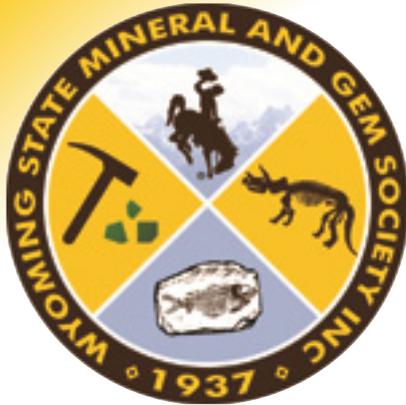


Jade State News

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

2132 Gail Lane, Cody Wyoming 82414

Volume 2017, Issue 1



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The WSMGS conducts meetings quarterly and as special events require

WYOMING FOSSIL COLLECTING IS CHANGING FOR BETTER OR WORSE

2017 PROPOSED FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR COLLECTION OF FOSSILS

Paleontological Resources Preservation-Proposed Rule: 81 FR 88173

Information by Mike Nelson-RMFMS PLAC Chair/
adapted by Stan Strike:

I. SUMMARY:

The Department of the Interior (DOI) proposes to revise regulations that relate to invertebrate fossils as published in the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA). The proposed revisions were initiated to provide uniform regulations between federal agencies. The proposed revised regulations were posted in the Federal Register on December 7, 2016 as -section 81 FR 88173. Comments on these proposed revised regulations are due by Monday, February 6, 2017.

Implementation of the proposed regulations would preserve, manage, and protect "paleontological resources"/fossils on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

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Service and ensure that these federally owned resources are available for current and future generations to enjoy as part of America's national heritage.

The proposed regulations would address the management, collection, and curation of paleontological resources from federal lands using scientific principles and expertise, including collection in accordance with permits; curation in an approved repository; and maintenance of confidentiality of specific locality data.

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act authorizes civil and criminal penalties for illegal collecting, damaging, otherwise altering or defacing, or for selling paleontological resources. The proposed rule further details the processes related to the civil penalties, including hearing requests and appeals of the violation or the amount of the civil penalties.

Thus, under PRPA and the proposed regulations, fossils are "paleontological resources" unless they are found in an archaeological context and are archaeological resources, or are cultural items under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or are determined by an authorized officer to lack paleontological interest or not provide information about the history of life on earth. Proposed regulations also state that the authorized officer may restrict access to or close areas to collection to protect resources or provide for public safety.

**For Complete Text of the Proposed Revised Regulations in the Federal Registry see:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontological-resources-preservation>

II. PROPOSED REGULATIONS AFFECTING ROCKHOUNDS

A. Collecting "Uncommon" Invertebrate Fossils Requires a Permit

Collecting would mean paleontological resources removed from geological context or taken from federal lands and any associated records, consistent with the definition of museum property in Part 411 of the Departmental Manual (411 DM). Because permits may be issued only to further paleontological knowledge, public education, or management of paleontological resources, any collections made under those permits should likewise further these goals. Such collections would be deposited in an approved repository.

Proposed §49.50 would clarify when a permit is required and who must have a permit. A permit would be required for collecting paleontological resources or disturbing paleontological sites except for casual collecting on certain lands managed by BLM or Reclamation where casual collecting is allowed.

B. Casual Collecting of Common Fossils

When paleontological resources on certain BLM and Reclamation managed lands are common plant or invertebrate fossils, they may be casually collected in compliance with subpart I of the proposed rule. They are still paleontological resources (meaning that they have paleontological interest and provide information about the history of life on earth), but PRPA authorizes the limited collection of these resources on lands administered by BLM and Reclamation where such collection is consistent with the laws governing the management of those lands, PRPA, and subpart I of the proposed rule.

A proposed new §8365.1-5(b)(6) would be added to include "common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources" on the list of things that may be collected from BLM public lands in reasonable amounts for noncommercial purposes. The paragraph also provides a reference to proposed part 49, which would authorize and provide rules for casual collecting.

The conditions for casual collecting are defined in subpart I of this proposed rule. BLM-administered lands are open to casual collection of paleontological resources unless specifically closed by a site-specific decision. As

WYOMING FOSSIL COLLECTING IS CHANGING FOR BETTER OR WORSE continued from page 2

such, casual collection has been and will continue to occur on certain public lands.

PRPA provides specific authority and limits under which this activity can take place. In particular, PRPA allows for “casual collecting,” which is defined as “the collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrates and plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth’s surface and other resources” (Pub. L. 111-11, section 6301(1), 123 Stat. 1172)

Casual collecting is a limited exception to the overarching permit requirement of PRPA, and is allowed under the presumption that the “commonness” of these resources, in combination with limitations on amount, surface disturbance, tools, and eventual use of the collected resources, contributes to the underlying objective of protecting paleontological resources on federal lands.

C. Proposed Regulations Affecting Casual Collecting by Rockhounds

Proposed §49.810(c) also clarifies that casual collecting in excess of the specified limitations is prohibited and subject to civil and criminal penalties:

[1] Not all invertebrate or plant paleontological resources are common. If the resources are not common, they may only be collected under a permit. It may not always be possible for a collector to identify in the field whether a fossil is common. When in doubt, collectors should err on the side of caution and collect only the resources that they know are common. The federal bureaus may hold a trained amateur, a vocational paleontologist, or professional to a higher standard of knowledge than the general public about whether or not a fossil is common.

[2] Proposed §49.810(a)(2) would establish “reasonable amount” for casual collecting as 25 pounds per day per collector, not to exceed 100 pounds per year per collector. This proposed definition would also clarify that pooling of multiple daily amounts by one or more collectors to obtain pieces in excess of 25 pounds is not allowed. The bureaus determined that the 25 pounds per day per collector, and the 100 pounds per year per collector, are reasonable amounts based on BLM’s long experience with the collecting of petrified wood and other fossils from BLM lands before PRPA was enacted.

[3] Proposed §49.810(a)(3) would clarify that “negligible disturbance” for casual collecting means little or no change to the surface of the land, and minimal or no effect to natural and cultural resources. This proposed definition would specify that in no circumstance may the surface disturbance exceed 1 square yard (3 feet by 3 feet) per individual collector; that in cases of multiple collectors each square yard of surface disturbance must be separated by at least 10 feet; and that all areas of surface disturbance must be backfilled with the material that was removed in order to render the disturbance substantially unnoticeable to the casual observer.

