



**Editor: Penny Esplin      Secretary: Marlea Sheridan**

**Date: October 27, 2011**

**SHORT AND SWEET FROM THE PREZ:** There is **no November meeting** due to Thanksgiving falling on the fourth Thursday. Let Delmon know if you are planning an outing and members can join in the fun!

**Meeting Minutes:** Marlea read the past minutes which are e-mailed to our members. Minutes were approved.

**Call to Order:** Delmon called the meeting to order and new visitors and our guests were introduced.

**In Attendance:** There were 12 members present.

**New Members:** Welcome to new members Ken Orndorff, Lee Cheatle, and Bill Moore.

**Old Business:**

A two inch **dredge** will be loaned to any member who wishes to borrow it. It would be up to the member to provide any claims fees as needed. Larry will check it over and see if it needs repair first.

The **trommel** is housed at Larry's shop and is ready and available for members to check out and use. It can be towed behind your vehicle. See Larry Sheridan when you need to borrow it.



Claims: There was no new claim news.

Treasurer Report: Joe reported that there are five new members. Membership is only \$20.00 a year.

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## Don't Forget!!!

We will be meeting for our annual **Christmas Dinner** on **December 9th** at **"Almost Home" Restaurant at 7:00 p.m.** It is located near the I-5 underpass on Market Street in Salem. Various items will be raffled off.

Rocks Shared Beginning With the Letter T: A new member brought a beautiful specimen of cubic **Pyrite** to share with the members. The pyrite crystals were at least an inch square! He also showed us a real interesting rock that looked like a **stalactite**. I'm not sure of its composition, it could be **Aragonite** (calcium carbonate). He said he found it in the area of the Clarno Formation, in eastern Oregon.

Penny brought some black "*schorl*" **Tourmaline\*** (found in San Diego), several crystals of **Topaz** in various colors.

Joe and Claudia had some of their little **Thundereggs** that they had cut while at their lapidary class.

*\*Please see the article on Tourmaline included in the following newsletter*

Presentation: Delmon gave a **Superior** demonstration on how he collects fine gold from black sands. He was very thorough and his method is tried and true. He stressed the importance of "classifying" the sands through smaller and smaller screens. He said it lessens the amount of panning you would have to do otherwise. He also included the use of the "Le-Trap", the "Blue Bowl" and the "Miller Table".

CONTINUING PLAN----Claudia reported that we voted as an organization to give our pledge of support to E.O.M.A. for their lead efforts in bringing the court case against the O.D.E.Q. for issuing an illegal NPDES permit and to insure we can dredge under fair regulation. The money coming in for the raffle has dried up...E.O.M.A. needs more funds to continue the court case. We as a group have donated funds to help but they are still short with funding.

The club decided that we would make individual donations and Claudia can mail any collected funds onto E.O.M.A. Also tickets can still be bought and sent in for the Gold Drawing.

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Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

The Millennium Diggers Club is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The club is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with a club that will help promote the hobbies of metal detecting, prospecting, rock hounding, and treasure hunting. Part of our yearly dues pay for mining claims that are available for all club members to use. We use club meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan club outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our hobbies. This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings or outings.

We meet the **4th Thursday** of each month, 7:00 p.m., at:

**Keizer/Clear Lake United Methodist Church**  
**920 Marks Drive**  
**Keizer, OR 97303**

The church is located across the street from the Clear Lake Fire Station. There's plenty of parking in the church's parking lot. We meet in the church's fellowship hall. Enter at the rear of the building.

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## AND NOW....READ THIS:

### TOURMALINE:

**Color:** pink, red, yellow, brown, green, blue, violet, black, multi-colored and clear (colorless)

**Hardness:** 7-7 ½

**Chemical composition:** *aluminum borate silicate*, with a complex and changing composition

No gemstone has such richness in color variation as tourmaline. Known in antiquity in the Mediterranean area, the Dutch imported it in 1703 from Sri Lanka into Europe. They gave the new stone a Sinhalese name *Tura Mali*, which, in translation means, "*stone with mixed colors*".

