

HERE'S A PROJECT FOR YOU
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Here in California, rockhounds have enjoyed visiting the Southern California Desert since at least the 1950s. We have rockhound guide books showing where to find many of the famous sites for collecting going back to that era.

In the late 1970s the Department of Interior, the BLM in particular who oversaw the California Desert, decided, with the help of the Sierra Club to "save" the desert from those of us who used it. The first of several "desert conservation" programs were put out. Actually we found out later that the Sierra Club wrote the original proposal. Those of us who participated thought that having half the desert with multiple use was better than not having any, so we reluctantly went along with the plan.....not knowing that in less then ten years the BLM/Sierra Club would come back with their phase II plan and take again half of what was left.

We are now down to 10% of the desert and the Sierra Club, California Wilderness, Center for Biodiversity and other lesser enviro groups want to carve up the remainder for additional special interest groups **which do not include rockhounds.**

The following must be done immediately:

Project #1. Please ask your membership to scour their libraries and copy or donate desert field trip maps and early books about the desert and collecting sites. And if anyone has a copy of the original workbooks that were given out to "interested parties regarding the desert" by the BLM, in the 1970s I'd like to have them. And if there are gold mining or mineral resources identified by governmental bodies with maps, etc. we need those too. All data is welcome that pertains to the desert. San Diego M/G had a whole collection of those workbooks, unfortunately the person who had them passed away and their children didn't know their value to us and threw them away. SEND ALL THIS INFORMATION TO ME, Shirley Leeson, between now, Dec 5 and March 1, send to 6155 Haas St. La Mesa, CA 91942, after that send to: P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468. All collected data will be given to **THE PERSON** who is willing to put this in a cohesive usable form that can be presented to the BLM.

PROJECT #2 a leader must come forward and take on this project of putting together data both from old club field trips maps and the newer GPS exact locations of the collecting sites in the California Desert and **what is found there..** Is there someone out there willing to take this important job

on? Someone we can all funnel information, historical data and other related government data to? If you are out there, please come forward and lead this important job. Contact me immediately and we will get behind you and get the job done. WHAT SAY YOU?

Shirley Leeson, concerned rockhound

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