



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

A Non-Profit Educational & Scientific Organization
1770 Village Place, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1651

Founded 1934

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
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Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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February 21, 2015

Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA [Docket: 09- RENEW EO-01

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is submitted to the DRECP on behalf of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society (SDMG), a 501(c)(4) non-profit educational and scientific organization. SDMG is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS), which has approximately 110 member societies, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), which is an educational federation of affiliate gem-mineral-lapidary clubs and seven similar regional organizations, including CFMS. Our society has 665 dues-paying members.

Like many other similar clubs in California and elsewhere, SDMG has many members who are avid rockhounds. Since its incorporation in 1934, our club has sponsored up to nine rock collecting field trips annually, with most destinations located on public lands in the California desert. Rock collecting is popular with gem-mineral club members who range in age from schoolchildren to seniors. In our community, rockhounding not only is a recreational activity, but also provides opportunity to learn about the living natural history of the earth. Consistent with our ethics,

rockhounds have been recognized by the BLM as being responsible stewards of our public lands and respectful of its natural resources.

Since the SDMG is a nearly 100% volunteer organization operating with limited fiscal resources, our community and our concerns have comparatively low awareness with the general public and our legislative representatives. The values of our community, however, are no less important than the values advocated by other organizations having higher public recognition. To date, no study has been done to characterize amateur rock collecting as a recreational activity on public lands in California – how many rockhounds are in the desert at any one time, what local services they use, their specific destinations, routes of access to those destinations, or how frequently they visit or how long they stay. Therefore, to provide the DRECP with useful data about our community's activities and concerns, this letter includes input from approximately 190 individual respondents to a SDMG-sponsored survey collected between December 2, 2014 and February, 19, 2015.

SDMG recognizes that that the Bureau of Land Management, together with the California Energy Commission and other agencies, have drafted the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to identify areas where renewable energy development projects built in the California desert may impose the least negative impact on plants, wildlife, scenery, recreation and other values. We support the new designation Special Recreational Management Area (SRMA) proposed to protect specific recreational uses of public lands. We also support the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation. Some rock collecting areas in the current Draft DRECP are located within DFAs, and others are not designated Special Recreation Management Area, but they should be.

In general, SDMG supports the Preferred Alternative Plan of the DRECP. We are concerned, however, that the none of the five alternative plans in the current Draft DRECP takes into account recreational uses of public lands in the California desert specifically related to amateur rockhounding, or rock collecting. SDMG recommends that ACEC and NLCS management objectives should explicitly specify that rockhounding is an acceptable/compatible activity for such designations to ensure access and use in the future. In addition, Special Recreation Permits for rockhounding should be identified as a compatible use in the management objectives for the NLCS lands. Such designations will preserve the California desert's unique geological environment, its cultural history, which pre-dates California statehood, and our continuing recreational enjoyment of our public lands.

The absence of special protective designations for many areas in the California desert is a defect pervading the DRECP. The legacy and educational values attached to certain land use designations are important to us, so SDMG recommends that protective land use designations should be explicitly described in the DRECP. The lack of specificity makes special areas in the desert vulnerable to future development. Also, it may make access to them so difficult that they will be effectively off-limits due to lack of vehicular access through adjacent lands (i.e., DFAs). We ask that access to collecting areas should be preserved and maintained for motorized vehicles (i.e., 4x4-type vehicles) as part of the Special Recreation Management Area designation. We ask for the same consideration or easement in Development Focus Areas (DFAs).

Independent critical review and assessment of the impact that industrial activities in Development Focus Areas (DFAs) may have on adjacent public lands based on the unique characteristics of public lands either have not been performed or have not been completed (e.g., WEMO). Moreover, a transparent process is missing from the DRECP for presenting assessments for public review should such reviews/assessments be performed. Although the BLM's mission statement holds it

accountable to the public, the DRECP empowers the BLM, at its own discretion and at any future time, to arbitrarily change or override features of protective designations such as SRMA, especially if they conflict with competing values, e.g., economic interests. Further, the BLM administrator may exercise discretion – without public accountability – to arbitrate conflicting values embodied in different land use designations where overlaps occur or descriptive language is vague. For example, the clause ‘more restrictive shall apply’ in NLCA CMAs negates the protections afforded routes of recreational travel in the SRMAs. This phrase and other conflicting phrases that undermine SRMA and ACEC designations should be removed from the Plan.

For similar reasons, ‘recreation’ should be added to the list of values considered in future travel management planning. Previous agency assurances to recreational users that designated motorized routes will not be closed by the DRECP now or in the future will be undermined, if the term ‘recreation’ is not added to the explicit language of the Final EIR/EIS.

The intrusion of utility-scale energy projects throughout all the landscapes and viewsheds within the DRECP boundaries can be seen in the DRECP’s maps of DFAs juxtaposed adjacent to public lands. The necessity for building transmission corridors on public lands to connect DFAs to the power grid breaches whatever physical barriers purport to separate industrial activities (and their adverse effects) within DFAs from our last wild lands, fragile habitat and unique geological landscapes. If these fragile ecosystems, viewsheds and landscapes are compromised in deference to competing values that favor development, the cultural history and natural history values of the California desert will be obliterated irretrievably. At the very least, the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) should be revised to remove or at least reduce the amount of Development Focus Areas (DFAs), because of the adverse impact on DFA-adjacent areas and also because the DRECP overestimates the amount of land necessary to meet renewable energy goals, while underestimating the potential to meet these goals with distributed generation such as rooftop solar.

SDMG supports plans to increase lands managed with an emphasis on recreational uses and exclude them from renewable energy development through their designation as Special and Extended Recreational Management Areas. We advise that these proposed designations in the Preferred Alternative Plan should be carried over to the Final EIR/EIS.

The current Draft DRECP empowers the BLM to make discretionary changes to land use designations in the future, without public accountability. Such changes may restrict rockhounding activity or restrict access via routes through areas adjacent to collecting areas. We have already lost many rockhounding areas in the desert since the 1970s, when the Desert Protection Act was enacted. At that time, we believed the Desert Protection Act would be permanent and definitive concerning how the desert would be managed, but revisions in the 1980s and 1990s resulted in more and more restrictions on access or outright closures to collecting areas. Thus, we ask that the DRECP correct this defect by applying designations to rockhounding areas which are not subject to revision in the future.

Finally, SDMG supports renewable energy goals for California; however, distributed energy generation such as rooftop solar seems to be a more sustainable and sensible alternative to utility-scale energy generation. Distributed energy does not sacrifice the California desert to achieve these goals. We support inclusion of distributed energy alternative plans in the DRECP, which currently are omitted.

Below are comments about specific areas where access through adjacent DFAs are not specified or SRMA designations are lacking. We would like to see the DRECP emended to reflect these specific concerns. Further, we would like the public to have the opportunity to review further revisions to the DRECP based on the concerns raised herein.

Afton Canyon

The Afton Canyon collecting area is located at the I-15, at the Afton Turnoff about 32 miles east of Barstow and 25 miles west of Baker. This area has long been a rockhound area that has many types of agate, sagenite, jasper and opalite. We ask the BLM to designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Also, roads and trails providing access to these areas, including roads and trails passing through adjacent lands, including DFAs, should be maintained for vehicular access.

Blythe

The Blythe collecting area is located at T4S, R20E (Blythe DAG), north of the Palen McCoy Wilderness and south of the Little Maria Mountains. A DFA appears to cover at least a portion of this psilomelane collecting area. We ask the BLM to redefine or redraw the DFA so that it excludes this area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius around it. Any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area should be included in the revision.

Boron

The Boron collecting area is located between Saddleback Mountain and California City Boulevard, north of Highway 58 and south of Twenty Mule Team Parkway (Cuddeback Lake DAG). This collecting area contains petrified wood, chapenite, jasper and agate, is located within a DFA. We ask that the BLM redefine the DFA so that it excludes the Boron collecting area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius buffer around it. Any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area should be included in the revision.

Brown Butte (aka Lonely Butte)

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

Cadiz

The “Future Assessment Area” designations in the Cadiz Valley should be removed, and the areas should be included as NLCS to protect the natural setting of the desert for enjoyment of unconfined recreation, and to be consistent with the objective of managing the Route 66 corridor to protect the relatively undisturbed viewshed.

Chambless

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

Cinco

The Cinco collecting area is located at T31S, R11W, south/southwest of Jawbone Station (Tehachapi DAG). A DFA appears to cover some or all of this collecting area for quartz and feldspar crystals. We ask the BLM to redefine the DFA, so that this area is excluded from it, with at

least a 1,000-foot radius buffer around it. Any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area should be included in the revision.

Gem Hill

The Gem Hill collecting area is located at T10N, R13W, Sections 26, 27, 34, and 35 (Lancaster DAG). This collecting area for agate, jasper, rhyolite, common opal, and petrified wood, is within a DFA. We ask the BLM to refine the DFA so that it excludes this area, and at least a 1,000 foot radius around it. Any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area should be included in the revision.

Hector Hills and Pisgah Crater

A DFA is located near the Hector Hills collecting area, located at T8N, R5E, Sections 4, 5, 6, 15, 16, 21 and 22 (Newberry Springs DAG). This DFA is a problem if it blocks or constrains access to Pisgah Crater Road. The Pisgah and Hector Hills area should be protected with NLCS designation (with exception for rockhounding activity) because of its importance to a variety of desert wildlife and unique geological features, including the Pisgah lava flow.

Hauser Beds

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

Kramer Junction

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

Lavic and Jasper Hill

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

Newbury

The Newbury collecting area is located at T8N, R3E (Newbury Springs DAG). It is north of Newberry Mountains Wilderness and south of Route 66. A DFA appears to cover and/or surround

this collecting area for nodules and agate. We ask the BLM to redraw the DFA boundary so that it does not cover this area, with at least a 1,000-foot radius around it. Any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area should be included in the revision.

Rainbow Rock

DFA designations should be removed from lands in the Rainbow Rock area west of State Route 86 in Imperial County. DFA status would be inconsistent with protecting the natural setting of the area that is important to visitors seeking dispersed and unconfined recreation opportunities in the Ocotillo Wells and Anza-Borrego area.

Sperry Wash

The Sperry Wash collecting area is located in the Dublin Hills, west of Shoshone (Owlshead DAG). Given this area's close proximity to the Amargosa River Valley/Grimshaw SRMA and because rock collecting is a legitimate use within this SRMA, we ask the BLM to expand this SRMA to include the Sperry Wash collecting area in order to protect this important recreational activity.

Stoddard Wells

The Stoddard Wells collecting area is located at T11N to the 15 Freeway, R1W to R3W, up to the southern boundary of Stoddard OHV Area (Victorville DAG). The area includes Black Mountain and Sidewinder Mountain. The BLM should ensure that no development blocks open route access to the Stoddard Wells rockhounding area in the vicinity of Sidewinder Ridge, west of the Lucerne Valley Cutoff Road. We also ask the DRECP to designate this area as a new Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

Yermo

The Yermo collecting area is located at T10N to T11N, R1E to R2E (Newberry Springs DAG), in the Calico Mountains between the two Superior Cronese ACECs. This area is important to rockhounds. The greater collecting area overlaps approximately six sections of the western edge of the eastern Superior Cronese ACEC. A DFA appears to cover some of this excellent collecting area, where agate, petrified palm root, jasper and chert are found. We ask the BLM to designate this area as a new SRMA and protect collecting activities in it. If the BLM is unwilling to create a new SRMA designation for the Yermo collecting area, then we ask for expansion of the Superior/Rainbow SRMA to include it, with specific provision for rock collecting as an allowable use in this area. At the least, we ask that BLM redefine the DFA encroaching this area in the current DRECP so that it excludes this area from the DFA. Any designated routes that allow access to this collecting area should be included in the revision.

Yuha Basin

The south side of I-8 between Highway 98 and Dunaway Road has giant fossilized oyster shells that have been collected by rockhounds since the 1950s. We ask the BLM to designate this area as a SRMA. Currently, this area has overlapping ACEC and NLCS designations. We ask that BLM allows rockhounding to continue as a permissible activity and all roads into the area to be left open.

Sincerely,

Paul Williams
President, San Diego Mineral & Gem Society



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

A Non-Profit Educational & Scientific Organization
1770 Village Place, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1651
Founded 1934

SDMG DRECP Survey for Rockhounds December 2, 2014 – February 19, 2015

If you are an amateur rockhound, a member of a gem-mineral club, or you want to continue having access and recreational use of public lands that you've enjoyed for decades, please take the time to fill out the survey form. The results will be reported in the SDMG bulletin, *The Pocket Pegmatite*, by March 2015. Answer as many questions as you can in the survey for the five-year time period between 2009 and the present. Survey deadline extended: Closes February 19, 2015.

Please enter the information indicated below. All field inputs are optional. Your contact information will not be used to send you unsolicited email or printed material, but it may be used to send you a follow-up email early next year about the results of the survey and its submittal to the Draft DRECP. (If you would like to join our mailing list, please visit the sdmg.org website and click the "join mailing list" link at the top right of any page.)

Survey responses

1	Answers	Number of Response(s)
	First Name	186
	Last Name	186
	Email Address	184
	City	181

2 Do you belong to any gem-mineral clubs (please list all)?

177 Response(s)

Respondents reported affiliations with 109 unique organizations in the United States. Most respondents self-identified as members of gem-mineral, lapidary, geology clubs, with a small number (6) reporting affiliations with fossil/palaeontology clubs and a significant number (33) reporting membership in gold prospecting clubs. A significant number of affiliations cited are outside of California.

Many respondents self-identified as members of more than one club. Affiliations cited ranged from small local/municipal clubs to larger regional entities such as the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS). One respondent cited affiliation with a non-gem/rock/mineral group, which may reflect a natural science interest that overlaps the interest of rockhounds in the same geographic area/s. Thirty-two (32) respondents self-identified as having no affiliation with a club or organization; although, half of this group volunteered that they had been past members of a gem-mineral club.

The clubs and organizations cited by respondents are listed below. All are California-based organizations unless otherwise noted.

