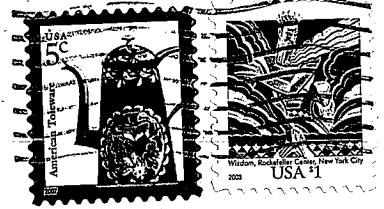
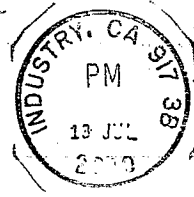


ALAA Newsletter  
Jay Valle, Editor  
1421 Latchford Avenue  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

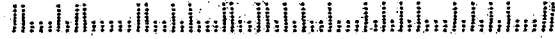


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**AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

April - May - June 2010

**A.L.A.A Membership Application**

**AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

*Protecting the Public Lands for the Public*

*Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is \$25.00*

*Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00*

\_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remit fees to: ALAA  
RUTH BAILEY  
2857 Addison Pl  
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.



# American Lands Access Association, Inc.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

April May June 2010

## ALAA President's Message

**By Dick Pankey, President - ALAA**

We had a well attended meeting of the American Lands Access Association at the AFMS/CFMS Convention held in La Habra, CA on June 20<sup>th</sup>. This is our annual meeting where the **business** of ALAA is conducted. The **work** of ALAA is conducted day-in and day-out by our involved members, officers, directors, state reps and volunteers. The "official" minutes of the meeting will be published the September issue of the ALAA Newsletter, but I would like to give you a report on the highlights and actions of our meeting. There were 3 officers, 6 directors, several state reps, 24 members and several guests. Because the meeting was held on Sunday our secretary, and 4 directors who had been at the show were unable to attend due to travel requirements.

The scheduled speaker from the Blue Ribbon Coalition was unable to attend but we filled his time slot with business and discussion. Our directors are elected for a 3 year term and we elect 1/3 of them every year. Evan Day, John Spunaugle and Marshall Havner were elected for a 3 year term by a vote of the members present. The directors then re-elected me as president, Shirley Leeson vice-president and Ruth Bailey treasurer. Our secretary Ann Cook requested to be replaced and Kathy Miller (a current director) volunteered to be secretary and was elected secretary. With the approval of the directors I then appointed Kathy as secretary to fill out the remainder of Ann's 2010 term. With the approval of the directors I then appointed 3 more State Reps - John and Judith Washburn for Illinois and Marshall Havner for Central California. We would like to have a State Rep for every state to monitor legislative and regulatory activity in the state, promote ALAA and our purpose, recruit members and facilitate communication. If you are interested in being a stat rep and want more information contact me or Shirley Leeson

Quartzsite, AZ is a very popular destination for rockhounds every January and is located in the heart of BLM land. Since many ALAA officers, directors and members, and most of the public in attendance are users of our public lands are in Quartzsite in January it was proposed and passed that ALAA hold a meeting in Quartzsite during the time of the QIA Pow Wow. This would not be a business meeting but rather an informational meeting with speakers, presentations and exchanges. We will invite the BLM, other public lands users organizations and the general public. If you have any ideas and would like to help, please contact me. Watch for more information and details in our September Newsletter.

Last fall I was contacted by a potential member society asking about liability issues and if ALAA had liability insurance. We did not. For the succeeding months I have been exploring our insurance needs and possible companies and polices. Working with the broker who handles the insurance for CFMS we identified a company and we have a proposal/quote. I presented the proposal to the directors; the purchase of the policy was approved. Policy features include:

- **Who is insured:** The non-profit entity (ALAA), any past, present or future directors, officers, trustees, employees, volunteers, or any member of the staff, faculty or any duly constituted committee members of the Insured Entity.

(Continued on page 4)

**President's Message**  
(Continued from page 3)

- Wrongful Act broad definition.
- Defense costs paid in addition to the \$1,000,000 limit while under insurer's duty to defend.
- Defense coverage for suits seeking non-monetary damages.
- No Personal Injury exclusion (Defamation, Libel/Slander coverage included).

