



## President's Message

Jennifer Haley

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

Dear Recreational Rockhounds,

I hope you are enjoying a fun summer for collecting, along with your lapidary projects and enjoying the good company of being with other rockhounds. A question came up recently concerning how a club's Federation dues help to protect a club's continued access to public land collecting areas. Over the years, I've learned a lot about the problems concerning continued access to collecting areas by staying involved. Equally at the same time, I've also learned all about the positive things individuals of a club and clubs can do to make a wonderful difference so you can have continued access.

One of the main misconceptions rockhounds have about preserving their collecting areas, is they think it's all about the amount of money collected to get the job done in order to help preserve collecting sites. Most of the AFMS Federations have one or more Public Lands Committee Chairmen (PLAC) or under another a similar committee name of Conservation Legislation. Many of these chairmen put a lot of miles on the road and many, many hours of their life every year on behalf of their federation's clubs; meeting with public land officials and participating as an important member on government councils representing Recreational Rockhounding. They don't receive a salary for this, it comes from the heart of being a volunteer like all club member's involvement. Some federations are able to include a very small budget for their public land chairman, but it usually doesn't begin to cover the miles on the road. Most of all, it's the love of these members and the club members who participate with them, who put their heart and soul into working on creating a more positive future for all of us.

In your affiliation with your club's federation, you also have an affiliation with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) which is the national organization. The AFMS has been a key resource in creating more positive working relationships with collecting area concerns with the field officers. You have to remember that your relationships with these field officers doesn't end right there, it also travels up through the grapevine of government. As a member of your federation, you are automatically a member of the AFMS, which means as club members your value, stature and public image as rockhounds sets you far apart from other rock clubs and individuals of the public who don't belong to an AFMS Federation. You are the "gold standard" of Recreational Rockhounding because you live and teach by the "code." This is because of the AFMS Code of Ethics.

The "code" has opened doors that haven't been opened before, primarily because across the country field offices weren't aware AFMS clubs had an ethics code. They only saw us as people coming in to collect rocks, minerals and fossils on public lands. They did not know who we were.

**Continued on Page 2.....**

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## President's Message Continues

The AFMS created ALAA as a separate organization to focus on helping to keep collecting areas open for AFMS affiliated clubs across the country. At that time the government allowed us to lobby on behalf of Recreational Rockhounding. Then years later the government regulations changed, which meant an organization or lobbyist had to spend \$5,000 every month of the year to lobby, and the amount has increased since then. Of course, that meant rockhounds weren't able to create that kind of money to lobby, but what I can tell you despite the logical odds, the magic happened.

That magic came down to rockhounds getting involved and staying involved for ever how long it seems to take, with boots on the ground, writing constructive comment letters and speaking at public meetings. Affiliated AFMS clubs, federations and others across the country have been getting involved to support specific collecting areas at jeopardy even though the area even though they don't collect there. All this involvement collectively has a positive impact on the future of rockhounding, because public land officials use that information in our benefit in their planning. You have to remember, public land is public land, and when government asks for public comments, we can't be a part of that important conversation of planning unless we participate.

At first rockhounds threw up their hands thinking, what's the use of even trying when the environmentalists have so much financial backing and paid attorneys to get what they want. Logical thinking like this fortunately proved to be a miscalculation. The ongoing Mojave Trails National Monument project is an excellent example of this. And if one group of rockhounds made up of lots of clubs can do what they've done so far, in partnership with their Federation, AFMS and ALAA, this means there's a lot of other clubs in other states that can learn and lead by their example. If you make a footprint, others can work to do the same, and it will only help all AFMS affiliated clubs across the country if we work together.

Another misconception some rockhounds have is your Federation, AFMS and ALAA should just automatically know what your collecting problems and concerns are. We can only help if you communicate with us, and have someone or individuals in your club who will participate and give us the information we need so we can become involved and help. You have to help us stay informed.

It is very exciting our hobby has more interest since the pandemic, which can mean expanding membership for clubs. It is important to note the AFMS affiliated clubs have one of many things in common, our AFMS Code of Ethics. There is no doubt our "code" does set us apart from other people rockhounding. Clubs have always been really good about educating new members about everything to do with our hobby, from safety to cutting and polishing, running a meeting, you name it, we are all very practiced, full of knowledge and wisdom. I do think we need to work on finding ways to bring more of the public type rockhounds into our clubs as members, to help carry on and broaden the good stature we have built over generations as AFMS affiliated Rockhounds.

