

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

October - November - December 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 Date ___/___/___

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Club Affiliations _____

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

October November December 2010

ALAA President's Message By Dick Pankey, President - ALAA

If you haven't done so already now is the time to renew your membership in the American Lands Access Association. Your membership in ALAA is very important especially your society's membership. When renewing be sure that your e-mail and contact information is current. For society members we need a contact person's name and e-mail address. The renewal form is on the inside cover of this Newsletter. When you renew your membership you will receive another large Rockhound Sticker and a strip of 5 little Rockhound Stickers along with your membership card. Use the large sticker on your truck or car and the little stickers on letters to your elected officials and to other rockhounds.

You the members serve two important functions for ALAA. First you are the eyes and ears, the front line, to monitor and report on legislative and regulatory activity in your area. It is important that when you learn of things that affect access or changes in land use policy that you pass this information on to your State Rep, a Director or an Officer. Secondly you are the base of our "strength in numbers" to write or e-mail your legislators and regulators when called to action to respond.

Will you be going to Quartzsite this January? Betty and I will be there for a little over 2 weeks. We are the Wagon Masters for the Ye Old Timers Mineral Club camp north of Quartzsite. We have been doing this for about 18 years. Our camp is south of Plomosa Rd. 1.1 miles east of Hwy 95; look for the red and white YOTMC banner. If you need a place to camp you are welcome to join us. In addition to all of the YOTMC activities (field trips, a breakfast, a couple of potluck dinners and our annual

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GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

Shirley Leeson, VP – Membership

First the GOOD NEWS, in the two short years we have struggled to get ALAA back to a working organization we have enjoyed real growth. We currently have over 10,000 individuals and club members.

BUT, all this could change quickly. At the end of this year, 2010, we could lose many of you simply because you haven't paid your dues.

Please consult your checkbooks and see when you last paid your dues. Only those who have joined since July 15th, and those who have renewed are paid till December 31, 2011. Our Treasurer doesn't send out notices, but something will be done to see notices go out, in the mean time – we need you. See that you are part of the solution, and not the problem.

I will be contacting those individual members and club members to let them know they need to be current. If you have been notified and you have paid your dues, please contact Ruth Bailey rba51825@att.net and give her your check number and the date you paid.

THANKS for your patience.

Shirley Leeson, VP-Membership

shirleyleeson@cox.net and beauholland@centurytel.net

President's Message
(Continued from page 3)

auction) there will be an ALAA meeting and a SCRIBE meeting.

The ALAA meeting will be held Wednesday morning, January 19th at the Quartzsite Senior Center on Moon Mtn. Rd. from 9 to 12. Shirley Leeson is trying to get a speaker from the BLM and we will have an open forum on pending legislation and what is happening with the BLM and USFS. Bring your questions and ideas.

Saturday morning is the SCRIBE meeting at the Senior Center from 9 to 12. Bob Jones, Senior Editor for Rock & Gem magazine is the keynote speaker. Bob's talk is titled "Anecdotes and odd events from 60 years of rockhounding" and is sure to be of interest to everyone. SCRIBE is an organization of bulletin/newsletter editors and writers of which I am also a member.

So come to Quartzsite this January for all of the shows and all of our meetings and other activities. Hope to see many of you there.

Be an involved member!

Our Partner in Saving Our Public Lands
By Dick Pankey, President, ALAA

The Blue Ribbon Coalition just issued an 8 page Insider Report. The main thrust of the BRC is to affect legislation and regulations that effect off highway vehicle use. But most of the legislation and regulations that affect off highway use and access also affects access and use by rockhounds and the general public that use our public lands for recreation. The Insider Report listed the pending and proposed bills that would create more wilderness land and national monuments that greatly restricts our use and collecting rights. The BRC is concerned there will be a "lame duck" session and that these bills will be rolled into another all-or-nothing omnibus bill rather than each bill being considered on its own merits. Their call to action is for all concerned citizen to contact their senators and representation to oppose this ill-conceived legislative tactic.