Where there is no surface disturbance, there is no need to separate collecting areas.

[4] Proposed §49.810(a)(4) would address the uses to which casually collected resources can be put. Casually collected resources may be used only for noncommercial personal use, which means a use other than purchase, sale, financial gain, or research. The restriction on any commercial use of casually collected resources is not new. For instance, rules of conduct applicable to BLM-managed public lands currently allow casual collecting of paleontological resources only for “noncommercial purposes” (43 CFR 8365.1-5(b)).

[5] Proposed §49.810(a)(5) would define the kinds of tools that may be used to casually collect these resources. These tools must be small, such as a geologic hammer, trowel, or sieve; they cannot use or be operated by a motor, engine, or other mechanized power source; and they must be light and small enough to be hand-carried by one person.

[6] Proposed §49.810(b) would enable the authorized officer to establish limitations on casual collecting, in addi-

WYOMING FOSSIL COLLECTING IS CHANGING FOR BETTER OR WORSE continued from page 3

tion to the limitations already contained in the proposed rule. Examples of additional limitations include reducing the maximum weight for “reasonable amount,” decreasing the threshold for negligible disturbance, limiting depth of allowable disturbance, limiting specific tools that may be used, defining what is common in a specific area, establishing time or duration limits for collecting, establishing limits to avoid cumulative effects, and establishing parameters for safety.

[7] Paleontological resources that are determined by the authorized officer as not furthering or no longer furthering paleontological knowledge, public education, or management of paleontological resources (such as resources that lack provenience or are overly redundant) may, nevertheless, because they are still of paleontological interest and provide information about the history of life on earth, be assigned to project or working collections, including non-museum collections. Page 88175

[Working collection would mean paleontological resource collections that are not intended for long-term preservation and care as museum collections. Departmental policy on working collections is expanded in Section 1.7, 411 DM, Identifying and Managing Museum Property.]

D. Regulations For Non-Invertebrate Paleontological Resources

[1] Petrified wood is managed as a paleontological resource when on or from lands administered by NPS, Reclamation, and FWS. On lands administered by BLM, petrified wood (defined by the Petrified Wood Act of 1962, Pub. L. 87-713, 76 Stat. 652, Sept. 28, 1962 as agatized, opalized, petrified, or silicified wood, or any material formed by the replacement of wood by silica or other matter, and identified as a mineral material under the Materials Act of 1947) is subject to commercial sale at 43 CFR part 3600 and free use regulations at 43 CFR part 3622.

Therefore, on BLM lands, petrified wood may be managed as a paleontological resource, but the savings provisions in PRPA (16 U.S.C. 470aaa-10) prevent the imposition of additional restrictions on the sale or free use of petrified wood. When it is not subject to sale or free use, petrified wood on BLM-administered lands may be managed as a paleontological resource and/or under the authority of FLPMA (Federal Land Policy and Management Act).

[2] Proposed §49.15 would state that the proposed rule does not impose additional requirements on activities permitted under the general mining or mineral laws, does not apply to Indian land, and does not apply to land other than federal land as defined in the proposed rule.

III. HOW TO COMMENT

Comments on these proposed revised regulations are due by Monday, February 6, 2017. Individual Rockhound comments count as one response whereas a Rock Club response with multiple signatures also counts as one response! Therefore the WSMGS Board is encouraging individuals within each Wyoming club to send their own letter.

Comments may be submitted via one of two methods:

1. Online at the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=NPS-2016-0003-0001>

* Provide first and last name, city, state, & country. All other fields of information are optional. Keep in mind that much of this information is publicly viewable.

* Comments may be typed in the box provided or they may be uploaded as attachments (Word docs or PDFs only).

2. Comments can be mailed to: Julia Brunner, Geologic Resources Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 25287 Denver, CO 80225-0287

*Be sure to reference Federal Register Number 2016-29244

**This line must be included in your letter:

Re: Docket No. NPS-2016-0003. RIN 1093-AA-16. Comment on proposed Rule on Paleontological Resource Preservation Act of 2009.

WYOMING FOSSIL COLLECTING IS CHANGING FOR BETTER OR WORSE continued from page 4

You may find the proposed rules at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontological-resources-preservation>

If you wish to comment on the document, here are some guidelines:

- *Comments should be brief and in-depth/well-researched.
- *Comments with facts to support them are much more useful (e.g., examples of overlooked scenarios).
- *Keep comments civil and straightforward. Comments using offensive terms, threats, or other inappropriate language will be disregarded.

UPDATE FOR A CONCERNED WYOMING ROCKHOUND AND WSMGS (1/23/2017):

Dear Nella,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me. It is good to hear from you.

I appreciate you sharing your comments about the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) proposed rule to alter the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. On January 20, 2017, President Trump issued an order to freeze all pending regulations, including the Paleontological Resources Preservation proposed rule. Under this order, regulations and proposed rule makings will be reviewed by President Trump's designees before being moving forward. Nella, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns with me. I value your input and look forward to hearing from you in the future.

John Barrasso, M.D.

United States Senator



Comments made by Helen Hoff. Natrona County Rockhounds; that gives us something more to think about.

Comment:

I have two concerns: 1) prohibiting even the inadvertant release of locality data (secrecy) and 2) the lack of "grandfather" wording in 49.30(c). (49.400 refers to possession only, not the date acquired)

The release of locality data restrictions would essentially make it a federal offense to take a "selfie" (with GPS phone) while on a field trip and post it on Facebook. Plus, if you lead a field trip for casual collecting you are releasing locality data. The liability consequences will eliminate such field trips, reducing education opportunities.

The prohibited actions in 49.4 (sale, transport, etc) should at least specify a date so that old collections that are donated to be sold (for example at a silent auction at a rock show, when locality data is typically not known) can at least be "granfathered". To do less will eliminate income to small rock clubs as buyers will insist on provinence paperwork rather than buy and be subjet to fine and/or imprisonment.

so you are effectively eliminating photos, field trips and local rock clubs.

