



# American Lands Access Association, Inc.

[www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)

Volume 10 Issue 2

April - June 2018

## **STOP AND READ THIS IT COULD CHANGE ROCKHOUDING FOREVER**

Shirley Leeson - ALAA Director - Texas

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We've been trying to tell you for years that public land collecting areas are getting fewer each year...and nobody seems to care UNLESS you or your club decides to take a field trip to a favorite collecting site and sees a "NO COLLECTING" sign where there was once a road or path.

We as recreational rockhounds have a very short window of opportunity to keep what is still out there available, but we at ALAA can't do it, YOU MUST. While we are a national organization, we have very few active people who actually perform, attend BLM and Forest meetings, comment on management plans and tell your community why recreational rockhounding is a family adventure.

We are asking you to get involved NOW... if you don't... recreational rockhounding will be a thing of the past...and the only place you will be able to collect will be on private property at a financial cost.

Ask yourself, why are you a rockhound? What benefits do you get from being in a club/society that preaches rockhounding? Is this something you want to pass on to your children/grandchildren or are we here at ALAA beating a dead horse.

### **What YOU can do to help. We are proposing the following:**

- Have your field trip chair contact us
- Create a state-wide group to address field trip issues
- Coalitions with other recreational organizations who use public lands – seek out other recreational groups in your area
- Begin to have dialog with your local congressmen and/or senator if they are friendly to our needs – their staff can be invaluable
- Keep involved with the Forest Service and/or BLM in your area
- Get more involved with social media: Facebook, Instagram
- Improve the rockhound image – for too long we have been looked at by the environmental community as 'bad guys'...and in some area we have earned it.

**Now, it's up to you**

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Articles for the NEWSLETTER are DUE to the Editor by the  
**10th of January - 10th of April - 10th of July - 10th of October**

For inclusion in each Quarterly Newsletter

Please send articles to: [\*\*editor@amlands.org\*\*](mailto: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\*\*](mailto:editor@amlands.org)**

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## **Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision**

**April 21, 2018 Bozeman, Montana**

Lauren Williams - ALAA Vice President

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I attended the Custer Gallatin National Forest plan meeting in Bozeman, Montana. They had about a 30 minute opening meeting to explain how the meeting was to be conducted. Then we broke into different tables, like last year's meeting. Last year each different table was about different subjects. Our name badges had little icons on them for which table to go to, mine was camping.

When the meeting at our table started my first question was to define Camping. Was it a 50 foot bus/motor home or 2 guys on a 5 day trip in the back country? The response from the forest service facilitator was, that's not what we are here for. We were there for the final input to the Custer Gallatin Forest plan Revision before starting the Forest service Final Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which starts next month (May). The Forest Service expects to take at least two years to prepare the Statement. The Forest Service had over 10,500 input statements to sift through.

The Custer Gallatin National Forest goes from West Yellowstone, Montana to the Badlands in South Dakota. It is a very big area. The Forest Service broke that large area up into several different areas. The questions were the same for each area. The list was about ten questions long. No Wildlife and no Wild Rivers were allowed to be discussed, and no voting. Only input, from the list of questions listed on the wall for each area. Sounds like voting to me.

At our table, Bridger Bowl ski area, Big Sky ski area and the now defunct Lion Head Ski area, which has all the towers and chair lift apparatus laying on the ground from disuse, used up considerable time.

Someone asked, why designate if there are no funds to enforce.

Someone else said, we have enough Wilderness Areas, no more wilderness areas.

Someone else said that all of the "Remand" issues from previous court cases had to be resolved before the final draft is sent to Washington D.C. where others will pick and choose what they like or don't like before it goes to Congress for the final vote.

## **Raleigh, NC - ALAA Short Report AFMS Convention and Show**

Susy Martin

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We had a short meeting with minimum attendance. We were short some directors. We discussed presidential duties. We also discussed information of interest to further our cause for continued public land access.

2018 REPORT  
April 5, 2018 Raleigh, North Carolina  
Lauren Williams - ALAA Vice President  
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Doug True conducted the meeting

The meeting opened and Delegates and Officers were lacking so we did not have a quorum. There-fore, no Votes of any kind could be taken. The minutes from January's Quartzsite meeting will have to be approved in Quartzsite next January, 2019. Any voting will have to be post-phoned until then also.

The meeting was run like a cracker-barrel meeting where anyone could talk about anything that they wanted. I put both feet in my mouth when I said that there were some of us in the west who did not like those in the Boston to the south end of the Chesapeake Bay corridor dictating to those of us in the west what to do with our land that we live on. Mention of fisheries and fishing access was talked about, private property extends to the low water/high water line depending on who the governmental organization is that is controlling that particular beach. Educational for me. Other than that the meeting was low level and I consider it a successful meeting.