The current administration is pushing 2

two public lands initiatives: The Treasured Landscape Initiative and The America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The Treasured Landscape Initiative includes plans for new Wilderness areas, expand National Parks and add 14 National Monuments across 9 states affecting over 35 million acres. A leaked document proposes the abandonment of the BLM public lands management principles of Multiple Use and Sustained Yield. The new agency's new management guidance will be about "ecosystem-service value of BLM land" and makes no reference to recreation or multiple use

The America's Great Outdoors Initiative has 3 components: outreach, coordination and reports. Outreach is primarily about pushing a legislative agenda. It has already been used to push several Wilderness bills. The second goal directs EPA, CEQ and Departments of Agriculture and Interior to "identify existing resources and align policies and programs to achieve goals."

The U.S. Forest Service is beginning the process of revising how the agency prepares Forest Plans known as Planning Rules. These rules will guide management plans for 155 national forests and 20 grasslands. We are still waiting for the draft proposal.

The way to affect the future use of our public lands is to become informed and to get involved. Write letters and e-mails to your elected representatives; attend meetings and becoming involved in the legislative and regulatory process. Would you like to be more informed about these issues and become more involved? Please contact me for details and more information.

The BRC has a great and informative web site - www.sharetrails.org. This site is easy to read and easy to use and navigate. The BRC magazine is available on line as are the Alerts and the Insider Reports. You can sign-up to receive all Alerts directly to your e-mail inbox. The main thrust of the BRC is for Off Highway Vehicle users, but what affects them also directly

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Our Partner in Saving Our Public Lands

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affects us rockhounds and all people who recreate and use our public lands.

And while you are at it be sure to check out the American Lands Access Association web site – www.amlands.org.

Be an involved member!

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT NFMS

Shirley Leeson, VP Membership

At the NFMS annual meeting in September in Portland, Oregon, I chaired a very successful meeting of ALAA members and interested visitors.

Information in packets were distributed to all who attended. We heard from a number of people on what is happening in their specific areas. Mostly the Forestry in the Northwest, with road closures and proposed closures.

From that meeting we have experienced a number of new clubs who have joined ALAA and we're grateful for their support.

Everett Headrick of Northern Idaho has been busy going to meetings along with Bev Bockman, his assistant. Shirley & Rocky Metts of the Magic Valley Gem Club in Southern Idaho has been watching and reporting on developments in their area.

Andy Johnson, NFMS PLAC chair and also ALAA member has been working on getting critical information out to all NFMS clubs. Andy is from Pasco, Washington.

Evan Day, ALAA Director and Utah representative has been working closely with motorized vehicle people in Utah. This area is critical with a number of proposals to close large tracts of land for various reasons. He needs help and we need more ALAA members in that crucial area.

We have heard from one of our two ALAA members in Alaska. He sent a report on activities up north.

We are covering the CFMS and NFMS areas with good results but we need members

who will watch other states in the west. Richard Jaeger has joined ALAA and will be coordinating Oklahoma, we need more membership in that state. Go to the clubs and ask for their help. See that someone is interested in personally being responsible in working with local governmental agencies.

Shirley Leeson, VP-Membership

shirleyleeson@cox.net and
beauholland@centurytel.net

From Dublin, Ireland.

Good News for California Desert Rockhounds.

**NTR project delays lead to posting of
€210m loss**

By BARRY O'HALLORAN

NTR'S DECISION to hold off on two large solar energy projects in the US contributed to a write-down that led to the utility posting a €210 million loss in its last financial year, according to its chief executive.

The energy company reported recently that it lost €210.6 million in the 12 months to March 31st, its financial year, compared with a €22 million deficit in 2009.

The main contributor to the losses was a €147.9 million write-down in the value of a number of the utility's assets, including its Greenstar waste management operation, and its solar power development business, whose value it cut by €96 million.

