



# AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## NEWSLETTER

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public  
<http://www.amlands.org/>

January-February-March 2015

TOM BURCHARD - EDITOR  
875 E 4500 S  
OGDEN UT 84403-2931

**THIS IS YOUR LAST ALAA NEWSLETTER  
IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR CURRENT 2015 ALAA DUES  
See Membership if you are uncertain.**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

We have started the New Year off with a BANG! The meetings in Quartzsite, Arizona went well and we are getting another crack at their Travel Management Plan, because of extensions. Sincere thanks to Jack Caufield who has taken the lead on this. The La Posa Travel Plan was re-opened and extended but the material being used was flawed so Jack and his friends John and Peggy Woolridge set out to correct this. They have had, once again, an extension to comment....no small thing to do. Right on!

Second, here in Southern California is the dreaded DRECP. Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Sounds ominous, and it is. Thousands of pages and maps to view. ALAA resorted to having Randy Banis and his Sundance Media company do a survey for us using Mary Frances Strong's Desert Gem Trails 1971 edition; and James R. Mitchell's Gem Trails of Southern California 1986 & 1996 editions. This was done to see all the published rock hounding areas so we could pick out some of our most important sites and try to protect them.

DRECP was a number of years in the making by the Governor of California and the Department of Interior along with Fish and Wildlife of both State and Federal, Counties and environmental groups by the gross. The only recreation group at the table was the Off Road people with Randy Banis representing them. The purpose was to corral all the proposed energy plants, solar and wind, into an area that would not have a huge impact on the rest of the desert, but this let in the environmental organizations and they decided to go for blanketing the final 10% of the desert left open with a proposal with stricter restrictions on all land left that hadn't already been designed for special use.

ALAA was approached by a moderate environmental organization with the suggestion we partner together a plan. They would give us those areas we were trying to protect and we would support their proposal. Fortunately our Director, Amy Granat, who is also Managing Director for CORVA (California Off Road Vehicle Assn) went through all they were asking us to support. She took the lead and contacted them with alternate proposals. It went right down to the wire, but we finally decided it wasn't in the best interests of rock hounds to partner with them. As you read this the deadline has passed, but rock hounds rallied and many sent in comments. We now wait and hope....stay tuned.

*Continued on Page 3*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE .....	1	ACCESS ALERT - CIBOLA - SCOPING - CONTINUED .....	10
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	2	MEET OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK & MIN. SOC. ....	11
ALAA MEMBERSHIP .....	2	MORE MUSINGS & COMMON SENSE .....	11
CURRENT ALAA SCHEDULE FOR 2015 .....	2	F.A.F.A. - SAY NO TO COOPERATION .....	12
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - <i>Continued</i> .....	3	PLAC NEWS - WHO CONTROLS POLICY? .....	13
SHOW DATES .....	3	PLAC NEWS - WHO CONTROLS POLICY? - CONTINUED .....	14
ALAA & BLM MEETING @ QUARTZSITE .....	4	WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR NEWSLETTER? .....	14
PICTURES OF MEETING @ QUARTZSITE .....	5	DRECP - NEPA/CEQA .....	15
NEW FACEBOOK ADMINSTRATOR .....	6	DRECP - NEPA/CEQA - CONTINUED .....	16
3RD ANNUAL BLM-ALAA "CLEAN UP" .....	6	DRECP - NEPA/CEQA - CONTINUED .....	17
PICTURES OF THE "CLEAN UP" .....	7	DRECP - NEPA/CEQA - CONTINUED .....	18
MEETINGS @ QUARTZSITE .....	8	OFFICERS & DIRECTORS ROSTER .....	19
JAWBONE STATION WORKSHOP .....	8	APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM .....	20
ACCESS ALERT - CIBOLA - SCOPING .....	9		

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### GROUP

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society, Las Vegas, Nevada

### INDIVIDUAL

Mark & Linda Nelson, San Dimas, California

## CURRENT ALAA SCHEDULE for 2015

### ALAA at the NFMS SHOW

- Ogden, Utah April 10 – 12, 2015
- Friday, April 10, 11am to 1pm Same location as the NFMS Director's Meeting
- Tentative Speaker: Rob Bishop, Congressman 1st District, Utah
- New Chair of the Natural Resources Committee

### ALAA at the CFMS SHOW

- Lodi, California June 11 – 14, 2015
- Saturday, June 13, 1pm to 4pm
- Amy Granat, Director for ALAA and Managing Director of CORVA will hold a mini seminar on "Effective Commenting, making it count"
- Don't miss this, it will change your life and empower you.

### ALAA at the AFMS/SCFMS SHOW

- Austin, Texas October 23 – 25, 2015
- ALAA Annual Business Meeting Saturday, October 24, 4pm to 6pm
- Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road

***"President's Message" - Continued from Page 1***

ALAA has been blessed with members and FRIENDS who have rallied to our side...it doesn't get any better than that.