The directors approved the following "ALAA POSITION STATEMENT"

**ALAA supports sound land management that offers adequate protection for the environment while protecting public access to public lands.**

**ALAA believes that environmental protection and recreation can co-exist with proper land management and reasoned accountability.**

The budget for 2011 was adopted. This budget reflects increase incomes from membership growth and increase in expenses for newsletters and insurance. Our income continues to exceed expenses. ALAA is in sound financial shape.

Our next annual meeting will be held during the AFMS/EFMS Convention in Syracuse, NY in July, 2011. Start planning now to attend this ALAA meeting.

ALAA had an information table for the 3 days of the show. There was a bulletin board with information about ALAA – our purpose and activities. We passed out cards with the AFMS Code of Ethics to everyone who stopped to talk to us. The info table gave us an opportunity to present ourselves to the public and proved to be great for recruiting new members. Marshall Havner manned the table most of the time with some help from other ALAA members and officers. A Big Thank You to all that helped.

A word about membership and dues. ALAA has experienced good growth of individuals and societies in 2009 and 2010. Unfortunately, many who joined in 2008 and 2009 have not renewed nor paid their 2010 dues. We do not want to lose you as members. We need all of you and many more. We have continued to send you the ALAA Newsletter and have kept you on the e-mail alert list in hope that you will soon send in your dues. As with any organization we can not keep you on the ALAA membership list without payment of dues indefinitely. Please send your dues payment to Ruth Bailey soon!

**Be an involved member!**

**MEMBERSHIP: WE NEED MORE**

Shirley Leeson, Membership Chair

At our recent business meeting during the CFMS/AFMS show in Fullerton, CA. in June we looked at our growing membership. Not good enough folks. We've got a potential of thousands of rockhounds all over the U.S.

We each need to recruit at least several people or clubs a month. California has the largest concentration of ALAA members but there are more out there we haven't reached or rockhounds who are afraid of us because we're able to lobby. They don't want to loose their 501-C3 status. We've got to get over this hurdle. Any suggestions on how we do this would be welcome. Mike Kokinos, the CFMS Tax Advisor has written articles about this but to no avail.

We need to reach those clubs throughout the eastern seaboard because it's their Congressmen and Senators who are proposing the laws restricting Public Lands in the west. Years ago Senator Baucus of Montana proposed the fossil bill. His constituents were so angry they threatened to dump him at the next election. So he had a Senator from New York reintroduce the fossil bill so he could say he wasn't

(Continued on page 5)

**MEMBERSHIP: WE NEED MORE**

(Continued from page 4)

sponsoring it. If you look at the land bills, you won't find many Senators or Congressmen from the west sponsoring bills, with the exception of our own Diane Feinstein and her side-kick Barbara Boxer of California. Eastern Representatives are willing to sponsor these bills because their constituents don't care, it's not their public land that's getting closed. If we could recruit rockhounds in the east, they could ask their legislatures to stop the bills.

Just remember this, the wilderness people are heavily funded from foundations, they have 20 years of recruiting, we've got to catch up.

**RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER TODAY,**  
tomorrow may be too late.

*Shirley Leeson*  
*ALAA Vice President*

**OUR LOBBYING STATUS**

Dee Holland, Registered Agent for ALAA

Recently we found someone who was interested in our cause. She is from the Washington, D.C. area and is well connected with people throughout the Washington scene. She said she'd look into the bills pending on closures of public lands. She visited a good friend who worked in an important office. The person she was visiting told her she could "visit" once but after that she would have to be considered a lobbyist. She asked the status of our organization and that's when it became apparent that during the period when Peggy Blickfelt became ALAA president, at Syracuse, New York and Jon Spunaugle turned over to her, the reports to be filed, things didn't happen. No one after that knew ALAA had to make reports so nothing was done.....till now.

ALAA had been "dormant" since 2003. Since I'm the registered agent, I contacted the Lobbying section of both the House and Senate and with a lot of help from the staff, we were able

to get our papers in order.

If you write a letter, visit a Senator or Congressman regarding public lands, I need to know.

If you are working with the Forestry or BLM in your state, I need to know.

