ALAA Newsletter Jay Valle, Editor 1421 Latchford Avenue Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

FIRST CLASS MAIL



# AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Protecting the Public Lands for the Public** 

**July - August - September 2010** 

# A.L.A.A Membership Application

# AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public
Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is \$25.00
Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00

	New	Renewal Da	te//	
PLEASE PRINT				
Name				
			Zip	
Phone				
Hobby Interest				

Remit fees to: ALAA

RUTH BAILEY 2857 Addison Pl

Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.



# American Lands Access Association, Inc.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public July August September 2010

## **ALAA President's Message**

By Dick Pankey, President - ALAA

John Martin wears many hats – AFMS Legislative and Conservation Chairman, ALAA web master, CFMS Public Lands Advisory Committee - South Chairman and all of them deal with what is happening with legislation and regulations that affect rockhounds. John is doing an excellent job of informing us about pending and proposed legislation and regulations.

If you haven't done so recently check out the ALAA web site. There is a wealth of information about ALAA and pending and proposed legislation and regulations – nationally and by state. In most cases the actual bills and regulations are posted. This gives you the opportunity to read, evaluate and form your own opinion. John sends out e-mails to ALAA member with alerts on new and time sensitive issues.

The Blue Ribbon Coalition always does a good job of monitoring and communicating to all of us legislation and regulations activity. For the past few months they have had good background information and current activity and meeting announcements for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Several of the ALAA Officers and Directors are on their Alert e-mail list and the amount of information they provide is amazing.

In the past we had a difficult time getting information and details on pending and proposed legislation and regulations. Most of the time we would learn about issues and meetings a few days before the end of the comment period, or the vote in congress, or scheduled meeting date. We were often scrambling and playing catch-up. This has changed!! We now know about legislation soon after it is introduced and have copies of the bills within a few days. We are learning about some legislation when it is in the development/writing stage which gives us an opportunity to be proactive and participate in the process. We are learning about the regulatory process, also and have started attending the meetings for the development of Management Plans.

But all of this is only useful to us if we respond to it in a meaningful and timely way. The BRC, John and others alert us to the issues and challenges of legislation and regulations that affect our access and collecting rights not just to provide us with interesting information but to call us to action to write letters, send e-mails or attend meeting.

This brings me to the real purpose of this President's message. We need informed members and rockhounds but to meet our goal and objective of having open access to our public lands we need *in-volved* members. The easiest way to become involved is to take a few minutes to write a letter or send an e-mail; to make your voice heard. Your letters, emails and sometimes phone calls are important and have impact. This is how we let our representatives and the regulators know what we want. Numbers

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# **President's Message** (Continued from page 3)

count; the more we send the more affect we have.

The work of ALAA is accomplished through the efforts of our member. We need members (and interested rockhounds) to share their skills, their talent, their interest and their time. We have accomplished a lot this past year and a half, but we could do more with more people involved. There are many tasks that we could do or do better or do more if we had the help. We need your help. Some ways to be an involved member are:

- Become informed about proposed legislation and the legislative process. Read the bills and regulations. Analyze them and determine their affect on rockhounds and access to public lands. Communicate your findings with ALAA through emails and articles in our newsletter. Help develop an ALAA position statement.
- Become informed about proposed regulations and the regulatory process for BLM and the Forest Service. Get involved with a BLM or Forest Service office in your area. Develop a relationship with local personnel. Get on their mailing list to be informed about activities, their Management Plan and meetings. Attend meetings and participate and contribute in the process.
- Write letters, send e-mails, make phone calls attend meetings to let your congressmen and the regulators know what you think and what you want.
- Share what you know and what you did with others and get them involved.
- We especially need people to write articles about land access, about ALAA, our goals and objectives for magazine to the general public AARP, AAA, RV magazines, your

local newspapers, etc.

The assault on our access to public land is great. Now is the time to stand up and be counted. Will you help? Contact me to learn more about how you can help Or contact any Officer, Director or State Rep to volunteer your help.

### Be an involved member!

# ALAA VICE PRESIDENT Shirley Leeson

shirleyleeson@cox.net beauholland@centurytel.net

All, I frequently send out messages to clubs/individuals in many parts of the country regarding land issues. My worse nightmare is when the email comes back.

Please see that officers and directors are notified of any change in your email. You can find us in both the ALAA Newsletter and also amlands.org website. I can understand your reasons for changing your carrier, but can't understand our not getting the information.