### **The Passing of A Rockhound**

We have been notified that Liz Burford passed away August 13, 2024 after being diagnosed with lung cancer shortly before the AFMS Convention. She was at home on hospice care. Her husband Roger is currently the AFMS President. Liz served as the executive secretary of the South Central Federation. They lived in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Roger reports that they are not having a service and she will not be interned until a later date. Liz and he both wanted everything simple. Liz will be missed by all who knew her.

# American Lands Access Association

## Volunteer Board of Directors for 2024

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Website Manager [John Martin](mailto:John Martin) [webmaster@amlands.org](mailto:webmaster@amlands.org)

### American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - Regional Conventions

2024-Rocky Mountain Federation: Oklahoma City, OK-Oct 25-27  
2024-South Central Federation: Mesquite, TX, Nov 23-24  
2025-AFMS Annual Show & Convention hosted by Eastern Federation: Hickory, NC, March (dates TBA)  
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

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

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)



## Oregon News-Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs Inc., to Partner with the BLM

The Oregon Council (OCRMC) is once again sponsoring a work party at Hampton Butte/Oregon on National Public Lands Day 2024. The council are such an excellent example of what your club and neighboring clubs can accomplish if you will work together to help build a positive growing relationship with public land management. This collecting area is famous for its green petrified wood, and is an area that has been extensively dug for many years. There have been a lot of people rockhounding over the years who have not had the courtesy to fill in their holes, which have left the landscape in no great shape. To show that AFMS affiliated clubs practice good stewardship at their collecting sites, this will be the 6th remediation work party at Hampton Butte the OCRMC has sponsored in partnership with the BLM since 2019. Remediation basically means, a remedy for the situation, and in this case it means hands and boots on the ground. In this particular collecting area because the ground is soft, the work party will be using their elbow grease with shovels and rakes to refill and level the holes that were previous dug. As AFMS affiliated clubs, we've all been raised to fill in our holes when we dig. With the upsurge of the public who has discovered rockhounding in recent years, they don't know about the code or what it stands for, and why it matters so much. Whining about it isn't going to fix anything, but you can make a difference by educating people. One idea is to have your club create a handout to help advertise your club membership, along with a copy of the AFMS Code of Ethics as part of that handout. You can also add in the number of clubs your federation has and the AFMS has, to help the public see just how many of us there are and that we've been around formally since the 1930's. Club members can easily make their own copies on a home printer or the club maybe interested in providing copies for you and your field trip chairman. And hey, as a AFMS affiliated club, you can enter your brochure into the AFMS Bulletin Contest-Special Publications! Whether you are going out collecting on your own or with a group, help advertise your club, because in doing so you will be a great ambassador on behalf of all AFMS clubs. Depending upon who you run into while you are rockhounding, a simple "howdy-do," can brighten someone else's day, and you've got a great story to tell about our hobby.

# Is Yellowstone Over Rated?

## As a Disaster Movie Subject, Maybe.....

From Yellowstone Caldera Chronicles - USGS

May 20, 2024

Many people regard Yellowstone as an exceptional place that merits only positive superlatives. But in much of the broadcast, streaming, and popular media it has an outsized reputation as a global catastrophe waiting to happen. Let's do some fact checking to see which view is more realistic.

Yellowstone Caldera Chronicles is a weekly column written by scientists and collaborators of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory. This week's contribution is from Dan Dzurisin, emeritus geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Few would argue against Yellowstone being "super"—both a splendid natural wonder worthy of careful stewardship, and a super-sized volcanic system capable of correspondingly large eruptions with potentially far-reaching impacts. As the latter, it has inspired any number of disaster shows and movies, not unlike menacing asteroids, planet-rending earthquakes, and rampaging superstorms. We often hear from such movies and documentaries that Yellowstone is a "ticking time bomb" that is "overdue" for an eruption that will cause "the end of civilization."

Good with popcorn? Maybe. But let's parse the supposed story and touch base with the facts.

