

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

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

July August September 2011

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

April May June 2011

ALAA President's Message

By Richard Pankey, President, ALAA

Annual Meeting

Each year the American Lands Access Association holds its annual business meeting in conjunction with the AFMS Convention. Our meeting this year was held in Syracuse, NY. It was one of the first activities on the convention schedule. Even so we had a very good attendance of all 4 officers, 5 directors and many members.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag followed by the introduction of 2 of our past presidents – Bob Carlson and John Spunaugle. The first order of business was the election of directors. Our directors are elected for a 3 year term and we elect 1/3 of them every year. Bob Carlson, John Wright and Doug True were elected for a 3 year term by a vote of the members present. Tom Noe from the Midwest Federation was elected to fill the remainder of Dean Stone's term. We are grateful for Dean's years of service to ALAA. Next order of business was the election of officers for 2012. The directors re-elected me as president, Shirley Leeson vice president, Kathy Miller secretary and Ruth Bailey treasurer.

Following the officer's reports and reports from our Permanent Directors, the 2012 budget was approved. To promote ALAA at regional Federation shows money was budgeted for speakers and expenses. Any Federation that would like support for an ALAA meeting and speaker expense should contact me for details. The official minutes of this meeting will be published later in the ALAA Newsletter.

We will again have an ALAA informational meeting with speakers, presentations and exchanges at Quartzsite, AZ in January. We are inviting the BLM, other public lands user organizations and the general public.

ALAA had an information table for the 2 days of the Syracuse show. There was a bulletin board with information about ALAA – our purpose and activities. We passed out cards with the AFMS Code of Ethics to everyone who stopped to talk to us. The info table gave us an opportunity to present ourselves to the public and proved to be great for recruiting new members.

About the ALAA

On occasion I have heard ALAA referred to as a "negative organization." The organization of "No!" That ALAA is always against some legislation. That we are always calling for members and rockhounds to contact their senators and representatives to vote "No" on some bill or another. That our "Call for Action" alerts are to tell the BLM or Forest Service that we are against a proposed Management Plan.

And this is true. Over the more than 20 years that ALAA has been advocating for the members

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President's Message

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of the AFMS and for all rockhounds we have opposed numerous legislation and regulations that were bad for rockhounds: legislation that restricts access and use of the public lands by the public. It has been only in the last 2 years have there been legislation that ALAA could support. ALAA is a relatively small organization that is led by a comparatively small group of dedicated volunteers. Organizationally there are 4 Officers, 14 Directors and about 20 State Representatives. We have a Newsletter that is published quarterly and a comprehensive web site that is growing and is updated almost daily. We monitor as best we can legislation and activity of the US Congress and whatever state legislation we hear about. As we are able we monitor and respond to land use planning and activities of BLM and FS. To affect legislation and BLM/FS actions we alert, inform and call upon our individual and societal members and all members of the AFMS to respond to the legislators and regulators. Information and calls to action are the main tools available to ALAA at this time.

With the involvement and participation of more interested and involved members we could do more; we could have more impact and affect. The best way to effect legislation and regulations is to be proactive and involved in the process. We are learning and understand the process but it takes *people* to be involved in the process to affect the outcome.

As the president of ALAA I will continue to focus on getting more people active and involved. Some of the jobs that I have in mind require some basic computer skills (and time and interest). Most just require interest, time and a little dedication. If you would like to be involved and do more to affect the future access to and the use of our public lands, please contact me for more information.

Be an involved member!

