

Western Rock Ramblings

By Thomas Farley

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thomasfarley@fastmail.com

All illustrations were derived from photographs taken by the author or from those in the public domain.

Introduction

This is the first chapter of what was to be a hardcopy publication, however, formatting the text and illustrations proved too difficult and time consuming. I wanted the book to be spiral bound to lay flat but costs proved prohibitive. I apologize for the poor formatting in advance, my inability to produce something attractive is of constant agony to me.

The sites listed were either visited by me or recommended to me by trusted sources. I know I have missed many points of interests as well as rock shops and clubs. E-mail me if you would like to be included in the next revision of this text. Several other state chapters are at or near completion and will be released soon.

Feel free to distribute this file anywhere you wish. I wish you good health.

Best,

Thomas Farley

Las Vegas, Nevada

Arizona

Anyone traveling extensively off-pavement in Arizona should get an Arizona State Trust Land Permit. \$15.00 for individuals. Rockhounding on Arizona State Trust Land is prohibited so it might seem that no permit is needed. Stopping at any point on these lands, however, constitutes a “use” and that use demands a permit. Determining where these lands exist while driving is next to impossible, most are managed grazing land outside of small towns or settlements. Rather than guess, get a permit if you regularly go off pavement.

<https://land.az.gov>

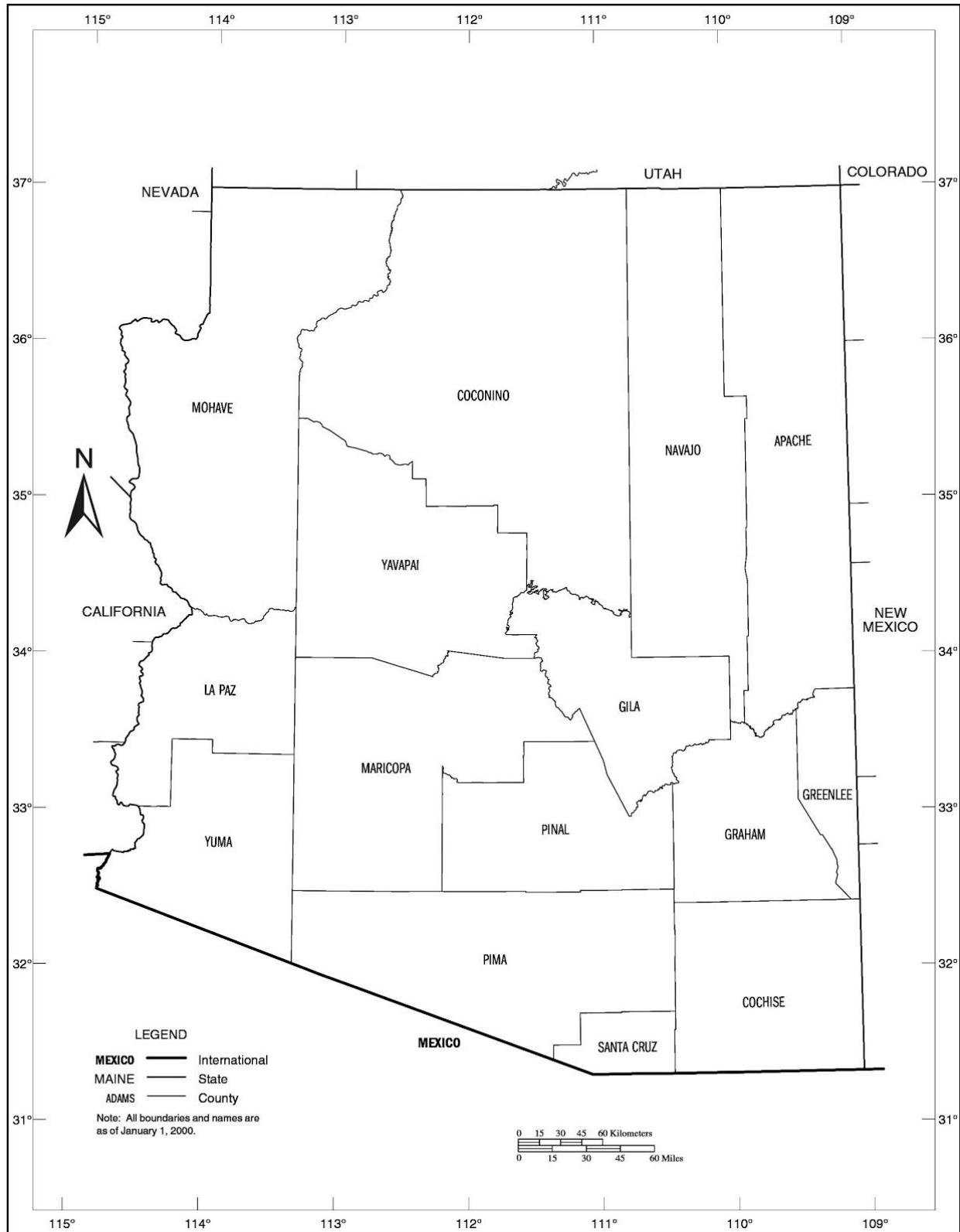
Resources

Ransom, Jay. *Arizona Gem Trails and the Colorado Desert of California* (Portland: Mineralogist Publishing Company, 1955) “A Field Guide for The Gem Hunter – The Mineral Collector – The Uranium Hunter.” Indeed. All sorts of insights by a veteran rockhound and writer. Naturally, much of the area Ransom explored is closed. And much is still open. And, if you can’t access a site for, say, agates, you can learn about agates from Ransom. Don’t pay too much.

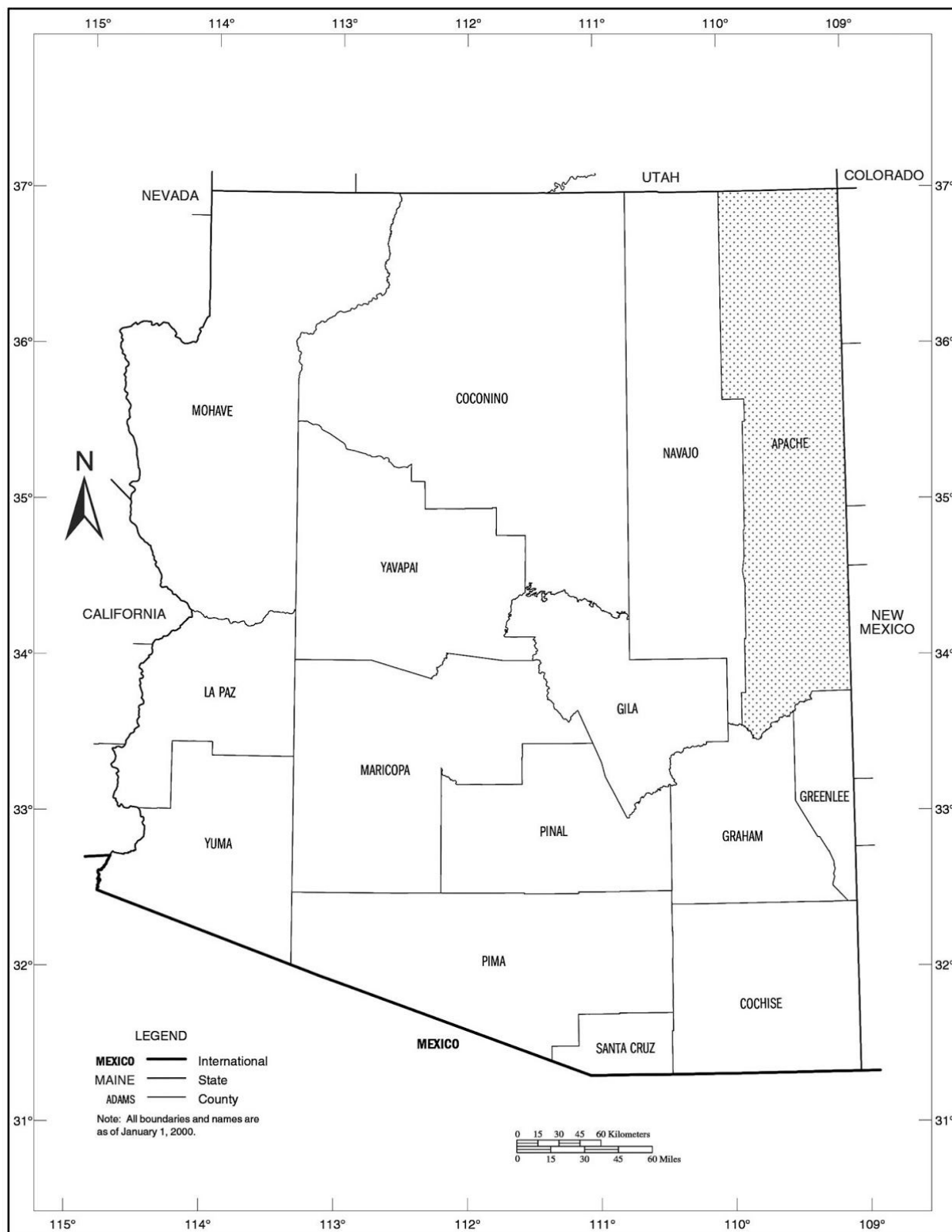
Lynch, Bob and Dan Lynch. *Arizona Rocks and Minerals* (Cambridge, Minnesota: Adventure Publications, 2010) Excellent book with real-life photographs and generalized locality maps. Despite the disreputable publisher, the book itself is a great guide to Arizona.

Johnson, Maureen. *Placer Gold Deposits of Arizona* (Washington, D.C.: Geological Survey Bulletin 1355) Available free online. The copy I have is a used reprint of the original USGS Bulletin. Del Oeste Press in Tarzana, California published it. Their repro includes a fold-out map, much superior to the tiny and unreadable online map. Del Oeste reprinted many, many guides to placer deposits in the Western United States. Avoid any copy of Bulletin 1355 printed on-demand as these may not contain the fold-out map.

Chronic, Halka. *Roadside Geology of Arizona* (Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press, 1983) Classic description of Arizona’s geology. Don’t be bothered by the date, the landscape hasn’t changed much in thirty years, except to development. As with all roadside geology books, these titles are only truly useful when read by a navigator or companion as a trip goes along. Otherwise, the landscape slips by as one can’t drive, read, and look at the same time.



Apache County, AZ (St. Johns)



Petrified Forest National Park

(Apache and Navajo Counties)

1 Park Road, AZ

928-524-6228

34°48.016' N 109°53.120' W (First Entrance)

34°48.923' N 109°51.941' W (Rainbow Forest Museum)

A must stop with no collecting permitted.

The vast amount of petrified wood here resulted from a logjam of trees which occurred in an ancient river in the Late Triassic Period, some 200 million years ago. Unless it is a rainy day, petrified wood here exhibits brilliant colors of white, red, brown, black, purple, and blue from trace elements.

Esteemed writer Bob Jones with Rock&Gem says these colors could come from vanadium, chromium, manganese, iron, cobalt, and many more. Any of the so-called transition metals. Note that these are elements, not minerals. Petrified wood is generally quartz. As a rule, trace elements in the quartz produce colors, not minerals. Read more in the August, 2018 issue of Rock&Gem.



PETRIFIED WOOD FRAMED DOORWAY

The Painted Desert Inn Visitor Center's lower floor reveals how the building was constructed with petrified tree logs. The Petrified Forest National Park stretches north and south between Interstate 40 and Highway 180, with an entrance at each end. Near the south entrance is a fee-dig site for petrified wood. This is the DoBell Ranch, listed further on under entries for Navajo County.

<https://www.nps.gov/pefo/index.htm>

The Navajo Nation Museum and Library

Highway 264 and Loop Road

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

Window Rock, AZ 86515

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1840

Window Rock, Arizona 86515

928-871-7941

35°39.843' N 109°03.308' W

The Navajo Nation Museum and Library is located in Window Rock, Arizona. Window Rock is the Capitol of the Navajo Nation. This museum has historic jewelry fashioned by tribal people, some sourced from local and Southwest material.

<http://navajopeople.org/nnm/>

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

Supervisor's Office

30 S. Chiricahua Drive

Springerville, AZ 85938

928-333-6280

34°07.912' N 109°16.507' W

Two woodlands managed as a single forest in east-central Arizona. They look like an upside-down "L". This forest covers 2.76 million acres in parts of Coconino, Navajo, Apache, and Greenlee counties. These are two Apache-Sitgreaves Ranger Districts in Apache County:

Springerville Ranger District

165 S. Mountain Ave.

Springerville, AZ 85938

928-333-62

34°07.868' N 109°17.261' W

Alpine Ranger District

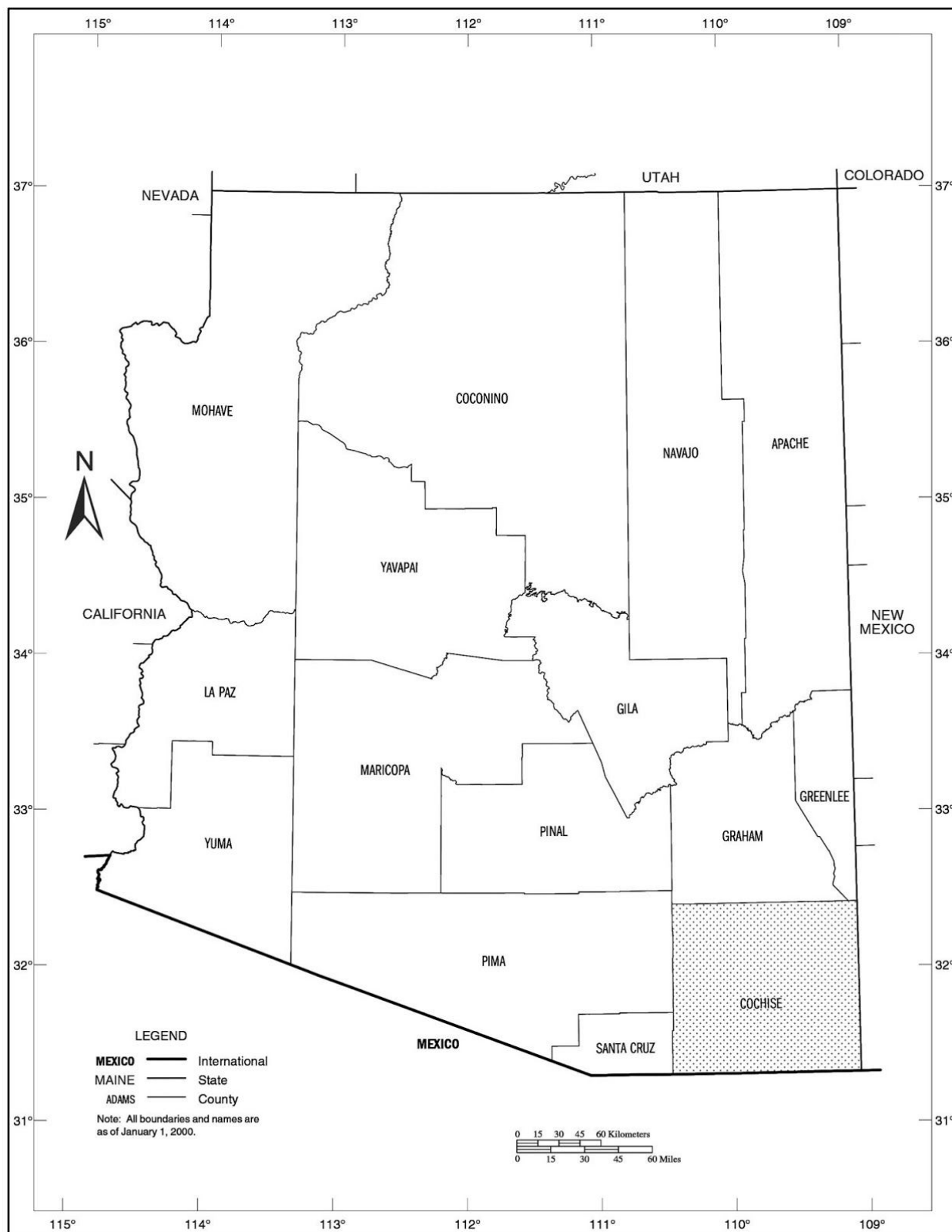
42634 Hwy. 180/191

Alpine, AZ 85920

928-339-5000

33°50.958' N 109°08.823' W

Cochise County, AZ (Bisbee)



BLM Safford Field Office and BLM New Mexico's Las Cruces Field Office

Western Rock Ramblings by Thomas Farley

711 S 14th Ave.
Safford, AZ 85546
928-348-4400

32°49.926' N 109°43.446' W

<https://www.blm.gov/office/safford-field-office>

BLM's Safford Field Office manages areas in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Pinal, Counties.

