

**Friends of Mineralogy
Midwest**

**July – August 2023
Newsletter**

Celestine on Calcite – 6mm
Johan Maertens

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Collecting sites becoming “Off Limits” in Southern California - Clyde Spencer – Page 7



Treasurers Report

No formal treasurers report this month.

Any members that have not ever signed a Chapter Liability Agreement should print the form, and bring it to your next field trip signed and witnessed. You may find the form here:

<https://www.fommidwest.org/registration-forms/>

Contact me if you have any questions.

Jeff Spencer – Treasurer

Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter

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FM MW visits Stoneco Auglaize Quarry, Junction, Paulding Co., Ohio
All pictures by © and from the Johan Maertens collection with specimens collected during the 2023 field trip.

What do you call FM-MW collectors gathering at an open mine to study geology and preserve samples for evaluation and sharing? A colony, gang, posse, ambush, mustering, pandemonium, family, cast, romp, aggregation, plague, herd, tribe, swarm, herd, exultation, or pack? You choose how you feel, arriving amidst similar minded people, ready to go in the hole and dig another hole and bust rocks.

The Auglaize plant 2023 visit in perspective to historical surveys, yielded great geologic profiles, a variety of limestone rock variants, some marine fossils, yet was meager in mineral crystals, partially due to shortage of fresh blasted rock. Jay Medici collected a 40 mm wide sphalerite group in calcite. Tim Marshall showed another euhedral sphalerite crystal estimated to be 13 mm large. Joe Vasichko showed bicolored purple fluorite crystals 19mm on edge. There was brown fluorite, calcites by others.



View on the most productive area: rows of mechanically fragmented boulders.



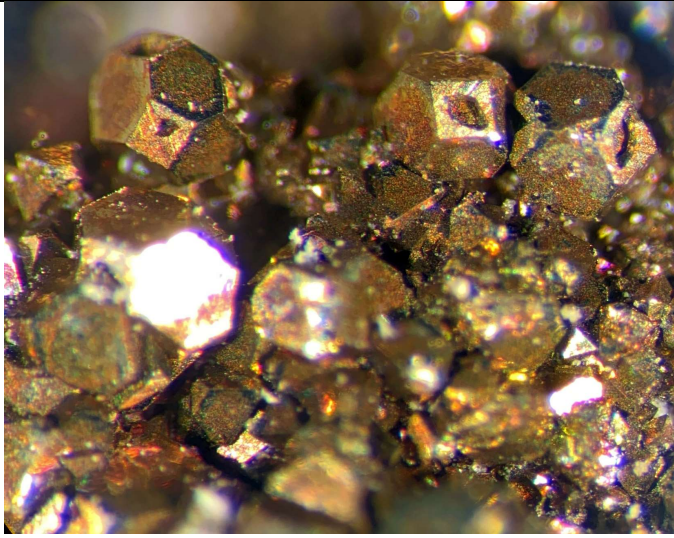
Bipyramidal calcite truncated by scalenohedron and rhombohedron; 4 mm tall. From the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.



Bipyramidal calcite; 6 mm tall. From the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.

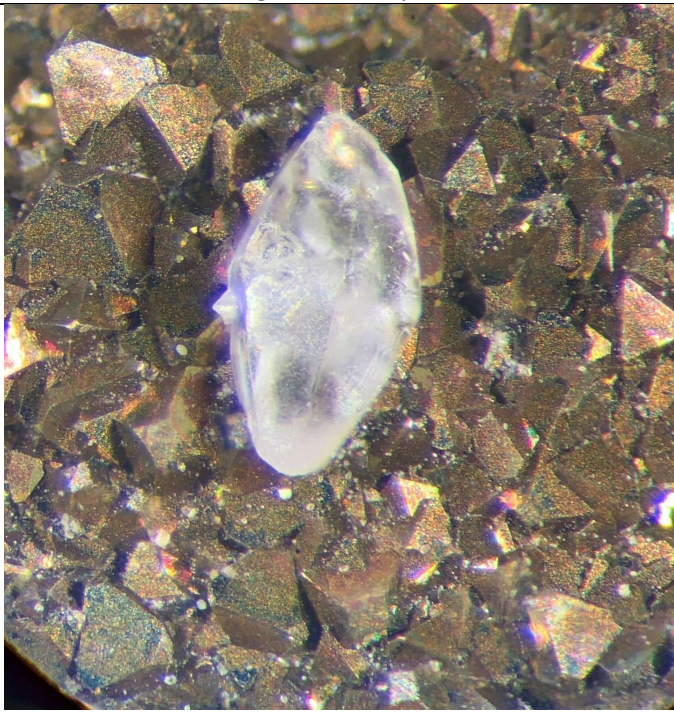


Bipyramidal calcite; 6 mm tall. From the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.