There are still problems cropping up all over the country and we need your help to identify, notify ALAA and get involved. Nothing is better than having people in the area take the lead on road closures, sites closed, etc. than those people close to the problems.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE, let us know how we can help and support you. We are all volunteers, some with lots of time to work to solve problems and others with limited time, but you all are a part of this vast puzzle and we need you.

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**SHOW DATES FOR GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS  
SPONSORED BY MEMBER CLUBS AND SOCIETIES OF ALAA, INC.**

**FEBRUARY 13 - 22**

San Geronio Min & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & Date Festival, 82-503 Hwy 111, Indio, CA  
Contact: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

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**MARCH 7 - 8**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 West Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA  
Email: [info@VGMS.org](mailto:info@VGMS.org)

Monrovia Rockhounds  
LA County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA  
E-mail: [joannaritchey@gmail.com](mailto:joannaritchey@gmail.com)

**APRIL 18 - 19**

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose, CA  
Contact is through: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

**YOUR ALAA AFFILIATED CLUB COULD HAVE ITS SHOW LISTED HERE.**

Send suggestions or problems to [webmaster](mailto:webmaster)

**American Lands Access Association  
PO Box 54398  
San Jose, CA 95154**

## ALAA SPONSORED MEETING WITH BLM AT QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA 2015

SHIRLEY LEESON, PRESIDENT

The Quartzsite meeting with John MacDonald, Field Manager, Yuma Office of BLM, was conducted on Friday, January 23, at the Quartzsite Alliance Church.

I'd like to speak to the under side of the meeting that most rockhounds and guests were unaware of....until now.

There is a Wild West mentality with some people who live in and around Quartzsite. Arizona is a 'carry' state for starters. And some people have the mistaken idea that 'public land' means the public owns it. Congress changed that concept when they tasked the BLM to oversee all public land in Arizona. Unfortunately this led the environmental community to step in and suggest to Congress and the Department of Interior, who over see the BLM, to "protect" the desert. All this has brought about a 'you against them' attitude.

About the meeting in Quartzsite....we had a small element of a loud, boisterous group of people who wanted to disrupt and take over the meeting. When this didn't happen, they left. But unknown to me at the time, there was another stealth group who infiltrated the audience, watching and waiting.

John MacDonald has been embattled over the La Posa Travel Management Plan, and he has tried to work with the various groups who have grave concerns about how the plan is going to finally be implemented. These aren't the people who worry him. It's the people who have left threats on his phone, and tracked him when he's been in Quartzsite trying to do his job. I asked John to leave his crew off the church property because an armed uniformed group leads to problems and he complied. I was admonished later and told, "John was in danger" and that I'd left him open to a possible dangerous confrontation.

The pastor of the church was so concerned about the rumors that abounded before the meeting, that he had local police on the premises.

The good news is, nothing happened. But I feel you should know there are real dangers out there. Will I continue to attend Quartzsite each year....You're darn right. Will I be careful? Yep, that's a given.

Will ALAA continue to be a part of the La Posa Travel Management Plan? With people like Jack Caufield and John and Peggy Woodridge working with the BLM, I'm confident we will get the right results.



More Pictures of Meeting on Page 5



**MORE PICTURES OF MEETING**



### NEW ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ALAA FACEBOOK PAGE

{From Shirley} First, I'd like to apologize to Ronna Watkins (who belongs to the Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, Washington). Ronna took over the ALAA FACEBOOK PAGE when we talked at the NFMS show in Hermiston, Oregon in August, but I forgot to acknowledge her in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter ALAA Newsletter. If you haven't had a chance, go to the site and see what's she doing and participate.

{From Ronna} "I am so excited to administrate the ALAA Facebook page, won't you please check it out and "Like" us and submit posts of information that concerns land access in your neighborhood. Join us to get current and up to the minute Land Action information here:

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Lands-Access-Association/307454369332026?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Lands-Access-Association/307454369332026?ref=br_tf)"

### THIRD ANNUAL BLM SPONSORED CLEAN-UP, QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA

The numbers of participants was down this year, but the enthusiasm was still there. Ben Odum took of work, flew from Spokane, Washington to Phoenix, Arizona then rented a car just to be with us in our third year of cleaning up the desert in the neighborhood of Quartzsite, now that dedication. We were honored by two signs that will be installed at the site of last year's event, Off I-10 and Gold Nugget off ramp and the new site this year, I-10 and Tom Wells Road.

Those attending were: Ben Odum, Lauren & Shirleen Williams, Ted & Paula Magee, Hidemi & Tomoko Kira, Tom Burchard, Marty & Linda Dougherty, Don George, John & Susy Martin, Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson. Our intrepid trip leader Bill Alexander, BLM Ranger and his crew picked up 1 1/2 tons of trash. Someone had been there before us and hauled out trash that Bill Alexander had scoped out earlier.

Please see the insert sign that was erected....awesome! Hope the signs are there next year when we return for our 4th Annual Quartzsite Clean-up.