When you fill out your application for membership, please see that your email can be read. USE LARGE PRINT (some of us are getting old and we need help.)

A planned ALAA meeting at Quartzsite in January will give many of you a chance to give us your ideas on what's going on in your areas. We try to keep up with everything that's going on but there far too many things and not enough of us. Tell your friends and clubs to join us; we need your help and your expertise.

This organization is only as good as those who are in it and are working for it. Don't sit on the outside looking in, join us.

Shirley

# The Epidemic of Extreme Environmentalism.

Guest Editorial: Amy Granat, All About Access, Land Use Consultant, granat.any@gmail.com

Recently, California Representatives Tom McClintock and Kevin McCarthy voiced concerns to the Forest Service about the need for our National Forests to remain open and accessible by all Americans. Both Representatives have written eloquently about the disturbing trend of the Forest Service to penalize those that enjoy motorized recreation access by cutting off access to treasured areas, putting strict limitations on the number of participants in long-running events, and even denying the opportunity for those that like to congregate together to enjoy their sport in a group.

Forests throughout California have traditionally welcomed events held by various recreational groups, but of late, they are trying to extract exorbitant amounts of money from these groups by a means called "cost recovery", demanding enough money that it could be called a form of extortion.

But as we rightly criticize this growing trend of discrimination against motorized outdoor recreation by the Forest Service, we have to look beyond the immediate, beyond those that are enacting these new rules to the forces behind them. While it is certain that some of the pressure is coming from Washington DC and those in charge, much of this is also the byproduct of the frequent lawsuits filed by anti-access groups against the Forest Service, which forces the Forest Service to act in this draconian manner.

In a effort with an end-goal to completely remove all forms of motorized recreation from our National Lands, (except, of course, the dirt roads that lead to non-motorized trailheads) anti-access groups such as Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, The Wilderness Society,

the Center for Biological Diversity and other smaller, regionally-based groups, are dropping into Forest Service offices unannounced throughout the state to check permit applications that are being filed by motorized recreation groups and challenging the granting of those permits. Through the not-so-subtle threat of yet another lawsuit, these organizations are forcing the Forest Service to prepare cumbersome, expensive and unnecessarily complicated NEPA documents for recreation based events. The Forest Service is being coerced into extracting more and more money from small groups and organizations to pay for extensive environmental documents to protect themselves in the event of a lawsuit.

There are many anti-access groups who do little or no work on the ground, and exist merely to sue Federal and State agencies. And the worst part about this, is that they are paid for these efforts by the American Taxpayer. These groups, when they file a lawsuit, also file to recoup all the costs, including attorney costs, from the defending agency. And the vast majority of the time they receive these costs which constitutes their entire livelihood

Through the Equal Access to Justice Act antiaccess groups are reaping millions of dollars a year from the American Taxpayer, and they have no incentive to stop. Read the following excerpt from an interview given to High Country News, in 2009: Kieran Suckling, Director of the Center for Biological Diversity was asked about the role lawsuits play in his overall strategy. His response is chilling; "...we use lawsuits to help shift the balance of power....the power shifts to our hands. The Forest Service needs our agreement to get back to work, and we are in the position of being able to powerfully negotiate the terms..... When we stop the same timber sale three or four times running, the timber planners want to tear their hair out. They feel like their careers are being mocked and destroyed -- and they are. So they become much more willing to play by our rules

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# The Epidemic of Extreme Environmentalism.

(Continued from page 5)

and at least get something done. <u>Psychological</u> warfare is a very under-appreciated aspect of environmental campaigning."

All those that enjoy access to our National Forests are being manipulated in the manner described above, as are the Federal and State Agencies forced to defend their on-the-ground decisions. The financial implications on surrounding communities is unimportant in this scheme, as is the legitimate access of thousands of Americans to their public lands.

By recognizing this problem and the forces behind it, we can then take steps to strategize and conceive our own plans to defend our right to access our public lands. Remember the 3 P's - Participation, Political action, and Positive PR, but this time include your friends and family, your neighbors and acquaintances in this battle. Those of us who are Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts number in the millions in California, yet our political muscle has not been flexed with any enthusiasm. This is truly a fight for our very existence, our enjoyment and our livelihoods, in some cases. We need to recognize that working together with all other groups that enjoy the forests is key to turning the tide against this Epidemic of Extreme Environmentalism.