All Rockhounds Pow-Wow Club of America, Inc., OR
American Lands Access Association (ALAA)
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)
Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Apache Junction Rock and Gem club
Association of Prematurely Retired Geologists
Bay Area Mineralogists

Beehive Gem & Mineral Club
Bellevue Rock Club, Inc., WA
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)
Cedar Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Cedar Rapids, IA
Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club (CBRGC), FL
Chief Joseph Gem & Mineral Club
Coinshooters Club of San Diego

Colorado Mineral Society
 Deming Gem & Mineral Society, NM (DGMS)
 Diehard Rockhounds*
 El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society (ECVGMS)
 Everett Rock & Gem Club
 Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
 Field Trip Leaders Association
 Fossils for Fun Society, Inc.
 Fresno Gem & Mineral Society
 Friends of Mineralogy, Pacific Northwest and S. California
 Gemological Society of San Diego
 Ginkgo Mineral Society, WA
 Glendora Gems
 Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA)
 - Lost Dutchman's Association of America (LDMA)
 - Route 66 Gold miners, Brea Chapter
 Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada (GSSN)
 Idaho Gem Club
 Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology
 Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 Hellgate Mineral Society, Missoula, MT
 Kitsap Gem and Mineral Society, WA
 Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
 Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, CO
 Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, WA
 Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc., NE
 Los Angeles County Museum Mineral Society
 Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society, SC (SGMS)
 Magic Valley Rock and Gem Club, ID
 Marysville Rock & Gem Club, Inc., WA
 Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies
 Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley (MGSCV)
 Mineral Collectors of Utah
 Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC)
 Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society
 Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc. (MOROKS)
 Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA)
 Mt Baker Rock and Gem Club, Bellingham WA
 Needles Gem & Mineral Club
 North Puget Sound Faceters Guild
 North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club
 Northern California Mineralogical Association (NCMA)
 Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society
 Oklahoma State Council of Mineralogical Societies
 Orange Belt Mineralogic Society
 Orange County 49er's, Inc.
 Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society
 Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
 Palomar Gem and Mineral Club
 Paradise Gem and Mineral Club
 Pasadena Lapidary Society
 Peninsula Gem & Geology Society (PGGS)
 Port Townsend Rock Club, WA
 Prineville Rock Hound Pow Wow Association
 Prospectors Club of Southern California (PCSC)
 Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club, WA
 Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem & Mineral Club
 Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics
 Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
 Chaparral Rockhounds, Roswell, NM
 Sacramento Mineral Society
 San Diego Association of Geologists
 San Diego Lapidary Society
 San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society (SFGMS)
 Santa Ana Rock and Mineral Club
 Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society (SVGMS)
 Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
 Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, Anaheim
 Searles Valley Gem and Mineral Society
 Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society (SGMS)
 Shasta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 Sierra Pelona Rock Club
 Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS)
 Society of Mineral Museum Professionals
 Southern California Paleontology Society
 Southern Utah Rock Club
 Southwestern Prospecting and Mining Association (SPMA)
 Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
 South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
 Tacoma Faceters Guild
 Taft Prospectors Club
 Tehachapi Gem and Mineral Society
 Temecula Valley Prospectors (TVP)
 Treasure Seekers of San Diego County
 Tucson General Mineral Society, AZ
 Tule Gem and Mineral
 Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
 Valley Prospectors, San Bernardino
 Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
 Wasatch Gem Society, Salt Lake City, UT
 Washington Agate & Mineral Society, Olympia, WA
 Washington State Mineral Council
 Western States Prospecting Association (WSPA)
 Ye Oldtimers Gem & Mineral Club (YOTC)
 Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society

* *informal/unincorporated group.*

3 Number of visits/trips to the Southern California Desert in the last five years (2009-2014)? Please list the destination(s) you visited in the comment box.

1 = 1 trip, 2 = 2 trips, 3 = 3-4 trips, 4 = 5-7 trips, 5 = 8-10 trips, 6 = 11 or more trips

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
One-day							121	4.7
Overnight							107	3.8
Long weekend (2-4 days)							130	3.8
Weeklong (5 or more days)							80	3.1

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

1 = 1 trip , 2 = 2 trips , 3 = 3-4 trips , 4 = 5-7 trips , 5 = 8-10 trips , 6 = 11 or more trips

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6
One-day	8 (6%)	8 (6%)	15 (12%)	12 (9%)	20 (16%)	58 (47%)
Overnight	8 (7%)	17 (15%)	26 (24%)	21 (19%)	8 (7%)	27 (25%)
Long weekend (2-4 days)	7 (5%)	26 (20%)	26 (20%)	24 (18%)	20 (15%)	27 (20%)
Weeklong (5 or more days)	13 (16%)	25 (31%)	13 (16%)	10 (12%)	9 (11%)	10 (12%)



Hold the mouse over each color of the bar to see the number of respondents.

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Responses	Rating Score*
One-day	6%	6%	12%	9%	16%	47%	121	4.7
Overnight	7%	15%	24%	19%	7%	25%	107	3.8
Long weekend (2-4 days)	5%	20%	20%	18%	15%	20%	130	3.8
Weeklong (5 or more days)	16%	31%	16%	12%	11%	12%	80	3.1

One hundred, eighteen (118) respondents repeatedly listed collecting areas important to them, many of which SDMG has identified as “at risk” in the DRECP for one or more reasons, including 1.) the collecting area is within a DFA, 2.) the collecting area is bounded by a DFA, so that access to the collecting area may be constrained, restricted or curtailed, 3.) the collecting area has a ACEC or NLCS designation without an exemption to allow rock collecting activity, or 4.) is in an area that has no special designation such as SRMA or ACEC to ensure that future development will not be allowed. The collecting areas visited by respondents include:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Acton (agate collecting) | Blythe Area-Hauser Geodes |
| Afton Canyon | Boron |
| Alvord Mine | Borrego Springs |
| Amboy | Bradshaw Trail area |
| Antique Verde Quarry | Brown Butte |
| Anza Borrego | Cadiz (Trilobites) |
| Arlington Mine (Riverside County) | Cady Mountain (south and north) |
| Basin rd | Calico Ghost Town area, Barstow |
| Baxter Wash | Cargo Machacho area |
| Big Marias | Cargo Machachos |
| Blair Valley (San Diego) | Carrizo Gorge (San Diego) |
| Blue Bird & American Girl mines (Imperial County) | Carrizo Mtn. (Imperial County) |
| Blue Lady Mine | Castle Butte |
| Bluebell Mine | Chambless |

Chariot Cyn./Rodriguez Cyn. (San Diego)
 Chocolate Mtns. area
 Chuckwalla chalcedony beds
 Clark Mtns.
 Colorado River area west of Yuma
 Coolgardy area
 Coyote Mtns
 Dale district
 Dos Cabezas (Imperial County)
 East Imperial Valley Sidewinder Road/Olgilby Road
 El Paso Mts
 Field Siding
 Fossil Oyster Beds (Imperial County)
 Four Corners
 Four corners
 Ft. Irwin Road
 Garnet Hill, Victorville
 Gem Hill
 Gold Basin (Imperial County)
 Gold Rock Ranch
 Green Ash Hills
 Harvard offramp agate
 Hauser Geode Beds
 Hector Hills
 Hector Road
 Himalaya Mine
 Houser Beds
 Imperial County "potholes" area
 Imperial Sand Dune
 Indian Pass
 Indian Pass Road
 Inyo County
 Jacumba
 Jasper Butte
 Jasper Hill
 Joshua park
 Julian & Gavilon Washes
 Kelbaker Road
 Kern County
 Kingston Peak
 Kingston Range
 Kraemer Junction
 Kramer Hills
 Lavic
 Lavic Siding
 Ludlow (Thulite site)
 Marble Mountains
 Meadville
 Mountain Pass and Mescal/Ivanpah Mts.
 Mud Mountains
 Needles Area
 Newberry Springs
 Nopah Range
 Northern Mojave (Randsberg area)
 Nuevo Silica Mine (Riverside Co.)
 Obsidian Buttes, fossil oyster beds, vitrifax kyanite mine
 Oceanview Mine, PLS, 40 ct., 4-13
 Ocotillo Painted Gorge
 Olgilby area (American Girl Mine)
 Omya Quarry
 Opal Hill Mine (Imperial County)
 Ord Mountain
 Ord Mountains
 Orocopia
 Owl Head Mtns.
 Painted Gorge (Imperial County)
 Painted Gorge and Plaster City areas
 Pala pegmatite mine
 Palo Verde Area (Fire Agates)
 Palo Verde Peak (Imperial County)
 Paul Bunyan Agate
 Paul Bunyan plume
 Pebble Terrace (Imperial County)
 Picacho Mountains
 Pisgah Crater
 Plaster City area (Imperial County)
 Potholes, Yuma
 Quartzsite
 Rainbow Basin
 Randsburg and outlying areas
 Red Cloud Mine Rd vic. I-10
 Rod Mountains
 Rosalie
 Rosamond
 Salton Sea
 Santa Ysabel pegmatite mine
 School House and Packrat mines (San Diego)
 Searles Dry Lake
 Siam Siding
 Sierra Pelona travertine claim at Aerial Acres
 Soda Mtns. near Baker
 Sperry Wash
 Split Mt area, Imperial County
 Stoddard Wells
 Sunrise Canyon
 Tecopa area, including Kingston Range(fire opal locality)
 Thursday Mine, Diehards, 18 ct., 5-09
 Trona, onyx and travertine claims of Sierra Pelona
 Turquoise Mtns.
 White Mountains
 Whittier club honey onyx claim
 Wickenburgh
 Wiley Wells Geode beds
 Wiley Wells, Earl
 Wiley's Well
 Wileys Well
 Yermo
 Yuha Basin and Butte area, Imperial county
 Yuha Desert (Imperial County)
 Yuma area
 Zabriskie Station

Many respondents wrote comments about the value they attach to the California desert, affirming the BLM's mission statement to preserve public lands for the enjoyment of the public and future generations. Some comments are included below.

My son was diagnosed with autism @ 2. The desert is the place he loves most. His 1st visit-2 months old. We're away from the extremely distracting & overstimulating environment present in most recreation. His enjoyment of the desert has had a positive effect on overcoming and/or adapting to his challenges. Desert exploration & rock treasures are things he talks to others about. He signed up for a lapidary class!! Don't destroy desert solitude or recreational exploration. IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE!!!

It had been a while since I visited one of my favorites camping spots in Anza Borrego State Park. The wind farm on the summit near the Golden Acorn, the Sunrise Power Link and the wind farm in Ocotillo are huge ugly industrial scars that make "getting away from it all" impossible in vast areas that were once mostly natural landscape

Trips w/ my children resulted in my middle son becoming a Geology major at San Diego State University. He graduated this past December & plans on completing his Master's degree.

I love seeing the rock formations and the rabbits and lizards that live there. I especially enjoy the stars at night. so many more than at home. I also enjoy collecting pretty rocks for making jewelry giving to my grandchildren or any children, they get so excited.

We enjoy short getaways to rockhound in our deserts, get away from the hustle & bustle of city life and sleep under the stars in our truck. We practice no impact primarily surface collecting and wildlife and scenic photography. Visiting our local deserts is one of the last natural and inexpensive activities left in So CA !

We looked for Geodes, Thunder Eggs, Salt Crystals, Balarat Marble, Deserts Roses, Stalagmites & Stalagtites in gold mine tailings, Trilabites

I love to walk in the desert. I camp out in California, So. Nevada, and Utah. I take pictures of formations, flowers, and wildlife. I'm an amateur rock-hounder. I love to take home pretty rock and fossils I find. Now that I'm over 60, hiking long distances is getting harder. You must keep these places opened!

these areas are beautiful places to renew your soul/

Please do not take away these locations which we all love. Not only to enjoy the great outdoors, but for recreational rockhounding.

We drive some 1500 miles to get to the Southern California desert areas for the purpose of rock hounding.

I was raised in the N. Ca. Desert. Have always loved, respected, and felt free in it. I have also raised my children to do the same, they still do as responsible adults, as do their children. We have always enjoyed the recreation of camping, teaching the kids about rocks and safety, what fun. Now that my Great-Grand-Son is here I can only hope he will be able to enjoy and learn all the lessons that the family before him has. We are only 78...We now sleep in our 4X4 beds and all, in the AM we.

Cady Mountains, Lavic Field, Barstow area, Ord Mountains, Rod Mountains, Hauser Geode Bed, Opal Hill, Painted Gorge and Plaster City areas. On our own, we camp 5 to 7 days per month for at least 8 months of the year. Add to that the day trips that we take - which average to 2 or 3 per month.

Public land should stay public. Rockhounds are excellent custodians of the desert. Why not contrul the real desert desecraters, the off-roaders and the weekend drinkers. Blanket closures are just plain wrong!

I go to the desert every chance I get. Often I am leading a trip of youth or elderly members as well as the rest of our club or for other clubs in my area. I generally go along the I40 at the Cady Mountains and Lavic Siding Area.

- 4 Published field trips you went on that were organized by a club or a group, including annual events. Please list the group(s) or club(s) that organized the trip and approximate date and number of participants.

124 Response(s)

San Diego Gem & Mineral - 2 trips in 2012; 2 trips in 2013; 1 trip in 2014
Orange Belt Mineralogic Society and Southern California Paleontology Society
nopah range 25 participants
Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics. Fall of 2014. A full week. Approximate # of participants 30
Treasure Seekers Events Southwest Prospectors Events Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Events
San Diego Association of Geologists Association of Prematurely Retired Geologists
San Diego Mineral and Gem Society
CFMS 2014 I-40 Thulite and Lavic Fields 15 participants Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics Jan 2015 Mojave 17 participants
SDMG fieldtrips CFMS fieldtrips
Quartzsite R&GC, Feb,2014, 30 people RFTF, Nov, 2014, 30 people
We are fairly new at "rockhounding". Just collected interesting rocks before. My son's interest in rockhounding appears to compensate for any anxiety he has. Only "field trip" was the TRONA Gem-O-Rama 10/2014. He had a great time!!!
We are hoping to try a field trip this spring.
Rockhound Fanatics 1-11-14 32
All field trips were from Southern California Paleontological Society. Generally from 5 - 20 participants.
Zzyzx Desert Research Symposium & field trip, April 2012 South Coast Geological Society (SCGS), October 2013 and October 2014 San Diego Association of Geologists (SDAG), November 2009, November 2011 and October 2014 SCGS & SDAG, October 2010. Each organized trip averaged approximately 50 participants.
One group, six people.
Many boy scout outings of 15-40 people
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society sponsored field trips 2009- present: approximately 4 trips per season. Approximately 20 individuals per trip, by my estimation.
Wiley Wells Thanksgiving weekend. 2011 CFMS Four Corners/Boron overnight 2012 Lancaster club. Ludlow area camping trip 2011 and 2012 PGMC.
Am a beginning lapidary hobbyist. I am looking forward to being able to attend group sponsored outings.
Hellgate Mineral Society - ten trips. Generally five to ten guests over the summer two to three per month.
Quartzsite club
Most of our club outings are not published. They are discussed at our meetings. Have attended 3 outings. One to the Ludlow Area, another to the Calico Mountains and the third was as a result of the Victorville clubs tailgate. I don't recall the dates or numbers.

