**Clear Creek Management Area Field Trip**

**September 10-11, 2022**

**Meet 8:30am, Depart: 9:00am**

**Leader: Margaret Hogarth and Jimmie Peterson**

**Cell# 909-815-3045**

**Email: hogarth.m@gmail.com**

Hobby gem and mineral collectors are drawn to the Clear Creek areas by the presence of over 150 semi-precious mineral and gemstones. This is one of the most highly mineralized areas in California. The serpentine mass contains two superfund sites, Atlas Mine and Johns-Mansville. Both were associated with the mining and processing of chrysotile asbestos. Other minerals mined from the serpentine mass included cinnabar, chromite, magnesite, and jadeite. The

Gem Mine (private) located within the serpentine mass is the only source of gem-grade benitoite in the world. They have a fee dig in the tailings if you are interested, but we will not be going on that trip. The rare minerals neptunite and joaquinite have also been found there. Other cool things to hound are jaspers, uvarovite, and plasma agate. We’ll do a combination of digging for plasma agate and scouring the stream beds for interesting finds. You can’t be disappointed in such a geologically diverse place! Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

**Permits Needed**

Get your permits ahead of time by visiting the following site, each CAR needs a general access permit to CCMA and each INDIVIDUAL needs a special permit for the Serpentine Area (ACEC).

https://www.recreation.gov/vehiclepermits/250848

Clear Creek Vehicle Permit: $5 per week\*

Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Permit: Free, limited to 5 entries per calendar year, per person\* (Every individual must have a permit on their person).

\*Each permit requires a $6 reservation fee.

We will also need a gate code; Margaret will send that information out before the trip.

**Directions:**

I recommend using the “download offline maps” feature for Google Maps or your own selection of GPS App which allows off grid maps. There isn’t much for cell service in the area. Coming North on I-5:

Take exit 325 for Jayne Ave (Rt 33) and go west toward Coalinga. Jayne Ave turns into Polk St thru the town of Coalinga and then turns back into Jayne Ave. Continue on Jayne Ave and it make a big right sweeping turn and turns into S. Derrick Ave and you are in the middle of the Chevron Oil Field, go ~4miles. Turn left onto Lost Gatos Creek Rd. Follow for 21.5mi, turns into Coalinga Rd at the Condon Peak Recreation Area.

Continue another 8.6mi and turn right onto Clear Creek Rd (LOOK FOR SEARCHERS SIGN)

Pass over the ford in the San Benito River. Travel about 2.3 miles, then turn left just before the locked gate to head up to Jade Mill Campground

(36.368356 N, -120.754140 W), SEARCHERS signs will be posted.

Camp is approximately 6 hrs from Orange County.

The camp is a dry camp, bring everything you need.

Tools:

You may want heavy tools for the Plasma Agate, as some of it is in boulders you will need to break up if you want to take some. For the stream collecting a rock pick and a spray bottle will suffice.

Vehicles: Although we will be on dirt roads, a high clearance vehicle is still recommended. If you come to camp in a car, we will have you carpool with someone for the collecting.

Potluck

On Sat night we will have our standard potluck, bring something to share if you wish to participate. If campfires are allowed in Sept please bring some firewood if you are able.