Sunshine Gallery and Gifts

1313 North Highway 80
St. David, Arizona, 85630
520-586-4560

31°55.770' N 110°16.865' W

marieluettcke@hughes.net

Destination rock shop for the rocks and minerals and the owner. Rolf is a mineral authority with vast personal and professional experience. His fascination with everything rock related began in Germany when he was nine. He knows all about the Bisbee area and Tombstone. Plan a trip. Tell him Thomas said "Hi" and that I plan on visiting soon.

Rolf has no official website but I have much, much more on Rolf at <https://southwestrockhounding.com>



SUNSHINE GALLERY AND GIFTS IN ST. DAVID, ARIZONA

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

Designs By Owen

Unusual Gemstone Jewelry in Gold and Silver

45 Main Street

Bisbee, AZ 85603

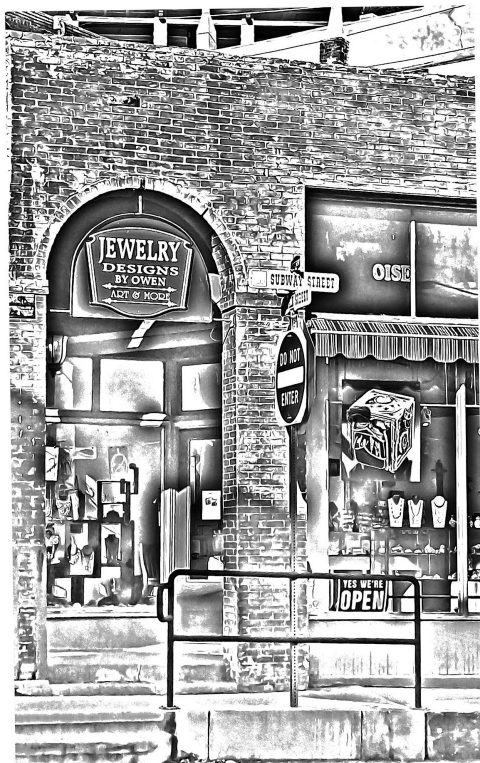
520-432-4400

31°26.520' N 109°55.001' W

Talented jewelry artist Dave Owen is a former geology professional. He's offered to point visiting rockhounds to some nearby collecting spots. Bring a map to help him direct you. Dave specializes in local gemstones, particularly Bisbee cambellite, malachite, and turquoise. His is primarily a jewelry gallery but Dave says he also "sell minerals, mostly from Bisbee and the Southwest, but a bit from everywhere. I also sell rough from different southwest localities and cabachons."

I was recently in contact with Dave. He writes, "Enclosed are a couple gallery shots and a photo of my business card should you need that info. Also, I am including a shot of the flyer for Courtland Ghost town. Michael Oster has started tours, mining, metal detector workshops, limited turquoise digs and other things. He is the only resident of Courtland and also has the main supply of Courtland Turquoise™. A must for your book and I would give him a call. I am the Bisbee rep for his project and doing jewelry work for him."

<http://www.jewelrydesignsbyowen.com/index.html>



DESIGNS BY OWEN, BISBEE, ARIZONA

Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum

No. 5 Copper Queen Plaza
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
520-432-7071

31°26.537' N 109°54.969' W

Bisbee lies in southeast Arizona, a world class location for copper and a variety of other minerals. Wyatt Earp and Apache country, with Tombstone only a half hour's drive away. Bisbee gained fame as the "Queen of the Copper Camps". Occupying a historical mining setting, the Bisbee Mining museum complex features exhibits and an underground mine tour. Read more about Bisbee's copper connection in the August, 2019 edition of Rock&Gem magazine.

<https://bisbeemuseum.org/bm-museum.aspx>

Queen Mine Historic Mining Tours

478 Dart Road
Bisbee, AZ 85603

866-432-2071 (toll-free)
520-432-2071 (local)

31°26.408' N 109°54.743' W

Longstanding underground mine tour operation. Videos at their website.

<http://www.queenminetour.com/>



**BISBEE MINING & HISTORICAL MUSEUM,
BISBEE, ARIZONA**

Courtland Ghost Town, Pearce

N Pearce Rd
Elfrida, AZ 85610
520-585-6555

31°46.116' N 109°48.680' W (Estimated)

Google Map link to Courtland Ghost Town:

<https://goo.gl/maps/fS8Eah19A5EMdL2u8>

Fee tours of area and fee digs. One fee dig is for rocks and minerals and there is a separate one for turquoise which is pricey. The general tour includes some underground. Elfrida is probably the nearest town. I have been in contact with the owners and they seem courteous and inviting.

Double and triple check this location before navigating there. Controversy over what this operation is doing exists; there are questions on claim ownership and the barring of public access to an existing road which leads into the overall area. A non-patented claim owner can gate access to their claim at their border but they cannot bar access to other claims. See the next page for BLM's explanation, it will help you whenever you are out prospecting or exploring new ground.

“Michael Oster has started tours, mining, metal detector workshops, limited turquoise digs and other things. He is the only resident of Courtland and also has the main supply of Courtland turquoise tm. A

must for your book I would give him a call. I am the Bisbee rep for his project and doing jewelry work for him.” David Owens.

<https://www.courtlandghosttown.com/index.html#/>

On The Matter of Access to Claimed Public Land

Bureau of Land Management

Oregon/Washington State Office March 2012

Locating Mining Claims / Notice to Mining Claimant

The mining laws permit the prospector and miner to make reasonable use of a mining claim as long as the use is incident and necessary to prospecting, mining and processing operations. A mining claimant has a right to use his claim for mining purposes only. The purpose of the claim is to protect the miner's discovery. However, an erroneous impression sometimes exists to the effect that the act of staking a mining claim is the shortest route to obtaining public land for a weekend retreat, or other similarly unlawful purpose. A mining claim does not give the claimant exclusive use of the claim. The public may use the surface of a mining claim for any purpose allowed on other public lands other than mining. The public may not interfere with valid mining activities.

Since a mining claimant has merely a possessory interest in the location, the United States has paramount title in the land, which it has a duty and right to protect against waste and unauthorized use. Any use of the surface of an unpatented claim for purposes unrelated to mining is unauthorized and, therefore, considered to be in trespass. Whether the claim is valid or invalid, the Bureau will proceed to terminate the unauthorized use and collect any damages from the beginning of the wrongful occupancy.

The unauthorized use of a mining claim can become a very serious problem for the claimant, particularly when a valuable improvement is constructed or placed on an unpatented claim. Such a person stands to lose all of his/her investment, including the claim itself, due to such trespass action. In many cases, we have found that unauthorized use began because of the claimant's lack of knowledge or understanding of the mining laws.

Therefore, we are providing these cautions to owners of mining locations in an effort to prevent any future difficulties and encourage the proper use and development of public lands. A claimant may limit or restrict public recreational use of/or public access across claims or portions of claims that are actively used for prospecting, mining, or processing operations only in the following situations:

1. The mining claimant or operator has a valid Mining Notice or authorized Mining Plan and has deposited a reclamation bond that has been accepted by the BLM for disturbances related to their mining activity.
2. Where public recreational use of a claim would endanger or materially interfere with legitimate mining pursuits or;
3. In cases where the mining operation is hazardous and could lead to personal injury. The claimant may protect his mining equipment and operations area with appropriate signs or other lawful means if permitted by the local BLM office.

Recreationists may use the surface of most mining claims for any legal recreational pursuit, including hunting, fishing, and camping but must respect the rights of mining claimants. The right to manage the surface of most unpatented mining claims is vested with the federal government.

Recreation is a recognized use of the public lands, specifically on claims located after 1955 and certain other claims located prior to 1955 and is authorized by statute and regulation. A mining claimant may not fence or otherwise discourage free access and use of the land, within the bounds described above. A mining claimant is required under state and federal laws to provide adequate warning devices when using explosives during prospecting or mining operations.

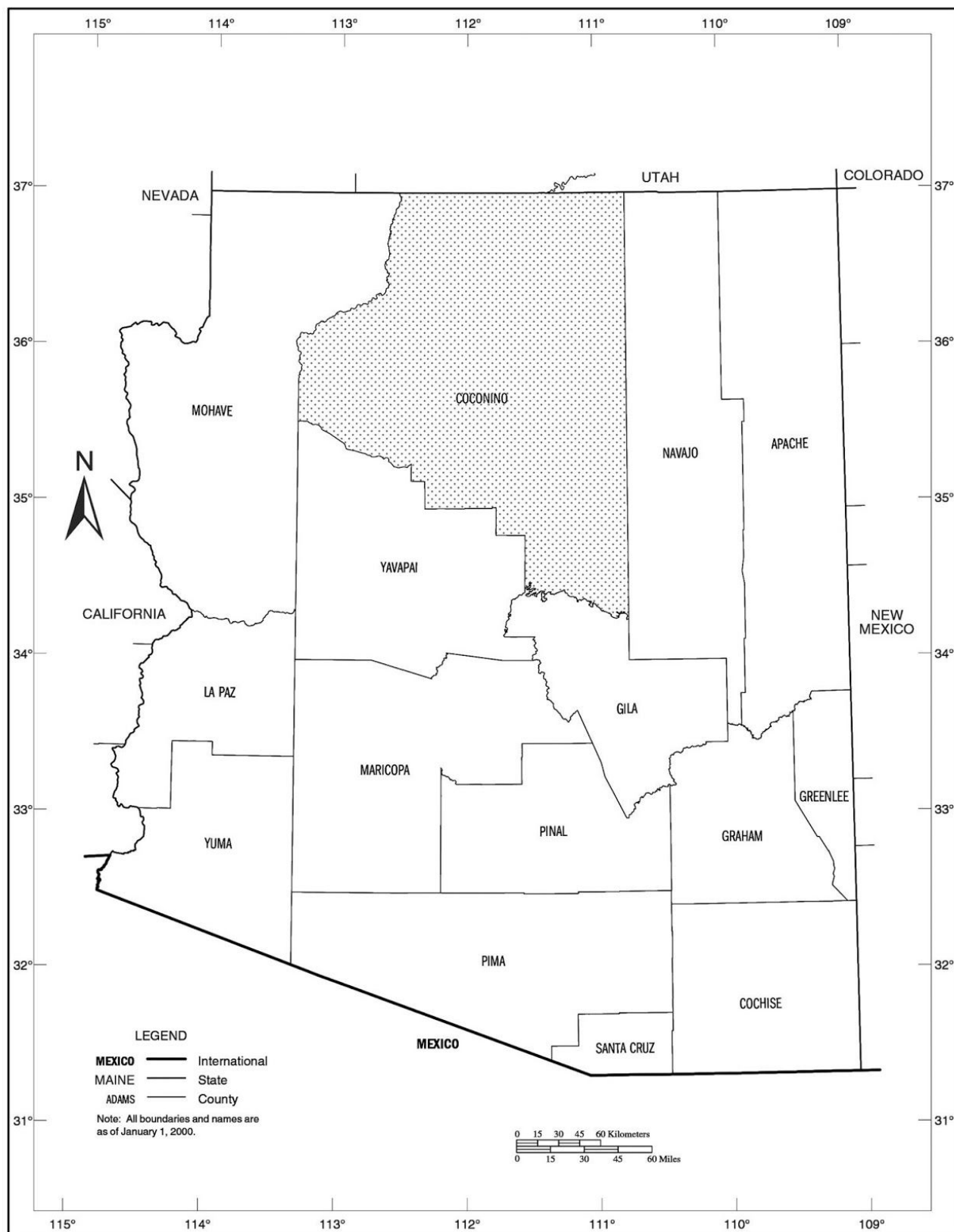
Persons who are denied access to or across unpatented mining claims should immediately leave the area, verify their location and report the situation to the nearest office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The public cannot cross private land to reach public land, where no public thoroughfare exists, unless the landowner's permission has been granted.

Two of the laws referred to in the regulations are the General Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 22-54) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq). Laws prior to 1872, such as the 1866 Mining Law, do not apply (Hal Anthony, 178 IBLA 238).

<https://www.blm.gov/or/programs/minerals/files/mining-claim-flyer.pdf>

Coconino County, AZ (Flagstaff)



Grand Canyon National Park

South Rim Visitor Center
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023
928-638-7888 – National Park Service

36°03.558' N 112°06.583' W

The Grand Canyon is one of the great natural wonders of the world. A UNESCO World Heritage site. “Unique combinations of geologic color and erosional forms decorate a canyon that is 277 river miles long, up to 18 miles wide, and a mile deep. Grand Canyon overwhelms our senses through its immense size.” Viewable from sites at both North and South Rims as well as Grand Canyon East and West.