NTR plans to build two solar energy plants in Imperial Valley and the Mojave Desert in California that will have the capacity to generate up to 1,300 megawatts, three times that of an average-sized gas-fired power station.

But the projects would require an investment of €2 billion and the company decided to hold off until economic conditions and capital markets' appetites for such investments improved.

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Good News for California Desert Rockhounds.

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Management explained to shareholders at the company's annual general meeting (agm) in Dublin yesterday that its assets were valued according to their potential to generate revenues.

As construction of the solar energy plants has been held up, this has hit its value.

Chief executive Jim Barry said that the company believed it had to reflect the impact on the value of the assets in its accounts.

NTR is largely focused on waste management through Greenstar and various US-based energy businesses, including Stirling Energy Systems and Tessera – which are solar power developers – biofuel producer Green Plains and Wind Capital Group.

Missouri-based Wind Capital recently spent \$340 million developing a wind farm that is now up and running. Mr Barry said that it was providing power to about 50,000 homes.

NTR is a public limited company, but its shares are not listed and are traded on the grey market.

Mr Barry said that the group was looking at a “liquidity event” over the next few years, which could involve a total or partial flotation, although he said no decision had been made yet.

The Roche family and the Philip Lynch-led investment vehicle, One51, which is focused mainly on energy and utilities, hold about 70 per cent of the shares.

Its price has fallen by just under 50 per cent to €1 from €1.95 over the last three months. Mr Barry said yesterday that part of the reason for this was a lack of liquidity, which means that just a small number of its shares are traded, with the result that dealings have an exaggerated impact on the price.

A full or partial flotation would be likely to boost liquidity and bring in more shareholders.

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<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2010/1209/1224285098921.html>

Letter to a Rep

Rep. John Culberson,

Just a note to let you know we missed you at the Houston Gem & Mineral Society annual Show this past weekend. As the Texas Representative of the American Land Access Association, they are putting out their year-end newsletter and asked that I write an update.

I know you are very busy but could you give me a very brief note on whether you will try to repeal the ill-named Paleontological Preservation Act or if we go forward on writing the Bill we discussed when I visited with you a couple of months back.

The ALAA has let me know I must get my copy in within about a week or so to make the newsletter going out nationally.

FYI I am completing my third year as President of Houston Gem & Mineral Society on December 31 (*and won't be President a fourth time next year--but will remain on the Board as Past President*). As far as I know, I will remain as the Texas Representative of ALAA and the Conservation and Legislation Chairman of the South Central Federation for next year. If not I will let you know and in any event we will continue to work to repeal or modify the PPA as soon as possible.

Also FYI--HGMS now have about 650 members, a new high water mark in membership. In spite of the economy HGMS is in the best financial shape in years, has more educational classes at our clubhouse, has taken more field trips and conducted our OUTREACH PROGRAM of education to more groups than ever. We awarded \$6,000.00 in Scholarships this year, in the form 2 \$2,500.00 Scholarships from the main club and a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Paleo Section of HGMS. I and a couple of other HGMS members have been going out and putting on programs for Scouts, schools, and other groups, giving talks on Earth Science to

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Letter to a Rep

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encourage kids to further their education in ways that will grow Houston and the nation in the future for energy. We also take out "Genie" machines so that the kids can grind and polish stones to increase their interests in natural science as well.

I am a happy camper with the election results, only I wish we had seen even more turn-overs than there were. You are doing a great job and I look forward to working with you on changing the law so rockhounds can pick up a shark's tooth and a bison bone on the beach without facing Federal prosecution.

Thanks for getting back with me so I can timely get an article in to the ALAA publication on time.

**TERRY PROCTOR, 2010 PRESIDENT
HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**
<http://www.hgms.org>

Email to a Rep

This is the response to my email on S2921 sent to California Congressman Kevin McCarthy. He thinks that more closed land is a bad idea. However he did not say he would vote against the bill if it came up. I do feel he is more on our side than against us. Writing to elected officials does get some response and lets them know that we are out there and we care. If more people write maybe our feelings and ideas will get across. Just maybe we can put enough doubt in their minds they will just let it die in committee. Here is what I sent. (I also sent this to Buck McKeon, Darrell Issa and Barbara Boxer).