Access Representative McClintock's statement at <a href="http://www.laketahoenews.net/2010/08/mcclintock-rips-apart-u-s-forest-service-practices/">http://www.laketahoenews.net/2010/08/mcclintock-rips-apart-u-s-forest-service-practices/</a>

Access Representative McCarthy's statement at <a href="http://www.stewardsofthesequoia.org/PDF/">http://www.stewardsofthesequoia.org/PDF/</a>
TimeForAJobCreatingAgendaIsNowOp-Ed.pdf

NOTE: Amy Granat will be a speaker at the ALAA meeting in November during the CFMS Business Meeting.

# A.L.A.A. Website John Martin – ALAA Webmaster webmaster@amlands.org

The ALAA Website has been revised with the latest in News and Press Releases of interest to Rockhounds and users of Public Lands.

Active links to the AFMS and the seven Regional Federations and national organizations supporting public land usage are easy and available

If an ALAA Newsletter was missed there are archive newsletters posted on the website along with a new page for ALAA Forum and Blogs for website users to list concerns and post questions and comments.

A new page has been added which list active legislation for national action and by state.

When legislation is proposed that may affect Rockhounding or public land usage please contact ALAA at <a href="mailto:info@amlands.org">info@amlands.org</a> with details on the legislative action and if appropriate the information will be added to the website.

So check it out, use it to obtain the latest information on pending legislation. The contents may change weekly as conditions change, so keep checking back for the latest information.

# A.L.A.A. Website Update - Part II

The website has been changed to make it easier to "Speak Your Mind"

## www.amlands.org

See the first paragraph on the Home Page; Click and follow the links.

Let me know what you think and give me some more ideas to expand our effort.

You can lead a camel to water, but you can't make him drink!

John Martin - Rockhound Activist

### ALAA Statement on HR 5580

After the close evaluation of *H.R.* 5580: National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2010. The American Lands Access Association (ALAA) is in support of this piece of legislation. The text of HR 5580 can be found on the 'Active Legislation' page of the ALAA Website:

# http://www.amlands.org/6652/index.html

along with a link to the current status of the pending legislation. This bill, when passed, will help in the protection of America's Public Lands from arbitrary discretional executive orders and require public input and Congressional concurrence in the creation of National Monuments from America's Public Lands, keeping special interest activists under control.

Your help is needed to accomplish the passage of this bill into public law. Your letters, emails and faxes to elected officials asking for their support of this pending legislation is urgently needed. Your elected official can be found on the ALAA website 'Links' Page:

## http://www.amlands.org/9112/index.html

under 'Contact Information for Congress'.

When you write to your elected official here are some talking points that can be used. Several of these may apply to other pieces of pending legislation also.

- Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple uses. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
- Our country was founded on a system of

- checks and balances between the three branches of government. This bill will help to ensure that the balance of power remains and no one branch can assume more power than either of the other two branches.
- Public input is necessary, when enacting legislation of this magnitude, in order to assure the American Taxpayer, the management of America's Public Lands, which are held in trust by the Government Agencies, is available for use by all Public Land Users and not just Special Interest Activist Groups.
- As a concerned Citizen I support sound land management that offers adequate protection for the environment while protecting public access to public lands.
- I believe that environmental protection and recreation can co-exist with proper land management and reasoned accountability.
- As a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and (Your Regional Federation) and (Local Club/Society), I enjoy the America's Great Outdoors and have been an amateur Rockhound for many years. Our collecting sites that exist on public lands and the access roads and trails leading to these collecting sites must remain open to vehicular travel so future generation of Rockhounds and Amateur Collectors can have a chance to enjoy the same freedoms that generations of Rockhounds have enjoyed in the past.

### **Note From the Editor**

Hello ALAA subscribers and friends. This newsletter is a collection of articles informing you as to the daily assault on our freedom to enjoy the hobby we love. It is meant to inform and educate, and hopefully inspire you to let your voice be heard though phone calls, faxes and emails to representatives, or participation in an online poll letting your views be heard. Thank you for your articles and feedback. Please keep it up.