This mineral group is a complex one. Even slight changes in the composition cause completely different colors. Crystals of only one color are quite rare; for within the same crystal, various colors and various nuances of those colors will be evident.

The trademark of this gemstone is not only its great wealth of color, but also by its marked "*pleochroism*". This is the optical property of some gemstones that appear to

have different colors or depth of color when viewed in different directions. The cause is the differing absorption of light in doubly refractive crystals. This should be taken into consideration when cutting in order to avoid poor colors, or shades that are too dark or too light.

### The 'aschentrekker'

Tourmalines are also of great interest to scientists (and collectors) because of the astonishing physical properties they exhibit. By heating and subsequent cooling (*pyroelectric*), as well as by applying pressure to one end (*piezo-electric*), a tourmaline crystal becomes electrically charged. One end becomes negative, the other positive, and it will attract dust particles as well as small bits of paper. The Dutch who first imported tourmaline into Europe knew of this effect. They used a heated crystal of tourmaline to pull ash out of their meerscham pipes and thus called it *aschentrekker* (ash puller). For a long time this was the proper name for a tourmaline. <sup>1</sup>

### Try this experiment!-

*Pyroelectricity* and *piezoelectricity* are phenomena shown by some minerals, notably quartz (quartz watches are *piezoelectric*!) and tourmaline. The charge is colorfully demonstrated by dusting a cooling or warming crystal with a powder of red lead and sulfur puffed through a thin silk or nylon screen. A simple bellows and screen can be made by placing two layers of a nylon stocking over the end of a rubber bulb (turkey baste bulb) filled with a mixture of about 2 parts of red lead to 1 of sulfur. The dust particles receive electrical charges as they pass through the screen and settle on the appropriate ends of the charged crystal; the sulfur becoming negatively charged and settling on the positive end of the crystal while the red lead, recipient of a positive charge, goes to the negative end of the crystal. Though rarely made by amateur collectors, the demonstration is so spectacular that it **should be tried**, as it is an intriguing mineral property! <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Walter Schuman, "Gemstones of the World"

<sup>2</sup> Frederick H. Pough, "A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals"

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## Gold miners a plus in mercury removal



**John Putnam**, Gold Rush History Examiner, June 15, 2011

<http://www.examiner.com/gold-rush-history-in-national/gold-miners-a-plus-mercury-removal>

Joseph C. Greene, a former research biologist for the US Environmental Protection Agency, in his plea from February 2010 for Governor Schwarzenegger to veto the anti-suction dredge gold mining legislation, made a number of key points that seem to have been ignored by the California legislature. Mr. Greene's entire letter can be found at [OregonGold.net](http://OregonGold.net). He first sets forth the facts: "Looking for gold in California streams and rivers is a recreational activity for thousands of state residents, and a part-time or full-time job for hundreds more. As these miners remove sediments, sands, and gravel from streams and former mine sites to separate out the gold, they are also removing mercury." In other words miners in the course of their daily activities are cleaning

California's streams. So why are they now banned from that activity and the state seemingly set to pay someone else millions of dollars to do the same job?

Greene adds, "Taking mercury out of streams benefits the environment. Efforts to collect mercury from recreational gold miners in the past, however, have been stymied due to perceived regulatory barriers." And this is certainly the case in California, the state with perhaps the worst record in America for putting regulatory barriers in the way of business. But Greene goes on to present a simple solution that is currently working in other places. "In Washington State, over the past four years, the Resources Coalition and other small-scale miners associations have turned in 127 pounds of mercury and eight pounds of lead for safe disposal. This year, Ecology staff attended miners' rallies in Oroville and Monroe, explaining the state's program for proper disposal of lead and mercury." Instead, in California, an arrogant, insensitive legislature callously waves aside the legal right of miners to the gold in the rivers along their mining claims and does so in a last minute rider to a bill due to be passed today that allows little discussion, protest or consideration of alternatives.