North Rim Visitor Center
36°11.958' N 112°03.153' W
928-638-7888 – National Park Service

The North Rim visitor center is open May 15th through October 15th. Do not use the GPS coordinates provided to dead-reckon to the visitor center. Instead, get good maps and double check them for the best roads. The North Rim itself has many overlooks at the end of challenging, lengthy 4WD roads. Seasonal road closures. No services. Permits required for overnight stays. Inquire at the Public Lands Information Center in St. George, which also doubles as BLM’s Arizona Field Strip District Office. No collecting allowed. Some report that helicopter crews surveil the countryside for unauthorized activities.

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm>

Grand Canyon / Parashant National Monument
Information only at this address:
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790
435-688-3200 – BLM/Public Lands Information Center



FLAGSTAFF GENERAL STORE AT 9 N. LEROUX ST.

Downtown Flagstaff

Flagstaff Visitor Center

1 East Route 66

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

928-213-2951

35°11.860' N 111°39.098' W

Walking Tour of Flagstaff's Downtown Stone Buildings

Self-guided tour. Recommended book: *Stone Landmarks: Flagstaff's Geology and Historic Building Stones* by Marie D. Jackson. Piedra Azul Press. 1999. Available used through ABE.com and other online used book dealers. Perhaps available in town at Starrlight (sic) Books. Call ahead. 928-774-6813.

Flagstaff's stone buildings are to that city what Victorians are to San Francisco. Here, a rockhound can look and touch a variety of materials while visiting a colorful and historic downtown. Building stones are all local. They include moenkopi sandstone, malpais basalt, kaibab limestone, and olivine laced basaltic lava. The Babbitt building, a highlight of the walking tour, was built of what Jackson calls pumiceous dacite, "a frothy, silica rich volcanic rock" produced by an explosive eruption from nearby Mount Eden a half a million years ago.

This downtown tour enlarges on the experience one will have at the Museum of Northern Arizona and at the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument. Parking is limited in the downtown district and card-based meters are in effect. The visitor center does provide 30 minutes of free parking, allowing enough time to at least see nearby Leroux Street, which has three buildings featured in the book.

<https://www.flagstaffarizona.org/>

Museum of Northern Arizona

3101 North Fort Valley Road

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

Flagstaff, AZ 86001
928-774-5213

35°14.094' N 111°39.934' W

“Celebrating the Colorado Plateau.” A must stop for anyone visiting Flagstaff and beyond. The 1935 building is a beautiful work of art and geology. Its walls are principally malpais basalt fieldstone and its interior courtyard and many paths are lined with native sandstone pavers. A geology collection of note, with many mineral, rock and meteorite samples.

<https://musnaz.org/>

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

6082 Sunset Crater Road (Visitor Center)
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Mailing Address:

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument
6400 U.S. 89
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
928-526-0502

35°22.149' N 111°32.610' W (Visitor Center)

“Sunset Crater Volcano was born in a series of eruptions sometime between 1040 and 1100. Powerful explosions profoundly affected the lives of local people and forever changed the landscape and ecology of the area. Lava flows and cinders still look as fresh and rugged as the day they formed. But among dramatic geologic features, you'll find trees, wildflowers, and signs of wildlife – life returns.” This from the website below.

<https://www.nps.gov/sucr/index.htm>

Meteor Crater, also known as Barringer Crater

Interstate 40
Winslow, AZ 86047
800-289-5898

35°01.633' N 111°01.350' W (Visitor Center)

Five miles off I-40 on Meteor Crater Road, past the RV Park.

Driving Directions

From Flagstaff, AZ: Head east on I-40 about 35 miles. Take the Meteor Crater Road exit (exit 233) and turn right. Drive about five miles to the Visitor Center parking lot.

From Winslow, AZ: Head west on I-40 about 18 miles. Take the Meteor Crater Road exit (exit 233) and turn left. Again, drive about five miles and you will come to the parking lot.

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

Admission required. Pay whatever they want.

The Meteor Crater may be America's greatest natural wonder in private hands. Highly recommended. It is awesome to behold such a sight. While inside viewing is provided behind a panoramic sheet of glass, the best experience is outdoors in the sun and wind. Enquire before visiting about walking tours on the crater's rim. Photographers should bring a tripod to take panoramic shots of the crater. Which they will want to do.

The crater's interior is only viewable from platforms accessed by paying an admission fee at the Visitor Center. That fee includes entrance to their well-done museum featuring displays about meteorites and asteroids. There are also exhibits on space, the solar system and comets. A gift shop also exists, however, be careful about buying any rock labeled as a meteorite or meteorite related. Demand authenticating paperwork.

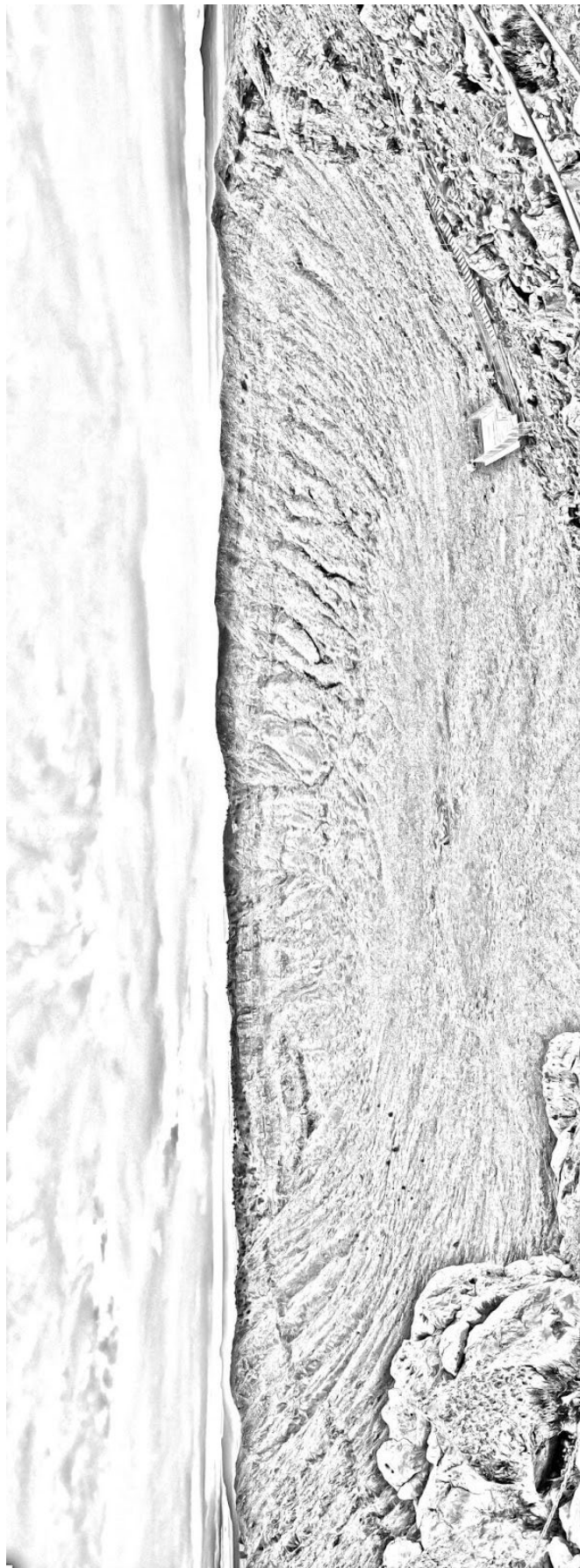
The Meteoritical Society, a group of academics, earth science professionals, and enthusiastic amateurs, prefers to call The Meteor Crater by another name. They use the title Barringer Crater, in honor of Daniel Barringer. He labored for decades to prove that the crater was the result of a meteor and not a volcano. Good job, Daniel. We all thank you for your efforts.

<https://www.meteorcrater.com>

Resources

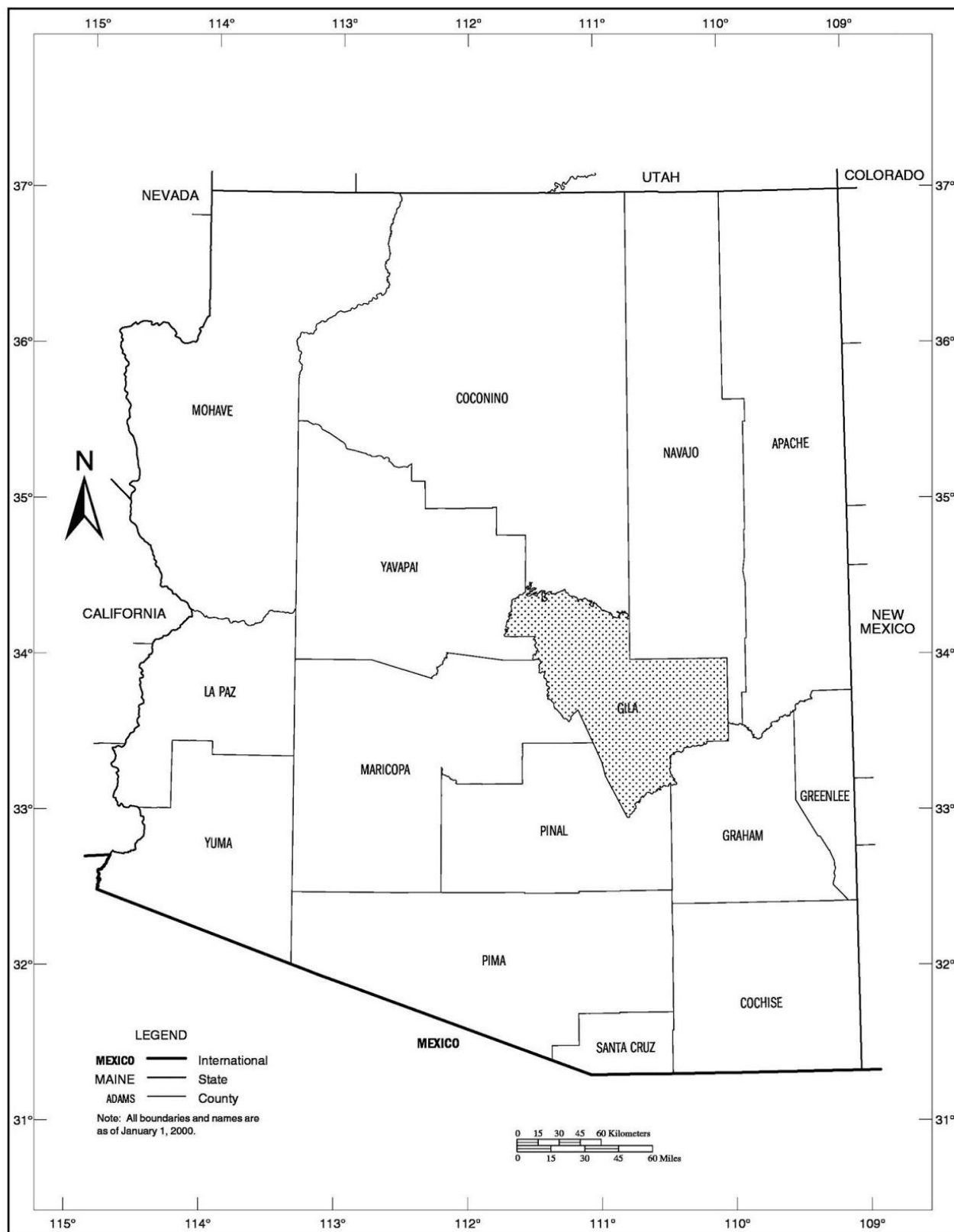
Foster, George. *The Meteor Crater Story*, 13th ed. (Winslow: Meteor Crater Enterprises, 1997) Widely available used. My preferred author for this title.

Smith, Dean. *The Meteor Crater Story* (Winslow: Meteor Crater Enterprises, 1997) A more recent telling.



METEOR CRATER OUTSIDE OF WINSLOW, ARIZONA

Gila County, AZ (Globe)



Diamond Rim Quartz Collecting Site (USFS) Near Payson

Diamond Rim is near Payson in the Tonto National Forest. It is located on the Tonto National Forest Map, but the best way to get there is to collect directions from multiple sources.

Get to Tonto Village before going further. Diamond Rim is on USFS Road 65, but the access road to 65 goes by many names: Forest Road 64, Fire Control Road, Control Road, and Tonto Village Road. When they are open, the Payson USFS Ranger District Office in Payson may help with directions. The Tonto National Forest produced by the USFS is comically big, nearly four feet wide, but invaluable.

Collecting rules are posted at the site. Surface collecting only for most of the year. Digging is allowed from October 1st until February 28th, when the ground is often snow-covered.

Mindat.org supplied coordinate:

34°17.250' N 111°11.533' W

Good discussion here on Mindat:

<https://www.mindat.org/mesg-127593.html>

USFS in Payson

Payson Ranger District
1009 E. Hwy 260
Payson, Arizona 85541
928-474-7900

34°14.538' N 111°18.361' W

May be helpful with locating Diamond Rim which is good for quartz crystal collecting.

Google their website.



**WHISPERING PINES BRIDGE, SPANNING EAST VERDE
RIVER AT FOREST SERVICE CONTROL ROAD,
PAYSON, GILA COUNTY, AZ**

Gila County Historical Museum

1330 North Broad Street
Globe, AZ 85501
928-425-7385

33°24.592' N 110°47.720' W

“The Gila County Museum is in the old Mine Rescue Station, which was opened in 1920. As you walk through the Museum you will experience the workings of the Mine Rescue Station. From photographs to equipment, it is on display.”

<http://gilahistoricalmuseum.org>

Crick's Gems and Minerals

549 W Ash Street
Globe, AZ 85501
928-425-8217

33°23.406' N 110°47.270' W

Closed when I last went by. Broken website.

Peridot Dreams

Stevie Joey
P.O. Box 539
Peridot, AZ 85542

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

33°21.064' N 110°27.591' W (Coordinate for San Carlos)

Authoritative YouTube video on the Mesa's geology:

<https://youtu.be/6Pp2rydb8cI>

Apache tribal member Stevie Joey has peridot claims on the San Carlos Reservation. Peridot is also known as gem grade olivine, a green stone thrown out of the earth by ancient tectonic activity. The coordinates listed mark San Carlos, not the claims themselves.

