

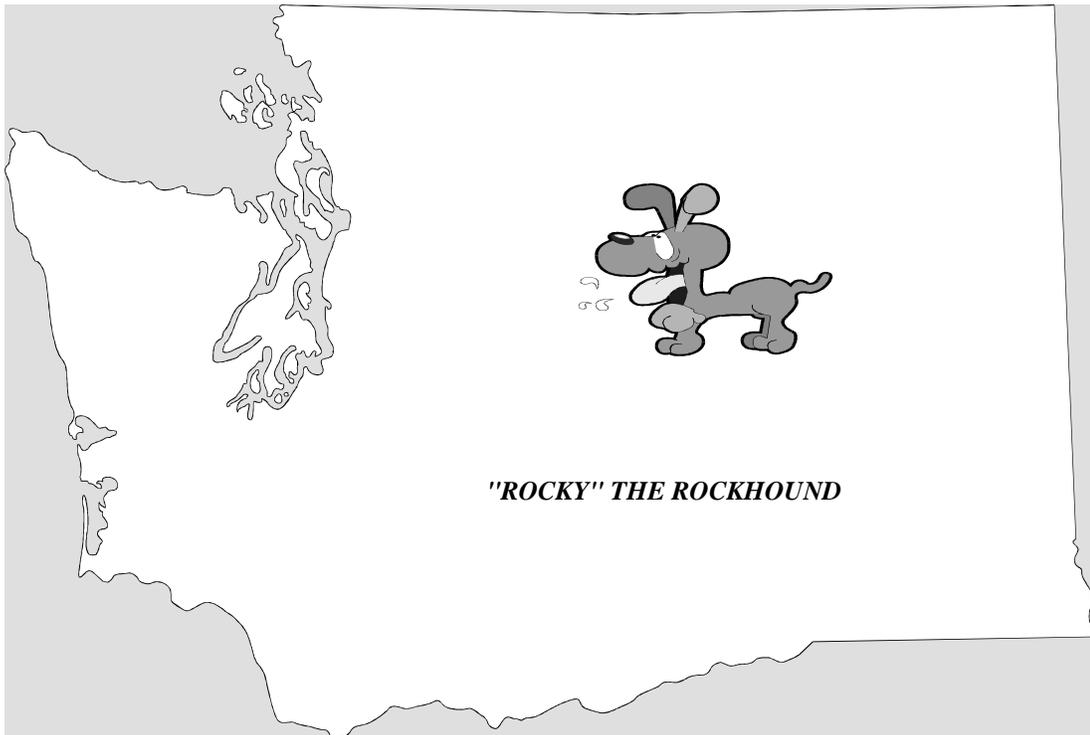


The Council Reporter



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**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
2010 OFFICERS**

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Wagonmaster	open		

The West Side Board meets the third Tuesday of each month between Quarterly meetings, unless a meeting is specially called. Usually no meeting in July and December dependent on Board action.

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**April 20, 2010
Westside Board Meeting
AGENDA**

Opening of Meeting
 ◇ Stu Earnst/Brian Waters
 Treasurer's Report
 ◇ Kathy Earnst
 Committee Reports
 ◇ Wagonmaster -Ed Lehman
 Old Business
 New Business
 Open Comments

Meeting Calendar for 2010

West side board meetings:
 1/19, 2/16, 4/20, 6/15, 9/21, 10/19

At 7:30PM at the
 Maplewood Clubhouse
 8802 196th St SW, Edmonds

General meetings (tentative):
 3/27, 5/1, 9/25, 11/6

All general meetings will be held at:

Palace Café
 4th & Main
 Ellensburg
 Meeting @ 9:30 AM

Combined board meeting minutes
03/27/10

17 people in attendance; speaker from Wenatchee BLM office Karen Kelleher

Meeting began at 9:30 am.