The California legislature paints the gold miners as a major part of the problem. Greene, however, is quite clear. "On balance, suction dredges provide a net environmental benefit by removing nearly all of any mercury they encounter." But in spite of the proven benefits of continued mining activity coupled with education and assistance in mercury removal, California has chosen to force miners from a major part of their livelihood. "Inasmuch as public authorities have no better method to remove the mercury than suction dredges, this seems pointless." Greene concludes. But it is not only pointless, it appears illegal, not to mention downright sneaky. Just like gold miners with a suction dredge will recover mercury, an environmentalist with the same suction dredge will recover gold. Does California have a plan for the gold they will recover in mercury cleanup efforts? Has the state of California made that plan public? Will they compensate claim holders and property owners for the loss of legitimate mineral rights? Or is California's gold destined for some other place, that the powers that be would prefer remain unmentioned?

John Putnam is the author of [Hangtown Creek](#), a thrilling saga of the early California gold rush.

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## Claim jumping



**John Putnam**, Gold Rush History Examiner, June 20, 2011

<http://www.examiner.com/gold-rush-history-in-national/claim-jumping>

One night early in January of 2009 the owner of a mining company waved down a sheriff's deputy on the road near his mining claim. Using night vision equipment the officer then saw three men with flashlights working in a steep, rocky canyon. When confronted one of the men managed to flee but the other two were arrested carrying a metal detector, rock picks and a hammer and were taken to jail where they were charged with attempted grand theft from a mining claim.

According California Penal Code 487 (d), "every person who feloniously steals, takes, and carries away, or attempts to take, steal, and carry from any mining claim, tunnel, sluice, undercurrent, riffle box, or sulfurate machine, another's gold dust, amalgam, or quicksilver is guilty of grand theft and is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison." It certainly looked like these two men were attempting to steal another person's gold and doing it at night surely adds to that suspicion. It would seem claim jumping is alive and well in the California gold country.

But if this is the law in California, that no man can take another's gold dust, amalgam or quicksilver, and quicksilver is the dreaded mercury that the environmentalists want to eliminate from the rivers and an amalgam is the bond mercury makes with gold enabling the gold to be more easily recovered, then how can anyone clean any river currently under a mining claim without breaking the law? If they attempt to remove the mercury, much less the gold, from the claim of another man they are, by law, in the act of grand theft and can be sent to state prison.

As far as is known no welcoming hand of cooperation has been extended from those whose desire is to clean the offending toxins from the water to those who own the mining rights. Why? It would seem that cooperation between the two parties would be in the best interest of both sides. Everyone who uses our rivers wants to see the toxin's removed. Suction dredge miners remove mercury in the course of their daily activities. Perhaps the lack of cooperation was a simple oversight on the part of both parties and they will soon meet and work out a solution as reasonable men should.

But what if this is not about cleaning the rivers and protecting fish and wildlife? What if it is simply about the gold? Already miners complain of harassment from state officials that make mining difficult and suction dredge mining impossible. Anyone can take possession of an abandoned claim, or a claim where the requirements of the law have not been met. And finally a claim can be taken by stealth, fraud or force. Keep a careful eye to the claim holders. If they are being forced from their claims then this is simply about the gold. Always remember, mineral rights in America belong to the people not the government, and claim jumping, no matter the reason, no matter the scale, is illegal, no matter who does it.

John Putnam is the author of [Hangtown Creek](#), a thrilling saga of the early California gold rush.

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## SF newspaper's misinformed gold mining editorial



**John Putnam**, Gold Rush History Examiner, June 28, 2011

<http://www.examiner.com/gold-rush-history-in-national/sf-newspaper-s-misinformed-gold-mining-editorial>

A Sunday June 26th San Francisco Chronicle editorial on California gold mining, "Conflict continues on Calif. gold mining tactics," flows smoothly from one piece of biased misinformation to the next, much like the gold rush rivers it misrepresents. Facts are as elusive as is the name of the anonymous author. However in one stunning admission of truth our mystery writer does comment on the horribly destructive practice

of hydraulic mining where high-pressure hoses were once turned on deep gold laden gravel deposits, and as a result tremendous quantities of silt and debris were washed into the rivers, raising the level of streambeds as much as seventy feet.

