



Judy Gordy. Editor
Official Newsletter of the
Western Dakota Gem & Mineral
Society PO Box 3620,
Rapid City, SD, 57709-3620

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

October 2016 Edition
Meeting: October 13, 2016. 7PM

TO

REMEMBER NEW LOCATION – 610 ST FRANCIS ST
ON BLOCK SOUTH OF ST PATRICK .
NORTH WEST CORNER – PARKING LOT WEST OF BUILDING
MEETING ROOM IN THE BASEMENT

It's agate hunting time again!

The purpose of our club is to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archeology and lapidary, to sponsor and promote means of coordination of the work efforts of groups and individual.



THE AMMONITE



Newsletter of the Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society

October 2016

WESTERN DAKOTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY 2015-16 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President: Truman Goddard -- 12009 Crook City Rd, Whitewood, SD 57793	605 269-2015
Vice President: John Dickinson -- PO Box 775, Lead, SD 57784.....	605-580-5579
Secretary: Judy Gordy -- 407 E Minnesota St Apt 209, Rapid City, SD 57701.....	402-208-6079
Treasurer: Kelli Wold -- 4511 Ridgewood, Rapid City, SD 57702	605-381-6418
BHRMUC Rep: Ellen Tilley -- 21653 Piedmont Meadows Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769.....	605-787-4659
RMFS SD Dir.: Sony Hemsher -- PO Box 376, Piedmont, SD 57769	605-431-2755
RMFMS PLAC Rep: Jan Baumeister -- 3901 Hall St, Rapid City, SD 57702.....	605-342-5517
ALAA SD Rep: Jan Baumeister -- 3901 Hall St, Rapid City, SD 57702	605-342-5517
Field Trip Chairman: Ellen Tilley -- 21653 Piedmont Meadows Rd, Piedmont, SD 57769	605-787-4659
Board Member: David Ramberg -- 1115 South 36 th , Spearfish, SD 57793.....	605-722-5101
Board Member: Ellen Tilley -- 21653 Piedmont Meadows Rd, Piedmont, SD 57769.....	605-787-4659
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Webmaster: Barbara Goddard -- 3280 Bumblebee Dr, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314.....	928-237-9261
Calling Committee: Jan Goheen 605-341-6161 Letha Wynia 605-721-0550 Patricia Dickinson 605-580-5579	

Club Information: Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 3620, Rapid City, SD 57709-3620

CLUB WEBSITE is: www.WDGMS.org **OTHER CLUB SITES:** Facebook -Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society/groups.

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month (except August) at 7:00 PM

At: Agape Center / On Common Ground, 610 St Francis St, Rapid City, SD 57701

ANY SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE IN BY THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH

If you change your home address, or your email address, or *have a problem receiving a bulletin, please contact the editor at 402-208-6079 or by email at ammonitenewsletter@gmail.com and it will get corrected.*

CLUB DUES: \$15.00 per person - \$20.00 per family with children under 18 yrs – Includes 11 newsletters by E-mail.

If you chose to receive the newsletter by mail, there is an additional \$10.00 cost to cover the mailing.

Dues are due starting in November.

Dues cover the RMFMS insurance and the newsletter.

Send dues to the Treasurer: Kelli Wold, 4511 Ridgewood, Rapid City, SD 57702

MEETING: Thursday, October 13, 2016. 7 PM

PROGRAM: Presentation on Jewel Cave

REFRESHMENTS: Calvin Luke

DOOR PRIZES: ???

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Truman. Goddard has been out of town for 3 weeks. So his message was that he would see everyone at the meeting.

MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Truman Goddard at 7:00PM.

The meeting was turned over to Annette Rathert for tonight's program. She introduced our guests: Dr. Foster Sawyer, Associate Professor of Geology and Geological Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Kyle Hazelwood, studying for his PHD, and Stephanie Loose, studying for her Masters. Annette then talked about the process the club went through to get the scholarships. Each year the American Federation of Mineral Societies gives two scholarships to each of its seven divisions. We are part of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral Societies, which includes the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, western Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, western North Dakota, Oklahoma, western South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. The club actually submitted the name of Dr. Foster Sawyer. When he was chosen by the RMFMS, he then picked two Graduate students to receive the \$4,000 scholarships. Annette then presented a plaque to Dr. Sawyer to commemorate receiving the scholarships. Dr. Sawyer then spoke briefly about the recognition and thanked the club. Annette then presented a plaque to Stephanie Loose, who is working on her Masters degree in Geology. Stephanie then gave a brief history of herself, her studies and thanked the club. She got her Bachelors degree from the Colorado School of Mines. She is currently working on her Masters degree studying the Structural Analysis of the Fracture Structure of the Keystone Formation. Annette then presented a plaque to Kyle Hazelwood, who is working on his PHD in Geology. Kyle then gave a brief history of himself, his studies, and thanked the club. He is from Danville, Virginia. He was a rock hound as a kid. He got his Bachelors degree from James Madison University. And is now working on his PHD studying the Geomorphic History of the Black Hills.