Yellowstone is not a ticking time bomb, and its next eruption is not overdue. That's because most volcanoes do not follow predictable schedules. They are exceedingly complex natural systems and their activity, including eruptions, tends to be more sporadic than regular. The "overdue" label that gets applied to Yellowstone stems from a misunderstanding of data and statistics. Yellowstone's three large caldera-forming eruptions occurred 2.08, 1.3, and 0.631 million years ago. That's an average of 0.725 million years (725,000 years) between



*Sources/Usage: Public Domain.  
Hydrothermal explosion at Biscuit Basin in  
Yellowstone National Park. These types of  
events are the most likely explosive hazard  
from the Yellowstone Volcano.*

eruptions, and the most recent one occurred 0.631 million years (631,000 years) ago. So the next one isn't "due" for another 94,000 years, right? Wrong, for at least two reasons. First, as mentioned above, volcanoes don't operate on fixed schedules. If they were buses or trains, passengers would be upset. Second, statistics based on so few data points—just three eruptions—are almost meaningless. So, neither volcanoes nor statistics work that way.

*Continued on page 8.....*

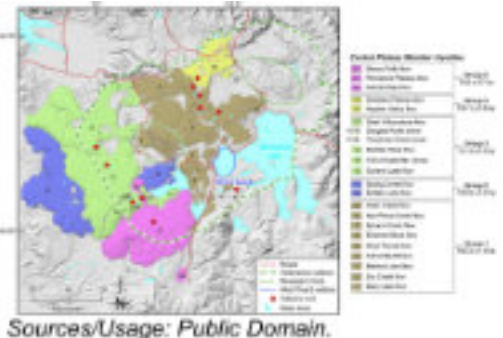
There might or might not be another caldera-forming eruption in Yellowstone's future, but there's no basis in fact to say it's overdue. Like most of the future, it's just unknown.

Furthermore, Yellowstone's next eruption won't "trigger the end of civilization as we know it." There are two reasons for that. First, smaller and less explosive eruptions are much more common than catastrophic ones at Yellowstone. Since the eruption that formed Yellowstone caldera, there have been dozens of smaller eruptions that produced rhyolite lava flows. Granted, those eruptions were not trifling. Some of the lava flows reach as far as 30 km (19 mi) from their source vents and are more than 400 m (1,300 ft) thick. Similar events in the future would cause major disruptions to everyday life in the area, but research shows there would be adequate warning to help mitigate the effects. And second, no explosive eruptions have ever caused planet-wide extinctions. Flood basalt eruptions, which emit copious amounts of lava and gas and last for tens to hundreds of thousands of years (like the Deccan Traps in India), do have that potential, but explosive eruptions don't last long enough to have such an impact.

In fact, the most likely and impactful hazards on human timescales at Yellowstone—hydrothermal explosions and large earthquakes—don't even involve magma reaching the surface. Hydrothermal explosions occur every few years or so at Yellowstone. Most are small and affect areas tens of feet in diameter, like the 1989 explosion of Porkchop Geyser in Norris Geyser Basin. Less frequent, larger events could eject rocks and hot water a few thousand feet into the air—serious and very hazardous to anyone in the vicinity, but not Armageddon.

Earthquakes in the magnitude 6–7 range occur in the Yellowstone region about once or twice per century and pose a much greater near-term threat than a magmatic eruption. Examples include the 1959 M7.3 Hebgen Lake and 1975 M6 Yellowstone Park earthquakes. Future large earthquakes will be damaging, and their impacts felt throughout the region, but they will not be planet-wide catastrophes.

One last point: documentaries and movies will often claim that recent earthquake swarms and other activity are an indication of an impending eruption. Not so. Yellowstone typically experiences 1,500–2,500 small earthquakes annually along with hydrothermal activity, ground deformation (both up and down), and other volcanic vital signs. But those are background signs of repose in the hydrothermally active area that is Yellowstone, and not short-term indicators of a future eruption. Critic's summary: Enjoy disaster movies if you're so inclined. But keep in mind that as a purveyor of impending planetary doom, Yellowstone is clearly overrated. In almost every other respect, it's just "super."