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

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Email to a Rep

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deeply important to me and my family.

John the Rockhound Activist

Kevin McCarthy
Congressman & Chief Deputy Whip
Representing California's 22nd District

Dear John:

Thank you for contacting me in support of S. 2921.

S.2921 was introduced on December 21, 2009 and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary. As you know, S. 2921 would require the Secretary of the Interior to designate certain offices to serve as Renewable Energy Coordination Offices for coordination of Federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development. While I support protecting our natural resources for future generations to enjoy, in the state of California, **we already have millions of acres of federally-managed and protected land.** This is why **I am wary of designating additional federal lands in our state which, depending on the type of designation, can restrict public access enjoyment, and recreation on these lands.** As your Representative in Congress, I will keep your comments in mind should this legislation be voted on in the House.

Thanks again for contacting me on issues of importance to you. If you would like additional information on service my office can provide you, my votes and positions on issues facing our nation, and to subscribe to receive periodic "e-newsletters," please visit my website at <http://kevinmccarthy.house.gov/>.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCarthy
 Member of Congress

P.S.- As your Representative, I want to make it a priority that we continue our conversation so I can hear your concerns. One of the ways we can stay in touch is through email. Periodically, I send email updates about what is happening in Congress and surveys to hear from you about the issues. To sign up for these emails go to <http://mccarthy.houseenews.net/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=profile>.

You can also stay in touch with me through:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CongressmanKevinMcCarthy>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ChiefDeputyWhip>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RepKevinMcCarthy>

Public Meetings Scheduled Over Suction Dredging!

Posted by: Blakely Sanford, Palomar Gem & Mineral Club

--- On Fri, 12/3/10, Dave McCracken <admin@goldgold.com> wrote:

Dear Blake Sanford

Most members and subscribers will be aware that the California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) is in the process of redoing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and proposing new Suction Dredging Regulations. They have been working on this for over a year, now; and are getting ready to release formal Drafts of what they have come up with.

We just received word that DFG has reserved locations for the five public meetings during the review period for the Draft Suction Dredge Regulations and Draft Supplemental EIR.

You can find all of the important details in our December newsletter right here:

<http://www.goldgold.com/newsletterlatest.htm>

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Suction Dredging

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If you are new to our newsletter, you can read some recent back issues here:
<http://www.goldgold.com/whatsnew.html>

All the best,
 Dave Mack
 The New 49er's, 27 Davis Road, Happy Camp,
 California 96039, USA

WESTERN SLOPE NO-FEE COALITION NEWS BULLETIN!

An important decision has been handed down by Federal Magistrate Judge Mark Aspey in Flagstaff, Arizona. He granted a motion by Sedona resident Jim Smith to have his ticket for failure to pay a Forest Service recreation fee (i.e. have a Red Rock Pass) dismissed.

Jim parked overnight at the Vultee Arch Trailhead, a dirt parking lot with no amenities accessed by a rough dirt road. He backpacked into the Coconino National Forest, camped in an area with no amenities, and returned to find a ticket on his car because it did not display a Red Rock Pass.

The Red Rock Pass fee program is one of the most notorious in the nation, requiring an access fee for 160,000 acres of federal public land, much of it dispersed undeveloped backcountry.

Jim challenged the Forest Service's authority to levy a fee at Vultee Arch Trailhead because the law governing recreation fees specifically prohibits fees for parking, general access, walking through federal land without using facilities and services, camping in dispersed undeveloped areas, or in any location that does not offer reasonable access to six specific amenities: permanent toilet, permanent trash container, picnic table, developed parking, interpretive signage, and security services. The Vultee Arch Trailhead offers none of these amenities - it only serves as a place to park and enter undeveloped backcountry, both of which are activities the law says must be

free of charge. The nearest toilet is 7 miles away and the nearest trash can is 10 miles away.