A DAY WITH THE DAC Shirley Leeson, Vice President ALAA

First, in attending any government meeting you should have a primer in "government speak." They use initials for everything. I understand that they have to work with these items daily and cutting them down to initials is just easier to deal with but for the "outsider" who attends for the first time, it takes a while to understand what they are talking about. That said, this meeting of the, CDDAC, at Barstow, Saturday, September 10, 2011 at the Hampton Inn, Jack Rabbit Room was run with precision and had an air of business-like procedures, but with a bit of humor – thank goodness. The meeting was scheduled from 8am to 5pm and was presided over by Randy Banis, Chair. Seated next to him was Teri Raml, District Manager, California Desert District. Among the members present were: April Sall, Preserve Manager for Pipes Canyon and Mission Creek Preserves; Alexander Schriener, Professional geologist, in the geothermal industry for over 30 years; Meg Grossglass, Off road Business Assn, Blue Ribbon and Motorcycle Assn.; Ron Johnson, Financial Products, has been on park and recreation boards, as well as planning boards; Richard Holiday, Tom Acuna, and Lloyd Gunn but with no background available on them.

Do you know what ISDRA is? It is the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area. That's the dunes east of El Centro and just before you get to Yuma, Arizona. And on the north bounded by Hiway 78 and on the south by the U.S. Border. When driving by on either Hiway 78 or I-8 you believe that all the area between them is used for recreation. NOT SO! Currently a huge section right out of the center is under litigation because of a weed, (excuse me, to be politically correct, an endangered plant) called Pierson's milk vetch. If you "google" you find a sweet little purple plant that looks harmless, but in reality is LOCO WEED! A rancher's delight. Some-

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A Day With the DAC

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thing cattle can't deal with. But it's been identified by environmentalists as an endangered plant. By the way in the Southern California BLM district they have identified the following Milk Vetch: Cusenbury, Braunton's, Lane Mountain, Coachella Valley, Pierson's, Coastal Dunes and Triple Ribbed (loco weed.)

I bring this up because we were enlightened with a power point presentation by Neil Hamada, Outdoor Recreational Planner of El Centro BLM Office, about the Imperial Sand Dunes and the recreational facilities and opportunities of the area, and a map was shown with a huge hole in the middle showing the litigated area. My concern is the northern part of the dunes has been designated as wilderness for years, surely the same plants grow there without being endangered, why then should another huge area be taken out of the recreational area?

Another presentation was on Dumont Dunes, an area north of the town of Baker, This too was professionally presented by Larry Blaine, Chief, recreation Branch of the Barstow Field Office. The BLM in both areas certainly have their hands full with people doing deliberate damage to facilities put in the area to accommodate the public. These "vandals" don't seem to realize we are all paying taxes that cover their actions, including those who are creating the problems.

Teri Raml, District Manager included in her report the name of the new State Director, Jim Kenna, he comes from Arizona BLM. Other new appointments statewide were announced.

Among the items mention in her report were:

- California Desert Protection Act 2011, Sen. Feinstein
- Soledad Canyon High Desert, Public Lands Conservation and Management Act – CE-MEX, Sen Barbara Boxer.
- Orange County Rocks and Islands, Rep. Campbell
- Beauty Mountain Wilderness , Rep Issa

- Wilderness & Roadless Area Release Act, Rep McCarthy.

A number of the BLM Field Offices had reports, including **El Centro Field Office**, which included the above visual report on the Imperial Dunes, Seven Solar and four wind projects, I asked why (not for the record) commercial companies should be allowed to take PUBLIC LAND and make money off it, taking it from the PUBLIC, and the response was the Interior Department wants to have energy projects on public lands. These project have not set well with Indian Tribes in the area and they now have a liaison from the tribes to the BLM El Centro office, Mark Purdy. **Needles Field Office** was concerned with OHMVR (Off Hiway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division) The **Needles** office has applied for funding through this source. They are also dealing with Electric Generation System and Transmission Projects in their area. They are also working on abandoned mines in the Sacramento Mountains. **Palm Springs**, Field Office is also dealing with solar and wind projects, as well as withdrawal of lands in the vicinity of Campo, east of San Diego for the Navy Mountain Warfare Training expansion. The U.S. Border area has issues and are dealt with by both the BLM and Border Patrol, San Diego County and U.S Fish and Wildlife. And **Ridgecrest**. Their concerns are the same as the other offices Fire Programs, Special Recreation Permits for motorcycle races, marathon running events, endurance horseback rides, jeep tours and vending permits for many of these events. The Jawbone Station is within this district and that's a success story for another time. Renewable energy is also flourishing here with a number of permits are being processed. The El Paso Mountains Wilderness is within this district.