Please send me an email at: [beauholland@centurytel.net](mailto:beauholland@centurytel.net) and let me know who you saw, what it was about and the results, if any. I will have to make reports quarterly and two major reports each year to keep our status up to date. Please do your part and help us keep current.

**Subject: SB 624 -**

**They want to take away our rock!**

We need your help!

Unless we act FAST, it may be too late. Below is the response I received from my state senator (and neighbor) when I heard about this on 6-21-2010 and sent him a fax and email asking for him not to support this measure. The link is my first contact with SB 624. Attached is the latest info I have on the bill. 1 fax = 10 phone calls = 100 emails.

[http://www.sacbee.com/2010/06/21/2836149/the-buzz-official-state-rock-is.html#mi\\_rss=The%20Buzz](http://www.sacbee.com/2010/06/21/2836149/the-buzz-official-state-rock-is.html#mi_rss=The%20Buzz)  
<http://highway8a.blogspot.com/2010/07/serpentine-group-of-minerals.html>

The above link has a lot of good information about Serpentine from which you can cut and paste into your letter to your California State Elected Official. Please send a Fax and Email before it is too late and we lose our State Rock Forever!

To find your State Legislator : [http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators\\_and\\_districts/legislators/your\\_legislator.html](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html)

Please send them an email and/or Fax today.....!

Please Pass along to others. We need to save our State Rock!

John Martin

John,

Thank you for your email opposing Senate Bill 624 (Romero), which would remove serpentine from its designation as California's State Rock.

The day after **SB 624 was passed** in the Senate it was amended to its current form, which has not been heard by a committee in the Senate. Should the amended version of the bill pass the Assembly, **I will vote against it when it's heard again in the Senate.** This change is unnecessary and it's ridiculous to spend any time at all on this when there are more pressing matters facing our state, such as passing the budget, creating job opportunities, increasing water storage, and improving the quality of education.

**SB 624 passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee with a vote of 7-0** and is currently waiting to be heard on the Assembly Floor. You may monitor the status of the bill at [www.sen.ca.gov/runner](http://www.sen.ca.gov/runner).

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns with me.

Sincerely,  
George Runner

### CALIFORNIA COUNTY MAKES HISTORIC ACCESS VOTE TO REOPEN ROADS ON FEDERAL LANDS

HOLLISTER, CA (April 7)--A rural county in Central California made access history when it voted 4-0 to reassert its jurisdiction on 25 miles of county roads in an area currently closed by the federal government. The April 6 vote by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors to open roads currently closed to the public is a watershed moment for Californians who are fighting an avalanche of proposed closures on federal lands in the state.

The County also voted to have staff prepare public comments in support of Alternative A in the BLM's Draft Resource Management Plan for the Clear Creek Management Area Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM's preferred Alternative E functionally closes

the area to meaningful vehicular access. Alternative A supports public use of all roads and trails that were open for motorized recreation and access before the 2008 interim closure.

Don Amador, Western Representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition, states, "The San Benito County Board of Supervisors earned a place in the history books for taking a stand against a federal bureaucracy that has proposed a closure of historic proportions in their county. It was clear the Supervisors take seriously their constitutional role as a champion of the people and seek to protect the citizenry and the local economy from agenda-driven policies developed by unelected officials."

"When the federal government ignores the will of the people, local voters and users that visit the area have little choice but to look elsewhere for relief. Up and down the state, I see a growing number of counties who are joining with the people in defense of historic access to federal lands. Today's vote to reopen the roads for street-legal vehicles should be a clear signal to the BLM that their effort to make the Hollister Field Office a 'Human Free Zone' is going to be challenged," Amador concluded.