Jay Valle

This is the 2nd article I have seen that is attacking another user of public lands besides Rockhounds (maybe we are to blame). Making the special interest groups that are allowed to use "Our Public Lands" even smaller. Please pass along to all of your dog owners and ask them to write their elected officials. JRM

# Dog walkers will ignore this law

The Desert Sun • July 11, 2010

So the Bureau of Land Management is pushing local governments to ban walking our dogs on public trails. How authoritarian! Thousands of valley residents are prevented from yet another public area. Many of them having spent their lives walking the same local trails with their dogs. More fences will be erected. More freedom will be sacrificed.

Now the BLM seeks to eliminate dog owners off "their" land once and for all. Their claims that dogs affect the bighorn sheep might, in a small part, be true, (Check out the growing population of Mountain Lions in the sheep habitat-dah-jrm) but humans live in the desert also. We have our beloved pets that we enjoy sharing the wide-open vistas that the desert offers. The reasoning for the ban seems rather hollow, coming from the BLM.

The concern for the environment didn't stop BLM from leasing 80,000 acres of undeveloped California land to energy concerns for a cool \$2.1 million in 2009. So my dog might bother a sheep, and that's bad, but a private oil company that will destroy thousands of acres of wildlife area, is OK.

Such hypocrisy! I'm going to do the American thing and still walk my dog on the trails. If you don't like it, tough. We have every right to be there as you and the sheep. My dog and I will continue to keep on the trails, clean up after ourselves, and respect the beauty and fragility of nature.

The local government officials supporting this bad legislation need to be voted out in November. Issue citations if you must, we'll pay

them. You can put up fences, but we'll jump them. The new BLM rules will be ignored.

Eric Frankson La Quinta

This article is courtesy of the BlueRibbon Coalition. It shows the positive effect that individuals can have on policy decisions and one way you can get involved. ED

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BlueRibbon Coalition News and Alerts 09/08/2010

# Off Road Recreation and Access to Public Lands Needs Your Vote

Chris Horgan over at Stewards of the Sequoia sent this alert about the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO Initiative), and I thought I'd pass it along to our members.

I have pasted the alert below. Please take a couple of minutes to read it over! <a href="http://www.sharetrails.org/public lands/?">http://www.sharetrails.org/public lands/?</a> section=AGOI for our latest update on the AGO Initiative.

Ric Foster, Public Lands Department Manager BlueRibbon Coalition, 208-237-1008 ext 107

# Off Road Recreation and Access to Public Lands Losing the High Ground

We told you in our last Save The Trails alert that Voting Works and it does. Many of you took two minutes to vote for Ideas in the America Great Outdoors Initiative. Your votes catapulted Ideas like "Enhancing OHV Opportunities on Public Lands", "More Than Enough Wilderness" and "Preserving OHV Recreation Use For Families" to take the top spots.

However that was back on 7/25/2010. Since that time apparently the anti-access folks have been scrambling to negate all of your votes

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## **Off Road Recreation and Access**

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by asking their members to DEMOTE all the ideas you thought were good and PROMOTE ideas about land closure.

Take a few minutes to VOTE NOW to turn the tables, take back our public lands to keep them open for our children.

American Lands Access Association, Inc.
Position Statement

# National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2010 - H.R. 5580

August 1, 2010

A fter the close evaluation of *H.R.* 5580: National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2010 The American Lands Access Association (ALAA) is in support of this piece of legislation. The text of HR 5580 can be found on the 'Active Legislation' page of the ALAA Website

http://www.amlands.org/6652/index.html along with a link to the current status of the pending legislation. This bill, when passed, will help in the protection of America's Public Lands from arbitrary discretional executive orders and require public input and Congressional concurrence in the creation of National Monuments from America's Public Lands, keeping special interest activists under control.

Your help is needed to accomplish the passage of this bill into public law. Your letters, emails and faxes to elected officials asking for their support of this pending legislation is urgently needed. Your elected official can be found on the ALAA website 'Links' Page <a href="http://www.amlands.org/9112/index.html">http://www.amlands.org/9112/index.html</a>under

'Contact Information for Congress'.

Remember: 1 Fax or Letter = 10 Phone Calls = 100 Emails

When you write to your elected official here are some talking points that can be used. Several of these may apply to other pieces of pending legislation also.

