



## President's Message

Jennifer Haley

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

As we enter 2025, keep in mind there is always going to be work to do to help keep our public lands open for continued access. Most people think protecting the future for collecting on public and private lands has only been a more recent concern in the last few decades, especially due to politics. It's actually been a worry for over eighty years. In 1939 the national magazine for mineral and gem collectors and Federations at the time, The Mineralogist, wrote an article titled, Trucks Not Welcome, concerning the Priday Ranch.

Before the article appeared, H. L. Priday gave close to uninterrupted access to mineral collectors to his cattle ranch in Oregon, known for its gorgeous agate.

Due to some collectors leaving gates open, shooting firearms and using dynamite, the generous hospitality of H.L. Priday found it necessary to lock the gates and charge a small fee to gain entrance. This was primarily for the purpose of keeping a check on visitors. A small fee of \$1.50 per car was made, which gave the visitor a set of keys and the privilege to roam the ranch to collect valuable specimens and gem material.

Unfortunately, in some instances only one car would pay the fee, and let more cars through the gates. Trucks would appear and gather up everything in sight, even though it was the intent of Mr. Priday to limit collecting to private collectors. Trucks were unwelcome, but if they insisted upon entering, they were allowed to enter for \$25 per day.

Although an old story, it's a good reminder that our work is never done when it comes to being responsible for the many aspects of our hobby today, if we want to continue collecting. There are a lot of new people rockhounding in clubs and without clubs. Please do your part, to help educate other collectors of the AFMS Code of Ethics. Get involved and stay involved in all the ways we know how to now, so we can all enjoy our hobby together.



To become a new member or to renew your current membership just click on the link below and complete the membership form and mail a copy of the form and the membership fee to the address on the form.

[ALAA Membership Form](#)

Become a member of the **American Lands Access Association** and help support the future of Recreational Rockhounding across our beautiful United States. We have memberships from all across the country. Thank you to all of you who renew each year, who have been with us for many years, and to those of you who have just discovered and love what we do.

**Annual dues are due in December.**

**Individuals/Family \$25.00 -- Clubs/Societies/Organizations \$50.00**



## Rockhound Question Of The Quarter



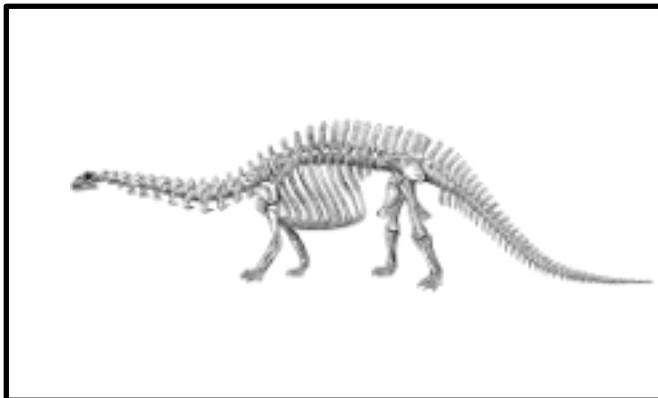
What is the **Red** Material in Corporlite?

If you know you can send your answer to [alaa@amlands.org](mailto:alaa@amlands.org)

The Answer will be in the next ALAA Newsletter

There once was a big brontosaurus  
Who lived when the earth was all porous;  
But he fainted with shame  
When he first heard his name  
And departed a great while before us.  
He's been through fire and flood-glacier, to:  
Geologic upheavals a few.  
From his fossil remains  
I dug with great pains  
A Merry Xmas to you

By Grace G. Dearborn, secretary of the  
Boston Mineral Society, 1930



## **The Passing of A Rockhound**

Ariel Thomas Burchard, known as Tom, was born in Ventura, California on April 12, 1951 to Jo and Preston Burchard, the eldest of their three sons. He was an athlete, a singer, a hunter, EMT & Limo driver, a reader and a rockhound with special skills as a lapidary instructor. And most memorably he brought joy, laughter and love to everyone he met. His journey on this plane ended on Monday, November 11, 2024 in Ogden, Utah, surrounded by his brother Roland, sister Anna and his beloved Brenda

# American Lands Access Association

## Volunteer Board of Directors for 2025

President [Jennifer Haley](#) [president@amlands.org](mailto:president@amlands.org)  
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Membership Open

### Permanent Board Members

Registered Agent Idaho [Sandy Hansen](#) [agent@amlands.org](mailto:agent@amlands.org)  
Newsletter Editor/Publisher [John Martin](#) (Pro-Tem)  
Website Manager [John Martin](#) [webmaster@amlands.org](mailto:webmaster@amlands.org)

### American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - Regional Conventions

**2025-AFMS** Annual Show & Convention hosted by Eastern Federation: Hickory, NC, March 27-30

2025-Midwest Federation: Lincoln, NE April 5-6

2025-Rocky Mountain Federation: Grand Junction, CO Sept 19-21

2025-Northwest Federation: Walla Walla, WA Sept 12-14

2025-California Federation: Lancaster, CA May 10-11

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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)

## **Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs, Inc. (OCRMC)**

The Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs, Inc. (OCRMS), is a member of ALAA. The OCRMS promotes the interests of all Oregon's recreational rockhounds. They are an excellent example of what you as clubs and federations can do together if you will work together, leading in your own way by their example.