Jim represented himself, and he was up against the full might of the federal government, but he won because he proved to the judge that the way the Forest Service is implementing fees in the Red Rock Pass area is not a reasonable interpretation of the law. In fact the decision describes the Forest Service's interpretation as "absurd": *"In addition to the plain language of the statute prohibiting the Forest Service from charging for parking or access or undeveloped camping, and the plain language of the statute prohibiting the Forest Service from charging an amenity fee at a site where specific amenities were not provided, Congressional intent and legislative history indicate that the Forest Service's construction of the relevant statutory section would thwart Congressional intent and result in an absurd construction of the relevant statutory scheme."* [decision p. 29]

This is a very important decision, with national implications. There are almost 100 places around the country where the Forest Service has created "High Impact Recreation Areas" or HIRAs. Within a HIRA they have been claiming the authority to charge a fee for any activity at all as long as the six amenities exist somewhere in the HIRA, no matter how scattered or how far away. This interpretation has resulted in visitors being charged fees to access millions of acres of dispersed undeveloped backcountry.

Judge Aspey says nix to all that.

Among other things, this decision renders moot the signs in the Red Rock Pass area that say you have to buy a pass to park anywhere on the National Forest, and makes it unlikely that the Coconino - or any other National Forest - can ever again successfully prosecute someone for not having a pass at trailheads or dispersed camping areas.

You can read more about the case, including all the legal briefs and the judge's decision, at our website. <http://www.westernslopenofee.org/>

Via Vern Cliffe

Omnibus Public Land Management Act

Go and read for your self about the newest Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Lame Duck Public Land Grab)

The draft of the bill can be found on www.amlands.org

<http://michellemalkin.com/2010/12/15/omnibus-double-whammy-the-dems-lame-duck-land-grabs/>

Yes, It's political, everything is political! Send it on!

John

This may make searching for items in the Omnibus Public Land Act of 2011 Draft easier to read and find an area of interest! In this draft there is not any reference to California Deserts that I could find. Check out the titles, subtitles to see if there is any activity in your geographic area. Remember this is still just a draft and major changes are coming when it finally gets introduced and filters its way through congress on its way to become law. Subject to change without notice.

John Martin-Rockhound Activist

A BILL

To designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for **other purposes**. *(It is these other purposes that we have to watch out for.)*

DIVISION A—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Subtitle A—Valles Caldera National Preserve Redondo Peak; Redondito; South Mountain; San Antonio Mountain; Cerro Seco; Cerro San Luis;

Cerros Santa Rosa; Cerros del Abrigo; Cerro del Medio; Rabbit Mountain; Cerro Grande; Cerro Toledo; Indian Point; Sierra de los Valles; and Cerros de los Posos.

Subtitle B—Waco Mammoth National Monument

TITLE II—EXISTING UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Subtitle A—Oregon Caves National Monument Expansion

Subtitle B—Longfellow House- Washington Headquarters Redesignation

Subtitle C—Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Boundary Modification

Subtitle D—Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center

Subtitle E—North Cascades National Park Fish Stocking

Subtitle F—Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification

Subtitle G—Gettysburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification

Subtitle H—Cane River National Historical Park Curatorial Center

TITLE III—SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDIES

TITLE IV—BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS MEMORIAL

TITLE V—GENERAL AUTHORITIES

Subtitle A—Revolutionary War and War of 1812 American Battlefield Funding

Subtitle B—National Park Service Miscellaneous Authorizations

DIVISION B—NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

TITLE XX—ORGAN MOUNTAINS DESERT PEAKS WILDERNESS

ADEN LAVA FLOW WILDERNESS. BROAD CANYON WILDERNESS. CINDER CONE WILDERNESS. ORGAN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS. POTRILLO MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS. ROBLEDO MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS. SIERRA DE LAS UVAS WILDERNESS. WHITETHORN WILDERNESS.— PREHISTORIC TRACKWAYS NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

