Sage Grouse and Rockhounding

Gerry Gibeault, President of the Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society, attended two meetings in February concerning the impact of sage grouse on our traditional recreation – rockhounding. I have included, with his permission, his report and a copy of an email he sent to his congressman asking for help. Thanks, Gerry for taking the time to attend the meeting and send us the information concerning sage grouse potential impacts on rockhounding.

The BLM, is taking comments on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for sage grouse management in the Western United States and has proposed limiting rockhounding to surface collecting only, NO HAND TOOLS. This proposed change will affect rockhounding in the sage grouse management areas for the next 20 years and impact the members of the NFMS as well as the public in general who collect rocks and minerals on these public lands.

The BLM is soliciting comments to their draft EIS and the comments are DUE on MARCH 30. I feel that members of the NFMS need to take a three pronged response to the draft EIS:

- Review the sage grouse management area map and identify locations where your gem and mineral society and rockhounds from across the nation collect rocks and minerals. Prepare a letter to all of your congressmen identifying these traditional rockhounding areas and where hand tools have historically been used to collect rocks and minerals.
- Prepare a response to BLM and identify that you would like to see the language in the EIS changed to rockhounding with hand tools.
- Send a copy of your letter and EIS response to the county commissioners where rockhounding sites are located and ask for their support to allow the use of hand tools. Remind them that rockhounds from across the nation travel to their county for rockhounding and contribute to the tourist dollars spent in the county.

Please review the documents at the websites below.

Draft EIS: [https://www.blm.gov/node/3282](https://www.blm.gov/node/3282)

Interactive map of withdrawal areas: [https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Dear_Reader_Final.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Dear_Reader_Final.pdf)

Remember numbers count with our elected officials. The more letters/emails to our congressmen the greater their interest in the issue.

Gerald Gibeault
President, Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society
2246 Brandon Dr.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
March 2, 2017

Subject: BLM to Ban Rockhounding with Hand Tools in Areas Targeted by the Draft Environmental Statement (EIS) for the proposed Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal.

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to local jurisdictions on behalf of the Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society and recreational rockhounds everywhere. As president of the Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society, I am concerned that the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal could be bad news for recreational rockhounding in our Gem State. Specifically, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to ban recreation rockhounding using hand tools in withdrawn areas. Only surface collection will be allowed.

I attended BLM’s EIS Public Meetings on February 16, 2017 in Idaho Falls and in Boise on February 24, 2017. I also discussed my concerns in a follow-up telephone call with Mr. Adam Merrill (BLM Geologist, Washington D.C. Office) on March 3, 2017. Mr. Merrill said that he had spent some time with the BLM’s lawyers discussing the rockhounding concerns that I had raised with him previously. I’ve summarized my understanding of the conversation with Mr. Merrill below:

As the BLM lawyers see it, the problem boils down to whether or not the 1872 Mining Act (mining act) is in force. According to the lawyers, the mining act authorizes public right to locatable minerals on Federal land. While the rules that apply to rockhounding may be different from those that apply to hard rock mining operations, both get their authority to access locatable minerals from the mining act. Withdrawing land from the mining act also withdraws the public’s authorization to collect locatable minerals. It must be noted that the public will still be allowed to pick up rocks off the surface, but materials collected on the surface are typically very weather fractured and therefore of little use to rockhounds.

(continued on page 3)
**NOMINATING CHAIRMAN:** Keith Fackrell, *Treasurer,* 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-4950, nfms treasurer@comicast.net

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Beth Heesacker, 520 2nd Ave., Hermiston, OR 97838, (509) 673-0085, 4enoma@outlook.com

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Jim Landon, 401 Livonia Ave., Sharonville, OH 45241, (513) 893-2888, jlandon@nfms.org

**CIRCULATION:** Tom Burchard, 908 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3167, (206) 465-1920, tmburchard@icloud.com

**DISSECTIVE COMPETITORS:**

- **RULERS AND CHAIRS**:
  - Lauren Williams, Schmidt Rock & Mineral Club, 15455 S. Highland Rd., Oregon City, OR, 97045, (503) 377-8833, jtbradford@frontier.com
  - Tim Hoff, Mt. Hood Agate Club, 3812 E. Park Ridge Dr., Nampa, ID 83687, (208) 465-1920, timhoff@frontier.com

- **EDITORS**:
  - Dee Holland, Oregon Coast Agate, 9290 E. Elva Ave, Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (208) 529-4950, dholland@frontier.com
  - Chuck Sonner, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 15523 NE 3817, Jakarta, WA 98638-5190, chuckagate2@yahoo.com
  - Cheri George, Oregon Agate & Rock Club, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA 98596, (360) 785-3909, cgeorge3@icloud.com

- **STAFF**:
  - Bosley, Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society, 355 4th St., Idaho Falls, ID 83404, (208) 529-4950, nfmsmember@icloud.com

**ENDOWMENT FUND TREASURER:** Lyle Vogelopoh, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA. 98596, (360) 785-3909, cgeorge3@icloud.com

**NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT**

- **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING**:
  - To ALAA Treasurer: Make check payable to ALAA (American Lands Access Assn) Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154
  - To NFMS Treasurer: Make check payable to NFMS Scholarship Chairperson. If you see an error once your show is listed, or if your show is not listed, contact the Newsletter Editor.