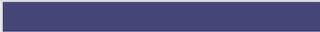
Most all were with the SDMG Club, I did not keep record. They were all published in the Pegmatite, our club bulletin.
Have only been able to attend one organized field trip in that time frame.
From Quartzsite, AZ to Wylie Well and other sites west of there
not organized
More field trips in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington that can be accommodated by this window. Sponsoring organizations are Idaho Gem Club, Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, Northwest Gem and Mineral Federation (I led several). Number of attendees: 2 - 20 or more.
Many, but not in southern CA. In 2015, the North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club went on 2 9-day trips: nevada/OR: 13 people; southern Utah: 6.
Spokane rock roller field trips X 6 10-40 persons. American federation to Terry Montana 300 persons. Black Hills, Rapid City SD
Organized by Glendor Gems In Last 5 Years Coon Hollow near Blythe CA - Many visits, various number in group 6-15 - Geodes, Thunder Eggs. Trona, CA Sears Lake (dry) 3-4 visits, 10-12 people Salt Crystals, Balarat Marble. Near Amboy CA Black Cinder Crater 1 Visit-10 people 1 Visit Trilabites 8 People Near Baker, CA 1 Visit-10-12 people Stalagmites
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, October 2013, 34 participants
treasure seekers - field trips throughout the year, 12 to 15 people
Wiley's Well Field Trip San Diego Gem sorry dont recall exact years but there were a few of em
Above clubs plus personal trips
Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics! The RFTF! 2014 Mojave Desert Rockhound Odyssey - November 14 - 22, 2014 - 40 individuals "Lavic & Beyond!" Field Trip, March 27 through 29, 2010 - 12 attendees Fresno Gem & Mineral Soc.: FGMS Field Trip - Rainbow Ledge jasp-agate & Sierra Pelons travertine onyx, April 9, 2011
Annual trips(3-5days)to SPMA Potholes claims for Thanksgiving, the Holiday & weekends after Thanksgiving, over 15 people TSS trip to Randsburg area, 4 days, April 2014, about thirty people
Wileys Well - CFMS Oceanview Mine - Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Himalaya Mine - Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Mojave - Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Mother Lode Mineral Soc. Sacramento Mineral Soc.
FREEDOM CLAMS PAINTED GORGE AN A FEW OTHERS
Gem Hill, Brown Butte, Kramer Corner, Stoddard Well, Green Ash Hills, Lavic Siding and Trona were field trips organized by the Sierra Pelona Rock Club. I don't remember the dates over a two years period, but there were always at least 10-15 participants.
Cady Mountains-Sandy Wash and multiple other locations- yearly Searchers 15 Baxter Wash- yearly Searchers 15 Lavic Siding- yearly Searchers 15 Siam Siding -biyearlySearchers 15 Cadiz Trilobites- biyearlySearchers 15 Ludlow Thulite site-yearly Searchers 15 Afton Canyon-2010, 2012 Searchers 15 Basin rd-biyearlySearchers 15

January, 2014 Quartzsite Pow Wow Field trip to Wiley's Well area, maybe 25
January, 2014 Quartzsite Pow Wow Field trip to Wiley's Well area, maybe 20 to 25 February, 2014 Quartzsite field trip to Southern California for petrified wood
Ludlow, PG&MC, 2013, 4 people Boron, 2012, 30 people
Annual CFMS Thanksgiving weekend, Wiley Wells, ~80 people
My wife, two friends we travel with and I have met several organized groups whilst in the desert, and joined them.
CFMS trip - Ludlow, CA for thulite/zoisite, 50+ attendees, spring 2014 OBMS trip - Mule Canyon at Calico, CA for Onyx, Agate, Borate minerals, fossils, Jasper, Sagenite, ~30 attendees, November 2014 Unknown organizer - Cady Mountains, CA for Jasper, Agate, Chalcedony, Calcite, - 50+ attendees, November 30 - December 2, 2014
Bi-yearly field trips and conference with Mineralogical Society of Southern California and Friends of mineralogy. Attended by 30-40 members on each occurrence. Featured speaker at Friends of Mineralogy conference in Joshua Tree, CA, attended by 40 people. Several field trips with Gem and Mineral Council, attended by 30-40 people.
Private group family 4
Wiley Well Thanksgiving 2009- 2012 about 100 People California Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies & OBMS. Cady Mountains Same Federation and OBMS. About May of each year 2009-2010. Lavic and Thulite area OBMS & Federation.
cfms
Nov. 26-29, 2009: Annual CFMS trip - Wiley Well District (Pebble Terrace, Opal Hill Mine, Hauser Geode Beds) Jan. 31, 2010: SDMG trip - Fossil Oyster Beds Feb. 21, 2010: SDMG trip - Indian Pass Note: Most field trips that I have been on since 2010 have been private (not organized by a club or group). Prior to that, I attended many club trips.
We went monthly with Gem club for Approx 5 years to various places such as Boron area, Kramer junction area (395/58), also off route 40 between Newberry springs and Ludlow, off of I-15 into Afton Canyon and back of Basin road area as well as near Early Man site and Mule Canyon road near Calico
Thanksgiving weekend at Wiley's Well, CFMS - every year, 50+ participants Trona Gem-o-rama, early October (additional field trips outside the scope of the Searles Lake events) every year, VGMS, 10 people Castle Butte, don't recall date, OxnardG&MS, 5-6 Kramer Junction area, don't recall date, OG&MS, 8 Acton, don't recall date, VGMS, 20
RFTF November 2014 15-20 weeklong March 2014 CFMS 2012,2013 15-20 weeklong SVGMS one day 2009, 2010 12-15 Some trips were duplicate locations of student field trips from college students that invited me along
We go on our own
Treasure Seekers of San Diego have monthly trips to different areas of the desert. We usually have about 10-20 people for each outing.
Rock hounding field trip fanatics. Jan. Feb. 2013, 2012, 2011. To various locations in the Cady Mtns. The group varied in size with a minimal of 7 people in attendance. Other places are around Barstow, Calico, Lavic Sliding, Bristol Mts.- you need to reopen the road to the onyx mine!

treasure seekers of san diego/ we usually have from 8 to 20 on our monthly outings.
Sacramento Mineral Society: Davis Creek and Area 54. Approx. 10 people went.
the mojave desert Odyssey 11/14/14 through 11/22/14 rockhound field trip fanatics
Numerous Lavic Siding trips by Yucaipa Gem & Mineral Society.
Wiley's Well annual Thanksgiving weekend trips by CFMS.
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral - Tailgate - March annually; CFMS Old Timers Camp Quartzite, AZ annually; Barstow Gem and Mineral Club, various field trips; Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club - monthly field trips over the last five years and beyond.
All Searchers field trips 4-2011 Marbles (15) 11-11 Chuckwallas (10) 12-3 Cadys(10) 12-10 Echo Wash (8) 12-11 Cadys (12)
Mohave Gem and Mineral Club trips - multiple dates CFMS = Southern California rockhounds - annually - Feb 22, 2014
All trips were organized by the Pasadena Lapidary Society and all were attended by from 10 to 50 participants.
Treasure Seekers of San Diego County. Approx March 2014
Cady Mountains... The Searchers 30+ Thulite Location, Ludlow Area.....CFMS 40+ Lavic Siding....CFMS 40+
Treasure Seekers of San Diego
Monthly outings TSSD Monthly outings San Bernardino Vally Prosoectors
Lavic Siding....MOROKS..2009(15)2010 ..?
WSPA outing- FEB 2014 20 people
I have been invited w On trips with several people on several occassions.
Treasure Seekers of San Diego - trip to Cady Mountains. 20 or so members Treasure Seekers of San Diego - trip to Hauser Geode Bed and Opal Hill. 30 or so members. At least once every year. Treasure Seekers of San Diego - trip to Painted Gorge/Plaster City. 30 or so members. At least every year.
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club, 12 trips per year, 5 to 20 vechles
SCBS water hauls, wildlife drinker installation...
Orangebelt mineral society, 4/2009, 4/2010 etc 40+ people
Both clubs
CFMS, last several years to Wiley Well, approx. 50 people.
Friends of Mineralogy
All areas listed in #3
Attending club trips with: Whittier Club Searchers SARM Each were weekend trips within the last 12 months, and approx. 15 (or more) participants on each of those trips.

Gem Hill-multiple trips with from 2 to 20 people - 1 to 5 times p/year. Kramer hills-multiple trips with from 2 to 20 people - 1 to 3 times p/year. Brown (Lonely) Butte-several trips with from 2 to 4 people. 1 to 2 times a year. Castle Butte - 10 people once this year.
Oh boy! I used to take the general public on field trips every other weekend when I had my natural science art gallery in downtown los angeles. Now, I latch on to other clubs' trips because I live out the affected areas, 20 miles east of Barstow.
Coso Canyon, Maturango Museum October 2009 W.S.P.A. The Dale District 02/14
All of the listed places were organized events with a guide from either our own organization or another local organization that was familiar with the terrain and how to get to the area.
Treasure Seekers of San Diego Co.
From 2004 through 2013 I attended the annual CFMS Thanksgiving field trip during the week of Thanksgiving. We would have from 30 to 60 people annually participate in a week of camping and rock collecting in the Wiley Wells area.
Palomar Gem and Mineral Club, 15 to 25 members
One - Gem-o-rama at Searles Lake
we have many clubs they join in and SWPMA as well
Disorganized group Quartzsite AZ every Jan/Feb for two weeks to a month. Last year @ 30 folks at any given time.
Quartzite Az ECVGMS 5-6
Numerous, Yuha Basin, Painted Gorge Imp. Co. Chuckwalla Mtns
Yucaipa Club, To Calico area-Lavic siding- Kramer Jct
PLP outing Oct 2014 300 folks Valley Prospectors nov 2014 20 folks
Lavic Siding, PLS, 20 ct., 3/2010,2013,2014 Yermo, PLS, 12 ct., 11/2013,2014) Stoddard Wells, Victor Valley Rockhounds: (3/2009-2014 for tailgate); PLS fieldtrip: 4/2013 and 2014). Kramer Jct., PLS, 18 ct., wknd 5-13 Oceanview Mine, PLS, 40 ct., 3-2013 Wiley's Well, PLS, 40+ ct., 11-11/12/13/14 (Thnks wknd)
TSS, SPMA, First Class Miners. about 15 to 50 people
CFMS Wiley well thanksgiving trip
All trips by my club as well as the Whitier Club, and the CFMS. We recently had an outing where rockhounds from far distances came. One from Louisiana and 2 from Arizona were the farthest travelers. There were a little over 50 participants for the Thanks Giving Weekend. They were from several clubs who want to host trips in their areas as well.
6
CFMS Wiley wells (Thanksgiving 2,3 and 5 years ago.) CFMS Santa Monica Mountains, Kramer Junction One day trips put on by El Cajon and San Diego Gem and mineral club.
SDGM 40 people Santa Rosa to see garnet, Salton Sea, others
Hauser Geode Beds - CFMS - Thanksgiving camp Fire Agate collecting - various locations - SDMG
None, my trips were independent of any club
San Diego Gem & Mineral Society, Outside Blythe, 4/2012, 30 participants
Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral. spring 2013 12-Oct

5 Where did you learn about the field trip(s)? (check all that apply). List the organization(s) and/or source(s) where you learned about the field trip in the comment box (e.g., SDMG website, CFMS printed newsletter, etc).

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Website			76	50.3 %
Magazine			17	11.2 %
Trail booklet/brochure			27	17.8 %
Online or e-Newsletter			68	45.0 %
Printed newsletter			50	33.1 %
Online or e-Bulletin			46	30.4 %
Printed bulletin			29	19.2 %
Word of mouth (e.g., friend, class, club meeting)			107	70.8 %
Other			23	15.2 %
Totals			151	100%

<i>Other</i>
Gem Show Club Saw signs for gem-o-rama going to Death Valley. Then to website At Quartzsite Pow Wow Show Idaho Gem Club, Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology other clubs' members email from rockhound friend Glendor Gems E.C.V.G.M. S., S.D. G&M old mining journals Club Newsletter Rock clubs Exploration on our own often friends blm Ir2000 CFMS SPMA and the Gem and Mineral Club SPMA club meeting

<i>Comments</i>
southern california paleontological society
friends
SDMG website, e-bulletin, club members
CFMS trips via various websites and groups.
SDMG website
SDAG & SCGS emailed newsletters; Monthly meetings
Field trip offerings have subsided greatly in the past two years. Multi- date field trips are inaccessible to my family due to work schedule and finances.
SDGM monthly bulletin
need more advisment sent to pacific northwest

Usually the Gem Club arranges field trips. As part of the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, I've initiated several field trips as well as attended field trips initiated by others.
We do a bit of research to map out a general route, then try to find members of local clubs who can provide more information.
email communication from a rockhound friend.
Field Trips are very important to Rock Hound's and Mineral collectors, and I for one will talk to my Senator if our opportunities are infringed upon.
Our club often joins other clubs to rock hunt.
a lot of historical research
I've studied field geology for over 30 years, and traveled throughout the Mojave Desert since 1980.
Searchers/LA rocks/Rockhound fanatics
We are quite active with several on-line rock and gem groups.
Wife was from a old rock hound family and collected and lived in southern CA for 50 year and then is showing me areas to collect. They belonged to Kaiser Steel Rock club.
Many of these trips are posted on LA Rocks.
SDMG printed bulletin, e-bulletin or e-Newsletter. Note: Most of the field trips that I have been on since 2009 have been private -- to locations that I already knew, new locations that I "discovered" for myself, or to old locations published in books such as Gem Trails of Southern California, Rocks & Minerals of California, A Rockhound's Guide to California and Desert Gem Trails. Repeat visits to old locales can reveal new outcrops, as can walking further from the original site.
CFMS website, Sierra Pelona newsletter, RFTF website, co-workers , word of mouth at shows, websites of So-Cal gem clubs past fieldtrips also
Treasure Seekers of San Diego
CFMS newsletter YVGMS Newsletter
CFMS newsletter, club meetings and paper.
PLS bulletin, Club meetings, California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website,
When I can go with my club, I do so. More often than not, I go with my husband, due to our unusual demanding schedules.
monthly outing from TSSD nd VP
Many club Members are retired and don't wait for "Club" trips. We go when our Dr. appt. coincide, and we can get 10 or so to go. Many times the trip is an over-tighter, or maybe for a week. Depends on the weather, people, location, and sometimes if we feel like finding a few pretty stones or not. If we have a wheelchair along we usually spend more time. This is where having an available road is very necessary, for our War Veteran friend. He loves to go where it is 'wild and quiet'.
SCSMGS
Most trips are with small groups of friends and other rockhounds.
I always go with my friend who has been on many field trips
Club newsletters
TSSD, monthly news bulletins
Palomar Gem and Mineral Club Bulletin, PGMC
San Diego Gem and Mineral Club Bulletin, SDMG
GPAA have claims in the desert to go on.
Rock guides to Gems and Minerals where I learned of most rock collecting areas.
I belong to various clubs in Southern Ca
CFMS Newsletters

6 Trip location(s) and materials. For each destination, please list GPS (Lat/Long) coordinates, historical place names, or landmarks such as highway, mountain, power lines, etc. For each location list materials collections (e.g., jasper, quartz, garnet, opal) ex: Hauser Geode Beds, 33.376117 -114.989717, geodes and agates

114 Response(s)

<p>Union Wash - ammonites Hauser Geode Beds - geodes Marble Mountain-trilobites and oncolites China Lake naval Reserve-no collecting, photography of petroglyphs Blythe-petrified wood Pine Mountains-sand dollars</p>
<p>-nopah range by baker ca. area is on the left, looks like a "ski slope", and if you get to the top of the hill, you've gone too far. -mojave. various areas</p>
<p>Afton Canyon Alvord Mine Bristol Mountains Broadwell Dry Lake Brown Butte Cadiz and Marble Mountains Cady Mountains Calico and Mule Canyon Castle Butte Chambless Field Road Gem Hill at Rosamond Grandview Hector Hills Kelbaker Road Kramer Hills Lavic Siding Ludlow Mineola Road Newberry North Edwards Orange Blossam Ord Mountain Pisgah Crater Stoddard Well Yermo</p>
<p>Kelbacker road, Mojave desert Chacedony</p>
<p>Cady Mountains and desert south. Agate and jasper.</p>
<p>Searles Lake, Trona, CA. We collected the following: Hanksite. Sulfohalite. Borax. Pink halite</p>
<p>Lavic Siding-jasper and agate Hector Hills-jasper common opal South Cadys-jasper and agate Blythe area-jasper and agate Mule Canyon-jasper and agate</p>

jasper quartz agates at panoche hills area 54
I can say China Lake - with guide for obsidian at obsidian quarries, also petroglyphs
Long-range geological tours/trips include multiple destinations and campsites. See published guidebooks by each organization for details.
I don't use GPS-I just go wander.
hauser, palo verde, wily well
South Cady Mountains: agate, jasper North Cady Mountains: agate, jasper Hauser Beds: Geodes, agate Black Agate Mine: thundereggs Lavic Siding: jasper/agate Hector Siding: agate Cinnamon Beds: geodes Kramer Hills: agate Gem Hill: agate
The material in each of those areas.
Hauser Geode Beds- Geodes, Pebble Terrace- Agate/Jasper, Lavic Siding- Chalcedony/Jasper, Wiley Wells/Bradshaw Trails Area- Chalcedony/Jasper/Agate, Needles-Jasper/Agate/Chalcedony
Have personally collected many times in Hauser bed area, Cady mtns, high desert no of Victorville and out toward Calico and Barstow. We have also collected up in Inyo county, around Bishop, and many sites in central and northern ca
Hauser Geode Beds - geodes North Hauser Geode Beds - geodes
Wylie Well - agate, jasper Cady Mountains - Jasper, Agate, geodes, obsidian Afton Canyon - jasper, agate, dino bone Ludlow - under power lines, jasper and agate
polkdad mines or, quartzsite crisacolla mine az. saddle mtn wa.
Bruneau wood pile: pet. wood, Owyhee desert: agates, jaspers, geodes. Emerald Creek: garnet. Beacon Hill: geodes. Grimes Creek: gold. Cordero mine, NV: agate and pet. wood. Ola, ID: personal pegmatite claim. Coal Mine Basin: pet. wood. Wildhorse mining district, ID: gangue minerals. Shell Hill: fossil shells. Oreana, ID: Obsidian. Glass Butte, OR: Obsidian. Idaho City and Silver City, ID: gold and Quartz crystals. Queenstone claim: queenstone jasper. Graveyard Point: agates, pet. wood. Farewell Bend, OR: calcite and Pyrite crystals. Weiser, ID: geodes. Grouse Creek, ID: gold. Republic, WA: fossil plants, insects, and fish and gold. Plus more than I can think of right now.
Saddle Mtn, Mattawa WA Pet Wood Emerald Creek Fernwood ID Star Garnet Jade Oslo WA Red Top Mtn, Ellensburg WA Agate Nodules Maury Mtn Prineville OR Moss Agate Richardson's Ranch Madras, OR Thundereggs, Jasper, Agate, Opal Yellowstone River, Terry MT, Glendive< MT Miles City, MT Monatan Moss Agate, Pet Wood, Dinosaur Bone Black Hills Rapid City SD Rose Quartz, Pet Wood, Praire Agate, Fairburn Agate, Dry head Nodules
Oceanview mine for tourmaline, beryl, quartz, feldspar
Lone Butte, Cady Mnt.s, Lavic Siding, Wiley Wells, Gem Hill ect. Jasper, quartz, agate, florite, Geodes, garnets, halite,
Pala, California - Tourmaline Queen Mine Aquamarine, Quartz, Tourmaline