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Omnibus Bill*(Continued from page 10)*

TITLE XXI—ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

TITLE XXII—DEVIL'S STAIRCASE WILDERNESS

TITLE XXIII—IDAHO WILDERNESS WATER FACILITIES

TITLE XXX—CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT AUTHORIZATION

TITLE XXXI—NORTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION

TITLE XXXII—LAND CONVEYANCES AND EXCHANGES

Subtitle A—Sugar Loaf Fire District Land Exchange

Subtitle B—Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land Conveyance

Subtitle C—Los Padres National Forest Land Exchange

Subtitle D—Box Elder Land Conveyance

Subtitle E—Deafy Glade Land Exchange

Subtitle F—Wallowa Forest Service Compound Conveyance

TITLE XXXIII—GENERAL AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Ski Areas Summer Uses Subtitle B—National Forest Insect and Disease Authorities

Alaska; Arizona; California; Colorado; Idaho; Montana; Nevada; New Mexico; Oregon; South Dakota; Utah;

Washington; and Wyoming. Subtitle C—Good Neighbor Authority

Subtitle D—Federal Land Avalanche Protection Program

TITLE XL—FEDERAL LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

TITLE XLI—NATIONAL VOLCANO EARLY WARNING PROGRAM

TITLE XLII—UPPER CONNECTICUT RIVER WATER SHED

TITLE XLIII—ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PAYMENTS

TITLE XLIV—PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE

CORPS AMENDMENTS

TITLE XLV—PATENT MODIFICATIONS AND VALIDATIONS

DIVISION E—NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

TITLE L—SUSQUHANNA GATEWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

TITLE LI—ALABAMA BLACK BELT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

DIVISION F—BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE LX—NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS AND HISTORIC SITES

Subtitle A—Río Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area

CERRO DEL YUTA WILDERNESS

RIO SAN ANTONIO WILDERNESS

Subtitle B—Gold Hill Ranch, California

Subtitle C—Orange County, California

TITLE LXI—LAND CONVEYANCES AND EXCHANGES

Subtitle A—Southeast Arizona Land Exchange

APACHE LEAP, TOWN OF SUPERIOR,

Subtitle B—Salmon Lake Land Selection Resolution

Subtitle C—Southern Nevada Higher Education Land Conveyance

Subtitle D—La Pine, Oregon, Land Conveyance

TITLE LXII—SLOAN HILLS MINERAL WITHDRAWAL

DIVISION G—RIVERS AND TRAILS

TITLE LXX—NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM AMENDMENTS

MOLALLA RIVER, OREGON; ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON; WHITE CLAY CREEK; ELK RIVER, WEST VIRGINIA;

TITLE LXXI—NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM AMENDMENTS

NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUSTMENT;

DIVISION H—WATER AND HYDROPOWER AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE LXXX—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE LXXXI—HYDROPOWER

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Omnibus Bill

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TITLE LXXXII—MISCELLANEOUS
 DIVISION I—INSULAR AREAS
 DIVISION J—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

From the Blue Ribbon Coalition Magazine, 9/10

Treasured Landscapes

by Brian Hawthorne

BRC Public Lands Policy Director

After reading the secret memo detailing the Obama administration's new vision for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), it's easy to understand why Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar worked so hard to keep it quiet. The document, titled *Our Vision – Our Values* proposes a total abandonment of the Congressional mandate to manage public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Beyond federally managed lands, Salazar's "Vision" expands the federal government's authority over adjacent state, tribal and private lands.

BLM's new "Vision" will sound familiar to BRC members because it is identical to the agenda of the radical environmental groups both in the US and abroad. Basically, it's a plan to expand protective designations such as Wilderness, National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, and manage the remaining BLM lands under a totally new preservation mandate. The document sets the foundation for this environmental utopia by complaining about jurisdictional boundaries.