- **SLOT RENT**:
  - $1.50 per square inch. For an additional 50% of the cost of the Newsletter ad, you can have your show in this Newsletter, on the NFMS web- site, two magazines, and on the NFMS Facebook page. Send to: Evelyn Cataldo (see Scholarship this page).

**SHOW COORDINATOR**:

- Pat Lambert, 8810 37th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126, (206) 465-1920, dtruefossils2@yahoo.com

**TREASURER:** Lyle Vogelopoh, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3167, (206) 465-1920, tvogelopoh@icloud.com

**BUDGET CHAIR:** Keith Fackrell, 520 2nd Ave., Hermiston, OR 97838, (509) 673-0085, 4enoma@outlook.com

**PRESIDENT:** Jim Landon, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, 401 Livonia Ave., Sharonville, OH 45241, (513) 893-2888, jlandon@hotmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENTS:**

- Jim Bosley, Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Club, 95950 Brandon, Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 628-0170, cataldoeyly@yahoo.com

- Laurie Ellis, Rockhound of the Year, 520 2nd Ave., Hermiston, OR 97838, (503) 377-8833, jtrbradford@frontier.com

- Lauren Williams, Schmidt Rock & Mineral Club, 15455 S. Highland Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045, (503) 377-8833, jtbradford@frontier.com

- Steve Vieth, Bittersweet Gem and Mineral, 309 Baily Ave., Hamilton, MT, 406-381-7597, viethsteve88@gmail.com

- Chuck Sonner, Southern WA. Mineralological Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA. 98596, (360) 785-3909, cgeorge3@icloud.com

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON:** Steve Vieth, Bittersweet Gem and Mineral, 309 Baily Ave., Hamilton, MT, 406-381-7597, viethsteve88@gmail.com

**NEWSLETTER**

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is free to all members of the Federation. The News- letter is printed and mailed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Newsletter is printed and mailed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

- The Northwest Newsletter is published monthly except January and June. Each issue is 40 pages long and distributed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.
Greetings

Keith Fackrell
1st Vice President

This has been a very busy time of year - Don’t you love it when it is Springtime in the Rockies.

I am sure most of you know what I am talking about. Like push snow for two or three days then have a cool, but snowly day or two. Then push more snow and so on! Well, guess what! It looks like Spring has Sprung. At least the weather report looks favorable for the next ten days or so. In all, I feel we have had a good winter. We have needed the snow and rain. The water content in the Mountains looks good so far - That is if it doesn’t all come down at once. But we will cross that bridge when we get to it, that is if the Bridge Doesn’t Wash Out! Anyway we have been able to enjoy some warmer weather so we decided to go to Yellow Cat and do some rock hounding. We didn’t get many rocks, but we had a great time!

Now we need to get back to reality and get prepared for our Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society’s “Spring Parade of Gems”. By the time you read this, the Show will be history - We are hoping for a great show!

As always, Golden Spike will be having their Show in mid April and it is always a great Attraction.

You will be able to locate Rock Shows in all areas where you live, or may be traveling, for the balance of the Summer by reading the Northwest Federation News Letter, or you can go to Rock & Gem web page.

In May, we are looking forward to a trip to Hamilton, Montana to attend the Bitter Root/NFMS Show & annual meeting. This will be a “Great, Do-not-Miss Event.”

Let’s all get out and enjoy our Hobby, “Rock Hounding!” Oh by the way -I’m quoting from some safety tips I read - “If you see a stick on the Trail that moves - Don’t pick it up!

“Enjoy what you do - and - Do what you enjoy!”

Ronna Watkins
2nd Vice President
No report submitted.
NFMS SHOW!
Hosted by the
Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society
First Interstate Center
Ravalli Fairgrounds
Hamilton, Montana
May 19-21, 2017
Show Times are Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-6
Sunday 10-4

Please submit all membership and address changes to Tom Burchard, Circulation Chair, and to Carol Willey, Directory Chair. Their contact information can be found on the second page of this newsletter.