The OCRMS accomplishments this year: Working with federal land management agencies (BLM, USFS) to promote continued access to public lands for recreational rockhounding. They had a member of their council serving on the BLM's John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC), advising the BLM about the concerns of rockhounds.

The council sponsored a reclamation work party in partnership with the Prineville BLM at Hampton Butte, a rockhounding collecting area for beautiful green petrified wood. This is the sixth year their members and BLM staff have participated in this project. They also send out updates to their membership, on new and existing issues affecting rockhounding in the state of Oregon.

For 2025, the OCRMS has plans to continue working on the Hampton Butte reclamation project, and a signage project at dig sites which will help advise rockhounds about ethics of collecting in the field. They also will continue to have exhibits of their work at various rock and gem club shows. Each year, they award their Oregon Trophy, for the best exhibit case of All Oregon Material. For more information about the OCRMS: <https://www.ocrmc.org/#councilCompetition>

## **A Well Known Author of Rockhounding Books Gary Warren (NFMS 2nd Vice President)**

Well, we are into the holiday seasons, and I hope that everyone is enjoying this time of year. I would like to introduce myself to all of you and tell you a little about myself to help you get to know me better. I am a member of the Golden Spike Rock and Mineral Club here in Ogden, Utah, and have been a rockhound for many years. I was a member of the Cache Rock and Gem Club for over 15 years and was president of that club for the same amount of time. During this time, I revised the Rockhounding Utah Book, and then I also revised the Rockhounding Colorado book and the Rockhounding Nevada book.

When the company originally came to me to have them revised, they wanted me to check out all the sites within the books and put in GPS coordinates and then make sure that the sites were still available. I am now again rewriting the Rockhounding Utah book, and next year I will rewrite the Rockhounding Nevada book to keep them current. This has been a whole lot of fun for my wife and I, who accompanied me on all the trips. I have to say that I have visited every site in all three books and found some of the sites to be a great place to hunt for rocks.

One thing that did stick out as I was checking out these sites was a little disturbing to me. People who went out to hunt for their rocks did not fill in the holes that they had dug, and a lot of the people did not adhere to some of the rules that are in place for rock hunters. I know that some of the rules do change from state to state, but we still need to make sure as we go out that we are considerate of others. One rule is, we are casual rockhounds and are only allowed a certain amount from a dig, and also we are only allowed so much within a year. I have watched rockhounds drive a pickup onto a site and fill the pickup to the brim with the minerals that are there. Please, people, it is ok to rockhound but leave some for all of us.

I am looking forward to working with you in this organization and getting to know you better. If there is anything that I can help you with, please get with me and let me help you.

# The Chuckwalla National Monument Proposal

## Latest information and its possible affects on Rockhounding



On September 21, 2023 Congressman Raul Ruiz (D CA-25) Introduced H. R. 5660 titled the "Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act of 2023". It stayed in committee and on April 16, 2024 he re-introduced the Bill as H.R. 8031: "Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act of 2024" The new bill is still in committee. The bill as written contained a paragraph on Recreation which included Recreational Rockhounding as an acknowledged activity. During the 2 years the bill was before congress and not moving forward, local groups of environmentalist, Local Government Agencies and Local Indian Tribes started

petitioning the President to create the Monument through Executive Order (EO) which would excluding any and all removal of Natural Resources. In early November 2024 Raul Ruiz office was contacted for information on the status of his bill. His office comment was that the monument was going to be established through the Executive Order and the Bill was just there to satisfy the opponents of the bill. It was also stated that the petitioners were requesting that the EO be released during the month of November 2024 in recognition of National Indigenous People Month. The good news is that the EO was not enacted in November. The Bad News is, the Chuckwalla National Monument is still coming. As can be seen in the map, the world famous Hauser Geode Beds and 4 other Geode Beds are within the boundaries of the Monument and all collecting will STOP and the MOU Between the Recreational Rockhounds (CFMS/ALAA) and the BLM will become null and void. Is there anything that can be done to allow Collecting within the Monument. The simple answer is Yes and it may take a National Level of letters and contacts of almost all Congressional Members and possibility letters directly to the President. Contact your elected officials and let them know you want Recreational Rockhounding to be allowed within the boundaries of the Chuckwalla National Monument. If you do not speak up your voice can not be heard and the Geode Beds and other Collecting Sites will be closed to Recreational Rockhounding for ever.