Then, in a shameless analogy, the article goes on to describe this new so-called dispute over river mining as having an eerily similar ring to the nineteenth century controversy over hydraulic mining. However a suction dredge is a simple piece of equipment, roughly similar to a shop vac. It is not a huge piece of gear, it's size limited by legislation to a six-inch hose, but it still cleans the river bottoms just like your home vacuum cleans your floors. But our editorialist apparently can see no difference between having the maid vacuum the carpets and using a two and a half inch fire hose, connected to the outside fire hydrant and routed through an extremely powerful fire department pumper truck, to blast out the household dirt with high pressure water. The only thing eerie here is our mystery writer's lack of logic.

Without digressing into any of the numbers our un-named author sprinkles around, all taken from somewhere deep in the past, before the current American economic depression and massive unemployment, before the price of gold soared to record heights as the dollar tumbles farther into the cesspool of rampant inflation, all of which have made mining not only feasible but potentially extremely lucrative. Since 1994 obstructionism to river mining has allowed much more gold to wash out from hidden underwater veins and settle into the streambeds. Possibly enough to support many, many more independent miners who would then produce enough wealth to help us all out of the terrible financial mess that the very same groups that oppose mining have engineered for our state. Imagine, millions of dollars in gold at the bottom of rivers. Imagine, prosperity once again in California.

The vilest omission of fact comes at the end of the piece, during the discussion of the environmental effects of mining and the environmental impact report that would have determined the matter. Yes, that report, according to the website of Horizon Water and Environment of Oakland, CA, has been completed and contains updated suction dredge regulations along with an EIR that results in an environmentally sound, legally defensible, and implemental permitting program for suction dredge mining. The miners had won. When this fact became known the anti-job bloc of the California legislature, unable to accept a reasonable solution, had Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, introduce a last minute rider banning funding for the permitting process into the budget bill that passed the legislature on June 15th. Done deal. The people of California, without having had a say in the matter at all, have lost again. No prosperity for California. Instead we get to protect our rivers from an evil vacuum cleaner. That does have an eerily similar ring to so many other fear mongering tactics that have brought California to the brink of bankruptcy, and has employers fleeing the state in droves.

John Putnam is the author of [Hangtown Creek](#), a thrilling saga of the early California gold rush.

# 'Magic' Viking Sunstone Just Natural Crystal



By Jennifer Welsh | [LiveScience.com](http://livescience.com)

<http://news.yahoo.com/magic-viking-sunstone-just-natural-crystal-004406011.html>

Before the invention of the magnetic compass, navigating with a sundial would have been difficult, particularly on overcast days. Ancient Viking lore suggests that they had a magical tool to find the sun, even when the star was hidden.

Researchers have now discovered the crystal that would have made such a magical apparatus possible. The Vikings could have used a common calcite crystal, called an Icelandic spar, to find the sun in the high latitudes where they would have had to battle long twilights and cloudy skies to navigate. This special "sunstone" could find the direction of the sun even when it was out of view because it plays a trick with the light.

"The Vikings could have discovered this, simply by choosing a transparent crystal and looking through it through a small hole in a screen," study researcher Guy Ropars wrote in an email to LiveScience. "The understanding of the complete mechanism and the knowledge of the polarization of light is not necessary."

## Finding the sun

To use the crystal, the Vikings would have held the stone up to the center of the sky (from their perspective). When sunlight hits the crystal, that light gets polarized and broken into an "ordinary" and an "extraordinary" beam.

On a clear day, the Vikings would have rotated the crystal until the two beams lined up. Since these two beams line up and have the same brightness at only one angle, by noting where the sun is when this happens the Vikings could establish a reference point that could be used even when the sun wasn't visible.

There are several other types of crystal that have this same property, but they wouldn't have been too useful because they aren't as clear or as common, the researchers said. The Icelandic spar that the researchers analyzed is very common along the coasts of Iceland, and is also common today in Brazil and Mexico.

## The real sunstone?

While none of these Icelandic spar crystals has been found in a Viking settlement, one was recently discovered in an Elizabethan shipwreck from 1592 in the English Channel. The researchers are currently confirming that this crystal could have been used to find the sun when it was out of sight, which they think might be true because a large cannon on board the ship would have interfered with a magnetic compass.