Comment:

The term "reproduction" is used in 49.215(a)(6) and 49.215(6) without further definition. Undefined it is too broad and could be applied to a simple photograph. Hence, a museum with BLM specimens on display that permits photographing would make the general public in violation since they have no collecting permit that details permission to do so. Photos required in the field for accurate recordkeeping and prep lab work would need prior written permission. The agency would need to monitor lecture, newspaper articles, Facebook, etc. for images of BLM fossils. Without further definition the word would appear to usurp federal copyright laws. What about having photographs as part of the museum's database? (even if it is a certified BLM repository) What about 3-d imaging? (I have always maintained that virtual images are NOT REALITY- just as special effects in a movie are not real.) Are you saying a simple 3d "turntable" animation of a bone is a reproduction?

The word should be eliminated if you can't define & clarify it sufficiently. At least use it in conjunction with the word "commercial use" like you do casual collection and sales, or OK "for educational purposes" as in copyright law.



WSMGS BOARD INFORMATION & UPDATES

WSMGS ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING – October 2017

I. President's Report:

As a WSMGS Board Member, I would ask you to read this Electronic Meeting email and VOTE on all Action Items by selecting "Reply All" after Typing your name and indicating a "Agree or Disagree" vote for each numbered Action Item. The Deadline for your responses by "Reply All" email will be Saturday January 28th, 2017. If you have questions about any item, call / text me at 307-250-1244 or email to strikestan@gmail.com or pres@wsmgs.org.

[Board members are encouraged to submit old or new business items that have not been included in this meeting and a special attachment will be sent out for the entire WSMGS Board's consideration.]

A. WSMGS AFFILIATED CLUB REPORTING

The following information was sent via email #1,#2, #3 to WSMGS club contacts & board members:

#1.12/31/2016 Email from RMFMS President + Comments to Proposed PRPA Revisions.

The following email attachment has been written by our Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies President Beth Simmons in response to a recent posting in the Federal Registry by several federal agencies proposing more restrictive rules for the collection of fossils by Rockhounds. PLEASE NOTE THE JANUARY 15TH DEADLINE AND THE REQUEST FOR EACH CLUB TO ADD THEIR CLUB NAME AND LIST THEIR OFFICERS NAMES TO THE BOTTOM OF THE ATTACHED WORD DOCUMENT AND THEN RETURN by email to: president@rmfms.org

Individual club members are also requested to send their personal letters of concern.

The proposed changes for fossil collecting can be accessed and viewed on the home page of the RMFMS website.

Thank You for your Immediate Attention-Stan Strike, WSMGS President

#2. 1/13/2017 Email from WSMGS President + Summary of Proposed PRPA Revisions

[Text is repeated as a feature article in February 2017 Jade State Newsletter.]

3. 1/21/2017-RMFMS Convention Proxy Information

Please alert the appropriate persons in your club to the following deadlines and attached documents. Documents may also be found on the WSMGS website [wsmgs.org]:

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) Convention Proxy:

All WSMGS affiliated clubs are eligible to send two delegates to the 2017 RMFMS Convention

in Albuquerque, New Mexico on March 17-19, 2017 (Information can be found on the RMFMS website). If your club is not sending delegates to the 2017 RMFMS Convention, it is very important that your club completes the attached RMFMS Proxy Form so that a quorum of delegates are present such that an official meeting can be conducted.

On the Proxy Form, DO NOT FILL IN the portion for appointing the proxy delegates and alternates: "The following individual(s) have been appointed by the RMFMS WY State Director or their representative to represent the above named Society or Club by Proxy at the RMFMS Convention's House of Delegates Meeting: Proxy Delegate Name: _____ Proxy Delegate Name: _____"

RMFMS Proxy Forms should be sent to the current RMFMS WY State Director: Stan Strike-2132 Gail Lane-Cody, WY 82414 or emailed to: wydir@wsmgs.org DEADLINE February 21st

Rockhound of the Year-Each club should recognize by voting, one individual or couple as their Wyoming Club Rockhound of the Year. Individuals can also submit a nomination using the Wyoming State Rockhound of the Year form. All Club and State Rockhound of the Year nominations will be eligible to be selected as the Wyoming State Rockhound of the Year. Forms are to be returned via email: pres@wsmgs.org OR by U.S. mail to WSMGS

WSMGS BOARD INFORMATION & UPDATES *continued*

President-Stan Strike-2132 Gail Lane-Cody WY 82414. DEADLINE-APRIL 1, 2017.

II. Vice President Report:

The current WSMGS Vice President, Linda Richendifer would like to thank the clubs that sent their 2017 Election of Officers Report to her. She will compile this information to create the 2017 WSMGS Membership Directory and to update the Alias club email contacts. A complete 2017 WSMGS Club Directory will be sent to all club contacts after all WSMGS affiliated clubs' Annual Election of Officers Report are available. The WSMGS Directory includes personal information of individual club members and WSMGS officers therefore it is for inter-club use only-never to be published for non-club members. Note that WSMGS protects your personal information by only using Alias Email Addresses on the WSMGS website (wsmgs.org) and within The Jade State News.

III. Secretary's Report:

These Electronic Minutes for the January 2017 WSMGS Board Meeting will represent the official WSMGS Board Minutes as published in the February 2017 Jade State News including the results of all required voting on Action Items by WSMGS Board members.

IV. Treasurer's Report: October 1st, 2016 – December 31ST, 2016

October 1, 2016 Beginning Balance = \$2,487.02
Mel Gustin, WSMGS Treasurer, reports that there was an increase of 77 WSMGS members state-wide from October 31, 2015-October 31, 2016. Clubs are also reminded that as incorporated nonprofits, an Annual Financial Report must be presented to their membership. As an incorporated non-profit club, the Wyoming Secretary of State requires each WSMGS club to present to its' members an Annual Financial Report. The Financial report should report balances, income, and expenses.

INCOME:

EXPENSES:

10/12/16	\$100.00 (RivertonJSNdonation)
10/20/16	\$80.00 (Cody59ers Dues)
10/24/16-Debit -	\$37.27 (Park Co.Treas.)

