Another New Prize for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing!
by Donna Moore, Chair

What fun it was to open a box that was in my mailbox this week. There were three Ocean Jasper eggs that Jean and Matt Charsky have donated as a prize for the Endowment Fund Drawing.

#14 - a trio of Ocean Jasper eggs donated by Jean and Matt Charsky. The estimated value is $75. (EFMLS)

If anyone else found some nice specimens to donate for prizes in Tucson or elsewhere, please send me a photo with a description and estimated value. Or you can mail the actual specimen to me. If your federation representative plans to come to Austin in October, maybe he or she would bring the specimen.

Or, maybe you have been snowed in and have done some lapidary work that you would like to donate. I would love to find that in my mailbox next week! My mailing address is Donna Moore, 25235 N. IL Hwy. 97, Cuba, IL 61427. My e-mail is <mwf-secretary@gmail.com>.

And, if you cannot donate a prize, please buy a ticket ($5) or several tickets ($20 for five) from your federation representative, so maybe you can win one of the prizes such as these stone eggs. They would make a neat addition to your Easter basket next year!

Or, they would look nice in a display case or a collection of other stone eggs. There is a regional federation convention scheduled somewhere for each of the next several months, so maybe we can get lots of tickets sold and the representatives can find out about donations members plan to make for this year’s drawing.

And don’t forget about these other prizes (and more not shown) that you could win...if you hold a winning ticket! Descriptions were in prior AFMS Newsletters.

#5 Withlacoochee Coral

#9 Jade Fruits

#7 - Agate Bola

#10 a sterling silver necklace with variscite pendant

#11 - an owl etched on verdite
A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts, President

Hello to everyone across our country. I know that almost every state has experienced cold, snowy, icy and nasty weather and I do hope that all of you are safe, comfortable and well.

I also hope that no one else had to go through the serious bronchitis and infection Vivien and I both had this past month. I was down for about three weeks and Vivien a bit over a week. It was no fun at all!

We are both back in fair shape and getting better daily. If anyone else is having problems, we wish for your speedy recovery. I have, for a long time wanted to meet the individual who came up with the terminology “golden years” because I am very sure he did not see 80 years old. My golden years were a long time ago.

In the past year or so we have received a lot of new and different club bulletins. Some have come by e-mail and others as hard copy. Each has proven to be very interesting in many ways with the most interesting to me the realization that every club seems to have similar goals, many have different ways of achieving them. I’ve also realized that although some ideas are different, there are subtle likenesses and I have become convinced that all of us could benefit from ideas of others.

With weather conditions as they have been, field trips and the stories that go with them are a bit scarce right now, I have a suggestion for you for spending some of your time in an interesting manner.

Spend some time and visit the websites of some of the other clubs and societies within your own federation or within other federations. (You can find these by visiting the AFMS website and clicking on the tab for each regional federation.) You could call this an “indoor field trip”! By doing this you could learn about some new ideas that you could use for your club and get acquainted with some new people. And it certainly could be a way to expand inter-club communication, which is part of my goal for this year.

Vivien and I hope to see many of you at the regional conventions in Hickory, North Carolina or Ogden, Utah, as we are still planning to be at both.

Marion

Still Available for Your Club Library

by John Washburn

We have 3 DVD presentations by notable scholars for a mere $20 dollar donation for each to go to the MWF Endowment Fund. The three presentations were given at the 2012 Geo-fair in Cincinnati, Ohio. Not only are the scholar’s great speaker’s they are also nationally known. Jeff Scovil for his photography and a collector of minerals. Dr. Carl Francis, Harvard Museum’s former mineral curator, and Dale Gnidovec, well known Ohio paleontologist. All the titles of these DVD’s are as follows:

“The Beauty of Carbonates” by Jeff Scovil

“Collectable Carbonates” by Dr. Carl Francis

“Teeth, Jaws & Claws” by Dale Gnidovec

Again for only a $20 dollar donation you will receive a DVD of your choosing. No cash please, order today so you will not be disappointed. Satisfaction guaranteed. This donation will be credited to your club or the individual making the donation. Regardless your donation is tax deductible.

Send your request to MWF Endowment Fund Treasurer Alan Hukill 15785 Park Lake Road, East Lansing MI 48823. Please make the check payable to 03903074MWF Endowment Fund. Please enclose an additional $3.00 for postage for each.