Pyrite: cubo-octahedrons; each crystal smaller than 0.1 mm.

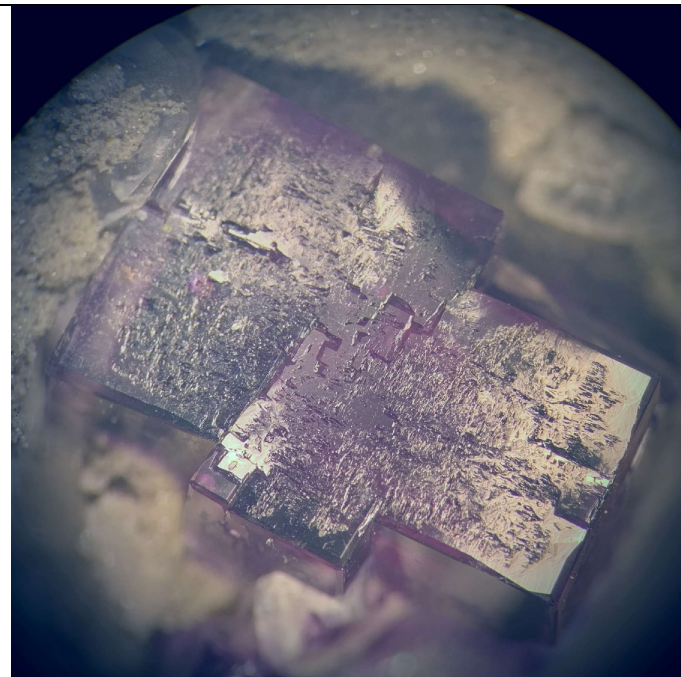
From the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.



Calcite (4mm tall) on pyrite. From the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.



Zoned fluorite (1.5 mm edge). Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.



Zoned fluorite (20 mm wide), exhibiting surface pitting highlighted in reflected light. From the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.



Pyrite in trace fossil in limestone: petrified burrow or boring.

The black material has not been identified; 110 mm wide. From the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry.

I realize that the following letter isn't about a direct concern to members of the Midwest Chapter, but it is part of a larger concern that I have about how the federal government views mineral collectors and its behavior with respect to restricting collecting on what is supposed to be public land. There are already vast areas in the west that have either been put off limits to collecting, or had restrictions relating to access and/or collecting. Eventually, we can expect that mineral collecting will be something that our grandchildren will not be able to engage in if the present trends continue. Besides impacting avocational activities, it has the potential for throttling the opportunity for new mineralogical discoveries. I'd like to encourage you to read it, and take action as you consider appropriate.

Clyde Spencer

From: **karin salomon** <kcbakes27@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, May 24, 2023 at 7:48 AM

Subject: Fwd: Potential loss of 1.6 million acres to Rockhounding. Mojave Trails National Monument

Hello Central and Northern California Rock and Mineral Clubs,

I would like to give you an update on another challenge to Recreational Rock Collecting in California. Some of you probably have collected in what is now the MTNM, including the Cady Mountains, and may be aware of the issue.

In 2016 President Obama declared the 1.6 million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM). It is one hundred miles in width and covers 14 mountain ranges. The collecting areas range from the historic collecting areas of the Cady Mountains, the most important lapidary and mineral collecting area of the California desert, Lavic Siding, Hector hills, and the Marble Mountains to the new finds of vanadinite, diopside, wulfenite, and aquamarine. Some of the fluorescent mineral localities in the Monument include the highly red fluorescent calcites of the southern face of Sleeping Beauty Mountain and the Hansen mine, and the purple fluorescent green fluorites of the northern Cady Mountains Miocene volcanics, documented by the late Bob Reynolds of the San Bernardino County Museum of Natural History. Many of the mines host micromount mineral specimens. There are collecting areas for thulite, obsidian, opalite, agate, jasper, large limonite pseudos, green and purple fluorites, and many secondary lead and copper minerals. Much of the California desert was unmapped and inaccessible through the 1920s. Desert Magazine began documenting the desert collecting that became popular in the 1930s. By the 1960s, Mary Francis Strong was publishing field guides with hand-drawn maps of collecting areas now considered historic.