Then Jan Baumeister reported that the November, 2015 Newsletter, the last one she wrote as editor; which had won 1st place with the RMFMS, was entered into the AFMS contest and won 3rd place for all 50 states.

We then took a short break to enjoy the REFRESHMENTS and to get acquainted with our guests.

Then Truman called the meeting back to order. Tonight's guest and new member Brandon Nelson was introduced.

Sony Hemsher moved and Ellen Tilley seconded the motion that the minutes of the July meeting be accepted as printed in the newsletter. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was read by Kelli Wold. She passed out a new balance sheet on the show. At the end of August, there was \$9,738.51 in the bank. We have 116 members including 32 families and 8 honorary members. Deb Radomski moved and Leslie Lysenko seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion passed.

Ellen Tilley reported on the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition. There was a trip to the sawmill that is close to Spearfish, but Ellen was unable to go. The National Grasslands area, where the rattle rocks are, on the South side of Hwy 44 by Scenic, SD, now has a bison herd and the gate is locked. So that area is no longer accessible. Jan Baumeister said there was some issues with the Forest Service, but they do not effect our area.

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Deb Radomski pointed out that election of new officers will be at the October meeting, and dues are due at the end of October.

Truman Goddard pointed out that we need to elect a new Show chairman for the 2017 show. Brandon Nelson volunteered and was voted in.

The need for a replacement for the ALAA (American Land Access Association) and the RMFMS PLAC (Rocky Mountain Federation. Of Mineral Societies Public Land Access Committee) representative was brought up. Jan Baumeister wants to retire. Brandon Nelson volunteered. David Ramberg moved and Ellen Tilley seconded a motion to appoint Brandon as the new representative.

July 21, 22, 23, 2017 has been reserved as the date for the 2017 show. Larry Dale is the contact person at the Civic Center. We need to get the contract signed and the \$292.72 check back to him as soon as possible to lock in the date. There was some discussion about the proof of insurance that it states we need to supply with the contract. The final consensus was that they have a copy of our 2016 insurance paperwork and that when we get the 2017 paperwork from RMFMS we will supply a copy to the Civic Center, as has been the past practice. Tabitha Wood brought up the question about additional space. Yes the room can be made bigger for an additional price, but until we get a larger attendance increasing the space and number of vendors will only decrease each vendors profits.

Sunny Hemsher pointed out that the RMFMS's Annual meeting is in Albuquerque, New Mexico for 2017, and they are talking about Rapid City for their 2018 meeting.

Judy Gordy reported on the Jewel Cave trip. She has scheduled a speaker for the October meeting and then we would have a field trip to the cave on the Saturday following the meeting, October 15th. From her discussion with Riley Hayes, we would be joining their regular tours, so there would be a choice of 3 tours, the Scenic, the Discovery talk, and the Lantern tour. One of the tours has quite a few stairs and must be navigated without assistance and no children can be carried. There is a tour that is wheelchair accessible. The third tour is the Lantern tour and is a tour where the only light is from the old fashion lanterns you carry in your hand.

The rock swap at the Journey Museum parking lot on October 15th was brought up. The Dalton Society proposed the event and invited us to join them. It would be in the parking lot, swap only, no outright purchases thereby alleviating all the legalities and taxes. It was decided that yes we wanted to attend and that yes we could change the Jewel Cave trip to Sunday October 16th.

The reminder that for the October meeting we will be auditioning a new location. The Agape Center / On Common Ground at 610 St Francis St, one block south of St Patrick St. At the end of the meeting we will vote on whether we want to change locations.

Remember October is when we elect new officers. The Board has a slate of officers to recommend and nominations will be taken from the floor prior to voting.