Just for your enjoyment here are a number of acronyms: WEMO, NEMO, NECO, WECO, CDD, CAPA.

It appears there is a high turn over of employees in the BLM Southern District office and

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A Day With the DAC

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their field offices. Someone keeps moving all these people around. Some I spoke to have come from BLM offices outside California and were trying to get their bearings. Just a thought, but keeping people in place so they have a knowledge of their surroundings would seem a better use of personnel.

Again, there were lots of actions by this DAC committee. They recommend to the BLM items brought before them for consideration by the public and various government entities, they are a dedicated group who are serving at the will of the Department of Interior and the White House has the final say on who is selected for this Council.

This is the second DAC meeting I have attended and I intend to sit in on more in the future. It's enlightening. I have met a number of people both from the BLM as well as many in the audience, who will be very helpful in the future for rockhounds and their concerns on collecting sites in the Southern California Desert Area.

Rockhounds Attending: Shirley Leeson, Dee Holland, John and Suzi Martin, Bill and Izzy Burns, Kim Campbell, Jay, Ron Schiller from Ridgecrest, Marie Breashear and friend.

*Shirley Leeson, ALAA, VP
Rockhound Activist*

ALAA MEETING HELD DURING NORTHWEST SHOW CHAHALIS, WASHINGTON July, 2011

A meeting was held to bring together the various Directors of ALAA from the NFMS. Doug True, new ALAA Director and Rep for Montana spoke on current work with BLM on collecting sites in Montana. Evan Day, Director and Rep for Utah spoke on current problems with BLM in Utah. The Utah Governor and U.S.

Congressmen for Utah are fighting back big wilderness proposals in their state. Evan has attended a number of meetings called by the Governor to coordinate efforts to stop legislation. Andy Johnson, President of the Washington State Mineral Council, and ALAA member also spoke about the possible closure of the Saddle Mountain Petrified Wood collecting site and their efforts to work with state and federal fish and game to hold off closure. Everett Headrick, Rep for Idaho is now working with the state recreational council to thwart closures of public lands. It was a good meeting, but we're still plagued with the malaise of rockhounds who don't seem to care or offer to help keep public lands open and stop creeping wilderness from happening.

If you watch the local papers they will tell you when meetings of the various government entities are holding public meetings. ATTEND, GET INVOLVED. Make a difference. Let the powers that be know there are rockhounds out there who care. We have to ever vigilant. It's not only the BLM and Forestry but now the Clean Water and Pollution people can shut down trails and roads to our collecting sites, as well as state and federal Fish and Wildlife.

ALAA meeting planned for next year, 2012 during the NFMS show at Kennewick, WA. Please attend. We need your support and input.

Shirley Leeson & Dee Holland

A CYCLE Shirley Leeson

Recently I received the monthly Newsletter from the San Diego Zoo. An article caught my eye. It was about our Desert Tortoise. It seems the Zoo, along with Fish and Wildlife have created a multi-million facility for wayward Desert Tortoise just outside Las Vegas, Nevada. The group takes in tortoise who have been injured, and/or have been abandoned by people who "took them home for a while." The important message here is that after they are rehabilitated, they are released in to a multi-purpose area

The Cycle

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of the California Desert. BLM land to be specific.

I contacted the Zoo asking why these tortoise weren't put into the WILDERNESS AREAS of the desert, where they will be safe. The answer was they weren't allowed to. They can't take a motorized vehicle in to release them. So, they are put into a multi-use area. This sounds dumb to the limit, but here's the rest of the cycle.... Those tortoise are then included in the count of those found in multi-use areas and as you can imagine, it's a high count, suggesting the area should be closed because an endangered animal in abundance is in the multi-use area.