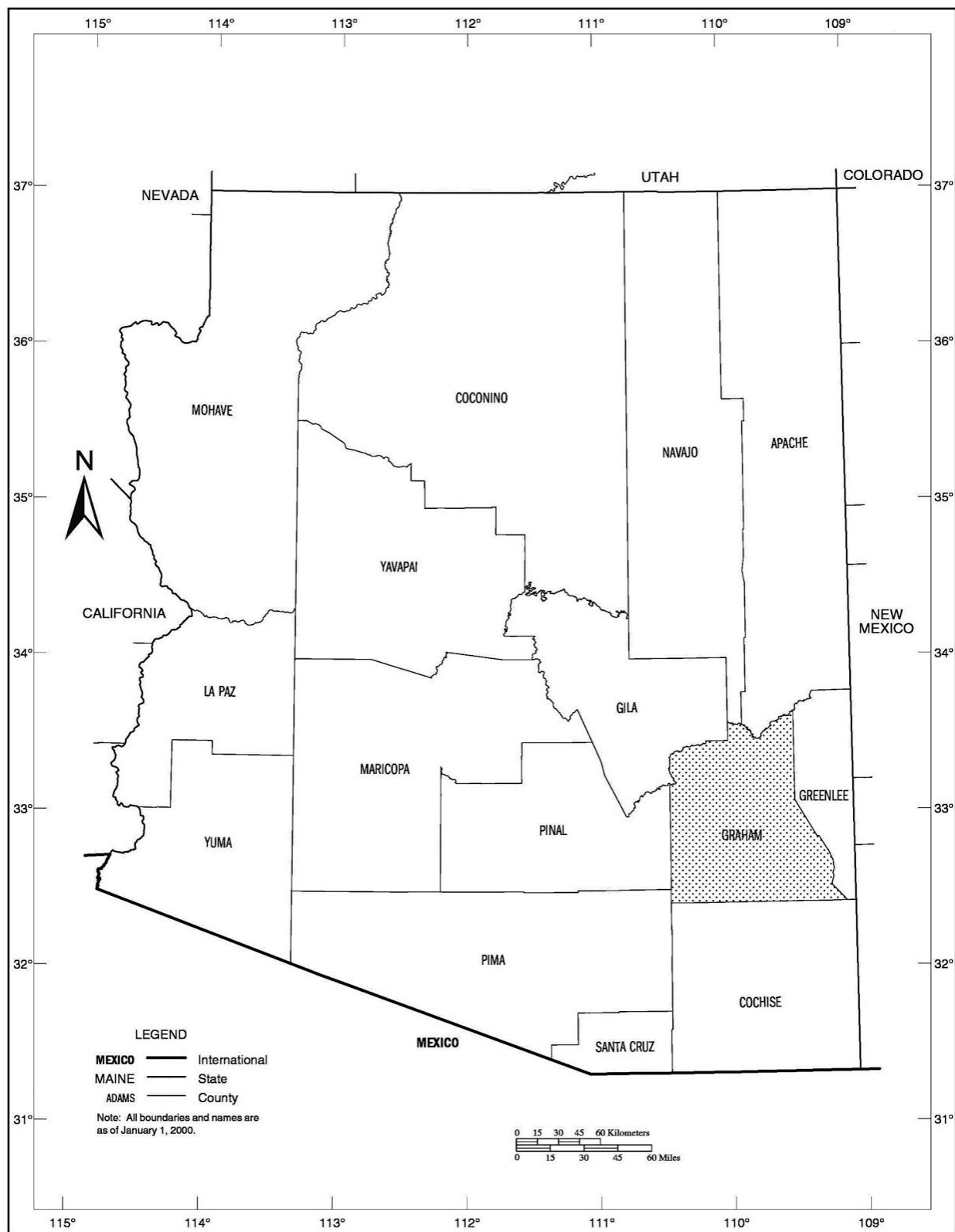
Contact Stevie through his website to arrange a visit. He also sells beautiful jewelry as well as rough stones and cabs. Be patient when corresponding, he may be traveling to shows or working hard on his claim.

The town of Peridot is in southeastern Gila County and northwestern Graham County.

“Take stones and ashes and thorns, with some scorpions and rattlesnakes thrown it, dump the outfit on stones, heat the stones red hot, set the United States Army after the Apache, and you have San Carlos.” Unidentified Apache quoted in *People of the Desert* by Time Life Books.

<http://www.peridotdreams.com>

Graham County, AZ (Safford)



BLM Safford Field Office

BLM's Safford Field Office manages areas in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Pinal Counties. See their contact information under the Cochise County entry.

Peridot Dream Claims

See Gila County.

Black Hills Rockhound Area — BLM managed

Black Hills Rockhound Area lies 17 miles north of Safford in the northern part of the Peloncillo Mountains. These mountains span Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties.

32°52.438' N 109°23.697' W

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/search-details/274360/1>

Eastern Arizona Museum & Historical Society of Graham County, Inc.

2 North Main

Pima, AZ 85543

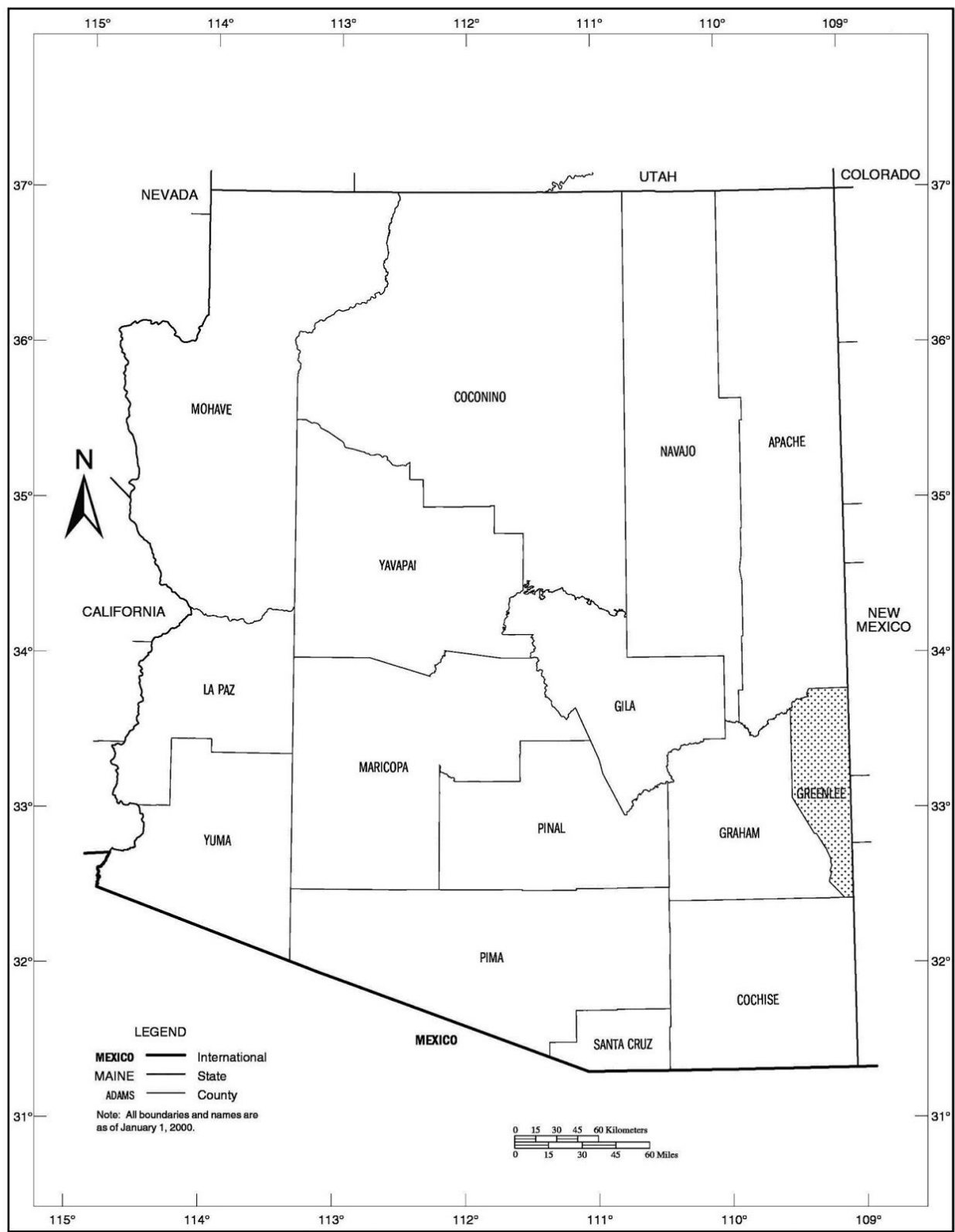
928-485-9400

928-485-3032 (Alternative number)

A small but notable display of rocks, minerals, and ore. Open limited days.

<http://easternarizonamuseum.com>

Greenlee County, AZ (Clifton)



Greenlee Historical Museum

299 Chase Creek
Clifton, AZ 85533
928-865-3115

33°03.368' N 109°18.257' W

Early mining. Museum located in the Chase Creek Historical District.

<http://visitcliftonaz.com/what-to-see/greenlee-historical-museum/#>

Rock-A-Buy: Rocks and Gifts

809 SE Old West Highway
Duncan, AZ 85534
928-215-1641

32°42.791'N 109°05.921' W

<http://www.rockabuyrocksandgifts.com/>

Doug Barlow is the affable owner of this east-central Arizona rock shop. Fire agate is the big draw in this area and Doug will show you samples of what to look for. He will even provide a map of promising locations for anyone who comes into his shop and signs his guest book. The nearby Round Mountain Rockhound Area, listed below, is close and Doug has advice for anyone heading out. Ask, too, about Black Hills, another BLM rockhounding area. Call to make certain Barlow's shop will be open when you visit. He's a great guy. He gave me a piece of calcite he had named the "The Volcano." Gifted it, mind you. It glows beautifully under short wave. I treasure that piece.



ROCK-A-BUY: ROCKS AND GIFTS, DUNCAN, ARIZONA

Simpson Hotel

116 Main Street
Duncan, AZ 85534
928-359-3590

32°43.29667' N 109°06.316' W

Bed & Breakfast (and art gallery!) in Duncan. When you get tired of rockhounding and need to clean up and relax. Deborah Mendelsohn is the owner and manager.

<https://simpsonhotel.com/>

Round Mountain Rockhound Area – BLM managed

BLM: 32°32.632' N 109°05.389' W
Google Maps: 32°28.593' N 109°04.528' W

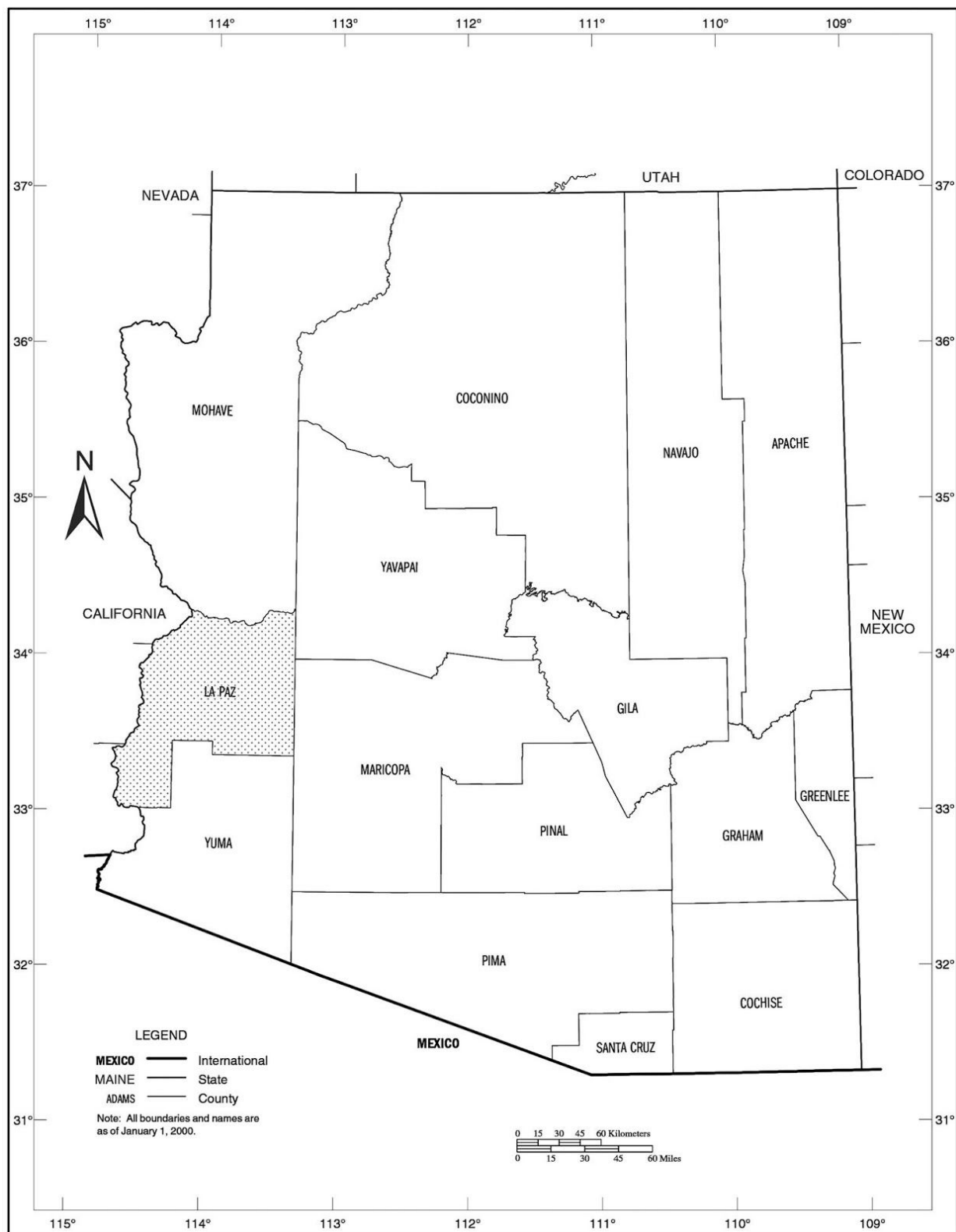
BLM directions: “From Highway 70 east of Safford approximately 50 miles, travel into New Mexico to just beyond milepost 5. Take the dirt access road on your right for 12 miles, following the signs to the Rockhound Area.”

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/round-mountain-rockhound-area>

BLM Safford Field Office

BLM’s Safford Field Office manages areas in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Pinal Counties. See their contact information under the Cochise County entry.

La Paz County, AZ (Parker)



Quartzsite: City and Major Rock Event

Quartzsite PowWow

235 Ironwood (Quartzsite Improvement Association Building)
Quartzsite, AZ 85346

Pow Wow Show Promoters

Mike & Carolyn Zinno

928-927-6325

PowWow@QIArizona.org

33°39.925' N 114°12.843' W

I've written about Quartzsite extensively at my blog, <https://southwestrockhounding.com>. My website has the latest information and links. To give you a flavor of Quartzsite, this is an excerpt from my fifth article for Rock&Gem. To save space I've omitted my writing on other Quartzsite attractions and on Hi Jolly and his camels. You need to know about all of that!