- 1. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple uses. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
- 2. Our country was founded on a system of checks and balances between the three branches of government. This bill will help to ensure that the balance of power remains and no one branch can assume more power than either of the other two branches.
- 3. Public input is necessary, when enacting legislation of this magnitude, in order to assure the American Taxpayer, the management of America's Public Lands, which are held in trust by the Government Agencies, is available for use by all Public Land Users and not just Special Interest Activist Groups.
- 4. As a concerned Citizen I support sound land management that offers adequate protection for the environment while protecting public access to public lands.
- 5. I believe that environmental protection and recreation can co-exist with proper land management and reasoned accountability.
- 6. As a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and (Your Regional Federation) and (Local Club/Society), I

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# H.R. 5580 (Continued from page 9)

enjoy the America's Great Outdoors and have been an amateur Rockhound for many years. Our collecting sites that exist on public lands and the access roads and trails leading to these collecting sites must remain open to vehicular travel so future generation of Rockhounds and Amateur Collectors can have a chance to enjoy the same freedoms that generations of Rockhounds have enjoyed in the past.

- 7. A right to collect rocks, minerals, invertebrate fossils and plant fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
- 8. As members of National and Regional Federations and Local Gem and Mineral Clubs and Societies we will work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.
- 9. The bill H.R. 5580 would put in process a limit on the amount of land that could be designated. Only after notice given on the designation of monuments, including a requirement that 30 days before proposing a designation the President would have to provide the language of the proposed proclamation to not Congress, but the Governor of each affected State, and the chief elected official of each unit of local or tribal government.
- 10. If passed, this bill would limit the amount of land that can be designated as a National Monument by the President. In recent years the various Presidents have seen fit to create National Monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906. It was never envisioned by its authors to be used as a tool to set aside millions of acres of public lands

# <u>Please Contact Your Elected Officials and Make</u> Your Voice Heard!

Folks we need to provide our input. Without it they may close trails/areas that are now open to us. Bob Ferguson

## BLUERIBBON COALITION LANDUSE UPDATE! 09/08/2010

# ARIZONA BLM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR HAVASU TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office has announced that the public comment period for the Havasu Travel Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) has been extended to October 31, 2010.

The Assessment will evaluate all of the motorized and non-motorized routes of travel and their affected resources in the current inventory of existing routes in the study area. The Assessment will have three transportation route network alternatives designating each route as open, limited or closed.

The Havasu Travel Management Planning area generally includes public lands in the Lake Havasu Field Office south of Interstate 40 (both sides of the Colorado River), extending to five to seven miles north of the Bill Williams River. The Havasu Unit is the second of six Units contained in the Lake Havasu Field Office.

Copies of the maps are available for review online at the Lake Havasu Field Office website at <a href="http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/lake havasu field.html">http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/lake havasu field.html</a> or by contacting Myron McCoy, Outdoor Recreation Planner at the BLM

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## LANDUSE UPDATE

(Continued from page 10)

Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406; Telephone (928) 505-1216.

Public comments for consideration during the Environmental Assessment preparation need to be postmarked by October 31, 2010. Comments may also be faxed - (928) 505-1208 or emailed to <u>lake havasu@blm.gov</u>.

For more information about the open house, contact Myron McCoy at (928) 505-1216.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact BRC.

Thanks in advance for your support,

Ric Foster, Public Lands Department Manager BlueRibbon Coalition, 208-237-1008 ext 107

News Release No. CA-CC-10-90

**Release Date:** 08/03/10

Contacts: David Christy, 916-941-3146

Erin Curtis, 916-978-4622

# BLM Closes Clear Creek Management Area to New Mining Claims

Hollister, Calif. - To reduce airborne asbestos emissions and minimize overall risk to human health and the environment, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today issued a temporary closure of 28,953 acres of public lands in Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) in southern San Benito and western Fresno counties to new mining claims.

The Secretary of the Interior proposes to withdraw the lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws for a period of 20 years. This action temporarily segregates the lands for up to two years from new mining claims while various studies and analyses are made to

support a final decision on the withdrawal application.

Comments, objections or requests for a public meeting in connection with the proposed withdrawal will be accepted for 90 days. Written comments should be addressed to the Field Manager, Hollister Field Office, BLM, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, Calif. 95023.

BLM closed CCMA to public entry on May 1, 2008, in response to a human health risk assessment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that concluded "public use activities could expose an individual to excess lifetime cancer risks," adding that "children may be at greater risk…because of their life expectancy."

"Protecting the public's health and safety is BLM's number one priority," said Rick Cooper, BLM's Hollister Field Manager. "Based on EPA's results, we believe a temporary closure of most of the CCMA to new mining claims is in the public interest."