Succor Creek Blue Petrified Forest and many many more
Hauser Geode Beds, 33.376117 -114.989717, geodes and agates
yeah, I'm not that detailed -- not to mention lack the inclination to share my locations. Generally speaking: Kingston Mountain -- amethyst and citrine Tecopah Junnction area -- opal, palm root, jasper Pala Area -- tourmaline, quartz crystal, lepidolite Afton Canyon -- agate, carnelian
Agate geodes Hauser Geode Beds
Mohave Desert for agates, Hauser Geode Beds. Opal, Jasper. Fun to explore and enjoy the desert.
I wish that I had the time (and space!) to list each and every one of my trip locations. Suffice to say, in my extensive Mojave Desert travels, I've collected most every type of lapidary worthy rock that can be found. Additionally, I've had the pleasure of collecting many display worthy mineral specimens.
Jasper, Gold, Crystals, Tourmaline, Fire Agate
See above for locations. Don't know coordinates agate geodes jaspers
Lavic Siding - jasper agate Cady Mountains - jasper agate Afton Canyon - jasper agate Barstow - onyx Tumey Hills - gypsum
Afton Canyon Lavic Siding Boron Trona Wiley Wells Calico Boron Four Corners Randsberg geodes jasper fire agate onyx fluorite
See above sites fire agate opal quartz jasper fluorite psilomelene geodes travertine onyx
OLD 395 IN AREA OF ROUNDS-BERG,CALIF.
We collected jasper, agate and onyx.

<p>Hauser Geode Beds, 33.376117 - 114.989717, geodes and agates I don't know coordinates. We caravanned in. Wiley's Well area, porcelain jasper Southern California, petrified wood Wiley's Well area, picture jasper Gone on our own from rock hounding books to rock collecting sites, fire opals, etc.</p>
<p>We, over the years visited probably all the well known sites and many more little known. The Cady Mountain, and Lavic Siding is always a most be visited site on our trips.</p>
<p>Mule canyon-onyx, borates, agate, sagenite, petrified palm Hauser Geode Beds-geodes, agate, fire agate South Cady mountains-jasper(unique to area), calcite, agate, chalcedony, Manganese minerals, copper minerals, lace agate Afton Canyon-Agate, jasper, Iceland spar, opalite Lavic Siding-Jasper(unique to area), green agate, chalcedony, common opal Field Road-agate, jasper Hector Hills-Agate, jasper, blue calcite Newberry Springs-agate nodules Alvord Mine-copper minerals Orocopia-bloodstone, fluorite Zabriskie Station-precious opal Marble Mountains-Marble, fossils, marble Ord Mountain-orbicular rhyolite area south of Stoddard Mountain-Verde antique and other marble Augustine Pass-Grossular Garnets, chalcedony roses South of Wiley Well-Psilomelane</p>
<p>Numerous famous and historical (up to 100 year old) mining areas along the I-15 corridor. This includes the Blue Bell Mines and Aga Complex near Baker, CA. These mines are world-famous for mineral species, including several newly-described minerals collected by mineral researchers and examined (and published) by the LA Natural History Museum. These deposits have lead to new interest in the mineralogical and geological fields, has generated grants and money to museums and colleges, and shaped new research into ore deposition and geological systems. Other mines visited include the Mohawk Mine (famous for minerals only found there in the world) off I-15 north of Baker, the Copper World Mine nearby this, Lead Mountain (west of I-15 just north of Barstow), and the Ord Mountain areas which are famous for copper minerals.</p>
<p>many sites mainly agate, jasper, wood, salt,some fossils. She is not here to list all sites at this time.</p>
<p>Wiley Wells, Hauser Beds and other near areas</p>
<p>agate , jasper geodes, agate nodules, petrified wood,quartz crystals, onyx, travertine, marble, dumortierite,</p>

<p>Chariot Canyon: mica schist, garnet, quartz, gold Rodriguez Canyon: garnet, quartz, tourmaline, lepidolite Blair Valley: in state park Carrizo Gorge/School House & Packrat mines: quartz, tourmaline, graphic granite, feldspar, garnet Borrego Springs: almandine garnet, quartz, feldspar Dos Cabezas: green garnet, quartz, feldspar Fossil Oyster Beds/Yuha Desert: fossil oysters, barnacles, gypsum, calcite, fossil coral, petrified wood Plaster City area: petrified wood Painted Gorge: fossils, e.g. coral Carrizo Mtn: fossil oysters, fluorescent quartz Cargo Muchachos/Blue Bird/American Girl: kyanite in quartz, malachite/azurite Indian Pass: dumortierite, jasper Opal Hill: fire agate Gold Basin: turquoise Julian Wash: chrysocolla, geodes Gavilon Wash: fluorite Pebble Terrace: fossils, petrified wood, jasper Potholes: gold Hauser Geode Beds: geodes Chuckwalla Spring: chalcedony nodules Chuckwalla Well: petrified wood Arlington Mine: manganese specimens And much more.</p>
<p>You want me to recall Everywhere I went and what I found!?!? Impossible to recall all but above I wrote where I went over the past 12 years and found Agates, Jasper's mostly</p>
<p>Wiley's Well area - Colorado Desert SW of Blythe, geodes Hauser Geode Beds, 33.376117 -114.989717, geodes and agates Castle Butte, north of Edwards, agate, jasper Kramer Junction, near Edwards, agate jasper Mojave desert near Trona, onyx, jasper Acton, west of Palmdale, agate</p>
<p>Hauser Geode Beds, 33.376117 -114.989717, geodes and agates West Mojave - numerous areas, fossils</p>
<p>Hauser beds, Cady mtns, Area 51, several others that I do not know the names of that some friends took me to. I have no gps coordinates or landmarks, didn't know I was going to need them later on. I was usually a passenger in another vehicle.</p>
<p>North Barstow/I-15 - Yermo & the Calicos, Castle Butte, pipeline rd, Kreamer Junction, Afton Canyon, Ludlow, Lavic collected chalcedony, agate, jasper, petrified wood, hematite, epidote by Edwards Air Base collected from claim travertine onyx, Trona collected onyx, marble, chalcedony, quartz Stoddard Wells collected Verde Antique Marble As a hiker/ camper I visit many open desert locations Sorry I do not know GPS locations and mostly follow along on the trips. I go out on my own to many desert locations to hike around and just get away for my vacations. The enjoyment of the desert has to be earned. It does not have the instant "WOW" of mountains and oceans. I patiently look and listen to find the things that the desert has to offer.</p>
<p>Many places I'm not sure of gps coordinates but all over the desert. Jasper and agate.</p>
<p>Wiley Wells area, Lone Butt, Joshua Tree Area</p>
<p>I don't have the GPS coordinates. These materials are what I collect at the locations above. Agates, jasper, onyx, quartz, chert, chalcedony.</p>
<p>gold</p>

<p>afton canyon: agate, jasper, crystals cady mountains:agate, jasper, lavic siding:agate, jasper gem hill:agate, jasper, green opal, petrified wood</p>
<p>1) Lavic Siding and other Lavic areas east of the RR tracks on route 66 east of Hector, CA. Jasper, agates. 2) Pisgah Crater area - agates, jasper, lava rock 3) South Cady's, North of Ludlow, west of Power Line Road. Agates, jaspers, rare sagenite or plume agate, fluorite, Iceland spar. 4) Hector Mine. Pink, pure, Chalcedony 5) Hector Hills. Area south of route 66 off the Hector turn off from Interstate 40. Agate, dendritic jasper, opal. 6) Calico area - Mule Canyon Road - various colors of onyx, silver ore, epidote, borax, various minerals. 7) Kramer Hills - area East of Hwy 395 from the four corners area. All over the Kramer Hills. Opal, jaspers, petrified wood, palm root misc. 8) Afton Canyon, North Cady mountains off Highway 15, North of Barstow....so many areas all over the hills even in the river bed,beautiful agate. 9) Mineola Road 10) Stoddard Wells Road - Verde Antique Marble, garnets.</p>
<p>Lavic Siding- Jasper Sleeping Beauty and the Cadies Jasper and Agates North Cadies Jasper, Fluorite, agates Chuckwallas'- Jasper, agates Chalcedony roses, other material.</p>
<p>Please note there are multiple collecting areas we typically don't call out by GPS. Most of our locations are in the Cady Mountains in Ludlow, Ca on the south side of the Cady's along the main powerline road - Agates and Jaspers of great beauty and multiple variety can be found. On the North side of the Cady's near Dunn and Afton Canyon there are also Agates and Jaspers of great beauty and multiple variety. These rocks are found for exercise (getting out for the beauty), study and for jewelry making. Along these trips, pictures are taken and old trash is picked up by us - we find the desert seems to be a resting place for old helium balloons. If this trash is not picked up, it can be consumed by the desert tortoise and other animals = can be lethal to them. This is the only form of recreation we know about in our beautiful desert. There is not much else to do</p>
<p>Hauser Geode Beds, geodes and agates whittier club claim, honey onyx, red agate Paul Bunyan agate site, clear agate with inclusions Southern Cady Mountains, agate,crystals, Christmas tree agate, jasper, common opal, fluorite, tube agate, calcite crystals, borates, barite, jasp-agate, quartz crystals, chalcedony, Saginite, Mule canyon, bog agate, petrified palm root, petrified roots, agate, jasper, Boron, borates and borax minerals, ulexite Ludlow, malachite, azurite, copper minerals Salton Sea, borates, obsidian Pizgah crater, obsidian Opal mountain, common opal Kramer Junction, jasper, agate, chalcedony</p>
<p>You have got to be kidding. I am an amature rock hound. I do not document my trips. When I go with my club, they document everything.</p>
<p>Hauser Geode Beds, 33.376117 -114.988717 geodes and agates</p>
<p>Lavic Siding.....Jasper and Agate Calico/Mule Canyon.... Petrified palm and agate Cady Mountains....Agate and jasper Afton Canyon.....Agate and jasper</p>
<p>Hauser Geode Beds, Red Cloud, Chocolate Mts., Opal Mt. - rocks, jasper, gold, quarts Coolgardie- gold copper rocks, Chirco Summit Amboy crater</p>

<p>DON'T have a GPS...Lavic Siding= Jasper...railroad Cady Mts.rainbow-jasper..power-line rd....Goffs.opalite...power-line rd.....Graham's Pass Rd. Black Agate, nodules....Wiley Well=Black Agate, Geodes....Palo Verde(Pebble Terrace)Tiny agates and jaspers we collect and polish for school kids. fire opal@ Fire Opal Mine nearby...Lake Havasu=Lace Agate, Moss Agate,Brecciated Jasper.near power line rd....Kel-Baker Rd.=Lovely to Photograph!! alsoCrystal geodes, small nodules...= .1 from the RD. Chambless= hike about a mile up a wash and pick up specimen Garnets, dark red and brown, mostly for kids.)but pretty)...Newberry Sp= Small agate nodules.5min. hike from rd. Calico Mts.= Agate, chalcedony, jasper-sagenite. .1 from the rd.</p>
Dale Mining District
I do not have lat and long. But I go to Houser geodes, kramer hills, Lavic road, Coyote lake, Afton canyon. I collect Jasper and agate at all places mentioned
<p>X,Y,ele,time,magvar,geoidheight,name,cmt,desc,src,url,urlname,sym,type,fix,sat,hdop,vdop,pdop,ageofdgpsdata,dgpsid -116.303580329,35.041593476,0,,,,CFMS Campsite,CFMS Campsite,CFMS Campsite,,,,,,,,,,,,, -116.37054,35.006663,0,,,,Green Angle Wing,Green Angle Wing,Green Angle Wing,,,,,,,,,,,,, -116.3404,35.005717,543,,,,LUNCH,LUNCH,LUNCH,,,,,,,,,,,,, -116.31035,34.983183,509,,,,WPT001,WPT001,WPT001,,,,,,,,,,,,, -116.308967,34.983233,511,,,,GREEN,GREEN,GREEN,,,,,,,,,,,,, -116.345983,34.967317,623,,,,FINAL,FINAL,FINAL,,,,,,,,,,,,, -117.83475,35.146052923,0,,,,Blaine Agate,Blaine Agate,Blaine Agate,,,,,,,,,,,,, -114.652625,34.307909,334.66,,,,,042,22-JAN-12 9:51:58AM,22-JAN-12 9:51:58AM,,,,,,,,,,,,, -114.650042,34.274653,325.53,,,,,043,22-JAN-12 10:54:10AM,22-JAN-12 10:54:10AM,,,,,,,,,,,,, -118.214885,34.477399,884.53,,,,,Acton,26-DEC-11 12:42:10PM,26-DEC-11 12:42:10PM,,,,,,,,,,,,, -116.344079,34.807363,725.92,,,,,Black Minerals,1</p>
Cady mountains, Hauser beds, Lavic siding
Don't use GPS
Cady mountains all along powerline road, agates and jasper. Lavic siding, jasper agates and jaspagate. Gem hill, agate jasper opalite.
All areas visited for gold prospecting or mining
Gold near Randsberg
Cady Mtns, jasper, agate, wood Last Chance Cyn, jasper,agate,wood Afton Cyn, jasper,agate,wood,nodules
<p>Four Corners-dendritic agate, agatized palm and petrified bog Cady Mountains-agate, jasper, chalcedony Lavic Siding-jasper Opal Mountain-jasper, common opal Jasper Hill-Jasper Boron-Travertine and limestone Mule Canyon-Travertine, jasp-agate, agate Castle Butte-petrified palm, chapinite, agate I am unsure of the coordinates of these as I am always a passenger when we go.</p>
I'm sorry, I don't have the GPS coordinates. I can tell you in the Mojave Desert, I-40/I-15/Rte 66, Ludlow, Barstow, and all surrounding areas. We collect Jasper, Agate, Moss Agate.
Goffs, California, Mine dump samples.
Just went to published areas with friends to poke about, pick up trash and be outdoors.

