

**Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society Of
Southern California**



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The 886th Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California
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The 185th Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

March 9, 2012 7:30 pm

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Program: Sri Lanka by Dr. Charles Cramona

Dr. Charles Carmona led an expedition of intrepid L.A. County Natural History Museum patrons to Sri Lanka in September of 2006, in search of the legendary gemstone mines that drew earlier explorers such as Sinbad and Marco Polo. As well as several of the current gem sources, the group visited ancient historical and cultural sites throughout this Indian Ocean island. Join us as we relive some of the adventures involving elephants, leeches and most challenging of all, local gemstone dealers.

Charles Cramona CURRICULUM VITAE – Winter 2012

Charles Carmona is President of Guild Laboratories, Inc. (www.guiddlabs.com), which he established in Los Angeles in 1980. He is a professional gemologist/appraiser/consultant, working with international and national government agencies, attorneys, accountants, insurance companies, the jewelry trade and the public. He has qualified to testify as an expert in Federal and State Courts, in both civil and criminal matters, as well as in the Tax and Bankruptcy Courts.

Beginning as a hobbyist, collector and amateur gem cutter, and then as an importer of gemstones from South America and Asia, he subsequently earned his Graduate Gemologist diploma, in residence, in 1978 from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) in Santa Monica, California. He has taken the core courses given by both the American Society of Appraisers and the International Society of Appraisers. His designation as an Accredited Senior Appraiser (ASA) was earned in 1986. Also in his appraisal *repertoire* are numismatics (coins and currency), and he has taken courses given by the American Numismatic Association. He now gives seminars on gemology, appraising and other topics on a regular basis to the trade and the public.

His active career has included continuous association work, having served as President of the Gem & Mineral Council of the Natural History Museum of L.A. County, the GIA Alumni Association L.A. Chapter and the American Society of Appraisers L.A. Chapter. Other active affiliations include the International Colored Stone Association (ICA), the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA), the Diamond Club West Coast (DCWC) and the Los Angeles chapter of the Adventurers Club.

As part of his business, he has led tours to gem and jewelry producing areas around the world including Brazil, Germany, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Madagascar, as well as various North American destinations. He has performed gemology and/or appraisal assignments in fifteen U.S. states and territories and four foreign countries. He has appeared as an expert gemologist-appraiser on more than a dozen local, national and international television programs.

He was a consultant to the World Bank, making 3 trips to Madagascar in 2006-2007 to establish a gem testing laboratory as part of its national Institute of Gemology, housed in the Ministry of Mines. As a result of his World Bank and other international assignments, he was accepted as a member of the non-partisan think tank, the Pacific Council on International Policy, (west coast counterpart to the Council on Foreign Relations) as a mineral resources consultant.

He is the author of *The Complete Handbook for Gemstone Weight Estimation*, published in 1998, a top-selling jeweler's guide and standard reference for the industry. He has also authored articles for *Gems & Gemology* and numerous trade journals. For the 4-year period of 2002 to 2005, his image has been featured in GIA's worldwide education catalogs, and on their website, as an example of the success and prestige that a GIA education can bring.

MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Ann Meister

Most clubs have a special project or activity to work on that helps bind the club members together. For lapidary clubs, it may be a club workshop with equipment and classes. For many groups, it is a show, as it was with MSSC for many years. That may be in our future at some time, but it is not in our present. We do now we have the Pacific Micromount Conference, but that interests only a part of our membership. Several other activities have been suggested. I will discuss two of them here: host a "speakers bureau" and help students with science fair projects.

Speakers Bureau: This idea started with a discussion about the lack of understanding that people have regarding minerals and how they are part of their daily life. Where are they used, what is in the products we buy, and more. Some of you may remember a program that Walt Lombardo gave us a while back (just checked old bulletins and found it in May 1995) about

minerals in our daily life. He talked about toothpaste, glass, fertilizer, and a lot more. And he had samples of the minerals and finished products with him to show what he was talking about. Walt and I have discussed this, and he would be willing to help us put a program together and help train us in its presentation. The purpose of this would be to educate the public about why mining and minerals are still important today. Not all metals can be recycled and recovered. And metals aren't the only natural resources that are mined. We would make the talk available to schools, senior homes, and other organizations such as service groups like Rotary Clubs that have weekly or monthly meetings and are always looking for speakers. I once did public speaking in my professional field and find this an interesting opportunity to try again. And this might help build our membership.

