

DAC Field Tour Route 66 and Mojave Trails National Monument

Friday, May 20, 2016
8:00am – 5:00pm

Join an all-day tour of **BLM** public lands within the newly designated **Mojave Trails National Monument**. Various topics will be highlighted for discussion at the different stops. **Kim Campbell Erb** will talk to rockhounds at Lavic in the afternoon.

The public is welcome, but you are responsible for providing your own transportation, food, and beverages. Departure from Hampton Inn parking lot in Barstow.

Contact: Stephen Razo, BLM California Desert District External Affairs
951-697-5217 or srazo@blm.gov

Check website for itinerary: <http://goo.gl/5vr3hW> (short url)

Time	Location
7:45am	Meet in parking lot at Hampton Inn 2710 Lenwood Road, Barstow, CA
8:00am	Depart from Hampton Inn
8:15am – 9:15am	Desert Discovery Center Topics: Education, Interpretation, Route 66, Old Spanish National Historic Trail, Mojave Trails National Monument Presenters: Barstow Field Office Staff and Jane Brockhurst
11:00am – noon	Amboy Crater Topics: Developed recreation sites and trails within the Mojave Trails National Monument. Also includes sack lunch. Presenters: Mike Ahrens and Katrina Symons
12:45pm – 1:30pm	Ludlow-Granite Quarry Topic: Route 66 road and bridge maintenance/repairs Presenter: Brendon Biggs, Deputy Director - Operations Division, San Bernardino County Department of Public Works
2:00pm – 2:45pm	Lavic (jasper and agate site) Topic: Rockhounding Presenter: Kim Campbell Erb
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Hanson Aggregates Topic: Wildlife guzzlers Presenter: Bob Burke
4:45pm	Arrive at Hampton Inn

Participate in the DAC Meeting on Saturday, May 21

DAC will convene a formal all-day meeting on May 21st in Barstow. **DAC** will consider creating a Mojave Trails National Monument subgroup, which will assist and advise **BLM** on what will go into the Final Management Plan for the Mojave Trails. *Folks, this is our chance to ensure that rockhound interests are addressed from the start.*

A GREAT DEAL OF CONFUSION surrounds the recent designation of three National Monuments in the California deserts in February 2016 and what the impact will be on rock collecting within them. The three new National Monuments cover 1.8 millions acres: 1.) Mojave Trails (1.6 million acres), 2.) Sand To Snow (154,000 acres), and 3.) Castle Mountains (<21,000 acres). Mojave Trails, which is the largest of the three, encompasses many favorite collecting areas.

Fortunately, the constraints imposed on permissible activities in National Monuments are not the same as in Wilderness Areas. A National Monument designation calls for drafting a Management Plan with public input. There is a timeline for drafting the Management Plan – a final Plan has to be produced within three years.

Unfortunately, it is not clear what is permissible in the interim period. In the May **CFMS Newsletter** (vol. LIII no.5), **John Martin** investigated and did not get a definitive green or red light signal. His takeaway was that one should call the relevant **BLM** office and ask before heading out on a field trip. What **BLM** allows from one place to another or one outing to another is apt to be handled in a more or less discretionary manner. It appears that prohibitions may be selectively enforced, with non-commercial collecting likely to be allowed as previously until a Management Plan is published.

Based on input from the public (including rockhounds) and special interest groups (such as **CFMS** and gem-mineral clubs), the permissible and non-permissible activities will be spelled out in the Management Plan. We have the chance – from the

Attend the California Desert District Advisory Council (DAC) meeting in Barstow

Sat, May 21, 2016 8:00am – 5:00pm

Location: Hampton Inn
2710 Lenwood Road
Barstow, CA, 92311
Jackrabbit 2 Meeting Room

*Be sure to double check
the meeting location
shortly before the meeting date.*

<http://goo.gl/5vr3hW> (short url)

Final agenda will be posted on this page

Agenda for the Saturday meeting will include updates by council members, the BLM California Desert District Manager, five Field Managers, and council subgroups. Focus topics for the meeting will include Route 66 Corridor Management Plan and renewable energy project updates.