<p>Wiley Wells geodes Gem Hill agate Lone Butte agate Cady Mountains agate Lavic Siding jasper</p>
<p>Oh my, I don't know how I can answer this. Where would I really not like closed? My collecting area near Alvord Mountain! The area near Mule Canyon Lavic Sidling cady mountains too many to list. I like to discover my own locations</p>
<p>Please refer to: Rockhounding the Wiley's Well District of California: The GPS User's Guide Paperback □□" December 29, 2006 The GPS Guide to Western Gem Trails Paperback □□" July 7, 2007 Also refer to: Gem Trails of Southern California Paperback □□" February 25, 2003 Rockhounding California: A Guide To The State's Best Rockhounding Sites (Rockhounding Series) Paperback □□" June 19, 2012 California Department of Conservation Field Trip Guides, Mojave Desert: http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/geotour/Pages/Index.aspx#mojave</p>
<p>I am not a GPS person. I follow old fashioned directions or the bumper in front of me. We collected mostly what is known as "float" which is rock that has been washed up on the surface after a rain and you find in areas where it collects at a low place by poking at an exposed rock and seeing what it is. I am handicapped but was able to ride my scooter on the roads and find nice float on the edges of the roads and was quite happy with what I collected.</p>
<p>Arrastra Mine, Colorado Desert</p>
<p>Hauser Geode Beds - geodes Strawberry Beds - agate, chalcedony, geodes Chuckwalla - agate, quartz, jasper Wiley Wells area - psilomelane, agate, chalcedony, calcite, fire agate, jasper, quartz Pebble Terrace - fossils, petrified palm root</p>
<p>Pala area SoCal Anza Borrego Desert Do not have other specific info.</p>
<p>Plaster City area Painted Gorge area Anza Borrego area Various desert areas in CA and AZ El Mirage Dry Lake</p>
<p>Cady Mtn Area North. Baxter Wash,(Basen Rd access I-15) All area from Railroad Tracks South to I-40/ Flourite, agate, Jasper Cady Mtn. South / Sand Cyn. Hector I-15/ Ludlow all areas north To I-15. Agate, Jasper. Calico Mtn. Areas (Agate/Jasper) I-15 north Wiley Well area.</p>

<p>Hauser beds Oct 2014 dale minning dist. 2008 201 Coolgardie Barstow 2009-10-11-12-13-14 ridgecrest area 2010-11-1114 Red Cloud Mine area 2014 Gold, Quartz rocks</p>
<p>all over using existing roads. Any decent cuttable materials in small quantities. (I do not go on organized trips)</p>
<p>Hauser Geode Beds geodes and agates</p>
<p>-Lavic Siding near I-40, Ludlow; Jasper beds -Gem Hill off SR-14 N of Rosamond; avocado jasper, petrified palm root, agates -Kramer Jct., SR-58 at I-395, agate, pet. palm root, jasper -Yermo, adja. hills off I-15, agates, pet. palm root -Stoddard Wells (Stoddard Wells Rd.), off I-15, antique verde marble</p>
<p>Hauser Geode Beds, 33.376117 -114.989717, geodes and agates Potato patch, ???</p>
<p>Pebble terrace outside Palo Verde Desert roses quartz Desert areas outside the Arlington Mine - Psilomelane' Mule Canyon- Agate Afton Canyon Jasper, Nodules Hauser Beds Geodes</p>
<p>Cady Mountains - Jasper, Agate, Moss Agate Lavic Siding - Jasper, Agate, Moss Agate Afton Canyon-Agate 395/56 crossing Four Corners area, Petrified Bog, Jasper, Agate</p>
<p>Lavic Siding, Jasper Cady Mountains, Agate and Jasper</p>
<p>Do not have a GPS. Over 80 collecting locations are listed in the book "Gem Trails of Southern California", by James R. Mitchell. I have been to many of these. Materials collected include: Jasper, Agate, Chalcedony, Bloodstone, Petrified Wood, Kyanite, Desert Roses, Hematite, Manganese, Crinoids and other Fossils, to name a few.</p>
<p>Corezo Gorge, quartz</p>
<p>Imperial VALley Gem and Mineral's gold claim in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains. Other info unknown to me.</p>

7 How many miles did you travel from home on all trips combined (cumulative) to the Southern California desert between 2009 and 2014?

1 = under 300, 2 = 301-500, 3 = 501-750, 4 = 751-1000, 5 = 1001+

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
total cumulative miles traveled round trip						176	4.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

1 = under 300 , 2 = 301-500 , 3 = 501-750 , 4 = 751-1000 , 5 = 1001+

Answer	1	2	3	4	5
total cumulative miles traveled round trip	16 (9%)	11 (6%)	15 (8%)	17 (9%)	117 (66%)



Hold the mouse over each color of the bar to see the number of respondents.

Answer						Number of Responses	Rating Score*
total cumulative miles traveled round trip						176	4.2

8 Did you use any services during your trip(s)? (check all that apply). List place names in the comment box.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Gasoline/service station			174	96.1 %
Grocery or convenience store			161	88.9 %
Restaurant			153	84.5 %
Motel/hotel			96	53.0 %
Campground			109	60.2 %
Visitor or Information center			98	54.1 %
Boutique/shop -- gifts, souvenirs, rocks, etc			88	48.6 %
Other			24	13.2 %
Totals			181	100%

Other	
photography processing	gem and mineral shows
Vehicle repair shop	Sporting goods store
car rental, airports	Tire repair
Movie theatres, museums, tourist attractions, book stores	Hardware Store
Rest Stops	tools!
bookstores	Museums
Truck stops, tire stores, hardware & home stores,	BLM Wiley Well campground
museums	Auto Mechanic, Tow truck
museums	visited multiple local businesses
Rock shops	HOSPITAL
Museums	Casino
Rest areas (state/county/city)	

Forty-one (41) respondents provided comments about patronizing businesses and contributing to local economies with their travel dollars during their rockhounding excursions.

<i>Comments (did you use any services on your trips?)</i>
400+ miles one way. Cumulative mileage more than 15000 miles.
Barstow, Ludlow, Victorville.
Gas in Ocotillo, El Centro, Blythe, Cathedral City, Palm Desert & Palm Springs, Restaurants in El Centro, Blythe, Cathedral City, Palm Springs & Palm Desert, Motels in Blythe, Palm Desert and Cathedral City Camping at Agua Caliente
These activities made a significant difference in the quality of both mine and my children's lives.
We usually met at the gas station in the area and often had breakfast in a small cafe in the area. We loaded up on snacks and water or sodas on the way. We visited a few gift shops as well especially if the weather was cold or wet. Met some new friends as well
Union 76
traveled approx 5000 miles on rock related activities this year 2014
Our rockhound trips are where we splurge. I really wish more states would realize how much money is spent by rockhounds, especially retired and older rockhounds when they go on the road. We all try not to really calculate how much our rock souvenirs really cost when we get back home, because the amount of enjoyment we derive from getting them, the travel, the outdoors, the hunt for "treasure," the research, meeting all the new people, seeing the sights, is definitely worth the expense! Always!
Wiley Wells Campground
...making donations on my way thru the National parks near local rockhounding spots...
When on rockhounding trips, we use all of the local services, from Post Offices to grocery stores and all of the rest.
Municipalities that benefited: Barstow, El Centro, Ocotillo, Lancaster, Palmdale, Victorville, Needles, Baker, Shoshone, Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley.
We travel over 1500 miles one way just to get to Southern California. Short trips (a week or less) we use motels, whilst longer trips we use our travel trailer, and camp grounds.
When needed. LA yucypa barsto
Imperial County: Ocotillo, Imperial, Holtville, Brawley, Westmorland, Glamis, Palo Verde, Picacho Recreation Area, Bard, Calexico. Riverside County: Blythe, Desert Center, Indio. San Diego County: Borrego Springs, Shelter Valley, Anza Borrego Desert State Park, Agua Caliente Springs. San Bernardino County: Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, Needles, Victorville, Barstow, Baker, Kramer Junction, Boron, etc. Note: I also camped in the open desert, and on private property at Imperial Gables.
Where ever I go, I use the local services during my vacation.
Camped on BLM land.
Kramer 4 Corners Gas Stations, Love's and Chevron. Burger King at Kramer Junction; Peggy Sue's Restaurant near Calico Ghost Town, Stater Brothers in both Barstow and Apple Valley, Barstow BLM visitor center, Train Station gift shop in Barstow, Flying J gas station south of Barstow for tumbled rocks and gas. BLM camping sites throughout the desert.
Places in and around Barstow are probably the most used services. Campgrounds are the least used.

gas in Barstow, Yermo, Ludlow, groceries in Barstow, Ludlow, Palm Springs, Mojave, Restaurants in Yermo, Barstow, Mojave, Blythe, Motel in Yermo, Campgrounds in Barstow, Blythe,
We like to leave our spending money in the areas that we visit. It is our way of saying " Thank you."
We got gas and food in Blythe.
Our 4X4 vehicle is self contained, and we make sure that we are very well prepared for most any thing that might happen. All safety issues are checked, ie. water, meds, foods, etc. Our vehicle can travel 600 miles one-way, so we don't usually need to stop for fuel.
Many trips by car or RV.
Various locations and shops, too many to mention.
Significant contributions to economies of Barstow, Needles, Blythe, Baker, and Las Vegas.
Sell, Chevron, Valero "Mom and Pop" diners, fast food
Let's not forget the towing services too! LOL
Kramer Junction, Vidal Junction, Barstow, Mojave Preserve, 29 Palms, many
We always stop at the restaurants in El Centro and for gas in El Centro when we use I-8 to get to the Wiley Wells area. If we travel using I-10, we stop at the Patton Museum and the convenience store nearby.
dry camping also
Many gas stations in the Desert area along the I-10, I-15, I-40, Baker, Barstow, Indio, Blyth Ludlow, Calico, Victorville. Stayed Motels Baker, Blythe. Many grocery stores and convenient stores all over desert.
Home depot-local hardware shop. Tire and auto mechanic shop, local tow operator.
numerous gas stations, Dairy Queen, BLM Office, Walmart, Few Motels in the Barstow area, Mc Donalds, Star bucks etc
Also rock shops

9 Did you visit a BLM field office before your trip? If yes, please list all of them in the comment box.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			37	20.7 %
No			137	76.9 %
Totals			178	100%

<i>Comments</i>
Usually organized field trips, and organizer contacted BLM if required
BLM office, Barstow
We have visited BLM offices for our Montana trip.
Usually on-line for that area. Most of my research is done on-line, If we happen to come across the BLM brick& mortar office, then we stop in. Same with Forest Service and any other office. You need to have your research done before, that way you don't waste precious time on the road.
Glendor Gems instructor visited BLM office
I went to the BLM web site to help prepare for my trip and to look for areas to explore with my family.

I've visited the Barstow BLM Office, the Mojave Preserve Office, and found the staff to be friendly and helpful.
The Barstow Field Office
Barstow Office Some times
Visiting a BLM field office would probably be nonproductive. Most BLM employees are generally unaware of desert road conditions; do not know where collecting areas are located; are not able to distinguish fossils, minerals, gem rough or lapidary rough from undesirable rock; cannot differentiate between brass and gold. The best BLM employees I ever met were Glen Miller from the El Centro office and Dick Crowe from the Riverside office during the NECO planning period in the late 1990s.
barstow , ridgecrest
visited BLM websites to learn of locations to collect and areas surrounding, legalities, etc.
I've been to the BLM field office in Barstow many times. I love to go in and see the exhibits,
ask questions, purchase maps, etc.
our club president does and explains all rules to the members before our field trips.
to get a fire permit
Needles
Ridgecrest area; Barstow area. Tonopah, NV area
Yes, but not for every trip - we leave early typically - they are not open.
Chirico Summit more than once
Barstow
When we travel out of state we like to meet the local BLM officers and become more familiar with the area we will be visiting.
Barstow Office, Needles Office and El Centro Office.
have talked to them on the phone. did not visit
Barstow office
Barstow El Centro
I have used the websites, however.
I have been once to the Palm Springs Location
Usually a couple times a year we'll stop into the Barstow BLM just to check and see whats new.
Already had plenty of good info on every trip.
Reviewed websites
I often go to the Barstow BLM office.
visited BLM office in Barstow got maps purchased books
Barstow
I don't recall if it was Palmdale or Lancaster but went there to get information for a multitude of things on one trip. I love the high desert in the cool months but can't take it during the heat so all of my fun happens in the cool seasons, including rockhounding, photography of the wildflowers, apples in the Fall in Tehachapi. The desert delivers wonderful things!
We also went to the visitor center at Big Bear, my daughter went in since she was driving.
Before first visit, not after first visit.
We have stopped quite a few times at the BLM office in El Centro for maps and information concerning the desert area.
ABD (Anza Borrego Desert)

Anza Borrego ranger station
El Mirage ranger station
Barstow
Trips were conducted based on knowledge by attendees of public access to the collecting areas.
yuma, yucca valley
Barstow BLM Office
I have visited Forest service locations.
Yes, just twice. Can't recall specifics
I have found the BLM personnel to be rather annoying during past encounters, however, local deputy sheriff's and California Highway Patrol have always been very helpful.

10 Did you interact with a BLM ranger/patrol on any trips? If yes, please list where in the comment box.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			42	23.5 %
No			134	75.2 %
Totals			178	100%

Comments
Visit to Anza Borrego on mineral club field trip, 2012
Borrego Springs area
Asked questions regarding my destinations.
Cady Mountains South. Very good experience.
quartzsite az
Dr. Terry Maley, BLM Geologist led many field trips for the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology.
Out of Fallon, NV, we were visited by a BLM geologist who provided some non-geological context/history to the place we were collecting. It was an extremely positive interaction.
Death Valley
Anzo Borrego Hauser Geode Beds Cady Mts
I spoke with BLM officers while traveling through the El Paso Mts. They were quite courteous, warning me only to refrain from any rock collecting in the adjacent Red Rock State Monument.
Tumey Hills
ONLY SAW ONE FIELD PERSON GOING THROU ON ACCESS ROAD
I didn't, but on some trips, the trip leader might have.
We have never seen any BLM personnel outside of a field office.
Afton Canyon area where the groups have camped for years until we were ran out, South of the tracks where there use to be a sideing and RR materials stored. We were confronted by BLM and Railroad Police before they went to the camping area. we were on are way home and made a quick stop to look around the wash.
north cadys 2x by railroad tracks
Clear Creek Yermo, CA

In all my extensive travels on unpaved desert roads in Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties from 1983 through the present, I have never met a single BLM ranger. I once met a California Fish & Wildlife employee in the 1980s, driving my truck down a desert wash, before Limited Use Areas were created. The lady officer was only interested in whether I had a gun or dead animals in my truck; she didn't care about rocks. I have rarely met anyone on roads to collecting areas.
I did at Northern California locations and day passes and permits were issued in some areas
Kelbaker Rd. east of Barstow, while taking pictures of the volcanos.
paid for campsite with a blm ranger at afton casnyon
Never see a ranger unless they are driving by on back roads.
We saw a ranger, but only once - he commented about the desert tortoise then thanked us for trash pick-up
We have seen them out doing their job...but have never had the opportunity to speak with them.
Did not see any.
Coolgardie
In 2001 we met 2 Border Patrol officers on duty who stopped to see if we were alright while we were camped at the top of Graham's Pass. Very nice young man. The night before there must have been 20 vehicles going south. He explained that BPO's were on a 'saving' mission that they do occasionally to help people in the furnace hot desert as they try to come into the USA. And that many of the vehicles were ambulances, and others were full of water and meds, and such.. What a good lesson we had!!
Never saw a Ranger.
Lavic siding / cadys
Afton Canyon.
Wiley Wells
Every ranger I've come across has been great.
Mojave Preserve
Kern Co. on mining claim.
Ranger harassed a friend of mine by following extremely close through the national monument area around route 66. Did not pull him over and he did not pull over until he made it to a gas station outside of the ranger's jurisdiction.
The only interaction we have had with BLM rangers has been at the Field office in El Centro. We have never seen a ranger out in the Wiley Wells area while we were camping.
ABD (Anza Borrego Desert) areas and interacted with local Rangers.
29 Palms
They were all pretty polite and knowledgeable about the areas we were in and in giving us whatever rules applied to the area.
Just one, and he didn't know what he was talking about. He said I shouldn't drive up washes. Might do damage. It's the same washes that flow deep with water every thunderstorm. No way to damage sand that gets washed away every time it rains.
At a ARCO gas station near Calico of ramp/ I-15.
That was 2010 only time I have contact with BLM officer.
Joshua Tree Nat Park. on way to private claim 2011
Visited with the campground host at Wiley Well
One on horseback in Jurupa hills near old Marble quarry.
San Bernardino County
general friendly discussions and happenings in the areas.
Jacumba; I was approached by two BLM officers, with guns drawn, while target shooting on private property, where they had no jurisdiction. They ran a background check on me and then left without further incident.