Science Fairs: I remember when I did a science fair project on volcanoes -- I think I was in the seventh or eighth grade. I don't even know how feasible this is in our area, but I've seen it listed in the "activities" section of various club websites. I know many science teachers are hard pressed to help all their students in special areas of interest, so maybe we can help with the earth sciences. I'd like to hear from educators in our midst to see if this could work and how we can make it work. I can see it as an adjunct of the Speakers Bureau activity above. If we introduce ourselves to the schools by way of our speaking program, we can offer our services for their science fair activities also. There's a lot of information on the web about science fairs in California -- I'll start researching. What do you think? Let me know

Mineralogical Society of Southern California
MINUTES of February 17, 2012

The 884th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California was held on Friday, February 17, 2012 at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA. President Ann Meister brought the meeting to order at 7:35pm

The following business and announcements were made:

- (1) Minutes from January 21, 2012 meeting were moved, seconded and approved;
- (2) Announcement: Monrovia Rockhounds Gem and Mineral Show March 3-4, 2012 at L A County Arboretum & Botanical Garden;

- (3) Program: Bruce Carter provided introduction to the Federico Pezzotta lecture (on CD), originally presented in person by Mr. Pezzotta at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in 2010. Pezzotta's lecture was a fascinating exploration and discussion of the mining processes (and dangers) in Madagascar. Pezzotta is the curator of mineralogy at Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Milan, Italy and has the rare gem, *Pezzottaite*, named after him;
- (4) Members shared their specimen gems and minerals from Madagascar;
- (5) Other Business: Bruce Carter announced the following projected presenters for our next 5 meetings:
March 9: Charlie Carmona on Sri Lanka
April 13: Paul Adams on Brown Monster Mine
May 11: Eloise Gaillou on L A County Natural History Museum
June 8: Brian Wernicke on The Grand Canyon
July 13: Wayne Light on California Gold
and
August: (TBA) Annual picnic with Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society

Adjourned 9:03pm

Refreshments.

Taken For Granite What is a Mineral



As a boy, people said I had a head full of rocks, but my parents took it for granite. Any other comments, questions, or brickbats may be sent to the author at <jerry@jerrycarter.org>.

Minerals are like pornography: as with Justice Potter Stewart in *Jacobellis v. Ohio*, the collector claims to know it when he sees it. This is pragmatic, perhaps, but not intellectually satisfying. Surely it is possible to do better?

When it comes right down to it, most mineral collectors don't actually know what minerals are. Sure the status of a specimen is clear in most situations and only rarely is there uncertainty as to whether something is a mineral, a rock, or something else entirely. But it is these exceptions that are the most instructive. Knowledge may perhaps be measured best not by what is known but by how well the grey areas can be defined.

Read on for the first article in a tour of mineralogical uncertainty. There will be rules to apply. There will be cases where rules are broken (or at least very bent). There will be many instances where human judgment is necessary. There will be strong disagreements. But the persistent reader will hopefully emerge with a better appreciation of modern mineralogy and of the wisdom of Justice Steward.

The wisdom of the ancients

Consider the difficulties faced by the earliest mineral collectors in distinguishing between species.

The oldest surviving mineral specimen with known provenance is a fragment of the native silver mass on which Duke Albrecht of Saxony enjoyed dinner in 1477 (Wilson, 1994). Mineral collections having recognizable form began to appear in the next century. Here, long before the origins of atomic theory and even before the discovery of the first chemical elements, judgments were required to assign names to specimen and to identify novel examples. Distinctions between quartz, fluorite, pyrite, silver, and dozens of other species were already being made on the basis of crystal forms and overall physical properties.