This can't be made up.... But I have the article and response to prove it.

Shirley Leeson, Rockhound Activist

BLUERIBBON COALITION ACTION ALERT!

National Legislation Impacting California Recreationist Travel Management Alert for OHVers in the West

As Western Representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition, I am deeply concerned that anti-access groups and their supporters in Congress will try and have Section 446 stripped when the House considers H.R. 2584, the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Section 446 is Congressman Wally Herger's pro-access language that attempts to fix some anti-access tenets from Region 5's version of the Travel Management Rule. Section 446 is almost identical to bill language in Herger's H.R. 242 that was introduced in February 2011.

The main issue is the Forest Service has proposed to close hundreds if not thousands of miles of old logging roads to non-street legal

OHV use. This access is important for continued recreational access, connectivity between existing OHV trail systems, and the rural economy.

BRC is asking you to contact your local House member and ask them to oppose any effort to strip Section 446 from H.R. 2584. If you need help identifying your U.S. Representative, the BlueRibbon Coalition has a handy tool in our Rapid Response Center at www.sharetrails.org/rapid_response/. All you need to do is type your zip code in the "**Contact Lawmakers**" box and click GO. Click on your representative's name and then click on the "**Contact**" tab to locate their phone number.

Here is a link to the July 26 Letter from Congressman Herger to his Colleagues.

[http://www.sharetrails.org/uploads/Herger-Protect Access to National Forests in California-1.pdf](http://www.sharetrails.org/uploads/Herger-Protect%20Access%20to%20National%20Forests%20in%20California-1.pdf)

If you recreate in California's National Forests, you need to take action today and send a letter to Congress.

Thanks in advance for your attention to this request.

*Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition*

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national (non-profit) trail-saving group that represents over 600,000 recreationists nationwide. The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season is beginning. Federal employees, please mark BlueRibbon Coalition and Check #11402 on your CFC pledge form to support our efforts to protect your access. Join us at 1-800-258-3742 and <http://www.sharetrails.org>

As a non-profit, grassroots organization funded primarily by membership dues and donations, we greatly appreciate your support. Visit <http://www.sharetrails.org/make-a-difference-now> to help fund our efforts to protect your trails!

Letter to Congressman McKeon

**Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Washington, DC**

RE: Johnson Valley Marine Corps Expansion

Dear Congressman McKeon:

With the draw down of troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and lack of Congressional approval of actions in Libya and the reversal of policy to support for Israel, reduction in US Armed Forces world wide and the reduction in overall Defense Budget. As Chairman of The Armed Services Committee, can you provide to your constituents a reasonable and understandable explanation of why the US Marine Corps Training Base at, Twenty-nine Palms, California needs to expand its training area to over 50% of the Johnson Valley Recreation and Off Road area of our Southern California Public Lands? Open public lands available for multiple recreational usage in Southern California has all but vanished due to extreme environmental pressure and renewable energy projects. I have read and understand the Marine Corps rationale for the expansion, but I strongly feel, with the overall reduction in DOD budget and with world wide draw down of troops the Marine Corps Training Center's expansion into the Johnson Valley is not warranted at this time or at least not until after the 2012 election. Again, will you explain why this expansion is required at this time? Thank you for your time and effort in this important matter.

Thank you for allowing me to express my concern.