Shirley



More Pictures of Clean Up on Page 7



MORE PICTURES OF CLEAN UP



**ALAA MEETINGS IN QUARTZSITE**

**JANUARY 27, 2015**

**LAUREN WILLIAMS - ALAA VICE PRESIDENT**

**Dues are due! This is our primary source of income aside from an occasional donation.**

In Quartzsite, Arizona, there was a BLM open house on Friday at the Alliance Church. I understand that it was well attended. The open house was about the La Posa Travel Management Plan.

There was a discussion of the DRECP draft EIS/EIR Rockhounding site in California along with its implications to other Rockhounding sites in the U.S.

When filling out forms to identify yourself use the word ROCKHOUND. These forms are sent to the district office and then to Washington for a head count and then used for Land Use Planning.

Our speaker at the ALAA meeting Friday night was BLM district supervisor John MacDonald. He talked about trail closures and studies for trail closures in and around the Quartzsite area, that's Yuma to Lake Havasu. John also held up two signs that the BLM is going to post at two interstate exits. One at the exit just east of Quartzsite where ALAA has cleaned up for the two previous years and one at interstate Exit 5, where we cleaned up this year. These are highway quality metal signs saying that ALAA cleaned up these areas. Next a local mine owner, Steve Hunt, spoke and emphasized that you should use the word MINER if someone should ask when you are out in the field and that you are surface collecting to see if a mining claim would apply. If you use the word Miner then the 1872 mining law applies. If you say anything else then the recreational laws apply, and that's just about anything that the BLM, Forest Service or any other law enforcement officer wants to say it is.

At Sunday's garbage 'Clean Up' there was a good turnout of our members and one non member, who just happened to be staying overnight at that interstate exit. We filled the trailer that the BLM had brought to haul the garbage away. BLM estimated that it was 1.5 tons of material. The BLM is putting up the signs about the American Lands Access Association, ALAA, cleaning up Public Lands to Help keep our Public Lands clean.

**JAWBONE STATION WORKSHOP**

**February 7, 2015**

**An "All Day Workshop on 'Comments' "**

**Shirley Leeson**

John & Susy Martin, Ruth Hidalgo, Dee Holland and I spent the day at the Jawbone Station at Hi Way 14 & Jawbone Canyon Road, Mojave, California on Saturday, February 7th.

With the DRECP looming and comments needed, we all decided to take CORVA (California Off Road Vehicle Assn.) workshop on "How To Get The Most Out Of The Comments on DRECP". Amy Granat, (ALAA Director), Bruce Whitcher and Randy Banis provided the expertise. It was an eventful day, we all learned a lot more about what makes your comments meaningful.

**SEE THE DRECP 'ITEM' ON PAGES 15 THROUGH 18 IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Amy will conduct a "Mini-Workshop" at the CFMS Show in Lodi, Saturday, June 13, from 1PM to 4PM. Make time for this important event, it will change the way you deal with the Forestry and BLM and their requests for "comments".



## ACCESS ALERT

### FROM NEW MEXICO OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE ALLIANCE - NMOHVA

#### CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST STARTS SCOPING FOR FOREST PLAN REVISION

##### What is This? (and Why Should I Care)?

The Cibola National Forest is in the process of revising their Forest Plan. To this point, all of the “work” completed has been in preparation for the actual NEPA process necessary to revise a Forest Plan. The Notice of Intent (NOI) just published officially starts the formal NEPA process that will result in a revised Forest Plan.

##### WHAT DOES A FOREST PLAN DO?

The Forest Plan does not, itself, create any new “action” on the part of the Forest Service or authorize any specific change in use. The Forest Plan provides “broad guidance” for planning any specific future projects, actions, or activities. This revised Forest Plan will be for all four “mountain” Districts of the Cibola National Forest: Sandia, Mt. Taylor, Mountainair, and Magdalena.

##### WHY IS THE FOREST PLAN IMPORTANT?

Federal regulations require all Forest projects and activities to be consistent with the Forest Plan. If a proposed project is not consistent with the plan, the project cannot proceed as proposed unless the Plan is amended so that the project is consistent with the Plan. As example, new motorized routes cannot be approved unless the Forest Plan describes a need for additional motorized routes or meeting motorized recreation needs. That is why a Forest Plan is so important even though it doesn't take cause any action itself.

##### WHAT IS “SCOPING”?

“Scoping” is the first phase of the NEPA process for revising a Forest Plan. Written comments received by the Forest Service during this phase should be used to identify any additional needs for change to the existing plan, further develop the proposed action (the first revision of the revised plan), and identify “significant issues”.

##### WHY IS SCOPING IMPORTANT?

The “significant issues” are used to develop the alternatives that will be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is the 2nd major step in the NEPA process. Here is another quick example to help explain why the significant issues and alternatives are so important:

If there no scoping comments identifying a lack of ATV trails on the Mountainair District (an “issue”), none of the alternatives will include a statement such as “Objective: Provide additional ATV trails to meet growing ATV use by the public.” If there are no alternatives with this objective defined, the Forest Plan has zero chance of including this in the Final version. If the Final Forest Plan has no objective supporting additional ATV routes, the Forest Service will respond to any future requests for ATV trails with, “Additional ATV trails aren't consistent with the Forest Plan.”

