



Mojave Trails National Monument Update

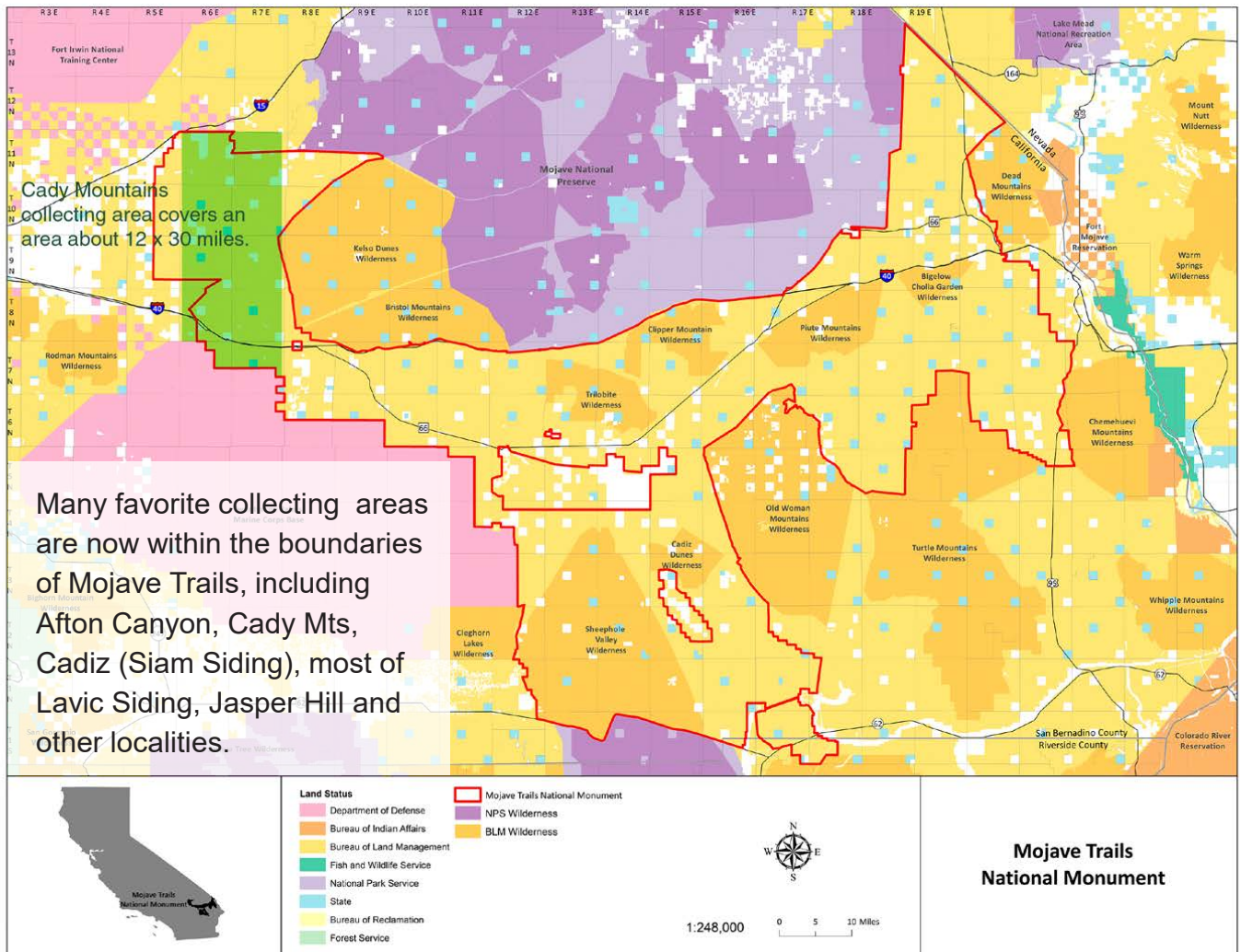
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Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM) update via email from Gregor Losson, MSSC member, Feb. 15, 2023.

AS A MEMBER of the MTNM Subgroup, **Gregor Losson** represents us [all rockhound stakeholders] including the Southern California Friends of Mineralogy, the Pacific Micromount Conference, and several distinguished and familiar scientists and mineralogists. Below is a digest of his communication. The Management Plan (MP) for MTNM is fully funded and moving quickly.

