

ALAA EXCERPT BY TOM NOE

NEW WILDERNESS AREAS IN MONTANA AND THE REASON WHY A NEWS REPORT FROM: CITIZENS FOR BALANCED USE (SUMMARIZED)

CBU has always been opposed to new wilderness and “land of no use,” and we will continue to fight for multiple-use recreation, active forest management, and responsible resource development on our current federally managed public lands.

The Defense Spending Bill was a must-pass piece of legislation and legislators attached their pork in order to pass some things they wanted. Senator Tester added his Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, setting aside another 650,000 acres of new wilderness in Montana.

CBU worked hard to have this added piece of legislation removed and in the end Congressman Daines succeeded. But in return for removing the FJRA, the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act was inserted. It adds approximately 67,000 acres to two wilderness areas and designates roughly 208,000 acres of adjacent federal land as Conservation Management Areas.

Are we happy? No. But it could have been worse.

CBU is very disappointed in how Congress jammed bills into a must-pass Defense Spending Bill. We are saddened for the people close to the Rocky Mountain Front because of the further restrictions and closures they received. The Rocky Mountain Front wilderness bill was opposed by local government, recreation, agriculture and resource groups. If we had more control over these lands, rather than the D.C. bureaucrats, these actions would not occur.

—Adapted from ALAA Newsletter (Oct.-Dec., 2014).

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

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GEOLOGY DAY

by Karen Messenger & Sharon Marburger

Thanks to all the loyal club members that showed up to help educate the public about exciting rocks and minerals! The day was sunny and warmish with a bit of chilly breeze, but we had a real good turnout to keep everyone busy.

At 4:00 p.m., there had been 217 adults and 141 kids through the event, totaling 358. This event continues to be one of the most attended events held at the Pioneers Park Nature Center.

Members present on this glorious afternoon were: Charlie & Karen Messenger; Jim & Sharon Marburger; Ed Ridge; Ruby (with her father and sister); Jayne, Brian, and Corey Beer (and little Jazz); Charles Wooldridge; Sharon Schleiger & Brooklyn; Bruce Collamore; Andrew Tiedje; Vera Lyman; and Paul & Carolyn Ashmore, with Jayden and Mia. What a fantastic showing of club members!

There were demonstrations of lapidary and two kinds of tumbling; collections on display, website and club information; show fliers; and free give-aways of books and tumbled stones.

Sharon is hoping to have pictures in next month's Pick & Shovel - it's kind of difficult to download pictures from the camera without a cable. It will turn up soon, we hope!

MINI FIELD TRIP

The Beers accidentally met up with Richard Peterson when they all decided March 10 was a good day to go rock hunting. I haven't heard if Pete found anything good, but see what the Beers found!



Do you think they were happy with their find?



GEOLOGY DAY PICTURES