Brief discussion about an email from an attendee at the Miller River Picture Jasper WSMC field Trip which was sent to a broad email list regarding property ownership. The statement in the email was in incorrect and somewhat inflammatory. Ed Lehman was able to address the issue quickly in a return email to the sender. Concern was expressed however, that such an email might find its way onto the internet before being correctly addressed by the Mineral

Council. A motion was made, seconded and passed that in the future, all communications regarding Mineral Council affairs be made only with the approval of the Mineral Council board members. In other words, no more emails out to a long email list without prior approval from board members. If there is a problem or a concern about a Council field trip, etc, check with the council first before emailing the whole world.

Bob Pattie made a report on SHB Bill 2480, the revenue bill which we had heard of from before regarding proposed fees for parking and events on DNR lands. It didn't make it out of the House or Senate committees. Reps will attempt to run it through again next session a year from now. The result it is said, will be that trail heads especially those close to Seattle (and most frequently used) are to be closed down March 1st (?) due to lack of funds. Did they? Not sure.

Bob Pattie also reported on his assigned task of putting together a current list of Mineral Council representatives from the various rock clubs in the state. He indicated just how difficult it was; the list of clubs needs updating around the various agencies. It is evident that a well organized, dedicated person will need to spend considerable phone time to get the information as the submitted forms are not sufficient. Unfortunately no one will volunteer. Bob then made a motion, which passed, that the Council purchase the latest copy of the Federation directory (\$5) to assist in this task.

A motion was made and passed to suspend the business meeting so that the invited speaker could present her program. Bob Pattie then introduced Karen Kelleher of the Wenatchee BLM office.

Ms. Kelleher began by speaking about the selection process of the new and third power transmission lines from Vantage to Yakima. Public meetings had just finished and the turnout was great. The bulk of the comments had yet to be processed. There are 16 alternatives in the works and the BLM hope to narrow it down to 2-3 reasonable options.

One major complication has arisen. The Fish and Wildlife Department has just indicated that Saddle Mountain which has Sensitive Sage Grouse Habitat will be on the "priority list" at some time in the near future. This means that power lines won't be able to be built in such areas. Fish and Wildlife made this decision just as the public meetings were finishing up so the various options will have to be reconsidered to take this into account.

There is also a considerable amount of private land that will be impacted in this development so that there will be quite a bit of negotiation in which the BLM is not directly involved. The BLM will only be involved in the public land negotia-

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tions. She currently estimates the process of determining the best alternatives to be about one month; then there will be the impact analysis. Ms. Kelleher feels that the goal of construction by 2012 is on target.

There was a question about the purpose of the transmission line, to support the new wind farms near Ellensburg? Ms. Kelleher indicated that the new line was to address the ever increasing power needs of Yakima. She couldn't rule out that excess power could be leased to the wind farms, but that was not their primary purpose.

Another question was asked regarding access to the power line roads. Ms. Kelleher stated that access on BLM roads was open to the public unless the area was a sensitive area like the high priority sage grouse area, in which case it would be closed to public traffic. In this regard, the BLM is trying to avoid creating any new roads as much as possible, and trying to build any new development as close to existing roads as possible.

Saddle Mountain Status: Is Saddle Mountain up for consideration regarding wind farms? Yes, the entire area is under consideration, but no serious proposals have been submitted to date. Similarly, the area is the largest untapped natural gas reservoir (with 12,000 feet of basalt overburden) but the latest lease sale has just been completed and none were sold.

Ms. Kelleher tried to get the latest status on the Saddle Mountain sections in the petrified wood collecting dispute but was unable to reach the appropriate people. However, as the original complaints arose initially from issues of trespassing, the BLM is in the process of building a fence around the private land sections. Gates will exist on those BLM to BLM sections. Where there are BLM to private land sections, there will only be fence, even over roads. Gates will be left to the discretion of the landowner. There may be fences on private sections to reclamation sections without gates as well. The BLM will endeavor to contact the Reclamation people to see what to do about that.

(Several of our members have looked at the fence locations on the map Ms. Kelleher brought with her. It does not look like our Wagonmaster Field trips will have any issues with fences or gates. Only people who attempt to drive off-road may have issues.)

At this point Sections 7, 11, and 13 are still not open to collecting. A statement was made that the map on the BLM website is not very legible as far as the section numbers or even collecting status was concerned and perhaps the BLM could work on that. Ms. Kelleher said she could appreciate that and made a note of looking into that. Bob Pattie commented that not all petrified wood collecting is on BLM

land, with which Ms. Kelleher agreed.