I am your Gem and Mineral collecting representative on the MTNM Subgroup of the BLM's Desert Advisory Committee(DAC). Both the DAC and its Subgroups consist of representatives of stakeholders and users of the BLM's California Desert District. My role is to get a recommendation to allow collecting, in the MTNM, to the full DAC. The DAC then makes a recommendation to the BLM, which they may, or may not follow.

We are in quite the battle down here. Rock Collecting has been outlawed in most of the California desert, and after the fall of 2024, we may lose another 1.6 million acres of collecting...forever. This is an uphill battle to get Recreational Rock Collecting into the management plan, but we have a zero percent chance if we don't participate. After the 13 year fight in the WEMO route planning, we now face the prospect of collecting being illegal in areas we had won the right to access via historic roads. The planning process follows the NEPA law guidelines; this comment period is to give them our requests and information to be written into the management plan draft and alternatives, and the next comment period will be to comment on what they have written. So now is our chance.

The other track of the MTNM management planning are the NEPA mandated public comment periods, and John Martin(smartin@antelecom.net) and Jennifer

Haley(ladybuqlane@napablogger.com) of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) have been leading the fight here. We can comment by mail or email **now through June 20th**.

Along with individual members commenting, it's really important for Clubs to send a comment representing themselves.

For ideas in sending a Club comment, here is what the Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC) sent <https://mineralsocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/MTNM-and-MSSC.pdf>

If your Club is able to send in a letter before June 20th it would be very helpful, Thank you.

You may submit your comments to Attn: Mojave Trails National Monument Planning c/o Needles Field Office, 1303 S.U.S. Hwy 95 Needles CA 92363

Comments can also be submitted to [BLM CA NFO MTNM PLANNING@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_NFO_MTNM_PLANNING@blm.gov) or [BLM CA NFO MTNM PLAN@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_NFO_MTNM_PLAN@blm.gov)

Please specify the project name (MTNM Plan) in the subject line of your email.

Here is the brief version of what's happening...

If allowing Rock Collecting is not written into the Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM) management plan, we lose 1.6 million acres in the California Desert, including the **CADY MOUNTAINS**.

The public comment period is open now, and comments must be received by **June 20th**, email or snail mail. You can send as many as you like. Whether you are commenting generally to advocate for collecting, or anything more specific such as locations, their access roads, or anything related, remember that comments need to be substantive and detailed. Think of your comment as a tool for the BLM to give you what you are asking for.

Help establish the history of collecting in the MTNM.

Make sure to say who you are, your affiliations, your expertise etc. Whether you collect with family, club, other organizations.

Links for more info.....

The BLM's "how to get involved" <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022347/530>

MSSC's MTNM info page <https://mineralsocal.org/information-on-the-mohave-trails-national-monument-mtnm/>