Leslie Lysenko moved and Ellen Tilley seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

There were 26 members in attendance.

Judy Gordy. Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE NEED DOOR PRIZES FOR THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MEETINGS.

WE NEED A PROGRAM FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

REMEMBER OCTOBER MEETING AT NEW LOCATION – AGAPE CENTER/ON COMMON GROUND, 610 ST FRANCIS ST.

REMEMBER ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

PROGRAM FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING IS ON JEWEL CAVE

FIELD TRIP FOR OCTOBER IS TO JEWEL CAVE ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 16TH

ROCK SWAP AT JOURNEY MUSEUM ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH

NEED A HEAD COUNT OF WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE JEWEL CAVE FIELD TRIP, WHAT TIME YOU WANT TO GET THERE AND WHICH TOUR YOU WANT TO TAKE NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY OCTOBER 7th at 12:00 pm TO BE ABLE TO RESERVE OUR TIMES.

FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH ME, PLEASE USE ammonitenewsletter@gmail.com for e-mails or 402-208-6079 for phone or text. Then hopefully I won't miss anymore messages.

FUTURE SSHOW

October i-98 -- HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA -- 48th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show; Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Jaycee Community Center, 2180 Airport Road

OCTOBER 7-9 -- ORLANDO, FLORIDA -- Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry, & Fossil Show; Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Florida National Guard Amory, 2809 South Fern Creek Avenue

OCTOBER 7-9 -- HILLSBORO, OREGON -- 36th Annual Portland Gem & Mineral Show; Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show,, Washington County Fair Complex, 873 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, Oregon

OCTOBER 7-9 MOAB, UTAH – Annual show; MOAB Points and Pebbles Club, Old Spanish Trail Arena; 3641 S Highway 191; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Rock, gem, mineral and lapidary arts vendors. Equipment, supplies displays, demos. Spin wheel, Door Prizes. Food concession on premise.; contact Jerry Hansen, PO Box 1459, Moab, Ut 84532; email: moabrockclub@live.com

OCTOBER 21-23 – WEST JORDAN, UTAH – Annual show; Rockhounds Outreach for Community Knowledge (R.O.C.K.), Viridian Library and Event Center; 8030 South 1825 West; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$2, Children under 12 free; There will be fossils, minerals, gems and jewelry on display and for sale. Hands on activities for everyone. Come build your own rock collection. Door Prizes and a Silent Auction will be going on daily; contact Angela McMahon, (801)-634-5167; email: utahninnj@aol.com; Web site: <http://www.rockhoundssock.com/>

November 4-5 -- HURRICANE, UTAH – Annual show; 3rd Annual Southern Utah Rock and Gem Show, Washington County Regional Park; 5500 West 700 South; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7; Free Admission; Come and enjoy this event and see what our vendors have for you. Rocks, fossils, minerals, opals, Septarian nodules, petrified wood, jewelry, slabs, equipment, demonstrations, black light room, cabs, and so much more. Something for everyone from kids on up. Silent Auction to raise money for the Children of Hope Academy;; contact Eric Funk, Ut, (435)-609-0136; e-mail: eric_funk@yahoo.com

AFMS/NFMS CONVENTION AND SHOW

FROM JAN BAUMEISTER. On 8-12-16

Subject: AFMS/NFMS CONVENTION and Committee members:

RMFMS Executive Officers and Committee members:

The joint Convention and Show of the American and Northwest Federations of Mineralogical Societies was held in Albany, Oregon the last week of July. Everything went smoothly; there were no major controversies in either the AFMS Board or Scholarship meetings. I'll have a write up on the show in the next RMFMS Newsletter.

Richard Jaeger

BLACK HILLS FOREST ISSUE TO FIGHT

BY JAN BAUMEISTER, RMFMS PLAC/ ALAA SD

There is an issue of conflict over the usage of our forest --- some people are interested in the flora-grass, flowers and natural ecosystem and other like to pan gold and mineral specimens. Their differing visions have now brought them into conflict over a Forest Service proposal to ban new mining claims at 11 sites totaling 17,487 acres. While the proposal, known as a mineral withdrawal, covers only about 2 percent of the Black Hills National Forest's total area, amateur prospectors contend that the targeted sites contain more than half of the promising mining areas that remain unclaimed in the Black Hills. Some think the proposal is part of a broader effort by the Forest Service and other federal agencies to restrict access to public land.

