

Bureau of Land Management Revises Proposed Petrified Wood Withdrawals

After an extensive survey of petrified wood deposits in Malheur county, the Bureau of Land Management has revised a proposal to withdraw certain public lands from the location of petrified wood mining claims.

Russell E. Getty, BLM director for Oregon and Washington, said that mining engineers have examined public lands in southeastern Oregon that were to be set aside for public use.

"The report of the mining engineers indicates that about two-thirds of the public lands involved do not contain significant enough deposits of petrified wood to warrant withdrawal action," said the state director. "The remainder of the lands will be retained in the proposed withdrawal."

Acreage Reduced to 6000

In Malheur county about 19,000 acres were included in the originally proposed withdrawal. Based on its current survey of the area, BLM has reduced this to about 6000 acres.

Public lands in the Disaster Peak and Grassy Mountain areas are still under consideration for withdrawal. The proposed withdrawal of public lands in the Grave Yard Point, Alkali Springs and Hope Butte areas has been canceled.

Rock hunting and collecting is an important recreation activity on BLM lands in many parts of eastern Oregon. Thousands of people visit the areas every year looking for petrified wood and other non-metallic, semi-precious minerals.

In recent years some persons and organizations have located mining claims on specific deposits of such materials to commercially exploit the deposits or to bar the public from collecting in these areas.

Rock Hounds Free to Collect

For this reason BLM proposed last fall to withdraw significant deposits of petrified wood and non-metallic minerals sought by rock hounds from location under the general mining laws. The lands would remain open to the general public, and rock hounds would be free to collect small quantities of petrified wood and other such materials.

There are presently bills before both houses of Congress, S-2974 and HB-10540, that would provide for the protection and orderly disposition of petrified wood deposits on public lands. The bills would remove petrified wood from location under the mining laws and place it within the purview of the Materials act.

This would insure that the materials sought by rock hounds remained open to the general public.

BECKS RETURN FROM TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. Mel Beck returned home Sept. 3 from a trip to Riverside, Calif., where they attended an open house reception for their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Stringham. Enroute home they visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George V. Ord in Nephi, Utah, and visited points of interest along the way.

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District Nurses Hear Family Finance Topic, Plan Future Projects

District 20 of Oregon Nurses association held its first meeting of the fall season Monday evening in the Presbyterian Nursing home at Ontario.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Edna Mae Wimsatt, county home extension agent, whose topic was "Family Finance."

Plans were made for sending delegates to the ONA convention to be held Oct. 11-13 in Salem.

According to Mary Craft, public relations chairman, district 20 is undertaking several projects this coming year. Among them is to sponsor a survey to tape children's heart sounds in Malheur county schools. Details of this screening will be published at a later date.

VISITS IN WESTERN OREGON

A. D. Moses returned home recently after visiting his sisters and their families in Western Oregon. His sisters are Mrs. Lyril Lynn of The Dalles, Mrs. Arthur Schmidt of Maupin, Mrs. Robert Wilson and Mrs. George Mayer of Portland, Mrs. John Boogart of Grants Pass. He also visited many points of interest, including Peterson's Rock Garden near Redmond, the big shopping center in Portland and the Portland Zoo where he saw Packy, the baby elephant.

The Old Timer



"The quickest way now-a-days to get a doctor is to turn on your TV set."

ATTEND DINNER IN NAMPA

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Boydell attended a dinner Saturday evening for members of their bridge club. Hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Glea Billings, former Nyssa residents now residing in Nampa.

Stream Bank Erosion Survey Work Started By Local SCS Office

Serious stream-bank erosion is a problem to farmers on Alkali creek, south of Adrian. Local Soil Conservation service workers are currently doing survey work on this stream, according to a release by John Berg of the Nyssa office.

A series of earth, rock and concrete sedimentation structures will be designed. Cost estimates will be determined. This plan is scheduled to be ready to present to farmers for their consideration this fall or winter.

Investigation work is being done on request of the Adrian Soil Conservation district.

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