Sincerely,

John Martin
1309 West Ave L4
Lancaster, CA 93534

The Epidemic of Extreme Environmentalism, Part 2 The Push-Back

The callous disregard in which extreme environmental organizations hold the economic well-being of the American family has been in evidence of late. As the employment situation in our country continues to cause concern and the fear of recession grows ever larger, extreme environmental organizations think nothing of aggressively advocating for more expensive regulations dubiously designed to protect us from ourselves, as well as push for more and more closures of public land. In the off-road community, we are well aware of the havoc created by extreme environmentalists in their quest to destroy access to motorized recreation, but others are just now starting to wake up to the reality and the detrimental effects these organizations have on state and national economies. The current administration was forced to abandon efforts to enact new environmental laws in a bow to the severe economic consequences these regulations would have caused to American businesses. This is a direct acknowledgment of this political reality.

Extreme environmental organizations have become big businesses. Earthjustice, formerly known as The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, reports income at the end of the 2009 fiscal year of over \$27 million dollars, but has received over \$5 million dollars in revenue over the past two years from the American taxpayer through attorneys fees paid by the US Government after legal settlements. The Wilderness Society, in its most recent tax filing lists income ending the 2010 fiscal year of over \$30 million, with assets totaling over \$55 million. While these organizations continue to accumulate wealth and prosper, the average family in California has seen a downward decline in income, a decimation of recreational opportunities and the dwindling of resources as the state's economy continues to stagnate.

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The Push-Back

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Central California, long known as the “bread basket” of the nation and considered one of the world's most productive agricultural areas, has become acutely aware of the problems caused by over-regulation as pushed by extreme environmental groups. Tom Nassif, President and CEO of Western Growers and Shippers, recently wrote of his frustration with these organizations. *“Environmental group[s]...number in the thousands. They raise hundreds of millions of dollars, some of it by suing the government and collecting legal fees...they act like zealots who have received some God-given or nature-given power and directive to control what happens on earth. They have little regard for the truth and rarely hesitate to impose their views on others...and everyone who disagrees with them is wrong....Farmers know better—nature is not romantic.”*

Even the very basic freedom of decision to have children has become the target of extreme environmentalists. Witness the recent comments published by Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD); *“Virtually everything that is destroying wildlife habitat and the environment is driven by over-population...the bottom line is there are too many people using too many resources to be able to have a healthy environment.”* Mr. Suckling is also well known for encouraging extremists to use a position of strength to force government agencies to bow down to the wishes of the CBD, and more often than not, after a barrage of lawsuits, federal agencies are brought down to the knees in acquiescence.

For off-roaders, farmers, and everyone who depends on motorized access, the machinations of extreme environmental groups have not been welcome, in fact they have been downright annoying and outwardly discriminatory in their effects. As a society, we have lost so much, we only have one choice to combat the future intentions of these organizations. We have to push

back against the tide of extremists, push back against the federal agencies caving into their demands, and push back against those who are trying to take away our freedoms inherent as American citizens.

As extremists have reached the top of the political food chain, the rest of us have to form a strong political base that starts at the bottom of the pyramid. While we may not have the advantage in monetary assets at the moment, we have the advantage in sheer numbers of people who both care about the environment, and equally care about preserving our way of life. The California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) is dedicated to working together to aggressively combat the extremists by taking positions with federal agencies heretofore considered 'too aggressive' for off-road organizations to pursue. CORVA represents all those who employ motorized access for necessity or enjoyment, joining farmer and rock crawler, racer and rock-hounder, in an effort to represent the wants and needs of our local communities with those managing public land access. When that doesn't reap sufficient results, taking legal action against federal agencies is our only resort, and one we're not afraid to pursue.

In CORVA, we hear the calls for action from those on the ground, frustrated at the continuing losses of public land access, and are committed to following through with an aggressive offense. However we need you help, assistance and membership to achieve our shared goals. Many of us spend thousands both pursuing our favored form of motorized recreation and outfitting our vehicles, yet are resistant to paying \$30.00 to the one organization truly representing your interests throughout the state. As a community, giving to CORVA is giving back to yourselves and your families in increased motorized access and increased motorized enjoyment for years to come. Putting your money forth to fight the good fight for motorized access is a noble and necessary expenditure, one to be proud of sup-

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The Push-Back

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porting. Failure will only come about if we continue to complain about loss, and fail to give generously. We will have only ourselves to blame.

