U.S. Interior Department Resurrects Wild Lands Policy
By John Martin, AFMS Conservation Chair

Take Action!
Contact your senators and representative today!

The inappropriate federal “Wild Lands” policy was thought to be dead and buried – until now.

A notice in the Federal Register, dated Feb. 24, 2012, concerning federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions indicates that the goal of the federal “Wild Lands” policy remains. The recent notice for the Carson City, NV, District RMP emphasizes that the BLM is seeking “nominations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and information on lands that may possess wilderness characteristics.”

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) opposes the “Wild Lands” policy because it can restrict responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding with little or no public input whatsoever. The AMA now has two specific examples where the federal BLM is using the RMP process to advance de facto Wilderness through administrative fiat.

On February 6, 2012, the federal BLM issued a notice in the Federal Register affecting 2.4 million acres of public land in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The BLM decided to take a “fresh look” at land-use plans in the aforementioned states dealing with oil shale and tar sands leases. Even though this announcement deals with energy-related leases, which are not a concern of the AMA, the BLM stated it will consider “wilderness characteristics” in determining any future disposition of public land in the affected areas – which can include responsible off-highway vehicle recreation. “Wilderness characteristics” was the defining language used to describe the Department of the Interior’s (DOI’s) “Wild Lands” policy.

In the administration’s fiscal year (FY) 2013 budget, the BLM requested an increase of $4.4 million for Resource Management Planning. This will certainly help accelerate a goal to create de facto Wilderness through administrative fiat.

U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands of the House Natural Resources Committee, will hold a hearing on February 28 regarding the FY 2013 National Park Service and BLM budgets. The issue of “Wild Lands” is expected to be discussed.

On Dec. 22, 2010, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar signed Secretarial Order 3310 creating a new land-use designation called “Wild Lands” that essentially allowed officials in the federal BLM to manage public land as if it had received a “Wilderness” land-use designation from Congress, but without requiring congressional approval.

Congress then blocked the “Wild Lands” proposal by refusing to fund it.


Now, this latest policy appears to revive “Wild Lands” and its implementation may restrict responsible off-highway riding in the affected areas.

If true, the de facto resurrection of the “Wild Lands” policy would be in violation of the congressional funding moratorium that prohibits the use of appropriated funds to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order 3310.

Furthermore, these notices appear to contradict a June 1, 2011, DOI memorandum directing Abbey to not designate any lands as “Wild Lands.” This memorandum reversed Secretarial Order 3310.

Subsequently, Salazar said the BLM will work in collaboration with members of Congress to identify public land that may be appropriate candidates for congressional protection under the Wilderness Act.

Now it appears this may not be the case.

On February 7, 2012, the Utah congressional delegation sent a bipartisan letter addressed to Salazar protesting his decision to reexamine the 2008 Oil Shale Rule. The letter noted, “Even the BLM’s early announcement that it would revisit the 2008 Oil Shale Rule to consider wilderness characteristics would have been forbidden by the congressional funding moratorium on the Department of the Interior Secretarial Wild Lands Order 3310.”

When the “Wild Lands” policy first emerged, federal lawmakers called the policy a “land grab” and a blatant attempt to usurp congressional authority. The AMA sent a letter, dated Jan. 11, 2011, to Salazar asking him to explain whether the “Wild
As we watch the little bit of snow we’ve had this year melt into mud, we anxiously wait for the mud to become dirt so that we can get out and start collecting. Remember to do it safely and use proper eye protection and other protection that protects you bodily. You can only lose your eye-sight, or a finger or a leg or arm once and there is no going back. Do not forget to take the time and effort to prepare your pick-up or car before you leave. Have it checked for hoses and belts and if needed get a general tune-up. Being 35 to 50 miles from the nearest paved road is not the time for a sudden reminder that you did not get it done. Please be considerate so you do not have to use others collecting time to help get you back to a garage. And do you think that the garage is going to be open on a Saturday or a Sunday? You look at your vehicle in your garage first, before you leave. And in the west, once you get to the paved road it can still be 35 to 50 miles for help. Check your cell phone coverage area to see where you can use your cell phone and where it will not work.

If you are going with others, a club or federation trip, be sure to check with the wagon-master for the meeting time and place and what special tools and other clothing that is needed. Maps, hmm - make sure that you understand everything that is on the map you are using, look at the map’s legend and know what all of the symbols are about. Paint strips on a paved highway for a cattle guard are not the same as the real cattle guard that you can stick your foot into and get it caught or broken. Glass Butte in Oregon is no place for bald tires, and what are you doing with bald tires anyway?