###

*The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national recreation group that champions responsible recreation, and encourages individual environmental stewardship. It represents over 10,000 individual members and 1,200 organization and business members, for a combined total of over 600,000 recreationists nationwide.*

*1-800-258-3742. [www.sharetrails.org](http://www.sharetrails.org)*

*BlueRibbon Coalition Media Release, April 7, 2010*

*Just to let you all know, much of this was because of our own Marshall Havner, President of the Tule G/M Society who has worked with the County Supervisors and is now seeking a place on the CCRAC Committee overseeing the Clear Creek area.*

*Please offer him your support.*

*Shirley Leeson, ALAA Vice President*

## S2921 The California Desert Protection Act of 2010

The American Lands Access Association, Inc. represents the interests of 49,000 members of 640 Gem and Mineral Clubs and Societies through out the United States. ALAA works to maintain access to public lands and promotes responsible use of those lands. ALAA was founded in 1991 and has 19 years of service to the Rockhound and Lapidary Arts community. [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)

### Issue:

If enacted the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 (S2921) will:

- **Create the Mojave Trails National Monument** containing ~941,000 acres. (could close Afton Canyon and Lavic Siding areas to collecting)
- **Create the Sand to Snow National Monument** containing ~134,000 acres.
- **Set aside a minimum of 200,000 acres** as "mitigation lands" to provide for alternative energy projects. This will likely exclude recreation and may exclude collecting in these areas.
- **Add ~90,000 acres to Death Valley National Park** (This closes the Racetrack area for collecting)
- **Create new wilderness areas totaling ~300,000 acres** in BLM, USFS, and NPS managed Lands
- **NOT protect Johnson Valley** from the Marine Corps expansion.

This bill **WILL** have an adverse effect on recreation opportunities and public access in

California. Access for mining, recreation and other uses will be curtailed. While not yet fully understood, it is believed that at least 400 miles of roads in the new wilderness areas and monuments will be closed.

Supporters of the bill state that Razor OHV Area, Stoddard Wells OHV Area (Source of the Tri-Colored Marble), El Mirage OHV Area, (Scheelite, jaspers and agates), Spangler Hills OHV Area, and a portion of the Johnson Valley OHV Area (Access to the Fry Mountain Gold Mines, Copper Strand Mine, the Camp Rock Mine, Green Rock Quarry – Home of Desert Jade, Silver Cliff and Silver Bell silver mines and the Bessmer Iron Mines), are all slated to receive a congressional designation as OHV areas. It can be argued as to what this means as these areas are already OHV areas, and there is no guarantee that they will remain open and unaffected. There is also no compensation for the areas that will be closed.

### ALAA Position:

The American Lands Access Association is **OPPOSED** to S2921 in its present form. We oppose legislation that restricts the public's access to public lands. We oppose the creation of new wilderness areas and National Monuments that withdraw lands from public access and close existing routes and collecting areas. We oppose the creation of new wilderness areas that do not meet the standards of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System. We also oppose legislation that attempts to indiscriminately close any area or route of travel without verification of the economic impact to the area.

**American Lands Access Association  
2010 Mid Year Report  
John Martin**

**S. 787: Clean Water Restoration Act**

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.

April 2, 2009: Introduced

Jun 18, 2009: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

April 9, 2010: Still in Committee

This bill was considered in committee which has recommended it be considered by the Senate as a whole. Although it has been placed on a calendar of business, the order in which legislation is considered and voted on is determined by the majority party leadership.

**S. 787 States:**

(8) this Act will treat, as 'waters of the United States', those features that were treated as such pursuant to the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers in existence before the dates of the decisions referred to in paragraph (10), including--

- (A) all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
- (B) all interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;
- (C) all other waters, such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds;
- (D) all impoundments of waters of the United States;
- (E) tributaries of the aforementioned waters;
- (F) the territorial seas; and
- (G) wetlands adjacent to the aforementioned waters;

This bill puts control of all US Surface waters under the control of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA.....

**Support**

Ducks Unlimited, Earthjustice  
American Whitewater, American Rivers  
League of Conservation Voters  
Clean Water Action, Sierra Club  
U.S. Public Interest Research Groups  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Environment America, National Wildlife Federation  
Southern Environmental Law Center

**Oppose**

National Mining Association  
National Corn Growers Association

**Effects to Rockhounding:** Will give the EPA the authority to close, restrict or regulate access roads which follow or cross wetlands, seasonal streams, dry river or stream beds even if they are on private property.