- http://wga.com/article.php?art_id=33
- <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/center/articles/2009/santa-fe-reporter-10-28-2009.html>
- <http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/>

History Repeats Itself

From CFMS Newsletter 10/86

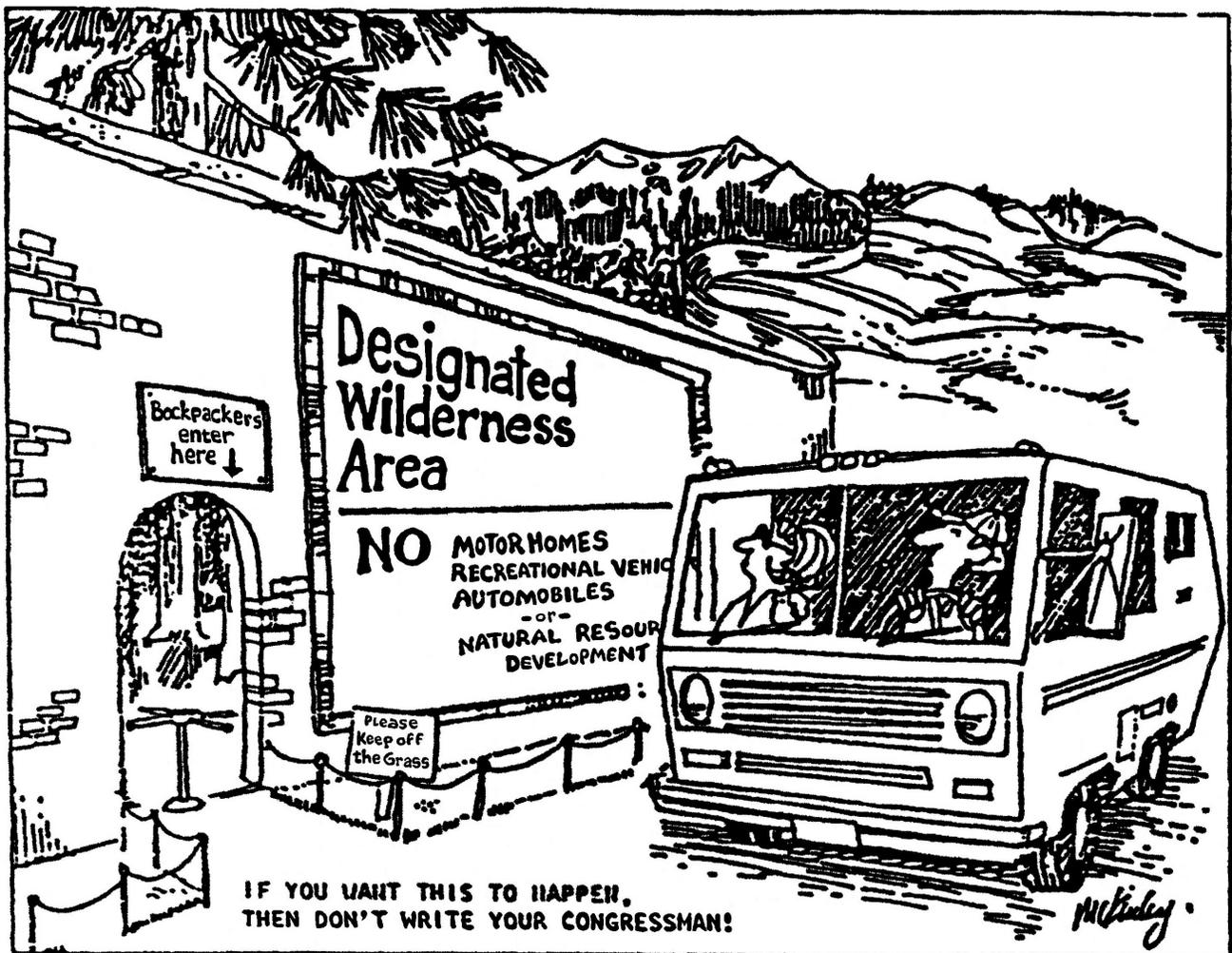
We tend to see our "battles" in the context of the today, forgetting that in many cases these are recurring issues as this article demonstrates.

