Concerned Citizen

Your Address
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website

Today's Date

Representative
Olympia, Washington

Dear Representative (or Senator) [NAME]:

Did know that it is illegal in Washington State to remove any mineral or rocks from state-owned land that is managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)? It's true! Under WAC 232-12-251 it is unlawful for senior citizens, kids, families, or anyone to collect rocks, fossils, petrified wood or minerals on WDFW-managed land! I am seeking your assistance in overturning or amending this unreasonable regulation so that the citizens of our state can enjoy outdoor rock collecting activities that are parallel to rules established for federal lands by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Rock and mineral collecting is a family pursuit that provides for recreation, exercise, education and enjoyment of our natural history. Thousands of tax-paying rockhound enthusiasts, including many senior citizens, enjoy this activity on federal and private lands in Washington State. There are more than 30 rock and gem clubs in our state that are devoted to this healthy hobby. Considering the benefits and minimal impacts associated with rock collecting, why shouldn't WDFW lands be open to reasonable limits on collecting? For instance, the BLM allows private citizens to collect up to 250 pounds of rock (5 full buckets) a day for personal (non-commercial) use on lands that they manage.

Please help solve this problem by writing to the director of WDFW insisting that WDFW allow non-commercial collecting of rocks, minerals, petrified wood and invertebrate fossils on lands under their jurisdiction. The collecting policies of the BLM should serve as a workable example to WDFW of reasonable limits to this recreational activity.

Thank you for reading my letter. And thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. I would appreciate a written reply to my request.

Sincerely,

Name

Member: Maplewood Rock & Gem Club

Address
Phone Number