Name: __________________________________________ Date: __________________
Address video is to be mailed to: __________________________________________
City:______________________________ State:_____________Zip:____________________
Amount enclosed: $____________________
DVD Requested (circle all): The Beauty of Carbonates Collectable Carbonates Teeth, Jaws & Claws
CFMS-2015-Newsletter.pdf
Safety Matters – Bad Hair Day
by Ellery Borow

Is a bad hair day such a difficult thing? Or, might it be more of an attitude thing? Could a bad hair day be an opportunity to change something in one’s life—a different hat, a different hoodie, a different hair style, a different attitude?

Look at firemen and firewomen—theirs is a difficult and stressful job. They do, from time to time, rescue a kitty stuck in a tree. However, usually they respond to disasters, difficult situations, stressful times, and all manner of instances that tax their abilities. Working under those conditions for prolonged periods of time are bound to tests one intestinal fortitude and challenge one to one’s wits ends, even on occasion, to the verge of mental health issues. Many first responders face similar issues. What does one do to keep their wits and well being in tact? Well, there are many solutions to the problem. One of the solutions relates to one’s attitude. As simple a thing as a positive attitude can make a difference. Think of the serious situation of a house fire. While one would of course, always wish for no damage, no property loss, no injuries, seldom is that the case. A positive attitude could be... “Well the garage was a total loss, but we save the house” or “We couldn’t save the house, but we got the whole family and all the pets out safely.” The positive attitude of what did go right can be a mental health life saver. While this description is grossly over simplified—having a positive attitude is not.

Rockhound safety matters are thankfully seldom life threatening in scope. Yes we often dwell on the negative—lacerations, watching field trip members for signs of angina pectoris (chest pain), contusions, foreign bodies in one’s eye, broken bones, chemical burns, situations which might cause hearing loss, reminding show helps to mind their limits because no one wants to trigger an arrhythmia! How does one maintain a positive attitude with all these safety concerns at every club function? Where is the positive side? Well, the positive side to all manner of safety issues is... all the negatives!

Please let me explain. When a negative, say an abrasion, is prevented, that is a good thing. When a laceration is prevented—that is good! When any potential problem is addressed before it rises to the level of an actual accident, the potential negative becomes a positive. If one stresses the positive aspects of prevention, the positive aspects of being pro-active when it comes to safety or the positive aspects of being prepared in our rock, mineral and fossil clubs, there are more good feelings generated than when one has to deal with the aforementioned lacerations etc.

Putting safety matters in the best light possible such as by stressing the small expense of a pair of safety glasses versus a doctor’s careful removal of a foreign body from the eye, has advantages. Putting safety matters in a positive light can play a part in creating a good attitude. Framing safety matters into a prevention versus treatment issue can offer positive reinforcement of good behavior.

With safety matters being a part of every meeting, show, picnic, field trip, club function etc., having a positive attitude can make all the difference in helping others find their own positive attitude.

Now, I had a bad hair day for six days in a row. I think however, in the overall mix of things, I have more important things to worry about. Still, I think a new hat is in order!

Be safe...your safety matters.

Having Fun: Junior Activities
by Jim Braege-Thompson

Two More Books for Young Rockhounds

I work in publishing and, as a result, I go to two conventions each year sponsored by the American Library Association, one in January and the other in June. Librarians being librarians, budgets are in short supply, so they always pick “off-season” locations for better hotel rates. This January, that proved to be Chicago in the midst of the blizzard of Winter Storm Linus that impacted 95 million people across the upper Midwest and East and kept many of us trapped in hotel rooms while 3,500 flights a day were canceled at O’Hare International Airport...

At least it let me catch up on a little reading, including a couple of kids books that I nabbed at the McCormick Convention Center. Lisa Gardner Walsh’s Treasure Hunter’s Handbook (Down East Books, 2014) encourages fun family activity, urging kids to get outside and explore the world around them. According to the back-cover blurb, “young explorers can learn about geocaching, how to pan for gold, use metal detectors to find buried treasure, and search for arrowheads and gemstones. Wonderful bits of pirate lore, rock and mineral facts, and some fun pirate and treasure-hunting craft activities are also included. Avast, matey!” As someone who once had to write such marketing copy, I’m not sure if I found that last sentence delightful or grinch-worthy, but the book itself is certainly a delight and well worth getting for your club library!