Collectors and rockhounds are currently allowed to collect as per a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is due to expire at the Monument's MP finalization in the Fall of 2024. If the plan ultimately does NOT allow for mineral and rock collecting, we stand to lose 1.6 million acres of the California desert. The Monument includes the Cady Mountains and adjacent collecting area, the Mesquite Hills, Bagdad-Chase area and southern Bristol Mountains, Lava Hills, Marble, Clipper Piute, Little Piute, Sacramento, Ship, Calumet, Sheephole and Iron Mountains.



BLM map of Mojave Trails National Monument (red outlined area). The main collecting areas in the Cady Mountains are distributed over a large area of about 12 x 30 miles (green rectangle, upper left).

There are two tracks:

1) The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Needles has started and includes its NEPA law requiring public participation. It means your input! Soon there will be periods for public comment (your opportunity to speak up about your passion for mineral collecting). Other entities are also involved including JTNM, MNP, Twentynine Palms city and military base, the Conservation Lands Foundation and Mojave Desert Lands Trust. (2) MTNM Subgroup of the Desert Advisory Committee (DAC). The Subgroup makes recommendations to the BLM MTNM management team. The main focus is two-fold, (a) collecting is to be allowed and (b) access via current roads. [Gregor is our gem and mineral

collecting representative, as mentioned above.]

The BLM will do several things, such as explore and advise DAC on progress of development of the monument’s Management Plan, the Subgroup will bring the public perspective and be central to public outreach. Further, the Subgroup will offer recommendations to the BLM through DAC, become familiar with plan issues and their considerations, the Subgroup will provide transparency to the public interested in the planning process and they will provide recommendations to DAC. Additionally, the MTNM Subgroup members will share their understanding of the plan issues with their representative constituents to gain public perceptions and possible resolutions.



Gregor Losson at Cady Peak, with a view of Sleeping Beauty in the background, home to historic collecting areas for agate, jasper, calcite, pyrolusite, barite, strontionite, and micros of secondary lead minerals.

Gregor tells of the recent field trip to Cady Mountains where he was able to share about our hobby and science; he showed the little impact that occurs with responsible collecting. He explained the importance of the educational work and how it integrated into the science of mineralogy. A demonstration of Marek and others' work with zeolites in volcanics, and descriptions of how most mineral collecting in the MTNM, (aside from the Cady Mountain jasper and adjacent agate/jasper areas) are mostly done at previously disturbed area/ mines, and he also showed the small impact of micromounters, in particular.

Gregor tells us he informed MTNM manager, **Noelle Glines-Bovio**, BLM Needles manager, **Mike Ahrens**, and the Subgroup members about MSSC, SCFM, PMC, and collectors who are all concerned that this could be possibly closed to collecting. Losson spoke of the importance of **Tony Kampf** and **Stu Mills'** analysis and identification of minerals, and of others who have contributed so much to mineralogy.

MILESTONES	DATES
Notice of Intent	Fall/Winter 2022
Draft MMP/ EA	Summer 2023
Proposed MMP/ Final EA	Winter 2023
Approved MMP/ Decision Record	Summer 2024

Mojave Trails Monument Management Plan (MMP) proposed milestones. April 2022. Source: BLM.

What you can do now

Gregor conveyed some issues, what's next and how YOU can contribute and help save collecting in the MTNM. Submit your collecting localities, be specific (road name, GPS if you have it, etc.). Gregor needs a comprehensive history of MSSC, a history of our collecting (how did we get there, what routes were taken) and what was the collecting locality. Do you know the distinction between collecting and mining? If you're an expert, contact Gregor or a Board Member – this issue is critical.

Gregor will keep us informed on further progress, but if you have something to contribute about collecting sites or known MTNM roads, anything you think is significant, please let us know. We will compile the information and submit to Gregor. Please do not delay. Fall of 2024 is closer than you think. We must save MTNM for future generations of collectors and scholars of mineralogy.

BLM's MTNM web page:

<https://on.doi.gov/2LklnNz>

BLM's MTNM Subgroup of the DAC web page:

<https://on.doi.gov/3WrfjDp>

Join SDMG's mailing list, select Public Lands:

<https://bit.ly/sdmg-signup>

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Gregor Losson introduced himself to SDMG members in a feature article in The Pegmatite (November 2022). In it he describes his role on the MTNM Subgroup. It can be found online at: <https://sdmg.org/sdmg-members/peg/sdmg-pegmatite-2022-nov.pdf#page=11>