There was already consensus in the 16th century that quartz was a mineral whereas living items were not. A wire silver from Kongsberg was a natural mineral, but the same metal cast by an artisan was not. And, though both might form cubes, pyrite and fluorite were distinct. On the other hand, optical techniques were still unknown and there was little understanding of geologic processes. There was consensus that chalcedony, amethyst, smoky quartz and colorless quartz were different minerals. Likewise many authors did not yet differentiate between rocks and minerals and considered various types of igneous rocks as distinct species. Even the method of formation was considered, so quartz from alpine clefts and formed in a geode differed as did pyrites from Elba and from pyritized fossils.

Formal definitions came into being in the 18th century and have evolved slowly since. Writing in 1783, six years before Antoine Lavoisier published the first list of chemical elements, Romé d'Isle proposed that "all minerals that agreed in crystallization, hardness, and specific gravity [belong] to the same species" (Jameson, 1804). This was further refined by René Just Haüy in his 1801 treatise, *Traité du minéralogie*. Anticipating the crystallographic unit cell, Haüy offered a definition combining crystallographic considerations with a consistent chemistry. Skipping

forward to 1906, still six years before the discovery that x-rays could be used to determine crystal structure, Edward S. Dana described a mineral as “a body produced by the processes of inorganic nature, having a definite chemical composition and...a certain characteristic molecular structure which is exhibited in its crystalline form and other physical properties” (1906). The language had evolved in the hundred years since Haiüy wrote, but the essentials remained: mineral species would be characterized by a combination of physical, crystallographic, and chemical considerations.

IMA CNMNC

Today a mineral is defined simply as “an element or chemical compound that is normally crystalline and that has been formed as a result of geological processes” (Nickel, 1995). This is a broad definition leaving much to interpretation, but even here he notes that “there are some substances [regarded as minerals], however, that do not conform entirely to these requirements.”

To understand how we got to this point, one must step back fifty years. The advent of X-ray diffraction and a growing arsenal of analytical tools with increasing precision resulted in a proliferation of new species with inconsistent descriptions and conflicting names. The International Mineralogical Association (IMA), in response, created a Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names charged with assigning names, revising existing species descriptions, and discrediting invalid ones. This commission later merged with a second to form the present Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC). The CNMNC started by grandfathering all species published prior to its formation in 1959 and has been reviewing and approving candidates for new species in the years which have followed. The IMA CNMNC has proceeded deliberately and through their careful efforts has become *the definitive body* for determining what is and is not a mineral. As will be discussed in future columns, there have been some missteps, but these have been rare.

A useful working definition for a mineral, then, is whatever the IMA CNMNC says is a mineral.

Okay, So What is a Mineral?

The definition given by Ernest Nickel represented the consensus view within the IMA CNMNC (or more accurately its predecessor). It is quite general but still not without exception. It leaves quite a bit to interpretation. Nickel’s 1995 article on the subject is recommended reading; it is short and

easy to read. He adds additional detail on certain categories which required special treatment during CNMNC discussions. I will follow his structure and add some additional detail.

Again a mineral is “an element or chemical compound that is normally crystalline and that has been formed as a result of geological processes”. Implied is that the specific structure in which the compound crystallizes is significant - so polymorphs such as diamond and graphite are distinct. Also implied is that a mineral species is independent of the geologic processes that produced it - so pegmatitic fluorapatite and sedimentary fluorapatite are the same species. The definition contains three clauses. Let’s examine each in turn.

An element or chemical compound

What constitutes an unique chemical compound? This turns out to be trickier than one might expect, even for the elements. The chemical elements are characterized by their atomic number and are thereby distinct. This separates *gold* from *lead* from *iron* from *copper* and so on. But nature is unfortunately not so black and white. There exists a natural combination of gold and silver called electrum. Likewise, native *iridium* is often present with both osmium and ruthenium in different combinations. How do you decide which of these combinations of elements are species?

Chemical compounds as even harder. *Diamond* (C), *quartz* (SiO₂), and *calcite* (CaCO₃) have clearly different compositions and have been recognized as distinct since the 16th century. But what about chalcedony, rose quartz, smoky quartz, and amethyst? Here there is a primary chemical and structural unit (SiO₂) which is occasionally modified by chemical or structural variations. These are therefore regarded as the same species even though the physical and optical properties differ.