## **ALAA Meeting Yakima Washington**

**Saturday April 28, 2018 10:00 am**

Lauren Williams ALAA Vice-President  
lauren.williams@amlands.org

Those who attended:

Katherine Cramer	Jerry Northrup
Hidemi Kira	Tomoko Kira
Evan Day	Tom Burchard

This meeting was run in the Cracker Barrel style. This is my preferred style for having a meeting because every area of the country has different concerns.

Katherine Cramer said that in Alaska when you brought property that your Property Rights was only the top surface of the ground and all the mineral rights below the surface could be used by anyone who owns mineral rights. And in Texas your property extended to six feet below the surface of the ground. And that some of the Mexican Land Grants are still being contested as well as what happened during the short time that Texas was a separate Country before joining the Union.

Backcountryhorseman.com are concerned about the noise from off road vehicles and chainsaws. Someone voiced a concern that we, the private individual, could not take a chainsaw into the backcountry, then the double standard when the forest service employees did.

It was mentioned that those who go on field trips should be the biggest advocates for having access to the back country for collecting. And that they should call into Public Radio Talk shows and voice their opinions and become advocates by writing letters and attend meetings to oppose road and trail closures. Without roads and trails collection cannot exist. By ourselves we are helpless, we need to have others to join in for public lands to be truly Public Lands so that everyone has public ACCESS.

## **Bureau of Land Management Law Enforcement**

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining Oversight held a hearing to examine law enforcement practices at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The hearing was chaired by Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) who serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee.

FLIPMA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, authorizes the Interior Secretary to maintain a law enforcement body within the BLM to enforce federal law as it relates to public lands and its resources. The Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) office within the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts wildland fire investigations, resource protection operations, and marijuana seizures on federal forest land.

Senator Lee argued throughout the hearing that BLM's law enforcement operations have exceeded their jurisdictional mandate at the expense of local residents. Senator Lee specifically pointed to the conduct of BLM special agents during "Operation Cerberus" in which BLM special agents used tactical gear and sniper rifles to forcibly administer a search warrant and arrest Utah residents on private property. Senator Lee cited this incident, as well as BLM's aggressive traffic enforcement operation, to suggest the BLM's law enforcement practice has strayed from its mission of protecting public land.

Senator Lee expressed his support for the Local Law Enforcement for Local Lands Act, a bill proposed by Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah), that would replace funding for BLM and USFS law enforcement with grants for county sheriffs to increase local law enforcement capabilities on federal land. County sheriffs were praised as a law enforcement alternative throughout the hearing. Sheriffs are community figures with deep ties to the local counties they serve. Senator Lee argued Sheriffs may be better equipped for some law enforcement responsibilities currently under the purview of BLM.

Steed offered to address these issues by reviewing BLM's law enforcement policies and personnel, and moving the agency's law enforcement headquarters closer to western states where most of its activity takes place. The BLM is also making an effort to cooperate more with local partners and is working with the Western States Sheriffs Association reinforce their partnerships with county sheriff offices.

HR 622: Local Law Enforcement for Local Lands Act (PDF)  
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr622>

# California News

## Western Mojave Travel Management Plan

The BLM is in the final stages of defining the open routes in the area known as Western Mojave (WEMO). The public comment has started and the close of the public comment period is June 14, 2018. All comments must be received before that date to be considered.

Public comments may be submitted by email to [blm\\_ca\\_wemo\\_project@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ca_wemo_project@blm.gov); or by fax with Attn: WMRNP Plan Amendment to 951-697-5299; or by mail to Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, Attn: WMRNP Plan Amendment, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. The Draft Land Use Plan Amendment/Draft SEIS can be viewed at: <http://blm.gov/california/wmrnp>

Visit the project's ePlanning page for more information.

See the Documents Page for documents review and comment information.

Public comment period is March 17, 2018 to **June 14, 2018**.....

<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-announces-availability-draft-supplemental-environmental-analysis-west-mojave-route>

For additional help see the link to the Friends Of Jawbone instruction page:

<http://jawbone.org/index.php/seekritmodules/471-offroader-s-guide-to-wemo-online-map>

Currently there are 10,864 miles of motorized routes as listed on Alternative 1. If nothing is submitted requesting routes by name be kept open, the West Mojave Routes will be as defined in Alternative 4 with only 6,313 miles of motorized routes open. Many of the closed routes were routes to Recreational Rockhounding Sites.

Become Pro-Active. It's Now or Never!



This is the Western Mojave (WEMO) Area under review by the BLM for Travel Management Planning. It covers a lot of Recreational Rockhounding areas of the Southern California Mojave Desert. Currently most Access Routes to Collecting Sites are open to Motorized Travel. After June 17, 2018 approximately 4,551 miles of motorized Routes will be closed to Motorized Travel. Get your hiking boots and back packs ready for your Recreational Rockhounding Activities.