Oregon! June 13, 14, 15, and 16 is the AFMS Inter-Regional Field Trip in Southeast Oregon. The area is southeast of Vale, Oregon in the Twin Springs, Grassy Mountain and Hoodoo Basin area. Vale, Oregon is about 20 miles west of where I-84 crosses into Oregon from Idaho, Ontario, Oregon. Contact our Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair Doug True for cost and how to get there.

For other safety tips and other ideas that may concern you or that you may have a question about contact your local club, federation, or AFMS safety person.

Have a safe fun collecting year.

Lauren

PS: Have you made all the reservations that you need for getting to, staying at, and getting home from the AFMS Convention in Minnetonka, Minnesota?

AFMS Club Rockhounds

from Evelyn Cataldo

Midwest Federation

David Reese has been named Rockhound of the Year by the Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society of the greater Rockford, IL area. Dave has been a member of the club for the past 12 years and president for 10 years. He is being honored for his dedication, knowledge, leadership and helpfulness to others. All the members are appreciative and thank him for his efforts.

submitted by Wilma

member of the Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Northwest Federation

The Clackamette Gem and Mineral Club are pleased to recognize Jon and Sandy Metheny for their outstanding contributions to the club. On meeting nights they come early, help set up the room, and then remain to assist with clean-up. Jon is our field trip chair, and spends much time scouting out locations and guiding members to the most productive locations. Both work tirelessly at our annual show - helping with set-up and tear-down, making items for the Kid’s Korner, filling bags of tumbled stones, making “critters out of rocks and shells and helping in any way possible.

Despite some physical difficulties, both have contributed to our club and we’re fortunate that they chose to be a part of it.

submitted by Art Hess
Advisory Council.

The AMA encourages the OHV community to get involved and to participate with a local BLM Resource Advisory Council.

This recent notice by the BLM is another reason that the riding community must remain vigilant in protecting responsible access to our public land. The AMA encourages the OHV community to get involved and to participate with a local BLM Resource Advisory Council.

With Pat taking lead and serving as our primary contact, we began just such a program with the following philosophy and procedure. Kids love the different rocks, minerals, and fossils to be found across our great nation, but they can’t always afford to buy them or to travel to collect them. But how wonderful it would be for juniors in a club to band together to collect local samples to trade with juniors in other clubs across the country! With that in mind, Pat volunteered to establish and oversee “Rock Pals.” A club would gather 20 to 25 local specimens in sizes small enough for all to fit in an $11.35 medium-size flat-rate box available at the Post Office and, after making arrangements with another club, each would mail a box to the other.

Pat and her Syracuse kids exchanged specimens with FRA juniors in Washington and Florida, and I later sent them a box from California. We were off to a great start, and I had the privilege to meet Pat in person at the AFMS Show & Convention last July in Syracuse. She was a wonderful person with a great love of kids and proudly showed me all the neat kids’ activities her club was sponsoring at the national show.

At the same time, Pat informed me she was facing a renewed battle with cancer that had afflicted her earlier in life. Sadly, I was informed by Bob Livingston of the Syracuse society that Pat lost that battle on February 7. To keep her spirit alive and to honor her memory, I’m renaming the program as the “Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Program.” I’ll also be making a donation to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in Pat’s name, and I encourage FRA juniors groups across the country to do the same.

To regroup, I’ll be e-mailing all active AFMS/FRA-affiliated clubs to remind them about the program and to see which clubs would be interested in participating in the exchange and having a contact person listed on the Kids Corner section of the AFMS web site. If you’re reading this now and are interested, please contact me at (805) 659-3577 or <jbracth@roadrunner.com>. Here’s to continuing a fine idea and to honoring the spirit of the fine lady who started it.
WOW...the donations are coming in and I hope ticket sales will go through the roof.

Thank you all that have donated items for the drawing so far......greatly appreciated !!!!!

I’d still like to have more items... send me an email and drop the donation to me in the mail.

So far with 23 items our drawing value of prizes is over $5800. Awesome!!! Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support.

And now....drum roll please...here are the latest prizes to be added to our already stellar line-up.