10/31/16 Balance = \$2629.75

11/08/16	\$54.00 (Powell)
11/17/16	\$146.00 (Riverton)
11/17/16	\$95.00 (Sublette Rock Hounds)
11/30/16	Balance = \$2,924.75

12/01/16	\$18.00 (Rex Young)
10/18/16-#1041	\$5.00 (Postage NewsClippings)
12//6/16-#1042	\$75.00 (Jenniferflowers-Nov.JSN)
12//6/16 -#1043	\$75.00 (Webmaster Gift Cert.)
12/20/16-#1006	\$12.60 (WSMGSduestoRMFMS)
12/31/16	Balance = \$2,775.15

V. Historian's Report

Rod Baltes, WSMGS Historian, would like to thank the following clubs/societies for submitting their annual reports: Cody 59ers, Rex Young, Riverton Mineral & Gem, Shoshone, and Sublette Rock Hounds. These reports will be Archived for future reference. As an incorporated non-profit club, the Wyoming Secretary of State requires each WSMGS club to present to its' members an Annual Activities Report. The Activities Report can be a photo copy of the club's minutes or a Summary of the club's programs, activities, field trips, etc.

VI. WSMGS Website (wsmgs.org) Report

A. President, Stan Strike contacted iPage with the following request: "I would like to have the following domain names set as Manual Renew-not automatic renewal-in that they will not be renewed upon their expiration dates: wymineralandgemso-ciety.org [expires 3/13/17] and wygemandmineral-society .org [expires 3/4/2018].

B. The WSMGS has renewed its Website Hosting contract on 2/24/17 with iPage for 3 years (3/16/2017-3/16/2020) for a cost of \$214.20 (\$5/95/month). This is a negotiated savings of \$180 over the regular three year rate.

VII Old Business:

A. Support For the Collection/Review of WSMGS Club Documents for WSMGS' Historian Archives
Discussion: With the approval of Action Item #4, concluding the October 2016 Electronic Board Meeting, the WSMGS Board will continue to encourage the collection of club documents and facili-

WSMGS BOARD INFORMATION & UPDATES continued

tate the compliance with the legal requirements to protect all WSMG members.

With the succession of club officers over time, it becomes legally important that the club's important documents –which includes Articles of Incorporation, ByLaws, minutes and financial records are preserved. If the club is not incorporated or current in their Annual Report required by the Wyoming Secretary of State they are creating a legal liability for their club. As a nonprofit corporation your club is required to keep these important documents and share them with your members.

This is why the WSMGS encourages each WSMGS affiliated club to send copies of their Annual Reports to the WSMGS Historian so if club records become lost, they can be retrieved.

The WSMGS will continue to encourage the collection and archiving of copies of all WSMGS affiliated clubs' legal documents and in their absence the WSMGS Board will help to develop updated or new documents. The WSMGS will also continue to remind and monitor their WSMGS affiliated clubs/societies that they complete the required Wyoming State and IRS reporting.

B. Wyoming's 2016 Rockhounds of the Year (Roger & Joy Lyons, June Rich, and Jim McGarvey were recently also recognized in the RMFMS Newsletter (December 2016) and in the AFMS Newsletter (February 2017).

C. The WSMGS has submitted the following entries for the RMFMS Media Competition: Adult Article-Humor (Bill Tabacinski-A Rockhound in the Big Apple, Written Feature (Stan Strike-The Revenant Fossils), the WSMGS website (wsmgs.org), and New Editor(Jennifer Flowers). Winners will be announced at the RMFMS in Albuquerque. Winners will advance to the AFMS competition.

D. WSMGS received a Thank You card from our webmaster, Marlene Sibley, for a Christmas Gift Certificate.

VII. New Business:

A. Action Item #1-Approval of RMFMS WY State Director Annual Meeting Expenses:

Discussion: Historically the WSMGS Board has

financially supported the RMFMS WY State Director to attend the RMFMS Annual Meeting. The State Director represents the WSMGS and all of its affiliated clubs/societies by proxy. The 2017 RMFMS is in Albuquerque, N.M., which is 1020 miles from Cody. Estimated Expenses: 3 nights Motel-\$278.76 +Gasoline-\$150 =\$428.76 (2016 total expenses to Wichita were \$439.91)

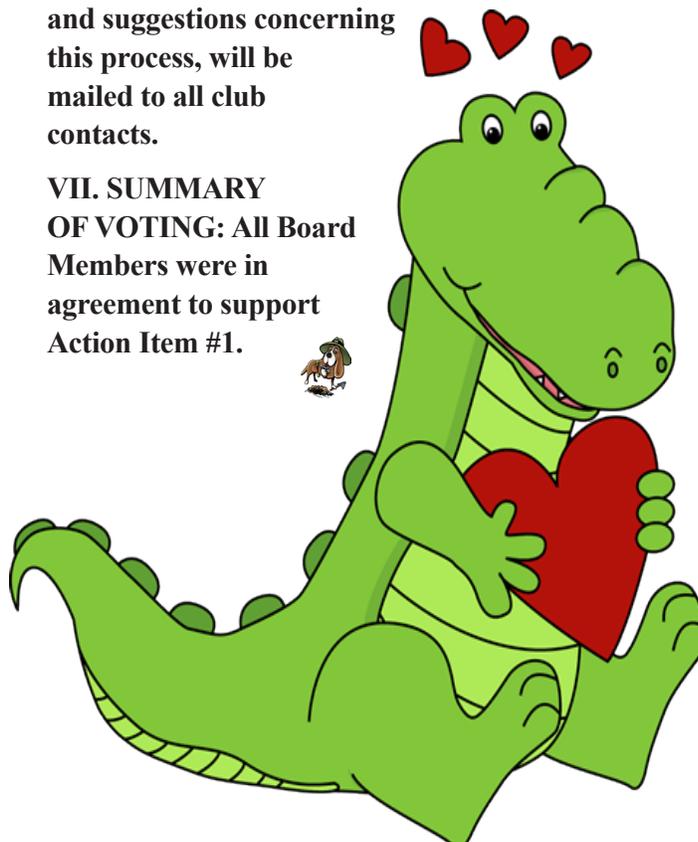
*** VOTE Action Item #1- Approval of Actual Motel + Gasoline Expenses for WY State Director to Attend 2017 RMFMS Convention.

AGREE OR DISAGREE:

B. The IRS 990-N Form for 2016 was submitted 1-24-2017 by President Stan Strike. The form was accepted by the IRS. Prior to 2017, the Urban Institute hosted and managed the Electronic Filing System (990-N e-Postcard) for non-profit organizations. Beginning in 2017, the IRS is directly hosting and managing the e-Postcard requiring users to complete a "IRS.Online Sevcies Profile"

which culminates in the completion of the 990-N form. Specific information and suggestions concerning this process, will be mailed to all club contacts.