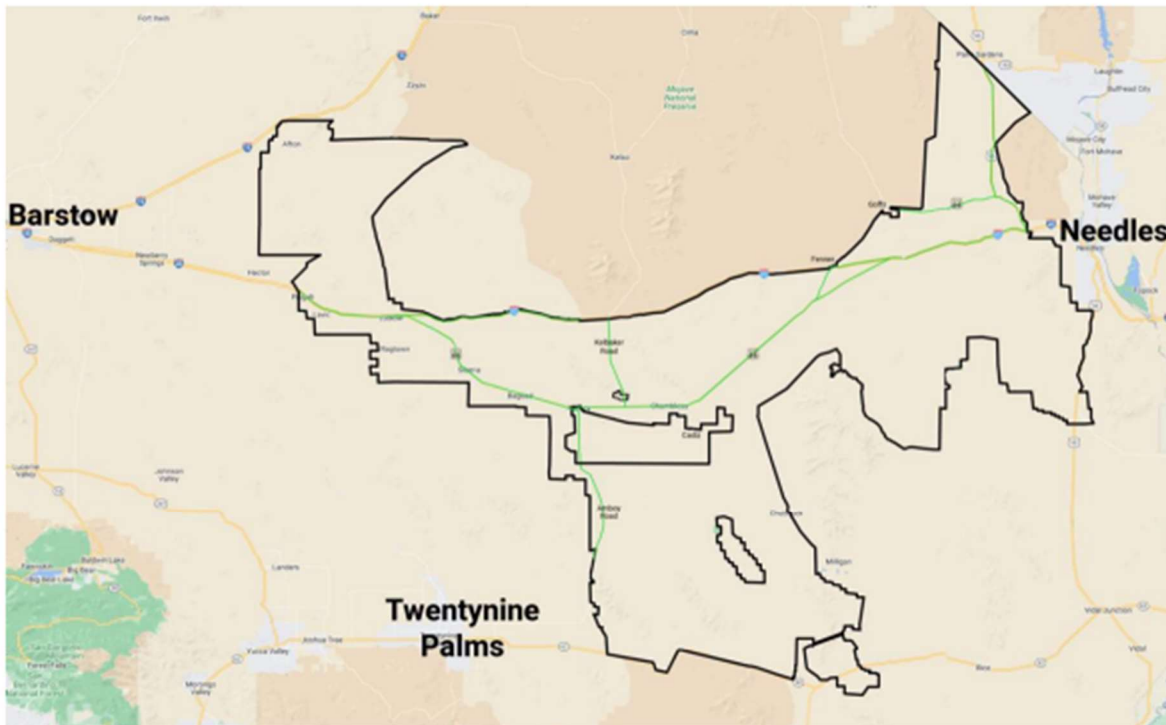
SDGM newsletter with commenting info page 19-22 <https://sdmg.org/peg-online/sdmq-pegmatite-2023-may.pdf#page=20>