#12 - Calcite from the Southwest Mine, Bisbee, Cochise Co. AZ. The specimen is approx. 4” x 1 1/4” and appears to have been a pocket floater. Donated by Steve & Carolyn Weinberger, it has an estimated value of $100. (EFMLS)

#13: Cavansite, Stilbite and Heulandite from Whagoli Mine, Poona, India. The cavansite crystals is quite large and well formed. Donated by Steve & Carolyn Weinberger, it has an estimated value of $50. (EFMLS)

#14: Almandine/Spsessartine Garnet on Rhyolite from the Thomas Range, Juab Co. UT. Donated by Steve & Carolyn Weinberger, it has an estimated value of $75. (EFMLS)

#15: Flintknapped Knife made from mahogany obsidian hafted on a deer antler with rawhide by Bob Gassett. Blade is 5” long with a 4” handle. The estimated value $225 (NFMS)

#16: 12 polished cabochons.
Top row - Rocky Butte Jasper, OR, Dendritic Rhyolite, AZ, Lysite Agate, WY, Agua Nueva Agate, Mexico. Middle row - Crazy Lace Agate, Mexico, Dryhead Agate, MT, Regency Rose Agate, OR, Rocky Butte Jasper, OR, Bottom row - Butterfly Jasper, Mexico, Willow Creek Jasper, ID, Graveyard Point Plume Agate, OR, Morrisite Jasper, OR. This donation was made by an anonymous craftsman from the Midwest Federation. This person enjoys just making one cabochon after another cabochon and explaining their knowledge of the hobby with each slab. The estimated value is $125. (MWF).

#17: 12 polished cabochons
Top row - Plume Agate, Willow Creek Jasper, ID, Landscape Jasper, Madagascar, Jasper (unknown locality). Middle row - Parrot Wing Chrysocolla, Brecciated Agate, AZ, Carrasite Jasper, OR, Crazy Lace Agate, Mexico. Bottom row - Moss Agate, TX. Tigereye, Yellowstone River Moss Agate, MT, Jasper, Madagascar. This donation was made by an anonymous craftsman from the Midwest Federation. This person enjoys just making one cabochon after another cabochon and explaining their knowledge of the hobby with each slab. Estimated value is $125. (MWF).

#18: Nipomo Sagenite Wire Wrapped Pendant Designed and wrapped by Jeannie Lingerfelt with gold-filled wire. Estimated value is $100 (CFMS).

#19: Enamel Bead Necklace, Bracelet, Earring Set made from Enamel Glass with Mother of Pearl and Swarovski Crystal, GF findings. Designed and donated by Jeannie Lingerfelt. Estimated value is $100 (CFMS).

#20: Petrified Palm Wood Pendant (the Texas State Rock) wire wrapped in 14/20 gold-filled wire. Cut, wire wrapped and donated by Virginia Adian. Estimated value is $90. (SCFMS).


#22: Amber Pendant in sterling silver. Donated by Joyce & Delbert Speed is has an estimated value of $100. (SCFMS).

#23: Pyrolusite/Manganite Specimens from the Taylor Mine in the UP of Michigan. Great for micro mounting - donated by Norm Gruber it has an estimated value of $50. (MWF).
A Celebration of Agates – 2012 AFMS/MWF Convention
by Sandy Fuller, Convention Chair

Are your reservations made to come to Minnesota this summer? Don’t miss the fun and excitement! It’s “A Celebration of Agates!” to be held July 26 – 29, 2012 in Minnetonka, MN.

The energy starts flowing with a day of new presentations by some of the world’s top agate enthusiasts. Each presenter will have time to answer questions from the audience. Your seminar fee includes Thursday lunch and daily show passes.

During the three day show exhibitors and vendors will amaze you with the wide variety of agates from around the world. Chats with exhibitors, speakers and authors will be scheduled throughout the show. Each day will have lots to do and new opportunities to talk agates.

While agates are the focus, the show includes other rockhound interests: minerals, fossils, jewelry, fluorescents and equipment, to name a few. It’s a nice mix of local dealers and national/international agate vendors.

Time is also set aside for the business meetings of the American and Midwest Federations. The public is invited to observe these regional and national groups who are working to make local clubs stronger.

What about time out to experience the Twin Cities? Visit the Mall of America: the largest in the US, complete with amusement park, Sea Life Aquarium and plenty of unique shops and dining venues. Stroll along the waterfalls and check out the “Song of Hiawatha” garden at Minnehaha Park. Take a narrated riverboat tour up the Mississippi from St. Paul to Fort Snelling. Catch a home game with the Minnesota Twins at the new Target Field. There’s lot’s to do and see.

Need a place to stay? Marriott Minneapolis West (952-367-5081) and Spring Hill Suites (952-738-7300) in St. Louis Park (just west of downtown Minneapolis) are nearby with easy access to the event site. Remember to ask for the “Celebration of Agates” discount of $79 per night. Both hotels are providing free shuttle service to and from the event site for registered guests.