Who are your Senators? [Find out Here](#) Who is your House Rep? [Find out Here](#)

[Example Government Letters, Guides and Samples](#)

# Northern California

## Sáttítla National Monument

The proposed Sáttítla National Monument seeks to designate over 200,000 acres in northeastern California's Medicine Lake Highlands as a protected area. This region includes portions of the Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, and Modoc National Forests. Proponents of the monument claim it will "protect" Tribal interests and the volcanic aquifer. Let's be clear, Tribal interests are already legally protected as well as water and biodiversity through numerous laws and regulations both federally and state.

In August 2024, U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler, alongside Representative Adam Schiff, introduced legislation to establish Sáttítla as a national monument. They also urged President Biden to use the Antiquities Act to expedite the designation, bypassing traditional legislative processes. This legislation never gained enough support to actually be passed.

Using the Antiquities Act to establish the monument sidesteps the broader public involvement and legislative debate that are hallmarks of traditional land management decisions. A designation ignores local input and bypasses Congress.

National monument designations lead to significant restrictions on land use, including motorized recreation, hunting, and grazing, which are vital for rural economies and lifestyles.

This proposal is another example of federal overreach, where large tracts of land are placed under restrictive management without sufficient consideration of local stakeholders or the socio-economic impacts on rural communities.

Designating the area as a national monument would transfer significant management authority to federal agencies, potentially reducing existing land uses.

Wildfire is a massive area of concern for this area. National Monuments only increase regulations and red tape for implementing forest treatments.

### You Can Help Preserve Recreational Rockhounding

[Join the petition to oppose this land grab!](#)

(Information Provided by BRC Share The Trails)

As of December 10, 2024 there has not been a bill introduced in the Senate though there is a pending bill "Sáttítla National Monument Establishment Act" and can be read [here](#). The Monument is being pushed by several environmental organizations and Congressional Members to create the monument through Presidential Proclamation and Executive Order. When the Monument is created, if there are any Recreational Rockhounding Collecting sites within the monument, they will all be closed to all forms of collecting. [Padilla and Butler will also introduce the Sáttítla National Monument Establishment Act to designate the National Monument](#)

**Make Your Voice Be Heard and Help Preserve Recreational Rockhounding**

## News from Oregon, Washington and Idaho

### Owyhee Canyon Recreational Rockhounding is in Danger

Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley have introduced legislation to create designated Wilderness within Oregon and Idaho. Because this legislation has never had enough support to be passed proponents of locking up the Owyhee canyons are calling on Senators and the President to designate a national monument instead known as the Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument. Our nation was set up for Congress to pass laws and not for groups to be able to pass laws without Congress as this designation would do if the president uses the Antiquities Act to lock up 1.1 million acres of land.

Designating this area as a national monument would impose unnecessary restrictions on the public's ability to access and enjoy the Owyhee canyons. Popular activities such as off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, dispersed camping, hunting, Recreational Rockhounding and even grazing could face severe limitations or outright bans. Public lands should remain accessible to everyone, not reserved for the narrow interests of a few special interest groups.

The Owyhee Canyon Lands National Monument, Northern Idaho Couer D'Alene BLM office is asking for input on mapping corrections of the Rochat Divide-Pine Creek Special Recreation Management Area, and the Caldera National Monument-Island Park proposal are all issues that can still be commented on at this moment.

### Take Action

Contact your elected representatives and tell them you oppose the Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument. Let's protect public access, local livelihoods, and the traditions of responsible land use that make this region so special.

(Information Provided by BRC Share The Trails)

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Coeur d'Alene Field Office seeks public input on the proposed West Fork Pine Creek Route Structures Project to determine potential environmental impacts. If you can not get to the collecting areas, you will not be able to accomplish Recreational Rockhounding. Travel Routs are Important.

The comment period regarding the structures will run from November 21, 2024, to December 23, 2024, and comments may be submitted on the BLM's ePlanning site at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2035309/510>. For more information, please contact the Coeur d'Alene Field Office at 208-769-5000.

**Make Your Voice Heard and Help Preserve Recreational Rockhounding!**

## Gem and Mineral Dealers Who Support ALAA with Memberships



Your Business Card  
Could Be Displayed  
Here!

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 February - 10th of May - 10th of August - 10th of November**

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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