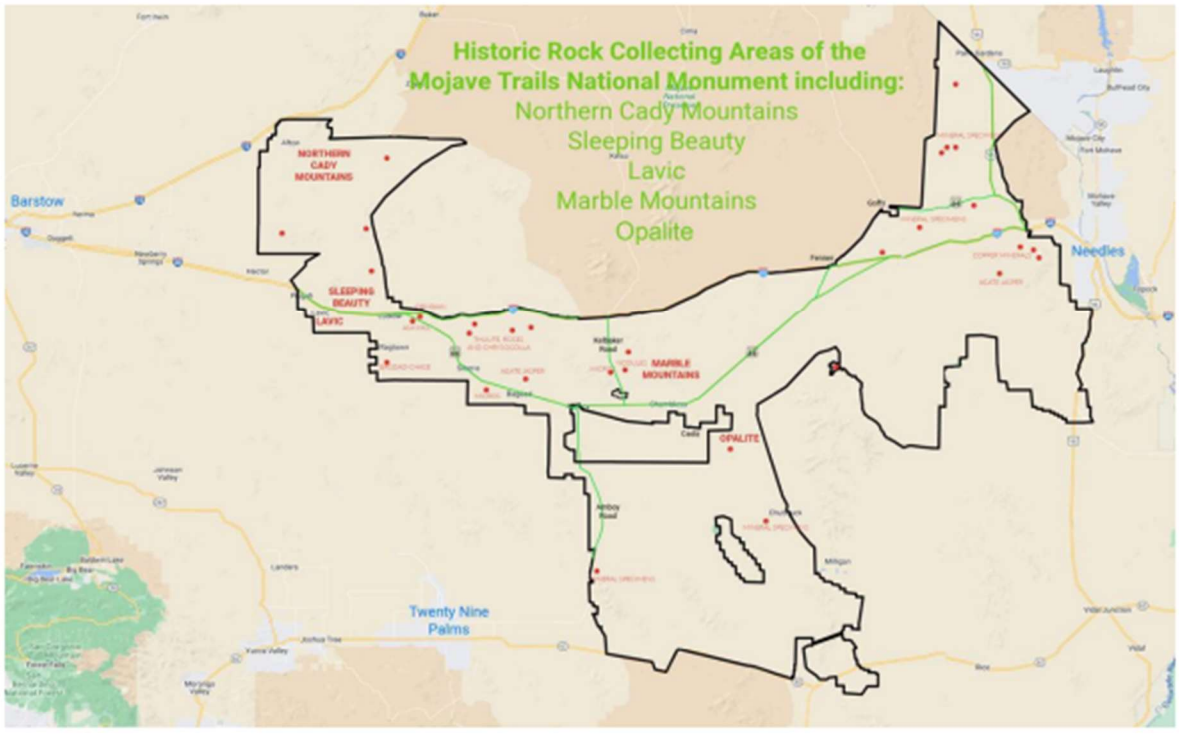
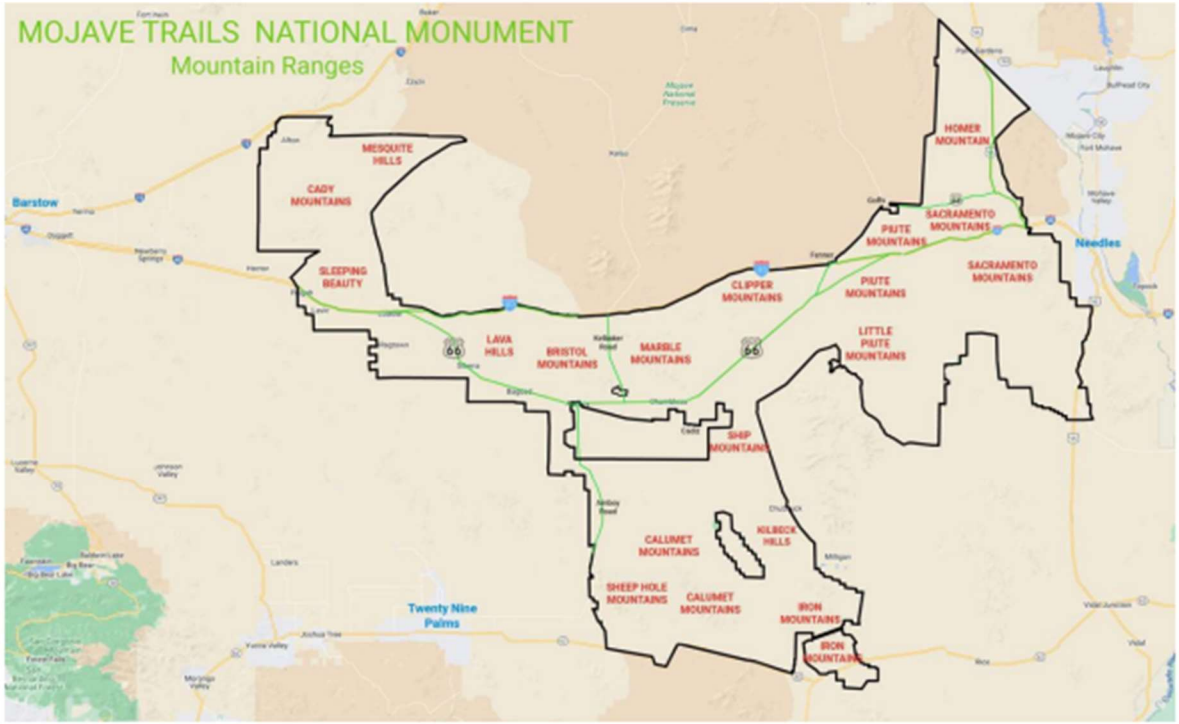
For background SDGM page 11 <https://sdmg.org/sdmq-members/peg/sdmq-pegmatite-2023-mar.pdf#page=11> and pg 11 <https://www.sdmq.org/sdmq-members/peg/sdmq-pegmatite-2022-nov.pdf#page=11>