The Quartzsite Show: Rockhounds Gather in The Desert

By Thomas Farley. Rock&Gem, April, 2017

Quartzsite, Arizona is a town and a meeting place. In winter it is a gathering of the clan for recreational vehicle Snowbirds, flea market enthusiasts, ham radio operators, off-road motorists, geo-cachers, and rockhounds. Especially rockhounds. Quartzsite is rock and gem heaven.

While many Quartzsite locations sell rocks in the winter months, the biggest production is January's QIA PowWow Gem and Mineral Show. In 2017 it featured over 550 spaces and 272 vendors. Put on by 300 volunteers, seller's wares had to be 75% gem, rock, mineral, or jewelry related. Running concurrently with the PowWow at another site, the Desert Gardens Gem and Mineral Show concentrates mostly on rocks, with a little less jewelry than the PowWow. Then there's the Tyson Wells Rock and Gem Show. And the Prospectors' Panorama. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Quartzsite is in southwest Arizona, 244 miles east of Los Angeles and 127 miles west of Phoenix. Las Vegas is 213 miles to the north. Located in the La Posita Plain, La Paz County, Quartzsite is bordered in its southerly directions by the Dome Rock, Castle Dome, and Kofa Mountains. Population 3,354. In its heyday, 39 mines operated around Quartzsite. Mostly gold mines, with one or two cinnabar and lead. A profusion of old mines and collecting sites gave rise to Quartzsite in the mid 1960s as a rockhounding paradise.

In 1856 Charles "Charly" Tyson dug a well that would provide water to cross country travelers, nearby ranchers, and to mine workers in the surrounding mountains. He built a small adobe structure and called it Fort Tyson. It eventually became a stagecoach stop on the route from Ehrenburg, Arizona to Prescott. By that time one building had become several, the compound taking on the fuller name of Tyson's Well Stage Station.

Quartzsite owes its present appellation to postal naming conventions. The postmark "Tyson's" served the town until 1895 when mail service ended due to the local postmaster falling ill. A new post office opened in 1896 at another location. The Postmaster General decreed that discontinued place names couldn't be

used and, further, only one-word names were acceptable. Quartz Site is what the townsfolk wanted, from all the quartz at a nearby stamp mill. The postal service shortened it to Quartzsite.



THE QUARTZSITE QIA POWWOW, QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA

The PowWow Gem and Mineral Show first started in 1967 with 18 locals selling items at a small school to about a thousand people. The event progressed into what may now be the largest public rock and gem show in the country. Over these fifty years the entire town has become dotted with rock shops, auction houses, and trading posts of all kinds. While I was there a venue announced the sale of a pallet of American flag products, 4,000 helium balloons, and over 10,000 old Playboy magazines. Essentially, if something has been made, it's probably been sold in Quartzsite.

Quartzsite's popularity as America's largest yard sale and winter retreat probably peaked in the year 2000. In January of 1999, Huell Howser, California travelogue producer par excellence, took his film crew outside the state for the first time to cover Quartzsite. In a warm and engaging hour, which is free to view online, Howser interviewed many townsfolk, mostly about the history of the community. Then, in 2000, National Geographic came to visit. They called Quartzsite Nowhere, Arizona. Until November:

"Then, like a mob of chattering starlings settling into a too-small tree, the snowbirds start landing in November. By mid-January, the mechanical car counter at the Interstate 10 exit is ticking off 26,000 vehicles a day. Within weeks 175,000 RVs cram inches apart into 79 trailer parks, onto front yards, and spill out seven miles on either side of town. Every year more than a million people reset their internal navigation and drive from Everywhere, North America, to this western Arizona dot on the map. Luxury motor homes, fifth wheels, cab-over campers, trailers, and converted school buses plunk down on the same patch of land." National Geographic, January, 2001.

Things have settled down since then. My first visit started on Wednesday, January, 18, 2017. Empty RV parking spaces in town seemed numerous. Space looked plentiful at BLM land outside of town. But since few venues charge for admission or parking, there's no real way to keep count. The BLM did tell me approximately 28,401 people stayed at their free and pay areas in fiscal year 2016. And the Arizona D.O.T. says Main Street now averages 12,400 vehicles in each direction over the course of a year. The city website says 2,000,000 annual visitors. Whatever the numbers, the rock shows continue to draw vendors in record amounts, with waiting lists common for spaces.

As to the PowWow itself, Wednesday was ideal. Bright sunshine and short sleeve weather. I regretted not bringing sunscreen and I later bought a hat from the Quartzsite Gem and Mineral Club. More on them in a bit. To begin with, the PowWow is located just off Main Street at 235 East Ironwood Drive. Follow the cars. A parking lot doesn't seem obvious at first but keep moving along and you'll find it; everything funnels to the main lot. Two tractor pulled shuttles take visitors to any entrance they like. Drivers give everybody time to get on, including those with walkers. Shuttle, parking, and admission are all free.

Resources

Sanholdt, Pauline. *Quartzsite Pioneer Bill Keiser's Lost Mines and Prospectors' Lore*. (Yuma County Historical Society: Yuma, AZ, 1978) Adopted by Sandholdt for the Yuma County Historical Society and the Quartzsite Historical Society.

Quartzsite Museum aka the Tyson's Well Stage Station

161 West Main St
Quartzsite, AZ 85346
928-927-5229

33°39.971' N 114°13.182' W

Don't miss the Tyson's Well Museum. Mining artifacts and an assay office. Free admission enthusiastic volunteers will tell you the history of Quartzsite as a stage station and a supply depot for nearby mines. Speaking of which, outside in back, is the original assay office of the Mariquita mine. The many items speak to the everyday life of miners. The volunteer I talked to was also a member of the metal detecting club. He discussed at length the many mines surrounding Quartzsite. Be sure to notice the museum ceiling made of saguaro ribs.

<https://www.visitarizona.com/business/quartzsite-museum>

Hardies Beads & Jewelry

1250 W. Main St
Quartzsite, AZ 85346
928-927-6381

33°39.754' N 114°14.256' W

A Quartzsite institution. While mainly selling collecting supplies and beads, they have an outstanding rock collection installed on their interior east wall. Much local material including gold in quartz. Not many rocks for sale, mostly things bead related. Seasonal hours.

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

<http://hardiesonline.com>

Quartzsite Roadrunner Gem and Mineral Club

Headquarter Address:

235 E. Ironwood Avenue (Quartzsite Improvement Association building)
Quartzsite, AZ 85346

33°39.925' N 114°12.843' W

Mailing Address:

PO Box 338
Quartzsite, AZ 85346
928-927-5531

The Quartzsite Roadrunner Gem and Mineral Club is one of the largest and most organized rock clubs in the country. Extremely active, especially October through March. Field trips go every Tuesday through that time and twice a day during the QIA's PowWow. Non-members pay \$2 a trip. Roadrunners might find bacon rock, desert roses, geodes, apache tears, or green banded rhyolite. Among other things. Major shop facilities and classes. They sell good looking clothing like Polo shirts and caps. All with their Roadrunner logo. As everyone knows, all Roadrunner based apparel enhances life.

<http://qrgmc.org>

Miners Depot

566 North Central Blvd
Quartzsite, AZ 85346
Messaging through their website

33°40.538' N 114°13.033' W

Miners Depot is desert prospecting store and a clearing house for gold information in the Quartzsite area. Detectors, tools, lots of classifiers or screens, the place to stop before heading out. Generally open six days a week during the main prospecting season, from about November through mid-March. Sign up here for the Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club. It consists of coin shooters and gold prospectors. At last check, membership was a terrific bargain at \$20 a person. Details follow in the next entry.

<https://minersdepot.com>

Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club

Mailing Address

PO Box 3102
Quartzsite, AZ 85359
928-927-7150

Meeting address (Miners Depot)
566 North Central Blvd

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

Quartzsite, AZ 85346

33°40.538' N 114°13.033' W

A club of coin shooters and gold prospectors. Membership is a terrific bargain at \$20 a person. This lets you in on the club's claims encompassing 360 acres. The club is most active November through the middle of March, however, you are free to work in summer if you can stand the 118 degree heat. If you are a coin shooter, you can participate in their many winter season hunts.

They do not mail memberships. Sign up and pay dues at their club meetings, coin hunts, their table at the PowWow in January, and at Miners Depot.

<http://quartzsitemetaldetectingclub.com/>

Bouse Assay Office and Museum

44362 East Main Street

Bouse, AZ 85325

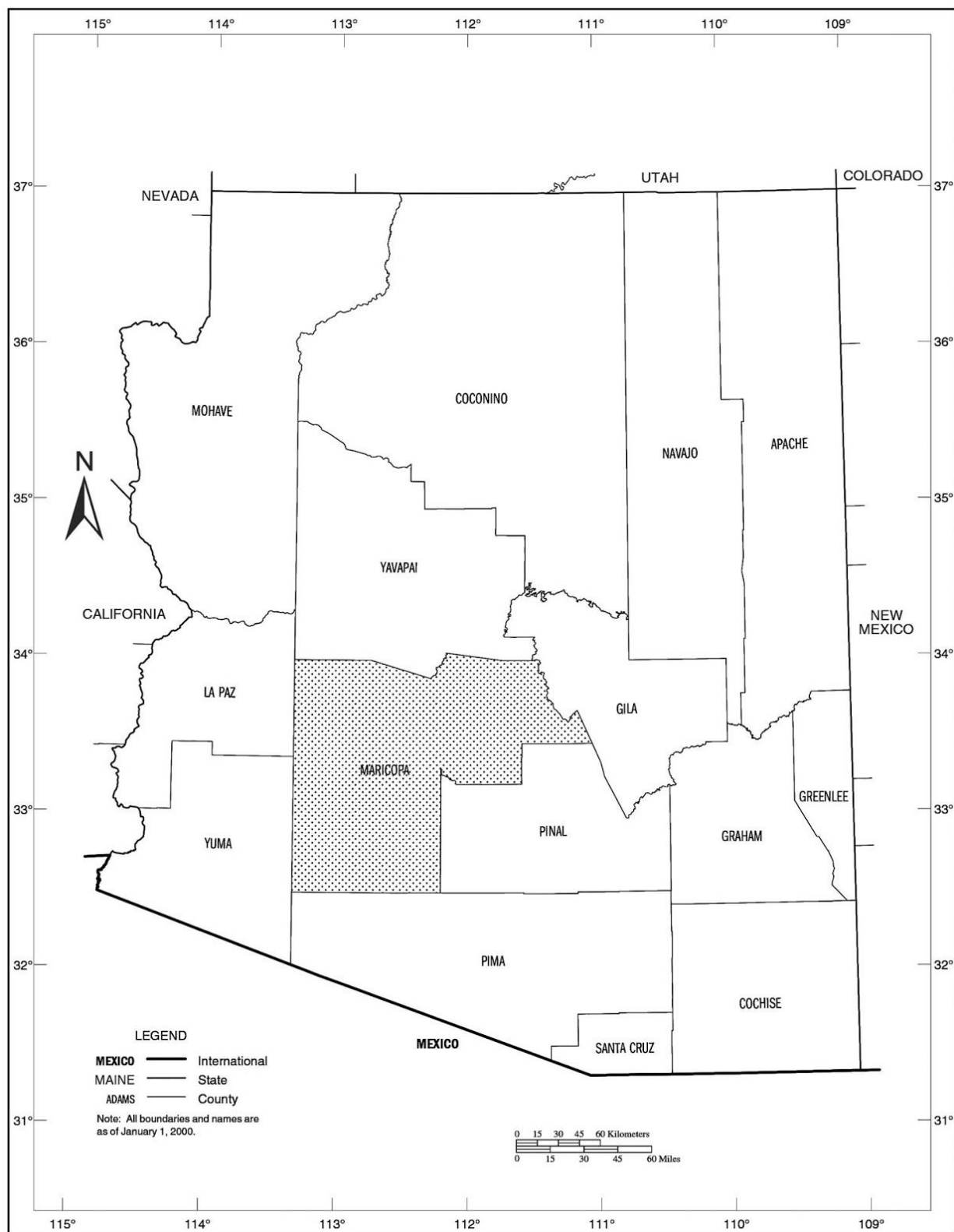
928-851-2509

33°56.001' N 114°00.188' W

“There is a very small historical museum in Bouse that used to be the Assay Office and has rocks as well as mining items.” Diane Hilliard.

<http://www.bouseazchamber.com>

Maricopa County, AZ (Phoenix)



Phoenix

Phoenix metro traffic congestion rivals Atlanta or Los Angeles. Weekend traffic is lightest, although driving between 10 AM and 2 PM on weekdays might be workable. The last time I drove through Phoenix it took me three hours to go from Wickenburg to Gilbert, a distance of only 80 miles.

Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve Center for Archaeology and Society

3711 W. Deer Valley Road
Phoenix, AZ 85308
623-582-8007

33°40.648 N 112°09.156' W

<https://shesc.asu.edu/dvpp>

Rock art! “The Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve is an archaeology museum and 47-acre Sonoran Desert preserve, and home to the largest concentration of Native American petroglyphs in the Phoenix area.” Fee charged.

Huhugam Heritage Center

21359 South Maricopa Road
Chandler, AZ 85226
520-796-3500

33°15.250' N 111°58.426' W

Natural history museum with Arizona collections. “In the Ancestral Lands exhibit see the master work of our Huhugam ancestors: pottery, jewelry, carved stone bowls and tools.”

<http://www.grichhc.org/index.php/visit>

Four Peaks Mining Company

9500 E Via De Ventura, Suite D-110
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
480-434-6074

High end retail store. Amethyst mine owners.

33°33.355' N 111°52.621' W

<http://fourpeaksminingco.com/the-mine/>

Flagg Mineral Foundation

P.O. Box 41834
Mesa, AZ 85724

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

A group of many interests, especially educational. Field trips and much more.

Puts on the Flagg Gem and Mineral Show which is the largest gem and mineral show in the Phoenix area. Free admission.

The show appears here:

Mesa Community College
West Southern Ave & S Dobson Rd, Mesa
AZ 85202

<http://flaggmineralfoundation.org/>

Arizona Museum of Natural History

53 North MacDonald
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-644-2230

33°25.476' N 111°50.034' W

Special geology collections viewable by appointment, among them an Arizona Mine Collection which features locations within a roughly fifty-mile radius of Mesa. Museum as a whole excellent for children. Fee charged.