Naturally, this is a simplistic example but it shows why having the right “issues” identified is so important at the beginning of this process. Issues lead to alternatives. Anything not in an alternative has no chance of being in the Final Plan. If something is not in the Final Plan, it has very little chance of ever being considered for implementation. It also illustrates why we need to be “thinking ahead” when we identify “issues” for the planning process. If we think we will want/need additional motorized recreation in the coming 15-20 years, we need to identify that “need” as an “issue” now!

##### HOW DO SCOPING COMMENTS HAVE TO BE WRITTEN?

The good news is that there is no required format. The most effective Scoping comments are those that help identify issues that we want the Forest Service to address in the new Forest Plan. And you do not necessarily have

*Continued on Page 10*

**"Cibola - Scoping" - Continued from Page 9**

to suggest solutions to the problem (that is what the Forest Service are supposed to develop during analysis). Here are some examples to get you thinking:

Travel Management has reduced the amount of roads and trails available to the public for motorized recreation. This will contribute to crowding on the trails as motorized recreation continues to grow. The Forest needs more trails open to meet this growing need. ATV/UTV trails nearer to the Albuquerque metro area are needed to give people places to enjoy the Forest using these increasingly popular vehicles.

Forest budgets are shrinking, putting trail maintenance at risk. The Forest doesn't have an adequate plan for how it will utilize public/volunteer labor and resources to create and maintain motorized trails.

Non-motorized users have been successful in reducing motorized opportunities by claiming "conflict" with motorized users. The Forest needs to develop a plan for how it is going to educate other users and properly set user expectations in shared use environments.

**WHERE DO WE SEND THE COMMENTS?**

E-mail comments should be sent to: [comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us)

Letters should be mailed to:

Forest Planner  
Cibola National Forest  
2113 Osuna Rd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

**WHEN ARE THE COMMENTS DUE?**

Your Scoping comments are due by April 3rd. While that seems like a long way off, we encourage you to send your comments in NOW so they don't get forgotten as the weather warms up.

**WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?**

The website that contains all of the information that the Forest Service has released so far during this process is at: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsbdev3\\_065627](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsbdev3_065627)

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

The Forest Service will read the Scoping comments, identify issues, create alternatives, and issue a draft EIS. NMOHVA will continue to monitor the process and give you a "heads-up" when you can comment on the draft EIS.

In parallel to this scoping step, the Forest Service is also getting ready to re-issue a second draft of the inventory maps of "lands potentially suitable for wilderness consideration" in April. A comment period will follow the posting of these maps, and after the Forest Service considers the comments received, an "evaluation map" will be posted later in the spring or summer. Again, NMOHVA will monitor this parallel process very closely and let you know where and when to provide more feedback to the Forest Service.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Articles for the NEWSLETTER are DUE to the Editor by the  
1<sup>st</sup> of The Month - PRIOR - to the Month of Publication!

Editor - Tom Burchard - [editor@amlands.org](mailto:editor@amlands.org)

801-791-2828 - or - [Roxhund@aol.com](mailto:Roxhund@aol.com)

I'd like you all to meet the Oregon Council of Rock & Mineral Societies. The organization is a member of ALAA.

The next time your club or organization wonders what to do to 'get involved' at the local, state or national level on public lands or public activities, look at this group as an example....

They have been putting in a display in the Capital Rotunda of Oregon rocks, minerals and fossils since the early 70<sup>s</sup>. This changes every 6 months. This is real dedication and your club could do something like this locally.

They also have a Oregon Public Lands Advisory Council with 5 regions. Seven of the central Oregon counties is covered by OCRMS Vice President John Burford. And the most recent appointee is Kelley Argenta covering the Southwest area. She can be reached at [kelley@kellevargenta.com](mailto:kelly@kellevargenta.com). Don Innes, President can be reached at [doninnes.innes20@gmail.com](mailto:doninnes.innes20@gmail.com) and Vice President John Burford can be reached at [burford0714@comcast.net](mailto:burford0714@comcast.net). The task of the PLAC is to coordinate and oversee the planning of Forest Service and BLM or State Forest land use studies.

Be inspired by this group, I am.

Shirley Leeson

### MORE MUSINGS AND COMMON SENSE

I feel the Oregon Council is important to all the people of Oregon. The impact of various groups can be helpful or detrimental to our hobby as well as many other hobbies as well as the general public (Vacationers, Recreations and campers) etc.

The 3 R's, "Rules, Regulations and Restrictions", are very important as long as they are used correctly and equally. I could add one more, "Rights". We have the 3 R's published in almost all of our newsletters and the American Federation recommendations. These cover all the important issues as long as we follow them we will not hurt the Environment or harm other people. The fact is we will not trample on other peoples rights. To know the rules is to do no harm.

We have within our City, County, states and Federal Government many entities with their own 3R's. This alphabetical soup of minor and various agencies with their separate agencies have duplication of many rules.