Their competing opinions about the mining ban will ultimately be weighed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, who is tentatively scheduled to decide the proposal's fate by the end of September 2016.* We still have two weeks to call or write letters.

Written public comments on the proposal will be accepted to the Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest, 1019 N. Fifth St., Custer, SD, 57730.

Note----If someone is interested in replacing Jan on these two positions for the next year beginning November 2016-2017- retiring due to illness and many years of devotion to keeping our "used to be" public lands free to hunt on. The FS has closed thousands of acres where our main trails used to be, by stating "due to Ferret habitat" that some of us cannot hike miles to our favorite rock beds.

Let your WDG&M officers know that you are interested!. Duties including looking for any type of Forest Service management closures monthly - (example: Blue Ribbon coalition website, etc,) especially concerns of ours Buffalo Gap Grasslands, Black Hills forest, write up articles, send copies to WDG&M bulletin editor, officers/ club members and Chairman of both RMFM PLAC and ALAA, to Tom Troxel-and WDG&M Multiple Use Coalition Representative.

*I am sending this to all because of the proposed date by US Secretary of Interior. My correct email is: jb-rockhound@hotmail.com

Received from Jan Baumeister via email August 16, 2016

TRAVELING SECRETARY JEWELL

ALAA NEWS ALERT – UTAH.

From alaanews@amlands.org Dated Mon, 1 Aug 2016 07:46:10-00700

Secretary Jewell did make it to UTAH to discuss the Bears Ears area and whether it merits protection either by a Presidential declaration as a National Monument or by legislative protection as encompassed in H.R. 5781, as proposed by Reps. Bishop and Chaffetz. The Secretary made it clear that the Administration is determined to resolve this issue either administratively or legislatively by the end of the year. In other words, they will do something about Bears Ears before they shut down their computers on January 20th, 2017.

We support the legislature approach because it requires greater consensus in formulating policy on the proper scope of protection. We believe that the collaborative process that Reps. Bishop and Chaffetz forged provides the best means for successfully protecting this special area, while also accommodating multiple uses such as motorized recreation and recreational rockhounding where appropriate. We are hoping that the Administration will come to the same conclusion but fear they will take the easy way out by administrative feats.

RMFMS PLAC News- by Jan Baumeister.

The Wall district Forest Service held meetings again. With the ranchers who own land and buy cow-café permits for summer grazing in Indian Creek. They were still wanting to “burn” below the Cardiac Hill mesa, trying to put demands of these people-like last year. My contact there didn’t phone me so I couldn’t attend the meetings. There is no other public land issues except one of the major ranchers in the area is now working for the Nature Conservancy group! This is the headquarter group that all “wilderness advocates” belong to!

***** These three messages from Jan Baumeister we’re not found until after the September newsletter was emailed. This was do to the messages being sent to my other emails instead of the email I use for club business.

SLATE OF NEW OFFICERS PROPOSED BY THE BOARD

PRESIDENT – Truman Goddard

VICE PRESIDENT – John Dickinson

SECRETARY – Judy Gordy

TREASURER – Kelli Wold

3 YEAR BOARD MEMBER – Ellen Tilley

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN – Ellen Tilley

OCTOBER MEETING'S PROGRAM AND OCTOBER FIELD

The program for our October meeting will be on Jewel Cave. Jewel Cave will be sending a speaker with a program about the cave.

Then on Sunday, October 16th, we have a field trip to Jewel Cave scheduled. Whether we have our own tour or are part of a scheduled tour will depend on how many people plan to go to Jewel Cave. There is a choice of two tours – The Scenic Tour or the Discovery Talk.

SCENIC TOUR – Is a moderately strenuous 1 hour 20 minute tour. You enter the cave by elevator through the visitor center. The tour involves walking up and down 723 stair steps along a ½ mile paved trail with electrical lighting. You visit chambers decorated with calcite crystals and other speleothems (eg. stalactite or stalagmite). These tours have a 30 person per tour limit. These tours are not recommended for children under 5 and children cannot be carried on the tour. Also anyone taking the tour must be able to navigate the 723 stair steps unassisted. The cost of these tours are \$12.00 for adults 17 and up, \$8.00 for youth age 6-16 and free for children under 5. Those persons who have a Golden Age/Senior/Access Adult or Access Youth Pass are half price for the pass holder only. These tours are at 10:00 am, 12:40 pm, and 2:40 pm.