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO US!! WE AS A CLUB, REPRESENTING OUR HOBBY STRONGLY FOUGHT THIS ISSUE BACK IN 1979.

There are those who are still trying to take our land from us. Please write a letter to Senator Alan Cranston (D) and Pete Wilson and the representative of your District opposing Cranston's Bill S-2061. Also James A. McClure, Idaho Chairman, Energy & Natural Resources. **

The best way to make your point is your own personalized persuasive letter in your own handwriting.

On the next page is a sample type letter as seen in the August '86 Issue of "ORANGE COAST GAZETTE".



IF YOU WANT THIS TO HAPPEN, THEN DON'T WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN!

SAMPLE LETTER

Addresses:

The Honorable _____	The Honorable _____
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING	U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515	WASHINGTON, O.C. 20510

The Honorable _____ Date _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

Dear Mr/Ms,

Senate Bill 2064 is totally unacceptable. It eliminates access to many family camping areas. It puts into Wilderness many areas which do not qualify. It creates a Mojave National Park in an area which has some special attractions; But overall is not deserving of this status.

There are now only a few areas the public can go to see, to see what it must be like in much of Death Valley. Now, these are going to also be put off-limits if this Bill passes. The Bill also proposes to lock up known significant mineral deposits this country has had to rely on in times of trouble.

This Bill will end camping, hiking, rockhounding, back country exploring, hunting, sight-seeing and many other activities which require vehicle access, on millions of desert acres.

It will add to the cost to consumers and the taxpayer will have to bear. It will close businesses and put people out of work.

I, and my family urge you to vote "NO" on Bill S-2061.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address)

Please don't use the above letter as is. Change it to your own wording.

Submitted by Shirley Leeson

Please Copy the document below. Take it to your club meeting. Have your club members sign and return ASAP to:

BRIAN WATERS, WASHINGTON MINERAL COUNCIL
12816 95th AVE NE
Kirkland, WA 98034

PETITION

Recreation Rock Collecting In Washington State

We, the undersigned, support a change to Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Washington State Department of Natural Resources regulations which prohibit recreational rock collecting on Washington State Public lands. We also support a change to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) to require this change. The changes we support are for recreational rock collecting. Which is defined as:

1. 250 lbs per person per day (in aggregate) 25 lbs per day for petrified wood
2. Use of hand tools only (no mechanized/motor-powered machinery or explosives)
3. For non-commercial use

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Signature</u>

FYI

**"Suction dredging backers hail
Gov. Brown's veto"**
(Sacramento Bee, 7/3/11)

Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed "an item in the budget bill that would have essentially killed" dredging, "used to mine for gold in river-bottom gravels ...

opponents decry the practice as having damaging environmental consequences ...

Fish and Game can now finish working on the environmental impact report and associated regulations, though the resumption of dredging is not assured." BLM regulations require compliance with state law.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/07/02/3743181/suction-dredging-backers-hail.html>

- sion and Study Act of 2011 - No cosponsors
- S. 1475: Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area Act of 2011 - No cosponsors

The full text and the current status of this pending legislation, that may have an affect on Rockhounding or collecting site access, may be found on the American Lands Access Association's website.

<http://www.amlands.org/6652/index.html>

For more information on Parks, recreation areas and trails see the following website:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/subjects.xpd?type=crs&term=Parks,%20recreation%20areas,%20trails>

The committee has not received any requests for investigations or concerns of conservation or legislation from any of the regional federations.