You MUST submit all show information (including admission charge) to Pat Lambert, Show Coordinator. FUTURE SUBMISSIONS MADE DIRECTLY TO THIS EDITOR WILL BE IGNORED!

Pat’s information can be found on the second page of this newsletter.
THANK YOU.
NFMS COMPETITIVE ENTRY FORM

Dig This!
First Interstate Center, 100 Old Corvallis Rd. – Hamilton, Montana
May 19 – May 21, 2017

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY DEADLINE: April 19, 2017

All entries may be set up beginning Thursday May 18, 2017 from 9am to 8pm. All entries must be ready for judging by 8:30am Friday the 19th and may not be removed prior to the close of the show Sunday, May 31, 2017. All exhibits must be removed by 5 pm Sunday.

SECURITY WILL BE FURNISHED
TWO GUEST PASSES PER EXHIBITOR WILL BE PROVIDED

Cases will be assigned space on display bases approximately 40 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and exhibitor should supply a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the tables. (Normally 10 feet) If borrowing a case power cords will be provided.

Please complete all information on the entry form and the certification form and mail or email to the competitive exhibit registration chairman for acceptance and acknowledgment. Mail to: Bob Gibson, P.O. Box 942, Hamilton, MT 59840-0942 or gibcott@gmail.com.

You must fill out a separate application for each entry. ENTRY DEADLINE: April 19, 2017

Refer to the AFMS Rules Updated to January 2017 for Competition. For updated rules, go to: www.amfed.org.

If you are uncertain as to the correct class or group you should enter or for clarification of the rules, contact Bob Gibson, 326 Snow Goose Ct., Hamilton, MT 59840. Email: gibcott@gmail.com.

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that the Northwest and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society shall not be liable to any Exhibitor in whole or part. This includes the property of the exhibitor or the injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submitting this signed application for entry constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

Signature ______________________________

______________________________
NFMS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM
(AFMS RULES)

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
79th Annual NFMS Show and Convention
May 19th, 20th, and 21st, 2017
Hosted by Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society
First Interstate Center, 100 Old Corvallis Rd., Hamilton, MT 59840

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM Deadline April 19, 2017
Please use one form per person. Forms may be duplicated. Payments may be combined.

Name: ______________________________
Address: _____________________________
Street: __________________________ City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Email: ______________________________

Please mark all that apply:
Past President NFMS _____ NFMS Officer _____ Committee Chair _____
NFMS Delegate/Director _____ NFMS Alt Delegate _____
Judge _____ Clerks _____ Demonstrator _____ Exhibitor: Competitive _____ Non-Competitive _____

SHOW ADMISSION
Daily Rate: $3.00 _____ $8.00 _____
3-day pass: $8.00 _____
Total Cost: $_______
Children 12 and under free with adult

Show Times: Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4

Note ALL Food Events REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION with Awards Banquet off site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Mark to Attend</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday May 19th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFMS Annual Meeting 4:00</td>
<td>No cost</td>
<td>$_______</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday May 20th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers/Committee Chairs Judges and Past Presidents Lunch</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$_______</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Social Hour (No Host)</td>
<td>$5.00 Cash Bar</td>
<td>$32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Banquet</td>
<td>Prime Rib</td>
<td>$_______</td>
<td>Chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Dietary Restrictions</td>
<td>$_______</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday May 21st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Editors Breakfast</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Amount due: $_______

Camping at Fairgrounds with Electric only $15.00 per day Contact Chris at 363-3411 for reservations and Payment, OR Black Rabbit RV Park at 363-3744 OR Anglers Roost at 363-1268 for reservations and Payment.

Make checks payable to: Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society (or BGMS). Before April 19, 2017
Mail application and remittance before April 19, 2017
Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society (or BGMS) 309 Bailey Ave. Hamilton, MT 59840

Show Chair: Steve Vieth 406-381-7597 email: viethsteve88@gmail.com

Club use: Date received ______ Check # ________ Amount ________ by ________
Show Update!

By Faith Farley

The Annual NFMS meeting will be held on Friday, 19th at 4:00 p.m. in the Tammeny Room at the Bitterroot River Inn, 139 Bitterroot Plaza Dr, Hamilton, MT 59840.

For Federation needs and events please call Faith Farley, 1 406 961 3347.

Display cases non-competitive and competitive, contact Bob Gibson, 1 406 361 0870.

For the show and any other questions or concerns Steve Vieth, 1 406 381 7597.

Field trips are still unplanned due to the severity of the winter we’ve had. There is a lot of snow pack in the mountains and will have to wait and see what is available. I will keep updating our web site on this. Our web site RAVALLIGEMANDMINERALCLUB.ORG is updated weekly.