Map of Yellowstone caldera showing the locations and ages of the most recent rhyolite eruptions at Yellowstone, the Central Plateau Member rhyolites. Unit boundaries are from Christiansen (2001). The West Thumb region of Yellowstone Lake is indicated because it is thought to be the location of an explosive eruption and the source vent for the Tuff of Bluff Point. The Central Plateau Member rhyolites are broken into five informal groups based on new  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  eruption ages. Each informal eruption group is shown in the same color. Numbers on the map and legend are included to indicate the location of different lava flows. Group mean ages and their 95% confidence intervals are included next to the list of units.



# News from California

## Legislation Introduced to Bolster U.S. Critical Mineral Supply Chain

Will it have an affect on Recreational Rockhoundng?

Only Time Will Tell!

March 27, 2024 WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative Jay Obernolte (CA-23) has introduced legislation to reduce the United States’ reliance on China and other foreign nations for critical minerals. Critical minerals and rare earth metals are used to manufacture consumer electronics, military equipment, electric vehicle batteries, and other advanced technologies vital to America’s homeland security and economic competitiveness. China is currently the largest source for more than half of the critical minerals on the U.S. Geological Survey’s 2022 list. The Intergovernmental Critical Minerals Task Force Act would address this concern by identifying opportunities to increase the domestic production and recycling of critical minerals. The bill is companion legislation to U.S. Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Mitt Romney (R-UT), and James Lankford’s (R-OK) bipartisan legislation. “Critical minerals are essential to our economy, our national security, and the development of our country’s energy grid,” said Rep. Jay Obernolte. “The Intergovernmental Critical Minerals Task Force will bring stakeholders together to identify how we can enhance our supply chains and shore up production of critical minerals here at home.”

“Our manufacturing sector and our global economic competitiveness depend on reliable access to critical minerals. Our nation’s dependence on adversarial nations like China for critical minerals poses serious national security and economic threats,” said Senator Peters. “This bill will strengthen our domestic critical minerals supply chain, create good-paying jobs, and ensure our advanced manufacturing sector can continue to compete on the global stage. I thank Representative Obernolte for spearheading this important effort in the House.”

This legislation requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director to appoint representatives from federal agencies to consult with state, local, and tribal governments. The Task Force will work to determine how to address national security risks associated with America’s critical mineral supply chains and identify new domestic opportunities for mining, processing, refinement, reuse, and recycling of critical minerals. The legislation would also require the Task Force to send a report to Congress and publish findings, guidelines, and recommendations to combat the United States’ reliance on China and other foreign nations for critical minerals. New paragraph

To Learn More:

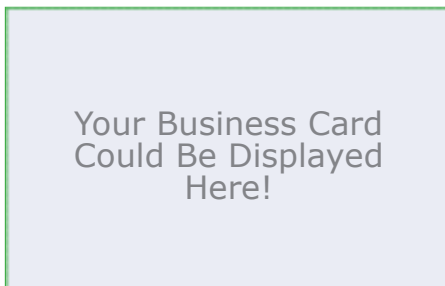
Status of HR 7507:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/hr7807>

Text of HR 7807:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-118hr7807ih/pdf/BILLS-118hr7807ih.pdf>

## 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 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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# 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: \$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:

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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.

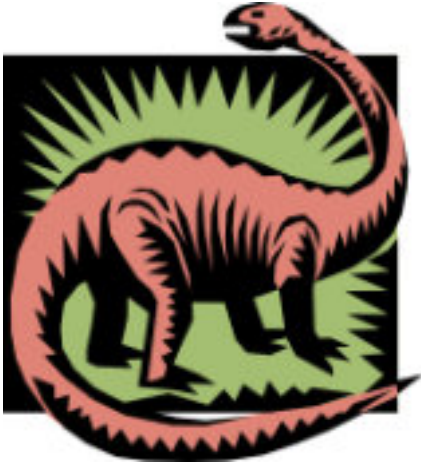
ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2016

**Click on the above Membership Form to use the interactive Form  
(Fillable when opened in Adobe Acrobat Reader)**

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

**H.E.L.P. ELIMINATE  
LITTER PLEASE**

Remember to Renew your  
ALAA Membership before  
December 31, 2024



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**

*See Page 11*