Submit written comments prior to the meeting

- Bureau of Land Management
External Affairs
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
- Written comments also are accepted at the time of the meeting and, if copies are provided to the recorder, will be incorporated into the minutes.

The 15-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management on BLM administered lands in the California desert. Public comment for items not on the agenda will be scheduled at the beginning of the meeting on Saturday morning.

Time for public comment is made available by the council chair during the presentation of various agenda items, and is scheduled at the end of the meeting for topics not on the agenda.

Members of the public interested in a particular agenda item or discussion should schedule their arrival accordingly.

For more information contact:

Stephen Razo
BLM California Desert District External Affairs
951-697-5217 or srazo@blm.gov
<https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-09941>

start – to give input on what goes into it. We need to ensure that crystal clear language provides an exception for rock collecting within the three new National Monuments. **BLM** and the **U.S. Forest Service** will not be knocking on our doors to ask what our concerns are, so we have to tell them, and then make sure the final Plan reflects the input we gave. According to **John Martin's** article, the funds are not available to produce a Management Plan. It would be ill-advised for rockhounds to be lulled into taking no action.

Rockhounds need to show up at the many public meetings that will be scheduled between now and the end of the road for the Management Plan, whenever that date arrives. And most important, we need to get our concerns written down and sent to the attention of the right agencies and individuals.

Write a letter

Letters written with constructive, specific comments will improve the odds that protection of rockhounding activities will be written into the final Management Plan. You can write one letter and carbon copy (cc) multiple recipients. It's just a few extra stamps and envelopes – or mouseclicks, if you email instead. Your effort will have a bigger impact, if it reaches more people who are in a position to support your values. Be sure to spell names correctly and get the titles in salutations right.

Remember to point out to local representatives and **BLM** that rockhounds bring revenue to the businesses in the areas we visit – gas stations, convenience stores, grocery stores, souvenir and specialty shops, restaurants, hotels/motels, etc. Representatives are pro-business and tend to support economic values ahead of other values.

Be sure to send a copy of every piece of correspondence – e-mail and s-mail – to ALAA (calnatmonuments@amlands.org), so the number of rockhounds in aggregate can be tabulated and tracked. Downstream, it will be helpful to be able to substantiate that x-number of people care about this issue and wrote letters saying so.

Who to send your letters to.

(first and foremost, the Secretary of the Interior)

Hard copy letters are best to send to representatives, some will not accept emails from outside their districts

- The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
 - Send a copy to Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
880 Front Street, Suite 3296, San Diego, CA 92101
 - Send a copy to your local representatives. Serving the San Diego area:
 - Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-Alpine)
1611 N. Magnolia Ave., Ste 310, El Cajon, CA 92020
– or –
41000 Main St., Temecula, CA 92590
– or –
333 S. Juniper St., No. 110, Escondido, CA 92025
Phone: 619-448-5201 (all local offices)
 - Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-San Diego)
2700 Adams Avenue, Suite 102, San Diego, CA 92116
Phone: 619-280-5353
 - Congressman Darrell Issa (R-Vista)
1800 Thibodo Road, #310 Vista, CA 92081
Phone: 760-599-5000
 - Congressman Scott Peters (R-San Diego)
4350 Executive Drive, Suite 105, San Diego, 92122
Phone: 858-455-5550
 - Congressman Juan Vargas (D-San Diego)
(Note! Rep. Vargas has supported utility-scale projects in the desert)
333 F St., Suite A, Chula Vista, 91910
Phone: 619-422-5963
 - Look up your representative online at:
<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>
 - Send a copy to: Bureau of Land Management,
External Affairs
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno
Valley, CA 92553
contact: Stephen Razo at 951-697-5217
or srazo@blm.gov
 - Send a copy to the Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311
 - Send a copy to your local BLM Field Office –
google "BLM California" to find the address.
- Send a copy to American Lands Access Association (ALAA) so the total number of rockhounds and letters can be tracked!
send your letter as a Word doc or PDF attachment
or cc your email messages to
calnatmonuments@amlands.org