# News from Nevada

Daniel (Webb) Varnum  
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## The 6th Annual Rye Patch Nugget Shoot

The annual Rye Patch Nugget Shoot attracts visitors from across the country and across generations who enjoy metal detecting in the great outdoors.

Open year-round, Rye Patch State Recreation Area is situated on a 22-mile long reservoir that has 72 miles of shoreline and 11,000 acres of water surface when full. Visitors enjoy camping, picnicking, swimming and water-skiing, and fisherman delight in the available white bass, catfish, black bass and walleye. Trails around and throughout the park make it easy to enjoy the waterfowl and wildlife that abound, including hawks, eagles, owls, great egrets, antelope, deer and fox. The park also serves as a popular base camp for off-road vehicles, ghost town exploration and gold prospecting. Rye Patch is located at 2505 Rye Patch Reservoir Rd. Lovelock, NV 89419

The 6th Annual Rye Patch Nugget Shoot is Saturday, September 15, 2018, "the world's largest free metal detector hunt"!

It is hosted by the Nevada State Parks Department, Reno Prospecting and Detecting Club and the GPAA of Northern Nevada, Reno, Inc.

There is a booth representing Reno Gem And Mineral Society, Comstock Prospecting and ALAA. There will be a field trip to near by Majuba Hill where around 30 mineral specimens may be found and collected.

I will be giving a talk on local gold areas starting at 2:00 pm and ending around 5:00 pm.

Plan on a fun filled day of metal detecting with both adult and children hunts.

At the 2016 hunt, they awarded \$20,000 in prizes.



**American Lands Access Association** had a booth at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Reno Gem and Mineral Show. During the show over 50 ALAA fliers were handed out and many local rockhounds stop by the booth and learned more about Public Lands issues and Recreational Rockhounding. A big "Thank You" goes to Daniel (Webb) Varnum, the Nevada State Rep for ALAA and for setting up the booth at the show and the dissemination of information. For more information on ALAA and it's involvement in Northern Nevada contact Webb Varnum at:  
daniel.varnum@amlands.org

# AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

Last revised July 7, 1999 at AFMS Annual Meeting

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill in all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
- 11.** I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- 12.** I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
13. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (**H**elp **E**liminate **L**itter **P**lease) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
14. I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those designated authority in all collecting areas.
- 15.** I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- 16.** I will observe the “Golden Rule” will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

# News from Utah

## Paria Road History and Update

**Jack Johnston**

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The specific document closing the Paria road to motorized travel was the GSENM management's administrative decision to close the road based on petitions to close the road submitted to the BLM by SUWA and TWS. The petitions were submitted during the time Kane County was under a federal injunction issued by Judge Tena Campbell not to take any action on roads without quiet title adjudication in federal court. Thus, the county was powerless to stop the closure. The closure took effect shortly after the protest ride up the Paria in 2009. Judge Campbell was subsequently overturned by the 10th Circuit and the Paria is in the current quiet title lawsuit of over 700 roads in Kane County.

One and one half years prior to the closure the county commission submitted a request for a non-binding determination supporting the public's RS2477 rights along the road (including all of our documentation supporting the road as a public highway) as per DOI policy under Secretary Norton. Unfortunately, the BLM refused to consider the county's submission. The county was successful in securing QT to six roads (the first in the nation) and will likely prevail in many more titles in the current QT litigation.

It is my understanding that the current commission is relying on quiet title to resolve road ownership rather than creating an issue by opening the road on the ground. It may be some time before the quiet title litigation resolves the issue.

There may be an opportunity to resolve the status of the road under the Trump administration short of quiet title but there are no specific efforts that I am aware of at this time.

I hope this helps your understanding of the history of the road closure.

### **Some Hyperlinks to more information on Utah Road Closures:**

#### **Utah Paria Road Closure RALLY - UPDATE:**

<http://www.atvsources.com/articles/press-releases/2009/050709-utah-paria-road-closure-rally-update.htm>

#### **Paria River Canyon Closure Protest:**

<https://www.rme4x4.com/threads/paria-river-canyon-closure-protest.65225/>

#### **Off-roaders, rockhounds join forces to fight road closures (St George News):**

<http://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2017/03/08/jla-offroaders-rockhounds-form-alliance-to-fight-closures/#.WvCR9UxFyUk>

***If you can not get there, You can not collect!***



## Secretary Zinke Signs Secretarial Orders to Increase Recreational Opportunities on Public Lands and Waters and Establishes Position of Senior National Advisor for Recreation.....