Then there are mineral series for which one or more elements may freely substitute. Between pure *powellite* (CaMoO₄) and *scheelite* (CaWO₄) there exists any number of compounds having mixtures of molybdenum and tungsten. There are also intermediates between *tetrahedrite* and *tennantite* and *freibergite*. What makes some of these species and not others?

Here the IMA CNMNC members have applied the body of mineralogical literature and their personal judgment when drawing boundaries. Most often, the ‘pure’ end members of a series have been given distinct status as species. In other cases, particularly where there is a publication history of

intermediate names, a series may be further divided. Electrum, then, is *gold* if it contains more atoms of gold than silver and *silver* otherwise; the combination of iridium, osmium, and rubidium is *iridium* if that is the dominant species; and so forth.

Normally crystalline

Optimally, each mineral species should have regular unit cells with well-defined long-range ordering, but nature has a few tricks that makes this overly simplistic. The CNMNC diplomatically went with 'normally crystalline'.

It is not even necessary that a species be solid at room temperature. Water is not considered to be a mineral species whereas *ice* is. Likewise *mercury* is uniquely a mineral even as a liquid. The reason for this is largely historical. Mercury is obtained through mining activities whereas water may be gathered from rain.

Then there are a small number of accepted species that were defined from non-crystalline materials. There are amorphous materials which, like glass, lack long range order. One example, *georgeite*, appears as thin films or masses that resists further characterization. Amorphous species may be redefined upon further analysis. Nickel listed *calciouranoite* as amorphous in 1995 but subsequent finds of prismatic and acicular crystals have allowed it to be recharacterized as triclinic. There are also metamict materials whose structure has been destroyed by ionizing radiation. In rare cases, as with *fergusonite-(Y)*, the original structure can be recovered. Then there is a single instance of a quasicrystal, *icosahedrite*, which is ordered but for which Miller indices are inappropriate. Icosahedrite will be reviewed in detail in a later article. A more familiar exception is *opal*, which has only short-range order. Opal was grandfathered by the CNMNC and would probably not be accepted as a species today.

Finally there are cases where substances are well-ordered in two dimensions. This may occur either as a result to stacking (polytypism) or unusual structures (*cylindrite* and *franckeite*). These will be discussed as a later date.

Formed as a Result of Geological Processes

A mineral should be the result of a natural process. Since at least the 16th century, there has been consensus that intentional products generated by man and material from living creatures such as bones and shells are not

minerals. But what constitutes a geological process? Drawing a clear line between what is geologic and anthropogenic or biogenic proves to be very tricky.

Intentionally created chemical compounds are clearly out. Many collections may include synthetic specimen having 'perfect' crystal forms, such as laboratory-grown, iridescent bismuth hoppers (Helmenstine, 2012) or large 'Sicilian' sulfurs grown from carbon disulfide (Pagano, 2002), but neither is a mineral.

Likewise, the accidental products of manufacturing, mining, or other human activities are generally out. Though the large crystals of heklaite from a Florida phosphate plant may compare quite favorably to the natural crusts and microscopic specimens from Iceland, the Floridian crystals are not minerals (Casanova, 2009). Post-mining chalcantite and products of mine fires such as the native selenium which condenses from burning coal deposits at the Anna I mine in Alsdorf, Germany are not minerals.

Then there are geologically modified anthropogenic substances. The most famous case are the ancient slag deposits of Laurion, some dating back to classical Greek civilization. Crystals of species such as *laurionite* and *paralaurionite* that were produced by centuries of interactions between these lead-bearing slags and salt-water are counted as minerals. In other cases, new mineral species has been approved that originated at "mine openings, ore dumps, road cuts, etc." (Nickel, 1995).