Event registration forms and hospitality information are available online at <http://www.amfed.org/show2012.htm>. Inquiries can be submitted through the website or sent to <2012agates@gmail.com>.

To have your information posted, send the information, including your web site URL to <editor@amfed.org>. We’ll gladly publish information for your club as we receive it.

Regional Federation Conventions
from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

By the time you receive this issue, the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention will have been held, but the other regions will still be on tap. If you’ve never attended a regional federation convention, I urge you to do so as soon as you can. By doing so you’ll have a chance to meet the regional officers and committee chairs, learn a bit about how the federation operates, and in general, have a wonderful time.

Due to space considerations, we cannot publish local club show information in the AFMS Newsletter, but your regional federation newsletter will do so.

Workshops, Competitions, Classes?
from Yo Olde Editor

With over 500 clubs affiliated with AFMS, it’s impossible, impractical and too costly to publicize local club shows in the AFMS Newsletter. We can however post links to local club activities such as workshop classes, special symposia or competitions that are open to non-members of the sponsoring club.

For example, the Houston Gem & Mineral Society is offering a cab cutting competition. Details are available on their website <www.h.gms.org>. Deadline for entry is September 15 and there is a $200 prize.

The Minnesota Mineral Club is sponsoring a one day Agate Symposium in conjunction with the AFMS Convention and Show. The seminar is Thursday, July 26 from 8 am - 5 pm at Hopkins High School, Minnetonka, MN. Info and registration at <www.minnesotamineralclub.org>.

To have your information posted, send the information, including your web site URL to <editor@amfed.org>. We’ll gladly publish information for your club as we receive it.

Regional Federation Conventions
from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Ventura, CA</td>
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<td>August 16-18 Butte, MT</td>
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In the September issue of the AFMS Newsletter, I started a series of articles on the students who have received educational grants from the Foundation. I started with the first 10 recipients out of the total 566 students who have received our education grants. The following article continues this effort by selecting students from the next 10 grants whose accomplishments stand out. To report on each of 566 students would likely turn into a book, but I will attempt in future articles to add some of the more significant and interesting student’s names and accomplishments. No record that I have access to, has attempted this in the past, but Internet research has added to our knowledge of many students and their accomplishments. Any information the AFMS readers may have on our past student’s post graduation activities would be appreciated. Corrections are welcome too.

August is a busy month for the Foundation as it is the time we usually make out the education grant checks to the twelve students selected by the six participating Regional Federations and their Honorary Awardees (the SFMS had its own scholarship program before joining the AFMS and continues this program today). In August we paid out $488.000 in educational grants and funded completely from last years’ annual investment income. Income generated by your past donations. Thus twelve additional deserving students are continuing to work on, or finish, their earth science advanced degrees. All from your generosity. See the article by Foundation President, Dee Holland, in the June 2011 AFMS Newsletter for their names and schools.

Picking up from my previous article, the eleventh student to receive our grant, was Louis (Louie) Marcinovich who was selected by 1970 SCFMS Honorary Awardee, Dr. Carey Cronoes, Rice University Chancellor. Louie Marcinovich graduated with his PhD in Paleontology in 1976 from the University of Southern California after receiving a 5,000 AFMS Scholarship Foundation grant. He has done extensive research and published numerous papers on Alaska and the Canadian Arctic in the Cenozoic Era as part of his distinguished career. His team of American and Russian Paleontologists are credited with determination of the date the land bridge (Bering Strait) between North America and Asia first opened (about 4.8 to 5.5 million years ago). They used the migration of certain mollusk fossils to aid in this determination. Their findings are widely accepted in the scientific community today. Dr. Marcinovich has written many articles and papers as well as given many presentations on his area of study and field research. He is currently listed as California Academy of Science, Adjunct Curator – Paleontolgy. Dr. Marcinovich writes that his interest in marine fossils started at about age ten collecting fossil sea shells near his home in San Pedro, CA. His current work involves how north pacific mollusks have responded to changes in ocean chemistry.

Richard J Birdwell was student # 15, also selected by Chancellor Cronoes in 1970. He attended the University of Utah, but we have no additional information. I hope a reader who knows about Mr. Birdwell will report back to us.

The following obituary is found on the internet regarding our 10th student Findley C. Bishop, selected by the BMFMS and Dr. Eugene S. Richardson, Curator, Chicago Museum of Natural History.