I found another, older book in a museum gift shop while rockhounding in a volcanic region of the eastern Mojave last Thanksgiving vacation. Last month, I told about books that teach kids by-the-numbers. Well, this is another book in that genre: John Calderazzo’s 101 Questions About Volcanoes (Western National Parks Association, 1994). What makes volcanoes? How fast does lava flow? How hot does lava get? What’s the difference between lava and magma? How many active volcanoes are there? Why do volcanoes make red sunsets? Did volcanoes kill the dinosaurs? What was the biggest volcanic explosion in human history? Do other planets have volcanoes? I do educational outreach to local schools accompanied by my trusty old-fashioned baking-soda-and-vinegar volcano, and I’ve heard these questions and more—and now I have a ready source for answers that makes learning both interesting and fun!

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Keep Up to Date
by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

Getting the latest AFMS news to your club is not a difficult task, but to do so, we must have the correct names and addresses of your 2015 officers. Please take a moment to e-mail (central_office@amfed.org) the name and mailing address of your president, federation director, and editor to me so the list can be updated.

Not the current officer? Please take a moment to forward the above requested information to me and give this issue to your successor.

Thanks...let’s keep the lines of communication open.
Bulletin Exchange Groups

When I began as an editor I had no idea of options for formatting my bulletin. The only thing I had to go on was what the format of the editor before me. He faithfully reported the news of the club each month—sometimes in 8 pages, sometimes 5—depending on what articles he had available for the bulletin.

In conversation with the bulletin editor of the Whittier (California) club, during a multi-club field trip, I learned about the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors and through Doug Arnold of S.C.R.I.B.E. I learned about bulletin exchanges. Doug gave me the email addresses of half a dozen editors and we began to exchange our bulletins each month.

What a world that opened! I read every bulletin, either on-line or in print in the evening after work. I saw how various editors addressed their club news, federation news, news about members, field trips and calendars. After six months I could see how they formatted their bulletins so that each month the repeatedly needed information, like the president’s and federation director’s reports, could be put in the same place and on the same page in the bulletin each month. It made it easy to remember to report on these! I learned about the value of a calendar in the bulletin so that a member could stick it in a place to remember meetings and things. I read of clubs that included a Sunshine Report—so that members who were sick or who had recently experienced a change in life could be comforted or congratulated.

Most of all I recognized how other clubs overcame the major hurdle we all face in producing bulletins—where to find new and interesting articles! Exchange editors make available original and shared feature articles, tips and safety information. They have an archive of fresh material for their bulletins so that they did not have to continually develop original articles to interest their members. The accepted custom for sharing articles is to give the originating club bulletin, and the club bulletin in which you read the article, authorship credit at the beginning or end of the article. Here is an example: Suppose that Jim Peterson wrote an article on Amethyst that originally appeared in the Ogden Rock and Gem Club’s bulletin Beehive Buzzer. In an exchange of bulletins with the Monrovia Rockhounds you saw this article and wished to share it with your members in your club’s bulletin. You would highlight and copy the article to your word processing program, format it to suit your bulletin and set it into your draft bulletin. The article would be entitled “Amethyst, by Jim Peterson.” At the conclusion of the article you would quote your source - Source: Beehive Buzzer 9/09 via MOROKS 9/14.

Through participating in bulletin exchanges my bulletin began to improve—and yours will too! The convention for bulletin exchanges is to convert your bulletin to Portable Document Format (PDF). I’m familiar with WordPerfect, Word and Publisher and they each have an easy two-click method for saving your bulletin as a PDF file. In order to read bulletins in PDF format you need to have the Adobe PDF reader on your computer. The program is safe and free at <get.adobe.com/reader/>. The “Breakfast With The Editors” session at Federation shows is a great place to exchange bulletins and email addresses! When you send your bulletin to a group of editors please use this suggestion: Send the email to yourself and list all of the other editors in the BCC (Blind Carbon Copies) in the “copy to” section of your email program. In my email program this involves putting a parenthesis mark at the beginning and end of the string of emails in my BCC. This preserves the privacy of the others who you exchange emails with!

How do you become a member of a bulletin exchange group? First, check with your Federation’s bulletin editor and Bulletin Editor Advisory Chair. If I can be of any help in adding you to the emailing list of bulletin editors with whom I exchange bulletins, please send your bulletin and a request to be added to an exchange group to me at <mnelsonair@aol.com>.

[Editor’s Note: Check your federation Directory! Member clubs are listed there as are contacts for the editors. Then, just send an e-mail to the editor or editors whose bulletins you would like to receive. Add a copy of your own club bulletin to your request.]

