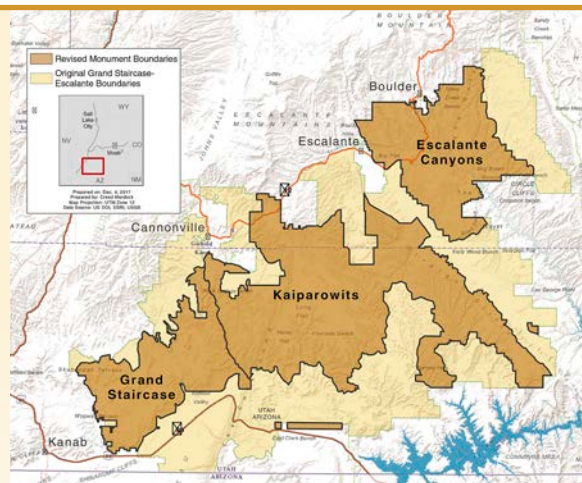


*Would you like to be able to collect rocks, minerals, petrified wood and common invertebrate fossils on some of the lands that have been off limits to hobby collecting in Southern Utah since 1996?*

*Now is your chance to be heard. The BLM may restore hobby collecting but Rockhounds need to speak up now.*



**The BLM is now accepting public comments on the Travel Mgmt Plan for  
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM)  
& Kanab-Escalante Planning Area (KEPA)**

**BLM Deadline: Friday, November 30, 2018**

The Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS) has written a great comment letter.

Clubs/Societies and Individuals are invited to join SCPS and ask the BLM to restore casual collecting in GSENM-KEPA.

**Rockhounds & gem-mineral societies**, as members of the public who have a special Stakeholder interest in hobby collecting on public lands, federal statute requires the BLM to consider your input in drafting land use and travel management plans.

SCPS has done the hard part – writing an effective letter that supports you and your hobby. Do your part. Sign onto it or write your own personalized letter. Ask your society to sign onto the SCPS letter.

Now is the time to SPEAK UP. After all, if you don't advocate your own interests, who will?

**Want to write your own personalized letter? Great, submit comments by November 30th:**

- **Mail:** 669 S Hwy 89  
Kanab, UT 84741  
Attn: Matt Betenson
- **ePlanning:** <https://goo.gl/EHvhbc>

To help the BLM properly consider and incorporate your feedback, please include a reference to a specific page or section of the Draft EIS/Draft RMP in your comment.

**Many voices can make a difference**  
*One authoritative letter supported by many organizations and individuals is one of the most effective ways to get a management plan that accommodates hobby collecting!*

*(Boilerplate letters are counterproductive.)*

**Sign onto the SCPS comment letter  
by November 27th**

**Here's how in 3 easy steps:**

1. Download the [current draft of the SCPS comment letter](#) from the SDMG website at (short URL): <https://goo.gl/Vj3zp4>
2. Take the SCPS letter to your board for approval ASAP.
3. Upon approval, send an email to Karol McQueary ([socalpaleo@yahoo.com](mailto:socalpaleo@yahoo.com)) with your club contact info to add to the letter:
  - Club/org/school name
  - Officer name and title
  - Number of members in your club
  - Club mailing address (okay to omit street address, but don't leave out city, state, zip)

**Need help? Got questions?**

email: [socalpaleo@yahoo.com](mailto:socalpaleo@yahoo.com)  
or [ajhoekstra@yahoo.com](mailto:ajhoekstra@yahoo.com)  
or [editor@sdmg.org](mailto:editor@sdmg.org)

**Support hobby collecting  
in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM)  
& Kanab-Escalante Planning Area (KEPA)**

***Sign onto a comment letter  
by November 27, 2018***

***contact: Karol McQueary [socalpaleo@yahoo.com](mailto:socalpaleo@yahoo.com)***

**BLM revisits what's okay in S. Utah monument.**

The BLM has prepared a draft plan for managing public lands within and adjacent to the redrawn boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) in Southern Utah. The proposal includes lands that are located outside the monument – now called the Kanab-Escalante Planning Area (KEPA).

**Why does it matter to Rockhounds?**

Lands excluded from the monument by Presidential Proclamation 9682 have not reverted to their previous status; they will remain closed to hobby collecting until a new management plan is drafted. Rockhounds and hobbyists now have the opportunity to ask for explicit accommodation of casual collecting in the new management plan. Unless the BLM receives input from the public to allow hobby collecting, it could be disallowed once and for all.

**A letter that Rockhounds can support.**

The Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS), has drafted a comment letter asking the BLM to explicitly accommodate hobby collecting in the GSENM-KEPA management plan.

**What position does the letter advocate?**

The SCPS comment letter supports Alternative 'D', which is the option that would allow hobby collecting of paleontological resources and collectable rocks and minerals in some of the areas where it has been disallowed since 1996.

Hobby rock collecting will be regulated in the same manner as hobby collecting of common invertebrate and botanical (petrified wood) fossils. Rockhounding will be allowed or prohibited in the same areas as described under the "Paleontological Resources" section of the plan alternatives (p. 3-44 in Draft RMP and EIS Vol. 1).

For the Kanab-Escalante Planning Area, the proposed alternative 'D', which is the BLM's Preferred Alternative, would allow hobby collecting of rocks, minerals, and common invertebrate and botanical fossils, including petrified wood, within almost the entire area excluded from the original Grand Staircase-Escalante monument. Alternative 'D' also proposes to allow hobby collecting in two designated areas within GSENM.

**SCPS has done the work, your part is easy –**

Anyone who cares about hobby collecting, especially paleontological organizations, AFMS-affiliated societies, and their members residing in the U.S., now have the opportunity to tell the BLM that you support hobby collecting on public lands. Be effective and do it by signing onto the SCPS comment letter. By the way, spread the word.

An actual signature (or facsimile) is not needed. Just email your (or your organization's) information to **Karol McQueary** ([socalpaleo@yahoo.com](mailto:socalpaleo@yahoo.com)). Indicate whether you are signing for yourself or on behalf of an organization. Include essential info:

- your name
- org title (usually club president)
- number of org members
- org address (City, state, zip/postal code is fine)

If you are signing as an organization representative, be sure to include a sentence saying your board authorizes you to sign onto the letter.