VII. SUMMARY OF VOTING: All Board Members were in agreement to support Action Item #1.



HELPFUL HINTS TO REGISTER WITH THE IRS TO COMPLETE FORM 990-N

IRS Form 990-N is required to be completed by all WSMGS Affiliated Clubs. The process has changed this year and the WSMGS Board is here to help you through this process!

Prior to 2017, the Urban Institute hosted and managed the Electronic Filing System (990-N e-Postcard) for non-profit organizations. Beginning in 2017, the IRS is directly hosting and managing the e-Postcard, requiring users to complete a "IRS.Online Services Profile" which culminates in the completion of the 990-N form. The completion of the IRS.Online Services Profile this year allows your club to be registered with the IRS and every year hereafter, only the 990-N will need to be completed if the User ID and Password is recorded previously and used.

Specific information and suggestions concerning this process are listed:

1. View the attachment that follows and read it carefully. Then click on and open link" User Guide" and print it. Use it to avoid frustrating errors! Read the last page first for hints!
2. In the attachment click and open the first underlined link-"Form 990-N Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard)".
3. Register your personal name and email for "First Time Users"
Click "Get Started" and temporary User Name number will be sent to your email. Copy this number and return to previous screen and enter as the User Name. {This page cannot be closed while you retrieve the email message. I needed to create a new tab on my Mac before going back to email in order to return to enter password.]
4. User ID, password, and 4 Challenge Questions with answers should be recorded for fu-

ture use and shared with other club officers

5. On the Manage Form 990-N Submissions section be certain to print a copy.
6. Under the Managing Form 990-N Submissions time the 7 minutes -if too much? time goes by you will be timed out. Once you receive the status as Accepted print it out and also share with other officers.

HOPE THIS STARTS YOUR 2017 OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT!

Stan Strike-WSMGS President/ RMFMS WY State Director

Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations — Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

How to file

To electronically submit Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990EZ, use the Form 990-N Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard).

The Form 990-N electronic-filing system moved from Urban Institute's website to IRS.gov in February. All filers must register at IRS.gov prior to filing their next Form 990-N. This is a one-time registration; you won't be asked to register again when filing next year.

- Form 990-N must be completed and filed electronically. There is no paper form.
- Form 990-N filers may choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead.
- Use the Form 990-N Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard) User Guide while registering and filing.
- For filing system and website issues, see How to File: Frequently Asked Questions. If site issues are unresolved, call TE/GE Customer Accounts Services at 877-829-5500. A

HELPFUL HINTS TO REGISTER WITH THE IRS TO COMPLETE FORM 990-N *continued*

representative will file your Form 990-N information.

- Organizations should continue efforts to file, even if late.

Prior to filing your form, please review the following information:

Who must file

Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less can satisfy their annual reporting requirement by electronically submitting Form 990-N if they choose not to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead.

Exceptions to this requirement include:

- Organizations that are included in a group return,
- Churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches, and
- Organizations required to file a different return

Form 990-N filing due date

Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax

year. You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.

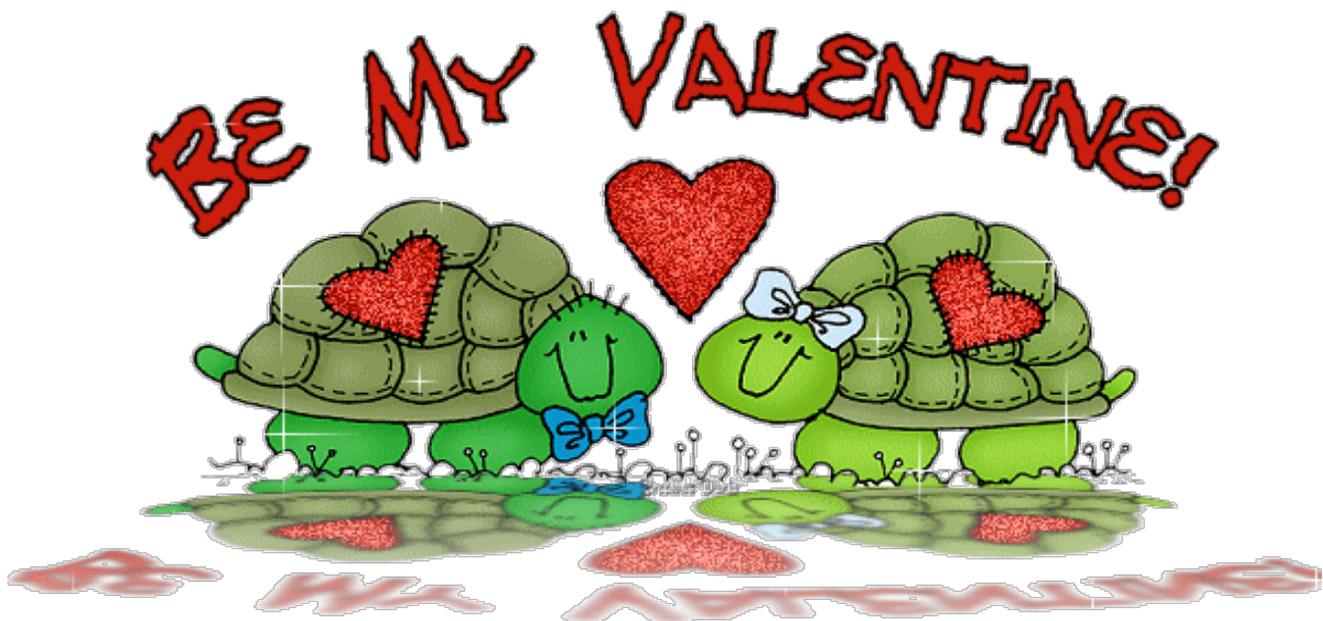
Example: If your tax year ended on December 31, the e-Postcard is due May 15 of the following year. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day.

If your 990-N is late, the IRS will send a reminder notice to the last address we received.

While there is no penalty assessment for filing Form 990-N late, organizations that fail to file required Forms 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. Revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will happen on the filing due date of the third consecutively-missed year. Watch this IRS YouTube presentation for more information.

Information you will need when filing Form 990-N

Form 990-N is easy to complete. You'll need only eight items of basic information about your organization.