Status of Legislation Affecting
Rockhounding on Public Lands

**AFMS Conservation and
Legislation Committee
John Martin**

afms-conservation@antelecom.net

The following legislation before congress may have a direct or indirect affect on Rockhounding on Public Lands held in trust for the American People and managed by the BLM and/or USFS. As of September 1, 2011 these proposed bills are all held in committee and are being reviewed by these committees. No action has been completed since their introductions.

- H.R. 758: National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act - 23 cosponsors
- H.R. 1581: Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011 - 31 Cosponsors
- S. 1087: Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011 - 5 cosponsors
- S. 138: California Desert Protection Act of 2011 - No cosponsors
- S. 268: Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011 - 1 cosponsor
- H.R. 1990: Saguaro National Park Boundary Expan-

How the West was Lost

<http://www.vimeo.com/12500437>

Federal Wilderness designation expressly prohibits motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment, and has serious ramifications for all who utilize or access federal land. There are significant impacts on existing ranching operations, land stewardship and conservation, law enforcement, water management, flood control, public access, recreation, hunting, search & rescue, and fire fighting.

We support a meaningful balance between environmental protection, conservation, recreation, community development, water resource management, law enforcement and respect for private property rights.

We support permanently protecting and preserving the Organ Mountains and the other special areas in our county.

There are viable alternatives to federal Wilderness designation that can be used to protect our land, our natural resources and our open space.

Submitted by John Martin

LET THEM KNOW WHO YOU ARE

By Richard Pankey,
Rockhound Advocate

Rockhounds have an easy way to identify ourselves to other, whether at meetings or in communications: the **Rockhound Sticker™**.

The Rockhound Sticker has become the recognized emblem for rockhounds everywhere. The bright yellow sticker is easy to spot on vehicles and readily identifies that there is a rockhound in the vehicle. Its purpose is to identify rockhounds to each other, to the general public and to BLM, Forest Service and other land managers. It is the way for us to show government official and the public who we are and who is using our public lands. When writing to our elected officials or to the regulators, use the *little* Rockhound Sticker. The use of this sticker on our correspondences attracts attention and immediately identifies it as being from an interested rockhound. The more that it is used, the more it will be recognized and remembered, and the more impact it will have. Wide spread use of the little Rockhound Sticker will add continuity to our message and show that we are a coordinated force not just random individuals.

Wear a Rockhound sticker button when you attend meetings with BLM, USFS and other land managers. Use of this sticker should start with ALAA. We all should use it and promote its use to others who write to their elected officials. We then should promote its use to our local Federation PLAC Committees and all of our Federation members.

**Promote rockhounding. Proudly display your
Rockhound Sticker**



CALIFORNIA DAC MEETING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The September 10, 2011 meeting of the California DAC was the latest of quarterly programs held during each year by the BLM and which are open to the public and which accepts public comment. This meeting, held in Barstow, was well attended by people interested in the rules for hikers, bikers, rockhounds, mining plans, etc.

There are Desert Advisory Council (DAC) Committees in Needles, El Centro, Palm Springs, Ridgecrest and Barstow. Each has programs tailored for their area.

- Needles is still recovering from severe storms that caused road closures.
- El Centro has seven (7) solar projects, Four (4) wind developing applications, Nine (9) wind testing programs, and several other projects.
- Palm Springs has solar and wind power projects.
- The Ridgecrest District issues include climate concerns, deep inaccessible canyons, periodic fires, wild burros and horses.

There are many other programs in each of these five sections as well.

Reports were given about the various projects that are being done for each area and the groups that are working on them. It would be nice if more of the areas of the dessert currently restricted for public use could be made available for special events or such.

Some of our members successfully won the access rights for two areas, Wiley Wells and Gold Rock Ranch, which have been reserved as parks for rockhounds and other people.

If you know of an historic area which could be promoted for people to see you should let your Representatives know. DAC meetings are good for that.

Bill Burns

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