Rockhounds should oppose this bill because it gives too much authority to the Environmental Protection Agency without the necessary checks and balance of due process.

### **S. 796: Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009**

A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, and for other purposes.

April 2, 2009: Introduced

July 14, 2009: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-116.

April 9, 2010: Still in Committee

**Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009** - Prohibits the issuance of a federal patent for any mining claim, millsite, or tunnel site (claim or site) unless the Secretary of the Interior determines that: (1) a patent application was filed by September 30, 1994; and (2) all application requirements were fully complied with by such date. Prescribes a mandatory claim maintenance fee and location fee for each claim or site. States that failure to perform assessment work, pay a mandatory maintenance or location fee, or file timely notice of location shall: (1) conclusively constitute forfeiture; and (2) make the claim or site null and void. Subjects production of locatable minerals from any mining claim to a royalty of between 2 % and 5% of the value of the production, not including reasonable transportation, beneficiation, and processing costs. Authorizes the Secretary to grant royalty relief. Directs the Secretary to establish a comprehensive inspection, collection, fiscal, and production accounting and auditing system to: (1) determine accurately any royalties, interest, fines, penalties, fees, deposits, and other payments owed; and (2) collect and account for such payments in a timely manner. Requires a permit to engage in the following activities on federal land: (1) mineral activities that would disturb surface resources, including land, air, water, and fish and wildlife; and (2) exploration and mineral activities that involve more than casual use of the land. Prescribes requirements for mining permits. Requires an operator to give the Secretary specified financial assurances before beginning any mineral activities requiring an exploration or mining permit in order to ensure reclamation and restoration of any land or water adversely affected by the activities. Establishes the Hardrock Minerals Reclamation Fund for the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by past hardrock minerals and mining and related activities in abandoned hardrock mine states, and on Indian land located within the exterior boundaries of abandoned hardrock mine states. Subjects each operator of a hardrock minerals mining operation to an abandoned mine land reclamation fee.

**HR. 699: Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009**

To modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes.

January 27, 2009 Introduced

February 26, 2009 the bill has been referred to the following committees:

House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on

House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources -- Hearings Held

April 9, 2010 Still in Committee

**Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009** - Applies this Act to any mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site claim located under the general mining laws or used for beneficiation or mineral processing activities, regardless of whether legal and beneficial title to the mineral is held by the United States. Conditions federal issuance of a patent for any such mining or millsite claim upon specified determinations by the Secretary of the Interior. Subjects production of locatable minerals to a royalty of 8% of the gross income from mining. Imposes a 4% royalty upon federal lands subject to an existing permit, and specified royalties on certain federal land added to an existing operations permit. Prescribes a hardrock mining claim maintenance fee for each unpatented mining claim, mill, or tunnel site on federally owned lands. Designates certain wilderness study areas, areas of critical environmental concern, and related areas as not open to location of mining claims. Permits a state or local government or Indian tribe to petition the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal of specific federal land from operation of the general mining laws in order to protect specific values. Instructs the Secretary to ensure that mineral activities on federal land subject to a claim are carefully controlled to prevent undue degradation of public lands and resources. Prescribes requirements for the exploration permit process and for operations permits, including financial assurances. Requires restoration of lands to a condition capable of supporting prior uses or other beneficial uses. Establishes the Locatable Minerals Fund composed of: (1) penalties, fees, and royalties; (2) the Hardrock Reclamation Account, and (3) the Hardrock Community Impact Assistance Account. Amends the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to initiate prompt actions to improve the availability and analysis of mineral data in public land use decision-making with respect to National Forest System lands. Amends the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to subject certain oil shale claims to the reclamation requirements of this Act. Repeals the Building Stone Act and the Saline Placer Act.

**Support**

**Oppose**

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Earthworks

National Mining Association

Northwest Mining Association

Rockhounds should oppose these legislation acts because if passed it will make filing and maintaining small claims such as club, society or federations may have or trying to establish nearly impossible and if filing is allowed the filing fees will be expensive with recurring annual fees and royalty fees based on annual material removal.