11 Please add your comments below about your concerns regarding access and recreational uses by amateur rockhounds on public lands in Southern California's deserts. List the sites that are important to you.

154 Response(s)

<p>Group field trips are lawful and supervised. As taxpayers we should have access to public lands if all rules are followed. Irresponsible use by individuals should result in significant fines and loss of use of public lands, including a restraining order on entry to those areas.</p>
<p>Elimination of rock and fossil collect from proposed reserves would be a catastrophe for fossil and rock collectors. Amateur geology would become essentially dependent on professional rock collectors and rock shows for acquisition of specimens as well as the loss of an important educational experience for our children.</p>
<p>These sites are important to me. The enjoyment my family and friends have received from visiting these sites is priceless. These important sites belong to the citizens of this beautiful country.</p> <p>Afton Canyon Alvord Mine Bristol Mountains Broadwell Dry Lake Brown Butte Cadiz and Marble Mountains Cady Mountains Calico and Mule Canyon Castle Butte Chambless Field Road Gem Hill at Rosamond Grandview Hector Hills Kelbaker Road Kramer Hills Lavic Siding Ludlow Mineola Road Newberry North Edwards Orange Blossam Ord Mountain Pisgah Crater Stoddard Well Yermo</p>
<p>Southern California Desert is important to all rockhounds</p>
<p>I am concerned that the BLM policy is being dictated by a few special interest groups and an over-reaching legislature.</p>
<p>Public lands belong to the People and should remain accessible for responsible people to enjoy. the draw of the desert is the peace and serenity, which would be destroyed if it were filled with wind turbines.</p>
<p>Opportunities for citizens to be out in nature to nurture their minds and exercise their bodies is vital to the health of our citizens. As an RN, I see the need for opportunities to be active and enjoy hobbies as a critical public health concern. In addition, amateur rockhounds are in a position to contribute to the body of science and artifacts and should be encouraged to engage in these pursuits on public land.</p>

Please keep the BLM land in the Mojave Desert open to rockhounds. Interests in the sciences and geology needs to be supported so our future young scientists and citizens will have a love and understanding of our great natural resources in the Mojave Desert.

These are public land and as such access should be allowed to the public. By restricting access areas that allow access will have increased usage, which will tend to overuse those sites. It is better to have access spread over as much land as possible, as this minimizes the impact.

I feel that Southern California's deserts are a wonderful natural resource and should remain for public use and rockhounding as they currently exist. Surely other means of providing energy can be developed without resorting to the current restrictions planned for the deserts.

My son has a hard time understanding how land that is supposed to be "free" to properly use for the enjoyment of all, can thereafter be declared off limits in order to enrich others who have no interest in the land they are "raping" (my interpretation of what he tried to express). He knows that utility-sized solar cities can have a detrimental effect on birds, tortoises, and other desert animals. "I would want to tear it down. I think it is sickening," he replied when asked how he would feel about seeing these "solar cities". He also derisively added why no concern about the potential effect this could have on global warming.

How is it possible to put aside the Endangered Species Act to build solar cities when residential solar systems wouldn't have the aforementioned effect on desert environs?

We don't have GPS. We look around where we are exploring or inquire locally.

Recently have we been specifically on trips for rocks. Those are generally local--less than 150 miles RT.

Public lands were and are meant for the public's use, we fund them, we ought to be able to have access to them. I have listed areas where I have rockhounded in the past, but there are other areas I'd like to explore. My use of public lands is not limited to rockhounding either, I also do some hiking/running and some hunting on these lands.

Too many of these projects have failed to deliver what they promised, most are examples of greedy corporations and the politicians who are in their pockets. Their motivations are all selfish, it's corporations making land grabs without paying for it and the politicians conspiring to help them, (for a price).

I am opposed to this plan.

Just about the time I discover the fun of rockhounding they are going to start closing areas. I travel frequently to the areas they will be closing and would be spending money and time in those locations - I'm retired and stay at campgrounds for longer trips and motels for shorter ones. I certainly would contribute to the economy of those areas because I would be staying longer to hunt for rocks. Please don't close lands to me and my children, and grandchildren. We own this land and we should not be restricted from using it. thank you

Can't say about sites other than Marble Mountain site for trilobites.

My family has lived in, died in, and fought for this country since before the Revolution and I adamantly reject any and all denied or restricted access to any part of its public lands.

Whenever I am on those lands, I conduct myself in a far more respectful and ecologically responsible manner than the strip miners, clear cutters, oil spillers and other "captains of industry" that continue to lobby for undeserved preference under the black flag of economic growth.

This land is our land!

Amateur rockhounds and professional geologists alike (there is considerable overlap) in the Southwest rely on access to remote areas for recreation and for continuing education (both formal and informal). Exposures of rocks, minerals and fossil-bearing beds with minimal vegetation cover make it possible to study and, where legal to do so, collect specimens that enhance our understanding of earth processes and materials. Professionals in the earth, space and life sciences appreciate being able to join amateurs in the same or related disciplines to disseminate knowledge in the field, rather than just in a lecture setting, and to generate public interest in the sciences. The Desert is also rich in human history, as we explore on our trips. The spirit of exploration and fellowship are common to both amateurs and professionals who love the Southwest Deserts, and any further access restrictions should not be imposed unless in matters of absolute necessity, not just convenience for a few.

We must maintain access to these locations. I got into rock hounding many years ago and the desert is one of the only areas left with unexplored or open areas still available.
Don't restrict land. People don't abide anyway :)
There are so many sites for collecting but many of the best are within an hour drive of Blythe, the geode beds, Fire agate areas and the like. We love the ability to wander the desert in search of treasures and would hate to have even more of it locked up.
We want all remaining public land to remain in public domain and not given over to utility companies. thanks
God-given access to nature should not be limited by man's laws & activities.
We need our deserts! They are sensitive and need protection. I plan on voting out any politician that disagrees. People, and the environment should come before corporate destruction of our planet. It takes longer to restore a desert than a forest!
Please leave the desert open for my family, other families and our future generations Dale Prince Registered Voter since 1976
Finding something interesting for families to do that get them out together and out of the house is important. Children now are attuned to electronic devices need something interesting to get them out and engaged in real life. I remember trips my family took when we were young and hunting rocks in Minnesota and the Dakota's and Iowa. There are memories that have been revealed by other people, who remember about rock hunting with family and friends. I love watching the excitement in young peoples eyes as they find "treasure" is priceless and helps to make for the next generation of geologists and paleontologist.
As a very hard working and continual tax-paying Californian, I want public lands to remain open to the public for their recreational use. As a beginning rockhound and lapidary hobbyist, I want the freedom to access the public land to view gems and minerals in their natural environments. Please keep public land open to the PUBLIC for recreational and rockhounding activities.
Public land should remain available to surface collecting and minor digging for rockhounds. We have shared our desert with power companies, railroads, miners and each other for decades. Why is it deemed necessary to close it to the true owners of the land, the public, now. Seems pretty Un-American to me. Already, public land access to seniors (I am one) and the handicapped is restricted in the Cadys by closing roads that are historic mining roads making rockhounding areas inaccessible to those who cannot walk miles across the desert. Please help us keep these portions of our desert open to collecting: South Cady Mountains, North Cady Mountains, Hauser Beds, Black Agate Mine, Lavic Siding, Hector Siding, Cinnamon Beds, Kramer Hills, Gem Hill
I accept and respect the need to close off sites because of wildlife. I use to be for wind power until I started seeing the all of the wind farms in California...with their turbines stationary, the oil leaks and never ending issues. I am all for renewable energy. I am not for flaming bird death arrays and un-usable turbines. I love the desert. We built a jeep just so we could respectfully off road and rock hound. We are the types that stay on established roads and pick up trash. The whole Blythe/Palo Verde area has been very important to us. Lavic Siding and the Barstow area is too. All the desert is important. Too many places to list.
I am disgusted that members and people that enjoy, with no harm to the earth, might be banished from their wonderful hobbies etc. Please let us keep using these wonderful historic areas.
its about time the gov stop telling us that we cant walk freely on American soil - they have no right to do this - what ever nonsense they are trying to pull this time be it wind or solar WAKE UP they have both been a waste of money in the past and nothing but a way for them to get there kick-backs nothing has changed

We have spent much time over the last 40 years exploring and collecting in our Ca deserts . I grew up here spending many happy days with our family of 8 rockhounding, picnicking, camping, stargazing, and rock climbing in my youth as well. Our children also enjoyed these things, and now we are introducing our grandchildren to the natural wonders around them. We also take our collections to schools to introduce kids of all ages to the wonders we found hidden in our great deserts, helping instill an interest and love of nature in the new generation which is being raised addicted to technology. As they become aware of the wonders there for their discovery, I don't want to have to tell them that these things are no longer available to them because the government closed our deserts! Please keep access open to us and our future generations !!

The Hauser geode beds are the most important for me. During the winter months it is near impossible to find a place to camp because the area is very popular for rockhounding. Blythe CA might just disappear if rockhounds stopped using this town as a base for supplies.

All sites listed above. We travel by motorhome which we base in using a towed 4x4 to travel to the dig sites. We are retired and on a fixed budget and enjoy boondocking out in the desert and looking for rocks and minerals.

Do not close up this wonderful, scenic BLM ground. Allow usage to continue to be available to us citizens who enjoy the outdoors and its recreation.

I have a deep interest in the natural sciences and would hate to see the access to these lands go away. I myself have never been on any organized rock hounding trips to Southern California, but I travel there from time to time and would not want to lose the opportunity. These lands should stay open for educational purposes and for the use of hobbyists. As long as there is no adverse environmental impact, I'm a big fan of allowing people to use the land.

cady mtn. mojave desert, death valley now closed. open to permit holders

It seems the American Dream to find, create, or invent something to better oneself is now trying to be controlled by Government or Big business. I'm absolutely sure those individuals wanting to put in development for geothermal, solar, wind energy projects stand to make a profit for their efforts (otherwise they wouldn't do it). It seems they want to step over your grandfather rights to hunt and recreate in areas that have been in use for decades. As a geologist, working in the industry and a lifelong rockhound, I think there could be a compromise reached where both parties could continue their respective interests. It would seem an EIR/EIS would have to take into account disturbances already in place. For individuals wanting to recreate and rock hunt the area would not produce a significant amount of change to alter an EIR/EIS. This country is still large enough for both parties to continue doing the things they want to do.

Although we have yet to travel to southern CA in recent club memory, the North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club would like to retain that option as there is so much of the US to visit and explore.

We get such an appreciation for an area when we visit. For that reason, we are continually drawn to Utah on one of the club's annual trips. Those trips combine much more than rockhounding...we check out petroglyphs, visit geological wonders, peruse local museums, and enjoy the local setting. Rockhounding provides the perfect excuse to get out and enjoy the more primitive aspects of nature.

I have not visited any sites in Southern California for many years, but I am concerned with the fact that many public lands are no longer accessible to the public. Public lands belong to us and special interests and the government do not have the right to restrict access for recreation or other non-commercial use

Like everywhere else, access is getting harder which is why we went to the Oceanview mine

1. Access to older rockhounds that might not be able to hike more than a mile or two. It is the older ones that have the time and means to rockhound for any real length of time. We are also usually a bit wiser regarding the extreme negative behaviors of the rock hogs like leaving big holes, trespassing, vandalizing an area, littering and so on.

2. Access to areas historically open to rockhounding. Rocks are a renewable resource! It's a matter of perspective and how long your time line is. Better to use the rock than to leave it to the damages of erosion. Same goes for fossils that are not of mammals (although again, those will just erode as well-better to photograph and report). The real problem is the perceived value of the material in the new and crazy world of the internet, drug junkies and the marginal incomes of so many these days. All rock is precious in the eye of the rockhound, but not all rock is equal in value, and most is not worth a cent. Media says different!

It is our greatest pleasure to go rockhounding & camping @ the same time. We are amateurs. We would like all access now available to us to remain available to us. Every rockhound person we know is consider of the way in which we use the land. We stick to the roads & paths, we don't leave trash.

More and more of our desert areas are being closed down for various "good" reasons. This leaves more visitors crammed into less area. At the rate you are going there will be nowhere left to go, which I believe is the governments goal.

We should continued to be allowed to rockbound. We are only allowed so Much anyway. I don't see what the harm is anyway. If we want to expend the time energy and money and respect nature and not just tear it up... what is the issue...I think there is a hidden agenda for those trying to close this recreational hobby.

All are important! Its the only way I relax! Getting out there and hiking the hills with the added bonus of picking up pretty rocks! :)

The Mohave Desert is important to me even though I don't go there regularly, as well as many other places that are owned by the B.L.M. I feel as a citizen of the United States that I have always been able to enjoy our great open spaces not just to find rocks and minerals but to enjoy being with nature.

I believe that all Rocks Hounds, Mineral Collectors and others who enjoy the outdoors live by a code of conduct to keep our outdoors beautiful and to pick up trash that others leave so it will be a little better than when we first got there.

No one else is going to do this, so why put jeopardy on those who are at least trying to help keep our great outdoors clean. I live in Idaho and I do not get to go to our southern deserts like I used to but I believe that the same code of conduct is in place here. We have to take care of this land, it is our God given right and responsibility as well as the B.L.M. being able to give us access so we can do the same for their lands.

I am 62 years old, been going to various locations in the deserts since 1968. I feel that this is open space for the citizens of the United States to have for recreation. I have never or will never damage or destroy the environment in these areas. I DO NOT want to lose the rights to use these lands! Let's do what we have to do to continue to have these rights we're entitled to.

It would be a devastating loss of commerce for many of the individuals and small business owners who rely on rockhounters for their livelihoods. These groups raise awareness and foster a concern for the beauty and depth of the California deserts.

We need to keep our public lands open to the "public" . Rockhounding and hobby mining is a great way to get out enjoy the great outdoors with your family

I do not believe there should be any additional restrictions on gem and mineral collecting on any of the BLM lands, as long as current rules, regulations and policies are enforced and there is little to no effect on the environment and future enjoyment.

gems and minerals are already under threat from Urban Sprawl. Open spaces vanishing quicker and quicker. This is a clear land grab. Similar things were done in war times for radioactive minerals...keep public lands just that...public...

Lots of us enjoy the beauty and recreational opportunities of the Mojave Desert. Please leave it open for us and our children to enjoy .