We now know that these large-scale ecosystems, watershed, airsheds, and migratory pathways exist and function only at their natural scales, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

Those pesky "jurisdictional boundaries" pose quite an issue for employees of the federal government. While you and I look at jurisdictional boundaries as clear distinctions between

private property, state or county owned and managed lands, and even sovereign nations (Tribes), these bureaucrats see them as little more than impediments to imposing its will.

Therefore in order to facilitate the transition from current land management system, which is based on jurisdictional boundaries, to a modern landscape-level management system, the BLM proposes to "designate, rationalize, and manage-atscale" its treasured landscapes holdings.

The document goes on to describe in detail what the three "designate, rationalize, and manage-atscale" components of the new vision will mean to you and me. Designate, as you might imagine, is a plan to designate more Wilderness, National Parks, National Monuments or other suitable protectionist designations.

The BLM already manages some 130 million acres in protective designations. Salazar's new "Vision" (or nightmare if you are proaccess) will review these designations for sufficiently protective management plans. But 130 million acres isn't quite enough. Salazar's document identifies over 35 million acres of land that is "worthy of special protection, should be considered for a new and/or heightened conservation designation." The document states:

As a critical part of the BLM's conservation agenda, the BLM proposes working closely with the Administration and Congress to determine whether other public lands are suitable for management as National Conservation Areas. Attachment 3 contains a list of BLMmanaged lands that may be appropriate for Wilderness or National Conservation Area designation.

The document goes on...

The BLM estimates that approximately 35 million acres of its current land holdings, all of which have been identified by the public as worthy of special protection, should be considered for a new and/or heightened conservation designation.

What do you suppose the document
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means when it says, “identified by the public as worthy of special protection?” You guessed it! It means identified by The Wilderness Society!

When tabulating the 130 million acres it manages in “protective designations,” the document includes lands currently in the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS): National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, Outstanding Natural Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands within the California Desert. Also included are critical habitat for listed and sensitive wildlife and plant species and even the new Wild Horse Preserves. NLCS also includes “Special Areas” identified and designated through the land use planning process. These are such things as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Bird Areas, Research Natural Areas, National Natural Landmarks, and other similar designations. However, the Salazar document also throws Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) in the list of areas managed under NLCS. SRMAs definitely do not qualify as lands managed under the NLCS, but if the intent is to do so, motorized recreation on BLM lands is in for a very tough ride.

The second key component of the administration’s new “vision,” is something they are calling “Rationalization.” Here, the BLM employees push the bureaucratic mumble-jumbo to its zenith. This is how the document defines the term:

Second, to allow for, more effective landscape-scale management, the BLM should aim to rationalize its land holdings by eliminating existing “checkerboard” land-holding patterns where possible, and by acquiring parcels, adjacent to its current holdings, if important to preserve ecosystem integrity.

Hey, we don’t call them the Bureau of Language Manipulation for nothing! Truly, these bureaucrats have a unique talent for this. They can’t call it buying private land, expanding the

federal estate and taking lands off the tax rolls. No, that wouldn’t fly with the general public. They apparently think if they use some totally unrelated word, like, uh, “rationalization” it will all sound so awesome. Dude!

So we’ll designate all the really scenic land as National Monuments, we’ll buy up, er, I mean “rationalize” all of the private property in and adjacent to public land. What’s next?

The third leg in this new Vision is a mandate for new land use plans across the board:

Third, to ensure that BLM’s specific land-use decisions are properly situated in their broader contexts, the BLM should commit to managing its consolidated and expanded land-holdings at their natural scales, and to coordinating with other federal, state and tribal land owners for the purposes of maintaining healthy wildlife populations, ecosystems, airsheds, watersheds and riparian areas.