DISCOVERY TALK—Is a 20 minute program that gives a brief introduction into Jewel Cave's natural and cultural histories within one large cave room. It takes place in the cave's Target Room. It is an easy cave visit that enters and exits by elevator with a 20 person per tour limit. It is recommended for families with young children, visitors with limited time or health concerns. It is wheelchair accessible. These tours cost \$4.00 for adults 17 and over, free for youth 16 and under, and free for Golden Age/Senior/Access Pass holders plus 3 adults. Also free for 4th Graders with a voucher or pass, their siblings, and parents. These tours are at 9:35 am, 11:35 am, 1:35 pm, and 3:35 pm.

Unfortunately, the Lantern Tour only operates during the summer, from June through Labor Day.

I need a head count of how many people are going, which tour you want and what time you want no later than noon Friday October 7th, so they can reserve tickets for our tour. You can either email me at ammonitenewsletter@gmail or call or text me at 402-208-6079, Thank you, Judy.

UO SCIENTIST PLACE EXTINCT HORSE WITH HUMANS IN PAISLEY CAVES

Researchers with the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History have released on line their findings about the coexistence of humans and horses around Oregon's Paisley Caves more than 14,000 years ago. This study will be released in print in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology. The researchers – Paleontologist Edward Davis, Archaeologist Dennis Jenkins, Paleo-horse expert Brianna Jenkins of Harvard University, and Eric Scott of California State University, Fullerton – used discriminant analysis to examine the horse toe fossils recovered during the 2009-2010 archaeological investigations at Paisley Caves. Discriminant analysis is a quantitative approach that relies on available data to predict the identity of unknown species.

This study represents the first time this analytic approach has been used to identify horse species from only toe bones. And the first known occurrence of this horse species in Oregon.

Jenkins is well known for his work at Paisley Caves where evidence – including 14,000-year-old human feces – revealed one of the earliest human occupations in North America. When the horse remains were found it caught Davis' attention. Davis is interested in Pleistocene mammals and also manages the Condon Fossil Collection.

It was known that horses were around at the same time as the first Americans, but they wanted species-level information on those horses. So they contacted Scott, a curator at the John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center in California. Scott is an authority on ice-age horses and maintains large data sets on extinct species' remains from sites

around the Western United States. After Scott examined and measured the fossils, the three decided to collaborate and recruited McHorse, who was an under-graduate working in the UO Vertebrates Paleontology Lab to the research team.

The study revealed that the collaborative he small, stout-legged horse was the species known as *Equus conversidens* – sometimes known as the Mexican horse. It was known to roam parts of North America.

It is rare to find sites like Paisley Cave, where there is reliable fossil evidence of humans coexisting with large Pleistocene mammals. We often blame humans for the existence of ice age megafauna, but this site shows humans coexisting with horses for at least 1,000 years.

The approach these researchers took unlocks the potential for the bones and other post cranial remains to help researchers get a clearer picture of how ancient ecosystems have changed across time and space.

These fossils, feces, and other finds from Paisley Caves will soon be on display at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History in their own section titled Paisley Caves and the First Americans. The museum is on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene, Oregon.

By Kristin Stroller, Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Published on the University of Oregon website on Facebook, September 27, 2016 @ 5 am.

PAISLEY CAVES, OREGON

The Paisley Caves, also known as the Paisley Five-Mile Point Caves, are seven rock shelters located in the Summer Lake Basin in south-central Oregon, about 2 hours south-east of Bend, Oregon. The caves are wave-cut rock shelters located on the highest shoreline of the now extinct Lake Chewaucan. The pluvial Lake Chewaucan was a late Pleistocene lake as much as 375 feet deep and covering 480 square miles in the northwestern part of the Great Basin. At the end of the last glacial maximum, levels began to fall and the caves filled with wind-deposited silt and sand. The dry conditions of the cave interiors led to excellent preservation of organic human artifacts, spanning the late Pleistocene and Holocene periods. Primary to understanding the history of the caves is the Mr. Mazama tephra, volcanic deposits securely dated to 7627 +/- 150 calendar years before the present. (This tephra was caused by the volcanic eruption of Mt Mazama, which resulted in the creation of Crater Lake.)