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

Coming up this month is the Northwest Federation Convention in Ogden, UT on April 10-12. If you’re anywhere in the neighborhood, I encourage you to attend this event. Not only will you see some outstanding displays, but you’ll have a chance to see vendors new to you, meet with a group of wonderful people, and, if you’re a member of a Northwest Federation club, have a chance to attend the annual meeting and get involved in the activities of your federation.

Conventions for 2016 are starting to be “booked” so please remember to send me the information as soon as the dates and locations of each are confirmed so that we avoid conflicts.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Convention Name</th>
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<td>Eastern Fed.</td>
<td>March 27-29</td>
<td>Hickory, NC</td>
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<td>Midwest Fed.</td>
<td>May 23 - 24</td>
<td>Wheaton, IL</td>
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<td>Northwest Fed.</td>
<td>April 10 - 12</td>
<td>Ogden, UT</td>
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<td>Rocky Mtn Fed.</td>
<td>July 16-18</td>
<td>Cody, WY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>South Cntrl Fed.</td>
<td>October 23-25</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
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<td>Southeast Fed.</td>
<td>Nov. 6-8</td>
<td>Melbourne, FL</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>California Fed.</td>
<td>Sept. 14-16</td>
<td>Placerville, CA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rocky Mtn Fed.</td>
<td>July 27-Aug. 1</td>
<td>Albany, OK</td>
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<td>AFMS</td>
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AFMS Newsletter – April, 2015
Endowment Fund Sales Reps
from Donna Moore

Are you planning on purchasing tickets for the 2015 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing? Can’t get to a show where your regional salesperson is present? Just take a minute, write out your check, payable to “AFMS Endowment Fund” and drop it in the mail along with a self addressed stamped envelope to your regional federation representative. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number with your request so that you can be contacted should one or more of your tickets be drawn.

Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20. Many clubs purchase a block of tickets from their club treasury with the idea of using any winning prize as a door prize at a future club event. The more tickets you or your club holds, the better your chances of taking home one of the prizes.

You might be asking yourself “What is the money raised used for?” The answer is quite simple...funds raised from ticket sales are invested in secure funds and the interest garnered from these investments are used for several projects of the AFMS that benefit you and your club. As an example, several new DVD’s have recently been added to your club’s lending library - and these can be borrowed by any member club at a nominal charge. These programs were purchased with interest generated from the Endowment Fund investments! If your club has an organized Junior Activities group, badges can be earned by the kids and there is no charge to your club for them. The cost is paid for from the interest generated from the Endowment Fund investments!

In addition, in some years a Judges Seminar is held in conjunction with a local club show. One member from each federation receives a stipend to offset their cost of attending. These stipends are paid for from the interest generated from the Endowment Fund investments and benefit you and your club members by helping educate prospective and current competitive exhibit judges.

As you can see, you and your club members, whether you win a prize in the drawing or not, are truly winners!

You can purchase your tickets from one of the following sales representatives:

California Federation – Colleen McGann
P.O. Box 224 Santa Clara, CA 95052
<kmcgann0009@gmail.com>

Endowment Fund Sales Reps
from Donna Moore

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 my self in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “image” of rockhounds everywhere.

AFMS Code of Ethics

Eastern Federation – Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302 Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<editor@amfed.org>

Midwest Federation – J.C. Moore
25235 N. State Route 97 Cuba, IL 61427
<jcmoore3rd@gmail.com>

Northwest Federation – Chris Blickfeldt
236 Tollgate Rd. Boise, ID 83716
<grumpies@q.com>

Rocky Mountain – DeLane Cox
8152 Spanker Ridge Dr., Bentonville, AR 72712
<delane@earthlink.net>

South Central – Catherine E. Rouchon
5845 Winchester Lane
Clinton, LA 70722
<rouchon@starband.net>

Southeast
Jerri Heer
7301 N. Howard Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604-5224
<jheerx6@aol.com>

AFMS Code of Ethics

May 12:
Show opens - 9 am
SCRIBE meeting - 11 am
Officers Luncheon

Mark Your Calendar

Here are the dates of the various events for the AFMS/SCFMS Convention in Austin, Tx, October 21-25.