The major Agencies (Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and Department of Forestry) with the Environmental Protection Agency have hundreds of thousands of pages of the 3 R's. Each one of these Agencies has many sub-agencies, think EPA, Conservation, impact Studies, permits and other paper work. These hundreds of thousands of pages in the books include all of the 3'R's, much of it redacted or hidden. You have to know where to look.

When we go to the field to dig or gather our prizes know the 3R's as best you can. Know the rule and where to find it. Know how much you are allowed, the area allowed to dig and leave no trash or holes please leave the area cleaner than when you entered. In other words leave no evidence you were even there.

This land is our land. We are the government and we the people own all public land, except possibly 35 square miles of absent minded Washington D.C., where our leaders meet to tell us how to live.

I will try to give you some of the web sites that you can look into to find the 3 R's you will need to use common sense in collecting. More sources for information is you club newsletters, newspapers for access to meetings in your area.

Get to know your congress people and the Rangers in your areas. Talk to each other often, know what you are talking about, and know the statute and where to find it.

Know your facts. Send me your ideas.

Don Innes

President - Oregon Council of Rock & Mineral Societies

[doninnes.innes20@gmail.com](mailto:doninnes.innes20@gmail.com)

ALAA.org

OCRMS.org



**FROM: FOREST ACCESS FOR ALL**  
**[keepitopen=forestaccessforall.org@mail79.atl51.rsgsv.net](mailto:keepitopen=forestaccessforall.org@mail79.atl51.rsgsv.net)**  
**ON BEHALF OF FOREST ACCESS FOR ALL**

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 11:49 AM

Subject: **SAY NO TO COOPERATION - FOREST ACCESS FOR ALL**

February 1, 2015

New Year, New battles on the access front!

FAFA needs YOUR help. Contact your County Commissioners IMMEDIATELY and tell them NOT to sign the MOU (Memorandum Of Understanding) that binds the county into a contract as a COOPERATING AGENCY!

As you will see, Cooperating agency status strips county representatives of any real control and influence. A large part of the reason the forests are in the condition they are in is due to the previous MOU that the majority of the counties surrounding the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman Forests. That MOU expired in 2011 and now the counties are not bound to accept the USFS's agenda's and whim's. This has allowed for the 11 counties to reject the BMFPR (Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision) last summer and has allowed Grant County to enact the Public Land Closures Ordinance of 2013.

Commissioners represent the citizens of the county they represent. Without your voice to guide them on what you need, they don't know what you need.

Below are links to contact information as well as a document that outlines the difference between Cooperating status and Coordinating status.

E-mail your county commissioners, Email your city representatives and urge them to contact the commissioners, write letters to the editor DEMANDING the outright refusal of the MOU. After you email your representatives, CALL them! Many are very used to disregarding emails and disregarding the true want's and need's of the citizens they represent.

Read this article that was in the Baker County Press

**<http://forestaccessforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/BAKER-COUNTY-COMMISSIONERS-BOYCOTT.pdf>**

CONTACT INFORMATION

**<http://forestaccessforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/County-Commissioner-Contacts Page 1.jpg>**

**<http://forestaccessforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/County-Commissioner-Contacts Page 2.jpg>**

DOCUMENT ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

**<http://forestaccessforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Cooperation-vs.-Coordination.pdf>**

PROPOSED MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**<http://forestaccessforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015-01-22-14-MU-11061600-002-forest-plans-multi-counties-wilt-signed.pdf>**

Our mailing address is:

John George - ALAA Representative - Eastern Oregon

Forest Access For All

PO Box 48

Baker City, OR 97814

**PLAC NEWS**

**BY JAN BAUMEISTER, SOUTH DAKOTA REPRESENTATIVE RMFMS/ALAA**

Excerpted From: **“RANGE” Magazine** - Winter 2015

**HOW RICH LEFT-WINGERS CONTROL US. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**BY MICHAEL S. COFFMAN, PH.D.**

*In reality, an elite group of left-wing millionaires and billionaires, which this report refers to as the “Billionaires Club”, directs and controls the far-left environmental movement, which in turn controls major policy decisions and lobbies on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).”*

**A U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE MINORITY REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC WORKS.**

As a hydrologist, Dr. Jay Lehr was heavily involved in establishing the EPA in 1971 as well as writing some of the legislation passed by Congress to implement the EPA’s mandate to protect the environment. By 1980, the laws were working to protect the environment with minimal disruption to the economy. Beginning in 1981, however, he observed that liberal environmental activist groups realized the EPA could be used to advance their political agenda by “regulating all human activities regardless of their impact on the environment.” Lehr, now science director for the Heartland Institute warns: “Since that time, not a single environmental law or regulation has been passed that benefitted either the environment or society.” He stated, “that the EPA is all but wholly owned subsidiary of liberal activist groups. It’s regulations account for about half of the nearly \$2 trillion-a-year cost of complying with all national regulations in the U.S.” Politicians love it because they can win votes by professing they are the protectors of the public health and wildlife. Companies use “regulations” to handicap competitors or help themselves to public subsidies.” In short the EPA has become a tool for special interest to manipulate self-serving environmental police at the expense of the environment and people.