More bureaucratic mumble-jumbo. Situating land-use decisions in their “broader context” means the total abandonment of multiple-use sustained yield management. The document explains further:

The final aspect of the first component of BLM’s Treasured Landscapes vision recognizes that new conservation designations should not be the only - nor, perhaps, even the primary - means of managing for conservation on BLM’s public lands. To that end, BLM also recommends emphasizing conservation values in its land-use planning process, with particular attention focused on two considerations: (a) accounting for the, ecosystem-service values of BLM lands, and (b) the special legal context of conservation management in Wyoming and Alaska.

The rest of the document outlines how BLM will fund this new “Vision,” including specific amounts for purchasing private in-holdings. But also for a huge increase in funding for the agency’s new conservation mandate:

The BLM recommends that any major

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funding increases be phased in over a five year period to allow the BLM time to build capacity (e.g. hiring staff, developing partnerships, and processing requisitions) in order to accomplish the increased workload. This would include increased law enforcement and protection activities, expanded resource restoration and conservation activities, improved visitor services, information, education and interpretation and other activities needed to meet the increasing public demand and expectation for conservation.

Sounds like BLM wants to be the National Park Service, doesn't it?

I mentioned above that it's obvious why Salazar didn't want this document released. The document is a refreshingly honest admission of what the current staff in the Department of Interior and BLM have in mind for our public lands.

In recent "listening sessions" for the America's Great Outdoor Initiative, Secretary Salazar has bent over backward to make the point: "don't worry, we don't have any imminent plans for new National Monuments." In fact, they do have plans for new National Monuments, and more. Much more. It's clear that multiple-use interests are going to have to work with state and local governments to fight against this new "Vision."

It's doubtful the document in total will be formally adopted into BLM policy. But in some Field Offices, it doesn't need to. More and more of BLM's management plans are extremely restrictive, mandating every activity, from hiking to camping to OHV use only occur where BLM approves. In some offices, it really is Their Vision and Their Values.

—*Questions or comments regarding this article should be directed to the BlueRibbon Coalition: Phone: 208-237-1008, Fax: 208-237-9424. Email: <brbrian@sharetrails.org>.*

All, read below and feel a little proud, the word is getting out, and we are growing, Shirley

Shirley Leeson wrote:
Buffalo Geological Society,
Robert Hoffman, President

I have just received word that your club has joined ALAA. Of course I'm thrilled, your club has helped put ALAA membership over 10,000 and growing.

But I'm wondering why your club has joined and how did you hear about us? Those of us here in the western states are concerned daily with growing government closing of collecting sites, but to have clubs in the east join us is mindboggling and we're grateful. Did you know that much of the legislation in Washington, DC is done by eastern legislators because their constituents are not as interested and don't keep watch on what they are doing if it doesn't affect them personally? While legislators in the west know what they do could affect their being re-elected... it's just that simple.

I have notified Mary Bateman, EFMLS ALAA rep. Please stay in touch with both Mary and me.

Again, we thank you for your interest and support.

From: robert hoffman
To: Shirley Leeson
Subject: Re: ALAA membership

Shirley

Why our club joined? We believe in your cause! We have known about ALAA for many years and I believe have joined before, a long time ago.

We are a mid-size rock club (about 145 members) with a mixture of fossil, mineral, and lapidary interest. As you can see from the information below one of our primary is education. What is the future of our interest if we can't teach our youngest the thrill of the hunt, of finding that specimen. We do not like the Govt shutting off sites. How many thousands of discoveries are made by amateurs and would not have been 'discovered' if only the professional or educator were allowed to hunt?

We also try to keep our membership aware of ALAA through the EFMLS newsletter.

Please keep us posted.
Bob Hoffman, President
Buffalo Geological Society

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Other Sources of Information

The ALAA Website has a new Up-Date.

ALAA Webpage

<http://www.amlands.org/>

The BlueRibbon Coalition

Webpage: <http://www.sharetrails.org/>

America Lands Rights Association

Webpage: <http://www.landrights.org/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Webpage: <http://www.amfed.org/>

Western Slope No Fee Coalition

Webpage: <http://www.westernslopenofee.org/>