Club Reports

Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society 2016

January started off with Donna Arnold taking over as President of the Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society. Mr. Bob King retired after 10 years of devoted service as President of the club but he still advises us on several matters regarding the club. Jan Shively is the Treasurer and Mark Shively is our field trip Coordinator. Our club meetings are held at LCCC on the second Wednesday of each month Sep thru May. February's silent auction went over well with around 28 club members selling wares of various kinds. Other club members and a few invited guests had a great time out-bidding each other for the merchandise. March and April were spent getting ready for the May Show. We had several grab bag sewing days. There was around 700 bags cut and sewed by club members then these bags were filled with the help of club members at one the club meetings.

The May Show was a great success. We have been holding the show at the Laramie County Fair Grounds for about 3 years. We added a new feature this last year, a kids area: Here parents may read books to their children or the older ones may

read or look at books about rocks or dinosaurs. They can dig for rocks, make jewelry they can keep, play with dinosaurs and color pictures. We had a very good show with vendors telling us they will be back this year.

June, July and August we take a break from club meetings but do run several field trips during this time. There was around six outings to various places this last year. After our exhausting summers rock-hounding we always start off the fall meetings with a picnic at Orris Wickham's house in August. We try to have guest speakers at some of our meetings, some coming from as far away as Montana. We wrapped up our year with the Christmas party.

2017 Rock Show

We are starting to get ready for our 2017 Rock Show on May 13-14th. Once again we need volunteers to sew the grab bags & then string them. The first bag sewing party will be at the Shively's house on February 11th from 1 to 4 pm. We will have drinks and snacks available and can accommodate approximately 10-12 people,

Cody 59'ers Rock Club, 4th quarter report

Submitted by Secretary Linda Jennings

Members of the Cody 59'ers Rock Club had a busy 4th quarter, with a wonderful flint-knapping presentation by club member Jim Platt, and a presentation by Kris Brock and Kurt Waggoner and their dogs from Search and Rescue. Silent Auction night was a big hit, giving members a chance to pick up new rocks and socialize while raising funds for our treasury.

New officers were elected. Nella Flurkey took over the Presidency and Teresa Rowan agreed to be Vice-President. Treasurer Roger Lyons and Secretary Linda Jennings agreed to stay on for another term. Our thanks to all officers for being willing to serve.

The annual Christmas dinner was held on December 3rd, with rock raffles throughout the night and goodie bags full of rocks, candy and fossils to keep everyone busy.

We held several successful field trips this quarter for agates, petrified wood and fossils and our field trip committee is hard at work scheduling more. The club did well financially this quarter thanks to rock sales, the acquisition of new rock collections, money raised at silent auctions and membership dues. We're looking forward to seeing what new rocks are exposed next quarter after the snow melt.

Club Reports *continued*

Shoshone Rock Club

JSN-Shoshone Rock Club Nov. through Jan. 2017
 November: New officers for the upcoming year will be Pres. Gary Olson, Vice President Mary Vogel, Treasurer Linda Thomas, & Secretary Linna Beebe. Others on the board members will be Lynn Neale, Tuesdee Oswood, Dorine Strom, Linda Dandy, & Mary Ann Northrup. Refreshment hosts were Roger & Joy Lyons. Sharon Brown won the door prize of an obsidian cabochon by Gary Olson. Stan Strike reminded our members the Club Rockhound & State Rockhound of the Year should be completed by March. Six guests were in attendance for our meeting and program. The program was a silent auction of rocks, fossils, crystals, and much more. Our guests & club members were very generous with their bids & to our delight \$266.00 was raised from the auction.

December: Our usual Christmas potluck was held at the Powell Library and one guest from the last meeting, Sandra Williams, joined the club as a member. Plenty of turkey, side dishes and desserts were brought in & many were able to take food back home. Wrapped gifts were passed out and it was fun to see the nice gifts. A door prize was donated by Mary Vogel, a ring, (possibly Dalmatian jasper) which was won by Carl Brown. Mary Ann had requested that she not be on the board for 2017 after serving 50 plus years or so for the club & state organization. Carl Brown was approved to be the new board member. We thanked Carl for accepting the position. In all, we had 13 join our club in 2016 & we thank them for joining. New members bring in excitement, new ideas, and help the club to continue on for another year! Thank you to all, President Olson, board members and club members.

January 2017: So nice to see the complete board in attendance at the meeting. New yearbooks were passed out & Pres. Olson thanked Linna for getting the yearbook prepared. Board members had met earlier to decide on programs, suggested

field trips, etc. One of our speakers this year will be Larry Fields of Billings and he will give a program at Northwest College on May 13th, Saturday, Fagerberg Bldg., room 70 at 1:00 PM. The approximately 40 minute program will be Yellowstone River Agates. This free program is opened to the public and a note has been sent to the Cody 59'ers. Mr. Fields has presented programs to a number of other rock clubs and it was getting to be expensive for him, and so a donation for mileage and lunch for he and his wife was approved. A renewal of our membership in ALAA (American Lands Access Association) was approved for 2017. This group helps to protect the public lands for the public. Door prizes were won by Jim McEvoy, an obsidian slab, and Romain Vogel won a wire wrapped pendant. A Show & Tell program followed with lapidary rough & many nice items on display.

Shoshone Rock Club, member and former member's death in 2016

James "Pat" Ryan died on July 3, 2016. He and his wife, Nancy Ryan had been members in our club starting in 2000-2016. Pat was a good natured gentlemen who was fun to be around.

Betty Lou Gericke Karlin died on March 13, 2016. She had been a member in our club starting in 1976 through 1999, and she rejoined the club in 2003-2006. Betty donated many of her wonderful fossils to the Homesteader Museum in Powell.