Paul Dirriessen, a Washington based environmental policy analyst for “Committee for Constructive Tomorrow, has found that “U.S. environmental activist groups are a **\$13 billion-a-year industry**.” These organizations has successfully promote through the mainstream media or in their pamphlets, and is a big business, a juggernaut that uses false propaganda and pseudoscience to deceive millions of ignorant Americans. These millions who are innocently deceived by the shock troops to shut down business, especially the fossil fuel industry. The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works published a well-documented Minority Report that the magnitude of this truly destructive force became apparent. The 92 page report, entitled, “The Chain of Environmental Command: How a Club of Billionaires and Their Foundations Control the Environmental Movement and Obama’s EPA,” It shows that much of this money comes from a select few within a so-called one percent-a very rich group that progressive environmentalists love to hate. Their wealth is staggering. Just 10 out of more than 200 of these foundations have assets over \$23 billion. Then there are environmental activist groups, just 15 of the hundreds or thousands of these nonprofit groups had assets of \$7.9 billion in year 2012! Together with the foundations that fund much of their dirty work, the total assets of just a few organizations are more than \$31 billion. One of these donors, the Sea Change Foundation owned by Klein Ltd, *a foreign company* “attempting to effect political change” in the United States. Three prominent organizations play key roles as facilitators-Democracy Alliance, the Divest/Invest movement and Environmental Grantmakers Ass’n which is funded by Rockefeller Family Fund-which makes up of more than 200 private foundations.

*Continued on Page 14*

**"PLAC NEWS - Range Magazine Excerpt" - Continued from Page 13**

Here is a list:

**FOUNDATIONS AND ASSETS IN 2012:**

David and Lucile Packard Foundation .....	\$6,299,952,716
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation .....	\$5,697,258,026
Heinz Family Foundation .....	\$117,095,904
Park Foundation.....	\$366,405,008
Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.....	\$800,956,943
Schmidt Family Foundation .....	\$46,542,559
Sea Change Foundation .....	\$124,350,435
Walton Family Foundation .....	\$1,999,066,369
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation .....	\$7,735,371,139

**ECO-ORGANIZATIONS ASSETS 2012:**

American Lung Association .....	\$31,049,040
Blue Green Alliance .....	\$3,179,561
Center for American Progress .....	\$12,282,335
Earthjustice .....	\$58,945,673 (formerly Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund)
Environmental Defense Fund .....	\$208,751,208
Environmental Integrity Project .....	\$1,744,942
Greenpeace .....	\$15,313,140
League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.....	\$7,545,946
National Audubon Society.....	\$450,334,791
National Wildlife Federation .....	\$66,456,891
National Resources Defense Council .....	\$268,165,564
Sierra Club Foundation.....	\$98,974,748
The Nature Conservancy .....	\$6,168,9245,112
World Wildlife Fund .....	\$450,932,452

Environmental organizations are well heeled with just 14 of the hundreds-perhaps thousands of organizations totaling nearly billion. Source: U.S Senate. To read some of the transcripts, go to <http://www.undueinfluence.com/ega.htm>.

Go to: [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) on the left side of the home page click "LINKS" and it will take you to Range Magazine link, better still, contact RANGE Magazine at [www.rangemagazine.com](http://www.rangemagazine.com).

**WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR ALAA NEWSLETTER  
WHEN YOU'VE READ IT?**

SHIRLEY LEESON

Here's some suggestions:

- If you get your ALAA Newsletter by E-mail, forward it to club members
- Forward to nearby clubs – maybe they will join
- Include it in your exchange Newsletter group
- If you or your club receive your ALAA Newsletter via post office/hard copy, you can take it to your club meetings or you could copy and send to another club.
- Please don't just file it away....we try to provide you with important data on what's going on with the Forests and BLM lands.

If you want to be included in Tom Noe's short items for editors he produces each month, please let us know at: [info@amlands.org](mailto:info@amlands.org) and we'll add you to the list.



*THIS IS A SAMPLE LETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS TO ADD THEIR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DESERT.  
IT ISN'T THE ACTUAL LETTER ALAA SENT IN.  
SHIRLEY*

## **Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA**

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the Preferred Alternate of DRECP with the changes listed below:

I am commenting on DRECP as a concerned citizen who spends many hours recreating in our California Deserts. I collect rocks, minerals and invertebrate fossils for my personal use. I and my Rockhounds associates have found many of the items now housed in museums and university labs, but with no recognition as to who found them. The material that grace beautiful jewelry are found as dirt encrusted rocks till a rockhound takes them home and cuts them open and polishes them. I have shared my finds with school children in class rooms as well as at senior centers. I have taken many of both to the deserts to see for themselves beauty and grandeur of our deserts and the thrill of discovery and collecting the many forms of agates, jaspers petrified wood, fossils and minerals. I ask that motorized vehicles be allowed because many of our rockhounds, including myself, are not able to walk the distance in the desert to some collecting areas and should not be locked out of this awesome place we all revere. On all of the sites below we ask that rockhounding areas and their motorized access routes become a part of the Special Recreation Management Area and protected from having it listed in the Development Focus areas and taken out of National Conservation Lands and ACECs. We have already given up, for the good of other special interests, many rockhounding areas in the desert beginning with the Desert Protection Act of the 1970<sup>s</sup>. We believed at that time, the Desert Protection Act would be the final decision of how the desert would be managed, but it was again evaluated in the 1980<sup>s</sup>-1990<sup>s</sup> and the areas rockhounds could recreate in was decreased again.

Finally, this last time we would like to have the voice of the rockhounds heard as to those few places that are left and ask that they be protected, just as other areas are protected. If this isn't recognized, rockhounds will become extinct and there will be an impact on those small towns throughout the desert who will loose revenue from those rockhounds.

I appreciate that the Bureau of Land Management, along with the CEC and other agencies, has issued the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, to attempt to identify areas where energy development in our deserts may be less harmful to plants, wildlife, scenery, recreation and other values. Areas that should not be developed will also be identified.

However, there are many special places in our deserts that the DRECP does not adequately protect from renewable energy development. Specifically, there are several rock collecting sites that are within Development Focus Areas, and some very special collecting places that are not within Special Recreation Management Areas, but that should be.

### **Afton Canyon**

Afton Canyon is Located off I-15 at the Afton Turnoff about 32 miles east of Barstow and 25 miles west of Baker. This area has long been a rockhound area with many types of agate, sagenite, jasper and opalite. We ask that this area, along with the roads and trails be considered for Special Recreation Management Area.

### **Blythe**

The Blythe collecting area is located at T4S, R20E (Blythe DAG). It is north of the Palen McCoy Wilderness and south of the Little Maria Mountains. A Development Focus Area (DFA) appears to cover at least a portion of this psilomelane collecting area. I ask the BLM to redefine or redraw the DFA

***Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA - Continued***

so that it does not cover this area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius around it that includes any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

**Boron**

The Boron collecting area is located between Saddleback Mountain and California City Boulevard, north of Highway 58 and south of Twenty Mule Team Parkway (Cuddeback Lake DAG). This collecting area, which contains petrified wood, chapenite, jasper and agate, is within a DFA. I ask the BLM to redefine the DFA so that it does not cover the Boron collecting area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius buffer around it that includes any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

**Brown Butte (aka Lonely Butte)**

The Brown Butte collecting area is located at T10N, R11W, Sections 2, 3, 10 & 11 (Lancaster DAG). This collecting area, which is good for petrified reeds, agate, jasper, and jasp-agate, is within a DFA. I ask the BLM to redefine the DFA so that it does not cover this area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius buffer around it that includes any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

**Chambless**

The Chambless fossil collecting site is adjacent to the Trilobite Wilderness/Marble Mountain area. It is off the National Trails Hi Way, about 2 miles west of Amboy. The current roads to the collecting sites are outside the Wilderness and are used as a staging area to walk into the collecting sites. We ask that the roads in this area be left open so we can access the fossil sites.

**Cinco**

The Cinco collecting area is located at T31S, R11W, south/southwest of Jawbone Station (Tehachapi DAG). A DFA appears to cover some or all of this collecting area for quartz and feldspar crystals. I ask the BLM to redefine the DFA so that it does not cover this area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius buffer around it that includes any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

**Gem Hill**

The Gem Hill collecting area is located at T10N, R13W, Sections 26, 27, 34, and 35 (Lancaster DAG). This collecting area, which is good for agate, jasper, rhyolite, common opal, and petrified wood, is within a DFA. I ask the BLM to refine the DFA so that it does not cover this area, and at least a 1,000 foot radius around it, and any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

**Hector Hills**

There is a very small DFA near this collecting area, located at T8N, R5E, Sections 4, 5, 6, 15, 16, 21 and 22 (Newberry Springs DAG). This DFA is only a problem if it would block or deny access to Pisgah Crater Road. If it would, I ask that it be redefined so that it does not deny access.

**Hauser Beds**

The Hauser Beds collecting area is located at T 8 ½ S, R 19 E, Sections 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, and 28; T 8 ½ S, R 19 E, Section 16; T 8 ½ S, R 20 E, Sections 6, 7, and 18 (Trigo DAG). Not only is this area one of the best collecting areas in our deserts, it is covered by a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The MOU was signed on February 22, 2000, and has never been terminated by either party. The MOU recognizes the importance of the Hauser Geode Beds area as a major recreation area for dispersed rockhounding recreation. It appears as though the Mule Mountain LTVA SRMA partially covers this collecting area. I ask the BLM to expand this SRMA to fully include

*Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA - Continued*

the entire Hauser Beds area, as described above. I also ask the BLM to acknowledge the MOU at the District and State Office levels and expressly state in the SRMA that this MOU shall continue.