And there are geologically modified biogenic substances. Two recent species, *bobjonesite* and *anorthominasragrite*, were discovered in a fossilized tree from the Triassic period. Other new mineral species, such as *swaknoite* and *sasaite*, have been accepted that were formed by bat guano or urine reacting with cave walls. Conversely, coal, which is a clear product of geologic processes acting on biogenic materials is not considered a mineral.

Finally, there is no requirement that the mechanism of formation be terrestrial. The species *tranquillityite* was originally discovered in moon rocks returned by the Apollo missions (Lovering, 1971). It has only in the last year been discovered on Earth (Rasmussen, 2011). There are also a number of instances where minerals found in meteorites have been accepted as new species.

Known Knowns and Known Unknowns

As the examples illustrate, discoveries from the last several decades have challenged definitions of what constitutes a mineral species. The basic outline has remained unchanged for nearly two hundred years but the edges are constantly being refined. As a side effect, what is called a mineral today, may not be a mineral in future. Instances of uncertainty now fall in the domain of the IMA CNMNC. This panel of experts has provided a forum where interested mineralogists may examine the evidence and, when necessary, redraw the boundaries. In several cases, decisions have been reached without consensus and debate continue past publication. Certainly there remains considerable scope for human judgement.

What is a mineral? There is unfortunately no easy answer. Akin to Justice Potter, the collector may know one when he sees it. Better still is to defer to the list accepted by the IMA CNMNC. The grey areas remain, but at least they are better defined.

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Via e-mail from Jerry Carter, Micromounters of New England.

HISTORY OF LAND USE AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS, Part II
Continued from February 2012 MSSC Bulletin.

How to Reverse the Trend of Increased Restrictions on Access to Federal Lands

Access restrictions have taken place through Presidential, Legislative, and Land Use Plan decisions because access users have not effectively represented their wants to political leaders, and have not participated fully in the LUP process. I will use the term Access Advocates to mean people and organizations that want access to closed federal lands, and want future restrictions on access curtailed.

To get political support for access to federal lands, Access Advocates must first establish consistent participation in the LUP process. I will first describe the process that Access Advocates must follow, and then make suggestions on how they can band together to implement a strategy for opening up lands to access.

1. Find out where the federal land is. This can be determined by going to the BLM and USFS offices. You can also get that information on www.geocommunicator.gov

2. Find out who manages the land. There are 16 BLM Field Offices in California and 17 Forest Offices in California. The Forest Service Offices can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/forest-offices.shtm> and Appendix 2. The BLM offices can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en.html> and Appendix

3. National Park Service manages 25 National Parks and Monuments. This list can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/state/ca/list.htm> and in Appendix 4.

3. Write, call or visit the BLM and USFS offices in areas of interest to you. Ask if they are preparing updates to their Land Use Plans. Ask to be notified of any LUP or action that office takes that might restrict access to the federal land.

4. Participate in the LUP Process. Attend meetings. Review draft LUP's. Submit to each BLM and USFS office maps and descriptions of places you want access to for your activity (mineral collecting, OHV use, hunting, etc).

5. Send your representatives copies of your correspondence with BLM and USFS in the planning process. Ask your representatives to help you open up access to closed areas and temper new access restrictions. Ask "why does it have to be closed?"

6. When LUP's are finished, there is a Decision document selecting a preferred alternative in the LUP and associated land use management decision. If LUP decisions are against what you want, appeal the decision. Unless you participate in the LUP process, and give factual information about your access concerns BEFORE the Decision is made, you will not be able to appeal bad agency decisions.

7. Seek Presidential and Congressional support for opening up access. After you have established yourself as a creditable participant in the LUP process, your political representatives are more likely to help you expand access. This could even be done in Wilderness Areas, WSA's, and National Parks and Monuments, given enough political influence.

8. For "rockhounds" and "recreational miners", you should

a. Make maps of rockhounding and prospecting areas. Supply them to each BLM, USFS and NPS office. Ask that those sties be made available for vehicular access

b. If open to mineral entry (i.e mining claims) stake mining claims on your collecting localities

Grass Roots Political Alliances

At present, Access Advocates are poorly organized for political action. There is a host of laws and non-government organizations (NGO's) with millions of dollars to increase access restrictions. The key to success is good accurate information, and forming of alliances with other groups.