In short, my objections to the proposed closures of, and alterations to the Mojave and surrounding deserts for the purposes of enormous solar and wind farms are based only in part on my love of rock collecting.

Being a lifelong resident of California, I've experienced both extreme weather and disastrous seismic events. In the Mojave and surrounding deserts, both are ever present threats. Engineering power projects to reliably survive will have huge and unforeseeable costs, both in economic and environmental terms.

The citizens of the metropolitan areas which such projects are touted to serve will, in the case of "the Big One" (either storm or earthquake), be without power.

These projects would be best undertaken on a local scale. The creation of more localized power sources, with rooftop & hillside solar installations, would best insure reliable power, in good times and bad, truly serving the citizenry.

<p>Access to any public lands and the various recreational uses of same should NOT be denied or restricted. The General Public should always have access to their lands, and always retain the right to use them responsibly, without restriction.</p>
<p>Rockhounding is a healthy family oriented activity. It helps our kids learn about the natural sciences and the wonders of our deserts. Rockhounds respect the desert and should be allowed access. All of the collecting sites in S. CA are important to me for myself and for our future generations. Please don't let this become a thing that we can only view on a video.</p>
<p>Public lands should be publicly accessible.</p>
<p>There has been millions of acres of Federal Land withdrawn from collecting rocks, minerals, and fossils. NO MORE!!</p>
<p>My concern about the current trend by the Government agencies and the greed driven environmental groups, is that it going down the wrong path and only creating anger and distrust. We are not as ignorant as it seems the so called government for the people think. Hoping for a better Future</p>
<p>Wiley Well Cady Mountains Calico Mtns. Boron</p>
<p>WE THE GROUP HAVE HAD CLAIM FOR MANY YEARS.</p>
<p>I believe new energy resources can be established WITHOUT cutting off access to natural resources for the public!</p>
<p>All of the sites listed above are premier rockhounding locations, and have been for years. People coming from other parts of the country are stunned by the quality of the collecting we have available. Loosing access to these sites would be a shame. The only people I see on these rockhounding trips may be other rockhounds. I don't see any environmentalists or politicians. Why do these people who aren't out in the desert want to eliminate access for the only folks regularly accessing these areas? We do not damage these areas, and even regularly clean up other's trash, leaving areas better than when we arrived. Summary: Do conserve the desert. Do not exploit it, or build on it. Do allow continued access. National Monument is bad. National scenic area may be a good solution because I believe that it would still allow access and collecting?</p>
<p>My husband and I are retired and have our main home in Cedar Rapids, IA. We purchased a winter home in Scottsdale. We have very different likes. He is a sportsman but we found something we both enjoy that allows us to spend happy times together. We both love exploring the desert and finding beautiful rocks. I get exercise from the walking. We have introduced our granddaughter to this hobby. She is five & so interested in rocks and fossils that I always get her the Smithsonian kits to dig fossils and stones or gems out of clay or mineral growing kits, etc. When she visits us in Cedar Rapids, she always says, "Come on, Grandma, let's go fulfill your destiny." Meaning let's go out & look through the river rock landscaping around our house. I have learned about the Cady Mtns and the Lavic area from friends I have made on the rock blogs on the Internet. There are several groups and individuals promising to take us there. We are in our late 60's. We can't wait 25 years.</p>
<p>If we do not do any damage to the environment I think should be allowed on BLM land.</p>
<p>Rockhounding is one of the few ways for kids to learn about interacting with nature that is very healthy and fun for the whole family. To further prevent public access only serves special interest groups and corporate interests, not the people of this country. Rather than prevent access by anyone, rules for access and collecting should be the focus. If necessary, personal collecting licenses should be issued as they are for hunting and fishing.</p>

<p>We have great concerns about the loss of access of any of the historic rock hounding site like the Cady Mountains, Lavic Siding, the Hauser Beds. Calico Mountains, Broadwell dry lake, Jasper Hill, Afton Canyon Gem Hill, Kramer Hills, Last Chance Canyon, Castle Butte, Opal Mountain, Wiley Well, Pebble Terrace.</p>
<p>Excessive regulation has rendered vast portions of public lands inaccessible to many users with varied interests. Public lands need to be accessible to the general public and further restrictions are ill advised.</p>
<p>Southern California deserts contain many different rocks and minerals of interest to local lapidary hobbyists. The vast majority of the areas containing these minerals are already off limits to hobbyists because of inclusion in the Mojave Preserve, national parks, national monuments, military bases, road closures, and use of public lands by privately owned solar energy farms. Wilderness areas, while technically open to collectors, are essential off limits because of the difficulty in reaching these areas on foot. More and more areas are closed to collecting each year. Lapidary hobbyists are slowly being squeezed out of public lands--lands that all of the public should be able to enjoy. Further restricting access to collecting will be unfair to hobbyists. Material will have to be purchased in increasing amounts, often from other countries, as hobbyists lose access to these areas.</p>
<p>The potential closing of some of these well known and often famous collecting areas will not only hinder the rockhound communities' ability to enjoy public lands while causing virtually no disturbance but will hurt future research (and associated money) that has been created by new finds and new interest in several of these areas. I do not see any benefit in closing off these lands to collecting and virtually all access as the number of people that currently visit these areas will greatly decrease and create a negative economic impact on nearby business as well as stifle and future amateur and professional mineralogical research in these areas.</p>
<p>I tread lightly on the land..I dont leave trash..Its just a hobby and quality time for my Grandson and I...Upsets me that we can be banned from collecting rocks.. I thought the United States belonged to the People.</p>
<p>I am just starting college at Stanford University and have just joined the Bay Area Mineralogists. I want to be able to look forward to many years exploring California and looking for minerals. I don't want these sites shut off before I even get a chance to visit them! Mineral collecting has a relatively small impact on the environment compared to many activities. Please concede us this access. Thank you.</p>
<p>Lavic, Cady Mountains, Calico area, Hector hills, about 16 miles East of Ludlow South of the Freeway all the way to Kelbaker Road. Siam Siding area and the Ship Mountains. West and South of the Ludlow area around Rodchester, and South of the pipeline Road. There are so many areas that need to stay open.</p>
<p>All areas there are so enjoyable. Blocking recreational use is inappropriate</p>
<p>north Cady's, south Cady's are my favorite places to go worry about restrictions if they become wilderness areas. I am more worried if they become national monuments. Am concerned with the desert areas that will become inaccessible due to solar and wind energy and am concerned that the lands that the energy companies obtain to compensate for the lands they use for energy generation also become inaccessible to rock collecting</p>
<p>Recreation: We bought property in Imperial Gables in 1985 so we would always have a place to camp, enjoy nature (wild poppies, owls, bats, painted lady butterflies, desert tortoises) and use as a base for rockhounding in Imperial Co. We had adventures that no one can repeat today: the public lands have been locked up. One can't *drive* to Picacho Peak to climb it anymore.</p> <p>Science: So many people experience the world via TV and the Internet these days. Rockhound field trips get families out into nature, learning about geology. If collecting sites are closed, how will young people become inspired to learn about geology? Physics? Chemistry?</p> <p>Education: For 12 years, I have given geology talks to thousands of students & scouts; each got a free grab bag of rocks. The rocks? Lava, feldspar, mica schist, granite, gneiss, gypsum, talc, petrified wood, geodes, calcite -- all collected by me, for free, on public lands in southern California.</p> <p>Please keep access roads open to all sites.</p>
<p>All sites are important!!!! There are places I want to go and haven't been able to yet. Don't block off our desert to rock hounds who follow roads in the desert and keep their impact to a minimum. We are quiet and respectful of our desert</p>
<p>Mojave Desert Wiley's Well area</p>

<p>The entire area should be left accessible. Closing these areas amounts to nothing more than a land-grab by well financed and well connected special interests, instead of open to all people.</p>
<p>This is public land which means the public should be able to access all of it, not just the parts some organization or govt agency deem appropriate. All sites are important to me as they are all on my bucket list.</p>
<p>I have been going to the So Cal desert since I was a child. I visit these areas because as a kid my family chose the desert to camp in. My husband and I photographed/studied reptiles for years. I now spend all my vacation time/money on trips to the desert. Like the rock hounds that I have been with I have a deep regard for these areas that have been visited for decades. We do not tear up the desert and only take small amounts for our own enjoyment. These areas would have been cleaned out generations ago if this were not true. This is an honest hobby that I enjoyed as a child and with my new family. I am NOW able to pass the love and appreciation on to my child. There are many memories from the past and future memories to be made in these wonderful areas that should not be closed to the public. There are so few areas that can be enjoyed by the public that did not start out on a drafting table. Please do not take away the beautiful wild that is the desert. DESERT ACCESS has to be enjoyed- ALWAYS.</p>
<p>We need the BLM lands to be left open to the public. my wife and I are still working and plan to travel and camp on BLM lands. We always pack all of our trash out with us after camping! We will also pick up trash that has been left behind by others. Please do not take away access to BLM land. We do not make a lot of money to go to hotels every where we go.</p> <p>Thank You Trish and Terry</p>
<p>I'm a younger rockhound, I've been rockhounding for a bout 5 years and have had the opportunity to meet a lot of really great people and see places a lot of people never will. My first rockhounding trip was to the chuck-walla mountains the last trip I did over Thanksgiving weekend was jasper hill and lavic siding. Rockhounding is a great hobby and has kept me out of trouble. Younger generations would benefit by becoming rockhounds given the opportunity but as if the close places get closed down for renewable resources it will drastically decrease the chances for them. I hope that when I have kids they will be able to go out to the Southern California deserts and enjoy the natural sights that make California great, not a solar farm or wind towers. And I hope they will have the chance to take their kids and feel the joy I do when I'm out there.</p>
<p>Ramsburg Joshua Tree Wiley Wells area Lone Butt 29 Palms</p>
<p>Being a California native, I went to the Mojave often. As I age, arthritis is making it difficult to do hard hikes. I want the freedom to go and enjoy the desert. DO NOT close roads! It will put an end to what I and many others love!</p> <p>Our public lands, they belong to "We the people".</p>
<p>I hope we can keep these areas open for all to enjoy. lets hope the actions of the few don't spoil it for all the rest that love nature and the beauty of these deserts and mountains. Our club strives to leave an area in better shape then when we came to outing. We even take out other peoples trash. please lets try to keep these places open for all to enjoy. Thanks sue conner/ member of treasure seekers of san diego</p>
<p>ALL the sites are important! Seeing the land as it is, learning about the earth sciences out in nature, hands on, and learning what makes what - this is HUGELY important!</p> <p>These are PUBLIC lands, and they should remain accessible to the American public. We preserve that which we love and we cannot love a land that we cannot set foot on and interact with.</p> <p>These are our rights and we try very hard as a hobby to keep our lands clean and safe and to leave it as pristine as possible for future generations to come!</p>

<p>The American outdoors has been accessible most of my 56 years. Though I realize that it is necessary to protect many resources, I find it appalling to restrict citizens from enjoying all that our country has to offer. Children are learning many things, but nature, it's beauty, it's hardships and life are too narrowly restricted. We need to continue to provide open spaces and quit selling off our resources to big corporations and costly government management that is not necessary or desired!!!!</p>
<p>i love the desert and enjoy the right to do so we need to keep it open for all to use . i all so enjoy off roading we need to keep it all open .</p>
<p>I truly appreciate the ability to utilize desert BLM land for my non-commercial interests, namely rock hounding. My grandfather first took me into the Southern California deserts when I was five. My family has a long history of interest in geology and collecting specimens of minerals on public lands. We have never done this for profit. We love the rocks and being in nature. It is important for members of AFMS/CFMS to have access to sites to fulfill our hobby and our passion.</p> <p>Please allow us to continue to be able to pursue our passion and be able to collect specimens on public lands for non-commercial use.</p>
<p>every site is important to rock hounds! so many good ones have already been locked away on military bases, and now more of the best are under attack by this measure. rockhounding is a way of life for many of us, always looking forward for the next adventure, in the great outdoors. the possibility of finding amazing material created by nature and time. my wife and i were actually contemplating moving out of state, and honestly the diverse and amazing rockhounding was a major reason for us staying. I'm a hard working tax payer, who loves the outdoors. take these spots away all pay my taxes in another state.</p>
<p>All sites are important to me. I don't believe my access should be restricted.</p>
<p>My grandchildren and other family members from Northern CA look forward to joining us on field trips to collect rocks in our desert. We make a day of it, take a picnic and enjoy nature at it's best. It's an education for them. This land belongs to us, the people, and we should not be prevented from enjoying it any further. If you'll look at the land taken in the last 20 years in CA, you'll see we have lost half of our rock collecting areas already to "monuments", "preserves" and land grabs by our government. Places, I can no longer access personally.</p> <p>Most important to me and my family are the Cady Mountains, Lavic area (Hector, Pisgah Crater, Lavic Siding), Stoddard Wells and the Kramer Hills and areas West of Ft. Irwin Road in Barstow. If they make another "monument", or use the land for private businesses, we, who own the land, will be shut out. We won't be allowed to enjoy the peace and beauty of nature which is one of the reasons we enjoy living in the desert.</p>
<p>Loosing access to these sites will be a devastating blow to this hobby and remove an educational resource for our students. The first time I ever went to the geode beds was in Boy Scouts years ago and I can't picture not being able to take kids/scout troops interested in geology there</p>
<p>My husband and I just got into rock hounding in our retirement and would hate to lose the few places we have now to collect. All the above listed sites are important to us. The Cady's are probably the most important and the Lavic Siding area.</p>
<p>Please keep our deserts open. Closing them for desert residents would be the equivalent of closing public beach access to beach goers. Please keep the Cady Mountains open as well as the Lavic Siding area. Thank you for listening.</p>
<p>Our club was formed in 1947 and has explored the desert since then to find and display beautiful minerals and rocks. There are a large number of mineral societies in California who engage in the same pursuit. We appreciate the ability of the public to access public lands and we believe that was the intent of the people who set aside these lands for the use and enjoyment of the public. It makes no sense to deny access to these lands in order to preserve them. Our clubs teach people to treasure and respect the land and educate the public about the wilderness and the great beauty to be found in it. without the cooperation and understanding of the public in preservation and conservation of these resources they will be misused and destroyed.</p>

I am appalled that the BLM is being so heavy handed. Access to these public lands are basic rights as WE THE PEOPLE collectively OWN the property. I have recreated and collected in the deserts a great deal in the past and I love knowing that I can go to the desert whenever I wish. Future generations have rights to these lands as well. We must speak out for them. My rockhound activities leave no traces and I am careful to tread gently over the land with loving care. I can't see that businesses will do the same as they are not people... I love the outdoors and I don't want my access limited for the sake of some big business schemes. ROCK-HOUNDS SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS no matter if BLM has agreed to allow business dealings to occur.

Thank you for allowing my comments.

P L Reynolds

The desert belongs to the people. We enjoy it and it gives us "city-dwellers" the chance to enjoy what the desert has to offer. I always thought that the desert was barren and had little to offer. Was I wrong!!!!

I really enjoy the outdoors and rock hounding. It seems that it is getting harder and harder to find an "open" place to hunt gems and minerals for the public.

I am very concerned about what the Government is planning for long established BLM lands. These lands were set aside for public use and rumor is building that our state senator is trying to bypass congress and go directly to the president so he can establish all lands in the Mojave as a National Monument. This is against the original intent of the BLM. I have been going to the Mojave for years and have a huge respect for the beauty and diversity of these lands. I do not abuse or cause any harm other than my footprints and the removal of an occasional rock, in fact most rockhounds that I know think and do the same. I have been on field trips with my club where the last day of the trip is spent cleaning up other peoples trash. As a community rockhounds exemplify the original intent of these set aside for public use lands. Please do not take away the right to use our land!