**S. 799: America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009**

A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

April 2, 2009 Introduced

Apr 2, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

April 9, 2010 Still in Committee

**America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009** - Designates specified lands in the following areas of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System: (1) Great Basin; (2) Zion and Mojave Desert; (3) Grand Staircase-Escalante; (4) Moab-La Sal Canyons; (5) Henry Mountains; (6) Glen Canyon; (7) San Juan-Anasazi; (8) Canyonlands Basin; (9) San Rafael Swell; and (10) Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin. Sets forth administrative provisions regarding: (1) filing by the Secretary of the Interior of a map and a legal description of each designated wilderness area with appropriate congressional committees; (2) the exchange of state-owned lands within such areas; (3) federal reservation of water rights; (4) measurement of setbacks for roads with wilderness; (5) authorized livestock grazing; and (6) withdrawal of such lands from disposition under certain public land laws.

**Support**

**Oppose**

Sierra Club	Utah Legislators
Robert Redford	Orrin Hatch
Barbara Boxer, D-CA	BRC
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance	

**HR. 1925: America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009**

To designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

April 2, 2009 Introduced

Oct 1, 2009: The bill has been referred to the following committees:

House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on

House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands -- Hearings Held

April 9, 2010 Still in committee

**America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009** - Designates specified lands in the following areas of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System: (1) Great Basin; (2) Zion and Mojave Desert; (3) the Grand Staircase-Escalante; (4) Moab-La Sal Canyons; (5) Henry Mountains; (6) Glen Canyon; (7) San Juan-Anasazi; (8) Canyonlands Basin; (9) San Rafael Swell; and (10) Book Cliffs

and Uinta Basin. Sets forth administrative provisions regarding: (1) filing by the Secretary of the Interior of a map and a legal description of each designated wilderness area with appropriate congressional committees; (2) the exchange of state-owned lands within such areas; (3) federal reservation of water rights; (4) measurement of setbacks for roads with wilderness; (5) authorized livestock grazing; and (6) withdrawal of such lands from disposition under certain public land laws.

**WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct 1, 2009** - Today, House Natural Resources Ranking Member Doc Hastings joined the entire Utah Congressional delegation in opposing the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009 (H.R. 1925) – a bill that would lock up 9.5 million acres of land in Utah and block energy development, job creation and public land access. Of the 146 cosponsors of the bill, not a single one is from the state of Utah.

Rockhounds should oppose these legislation bills because, if enacted, would designate 9.4 million acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Utah (11% of the state) as Wilderness. This will restrict access or close access to prime collecting areas in the state of Utah.

### **S.2921: California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act**

A bill to provide for the conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, to require the Secretary of the Interior to designate certain offices to serve as Renewable Energy Coordination Offices for coordination of Federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development, and for other purposes.

December 21, 2009 Introduced -- California Desert Protection Act of 2010 - Amends the California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

December 21, 2009 Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 9, 2010 still in committee with no (0) co-sponsors

**California Desert Protection Act of 2010** - Amends the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to, among other things: (1) establish or designate national monuments, wilderness areas, a special management area, and off-highway vehicle recreation areas; (2) release specified wilderness study areas; (3) adjust national park and preserve boundaries; and (4) specify land withdrawals, exchanges, and acquisitions.

Amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate specified segments of rivers and creeks as components of the National Wild and Scenic California Desert Protection Act of 2010 Rivers System.

Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate Renewable Energy Coordination Offices (the Offices) in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming for the coordination of federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development.

Establishes a process and procedures (including deadlines) for consideration of right-of-way use authorizations applications for the construction of wind and solar electricity generation facilities.

Requires programmatic environmental impact statements analyzing the impacts of the development of solar, biomass, wind, geothermal energy, and associated electric transmission capacity on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, National Forest System lands, and on military installations in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts in Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Requires a study analyzing the impacts of a program to develop large-scale renewable electricity generation projects on military installations in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts in California and Nevada.

Establishes the California Desert Mitigation Bank Pilot Program under which eligible lands in the California Desert Conservation Area shall be made available as habitat mitigation zones to serve as mitigation for the development of renewable energy projects on non-federal land.