We Need Rocks for the Silent Auction at the NFMS Show

By Hidemi Kira

There will be a Silent Auction at the coming NFMS Show in Hamilton. We will need lots of material for the Silent Auction, so please consider donating some material. It will be great if your club or individuals can bring a bucket or two of material that comes from your area or have rocks you can give away. And please come and help the Silent Auction if you can during the show. Your contribution will help the NFMS!

Please email me at htkira@spiritone.com if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your help and look forward to seeing you all in Hamilton.
Come to the NFMS Meeting in Hamilton, MT
By Judi Allison, NFMS Secretary

Hello from your Secretary. We are less than two months away from our annual meeting to be held on May 19th in Hamilton, Montana. I hope to see representatives from all the clubs at the meeting. Remember, as a director or delegate for your club this is the one time you get to vote on issues before the Federation. Even if you are not a voting representative, you are encouraged to attend the meeting. It is a great place to learn about all the things accomplished and all the people in our Federation who are working to help keep our hobby alive. Come join us! The more the merrier!

A REMINDER AND REQUEST FROM THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Clara & Del Walker, Committee Chairpersons, must receive the NFMS Credentials, the NAMES (only) of Club Directors and Delegates, as soon as possible (ASAP) for planning purposes of the meeting. The annual meeting will be held in Hamilton, MT, on Friday, May 19th, at 4 pm, (off-site) at the Bitterroot River Inn.

The Credential forms below must be completed by the designated director/delegate, signed by the Club President and Secretary, and BROUGHT BY THE DIRECTOR AND DELEGATE to the annual meeting. Or, this should be done by the alternate delegate(s), if necessary. Give us the name(s) (not the credentials forms) at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Call, email, or send to:
Clara & Del Walker
12377 SE Davis Loop
Prineville, OR 97754
Call 503-812-6540 or email to cdwalker@q.com
(note email address …….. that is a "Q" not a "G")

NFMS DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIALS

Name of Director _____________________________________________
Name of Club ________________________________________________
City, State ___________________________________________________
Club President Signature ______________________________________
Club Secretary Signature ______________________________________
Date_______________

Must be completed and signed to be seated with voting rights at the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

NFMS DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

Name of Delegate____________________________________________
Name of Club________________________________________________
City, State___________________________________________________
Club President Signature_______________________________________
Club Secretary Signature_______________________________________
Date_______________

Must be completed and signed to be seated with voting rights at the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

2017 GEM SHOW
Hosted By Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
21st Annual Show
Saturday, April 22nd – 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, April 23rd – 10 am to 4 pm

Benton County Fairgrounds
1500 S. Oak St., Kennewick, WA

Adult Admission $5 (good for both days)
Children 14 and under FREE
with paid adult admission

Events & Activities Include:
- Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Dealers
- Great Door Prizes
- Gem Trees
- Fluorescent Displays
- Geode Cracking
- Cabochon Fashioning
- Gemstone Faceting
- Sphere Making
- Gem Trees
- Silversmithing
- Jewelry Fabrication

Rainbow of Rocks

2017 Rock & Gem Show
presented by
Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, May 6 – 9am to 5pm
Sunday, May 7 – 10am to 4pm
Douglas County Fairgrounds
I-5 exit 123 - Roseburg, OR

FREE Admission – donations appreciated
Food Concessions by
Idleyld Lodge

DON’T MISS THE FUN!
- Gem and Mineral Displays
- Rock and Jewelry Dealers
- Demonstrations
- Door Prizes + approx. every ½ hr.
- Silent Auction + Raffle Prizes

FREE Kids’ Activities:
- Rock Hunts: Sat: 11am - 1pm - 3pm
- Sun: 1pm - 3pm
- Rock Painting with Michael’s

2,3/17
ROCKHOUNDIONS OF THE YEAR

The Cascade Mineralogical Society (CMS) of Kent, Washington would like to nominate, Bob Pattie, for Rockhound of the Year. Bob has been active in CMS (formerly Boeing Employees Mineralogical Society) for over 40 years. He has held nearly every club position, including president 4 different times. He has been an officer of the Washington State Mineral Council since 1975. Bob has made presentations to Boy Scout troops, schools, home school sessions, other clubs, and organizations across the state of Washington yearly.

Bob helped put together the original WSMC map books, and continues to help with updates. He has written an article for Rock & Minerals as well as letters and presentations to Washington State legislators in Olympia on land use issues. He works tirelessly to keep sites in Washington open for collecting. He has represented the WSMC on various state committees on land use and road access. The latest involved road closures in the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie forest areas. CMS is thankful to have Bob as one of its key members as are rockhounds across the state.