Please do not keep us out of areas that we do no damage to. We always pick up after ourselves and we travel carefully thru all areas.

Please keep the deserts open. We are retired and this is about the only exercise we get by going out and walking looking for rocks, prospecting and enjoying the wild life and looking at the stars at night

I have TWO main concerns! I don't like seeing BLM signs messing up lovely trails I have hiked for 70 years in peace and quiet!! ON the other hand!! I HATE to see those SAME lovely trails look like a WW2 bombing range from the 4wheelies or twowheelies and the trash they leave behind them. (Did I hear The trash filled a 40 ft. trailer to the top)? Or some such?? I would like some happy medium. A hilly place to keep the 'wheelies ' happy....(far away from children and people who value there desert or forest quietness). If I may seem cranky there IS a LOT of desert already taken by the BLM that could generously be donated to settle just such an issue. What on earth is it being used for anyway? Just a Thought.

The Dale Mining District gets a lot of use by many different user groups as does Wiley Wells. I believe there are enough closed areas in the desert, leave the remainder of the desert open to multiple use groups.

Access should NOT be denied to any people on PUBLIC land!

Rock hounds should continue to have the same access we have always enjoyed of the desert.

We are both medically retired with partial permantment disabilities and are in our late 50's, early 60's. The areas that you are discussing is easy access for us. We throughly enjoy the open desert and all that it offers.

To camp at the base of Cady Mountains (general area) and to enjoy the various mountain ranges in all its glory is refreshing.

Hauser Field/Opal Hill are another area that offers ease of access for us.

We have so little freedom left - please do not take this away - as it is one of the few enjoyments we have left.

Access is fundamental to all citizens, going to Cadys, Lavic and Hauser among others has been a over 45 year family tradition. Closing any would be a tragic loss to local business and freedoms of individuals wanting to enjoy the outdoors

<p>I am very concerned that our already limited areas are being closed after decades of use. I think areas that are known locations should stay open! I really enjoy exploring those areas and, as an older person, it will only get harder for me to get to these areas, especially if vehicles are limited. I speak of established roads and accesses, not off-roading. All of my rockhound friends and acquaintances seem to have respect for these boundaries and mean only to explore, collect, and do no harm to our land and resources.</p>
<p>I feel that rockhounds have already lost alot of recreational land to military bases and private ownership. The Cadys and lavic siding would be a devastating loss to rockhounds everywhere. Gem hill though small has a lot to offer for everyone.</p>
<p>Please keep our deserts accessible. We are getting older and cannot use or visit “ Management by exclusion” areas.</p>
<p>I generally go out alone, or with another person. The areas where I would like to maintain access are listed in #3, above.</p> <p>Rock and Mineral collecting impacts on the environment are insignificant compared to cattle grazing, mining, solar farms, motorcycles, and drug labs.</p> <p>Retaining road access is critical, especially for people with disabilities. This includes veterans who have served our country.</p>
<p>I'm mainly concerned that eventually we will not be able to even go into the deserts or the forests or any place off of a trail that is designated by BLM or the Forrestry Service for fear that we may tread upon some endan-gered species which is total crap</p>
<p>I am very concerned about the shrinking use for rock collectors in BLM land. The number of rock collectors has declined over the years and thus are less of an impact on these areas. They need to remain open for access.</p>
<p>I worry that these lands could be closed off to rock hounds and enthusiasts. The land has so much beauty to offer. On each trip I take I travel all the way from Indio to Hesperia to whatever destination we decide to go to. It makes for a long trip but I wouldn't trade it for the world. There is so much beauty in the desert and I would miss it terribly if I was no longer able to rock hound there.</p>
<p>Fossil study is a science where amateurs can make a difference as there is too much land and too little fund- ing for it to be done by only paid scientists. In order for that continue, the current policy of casual use, that is - allowance of common fossils to be collected - is an essential tool to attract interest in paleotology. Restricting collection or access to sites amounts to a long term destruction of important scientific knowledge.</p> <p>The Southern California desert is vital to our future as a people trying to understand our planet's past. This includes the most immediate things such as past life form but it can extend more accurate understanding of the the future weather by seeing what has happened in the past. Due to the extremes terrain, anyone moti- vated enough to study the rocks and fossils on a amateur basis should be encouraged and not hindered by closures.</p> <p>My family is filled with active rock hounds who enjoy the ability to go out on foot and explore our local desert/ mountains.</p> <p>Please do not take that from us. Without the ability to wonder these lovely places, we lose the ability to share with generations to come. You can set it aside, but if no one can go there, collect pretty things, camp, and well, connect with nature, what good is it? Please leave it open for ALL rock hounds present and future!</p>
<p>Access to ALL above mentioned sites are extremely important to any US citizens who have a love for rock hounding, hiking, off-roading, mineral mining, wildlife watching, photography, mountain biking, shooting, fish- ing, hunting, horseback riding and many other outdoor activities that it is our right as taxpaying Americans to pursue and enjoy. ESPECIALLY after working all week. These areas MUST remain open not just for us but for those who come after us!</p> <p>These rights were already put aside for all of us and should not even be in question. Energy and recreation can easily be integrated to work hand-in-hand for the better of America without taking away any more access to our outdoor areas.</p>

I live in the San Francisco Bay Area, so most of my current collecting is not in Southern California. However, I must speak up for fellow amateur mineralogists who will be more immediately affected by these land use changes. Also, if I decided to move to southern California, it would be terrible if there were no places to collect.

Mineral collecting is very important to me. It has nothing to do with making money (I don't sell specimens). It is through this hobby that I have learned much about mineralogy, geology, mining and human history, and the beauty of nature. In addition, "amateurs" contribute much to science.

Public lands (primarily BLM and National Forest) are VITAL to this hobby. Most of my collecting is done on mine dumps, so it is not only loss of access to public land, but also environmental remediation (although this is serving a common good), that pose a threat to my hobby.

Sites in southern California I have interest in:

Randsburg, Panamint, Mojave, etc.

Thank you for this opportunity.

While specific sites may hold memories for me personally, ALL sites with restricted access are of a concern. I respectfully submit my understanding of the original intent of managed land use was a BALANCE of taxpayers' enjoyment of these environs, their preservation for future generations' enjoyment as well as sustainable commercial benefits.

I acknowledge there are those who abuse their access and the budgetary constraints of the BLM; however, the fact of the matter remains my rights as a rock hounding, taxpaying and respectful citizen of California are being revoked.

Access to land is key to recreation. Sensitive species and lands take precedent over recreation. Constructed development such as the Sunrise power link and the wind turbine farm at the entry into Anza Borrego have permanently marred and negatively impacted the quality of those unique and irreplaceable spaces. Light pollution and encroaching residential development have also degraded BLM lands in many areas of east county and the desert regions.

Wiley Wells area, Gem Hill, Lone Butte, the Cady Mountains and Lavic Siding.

I can not even get into the "good stuff" in the cady's because I do not have a 4x4, but closing that would be awful! Lavic siding is a CLASSIC location and would be equally awful. The general desolate area around newberry springs and north to alvord mountain and stretching out to afton canyon, those would bother me. I bought a house out here so that I could be closer to the land I love and now they want to take that away from me. Then why do I live out here?

Over time the access to the public lands has been restricted and decreased as protecting other non human species like lizards and plants seem to be more important than humans. However as the population grows, the need to recreate also grows but the opportunities and access to public lands is becoming less. More and more people crowded into less and less space equals greater impacts and more restrictions. This is not the solution.

The solution is to increase the access to public lands not reduce it. Human welfare is of greater importance than a lizard or plant.

We have to make choices, and for me humans come first.

Rock, mineral, and fossil collecting as a kid delighted me, and led me to decided to try to contribute to society by engaging in earth science in the public interest.

The not-for-profit all-volunteer California Federation of Mineralogical Societies has education in the public interest as its core purpose and mission. CFMS and similar educational not-for-profits should have the same right of entry and use as accredited universities. We work together, hand-in-hand. There are many other societies impacted as well (wildlife, wildflower, ecology, etc.)

Land withdrawals without allowances for access by non-profit educational organizations such as CFMS is denying future generations the benefit of the pursuit of scientific knowledge in a natural setting. Withdrawals send a message of uncaring authority and punishment to our kids- "your parents didn't behave, so you are denied access forever." Please reverse this trend by making specific exceptions for CFMS and the like.

I feel that all sights are of equal importance, the ones I have visited and the ones I haven't been to may be more important because I haven't yet had the opportunity to go there
It would be sad to cut off access to the collection sites for people who are not out to do harm to the desert. As far as I have seen on all of the trips I have been on, our clubs pack everything in and everything out at the end of camping and leave their camp site as close to the way they found it as they can. Rockhounds are about more than collecting rocks, we are also about imparting knowledge to younger generations and a love for geology and who knows, maybe some of the kids in the clubs will be at Cal-Tech one day and working with the USGS on quake prediction.
I believe National Forest and BLM lands should be open to the public for all activities including mining and all other recreation.
Existing roads cannot be used except for walking on. Existing rock collecting sites are already being blocked for collecting. If there is a road there, it should be able to be driven on at a relatively slow speed. This way the tortoises could be watched for. How is it we cannot collect rocks, but the right folks grease the gov'ts palm and they can use OUR LAND to build solar generating facilities that destroy wildlife and scenic beauty?
The entire Wiley Wells and Chuckwalla areas are very important to me. I have spent many days hiking, camping, and rockhounding in these beautiful areas of the desert and other areas along the Milpitas Wash and Bradshaw trail. My son's experiences in these areas led him to a doctorate in geology. I look forward to taking my grandchildren camping, exploring and rock collecting in these regions. The public lands are for the public. Please do not close them. Rockhounds have a healthy respect and regard for our public lands. We help keep them safe by providing extra eyes and ears in areas too remote for understaffed BLM offices to patrol. I attribute my children's environmental activism to the love of nature they developed through spending time in the desert on our public lands.
Do NOT reduce the collecting sites. All SoCal sites are important to me and members of my clubs.
More and more of our public lands are being made inaccessible for rock hounding. Keep public land open to the public.
too numerous to put on this survey
Access needs to remain open. All ages can learn and families can go somewhere they can afford.
Houser Beds Fire agate area near Palo Verde Agate and Jasper close to the Colorado River Gold near Gold Rock Ranch
Organized amateur rockhounding are educational, fun and add an economic impact that benefit the areas visited.
General requirements for organized rockhounding require that the areas visited are to be maintained clean and free of debris. Generally; many rockhounds not only maintain areas during their own visits; they are known to pick up after other people who have visited these areas prior. Thereby improving the environment.
Access to all are important. They need to have road access for those of us that cannot hike miles through the desert. It should not be restricted from use only by energy projects, "perceived" environmental threats, etc... 99% of the users (myself included) always leave it cleaner than we found it. In the past I have been ask by BLM officers to leave an area because it was sensitive habitat only to come back later and find it had all been bulldozed for installation of wind and solar power facilities or in one case a sand and gravel pit.
the B.L.M land is for public use by everyone and should be keep open to everyone the special groups have no business interfering with public land as if they own the land It belong to the public not them.

<p>I am concerned that our public lands are being closed by people who have not even visited these areas. Our future areas for mineral resources are being closed for political agendas. The cost of the Beaucracy to fund closing these areas in a time of spiraling debt is foolish at best. I am against the closure of all the areas currently proposed in these studies. Cady Mtns. Rock hounds are the only people I ever see in the Cady Mtn region. If it wasn't for rock hounds I would never see anyone else out there. Our impact is negligible. Wiley Well area, rock hounds only people out there. All present opened areas for rockhounding should be left opened.</p>
<p>All Public lands are important to me! These lands (National Forests, BLM administered lands, State Parks, etc.) belong to the people and not to only special interest or commercial entities.</p>
<p>all these areas are public lands and should not be closed to the public</p>
<p>See above.</p>
<p>Recreational rockhounding is a legitimate use of the public lands. Vehicle access to recreations sites is also a legitimate use and should not be prohibited to fulfill an agenda by groups opposed to public access to and use of the public lands. Multiple use management should not be cast aside to please elitist wilderness and preservationist advocates. There is no justification to use power generation development as an excuse to close off public lands from the public. Power generation and recreation can easily co-exist on the Southern California desert.</p>
<p>As a rockhound destination relatively close to home, I have enjoyed visiting Gem Hill for over 35 years and understand it's in one of the areas under study that could be closed off from future collecting. The thought of this is very upsetting. Lavic Siding is another location affected by the study/threat and a destination I take great joy in visiting. I passionately hope these areas will eventually be excluded from this study so that nature-loving rockhounds can continue to appreciate the beauty and treasures these areas have to offer. There are far more rockhounds in this state than make themselves known; I hope our voice will be heard by spreading the word about this via social media and every avenue possible.</p>
<p>your department is taking away more land every year.</p>
<p>Please keep access to the desert rockhounding locations open. Geode beds, lavic, The Cady mountains.</p>
<p>Continued access for recreational, amateur, personal, professional, commercial, private, and all public activities on public land is not optional. The public needs access to public lands for many different reasons. The public who uses them now or who will use these lands for decades to come need gates removed and locks unlocked which deny access. Furthermore, lands which have been closed to access need to be re-opened. The public, not the bureaucrats, needs to aggressively pursue 1) improving current access routes, 2) restoring closed access routes, 3) establishing new access routes, and 4) encouraging the use of public lands by individuals, and maybe corporations, for the widest range of uses possible while respecting the public land. That all the public lands remain accessible and that closed areas are re-opened is important to me and generations to come. Sincerely, Aaron Klapka</p>
<p>Not going to stop the vandalism, only the law abiding rockhounds that enjoy getting out and recreating on "OUR" public lands.</p>
<p>I teach about rocks to the Boy Scouts as well as supplying some local schools with materials for their classes. Our club has several children and a large group of elderly. We always encourage them on our outings. It is good exercise for them and a great opportunity to learn. We also pick up wind blown trash and garbage from others to keep the deserts clean and safe for the wild life. I think it would be terrible if we were no longer able to visit the land we have grown up in and could not share any longer our knowledge with the youth.</p>

I'm extremely concerned that more and more public land is being closed to access by the general public. These lands were intended to be open for people to access and enjoy for a variety of activities. It is unfortunate that the endangered species act and other laws have been misused to close vast stretches of public land. The Cady Mountains has been an area that I have frequented because of its proximity and vast array of collectible rocks and minerals. We need to stop closing off these areas and leave them open for use.

All that is open now in So. Calif. I am a rockaholic.

I have never seen a rockhound disturbing public lands in any manner that could be construed to be harmful to the area. To the contrary, these folks are more like guardians of the areas providing watchful eyes and family entertainment. If they aren't allowed to show their kids how to behave in nature, there will be no respect for the areas from the future generations... just resentment that the government "locked them out". Hire more rangers and protect the areas, don't just lock out the good with the bad.

Rockhounds are friends of the desert.

We wish to preserve our rights to do hobby-related rock collecting on our public lands.

We are not asking to fence off and cover the desert, as solar and wind companies are allowed to do.

We are only collecting, studying, and preserving the rocks that nature will erode away into dust.

Please hear our silent "Ghost" voices, and those of the people who led us to these desert places, who are unfortunately, no longer with us.

I do not feel that amateur rockhounds will cause damage to BLM land, that is, assuming that they take their trash with them as they leave the area. The rockhound personality is usually one that protects the environment, loves the experience of being outdoors away from the city, and does not destroy the terrain.

I am very opposed at the closure of public lands to the public. Public lands should be available for the public to enjoy whether they are rockhounds, off roaders, or people just going out to enjoy the desert. Recreation is necessary for health, regardless of what options one chooses. If public lands are not for the public, then who are they for?