The information that Access Advocates need to get from BLM and USFS is a description of the access roads that existed in 1945 (before most of the restrictions on access where made), and a description of what access routes

are now closed. That should be done for every LUP, and summed up for the entire State. The Access Advocates should ask for maps showing how access has changed. They should ask for reasons why the access was restricted. It would help if the Access Advocates had access to the ArcGIS digital mapping program (Version 9). That program license is \$10,000 a year. So only big companies, agencies, and schools have it. The Access Advocates must have a set of people that can operate ArcGIS, and be able to make their own calculations of miles of road and acres of land restricted by the LUP's and other government actions. An example of a map showing how much land is restricted for access is contained in Appendix 5. This state-wide map is too small of a scale to be useful at a local level. The Access Advocates need to make maps (or ask BLM, USFS and NPS to make them) of their interest areas at 1:24,000.

The next thing to do, after you have the information on where and how much land is restricted for access, is to ask who uses the closed areas. Get information from the BLM, USFS and Park Service about the use of areas closed to vehicular access. If you can't drive to it, most land users never see the area. It is only a small group of hikers, generally young, and often foreigners, who go on the trails into the closed areas. Also, you need to have money, because you need to be able to NOT WORK in order to have the time to get to the closed areas on foot. What is needed is good data, with maps on how many people use the federal lands closed to vehicular access, their ages, and nationalities.

Present Wilderness (and other SMA) management is discriminatory to people who can't hike for days at a time into these pristine areas closed to vehicles. In particular, it is discriminatory to the aged and the disabled.

With these maps and data, Access Advocates could seek alliances with NGO's and corporations. Nation-wide partnerships of several groups who want access increased to the federal lands include the following:

- Mineral Clubs
- Prospecting Clubs
- Off Road Vehicle Groups
- Car Clubs
- Military Vehicle Preservation Organization
- Gun Clubs and Hunting Organizations
- American Association of Retired Persons

Association for Americans with Disabilities
Chambers of Commerce for communities near closed federal lands

The theme the Access Advocates need to popularize is that the vehicular access restrictions are NOT always necessary to maintain the values of Wilderness or other SMA's. Vehicular access should be described as a way to increase appreciation and experience of these values for people who would not otherwise be able to enjoy them. It should also be a theme that increased access means more economic activity and a boon to local economies.

Once you know how many miles of road were accessible to vehicles in 1945 as compared to today, that is a pair of numbers Access Advocates can update every year, and then use that data to show how more and more (or hopefully less and less) land is restricted for vehicular access.

The next thing to do is ask the BLM and USFS what the economic impacts of the closures have been on local, regional and national economies. This data is very poor, and generally the BLM and USFS underestimate the economic effects of the closures. Ask BLM and USFS what the economic effects would be if access was restored to the 1945 level.

This is where the Access Advocates need to examine the data carefully, and correct it if necessary.

Organization

The Access Advocates should organize themselves geographically. There should be chapters to their organization that mirrors the geographic boundaries of the BLM, USFS, and National Park Service (NPS) offices. Each BLM, USFS and NPS office should have one Access Advocate liaison. That person needs to learn the name and contact information for the Wilderness Specialist in each office. That will be the key person from whom the Access Advocate liaison will request and get information. The Access Advocates also need a state-wide liaison to collect and compile the information from the 16 BLM Liaisons, 17 USFS liaisons, and 10 or so NPS liaisons.

After a database of Wilderness and other SMA's is established, the Access Advocates should have a website where the data and maps can be posted. This web site should contain the Access Advocates

mission statement: “Dedicated to increasing responsible access to federal lands to 1945 levels” and motto “Free the Wilderness”.

A monthly newsletter should be posted on the web and sent out to a mailing list of potential partners (corporate, organizations, individuals). Ask for money to fund research on ways to increase access, and the economic benefits that accompany increased access to the federal lands.