NFMS History

BY LINDA BARLOW, NFMS HISTORIAN from Idaho Gem Club

Looking back on the history of the NFMS, I found a time-line for “Rockhounds joined together to form unions, to associate with fellow rockhounds, to put on shows”. For us newer members, it is interesting to see how we as a federation have evolved. When we study history, it helps us progress and continue on a path of expansion and assistance for the individual members and the clubs. It helps us keep our hobby alive along with the history of our earth which are the treasures we find, display, and use to create memories. Read this to step back in time and to move forward.

1938- Seven clubs met to form the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

1. Washington Agate & Mineral Society, President, Ray C. Gruulke
2. Oregon Agate & Mineral Society, President, E.H. Rockwell
3. Deschutes Geology Club, President, C.G. Springer
4. Columbian Mineral Society, President, Arthur K. Harris
5. Columbia Geology Society, President, Charles O. Fernquist
6. Gem Collectors Club, President, M.F. Reed
7. Tacoma Mineral Society, President, Floyd A. Holmquist

First President of the Northwest Federation was Dr. Henry C. Dake

1942- Suspended meetings and shows for the duration of WWII
1947- Four Federations met to form the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
1950- Eastern clubs formed a Federation and joined the AFMS
1954- South Central (originally Texas, founded in 1946) joined the AFMS
1993- Southeast joined the AFMS, bringing the total to seven Regional Federations.

1992- The American Lands Access Association, ALAA, was founded to provide a lobbying arm for the AFMS, its member Federations, and thus all rockhounds who belong to member societies.

Through membership in local clubs that affiliate with the NFMS, rockhounds have access to, and are part of, these larger unions. Each Federation, on a rotational basis, hosts the National Show and Convention. The Northwest hosted the show at Boise, Idaho, in 1995 - and will host another AFMS Show and Convention in 2002.

I was privileged to attend the last NFMS hosting of the AFMS Show and Convention, 2016 in Oregon. I loved seeing the display cases and attending the Silent Auction. What great Oregon and Northwestern rocks the hosting club displayed. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the 2017 as I will be back in Ireland doing more ROCKHOUNDING! I will be at our NFMS Show & Convention in Hamilton, Montana; I look forward to seeing all of you there.

From the Editor’s Rockpile

By Beth Heesacker

Sometimes plans do not work out the way you hoped. We had planned on going back east for 2 mineral conferences but that did not happen. If any of you have been watching the weather reports for the east coast recently you can all breath a sigh of relief with me that we did not make the trip. We have had enough of that kind of weather here in the Pacific North West!

Well, what am I going to do with the 2 months we had planned for the travel? Those who have heard what I brought back from our trip to Redlands from the micro-mount conference there and from Tucson know that I came back with about 150 flats of minerals to process into my collection. Processing means, in some cases, just entering information about an already mounted specimen into my database. In many cases I need to break the rough material down and look at the pieces in order to find the crystals and then mount the specimen(s) and enter its information into my database.

Now, when I break down the rough material there are lots of pieces of rock that have great crystals but I really do not need 100 or more specimens of the same thing. I select what I consider the best depending on size, associated minerals and aesthetic appearance (each person’s opinion and needs are different). The rest go back into the flats and are ready to take to the next micro-mineral meeting.

The micro-mineral community is a wonderful sharing group. At all the meetings there is a give-away table where everyone is allowed to take whatever they need to add to their collections. Those flats that are my left-overs will go with me to those meetings and given away to collectors who have so graciously given to me in the past. It feels good to be able to finally be able to give back.

Since we are not traveling I will be well prepared to share with those who have shared with me. And also Paul knows right where to find me - in my mineral room.
THINGS TO DO WHEN ATTENDING THIS YEAR’S NATIONAL SHOW!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, 2017 CFMS-AFMS Show Publicity Chair

On behalf of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, I’ve been issuing invitations to attend and exhibit at this year’s national AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. For those making such plans and traveling from across the country, I want to alert you to the many other things to do while in SoCal (short for Southern California)!

We have great fee digs up and down the state for rare and valuable gemstones and fossils, including giant shark teeth at Shark Tooth Hill near Bakersfield or several tourmaline mines near Pala in San Diego County. We also have world-class museums. For instance, one of the exhibits at the Show will feature minerals from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and another will highlight meteorites from the UCLA Meteorite Gallery. Both places are within easy driving distance of Ventura—so long as you don’t hit the freeway during morning or evening rush hours (or any time in between). In SoCal, you’ll also find the La Brea Tar Pits, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History with great fossil and mineral displays, and more. For those looking for attractions above and beyond rocks, Ventura County is also home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum, some 30 minutes from the Fairgrounds.