The caves were originally excavated Luther Cressman in 1939. Luther Cressman (1897-1994) is known as the father of Oregon Archaeology and Anthropology. He conducted pioneering archaeological work from 1930's - 1960's , establishing a broad outline of Oregon's ancient human history and occupation by native peoples. He helped establish the Anthropology department at the University of Oregon and supervised the first students in Oregon to earn Doctorates in Anthropology. This, with no formal training in anthropology or natural science. Exploring Paisley Caves in 1939, before carbon dating existed, Cressman found cordage, mat fragments, baskets, western stemmed points, and crescents beneath the Mt. Mazama tephra, so he knew they were relatively old. He also found The remains of megafauna (horses and camels) and stone tools, and concluded that people were living here during the ice age. More recent excavations, since Cressman's time, have pushed the date of occupation sufficiently far enough back into the past to lead scholars to argue that Paisley Caves may be the first evidence of pre-Clovis occupation by decendants of people who arrived in America along the Pacific coast. It is one of the oldest inhabited sites in the New World.

SOURCES: Posted 1/19/15 by Ojibwa in Native American Netroots; archaeology.about.com; & encyclopedia.org – The Oregon Encyclopedia

PUSH TO CREATE UTAH MONUMENT MARKS LATEST WESTERN LAND FIGHT

The ruins of ancient cliff dwellings nestled underneath a spectacular red rock overhang in southeastern Utah are easily accessible from a canyon hiking path. The only thing to stop people from entering the cave dwellings are weathered signs reading “Don't erase the traces of America's past”. And “Please do not enter interior rooms” and similar warnings at the trailhead.

The cliff dwellings are part of an estimated 100,000-year-old archaeological sites within a 1.9 million-acre area that a coalition of American Indian tribes wants President Obama to designate as a National Monument to ensure protection of sacred lands.

US Interior Secretary Sally Jewel visited the area during the week of July 15, 2016 to meet with proponents and opponents. This is an indication that the Obama Administration maybe giiving serious consideration to the “Bears Ears” monument proposal.

This issue has become the latest battleground in the dispute over Public lands in the West.

Utah's Republican leadership, many local residents, and a few Native Americans fiercely oppose the proposal fearing that it would add another layer of needless Federal control and close the land to recreation and development. Supporters fear the cliff dwellings and other vital remnants of tribal history aren't being protected from looting and vandalism.

The Ute Mountain Tribe still visits the “Bears Ears” area – named for a set of rock formations – to perform ceremonies, collect herbs and wood for medicinal and spiritual purposes, and do rituals.

This area is tucked between existing National Parks and the Navajo Nation, and presents stunning vistas with a mix of cliffs, plateaus, towering rock formations, rivers, and canyons across wide expanses covered with sagebrush and juniper trees.

Opponents fear that no matter how beautiful the area is, the Federal designation would restrict oil and gas development, as well as restricting residents ability to camp, bike, hike, and gather wood.

Reps. Bob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz introduced a bill to protect 4.5 million acres including the 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears area and open 1 million acres to recreation and gas and oil development. Another bill would bar the President from declaring a monument in seven Utah counties including the Bears Ears area, and in another move to block the Bears Ears monument, the U S House passed a spending bill that would cut off funding for any new monuments in 17 Utah counties. Its expected to face a filibuster from Senate Democrats and a White House veto.

Conservative groups say Bishop and Chaffetz bill doesn't go far enough to protect the area and the Tribal Coalition stopped meeting with them because the Coalition felt they weren't being taken seriously.

Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said that Jewell's visit doesn't mean a monument decision is imminent.

SOURCE: Rapid City Journal -- “Push To Create Utah Monument Marks Latest Western Land Fight” July 15, 2016

TEPHRA

Tephra is fragmental material produced by a volcanic eruption regardless of composition, fragment size, or replacement mechanism.

Volcanologist refer to airborne fragments as pyroclasts. Once they have fallen to the ground, they remain as tephra unless hot enough to fuse together into pyroclastic rock or tuff.

Tephra fragments are classified by size: ASH – particles smaller than 2 mm (0.08 inches) in diameter. LAPILLI or VOLCANIC CINDERS – between 2 and 64 mm (0.08 to 2.5 inches) in diameter. VOLCANIC BOMBS or VOLCANIC BLOCKS – larger than 64 mm (2.5 inches) in diameter.

The use of tephra layers, which bear their own unique chemistry and character, as temporal marker horizons in archaeological and geological sites is known as tephrochronology.

SOURCE: Wikipedia