A question was asked regarding the mineral rights of BLM land. Ms. Kelleher indicated that when the BLM acquires land, it likes to get both the surface and sub-surface rights. But in the case of the three sections in dispute at Saddle Mountain, they didn't. The land transfer deed stated that it included "rocks of a special character," which the BLM interpreted to mean petrified wood. When a private entity later purchased the mineral rights to those sections, they too believed the rights to include "petrified wood;" hence the dispute. However, the initial situation arose because of trespassing.

Bob Pattie informed Ms. Kelleher of the historical documents in the custody of the Mineral Council concerning Saddle Mountain, and Senator Jackson. Bob also indicated his appreciation for any and all updates by the BLM on the status of this situation. He indicated that the Mineral Council, on behalf of all rockhounds, would like to avoid causing any trouble at Saddle Mountain.

Stu Ernst had a question regarding the rules of collection of petrified wood and how can the lease owner be permitted to sell large amounts with those rules in place. Ms. Kelleher stated that as the situation now stands, no one, the public nor the lease owner can collect or sell petrified wood from those sections. However, once the dispute is settled, if the lease owner wins, he can sell all he wants.

Ed Lehman offered the information that sections 10 and 12 were formally designated Recreational Rock Collecting areas by the State Legislature in case Ms. Kelleher was not aware (she wasn't).

BLM New Land Management Plan: Ms. Kelleher introduced the BLM's newest Land Management Plan process since 1987 (effective 1991). The initially process will be on a broad scale: how to manage public lands into the future. It will be a three to four year process looking at all the resources, recreational use, what to do with the resources and so on. The BLM will begin with public meetings in late May and early June and will announce these meetings on a website still to be set up. The Mineral Council and all rockhounds are all strongly urged to attend these meetings and get involved.

One of the issues to be decided: road designations. While not usually on the broadest of decision levels, it becomes so because of its connection to so many other issues. Three potential designations: a) open to cross-country, b) open to roads only, or c) closed to motorized vehicles. Ultimately, the decisions can't be made unless the BLM knows where

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PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS FOR 2010

The WSMC sponsors field trips through the Wagonmasters. These trips offer the rockhound the opportunity to collect a wide variety of materials from agate and jasper to crystals and fossils. Experienced guides familiar with the sites are on hand to help the novice collector find good quality material. Check with the local clubs in your area for further information.

Check out the trip info, and tool listing at mineralcouncil.org.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Meet</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Tools</i>
1/30	Msvl	Cedar Ponds	9:00 @ Monroe Jack'n Box	Red & Yellow Jasper	Dig & Light hard rock
2/20	E King	Cherry Ck	9:00 @ Safeway So Duvall	Jasper	Wading Ck Rock hammer & container Crack hammer & container
3/20	Evt	Miller Rvr	9:00 @ Hwy 2 Skykomish	Picture Jasper	
4/10	MtBk	Racehorse Ck	9:00 @ Nugent's Corner IGA	Fossils– Morel mushrooms	Light hard rock & split
4/17-18	Pow	Saddle Mt & Diat	8:00 @ Boat launch So Matawa	Petrified Wood, Opal	Light hard rock & dig
5/23	Wams	Mt Higgins	9:00 @ Oso gas store (open)	Rhodonite	Hard rock – Tough tires
6/12-13	Elb	First Ck	9:00 @ W Fk Teanaway River	T-eggs, Agate, Geodes	Dig & hard rock
6/19-27	Msvl	Prineville Or	T B A Camping	T-eggs, Agate, Jasper	Dig, light & hard rock
6/30-7/4	Pow	Madras Or	8:00 @ Jefferson Co Fair	Agate, Jasper, Wood, T-eggs	Dig & light hard rock
7/17	E King	Lk Wenatchee	9:00 @ Ranger Station	Garnet, Actinolite & Talc	1/4" screen, bucket wood saw, shovel Dig tools
8/7	Swms	So W Carnelian	9:00 @ I-5 Exit 63 Park & Ride	Agate, Jasper, Wood	
8/21-22	Pvgm	Greenwater	9:00 @ Enumclaw Ranger Sta	Agate, Jasper	Dig & light hard rock
8/25 ?	Ed & Bob	Whitehorse	9:00 @ Whitehorse store	Jade mine (fee required)	Strenuous hike light hard rock
9/11-12	Pow	1st Ck– Red Top	8:00 @ W Fk Teanaway Riv	Agate, Jasper, Geodes, T-eggs, Jade	Dig, light hardrock
9/18	Pvgm	Little Naches	9:00 @ Kaner Flats Camp ?	Thunder Eggs	Dig & light hard rock
10/2-3	W Sea	Saddle Mt	9:00 @ Matawa Lepricon	Petrified Wood, Opal	Dig & light hard rock
11/13	MtBk	Blanchard Hill	9:00 @ 1-5 exit 240 gas mart	Stilpnomelane in Quartz, Chert	Hard rock