The research is a theoretical confirmation of previous research by another lab suggesting these kinds of crystals could be useful to find the sun. In their laboratory at Rennes, France, they say a prototype sunstone compass they made using calcite works



particularly well (even with the naked eye) when the sun is beyond the horizon and even after the stars come out.

Polarized light is also widely used by animals in nature, to create colorful shells and as a way to see the world around them.

The study was published today (Nov. 1) in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical Physical & Engineering Sciences.



## **U.S. Forest Service (USFS) intimidating, and lying to prospectors - Non-Responsive to Citizens'**

**U.S. Forest Service employees continually harass prospectors in our National Forests by intimidation, lying and misstating Laws and Regulations. When confronted by facts in writing, they either site additional untruths or simply refuse to respond.**

*PRLog (Press Release) - Oct 26, 2011 -*

A long trail of discussions between Mr. Gary Goldberg of Rancho Cucamonga, Ca and the U.S. Forest Service has been going on since June 20, 2011. Mr. Goldberg is a Gold Prospector living near the San Gabriel Mountains in Southern California. He has been prospecting for gold since 1987 in the local areas as well as in the gold-rich "Mother Lode" area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Mr. Goldberg is a 61 year old U.S. Navy - Disabled Veteran, who owned his own business before becoming "economically unemployed". As the spot price of gold has increased to unseen levels of more than \$1,600 per oz. in recent months, Mr. Goldberg wanted to resume his prospecting in the Angeles National Forest's East Fork of the San Gabriel River. While he has prospected there in years past, the U.S. Forest Service has lately been intimidating prospectors who try their luck in the area.

In addition to falsely telling prospectors that prospecting is illegal in the San Gabriel District of the Angeles National Forest, they have begun ticketing

prospectors' cars for not obtaining an Adventure Pass for the area. The Forest Service has several parking passes available to the public for recreational purposes.

They also have what is called an Administrative Pass, which is to be issued to people who "may visit their public lands for purposes other than recreation." The USFS web site goes on to explain, that Administrative Passes "are also issued to...persons conducting mining and prospecting activities." (ref: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/ap/questions-and-a...>)

On June 20th, Mr. Goldberg sent a letter to the San Gabriel River Ranger O'Dell Tucker, requesting an Administrative Pass for the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, for the purpose of Prospecting. Not receiving a response, he escalated the matter to Ranger Tucker's supervisor—Forest Supervisor Tom Contreras, calling his office repeatedly, without reply.

Finally getting a message forwarded to Contreras, Mr. Goldberg received a "panic" call from Ranger Tucker demanding that they have a "face-to-face meeting" immediately at Ranger O'Dell's office. (Note that this was Friday, July 8th at 3 P.M. Mr. Goldberg said that there was no way he would meet with the Ranger on at that time without and previous notice. An agreement was reached that the meeting would take place on Tuesday, July 12th at 10 A.M. when Ranger Tucker could have two of his "experts" at the meeting with him.

Mr. Goldberg was concerned that this was going to be a three against one meeting, so he chose to invite Mr. Jerry Hobbs—President of Public Lands for the People (PLP) organization and Mr. Paul Coombs—a retired law enforcement investigator and Board Member of PLP.

At the meeting, with much discussion and no resolution, Ranger Tucker was asked to reply to Mr. Goldberg's June 20th letter in writing. Again several weeks without response, Mr. Goldberg again escalated the issue to Contreras. After a brief, evasive response, Mr. Goldberg was assured that he would be receiving a letter response very soon.

On August 8th, Mr. Goldberg receive a letter from Ranger Tucker stating that his request for the Administrative Pass had been denied and was referred to Forest Service's Surface Use Regulations found in 36 CFR 228, Subpart A.

On August 22nd, Mr. Goldberg wrote a lengthy, certified letter to Contreras stating the letter from Ranger O'Dell was "allusive as well as incorrect, in that 36 CFR 228, Subpart A has NOTHING to do with Administrative Passes." Additionally, Mr. Goldberg's letter correctly stated the text from Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property, Part 228, Subpart A – Locatable Minerals, paragraphs

228.1, 228.2, and 228.4. It also cited 16 USC Chapter 87 – Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement, Sec. 6802 – Recreation Fee Authority dated January 7, 2011, which strictly prohibits the charging of fees “Solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trail sides.”