BLM manages approximately 63,000 acres of public lands in the CCMA. The area has been used extensively for OHV recreation for many years as well as for other recreational uses such as hunting and rock hounding. The lands include a variety of landforms, including the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area, and three major watersheds, the Pajaro, the Arroyo Pasajaro and Silver Creek.

For further information on the mining closure contact Dan Byrne, realty specialist in the Hollister Field Office at (831) 630-5021, Duane Marti, realty specialist in the BLM State Office, at (916) 978-4675, Brandon Anderson, BLM lands clerk, at (916) 978-4674.

--BLM--Central California District 5152 Hillsdale Circle El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

# The desert you save may be your own!

T received an email from the wilderness society Lon the California Desert Protection Act. They wanted me to send an email to my representative asking them to support the passage of the Feinstein bill. I used their website and email program and their text, revised as below. I also sent email and the same text to Buck McKeon, Kevin McCarthy, Darrell Issa and Barbra Boxer. It probably will not do any good. However the congressional year is coming to an end and the bill still has no cosponsors and is still in committee. (Check the ALAA Website www.amlands.org) If it does not get more sponsors it may die in committee this year. I think that is why the wilderness society is getting active. If it dies in committee this year it will have to be re-introduced next year and the environazis will have to spend their money all over again. You could send the almost same text to your reps. Faxes are next..... 1 fax = 10 phone calls = 100 emails

Pass it on! "The desert you save may be your own!"

## John Rockhound Activist Martin

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As a constituent, I treasure the public lands in the California desert and want to see them remain open and accessible by all of America's Recreationalist and not just special interests and hikers. I want these special public lands to remain open and accessible for my family and future generations.

I urge you to NOT support the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 as it is currently written. Time is running out for this important legislation to move through Congress this session. We need your help to stop this special interest bill that would CLOSE to all but a few some of the most desolate and beautiful lands in the nation.

The California desert is being squeezed between two of the fastest-growing areas of the nation: Los Angeles and Las Vegas. This bill would close this last remaining open land for America's Recreationalist and discriminates against the majority of American Tax Payers who use these Public Lands for more than just an occasional Hiking and backpack trip. This is what will happen if this bill becomes law. National Monuments and more wilderness areas are not needed to preserve this open public lands. With the lack of a readily available water supply and lack of infrastructure to import water to this desolate area will preclude very much development in the region. Senator Feinstein's concern over Wind and Solar Power generation development on this public lands is not a reason to close this arid public land to access for generations to come. All that is needed is to instruct the BLM NOT to issue any leases where there are visual or environmental concerns, as in example, along Interstate 40 or the Historic Route 66 between Barstow and Needles. More closure of public lands is not the answer. Better Management of the Public Lands is what is needed in this time of depressed economy.

The bill will not bolster our local tourism economy. Visitors spend more than \$230 million annually on outdoor recreation in the California desert; according to federal data and this bill will reduce this amount of local revenue by closing off more public lands to ALL Forms of Public Recreation on these now open public lands.

As a resident of this region, for over 50 years, your efforts to keep our incredible public lands open and accessible for all citizens are deeply important to me and my family.

# LET'S HAVE A SLOGAN THAT IDENTIFIES ROCKHOUNDS

ern Cliff, an ALAA member, rockhound and long time advocate for public land users, sent me this e-mail a couple of weeks ago:

"Shirley and Dick,

Every once in a while, Sylvia or I will say....."I have an idea" and the answer generally is ..."What is it *this* time?

Well, *this* time my idea is for Rockhounds everywhere. Thinking about slogans or mottos that wrap up what a service that a company or organization makes, or provides, or identifies themselves to the general public.

You've heard, "Join the Navy and see the World", "Come fly with us", "Good to the last drop", "When you want to send the very best" (Hallmark cards). Being old, most of these are OLD!

**Rockhounds** should have a slogan or motto that readily identifies them to the public-at-large!

If the idea has merit, possibly suggestions for slogan wording could be made from Federation clubs with the best one or two decided on. Wording should probably be limited to eight or nine words, as most are.

Well, that's my idea for today. Vern Cliffe"

I e-mailed Vern and told him he had a great idea and that I believed that ALAA should purse it as a project. So now we need your ideas.