To find out more about these and other attractions, go to the show website at http://2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com. We within the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society look forward to hosting you at the national show and convention—and to helping you enjoy your visit to Southern California!
From Here to There and Back Again
By RoseMae Bork, Mt. Baker rock and gem club

In my younger years we traveled to rock hound field trips and gathered many treasures and even leav-
ites, from here and back again.

To Cle-Elum to camp-out with the powwow group and collect crystal geodes on Red Top, to Wenatchee for
actinolite, Saddle Mountain for petrified wood.

We found trilobites at Metaline Falls. Pink Limb near Primville and rattlesnakes too.

From here and back again to Richardson’s ranch for thunderegg. Kalama gave us carnelian a plenty and a beautiful botryoidal agate from Kalama.

Mud balls with crab fossils in the Twin Rivers area near Joyce, WA. And dentalium shells. Also ship worm wood.

Race Horse Creek for leaf fossils and back again to an area with a huge split rock, where we found agate and pyrite. Off to a mineral council trip to collect rhodonite.

We collected jade at several spots, crystal geodes at Walker Valley. Marble Mountain found us collecting soapstone, garnerite (nickelite) and a nice piece of chrysophase.

We journey on to Bear Mountain in Canada and from here and back again, to walk the Hope Slide and then off to the Fraser River. We joined with a Canadian club to get belenmites way up past the Susquatch Inn over 25 miles up the north end of Harrison Hot Springs.

Lake Superior and the upper peninsula for copper, agates and specimens of copper in riolite. Collected Petosky stone.

From here and back again, on to Denver for the show. Purchased a large display of shark teeth and many other interesting minerals.

Now we follow the 4-H group to Butte MT for rhodonite collected on the side of the road behind the memorial for the workers killed in the mine. Went to Crystal Park. It is now the fourth of July and snowed all day. The next trip we went for garnets at Wenatchee.

From here and back again, (we’ve been everywhere) or it seems. Now off to Alger for dalmatian rock, over near Walker Valley for Obrien red and blue ledge agate.

Now that I’m older and rockhound trips are a thing of the past for me I have good memories of the people who went with us. Campouts were fun and the things we collected are a tribute to the many beautiful specimens we have to enjoy. Camping places are being locked up and gates now close off many of the places we collected in the past. So, if your club offers a field trip take advantage of it now before it is too late. What a terrific hobby to be involved with. Enjoy it while you can. Rockhounding can be a great family affair and educational.

Annual Spring Rock Sale
May 5-14, 2017

Jewelry and faceted stones - 1/2 price
Tons of rough rock - $1 per pound
2,500 cabs
Lapidary machinery
Beads and findings
Fluorescent Display