### **Kramer Junction**

I understand that certain groups are lobbying to have certain DFAs “relocated” to the Kramer Junction area (Victorville DAG). I am opposed to any DFA being placed on the southeast corner of Kramer Junction (south of Highway 58 and east of Highway 395), as this is a collecting area for dendritic agate, common opal, and obsidian.

### **Lavic and Jasper Hill**

The Lavic and Jasper Hill collecting areas located at T8N, R5E, Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36 and T8N, R6E, Sections 18, 19, 20, 30, 29, 31, 32, and T9N, R4E, Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32 (Newberry Springs DAG). These jasper collecting areas are located within the Route 66 view shed, between Ludlow and Newberry Springs. I appreciate that the BLM is proposing the National Trails View shed SRMA, which protects various recreational activities along Route 66. I especially appreciate the fact that the BLM has specifically recognized the importance of collecting in the Trilobite and Ship Mountains, and has created a Recreation Management Zone to protect collecting in those areas. However, this SRMA does encompass some very special collecting places along Route 66. I ask the BLM to increase the size of the National Trails View shed SRMA, so that it includes the Lavic and Jasper Hill collecting areas, and specifically allows collecting in these areas.

### **Newbury**

The Newbury collecting area is located at T8N, R3E (Newbury Springs DAG). It is north of Newberry Mountains Wilderness and south of Route 66. A DFA appears to cover and/or surround this collecting area for nodules and agate. I ask the BLM to redraw the DFA boundary so that it does not cover this area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius around it, and any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

### **Sperry Wash**

The Sperry Wash collecting area is located in the Dublin Hills, west of Shoshone (Owlshead DAG). Given this area’s close proximity to the Amargosa River Valley/Grimshaw SRMA, and given that rock collecting is a legitimate use within this SRMA, I ask that this SRMA be expanded to include the Sperry Wash collecting area, protecting this important recreational activity.

### **Stoddard Well**

The Stoddard Well collecting area is located at T11N to the 15 Freeway, R1W to R3W, up to the southern boundary of Stoddard OHV Area (Victorville DAG). The area includes Black Mountain and Sidewinder Mountain. A DFA appears to cover or come very close to this marble collecting area. This area is frequented by rockhounds and I ask the BLM to recognize this area as a new Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) under the DRECP. This should protect the important rock collecting recreational activity that takes place here. If the BLM is unwilling to create a new SRMA, I ask that this DFA be redefined so that it does not cover this area and any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

### **Yermo**

The Yermo collecting area is located at T10N to T11N, R1E to R2E (Newberry Springs DAG), in the Calico Mountains between the two Superior Cronese ACECs. The collecting area overlaps approximately six sections of the western edge of the eastern Superior Cronese ACEC. A DFA appears to cover some of this excellent collecting area, where we collect agate, petrified palm root, jasper, and chert. I ask the BLM to recognize this area that is frequented by rockhounds as a new SRMA under the



*Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA - Continued*

DRECP, and to protect the important rock collecting activities in this area. If the BLM is unwilling to create a new Special Recreation Management Area, I ask that the Superior/Rainbow SRMA be expanded to include this area, and to specify that rock collecting is an allowable use in this area. Alternatively, I ask that this DFA be redefined so that it does not cover this area and any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area.

### **Yuha Basin**

The South side of I-8 between Hi-Way 98 and Dunaway Road has giant fossilized oyster shells that have been collected by rockhounds since the 1950s. We ask that this area be considered under SRMA. It is currently listed under overlapping ACEC and NLC lands. We ask that rockhounding be continued and all roads into the area be left open.

I would like to add: In establishing the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) within the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 Congress found that: ‘the California desert contains historical, scenic, archeological, environmental, biological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic resources that are uniquely located adjacent to an area of large population.’ I would like to request that ‘recreation’ be added to the array of values to be emphasized in the future travel management planning.

If recreation is not added to this language in the Final EIR/EIS, it will go contrary to the agency assurance to recreation stakeholders that designated motorized routes would not be closed by DRECP.

Because of the ‘more restrictive shall apply’ clause regarding NLCA CMA’s, the protections for recreational routes of travel in this SRMA’s mean nothing.

I support plans to increase lands managed for recreational emphasis and exclude them from renewable energy development through designation of Special and Extended Recreational Management Areas. We ask that these proposed designations from the Preferred Alternative be carried over to the Final EIR/EIS.

I do not support any additional land for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or National Conservation Land (NCL) designations. The Bureau of Land Management must carefully consider whether land qualifies for the above designations because of significant criteria of relevance or importance. We believe the hard work exhibited in the Draft DRECP document show that in-depth investigation has been undertaken to find those special areas that warrant increased protection. In our careful examination we do not find any other or additional areas that warrant inclusion to ACEC or NCL designations.

Thank you for your time and interest in the future of rockhounds in the desert.

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Address:

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# AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

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Revised 3/18/2014 - atb  
(Distributed each year in October)