

Minutes of the August 21 Quarterly Meeting

The WSMC combined board met on August 21 at the Mineral Springs Campground. President Marty Casto called the meeting to order at 6:45PM.

Kathy Earnst gave the treasurer's report.

Wagonmaster's report: Prior to the meeting, groups went out to Red Top and First Creek during the day to collect. Lots of good material was found.

Old business:

- The Plum Creek Land Exchange was put through without public comment in a procedure known as an administrative land exchange. A couple of provisions should be of concern to all rockhounds:

1) Item 3 (pg. 7 of ROD) - Plum Creek will voluntarily donate approximately 320 acres in T22N, R11E S1/2 Section 13 when the exchange is consummated. Any portion of this donated acreage is determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to qualify as wilderness will be incorporated into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness upon the date of acquisition by the United States [Section 604(d)]. The Regional Forester and the Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor forwarded their wilderness recommendations to the Chief of the Forest Service on March 25, 1999.

2) Item 13 (pg. 9) - The Cle Elum River lands acquired by the Forest Service in T23N, R14E and T22N, R14E WM will be permanently withdrawn from all forms of entry under the US mining and mineral leasing laws [Section 606 (c)]

3) Item 20 (pg. 10) - A 15,000 acre Alpine Lakes Wilderness Study Area is established (subject to consummation of the exchange) along the southern edge of the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The Forest Service will complete an analysis of this area to determine its suitability for wilderness designation prior to October 2001. These findings will be submitted to Congress no later than three years from the date of enactment of the I-90 Land Exchange legislation (October 2001). The study lands will be maintained for their wilderness character (no uses incompatible with wilderness will be introduced or allowed if not already occurring) and will be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry (subject to valid existing rights and uses) until Congress determines otherwise, or until December 31, 2003 [Section 610]

- The Spokane club has under-reported it's membership to the treasurer according to the membership listed in the Federation Directory.
- The Forest Service has inspected our abandoned claim at Hanson Creek and will release our bond.
- No word on the new sign for Walker Valley. Tom Johanson will check on the sign for Walker Valley.
- Ed has made 150 sets of map books, they are available for any club wishing to sell them.
- Vi Jones has been selected to serve on on the Forest Service Advisory Board.

New business:

- A letter sent to Lakeside G&M, Kennewick club, from US Dept. of the Interior from a letter originally to Doc Hastings, US House of Representatives. It stated that the Washington office working of the changes to the petrified wood rules where on hold until next year. So letter writing does get some results.
- Contact Bob Pattie about the new copier. I contacted Bob, he has the new copier, and has sent a receipt to the Treasurer, Bob will follow up with Kathy on the copier.
- We will need next years officers list at our next meeting for elections at the first meeting in 2000.
- It was requested that a list be published of all the clubs in WSMC and the number of in the clubs.
- The Gold & Fish addendum which would have relaxed some of the rules has died.
- The WSMC case will be shown at the Friends of Mineralogy symposium 9/25-27. We need minerals to display and possibly some lapidary items set in silver since this will be the FM's 25th anniversary. Contact Mary Foster
- The WSMC will also have a table at the symposium to sell maps.

Collecting site news:

- Collecting sites- Racehorse Creek has the road locked now by the DNR. People are looking the cost and availability of keys to allow us to collect there.
- The SWB 1000 road to the Split Rock area has been permanently closed.

Meeting adjourned,

Glenn Morita

Attention All WSMC Representatives

Please bring any comments or suggestions regarding the campout/meeting/collecting trip to the Nov. meeting. The board would like to know if the membership would like to keep it up next year or drop it.

Proposed Change to Quarterly Meeting Schedule

A By Law change was proposed to have three meetings per year for WSMC rather the four. New President Martin Casto will work out dates that don't conflict with Club shows. April, August, and October or November were the months proposed.

This change was proposed to reduce the possibility of bad weather in November and February forcing the cancellation of meetings in Ellensburg. It was felt that three meetings a year would be adequate to conduct Council business.