ALWAYS CALL TO CONFIRM TRIPS—SEE BELOW

Abrv	Host	Contact	E-mail
Pvgm	Puyallup Vly Gem & Mineral	Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238	
Elb	Ellensburg Rock Club	Steve Townsend	srtrocks@aol.com
Evt	Everett Rock & Gem Club	Bob Johnson (425) 408-0849	bobinevt@hotmail.com
Msvl	Marysville Rock Club	Christina Morrissey (425) 398-1300	cmvw@verizon.net
MtBk	Mt Baker Rock Club	Kris Menger (360) 366-0576	kmenger@peoplepc.com
Swms	SW WA Mineral Society	Dave Roth (360) 295-3567	
Pow	Pow Wow Rockhounds Club	Cliff Matteson	
Wams	WA Agate & Mineral Club	Mike Messenger (360) 456-6930	wams1939@comcast.net
W Sea	West Seattle Rock Club	Brian Waters (206) 290-2312	bwaterssss@yahoo.com
Ed & Bob	Jade Minning Association	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282	wsmced@hotmail.com

Trips are open to all. Most 2 day trips include Sat. potluck, horse shoes, tail-gating & swap. Sun. free breakfast. A small fee is required for Pow Wow and Madras trips. For more information contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@hotmail.com (425)334-6282 or mineralcouncil.org

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the roads are that people want to keep open.

Bob Pattie asked what the BLM's definition of roads was. Ms. Kelleher answered that the BLM has tried to stay away from a definition. Rather they would like to see what all motorized routes are and put all on the map, and what they should be used for. Then ask the questions: Does the route have a use? Is it maintainable? How much? Is it affordable? How much resource damage is incurred? Is it re-routable if there is resource damage? Is it a dead-end road (people are less likely to stay on-road with these)? Loop roads are better, people stay on the roads, less likely to go cross-country.

Ms. Kelleher also indicated that it is very difficult to designate new open areas. If the area is already open, then okay. Most places they will designate "Roaded OHV" so that they can take into account all the road issues that ensue. The BLM needs to designate an entire area at once rather than cherry pick just parts of it to better deal with it.

Q. Public Meetings to be held on Westside of Cascades?

A. Dilemma because while it would be nice to hear what the Westside feels about the issues, the Westside wouldn't hear what the Eastside says and vice-versa. Initially, plans are to hold meetings in the Okanogan, Wenatchee, Ellensburg, Yakima, Davenport and the Tri-Cities areas.

Bob Pattie recommended that the BLM hold several on Saturdays so that the Westside folks can also attend.

(Recommend that Wenatchee club and Yakima club have members attend for sure)

Q. Do you consider rockhounding a recreational use?

A. Yes, and no. "Casual Use" yes; it's different if a person has a mining claim and the digging is more than casual. The larger the impact is to the land, the more involved the BLM needs to be, the less recreational is the activity.

Q. Will the Priority Sensitive Sage Grouse Habitat affect cars, wheeled vehicles for collecting?

A. It will require cars to stay on roads, but won't affect people walking across country, nor possibly dollies carting rock.

Ms. Kelleher stated that it is not the policy of the BLM to recommend Wilderness Area status for any of its lands. However, they will inventory areas with wilderness characteristics.