Mr. Goldberg’s opinion was that the USFS was charging ILLEGAL Fees in the San Gabriel River District and again requested an Administrative Pass. Again, the letter went unanswered by Contreras, so the matter was escalated to Regional Forester Randy Moore on Sept. 7th. All relating documents were forwarded to Mr. Moore via e-mail, requesting a telephone conversation on the following day. This too went unanswered; so on the evening of Sept. 8th, Mr. Goldberg sent an e-mail to Associate Chief Mary Wagner of the USFS in Washington, D.C. with a complete record of all correspondence relating to the matter.

On Sept. 9th, Mr. Goldberg called to speak with Associate Chief Wagner but was told she was in a meeting. He was then referred to her Chief of Staff, Tim DeCoster. After a short conversation, Mr. DeCoster agreed that the Ranger Tucker letter and Supervisor Contreras’ non-response was not sufficient to resolve the issue, and promised that he would discuss the matter with Randy Moore. Mr. DeCoster indicated that Mr. Moore would be “personally responding” to him shortly.

Forester Moore never responded to Mr. Goldberg, but instead, directed Mr. Contreras to reply by return certified letter to Mr. Goldberg. On Sept. 13th, Mr. Contreras’ letter misleadingly stated that the East Fork of the San Gabriel River was a “withdrawn area” and “All Mining operations under the 1872 Mining Law are prohibited on the East Fork. Mining operations include location of mining claims, prospecting, mining, including panning, sluicing, dredging, high-banking, etc.” The letter then goes on to incorrectly state that Public Law 578, the 1928 Watershed Withdrawal Act, withdrew The East Fork from entry and location under the mining laws...Therefore, National Forest System lands within the East Fork of the San Gabriel River are not open to prospecting or any other mining operations.”

After careful research, Mr. Goldberg found a document produced by John D. Wagner, M.A. Assistant Public Affairs Officer, Angeles National Forest which touted the exact words plagiarized by Supervisor Contreras in his Sept. 13th letter to Mr. Goldberg. In addition, Mr. Goldberg’s research found the following statements and sent them in a certified letter to Chief of Staff–Tim DeCoster in Washington, D.C.:

“Lands in Angeles National Forest were withdrawn from mineral entry in 1928...to conserve water resources and to encourage reforestation of the watershed(Public Law No. 578, Sec. 4135 – 70th Congress); withdrawn lands

within the wilderness study area, mainly on the west side,..." "The law does not prohibit prospecting and allows entry to proven ore deposits but effectively discourages complex exploration methods." [From Geological Survey Bulletin 1506-E "Economic Appraisal, Cucamonga, Wilderness", by Nicholas T. Zilka and Steven W. Schmauch, U.S. Bureau of Mines, page 87.]

As of this date, NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED, AGAIN! Consequently, Mr. Goldberg sent another e-mail to Associate Chief Mary Wagner, advising her that more than 30 days had passed since his letter of Sept. 20th was sent to Mr. DeCoster and received by his office on Sept. 27th and he requested that she contact him via telephone no later than Oct. 26th or the matter would be further escalated to USFS Chief, Tom Tidwell and further to Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, if necessary.

This clearly indicates that the USFS is NON-RESPONSIVE, Misleading, and a Buck-passing group of Bureaucrats, similar to MOST Government Agencies these days. They legislate laws, rules, and regulations and then twist and bend them by their own self-serving interpretations, to mislead the American Public.

Mr. Goldberg has stated, "It is a travesty what is going on in this country, with politicians lying, cheating, and misrepresenting laws and truths. This little issue of an Administrative Pass pales by comparison to other more significant issues being perverted by our government, but clearly shows how they are irrefutably lying to the American Public."

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Plp's mission statement: "to represent and assist outdoor user groups and individuals interested in keeping public and private lands open to prospecting, mining, and outdoor recreation through public education, scientific data, and legal means."