without any regard to the landscape and took down trees and bushes to get to material, report this to the field office.

~ **Trash Clean Ups.** More societies are getting on board with doing these. Plan ahead. Contact the field office to let them know you'd like to schedule a clean-up. They normally supply the bags, and will work with you to organize the date. They'll tell you the spot they'd like you put the filled bags, old tires, etc., so they can pick them up. Take a fun group photo with the trash and send it to ALAA, your club editor, even your federation's editor so we can all give you credit for your good deed. You can add the photo to your club's annual scrapbook, too.

~ **Other Ideas.** Another great idea some clubs are doing is working with Public Lands and Park management, to create displays for the public who visits them. These displays can be of the rough and polished rocks, minerals and legal fossils found in the area. You can also offer to help with public education by creating and assisting with occasional field trips and mini workshops. You can plan ahead, and invite the manager to a field trip with you so they get to know you and your club better. Show them the fun experience we are all so familiar with in learning about the amazing rocks, minerals and fossils we have knowledge about. Don't forget to supply a picnic basket to share!

~ **Memo Of Understanding (MOU).** ALAA/CFMS and the BLM accomplished writing a MOU for the Hauser Geode Beds a few years ago. That MOU is still active today. There is a criteria of commitment required to keep the MOU in place, but it's all so very easy to work with. Creating a MOU is something ALAA can help you with, and our help is free.

## Seeing Strange Signs?

It's rare, but not unheard of to come across a sign within a collecting area that wasn't there before, stating private property or a claim. Sometimes someone will put a sign up like this, and it's not actually a legal private property nor a legal claim. Report it to the local field office and ask them to look into it. With some of these problems and given the vast acreage management is responsible for overseeing, they may not be aware of it. They will appreciate you bringing it to their attention. They may not have an answer for you overnight, but they will, so stay in touch with them.

## 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.

Your information could save your collecting sites from route closures and access restrictions.....

Forms are also available on the ALAA Website (3 Forms): <http://www.amlands.org/437345.html>

**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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments for this site: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Date Filled in Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep copy for your files, send a copy to [fieldtrip@amlands.org](mailto:fieldtrip@amlands.org)

# California News

## Mojave Trails National Monument Update

Gregor Lorsson  
ALAA Ambassador  
MTNM DAC Subgroup  
[gregor.lorson@amlands.org](mailto:gregor.lorson@amlands.org)

The declaration of the Mojave Trails National Monument was not the beginning of our fight for our historic hobby in those lands, but rather the beginning of a final determination. In 1994 the Trilobite, Bigelow Cholla, Piute Mountains, Cadiz Dunes Wildernesses, and the massive Sheephole Valley Wilderness were established eliminating roads in a combined 341,980 acres of what is now the MTNM. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan(DRECP) was a zoning plan for the entire California desert and it designated most of the desert as various types of conservation lands. This accounts for the various Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns that cover much of the MTNM.

The West Mojave Plan(WEMO) is the direct planning process leading to the road network of the western MTNM, covering the entire Cady Mountains, from the historic Baxter Wash collecting areas in the north to historic Sleeping Beauty collecting areas in the south.

WEMO is the Travel Management Plan for the western Mojave Desert, became known as West Mojave Route Network Plan(WMRNP) and took 13 years to be completed in 2019. The planning for WEMO began in the WEMO Subgroup of the Desert Advisory Committee where they established a map of all existing roads in the west Mojave, and designed a process to evaluate each road and reduce the total mileage to comply with the plan. WEMO was established to close roads, so which roads to close? The Rockhounds stepped into this fight on day one of WEMO and we fought for 13 years. BLM personel changed over the years, requiring us to educate the new personnel. After lawfully required public comment periods, the plan would be adjusted, for which the NEPA law required new public comment periods. The plan survived an environmentalist lawsuit, but had to be further adjusted requiring more comment periods. Many of us, Rockhounds, our Clubs, CFMS, and the ALAA fought the full 13 years.

While WEMO was underway, DRECP and MTNM were declared which gave the BLM a dilemma, how to fit the 3 plans together?

The BLM decided to finish DRECP first because each area of that plan had "Disturbance Caps" that set limits on the percentage of land in each area that could be disturbed, such as by roads, mines, or utilities.

This allowed the route plan, WEMO to go second so that if necessary the road networks would be reduced to comply with the DRECP Disturbance Caps. When WEMO/WMRNP was finalized in October of 2019 we had saved access to some of our significant historic collecting areas, but lost many also.

*Continued on Page 7.....*

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Lastly, the planning process for the MTNM would establish WEMO/WMRNP as the road network where they overlapped, the Cady Mountains and Sleeping Beauty. The Rock Collecting communities expect the BLM to uphold decisions of keeping open the currently designated WMRNP roads in the Cady Mountains, and the MTNM management has expressed that commitment. This is a small part of the MTNM and the 2 other road plans currently covering the majority of the Monument will most likely revert to the travel planning process in the future. The West Mojave Plan is the Mojave Trails National Monument and we have participated in that process since 2006.