Bob Pattie asked if the BLM was affected in any way by the US Congress Trail across Washington (The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail). Ms. Kelleher then spoke briefly about the sections of Washington where the trail

would cross in Okanogan County; how land still needed to be purchased, etc. There is also another National Trail called the Ice Age Floodways Trail which has currently an interagency committee established to look at what it will take to put this trail on the map. There is little guidance from Congress as the description of the trail is only one paragraph long.

Bob Pattie offered to Ms. Kelleher the services of Washington rockhounds in assisting the BLM in their endeavors in these trails. Everyone applauded Ms. Karen Kelleher for a fine presentation.

11:15 am the Business meeting was resumed. A new slate of officers was assembled:

President - Brian Waters - Boeing/West Seattle

1st VP Eastside (still vacant) (Ed Barnstormer of Spokane ill) Rock Rollers to speak with someone in club

2nd VP - Stu Ernst (place holder) - Marysville

Trustee - Eastside

Andy Johnson - Lakeside

Timothy DeGrie—Lakeside

2 replacement Westside Trustees:

Ed Lehman (agrees to hold again) - Marysville

Bill Moser (resubmitted in absentia) - Marysville

Treasurer - Kathy Ernst - Marysville

Secretary - Christina Morrissey - Marysville

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Christina Morrissey Acting-Secretary

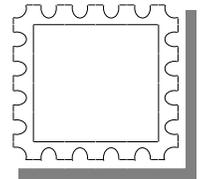
Local Area Shows for 2010

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
April 2009 9th 10am - 8pm 10th 10am - 6pm 11th 10am - 6pm		BC Gem Show	Ag-Rec Building Central Fraser Valley Fairgrounds, 32470 Haida Drive, Abbotsford, B. C..
April 10th 10am - 6pm 11th 10am - 5pm	SE. Idaho Gem & Mineral Society	53rd Annual Show	Bannock Co., Fairgrounds Commercial Building Pocatello, Idaho
April 10th 10am - 6pm 11th 10am - 5p	Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club	49th Annual Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Show	Bloedel-Donovan Park Community Center 2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham, WA
April 16th 9:am - 6pm 17th 10:am - 6pm 18th 10am -4:30pm	Willamette Agate and Mineral Society	55th Annual River of Gems Show	Polk County Fairgrounds Hwy 99 - 10 miles west of Salem Rickreall, Oregon
April 17th 10:am - 6pm 18th 10:am - 4p	Yakima Rock and Mineral Club	49th Annual Parade of Gems	Central Washington Fairgrounds Modern Living Building Fair Avenue and East Nob Hill Blvd. Yakima, WA
April 17th 10am - 5pm 18th 10am - 4pm	Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club	Annual Show	Benton-Franklin Fairgrounds, building #1 10th & Chemical Dr. Kennewick, WA
April 24th 10am - 5pm 25th 10am - 5pm	Grays Harbor Geology & Gem Society	Earth Treasures	Grays Harbor fairgrounds 43 Elma/McCleary Rd. Elma, WA
May 1st 10am - 5pm 2nd 10am - 5pm	West Seattle Rock Club	44th Annual Show	West Seattle Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW Seattle, WA
June 45th 12Noon - 6pm 5th 10am - 6pm 6th 11am - 4pm	Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club	Puyallup Valley Gem Show	Fruitland Grange 112th St & 86th Ave. East Puyallup, WA
June 19th 10am - 5pm 20th 10am - 5pm	Butte Mineral and Gem Club	Mineral & Gem Show	Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Ave. (exit 127 North) Butte, Montana
July 30-31st 10am - 5pm August 1-2nd 10am - 5pm	Hosted by Billings Gem & Mineral Club	NFMS/AFMS Combined show	Holiday Inn Grand Montana 5500 Midland Rd. Billings MT
August 21st 10am - 6pm 22nd 10am - 4pm	Nisqually Valley Rockhound Society	Annual Show	Yelm Middle School Highway 510 Yelm, WA

Westside Board Meeting
April 20, 2010
7:30 PM

Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW
Edmonds

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