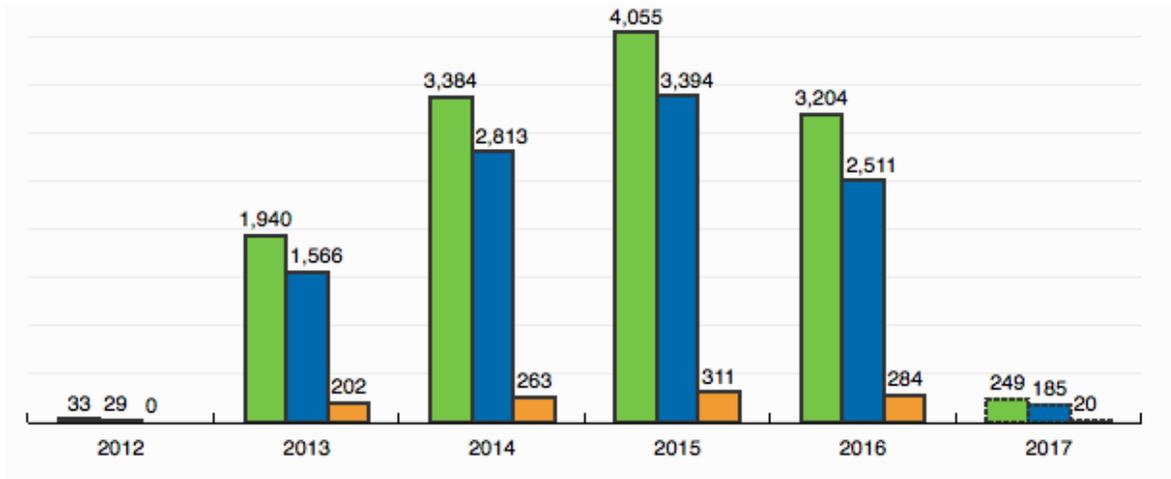
Jacqueline I. Steiner, (wife of deceased club member Clifford J. Steiner). Jacqueline and Clifford had been members in our club from 1980-1988, and they rejoined the club on our club's 50th anniversary in 2001 and continued until 2010.

Respectfully,

Linna Beebe, Sec. Shoshone Rock Club



WSMGS Website Usage Data



	Page Views	Unique Visits	First Time Visits	Returning Visits
Total	12,865	10,498	9,418	1,080
Yearly Average	2,145	1,750	1,570	180

	Page Views	Unique Visits	First Time Visits	Returning Visits
2017	249	185	165	20
2016	3,204	2,511	2,227	284
2015	4,055	3,394	3,083	311
2014	3,384	2,813	2,550	263
2013	1,940	1,566	1,364	202
2012	33	29	29	0

Returning Visits - Based purely on a cookie, if this person is returning to your website for another visit an hour or more later

First Time Visits - Based purely on a cookie, if this person has no cookie then this is considered their first time at your website.

Unique Visits - Based purely on a cookie, this is the total of the returning visits and first time visits - a total count of visits.

Page Views - The number of times your page has been visited.

Country				
236 Hits	94.02%	United States		
6 Hits	2.39%	Brazil		
2 Hits	0.80%	India		
2 Hits	0.80%	China		
1 Hit	0.40%	Korea, Republic Of		
1 Hit	0.40%	Italy		
1 Hit	0.40%	United Kingdom		
1 Hit	0.40%	Germany		
1 Hit	0.40%	Australia		



WSMGS Website Usage Data *continued*

	State/Region	Country	
151 Hits 60.16%	Wyoming	United States	
18 Hits 7.17%	(unknown)	United States	
9 Hits 3.59%	Colorado	United States	
8 Hits 3.19%	Texas	United States	
7 Hits 2.79%	Virginia	United States	
6 Hits 2.39%	California	United States	
4 Hits 1.59%	Washington	United States	
4 Hits 1.59%	Oklahoma	United States	
4 Hits 1.59%	(unknown)	Brazil	
3 Hits 1.20%	Utah	United States	
3 Hits 1.20%	Ohio	United States	
2 Hits 0.80%	West Virginia	United States	
2 Hits 0.80%	Nebraska	United States	
2 Hits 0.80%	North Carolina	United States	
2 Hits 0.80%	Delaware	United States	
2 Hits 0.80%	Arizona	United States	
2 Hits 0.80%	Karnataka	India	
1 Hits 0.40%	Pennsylvania	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Oregon	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	New York	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Nevada	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	New Jersey	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	North Dakota	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Montana	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Missouri	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Michigan	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Louisiana	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Kansas	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Illinois	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	Georgia	United States	
1 Hits 0.40%	(unknown)	Korea, Republic Of	 

YOU ARE A TRUE WYOMINGITE if:

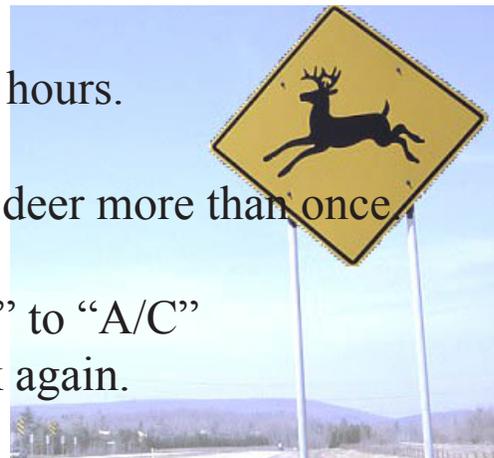
Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor on the highway.

“Vacation” means going up north past Worland for the weekend.

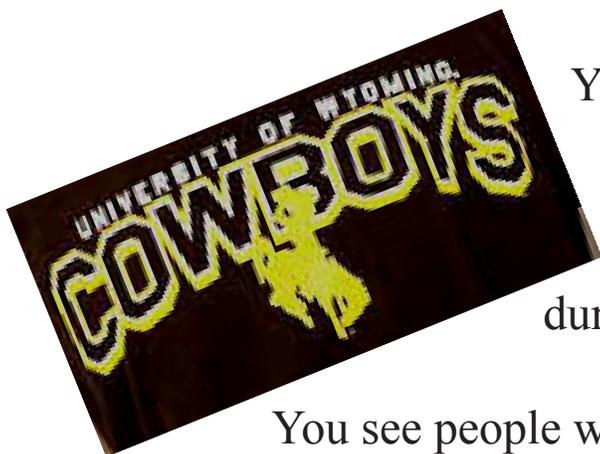
You measure distance in hours.

You know several people who have hit deer more than once.

You often switch from “heat” to “A/C” in the same day and back again.



Your whole family wears brown and gold to church on Sunday.



You can drive 65 mph thru 2' of snow during a raging blizzard, without flinching.

You see people wearing hunting clothes at social events.

You install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.

You know how to line dance.

You carry jumper cables in your car and our girlfriend knows how to use them.