## **Reminder of New National Monument Proposal The Chuckwalla National Monument American Lands Access Association**

[alaa@amlands.org](mailto:alaa@amlands.org)

A new proposed legislation, **H. R. 5660: Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act of 2023**, which is composed of 700,000 acres of the California Desert covering 2 counties and extends from the southern edge of the Joshua Tree National Park to the California-Arizona Border.



The proposed Monument includes the Wiley Wells District which contains the Hauser Geode Beds and several other Geode Collecting Sites. If the legislation passes it could have an impact on Recreational Rockhounding. However in the proposed legislation is a paragraph on allowable recreational activities with in the Monument boundaries, Paragraph (4) Recreation states:

*"The Secretary shall continue to authorize, maintain, and enhance recreation in the Monument, including, but not limited to, camping, hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, nature study, horseback riding, hunting, hang gliding, climbing, mountain biking and motorized recreation on authorized routes, and the noncommercial collecting of rocks, minerals, and semi-precious gemstones, so long as such recreational use is consistent with the purposes specified in section 4(b), this section, other applicable law (including regulations), applicable management plans, and input from the Commission regarding potential impacts to culturally sensitive sites and resources."*

The latest information can be found at <http://www.amlands.org/6652/67112.html>

### **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CONGRESS**

#### ***Tips & Examples on Writing Letters to Government Officials***

This information could be useful:

<http://www.amlands.org/9112/index.html>

The Bureau of Land Management manages 15 million acres of public lands in California - nearly 15 percent of the state - and 1.6 million acres in northwestern Nevada.





A large measure of our enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) are proud to endorse the AFMS Code of Ethics.



### **The First Map for the Recreational Rockhounds depicting some major Collecting Sites**

This map is derived from data collected from the 1492 to 1499 by Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespoci and finally printed in 1507 and is how "America" was named.

The only surviving copy of the 1507 world map by Martin Waldseemüller, purchased by the Library of Congress and now on display in its Thomas Jefferson Building in Washington, D.C. The term "America" can be seen in continent on the lower leftmost panel. Vespucci is pictured on the top panel of the third column.

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/0309/maps.html>

### ***Some Blasts From The Past For Your Reading Enjoyment***

A well-known landmark in Napa County, CA, "Old Man Rock" is a natural rock formation looking over Monticello Road. A piece of metal in the shape of a pipe has been added in 1911. Monticello Road begins at the junction of Trancas Street, a main east-west thoroughfare on the north end of town, and the Silverado Trail, one of the two highways that runs north-south through Napa Valley. Heading out (northwest) on Monticello Rd., CA-121, Old Man Rock is to be found just 2.5 miles past the stoplight at the junction with Atlas Peak Road (the turn off for the Silverado Country Club).





# **News from the Idaho**

**Representative Mike Simpson**

<https://simpson.house.gov/contact/>

## **Preserving and Enjoying Idaho's Public Lands**

Idaho's abundance of parks, forests, and public lands makes our state a wonderful place to live, work, and play. Nearly two-thirds of Idaho is public land, and as a life-long Idahoan I know the challenges that this creates for local governments. The federal government has the responsibility to be a good neighbor, rather than simply a burden on states and communities.

As a member of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees funding for federal land management agencies like the Forest Service, the BLM, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, I regularly work with these agencies to ensure that they are cooperating with citizens and local leaders in Idaho and using taxpayer resources wisely. In addition, I constantly work with my colleagues who are not from the West to educate them about the issues and challenges of living in a public land state.

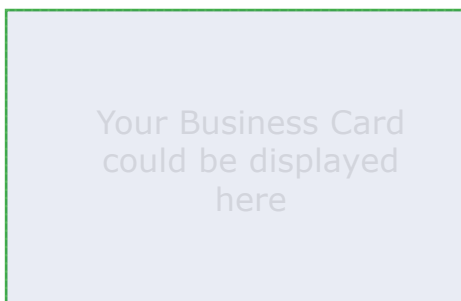
## **Recreational Access on Public Lands**

Idaho's abundance of parks, forests, and public lands makes our state a wonderful place to live, work, and play. I know that our state has some of the best places in the country to hunt and fish, hike, mountain bike, and ride snowmobiles and OHVs. As a member of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, I have been a strong advocate for continued access to recreation on public lands.

As a life-long Idahoan, I have always strongly believed that Idahoans are more qualified than Washington bureaucrats to determine what is best for Idaho. It is important to have local consensus when we pass laws to set aside public lands for the protection of ecosystems, habitats, and species. Those who live and recreate in an area should have a say in the management decisions made there. I will continue working to ensure that Idahoans have access to the beautiful places in our state.

In the 115th Congress, I joined Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) to form the first ever House Outdoor Recreation Caucus. This growing industry contributes \$887 billion to the economy and is responsible for supporting 7.6 million jobs. With the abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities in Idaho I am proud to support this economic driver that also promotes stewardship of our public lands.

## 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**

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# 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

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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 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  
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Remember to Renew your  
ALAA Membership before  
December 31, 2023