"Findley C. Bishop, 48, of Evanston (IL), associate professor of geological sciences, died Jan. 6 (1998) at Evanston Hospital following a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, their two sons, ages 2 and 4; a stepdaughter, his mother; and two sisters. Mr. Bishop, a native of Minneapolis, received an A.B. degree cum laude from Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., in 1972, majoring in physics and geology. He did graduate work at the University of Chicago, where he received his master's (A.M. 1974) and doctoral degrees (Ph.D. 1976). He joined the Northwestern faculty in 1976 and was promoted to associate professor in 1982. (Dr.) Bishop's research interests were mineral- phase transformations at high temperatures and pressures, and he applied the results of his experimental studies to the interpretation of the conditions in the Earth's crust and deeper lithosphere. (Dr.) Bishop taught a popular undergraduate course about the Earth as a planet in the Solar System, and a number of Freshman Seminars through the spring quarter of 1994-95. "Not mentioned is that Dr. Bishop was active in the Mineralogical Society of America."

He have no information on Student # 17, Michael Cassilian also selected by Dr. Eugene S. Richardson and who attended the University of Wyoming.

Student # 18 was John Luther Cisne, selected by Dr. Eugene S. Richardson. Dr. Cisne finished his PhD at Chicago University in 1973 after receiving a $750 AFMS Scholarship Foundation grant in 1971.

Dr. Cisne’s research has ranged from the internal anatomy and population dynamics of trilobites, to the phylogeny and evolution of arthropods, to gradient analysis of fossil communities, to stratigraphic and biometric study of evolutionary patterns in invertebrate lineages, to chemical paleoceanography, paleoabathymetry, and the study of sea-level change and paleoclimates, to synthetic stratigraphy and the mechanics of sedimentary basins, to the study of information transmission in evolving communication networks, biological and otherwise. Often it has involved novel combinations of two or more sciences. His instruction focus has been evolution of the earth systems, Dinosaurs. He has published many articles.

Student # 19, Rod Ewing is a professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences at the University of Michigan and is responsible for the program in radiation effects and nuclear waist management. Dr. Ewing received his BS degree in geology from Texas Christian University in 1968, summa cum laude, and his MS degree in 1972. He received his PhD from Stanford University in 1974. His studies of the elements Tantalium, Niobium and Titanium have helped determine the effect of radiation on materials used in the industry. Dr. Ewing was a student selection of Dr. Eugene S Richardson. Curator of the Chicago Museum of Natural History in 1971.

"Ewing was president of the Mineralogical Society of America (2002) International Union of Materials Research Societies (1997-1998) and the New Mexico Geological Society (1981). He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Caswell Silver Foundation (1980-1994) and Energy, Exploration, Education, Inc. (1979-1984). He has served as a guest scientist or faculty member at Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Hahn-Meltn-institut in Berlin, the Department of Nuclear Engineering in the Technion University at Haifa, the Centre D’Etudes Nucléaires de Fontenay-Aux-Roses, Commissariat A L’Energie Atomique in France, Charles University in Prague, the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, the Institut für Kulturelle Entsorgungstechnik of the Kernforschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Aarhus University in Denmark, Mineralogical Institute of Tokyo University and the Khlopin Radium Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia" (from the Internet)

Student # 20, James Granath was also selected by Dr Eugene Richardson in 1971, and received a $1,500.00 grant for study at the University of Illinois.

"Dr James W. Granath is a consulting structural geologist who has worked in academia as well as the minerals and petroleum industries. His expertise lies in structural analysis, seismic interpretation, integration of the two, fracture analysis, regional synthesis, and prospect and play evaluation. In 1999 he opened a consulting practice focused on structural geology and technology as a solution to exploratory problems, interrupted only by brief periods of work with Forest Oil and Midland Valley Exploration in Denver. Prior to 1999, he taught at SUNY Stony Brook and spent 18 years in Conoco in research, international exploration,

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AFMS Committees: 2010 – 2011

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2011 – 12. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club
John Washburn
<jrwashburn3 at att.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Evelyn Cataldo
<cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Marion Roberts
<myroberts at bigvalley.net>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
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<editor at amfed.org>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
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Bylaws Revisory
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Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr at erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<afms-conservation at antelecom.net>

Endowment Fund
Pam Hecht
<steverox at up.net>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<president at amfed.org>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson at cox.net>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<dtruefossils at yahoo.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

Past President’s Advisory
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

Photography
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret at qtm.net>

Publications
Ron Carman
<rcarman at centurytel.net>

Safety
Owen Martin
<owenmartin at yahoo.com>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy at verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
Anne Cook
<secretary at amfed.org>