Howard and Jeanette Bushman
14902 SW Glade Lane
Sherwood, OR 97140
503-625-5177

Check it out!!!!
New website address for the NFMS!!!
http://northwestfederation.org/
The link from amfed.org links correctly to the new address
| March 25 & 26 | Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club | Blooded Donovan Community Center | Lori Nettles, 360 961 7873 fernhardy@yahoo.com Club website – wwww.mtbakerrockclub.org |
| March 24 - 26 | Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA | Spokane County Fair & Espo Center, N 604 Havana at Broadway Spokane WA | Vonnie Dillion, 560 951 8173 showchair@rockrollers.org |
| April 1 & 2 | Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society | Sweet Home High School Gym | Joe Cota 541 457 2700 or Ed Anderson 541-451-1577 ella4rocks@gmail.com PO Box 2279 Lepa- noon OR 97355 |
| April 7, 8, & 9 | Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society | Golden Spike Event Center Weber County Fairgrounds 1000 N 1200 W Ogden UT 84404 | Deborah Blake 385 205 9187 gemshow@goldsstipkem.org |
| April 8 & 9 | Maplewood Rock and Gem Club | Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA | Mary Ann Collins, 206 704 2010 3922 collmal@comcast.net |
| April 22 & 23 | South East Idaho Gem and Mineral Soci- ety (SEIGMS) | North Bannock County Fqrgrnds, 10588 Fairground Dr, Pocatello ID 83201 | Larry Manhart 208 705 7273 841 South Arthur Avenue Pocatello ID 83204 |
| April 14, 15, & 16 | Willamette Agate and Mineral Society | Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S Pacific Hwy W Rickreall, OR 97371 | Minti Surgeon 503 602 9405 wamtsriverofgems@gmail.com website - wwww.WAMSI.net |
| April 22 & 23 | Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club | Benton County Fairgrounds 1500 South Oak Kennewik WA | Mary Lou Omstead, 509 783 2798 PO Box 6552 Kennewick WA 99336 |
| April 22 & 23 | Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society | Idaho Falls Recreation Center, Corner of Memorial Drive and B Street, Idaho Falls, ID | Nicole Strong 208 768 7053 nicoilek_hansen@hotmail.com or Gerry Gibeault 208 589 0635 PO Box 236 Idaho Falls ID 83403 |
| May 4 & 5 | Everett Rock and Gem Club | Everett Community College Walt Price Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower Street Everett WA | Steve Vieth, 406 381 7597 viethsteve88@gmail.com website: wwww.everettrockclub.com |
| May 6 & 7 | Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club | Douglas County Fairgrounds, I-5 Exit 123 Roseburg OR | Sue Woodman 541 672 2486 rocksandhorses3@gmail.com |
| May 6 & 7 | Billings Gem and Mineral Club | Al Bedoo Shrine Auditorium 1125 Broadwater Avenue Billings MT | Doug True drtruefossils12@yahoo.com |
| May 13 & 14 | Hatterhounds Gem and Mineral Society | Hermiston Conference Center, 415 High- way 395 South, Hermiston OR | Mike Filarski, 541 571 2593 stonehermel1@icetatscape.net |
| May 13 & 14 | Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club | Gallatin County Fairgrounds Building #1, 901 North Black Bozeman MT | Jerry Hancock jaqreg@bresnan.net PO Box 1100 Bozeman MT 59719 |
| May 19 - 21 | Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society | First Interstate Center Ravalli County Fairgrounds 100 Old Corrillis Road Hamilton MT | Steve Vieth, 406 381 7597 viethsteve88@gmail.com |
| May 27 & 28 | Oregon Coast Agate Club | National Guard Army, 541 SW Coast Hwy, Hwy 101 Newport OR 97365 | George Mazeka 541 991 0311 george- mazeka59@gmail.com PO Box 816, Chatsworth OR 97498 Website: wwww.coastagates.org |
| June 3, 4, & 5 | Payullip Valley Gem and Mineral | Swiss Park 9205 198th Avenue East Bonney Lake WA 98390 | Nancy LeMay beesknesiessatt.net 253 347 0794 PVGMC, % Club Show PO Box 134, Payullip WA 98371 info@payullipgencub.org |
| June 3, 4 & 5 | North Idaho Mineral Club | Kootenai County Fqrgrnds. 4056 North Government Way, Coeur d’Alene ID | Dean Hitchinson 208 664 2712 dinteresk@gmail.com PO Box 1643 Hayden ID 83835 |
| June 10 & 11 | Butte Mineral and Gem Club | Butte Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Avenue Butte MT | Pete Knudsen 406 496 4395 PO Box 4492 Butte MT 59702 |
| July 15 & 16 | Darrington Rock and Gem Club | Manson Grange 1265 Railroad Avenue Darrington, WA | Ed Lehman, wamsleed@hotmail.com 425 334 6282 (cell 425 760 2786) or Angela Moore ange- lus4572@gmail.com 360 436 2107 |
| July 21, 22 & 23 | Washington Agate and Mineral Society of Olympia and Tenino Rock Cruisers | Parkside Elementary School 361 Central Avenue E Tenino WA 98589 | Daniel DeBoe keyeslck1@live.com 5107 Brenner Road NW Olympia WA 98502 https://wamsolympia.wordpress.com |
| August 10 & 11 | Maplewood Rock and Gem Club | Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA | Mary Ann Collins, 206 704 2010 3922 collmal@comcast.net |
| September 9 & 10 | Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association | Vern Burton Community Center, 308 East 4th Street Port Angeles WA | Kathy Schreiner 360 681 3811 or Kathy Bach- man 360 681 3994 PO Box 98 Sequim WA 98382 |
NFMS Clubs’ Show Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 13, 14, &amp; 15</th>
<th>Portland Regional Gem &amp; Mineral Show Association</th>
<th>Washington County Fair Complex 873 NE 34th Avenue Hillsboro OR 97124</th>
<th>Linda Harvey <a href="mailto:lindaharvey2010@gmail.com">lindaharvey2010@gmail.com</a> Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show Association PO Box 5401 Portland OR 97228</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri – 10 – 6</td>
<td>Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club</td>
<td>Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR</td>
<td>Beth Heesacker, <a href="mailto:heesacker@coho.net">heesacker@coho.net</a>, 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat – 10 – 6</td>
<td>Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club</td>
<td>Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR</td>
<td>Beth Heesacker, <a href="mailto:heesacker@coho.net">heesacker@coho.net</a>, 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun – 10 – 5</td>
<td>Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club</td>
<td>Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR</td>
<td>Beth Heesacker, <a href="mailto:heesacker@coho.net">heesacker@coho.net</a>, 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28 - 29</td>
<td>Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club</td>
<td>Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR</td>
<td>Beth Heesacker, <a href="mailto:heesacker@coho.net">heesacker@coho.net</a>, 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat – 9 – 6</td>
<td>Bellevue Rock Club</td>
<td>Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE Bellevue WA 98008</td>
<td>Bruce Himko PO Box 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009 <a href="mailto:bellevuerockclub@comcast.net">bellevuerockclub@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 28 &amp; 29</td>
<td>Bellevue Rock Club</td>
<td>Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE Bellevue WA 98008</td>
<td>Bruce Himko PO Box 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009 <a href="mailto:bellevuerockclub@comcast.net">bellevuerockclub@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat – 10 – 6</td>
<td>Bellevue Rock Club</td>
<td>Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE Bellevue WA 98008</td>
<td>Bruce Himko PO Box 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009 <a href="mailto:bellevuerockclub@comcast.net">bellevuerockclub@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun – 10 – 5</td>
<td>Bellevue Rock Club</td>
<td>Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE Bellevue WA 98008</td>
<td>Bruce Himko PO Box 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009 <a href="mailto:bellevuerockclub@comcast.net">bellevuerockclub@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA</td>
<td>Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 <a href="mailto:collma1@comcast.net">collma1@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat – 9 – 5</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA</td>
<td>Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 <a href="mailto:collma1@comcast.net">collma1@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun – 10 – 5</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA</td>
<td>Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 <a href="mailto:collma1@comcast.net">collma1@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA</td>
<td>Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 <a href="mailto:collma1@comcast.net">collma1@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat – 9 – 5</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA</td>
<td>Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 <a href="mailto:collma1@comcast.net">collma1@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun – 10 – 5</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA</td>
<td>Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 <a href="mailto:collma1@comcast.net">collma1@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CUTTING DIRECTIONAL MATERIAL