You can see at least 7 empty cars running in the parking lot at the local Ranch & Farm store at any given time.



YOU ARE A TRUE WYOMINGITE if: *continued*

You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.



Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.

You refer to the Bronco's as "we."



You know all 4 seasons: Almost Winter, Winter, Still Winter & Road Construction.

You have no problem spelling Meeteetse.

You consider Cheyenne exotic.



You don't have a coughing fit from one sip of Coors.



Your idea of creative landscaping is a statue of a deer next to your blue spruce.

Down South to you means Denver.

A brat is something you eat.



You go out to bull fry every Friday.

You think of the major food groups as beer, fish, and venison.



You find 0 degrees "a little chilly."





UPCOMING Events

The Cheyenne Mineral & Rock Show

May 13-14, 2017

Archer Complex Laramie County Fairgrounds

Jan Shively, Show Chairman Email: cheyennemgs@wsmsg.org

WSMGS State Rock Show

June 24–25 2017

Fremont Center, Riverton, WY

Wyoming's Sandbox: Opal, Agate, Chalcedony, Jasper, Flint

Hosted by Riverton Mineral & Gem Society for info visit www.rivertonmgs.com.

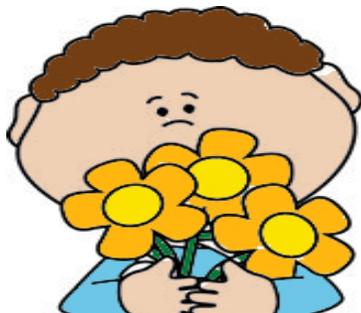
Natrona County Rockhounds

70th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

July 8-9 2017

Ramkota Hotel, Casper Wyoming

Jennifer Flowers Show Chairman Email: jlflowers@xmc.com



FEBRUARY



LAPIDARY HINTS

Desert Hobbyist – December 2016

FEATURE ARTICLES

WHAT IS SPECIFIC GRAVITY OF MINERAL SPECIMENS? - BY JOHN BETTS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR.

Sometimes we pick up gem stones at estate sales, swap meets, thrift stores or wherever and we aren't really sure by looking at it what the stone is. We bring it to a club meeting and toss around names but the real way to tell what a gem stone is by finding the specific gravity of the stone. Specific gravity is a way to express the relative density of a gemstone. Once you know what the specific gravity is, then you know what that gem stone is. Here is an easy way to determine specific gravity. These directions are from http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/articles/specific_gravity.htm

To test for specific gravity, you need:

- Plastic cup
- Pencil and piece of paper to record your values
- Inexpensive digital scale with 300 gram maximum
- A straightened paper clip with a bent loop in one end
- The specimen to be tested

The test procedure follows these five steps:

1. Turn on power and the scale should "zero" itself.
2. Weigh the dry mineral specimen and record the weight.
3. Place the water-filled container (filled with water enough to submerge the specimen) on the scale and "zero" it out. On small cups of water, suspend the paperclip in the water (not touching the sides or bottom) before zeroing the scale.
4. Suspend the specimen from the paperclip in the water, but not touching the bottom or sides and record the weight reading.
5. Divide the first (dry) weight by the second (suspended in water) weight and you get the specific gravity. The results for the crystal tested here was 2.627.

The only limitation is that the specimen must be homogenous - not a mixture of dissimilar minerals.

Now that you have the specific gravity, you can determine the mineral species. According to John Betts, the easiest reference is the "Search for minerals by their physical properties" page at Mindat.com (http://www.mindat.org/advanced_search.php). You look up the specific gravity on the chart found there and you will find out what mineral you have.

This article and others can be found at Mr. Betts web site:

<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com>



WSMGS CLUBS

Information subject to change; updates will be posted upon notice. Contact the Editor with changes at: jsn@wsmsg.org

Cody Fifty-Niners Rock Club

P.O. Box 1251
Cody WY 82414

cody59ers@wsmsg.org
www.Cody59ers.com

Meets 4th Thursday 7:00 p.m. Park
County Courthouse, Cody

President: Nella Flurkey
Vice-President: Teresa Rowan
Treasurer: Roger Lyons
Secretary: Linda Jennings
JSN: Linda Jennings
Historian: Jackie Platt



Shoshone Rock Club

P.O. Box 256,
Powell, WY 82435

shoshonerockclub@wsmsg.org

Meets 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Powell Library,
317 E. 3rd Street, Powell

President: Gary Olson
Vice-President: Mary Vogel
Treasurer: Linna Thomas
Secretary: Linda Beebe
JSN: Linna Beebe
Historian: Linda Beebe
Field Trips Dorine Strom



Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 21412
Cheyenne, WY 82001

cheyennemgs@wsmsg.org

Meets Sept. – May 2nd
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
LCCC Health Science Bldg., 1400 E.
College Dr., Room 309, Cheyenne

President: Donna Arnold
Treasurer: Jan Shively

Natrona County Rockhounds

P.O. Box 123,
Casper, WY 82644

natronarockhounds@wsmsg.org

Meets 1st Monday 7:00 p.m.
Clubhouse, 5211 Rambler, Mills

President: Mac Goss
Vice-President: John Hine
Treasurer: Kenny Platte
Secretary: Mac Goss



Rex Young Rock Club

112 East 3rd
Lingle, WY 82223

rexyoungrockclub@wsmsg.org

Meets 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Senior Center
216 E. 19th, Torrington

President: Kim Nielsen
Vice-President: Sherman Lenhart
Treasurer: Leroy Meiniger
Secretary: Joyce Trowbridge
JSN: Joyce Trowbridge
Historian: Joyce Trowbridge



Riverton Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 1904,
Riverton, WY 82501

rivertonmgs@wsmsg.org
www.RivertonMGS.com

Meets Sept.–May 2nd
Monday 7:00 p.m.
303 E. Lincoln, Riverton

President: Rod Baltés
Vice-President: Rob Currier
Treasurer: Melvin Gustin
Secretary: Kim Brown

Sublette County Rock Hounds Club

P.O. Box 1351 Big Piney, WY 83113

subletterockhounds@wsmsg.org

Meets 3rd Saturday 1:00pm
The Bench Grill,
415 Winkleman, Marbleton, WY

President: Jim Gray
Vice-President: Mike Schaffer
Treasurer: Deb Jess
Secretary: Leane Gray