Requires a report on the Offices and renewable energy permitting policies and processes in the western states.

Authorizes grants for the development, construction, and acquisition of advanced electric transmission properties.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced this legislation that would withdraw 1.6 million acres of desert landscapes from public access. The 1.6 million acres is larger than the state of Connecticut and this legislation will close access to some of the best rockhound collecting areas in Southern California. Rockhounds should oppose this legislation in its current version and they (we) should contact our elected officials to encourage them to keep the access roads and trails to collecting areas open for motorized vehicle travel.

#### **HR. 2454: American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (CAP and TRADE)**

To create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence; reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy.

6/26/2009--Passed House amended. American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 - Sets forth provisions concerning clean energy, energy efficiency, reducing global warming pollution, transitioning to a clean energy economy, and providing for agriculture and forestry related offsets. Includes provisions: (1) creating a combined energy efficiency and renewable electricity standard and requiring retail electricity suppliers to meet 20% of their demand through renewable electricity and electricity savings by 2020; (2) setting a goal of, and requiring a strategic plan for, improving overall U.S. energy productivity by at least 2.5% per year by 2012 and maintaining that improvement rate through 2030; and (3) establishing a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and setting goals for reducing such emissions from covered sources by 83% of 2005 levels by 2050.

May 15, 2009 Introduced

Jun 26, 2009 Passed House 219 -212

Jul 7, 2009: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 97.

This is the most restrictive and regulating bill to come before congress in US history. If passed and signed into law it will have some controlling effects on each and every one of us in our daily lives. Even the short summary is too long to place in this article and the full text of the bill is over 1000 pages. To see the full text of the bill go to <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454>.

**BLM to Clarify Rules for Public Lands Use**  
**John Martin CFMS-PLAC South**

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Mother Lode Field Office wants public comment on interim rules affecting 231,000 acres of public land in 10 Central California counties, including Tuolumne, Calaveras and Mariposa. The rules give BLM officials guidelines to follow in case they have to cite someone on public land. The new sets of rules, which have already gone into effect, are being enforced by BLM Law Enforcement Officers. A copy of the new rules the BLM is using to clarify public use of public lands may be obtained at the website listed below.

[http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/fed\\_reg\\_archives/2010/05/rules.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/fed_reg_archives/2010/05/rules.html)

A 60-day public review period started May 20, 2010. Public comments must be postmarked no later than July 12. They should be sent to the Mother Lode Field Office, Attention Supplementary Rules, 5152 Hillside Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, or submitted by e-mail to [jjbarnes@blm.gov](mailto:jjbarnes@blm.gov). This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it ; or by fax to 916-941-3199, attention Supplementary Rules.

The new rules governing the public use of public lands is very lengthy and will not fit in the space allocated in the newsletter. It is best to go to the website and get the rules and study them before venturing into our Public Lands managed by the BLM. Here is the bottom line for violating these new interim rules for public use of our public lands as stated in the documents provided by the BLM.

"Any person who violates any of these interim final supplementary rules may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. 43 U.S.C. 1733(a); 43 CFR 8360.0-7; 43 CFR 2932.57(b). Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571. You may also be subject to civil action for unauthorized use of the public lands, violations of special recreation permit terms, conditions, or stipulations, or for uses beyond those allowed by the permit. (43 CFR 2932.57(b)(2))."

Use your Public Lands, but Use Them Wisely.

**AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC  
2009-2010 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

DICK PANKEY  
4310 Kingsly Drive  
Pittsburg, CA 94565  
925-439-7509  
[dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com)

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

SHIRLEY LEESON  
6155 Haas St.  
La Mesa, CA 91942  
(619) 640-6128  
[shirleyleeson@cox.net](mailto:shirleyleeson@cox.net)

**SECRETARY**

KATHY MILLER  
1106 Clayton Drive  
South Bend, IN 46614-2134  
[KanBrock@aol.com](mailto:KanBrock@aol.com)

**TREASURER**

RUTH BAILEY  
2857 Addison Pl  
Santa Clara, CA 95051  
408-248-6195  
[Rba51825@att.net](mailto:Rba51825@att.net)