By Lamar Tilgner

Think about looking in a mirror, when you stand in front of the mirror you see yourself reflecting on the flat plane which is the back of the mirror. When you move to the side, your image disappears. Directional material works in the same manner but for different reasons.

“Directional Material” is anything that will change and/or reflect as the stone moves or turns, such as Tiger Eye, Rainbow or Sheen Obsidian, Labradorite, Goldstone, Moonstones, Sunstones, Star material, any chatoyant material. When you see the high intensity in brightness and clarity, you are nearing the parallel layer that is causing the change. To find that plane, get a light straight above the stone and place your viewing area as close to the light as you can get it. Now rotate and or turn the stone and see if the refraction brightness changes.

When you find the brightest plane you will have the flat of the plane facing you and have the correct direction to cut. (That would be parallel to the refractive plane). In the case of Rainbow Obsidian it would get you a single color, so; to get multiple colors, cut about 3 to 5 degrees off the plane. If you want to cut the Rainbow parallel to the plane and show a single color, cut your slab slightly thicker and make a high dome cab; it will give you a rainbow bulls-eye. This plane can change directions as you cut because each layer can vary and the angle can change. Having the stone wet during this process can help the process. The stone must be cut parallel to the brightest plane showing on the stone. This is not the final check as some stones such as Labradorite has multiple crystals within a chunk and usually they will be oriented in different directions meaning you need to cut each crystal individually. This means that you must either cut the crystals apart or as you cut off each slice you need to check and see if you are cutting at the optimum degree. If not, adjust the stone in your vise and cut another slice.

When cutting a plume or dendritic material, if you cut across instead of parallel to the pattern you will see just the ends of the stem and plume instead of the beautiful fluff of the plume and the full benefit of the dendrites.

Petrified wood is not normally considered as directional material but due to the grain it does require attention when cutting. Most of the time you will see wood cut either with the grain or cross grain. I have found that some unique patterns will occur if you try some different angles. If you have a piece of Petrified Wood with a tight grain, (meaning grain close together) you can cut parallel to the grain lines and cut the stone slightly thick so you can make a stone with a little higher dome. What you will get is a beautiful bulls-eye pattern on a round cab. If you cut an oval, you will have an oval bulls-eye pattern. It creates a very pretty stone.

If from all of this you get the idea that how you saw your rocks matters, you are right. Good material is ruined every day because it was just put in the saw vise and cut instead of reviewing the stone carefully to find the best way to get the finest material.

Crystal Park, Montana Needs a Host

By Jim Landon

The Forest Service is looking for a host/administer Crystal Park. They are thinking of having the host stay at Price Creek Campground and ride a bike or drive the ½ mile to Crystal Park for the day. Looking for someone to work Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend. The job would entail giving information to the public, advising public of rules, light cleaning sweeping of restrooms, help with litter control, cleaning of fire rings, and raking of tent pads (occasional).

Contact Matthew Walter if you are interested and wish more information, mwwalter@fs.fed.us