**Editor Note:** Keep in mind as you read the following, this could be good for Recreational Rockhounding. Rockhounds will need to become Pro-Active if this is going to benefit Recreational Rockhounds. You will need to contact your Public Land Managers and your elected officials and insist that "**Recreational Rockhounding**" be included, in writing, in all documents containing Recreational Activities. The fate of the Rockhound is in your hands! **Long Live The American Rockhound!**

Date: April 18, 2018

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today signed two secretarial orders continuing his efforts to prioritize the Department of Interior's recreation mission and increase access to public lands.

**Secretarial Order 3366** directs certain Interior bureaus to create and deliver plans to the Department within 90 days that focus on developing or expanding recreational opportunities on public lands and waterways. This order also directs bureau heads to designate one full-time employee charged to oversee recreational opportunities.

"From my first day on the job, I have made it abundantly clear that we are going to refocus on Interior's long-standing but recently forgotten recreation mission," said Secretary Zinke. "We are incredibly fortunate, as Americans, to have amazing public lands and waters to carry out our tradition of outdoor recreation but the Department must continue to create opportunities to increase access for these pursuits."

"We are delighted by the Secretary's actions to put in place what he has pledged: a system that will elevate the priority of outdoor recreation on public lands and waters managed by the Department of Interior," said Thom Dammrich, the President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "The Secretary's action recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation for our economy, particularly rural economies, and for the physical and mental health of all Americans. His actions today will help grow outdoor recreation and ensure that fun in the outdoors remains central to the American lifestyle. The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable pledges our support to the Secretary in his efforts to elevate the Department's commitment to outdoor recreation."

"**Outdoor recreation** is an economic engine that produces 2% of the U.S. GDP and is growing at a faster rate than the U.S. economy as a whole," said Frank Hugelmeyer, the President of the RV Industry Association. "With the right public policies, outdoor recreation will continue to be an American economic engine for years to come. Which is why the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and its member associations applaud today's announcements by Secretary Zinke as a common sense plan to elevate the importance of outdoor recreation on public lands and waters throughout the Department of the Interior. This is an important step towards improving the visitor experience on public lands and waters across the country."

**Continued on page 10.....**

..... **Continued from page 9**

"The recreation industry looks forward to cooperating with the department to offer visitors to parks, refuges and other special places great experiences," said Derrick Crandall, President of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable. "The result of better and modernized visitor infrastructure which will contribute to a renaissance of rural communities and a renewed commitment by all Americans to the strong conservation ethic our nation has shared with the world. We thank Secretary Zinke for putting a new emphasis on welcoming enjoyment of our public lands and waters and embracing new skills and new ideas to make visits compatible with protecting our natural and historic resources."

The bureaus are also asked to provide recommendations for improving and streamlining relevant permitting requirements for guides and outfitters and facilitated outdoor recreation providers and to improve contracting processes for recreation-specific concessioners.

Whether your favorite activity is kayaking on a river, riding an ATV on sand dunes, jogging on a trail or hunting on a refuge—recreating on public lands and waters is good for the mind, body and soul," said Secretary Zinke. "And it is also incredibly vital to local economies who rely on recreation spending to help create jobs."

**Secretarial Order 3365** establishes the position of Senior National Advisor to the Secretary for Recreation to ensure deliberate and active coordination of recreational policy in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The position will be filled by Rick May, who currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary.

May, who joined Interior in November 2017, is a retired U.S. Navy SEAL Captain and decorated veteran who served in the Iraq War. Since his departure from active duty in 2010, he has worked with wounded Veterans in various types of recreational activities, helping them to reintegrate back into mainstream America. May is a graduate of Sonoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and he also holds a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management.

"Rick is the absolute best person for this job," said Secretary Zinke. "The work he has done in helping disabled veterans connect with the outdoors through recreation opportunities speaks for itself. As a former SEAL, he has the leadership needed to help the Department chart its course in making recreation a priority again."

"First, I'm truly honored and grateful for the confidence that Secretary Zinke has placed in me to hold this position," said Rick May. "The power of recreation can not be overstated, and its ties to overall health and well-being are undeniable. It is my mission to get more Americans out to enjoy our great public lands, and I look forward to increasing access and opportunity for each and every one of them."

The Secretarial Orders come on the heels of Secretary Zinke selecting members of the newly created "Made In America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee. A primary charge to the committee is to advise the Secretary on public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving the infrastructure on public lands and waters. Read the DOI Press Release

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/zinke-signs-secretarial-orders-increase-recreational-opportunities-public-lands-and>



# 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: **New Member:**   **Donation:**    
 \$25 for an individual or couple **Renewal:**   **Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$50 for a Club or Society

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**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 Accrobat Reader)***

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