**DIRECTORS**

**Permanent Directors:**

Dee Holland, Registered Agent, Idaho  
PO BOX 23  
Tendoy, ID 83468-0023  
208-756-2394 (ID)  
619-460-6128 (CA)  
[beauholland@centurytel.net](mailto:beauholland@centurytel.net)

John Martin, Webmaster  
1309 W. Avenue L-4  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
661-942-8336  
[webmaster@amlands.org](mailto:webmaster@amlands.org)

Jay Valle, Newsletter Editor  
1421 Latchford Avenue  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
626-934-9764  
[res19pnb@verizon.net](mailto:res19pnb@verizon.net)

**Three Year Terms:**

Jon Spunaugle, Northwest  
4841 Dr Eldridge Drive  
Washangal, WA 98671  
360-835-9313  
[jonspe@comcast.net](mailto:jonspe@comcast.net)

Evan Day, Northwest  
509 N Highland Blvd  
Brigham City, UT 84302  
435-723-3830  
[eday@sisna.com](mailto:eday@sisna.com)

Marshall Havner

**Two Year Terms**

Bob & Kathy Miller, Midwest  
1106 Clayton Drive  
South Bend, IN 46614-2134  
Phone: 574-291-0332  
[KanBrock@aol.com](mailto:KanBrock@aol.com)

Dean Stone, Midwest  
402 N 1st St  
Effingham, IL 62401  
217-342-7132  
[stonerocks@hotmail.com](mailto:stonerocks@hotmail.com)

Norvie Enns, California  
1485 W 4th St #10  
Reno, NV 89503  
775-786-9887  
[Nve5103@charter.net](mailto:Nve5103@charter.net)

**One Year Terms**

Dr. Bob Carlson, Rocky Mt.  
1585 Los Pueblos  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
Phone: 505-662-5834,  
[drobertcarlson@yahoo.com](mailto:drobertcarlson@yahoo.com)

Bill Burns, California  
1038 Bradshaw Avenue  
Monterey Park, CA 91754-4912  
Phone: 626-288-2896  
[burns1928@gmail.com](mailto:burns1928@gmail.com)

John Wright, Southeast  
3304 Nottingham Rd  
402 N. 1st Street  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564-4313  
[osjhw@datasync.net](mailto:osjhw@datasync.net)

**State Representatives**

**ILLINOIS**

John and Judith Washburn  
[jrwashburn2@msn.com](mailto:jrwashburn2@msn.com)

**NEVADA**

Norvie Enns  
[Nve5103@charter.net](mailto:Nve5103@charter.net)

**WASHINGTON, D.C. & VIRGINIA**

Mary Bateman  
[Mbateman2@verizon.net](mailto:Mbateman2@verizon.net)

**E. WASHINGTON/N. IDAHO**

Everett Hedrick  
[elheadrock@live.com](mailto:elheadrock@live.com)  
Asst: Bev Bockman  
[bockbb@aol.com](mailto:bockbb@aol.com)

**INDIANA**

Bob & Kathy Miller  
[KanBrock@aol.com](mailto:KanBrock@aol.com)

**UTAH**

Evan Day  
[eday@sisna.com](mailto:eday@sisna.com)

**MICHIGAN**

Marve Starbuck  
[greenstone@iserv.net](mailto:greenstone@iserv.net)

**C. CALIFORNIA**

Marshall Havner

**MISSISSIPPI**

John Wright  
[osjbw@datasync.net](mailto:osjbw@datasync.net)

**SOUTHERN IDAHO**

Shirley Metts  
[rmetts@cableone.net](mailto:rmetts@cableone.net)

**N. CALIFORNIA**

Dan Brown  
[rocky299@frontier.net](mailto:rocky299@frontier.net)

**Other Sources of Information**

**ALAA Webpage**

<http://www.amlands.org/>

**The BlueRibbon Coalition**

Webpage: <http://www.sharetrails.org/>

**America Lands Rights Association**

Webpage: <http://www.landrights.org/>

**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

Webpage: <http://www.amfed.org/>