Slogans quickly identify products, services and groups of people in our everyday life, and so it should be with ROCKHOUNDS! We already have the Rockhound Sticker and a slogan would compliment it.

What we need is a concise slogan or motto that says who we are, what we do, or what we stand for. The best slogans are short and catchy that conveys the basic information in eight to nine words or less. ALAA has a great slogan – "Protecting the Public Lands for the Public." We need your ideas for a Rockhound slogan.

So put your thinking caps on and get creative and send in your ideas for a Rockhound Slogan. Until I can get a Slogan Committee organized to review and recommend a winner e-mail your ideas to me. We will publish a winner or a "final 3 to 5 best ones" in the January ALAA Newsletter.

# Let Them Know Who You Are By Dick Pankey



The Rockhound Sticker has become the recognized emblem for rockhounds everywhere. The bright yellow sticker is easy to spot on vehicles and readily

identifies that there is a rockhound in the vehicle. I spot more and more Stickers on trucks and cars at show, meetings, field trips and wherever rockhounds gather. But unfortunately I don't see the Sticker on the majority of rockhound vehicles. The Rockhound Sticker was designed advertize and promote rockhounding. Its purpose is to identify rockhounds to each other, to the general public and to BLM, Forest Service and other land managers. It is the way for us to show government official and the public who we are and who is using our public lands.

Almost everyday ALAA issues a call for action by our members and all rockhounds to respond to legislative and regulatory challenges. We ask that you send letters and e-mails to express your views and ideas. Fortunately we have

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## **SMALL STEPS FORWARD**

(Continued from page 13)

a great tool to easily and quickly identify that our letters and e-mails are from interested and concerned rockhounds. That is the little Rockhound Sticker. The little Rockhound Sticker is the same bright yellow color and is about the diameter of a quarter. My recommendation is that you put a little sticker on the front of your envelope AND on the letter. This way it will be seen by tie person sorting and opening the mail and the person reading your letter. The sticker quickly identifies that the letter is from a rockhound and will have impact and be remembered because of the bright yellow color and distinctive design. Also use the little Rockhound Sticker on your e-mails. You can scan a sticker and save it as a jpeg photo and inset it when needed or contact me and I will email you a digital version. The Rockhounds Sticker is trade marked but permission has been granted to copy for personal use.

All ALAA members were sent one Rockhound Sticker and 5 little Rockhound Stickers with your membership card when you paid your dues. Additional Stickers and other Rockhound items can be obtained from:

## Frank Mullaney/ROCKY FIVE

Frank Mullaney 5705 Begonia Dr. San Jose, CA 95124-6535 Ph.: 408-266-1791

E-mail: rockyfiv@aol.com

Promote rockhounding.

Proudly display your Rockhound Sticker.

### **Bill Would Limit Monument Efforts**

Sacramento Bee, 7/7/10

"Rep. Devin Nunes of Fresno has introduced a bill to limit the president's power to establish national monuments that he says would endanger the livelihoods of thousands of loggers, miners and farmers ... Nunes is reacting to information suggesting that the Obama administration plans to nominate new monuments or add to current monuments."

http://www.sacbee.com/2010/07/06/2873323/bill-would-limit-monument-efforts.html

The America's Great Outdoor Initiative!

Support the efforts of this Representative. Write to him or to your Rep and ask them to support his Bill.

John Martin CFMS PLAC South 2005-2008, 2010 plac-south@antelecom.net

# BLM wants no dogs on most hiking trails

Palm Springs Desert Sun, 7/5/10

"Palm Desert amended it trail-use ordinance, legally prohibiting all but service dogs from most Palm Desert trails. The action was one in a series of changes the Bureau of Land Management wants to initiate, said Jim Foote, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument manager ... to preserve habitat that is home to a number of endangered and protected species, in particular the Peninsular bighorn sheep."

http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100705/ NEWS01/7050311/BLM-wants-no-dogs-on-most-hiking-trails

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# **Other Sources of Information**

## ALAA Webpage

http://www.amlands.org/

**The BlueRibbon Coalition** 

Webpage: <a href="http://www.sharetrails.org/">http://www.sharetrails.org/</a>

**America Lands Rights Association** 

Webpage: <a href="http://www.landrights.org/">http://www.landrights.org/</a>

**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** 

Webpage: <a href="http://www.amfed.org/">http://www.amfed.org/</a>