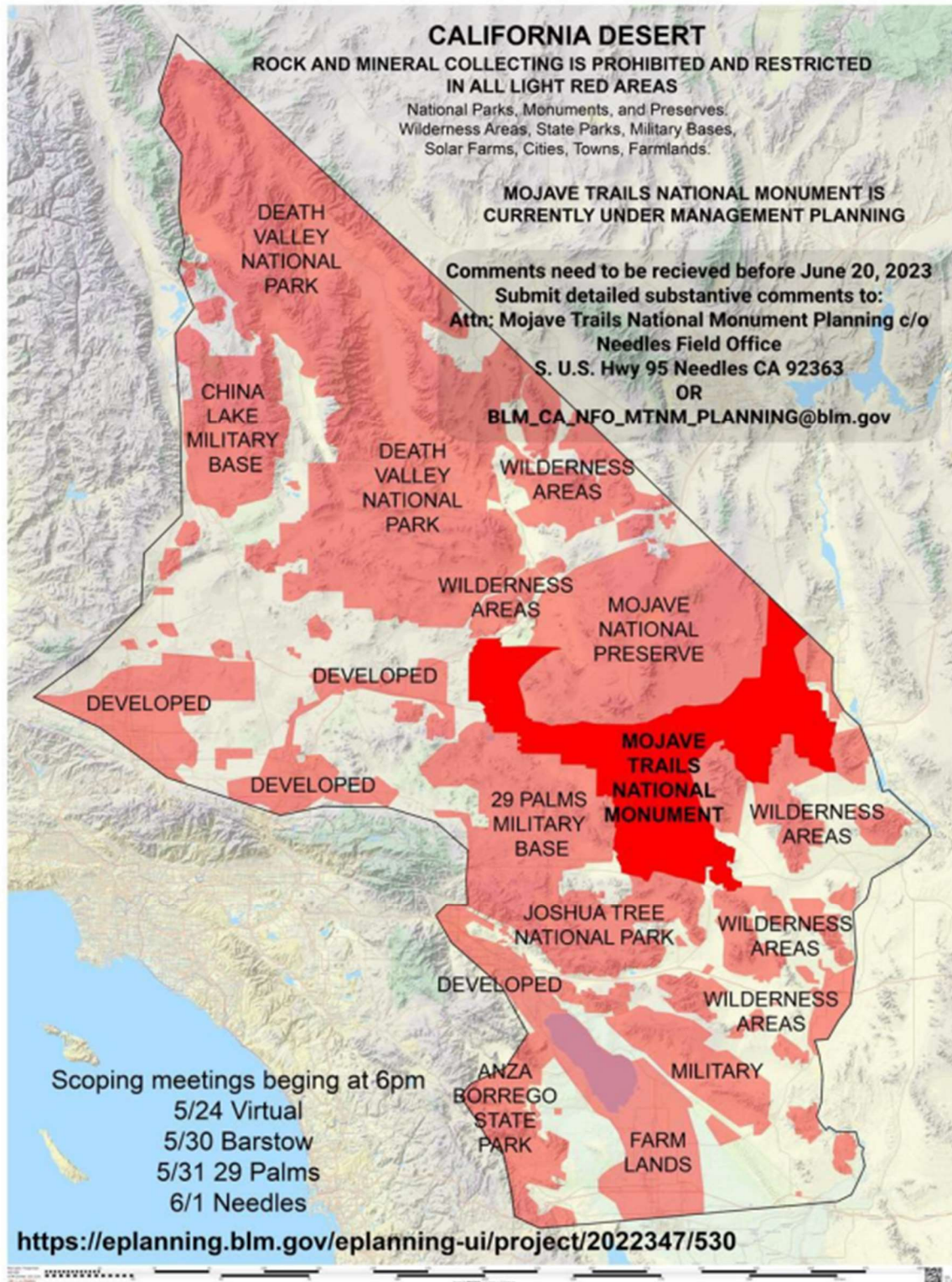
Attached below is a MSSC how to, guidance on effective commenting, along with some maps to visualize what we are looking at. Hopefully people will look at this as a positive chance to make a difference, even if it's an uphill battle. There's time for the members to make thoughtful, "substantive" comments, add details, and submit the comments to keep Rock Collecting legal in the MTNM!

Thank you,

Gregor Losson, ALAA, SCFM, eczlosson@yahoo.com 310-227-5647







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Our purpose is to organize and promote interest in and knowledge of mineralogy; to advance mineralogical education; to protect and preserve mineral specimens and promote conservation of mineral localities; to further cooperation between amateur and professional and encourage collection of minerals for educational value; and to support publications about mineralogy and about the programs of kindred organizations.