Wednesday 21:
Uniform Rules meeting - 2 pm

Thursday, 22:
AFMS Annual meeting - 9 am
Scholarship Foundation meeting

Friday, 23:
Show opens - 9 am
SCRIBE meeting - 11 am
Officers Luncheon

Saturday, 24:
Breakfast with the Editors & Webmasters - 8 am
Show opens - 9 am
SCFMS Annual meeting - 1 pm
ALAA Annual meeting
Awards Banquet - 6:30 pm

Sunday, 25:
Rolling Rock Club meeting - 9 am
Field trip to Emerald Ridge
Show opens - 10 am

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2014-15. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

**All American Club**
Regina Kapta
<rmkapta@comcast.net>

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

**AFMS Newsletter**
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor@amfed.org>

**Boundaries**
Bob Carlson
<illegitimusnoncarborundum@inbox.com>

**Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame**
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor@amfed.org>

**Bulletin Editors Advisory**
Mark Nelson
<MNelsonnair@aol.com>

**Bylaws Revisory**
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

**Central Office Administrator**
Steve Weinberger  (see Bylaws Revisory)

**Commemorative Stamps**
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr@erols.com>

**Conservation and Legislation**
John Martin
<jsmartin@antelecom.net>

**Endowment Fund**
Donna Moore
<MWFSecretary@gmail.com>

**Financial Investment**
Lauren Williams
<silharuir@msn.com>

**Historian**
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson@cox.net>

**Inter-Regional Field Trip**
Doug True
<truefossils12@yahoo.com>

**Judges Training Seminar**
Dee Holland
<beauholland@centurytel.net>

**Junior Programs**
Jim Brace-Thompson
<braceth@roadrunner.com>

**Long Range Planning**
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci@aol.com>

**Name Badges**
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

**Nominating**
Richard Jaeger  (see Long Range Planning)

**Parliamentarian**
Dee Holland  (see Judges Training)

**Past President's Advisory**
Richard Jaeger  (see Long Range Planning)

**Program Competition**
Doug Moore
<steinhund@gmail.com>

**Publications**
B. Jay Bowman
<bjb@wildblue.net>

**Public Relations**
Bob Jones
<jonesb52@gmail.com>

**Safety**
Ellery Borow
207-547-3154

**Show Consultant**
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

**Uniform Rules**
Ron Carman
<rcarman@centurytel.net>

**URC Eligibility Files**
Anne Cook  (see info on page 2)

**Ways and Means**
Richard Jaeger  (see Long Range Planning)

**Website/Webmaster**
Marty Hart
<webmaster@amfed.org>

**Web Site Contest**
Dan Imel
<lapidry@aol.com>

**AFMS Scholarship Foundation**
Dee Holland, President
(see Judges Training)
Marion Roberts, Vice President
Cheri George, Secretary
Jon Spunagle, Treasurer

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AFMS Newsletter – April, 2015  Page 7
New Wilderness Areas in Montana and the Reason Why

by Tom Noe adapted from the ALAA Newsletter, Oct - Dec. 2014

Tom Noe, an ALAA Director from the Midwest creates these short items for editors to use in their club bulletins. If you, as an editor, would like to get on the list to receive this monthly information directly, contact info@amlands.org and leave your name, club and e-mail information.


Citizens for Balanced Use (CBU) has always been opposed to new wilderness and “land of no use,” and we will continue to fight for multiple-use recreation, active forest management, and responsible resource development on our current federally managed public lands. Maybe it is time to start an orderly transfer of these public lands back to the states—for us to effectively manage them in a way that benefits our state and our communities.

The Defense Spending Bill was a must-pass piece of legislation and legislators attached their pork in order to pass some things they wanted. Senator McCain was the first. His bill opened a large copper mine in his state, producing 6,000 new jobs. Then the environmental groups got enraged about that and wanted something in return. So Senator Tester added his Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, setting aside another 650,000 acres of new wilderness in Montana.

CBU worked hard to have this added piece of legislation removed and in the end Congressman Daines succeeded. But in return for removing the FJRA, the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act was inserted. It adds approximately 67,000 acres to two wilderness areas and designates roughly 208,000 acres of adjacent federal land as Conservation Management Areas. The bill protects existing agricultural uses, prohibits management of a buffer zone to the Conservation Management Area, and protects valid and existing mineral rights, among other things.

Are we happy? No. But it could have been worse.

CBU is very disappointed in how Congress jammed these bills into a must-pass Defense Spending Bill. We are saddened for the people close to the Rocky Mountain Front because of the further restrictions and closures they received. We are angry that these political stunts are pulled and we are frustrated by all the thousands of miles driven and the hundreds of hours spent by our members and supporters in fighting this bad legislation. The Rocky Mountain Front wilderness bill was opposed by local government, recreation, agriculture and resource groups. In the end we lost. If we had more control over these lands, rather than the D.C. bureaucrats, these actions would not occur.

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.