<http://arizonamuseumofnaturalhistory.org/home>

Arizona State University at Tempe – Various Departments

Interdisciplinary Science & Technology Building IV
781 S Terrace Rd
Tempe, AZ 85287
480-965-5081

33°25.095' N 111°55.703' W

Arizona State University R. S. Dietz Museum of Geology – no longer operating

Searching online for Arizona geology museums returns dozens of references to the R. S. Dietz Museum of Geology at ASU which no longer exists. Its collection is mostly in storage.

Karin Valentine, Media Relations and Marketing Manager for Arizona State University, explains that while they are considering what to do with the collection, “Some pieces are on display in ISTB4 and in some of our other facilities, and we are working on displaying some of the rest in the newly renovated Bateman Physical Science Building F-Wing. We hope to have much of the collection together again on display. We do have geology and planetary science exhibits available in ISTB4.”

Those exhibits belong to the School of Earth and Space Exploration. Not a Geology Department. University administrators think the word geology is out of date. They’d prefer Earth Sciences Department

or some such. And that geologists be called earth science professionals. Most practicing geologists, though, still call each other geologists.

School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University

Public exhibits open on the first two floors of ISTB4.

Center of Meteorite Studies at Arizona State University

May help with meteorite identification or provide some resources. Inquire.



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AT TEMPE, TEMPE, ARIZONA

Saddle Mountain — Dispersed BLM camping area and Collecting Site

Unless otherwise prohibited, BLM permits camping on much of their managed land in the Southwest. Saddle Mountain is a dispersed camping area, allowing stays of up to 14 days for no fee. It is popular with Snowbirds who camp their RVs on the flat desert in spring to enjoy the mountain backed setting.

Saddle Mountain's popularity rest with rockhounds who for decades have found fire agate "rough" to a greater or lesser degree. Its accessibility to nearly any kind of vehicle adds to its reputation, as

comfortable camping near any productive ground is rare. An extended stay lets a rockhound put in the hours necessary to find something.

Numerous web pages and YouTube videos exist about Saddle Mountain. This is one:

<http://www.fireagate.us/fire-agate/saddlemountain.shtml>

YouTube has videos from both the RV and rockhound point of view. Look for key words like these on YouTube: Saddle Mountain / BLM Dispersed Camping / Tonopah AZ. /fire agate Saddle Mountain.

Mitchell's *Gem Trails of Arizona* contains specific road directions to Saddle Mountain.

Phoenix Area Map Stores

Wide World Maps & MORE!

Central Phoenix Store:
2133 East Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-279-2323 x 1
33°29.681' N 112°02.125' W

Google Map link:
<https://goo.gl/maps/h1ofqJJo9vgSkkej8>

North Phoenix Store:
17232 North Cave Creek Road
Phoenix, AZ 85032
602 279-2323 x 3
33°38.613' W 112°01.876' N

Google Map link:
<https://goo.gl/maps/CqbbgmTJqgb4f6jMA>

I have bought many maps from this company online but have not yet visited in person. My life lies uncomplete.

<https://www.maps4u.com>

BLM Phoenix District Office

21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027
623-580-5500

33°29.471' N 112°05.002' W

The Phoenix District Office is composed of two Field Offices. One is the Lower Sonoran Field Office, covering a significant part of Maricopa County, including Saddle Mountain. The other is the Hassayampa Field Office, which manages almost one million acres north of Interstate 10.

Tonto National Forest

Supervisor's Office – No public services
2324 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85006
602-225-5200

Cave Creek Ranger District
40202 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
480-595-3300

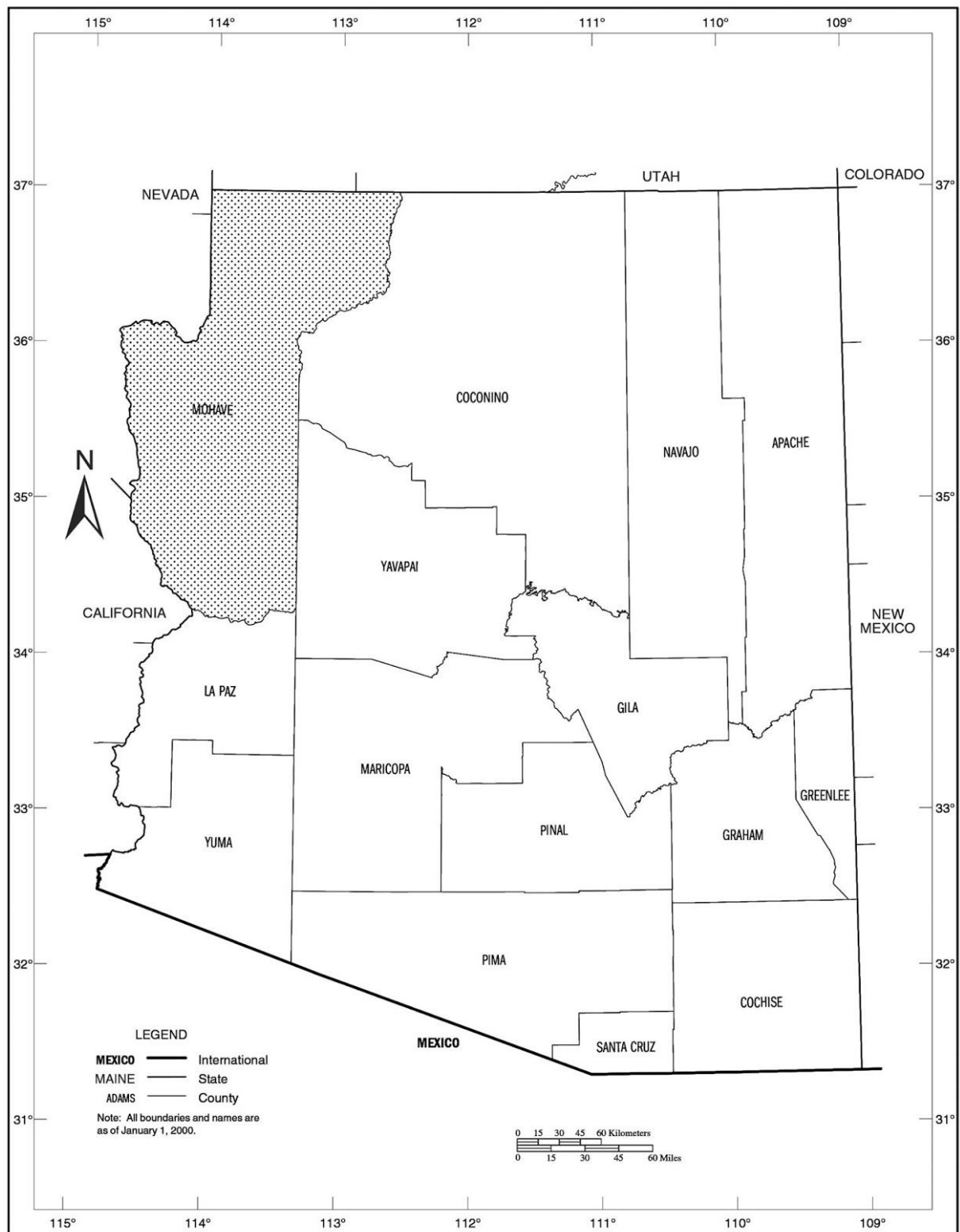
33°50.940' N 111°50.118' W

Mesa Ranger District
5140 E. Ingram St.
Mesa, AZ 85205
480-610-3300

33°26.965' N 111°43.268' W

38 mineral districts were established over the years in the Tonto Basin. Mines recovered everything from lead to gold. Many other commodities were pulled from the Tonto's heavily mineralized ground. The Tonto NF includes the Diamond Rim Quartz Collecting Site near Payson in Globe County.

Mohave County (Kingman)



Jim Fritz Museum

Elkhart Avenue
Chloride, Arizona 86431

Contact the museum through:

Chloride Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 268
Chloride, Arizona 86431
928-565-9777

35°24.835' N 114°11.968' W (Near center of town)

<http://www.chloridechamber.com>

A onetime silver mining camp in Mohave County, Arizona, Chloride is considered the oldest continuously inhabited mining town in the state. It's somewhat confusing to drive the backstreets of the city as land ownership is uncertain to visitors. Nearby ground is well claimed, research before going.

Merle Anderson, Chamber of Commerce Secretary, says that, "We do have some rocks and minerals on display in our museum, but we are a very small museum, so only have a few. Many specimens are available in our area by ATV though, and lots of rock and mineral buffs come here and go exploring in the desert to find them, especially since we are surrounded by BLM land. There are many old mines in the area accessible by ATV, and the Kingman Turquoise Mine (not accessible to the public) is right up the road with a very nice shop where they sell the turquoise. Chloride is a fantastic place to mention for rocks and minerals. Our town is a veritable museum of old mining equipment, and history in itself. Chloride was specifically formed because of the 'rocks' in the immediate area. So, you can see, that one can get much more here in Chloride than just a look at rocks and minerals."

Seasonal hours.

Resource

Paher, Stanley. *Chloride: Mines and Murals* (Nevada Publications: Las Vegas, Nevada, 1978) Good study of the Chloride area including a few nice maps by Southwestern historical cartographer Don Bufkin.

Mohave Museum

400 West Beale Street (Almost on Historic Route 66)
Kingman, AZ 86401
928-753-3195

35°11.423' N 114°03.694' W

<https://www.mohavemuseum.org/mohave-museum.html>

This museum is all about Mohave County. In Arizona, Mohave is spelled here with an "H," whereas in neighboring California, it is most often spelled with a "J." The museum has a number of rock and gem displays featuring local materials. An especially nice case features turquoise carvings commissioned by

S.A. Colbaugh and his wife. Colbaugh founded Colbaugh Processing, still in business, their material Kingman turquoise. The museum has a terrific railroad caboose in back without “Keep Off” signs.

BLM Kingman Field Office

2755 Mission Boulevard
Kingman, AZ 86401
928-718-3700

35°11.394' N 114°00.864' W

<https://www.blm.gov/office/kingman-field-office>

The BLM Kingman Field Office is part of the BLM Colorado River District. it manages the Burro Creek Campground and surrounding BLM land, including the Burro Creek Wilderness Area.

The Gold Lady

52 Hope Road, Suite 2
Golden Valley, AZ 86413 (Northwest of Kingman)
928-692-5035

35°13.168' N 114°10.443' W

Located now in Golden Valley, The Gold Lady is a great prospecting and metal detecting store. The Gold Lady knows her stuff and she is an unstoppable when it comes to her own detecting; she is constantly in the field and mightily protests when health prevents her from going out.

She has a new store in Golden Valley which I haven't yet visited. The old store was fine but this new location promises good things. The Gold Lady has been advocating the Minelab Gold Monster 1000 for some time. Although I only saw it work at her old shop, its operation looks simple with a fairly flat learning curve. It looks like a great choice for the beginning prospector. Prospecting supplies and perhaps local maps.

Google Map link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/zEhWvpgeJ9Bhq68NA>

<http://thegoldladystore.com>

Arizona Rock Shops

4107 AZ-68, Golden Valley, AZ 86413
928-565-2882

<http://www.arizonarockshops.com>

Colbaugh Processing

3471 W Chea Dr.
Golden Valley, Arizona 86413

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

928-565-4650

Retail store for Kingman turquoise.

<http://www.colbaugh.net>



**DON NELSON OF THE QUESTA FIRE AGATE
MINE NEAR OATMAN, ARIZONA**

Questa Fire Agate Mine

Don Nelson

9049 (Old Route 66) West Oatman Highway
Golden Valley, AZ 86413

565-928-4145 - Don Nelson, Mine Owner
250-715-7559 –Allan Pryor, for those in Canada

35°02.241' N 114°20.539' W – Driveway location

Google Map link to Nelson's driveway:

<https://goo.gl/maps/N53KR6BrmQoEGniDA>

The GPS coordinates above locate the rugged dirt driveway to Don Nelson's private property. I personally took those and they are good. I can't guarantee the Google Map link but it seems solid.

Nelson directs rockhounds and sometimes escorts them to his nearby claims from his property. You need to go there first to register. Take the driveway for a few hundred yards until it forks. Bear right. No trailers or RVs should go down that road. Little turn around room exists at his house where people receive an orientation and pay their fee. Open year round but it is vital to call first to make arrangements. Nelson's driveway is easy to find if coming from Kingman. It's just a few miles from the store at Cool Springs, a Route 66 landmark.

If coming from Laughlin, on the other side of the hill, head south to Boundary Cone Road. Take that road which eventually hooks up with the Oatman Highway. Using only the physical street address for Nelson's driveway may lead to complete confusion for any navigation device when coming from the west. The area approaching Oatman lacks cell coverage and most smartphone navigating apps will stop working. Use GPS coordinates instead with a dedicated nav unit. A hardcopy atlas or road map is also helpful, unfortunately, most are too big in scale to show smaller roads like Boundary Cone. Do *not* take any off-pavement roads to Nelson's driveway, no matter what your nav unit says.

Back to the fire agates. They are a type of chalcedony, broadly speaking, quartz. At this location they are found within rhyolite, the matrix or host rock. And there is hard clay all around. A rockhound generally searches for large pieces of rock which might contain a fire agate. At the bench, a collector must cut away the matrix toward a promising bit of chalcedony. The hope is that their stone will eventually reveal a display of colors or fire. This gemstone, therefore, does not come out of the ground fully presented. Instead, it takes a talented lapidarist to bring out the stone's beauty. Rough pieces, however, have a charm and beauty by themselves and many are left uncarved because of that. Their bubbly shape or texture is called botryoidal.

Don Nelson is an engaging personality, delighted to explain all about fire agates and the long history of his claims. He and a miner named Al usually work side by side with rockhounds to coach them on recovering the agates. On my visit, work centered on a specific pit dug by hand over the last two years. There was no need to wander the claims, looking for a promising spot. Nelson also sells rough and finished material. Bring cash in small bills for any purchase or the dig fee.