Now that the data is available for politicians and public to see, each Access Advocate liaison (or supporting chapter president), can use that data to support comments to the LUP’s, to justify appeal of LUP decisions that close lands. It can also be used to petition the BLM, USFS, and NPS to increase access to specific places the Access Advocates want reopened.

Once that is done, the Access Advocates begin conversations with elected representatives to produce legislation to reopen closed areas to vehicular access. This could be done one Wilderness Area or SMA at a time. Or there could be a new national Wilderness law that directed all agencies to move to restoring all Wilderness and SMA’s to access levels of 1945.

The Access Advocates can’t get a legislative solution for many years. They first must participate in several multi-year LUP efforts, and establish themselves as a player in the LUP process. Then, with data obtained from participating in LUP’s. there will be a credibility, and sound data base upon which to seek legislative solutions.

Summary

Reversing the trend of increased restrictions on access to federal lands requires good data, coordination, and an action plan. The Access Advocates will be successful if they commit themselves to a 10-year effort to be involved in Land Use Planning and implementation. Alliances must be forged with a variety of groups. That coalition should have representatives for each BLM, USFS and NPS office. Compilation of data regarding access restrictions should take a year, and after that summarized, simplified, and posted on an Access Advocates website. Armed with good factual data, available to the public, the Access Advocates should be aggressive in participation in Land Use Plans. By being involved, they create standing to appeal LUP decisions, or any other access restriction made by federal regulatory agencies. Then Access Advocates should appeal bad LUP

decisions, and sue BLM, USFS and NPS for improper implementation. With that network and history of involvement, Access Advocates will have years of experience with specific access issues, and their representatives in Congress will have had hundreds if not thousands of contacts and inquiries about these issues. Then Access Advocates should work with sympathetic lawmakers to reform the Wilderness and other Acts that restrict access to the public lands to make open access to areas now unnecessarily closed the law of the land.

Source: Bob Reynolds in an attachment to an e-mail January 2012. This e-mail was making the rounds and looked like something I thought MSSC members would be interested in reading. I gather that several people, unknown to me, are the authors.

Calendar of Events

March 3 & 4: ARCADIA, CA Monrovia Rockhounds, LA County Arboretum, 301 South Baldwin Avenue, Hours: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Daily

March 8-11: VICTORVILLE, CA: 35th annual tailgate; Victorville Gem & Mineral Club; Stoddard Wells ; Stoddard Wells Rd., 7 miles east of I-15; Thu. 8-dusk, Fri. 8-dusk, Sat. 8-dusk, Sun. 9-4; free admission; more than 60 dealers, crystals, rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, silent auctions;

March 10 - 11: PASADENA, CA Pasadena Lapidary Society, Masonic Hall, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino, CA 91108. Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5

April 21 & 22: Indio, CA The Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral Society is having a Tailgate Show. Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center, 46500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA 92201 9-5 daily.

July 13-15, 2012 Riverside, CA 2012 CFMS Gold and Gem Show & Convention., Municipal Auditorium, 3485 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA. 10:00-4:00 each day

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About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study and collecting of mineral specimens. The MSSC is a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports the geology department at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California. Support is also given to the Los Angeles and San Bernardino County Museums of Natural History. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. The MSSC meetings are usually held the second Friday of each month, January, February and August excepted, at 7:30 p.m. in Building E, Room 220, Pasadena City College, 1570 E Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California. The annual Installation Banquet is held in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting is held in August. Due to PCC holidays meetings may vary. Check the Society web for details. The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micro mount Symposium held at the San Bernardino County Natural History Museum during the last weekend of January. Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are \$20.00 for an individual membership, \$30.00 for a family membership. The Society's contact information: **Mineralogical Society of Southern California 1855 Idlewood Rd., Glendale, CA 91202-1053 E-mail: bgbrdpen@earthlink.net Web: <http://www.mineralsocal.org> The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.** Permission to reproduce and distribute material originally published herein, in whole or in part, for non-commercial purposes, is hereby granted provided the sense or meaning of the material is not changed, the editor is notified, and the author's notice of copyright is retained. Permission to the material reprinted here in from other sources must be obtained from the original source.

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