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<secretary at amfed.org>

Ways and Means
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart
<webmaster at amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
Cheri George
<lizardwoman3 at yahoo.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Judges Training)
Lauren Williams, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
ROCKHOUNDS – AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

This past January, I ran into Bill Depue, the president of Diamond Pacific Tool Corp. at the Desert Gardens show in Quartzsite. On this warm, sunny day, Bill was sitting at the entrance to the Diamond Pacific Building polishing cabs on his Big Foot machine and talking with whoever stopped to talk. As I talked with Bill about the early mining activities in Quartzsite, Rock Club in Quartzsite attended the open house to see first hand the maps with proposed road changes and the details. They were able to get maps and detail online, or copies of CD’s with the information. After reviewing the maps with the proposed changes they are now submitting letters and e-mails with their specific responses and recommendations to the proposals. The important action now for the rockhounds is to become knowledgeable about the details, send letters and e-mails to the BLM with specific comments and recommendations about the plan. The more rockhounds that participate the stronger our position and the more impact we will have on the process. That is, the better the chance to protect access, road use and collecting sites.

Responding to the proposed alternatives is just one step in the process. After the responses to the alternatives are tallied the BLM will issue the “Draft Plan” for final review and comment. We need to scrutinize the draft plan and respond as necessary; support or challenge. We can’t stop until the final plan is issued.

If you don’t think that your comments and participation are important or necessary, just remember that the well organized and well funded preservationist and anti-access coalitions are submitting their ideas and recommendations, also. Your participation is important. Your voice is important.

The habitat of the “endangered rockhound” is also affected by legislation. Currently there is a bill before Congress that can increase our habitat: H.R.1581 Wilderness Study Area and Roadless Release Act of 2011. Congressman Kevin McCarthy from Bakersfield, CA is the author/sponsor of this bill. This bill removes land from Wilderness Study Area designation that has been determined not to meet the criteria to be a Wilderness and to return the land to “multiple use” designation. The rockhounds can help increase their habitat and open collecting sites, road access and land use by writing to the Congressman and Senators asking them to support H.R. 1581.

Unlike other “endangered species”, the “endangered rockhound” can help shape the future. What will be the future of our habitat? How will you help shape our future?

AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

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.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

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.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

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and new ventures. He is a member of Aapg, Agi, GSA, and RMAG, and is a certified petroleum geologist (#5512). He is the author of numerous research papers and co-edited several multi-author compendia. He received his PhD from Monash University in Australia, and a BS and MS from University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana", (from the Internet)

As you can see from the above the early students selected to receive your educational grants, have done very well. We will look at the first 100 students in my next article.

dance and the interest in the plan. Now is the time for the rockhounds to respond to the various proposals and alternatives offered. Many of the members of the Roadrunners Rock Club in Quartzsite attended the open house to see first hand the maps with proposed road changes and the details. They were able to get maps and detail online, or copies of CD’s with the information. After reviewing the maps with the proposed changes they are now submitting letters and e-mails with their specific responses and recommendations to the proposals. The important action now for the rockhounds is to become knowledgeable about the details, send letters and e-mails to the BLM with specific comments and recommendations about the plan. The more rockhounds that participate the stronger our position and the more impact we will have on the process. That is, the better the chance to protect access, road use and collecting sites.

Responding to the proposed alternatives is just one step in the process. After the responses to the alternatives are tallied the BLM will issue the “Draft Plan” for final review and comment. We need to scrutinize the draft plan and respond as necessary; support or challenge. We can’t stop until the final plan is issued.

If you don’t think that your comments and participation is important or necessary, just remember that the well organized and well funded preservationist and anti-access coalitions are submitting their ideas and recommendations, also. Your participation is important. Your voice is important.

The habitat of the “endangered rockhound” is also affected by legislation. Currently there is a bill before Congress that can increase our habitat: H.R.1581 Wilderness Study Area and Roadless Release Act of 2011. Congressman Kevin McCarthy from Bakersfield, CA is the author/sponsor of this bill. This bill removes land from Wilderness Study Area designation that has been determined not to meet the criteria to be a Wilderness and to return the land to “multiple use” designation. The rockhounds can help increase their habitat and open collecting sites, road access and land use by writing to the Congressman and Senators asking them to support H.R. 1581.

Unlike other “endangered species”, the “endangered rockhound” can help shape the future. What will be the future of our habitat? How will you help shape our future?

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