<http://cuestafireagatemine.ilandwyte.com>

Burro Creek Recreation Site (BLM managed)

Burro Creek Campground
Burro Creek Campground Road

34°32.163' N 113°27.112' W Coordinates for BLM campground

My current writing is here:

<https://southwestrockhounding.com/2019/05/11/burro-creek-campground-near-wikieup-arizona>

These are the coordinates for the preferred intersection of Burro Creek Campground Road and Highway 93:

34°32.02667' N 113°25.935 W

This should pull up a Google Map for that intersection:

<https://goo.gl/maps/ncHdyc6bUh1rfKDM6>

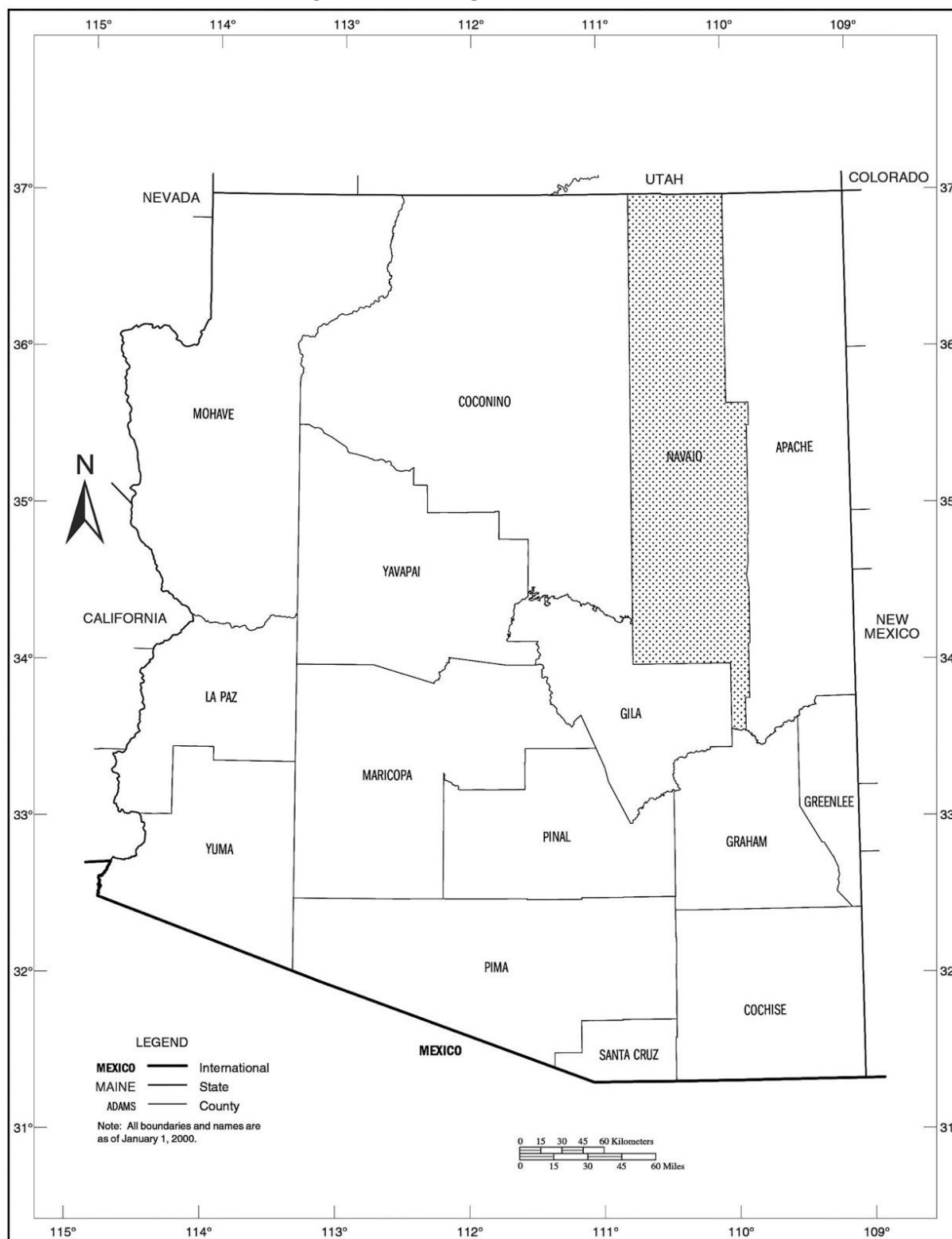
BLM's Burro Creek Recreation Site, known to rockhounds as Burro Creek, is frequented mostly for agates. It is approximately 60 miles northwest of Wickenburg. Wikeiup is Burro Creek's nearest town, with gasoline and limited supplies available. Rock and Gem Clubs from as far as Utah make field trips to Burro Creek, sometimes each year. It is a beautiful area.

For your first visit, go with a group to find the best spots. People camp at BLM's Burro Creek Campground since there are no local hotels. Fee charged. Most collecting is done on the other side of Highway 93. Consult Gem Trails of Arizona if nothing else.

The Kingman Field Office manages the area as well as the nearby Upper Burro Creek Wilderness Area. Inquire about the group campground of somewhat small size. A nasty barbed wire fence encloses the campground, a few fence breaks allow creek access.

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/search-details/591/2>

Navajo County, AZ (Holbrook)



Rainbow Rock Shop

101 Navajo Blvd.
Holbrook, Arizona 86025
928-524-2384

34°54.080' N 110°09.528'

Multiple dinosaur statues out front. Do you need any more encouragement? If so, the gas station I used in Holbrook wasn't prepay. No credit card reader at the pump, just a lever. I went inside to ask the cashier who was also the mechanic. "Just fill up your tank and come back in."

Look for the Rainbow Rock Shop on Facebook.

Jim Gray's Petrified Wood Company

147 Highway 180
Holbrook, AZ 86025
928-524-1842

34°53.433' N 110°09.581' W

Self-billed as the largest rock shop in the world, this store may qualify as such. Located on the way to the Petrified Forest National Park, the outside rock yard contains tons of petrified wood, a veritable forest of its own. Inside, polished pieces present themselves in all forms, from tabletops to book ends.

<https://shop.jimgrayspetrifiedwoodco.com>

DoBell's Curios/Rhonda's Petrified Wood Dig at Dobell Ranch

P.O. Box 691
9274 Highway 180
Holbrook, AZ 86025

34°47.521' N 109°53.611' W

Search for "Rhonda's Petrified Wood Dig at Dobell-Ranch" on Facebook.

Rhonda DoBell operates this fee-dig. The driveway is right before the road to the south entrance of the Petrified Forest National Park, 19 miles from Holbrook. Your close if the Petrified Forest Gift Shop is in view.

The dig site is three miles from the house with the highway signboard. Call Rhonda when you get to the signboard or before. The operators may be at the dig.

928-245-9010 / 928-524-2628 / 928-241-0260

Crystal Forest Museum and Gifts

Highway 180
Holbrook, AZ 86025
928-524-3500

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

34°47.530' N 109°53.476' W

You can't miss this shop. Its sign must be a hundred feet across. It's at the corner of Highway 180 and Petrified Forest Road.

Petrified Forest Gift Shop

6492 Petrified Forest Road
Holbrook, AZ 86025
928-524-3470

34°47.586' N 109°53.545' W

Another gift shop on the way to the National Park.

Stewart's Petrified Wood Shop

9406 Washboard Road
Holbrook, AZ 86025----on Highway I-40 East of Holbrook
800-414-8533

<http://www.petrifiedwood.com>



RAINBOW ROCK SHOP IN HOLBROOK, ARIZONA



" NAVAJO WOMAN AND INFANT, CANYON DE CHELLE, ARIZONA."
ANSEL ADAMS FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1941

Kaytena

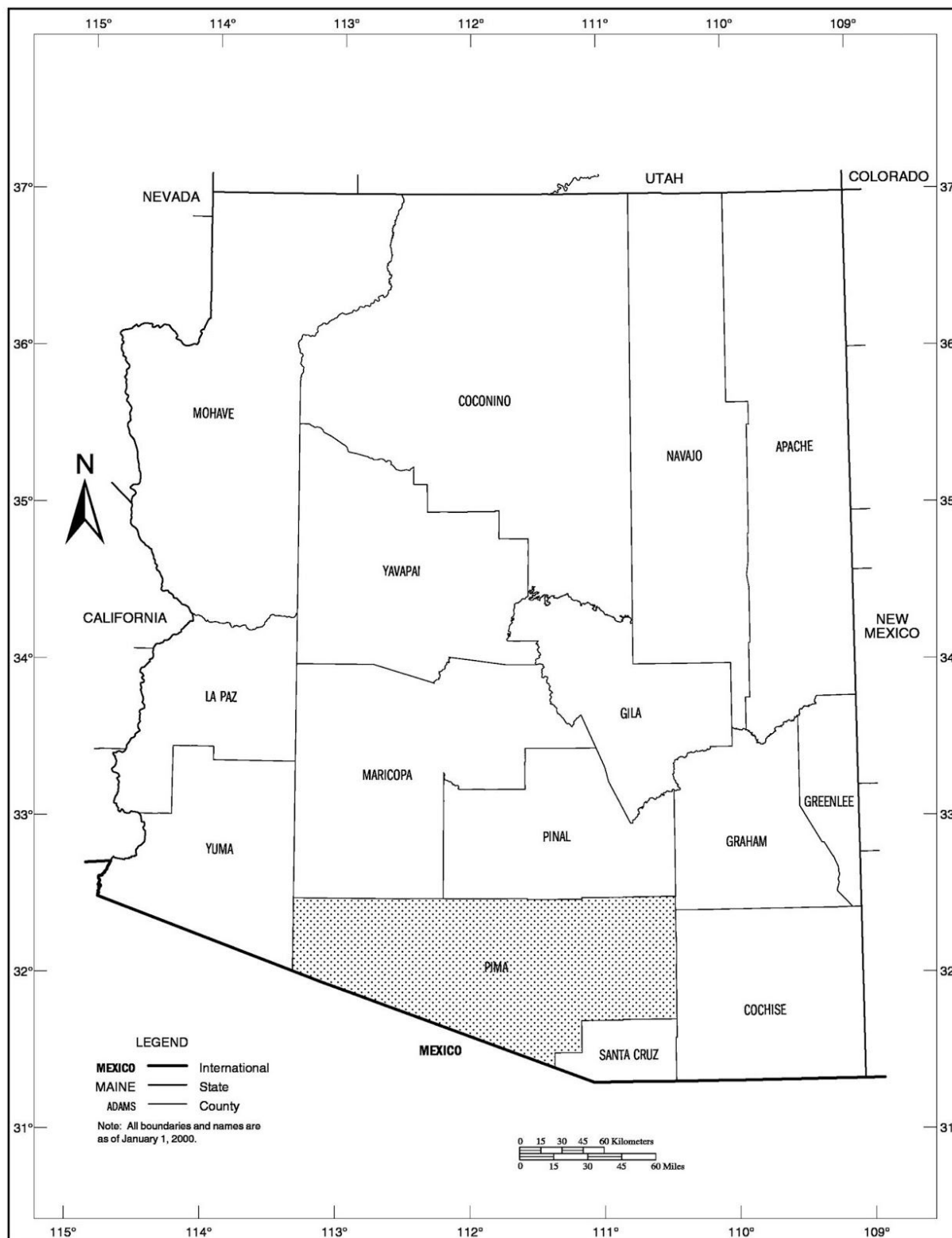
Hampton Inn & Suites

Highly recommended. Details soon.

Four Corners Monument

Information on the Four Corners Monument and the route to same forthcoming. I have visited and have many photos and information but need to write it all up.

Pima County, AZ (Tucson)



Tucson

Tucson is a single word that means many things. Tucson sits in southern Arizona in Saguaro Country, a background to Wild West history which included stagecoach robbers and the Earp brothers. But to anyone interested in the treasures of the earth, Tucson means one thing: Mecca.

Tucson festivities happen in late January and early February, culminating in the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. This is a four-day extravaganza held at the Tucson Convention Center. The Big Show, distinct among world class events in its educational emphasis, closes out a three-week, city-wide experience in memorable fashion.

Tucson is a gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry festival for a solid three weeks. Fossils, crystals, beads, lapidary supplies, books, and more, are sold out of many dedicated venues, hotel rooms and lobbies. The Big Show may be the signature event at the Convention Center for a long weekend, but nearly 4,000 exhibitors spread out across Tucson in all directions. For three weeks, Tucson becomes a wonderland for wheeling and dealing, exploring and learning new things, meeting people, and indulging in visual treats at every turn.

Tucson's overwhelming scale and popularity results in widespread traffic problems. Big Show days jam the convention center parking lot. Traffic control roams every street. A Tucson visitor's best communication, information and navigation tool is a smart phone. Install an Uber or Lyft app in case parking proves impossible. Also, a hardcopy map of Tucson is invaluable to show more detail than a three-inch screen.

Confirm vendor locations and the status of the shuttle bus service prior to the Big Show. If operating, the shuttle service is a convenient way to get around. If not, you are in trouble. There's also a city bus. For drivers, search online prior to your arrival for the most convenient parking lots.

South Freeway fronts I-10 on both sides. I-10 is the north-south corridor through Tucson's center. At the northern end is Congress and South Freeway. From there, venues appear for several blocks as one travels south, ending with the Tucson Showplace at 1530 South Freeway.

Many more vendors can be found south of town at the Kino Gem and Mineral Show at the Kino Sports Complex at 2500 East Ajo Way. The online Tucson E-Z Guide is helpful for planning a trip, with a list of vendors, venues and schedules; a paid subscription gets you a hard copy of the Guide but mailed only a couple of weeks before the show.

The TGMS or Big Show is the heartbeat of the entire Tucson experience. The finest mineral specimens in the world are routinely displayed at the show, many from private collections. John Betts once said that these specimens are often better than museum pieces because museums can't afford such materials.

The Smithsonian, the American Museum of Natural History, the Sorbonne, and more than 25 academic institutions and museums regularly represent at the Big Show. Competitive displays from expert and beginning collectors are featured, with a Tucson award considered the highlight of many a collector's career.

Each year has a theme or focus. 2018's theme was especially memorable: Crystals and Crystal Forms. Dozens of displays illustrated different aspects of this difficult subject, the basic architecture of minerals. 2021 will feature fluorescent minerals, with possibly the largest gathering of UV specimens in history.

Book hotel rooms months in advance. Lodging exists throughout Tucson, with better availability at the edges of the city. Catalina and Picacho Peak state parks north of Tucson offer camping and RV hookups. Advise credit card companies of an upcoming visit. With Tucson's international character, statement charges might originate from Nairobi, Morocco or Germany. If flying to Tucson, mailing purchases home can be more economical than packing for an airline. USPS flat rate boxes are extremely popular for this. Tucson is an event best planned as an expedition. One is traveling to a different world, where everything rock-related awaits. Mecca.

Resources

Rambo, Katherine. The World Came to Tucson (Stanegate Press, Tucson 2014) Rambo details Tucson's origin and continuation. Good background for anyone contemplating going.

Hardcopy show guide of venues and vendors:

<https://xpopress.com>

Online alternative guide to venues and vendors:

<http://www.tucsongemshows.net/coming.html>

Gem show parking and GemRide Shuttle information:

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/park-tucson/gem-show-parking>

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

2021 North Kinney Road
Tucson AZ 85743
520-883-2702

32°14.692' N 111°09.986' W

<https://www.desertmuseum.org/>

Major natural history museum and accompanying grounds. Holds kid's programs. "We have an extensive Sonoran Desert region gem, mineral, and fossil collection totaling 14,095 catalogued specimens, some of which are on display at the Earth Sciences Center. Our relatively new vertebrate paleontology collection contains the first and only significant dinosaur skeleton from Southern Arizona."

