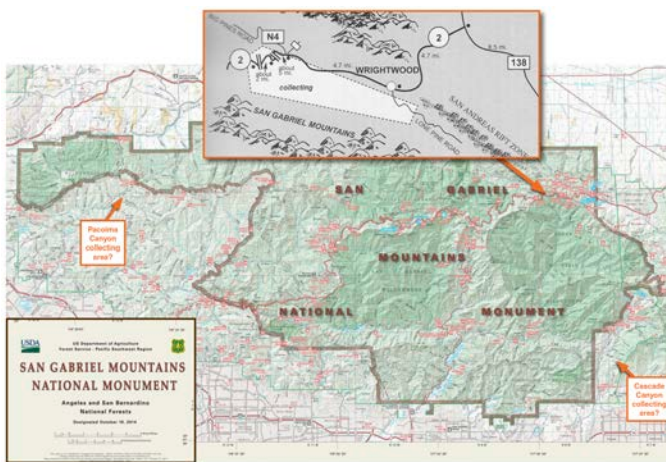


*Comment Period
closes October 17, 2016
San Gabriel Mountains
Nat'l Monument - Management Plan*

FOR EVERYONE WHO BEMOANED the loss of Rockhound habitat when the **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM)** was created on October 10, 2014, you have the opportunity – for a limited time – to get access restored to some areas. **San Diego Mineral & Gem Society (SDMG)** and **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)** are preparing a comment letter, which we hope will result in accommodation of rock collecting written into the Final Record of Decision.

To make it easier for Rockhounds to provide input on the Final Management Plan, **SDMG** and **CFMS** would like to invite signatories to our letter, specifically other gem-mineral clubs and individuals who have professional affiliations or academic credentials, for example, geologists, mineralogists, museum curators. We feel a letter endorsed by many signatories will help to reinforce the values of our community concerning amateur rock collecting — recreational, educational, social, and cultural.

We feel optimistic about the prospect of restoring accommodations for recreational rock collecting, if we can galvanize enough support.



We need your help with locality information

Our big challenge right now is getting a list of collecting areas and associated detailed information to incorporate into the **SDMG-CFMS** letter. Any locality not written into the Management Plan, by default, will be excluded.

How To Participate/Comment

Be a signatory to SDMG-CFMS comment letter:

If you are a gem-mineral club, college/university department, museum, or non-commercial professional organization, add your name to our letter.

- Download the draft letter at: <https://goo.gl/UIpIqX> (short url)
- And download the maps: <https://goo.gl/RF0aKg> (short url) (*help us identify more collecting areas*)
- Contact: editor@sdmg.org

Submit your own letter:

- ATTN: National Monument Plan Amendment to Angeles National Forest
Justin Seastrand, Environmental Coordinator
701 North Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006
- OR by facsimile to 626-574-5235
- OR online at: <https://goo.gl/rus7jy> (short url)

Tips on what to include in a comment letter:

- <https://goo.gl/G23P27> (short url)

Attend a public meeting:

Be sure to put your name on the list to speak when you arrive (before the meeting). You may have only 3 minutes to speak, so prepare your remarks. (You may also enter documents/letters into the record.)

- **Thursday, Oct 4, 2016 3:30 – 7:00pm**
Big Pines Lodge
Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2)
Wrightwood, CA 92397

For more information contact:

Justin Seastrand
Environmental Coordinator
t: 626-574-5278
f: 626-574-5235
e: jseastrand@fs.fed.us

[SGMNM website \(home page\)](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46964)

– OR –

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46964>

If you are familiar with collecting areas within the Monument, please contact editor@sdmg.org.

Naturally, if you want to write your own letter, by all means do so – but do it **NOW**. You can send it by post or [submit your comments online](#). (See the box on the preceding page for addresses and details.)

Make your letter count!
An effective letter should include detailed site-specific information:

1. Placename or title of the area (this can be an informal name).
2. Brief description about the collecting areas and materials.
3. Location – GPS or lat/long coordinates or PLAT are ideal, but lacking coordinates, provide landmarks, road markers, etc.
4. Road/trails access – emphasize preservation of vehicular access where it existed previously – name or describe these routes, directions/travel time to reach the collecting area.

Many roads are targeted for permanent closure in the **SGMNM**, so comment letters from rockhounds need to stipulate what roads/trails need to be preserved for vehicular access, and also staging areas and unlocked gates need to be specified.

RESOURCES

- See the box on the preceding page about **“How to Participate”** and where to send your comment letter on the **SGMNM**. (You can use the [SDMG/CMFS letter](#) as a template, if you want to draft your own personalized letter, but remember, currently ours is a draft, not a final version).
- For background on public lands policy, current status of three major public lands milestones in California, including SGMNM, and some tips for proactive rockhounds, see: L. Thoresen’s slide presentation (print-friendly PDF) at: <https://goo.gl/IozHT0> (short url)

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with [News.bytes](#)**

The BLM California newsletter

**Attend the California Desert
District Advisory Council (DAC)
meeting in Riverside**

Sat, October 15, 2016 8:00am – 5:00pm

Location: University of California Riverside
Extension Center
Conference Rooms D-E
1200 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92507

Prior to the meeting, be sure to double check for changes to the meeting location, date and agenda – <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/rac/dac.html>

Agenda for the Saturday meeting will include updates by council members, the BLM California Desert District Manager, Field Managers, and council sub-groups. At this writing, agenda for the October 15th meeting had not been posted.

Submit written comments prior to the meeting

- Bureau of Land Management
External Affairs
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
- Written comments also are accepted at the time of the meeting and, if copies are provided to the recorder, will be incorporated into the minutes.

The 15-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management on BLM administered lands in the California desert. Public comment for items not on the agenda will be scheduled at the beginning of the meeting on Saturday morning.

Time for public comment is made available by the council chair during the presentation of various agenda items, and is scheduled at the end of the meeting for topics not on the agenda.

Members of the public interested in a particular agenda item or discussion should schedule their arrival accordingly.

For more information contact:

Stephen Razo
BLM California Desert District External Affairs
951-697-5217 or srazo@blm.gov
Federal Register: <https://goo.gl/HbxiiD> (short url)