



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

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

June 4, 2017

Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Reinstatement of DAC meetings

Dear Secretary Zinke;

This letter is written on behalf of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc. (SDMG), a 501(c)(3) organization with 779 dues-paying members. As the largest gem-mineral society in California, we respectfully request reinstatement of the California Desert Advisory Committee (DAC) at the earliest possible opportunity, hopefully in time for the originally scheduled meeting in June 2017.

The DAC meetings provide an invaluable forum for the Rockhound community to provide input. They provide opportunity for meaningful engagement, where we receive updates about public lands management processes and planning that affects recreational uses of public lands, including hobby collecting. We cannot overstate how much we appreciate the BLM staff and committee members who invest tremendous effort to make the DAC meetings productive for the public and for Stakeholders.

We respectfully request the reinstatement of the DAC meetings immediately, so we may continue to engage in constructive dialogue and to participate in ensuring the future of hobby collecting on public lands.

Sincerely,

Shirley Leeson
President
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

Lisbet Thoresen
Public Lands Representative for
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.