The University of Arizona Gem and Mineral Museum

1601 East University Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85719
520-621-4427

32°13.923' N 110°57.000' W

Google their website – the URL is too long to fit here

World-wide collection but emphasizes Arizona and Mexico minerals. Meteorites.

“The University of Arizona Gem & Mineral Museum is dedicated to providing public education and the preservation of minerals and meteorites while also serving the research needs of professionals, students and collectors. The collection is world-wide in scope, but with specific emphasis on minerals from Arizona and Mexico.”

University of Arizona Mineral Museum

(New location coming soon)

Old Pima County Courthouse
115 North Church Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701

32°13.407' N 110°58.522' W

Acme Sand and Gravel

7777 E 22nd Street
Building 3
Tucson, AZ 85710
520-296-6231

32°12.42500' N 110°49.63000' W

A wonderful rock yard. Local stone displayed well. Good place to walk around. You could tote home a fifty-pound sack of northern Arizona black lava sand for your nefarious horticultural activities. Or order that from their Amazon store if it is available.

<https://www.acmesand.com>

Dah Rock Shop

3401 N Dodge Blvd.

Tucson, AZ 85716

520-323-0781 ##

The Coronado National Forest

Supervisor's Office
300 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701
520-388-8300

32°13.333' N 110°58.546' W

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

Google their website.

Vast national forest in many parts. 1.78 million acres across the mountains of southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

ASARCO Mineral Discovery Center and Tour

1421 West Pima Mine Road
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
520-625-8233

31°59.883' N 110°59.737 W

<http://www.asarco.com/about-us/our-locations/asarco-mineral-discovery-center/mine-tours/>

Large open-pit copper mine tour. Small fee charged. Visitor center is free, includes excellent exhibits on copper recovery and copper mineral examples. Great place to visit in February if in Tucson for the shows. Call ahead for reservations. 15 miles south of Tucson. The nearby Desert Diamond Casino has bathrooms and food.

Arrive an hour before a tour begins to allow time to visit the gift shop, exhibits, and outdoor garden which is arrayed with mining equipment. The Visitor Center has impressive copper mineral displays and short movies explaining the mining and milling process. The gift shop may have copper ore rough from the mine for sale.

Take a telephoto lens for shooting the maneuverings of distant haul trucks. Overlook positions have fence openings that allow photography. With the quick pace of the tour, a monopod is the fastest way to set up.

Arizona's official motto is "The Copper State" and mines like this power that statement. The mine processes tons of so-called overburden to recover minute amounts of copper and other minerals. But that amount adds up quickly with fleets of haul trucks carrying 240 tons or 340 tons of material at a time. One ton of ore eventually produces 13 pounds of copper. 189 tons of ore concentrate leaves the Mission Mine every day for ASARCO's smelter in Hayden, Arizona. It then goes to their Amarillo, Texas refinery. The pit area from which all of this comes represents what's known as the Mission ore body.

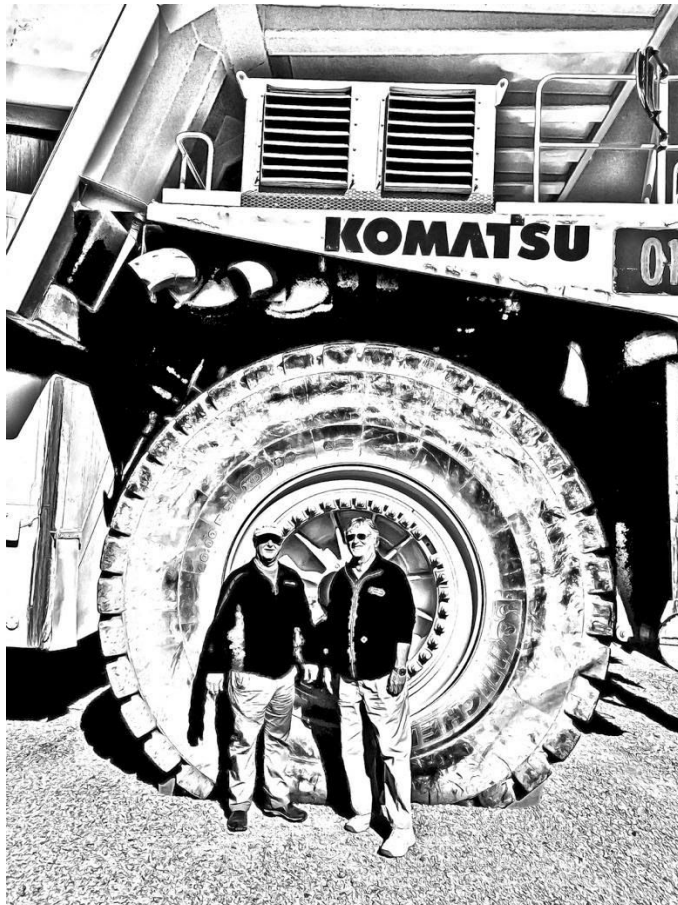
The Mission ore body originated from volcanic and tectonic activity 60 to 100 million years ago. Metal-bearing fluid expelled from cooling magma pushed up from the earth's interior, leaving the present ground rich in sulfide minerals. Sometimes called a skarn deposit, the dominant mineral is chalcopyrite, the chief ore of copper. It is finely disseminated through the rocks of the complex, which include argillite, arkosite, quartzite, and limestone. To the author's eye, it looked like a bottomless pit of caliche and alluvium. Other minerals found here include galena, pyrite, silver, molybdenite, and sphalerite. Precious metals tend to follow copper through flotation recovery and eventual smelting. This can contribute significantly to a mine's revenue. Indeed, in 2016, the Mission Mine produced 1.3 million ounces of silver.

Resources

<https://southwestrockhounding.com>

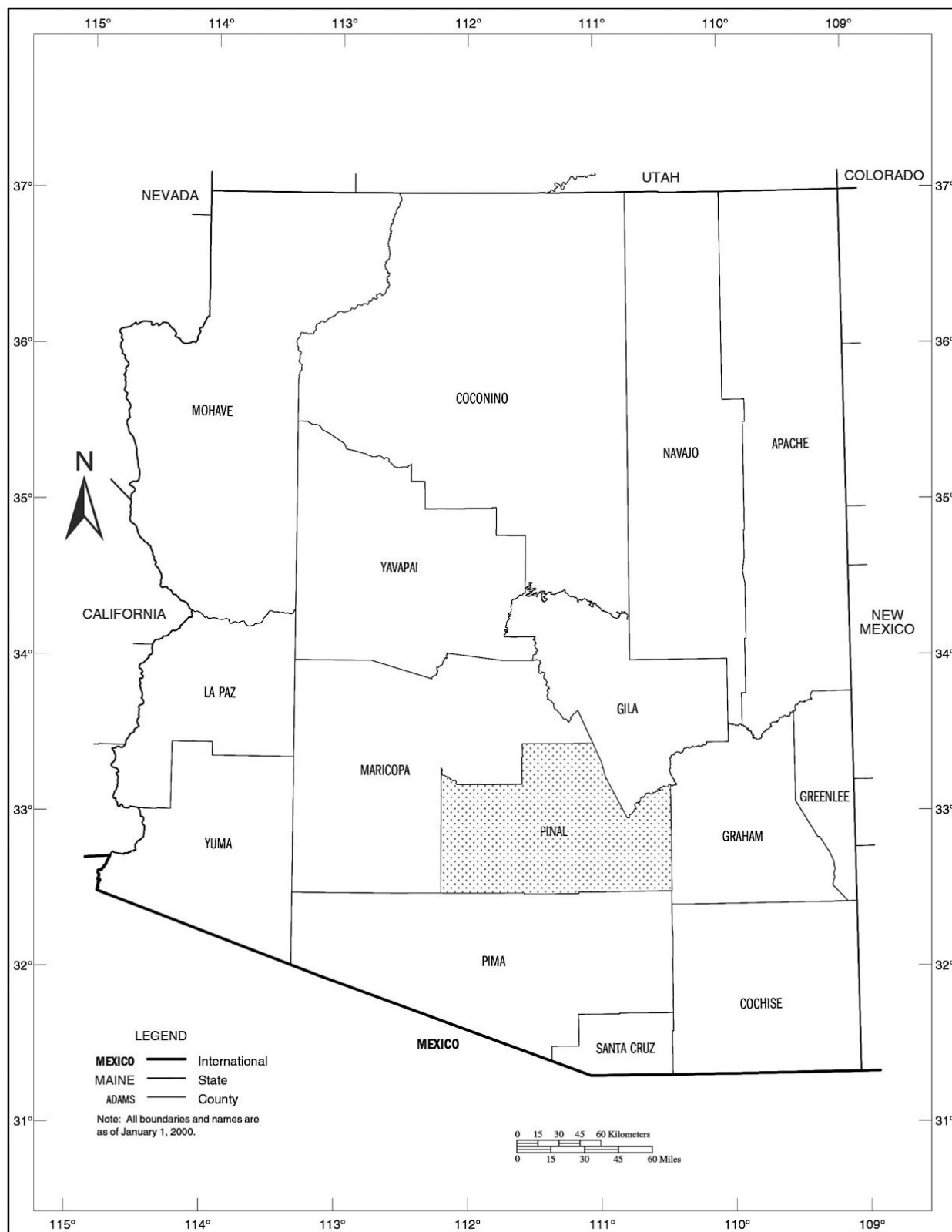
ASARCO Mineral Discovery Staff. *Your Visit to ASARCO GRUPO MEXICO Mineral Discovery Center*. (Sahuarita, Arizona: ASARCO Mineral Discovery Staff, undated) \$4.00 at the gift shop. Make sure to get one.

Weiss, Norman. *Memoirs of a Millman: Volume II* (Tucson, WEICO Publishing, 1993) Discusses setting up operations at the Mission Mine as well as many other open pit mines. This book gets really technical on things like flotation and grinders and how a processing circuit for ore is determined.



ASARCO VISITOR CENTER IN SAHUARITA, ARIZONA

Pinal County, AZ (Florence)



BLM Safford Field Office

BLM's Safford Field Office manages areas in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Pinal Counties. See their contact information under the Cochise County entry.

The Pinal Gem and Mineral Society

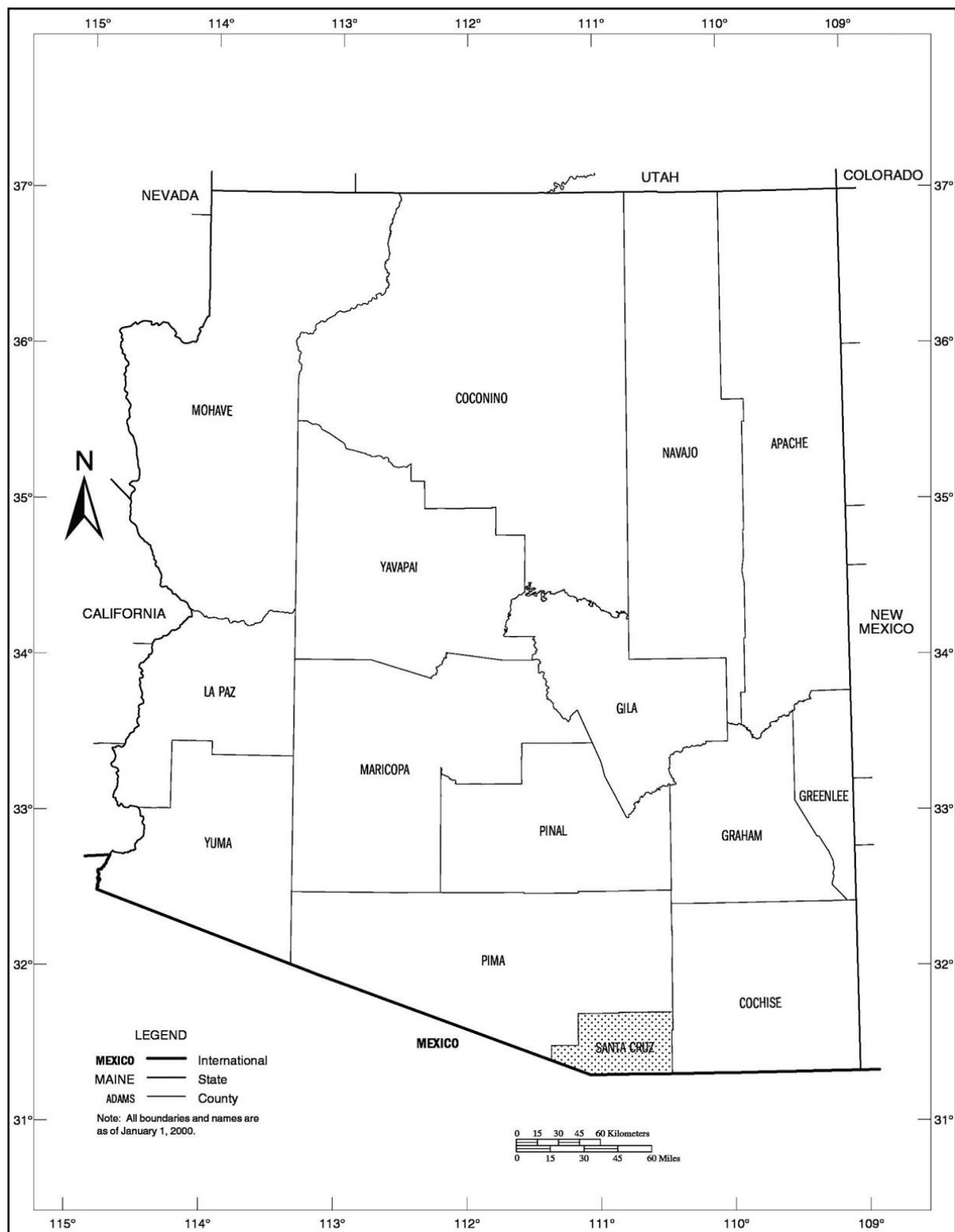
Artisan Village of Coolidge
351 N Arizona Blvd.
Coolidge, AZ 85128

32°58.848' N 111°31.421' W (Points to the Chamber of Commerce)

“[T]he newest addition to the Pinal Geology and Mineral Museum in Coolidge, Arizona is a 72-drawer custom mineral cabinet made at the woodworking shop in the state prison in Florence. They did a wonderful job on the cabinet and a selection of the PGMS mineral collection has moved in! The museum is located in the Artisan Village at 351 N. Arizona Blvd in Coolidge, AZ.” Flagg Mineral Foundation.

<http://www.pinalgeologymuseum.org/>

Santa Cruz County, AZ (Nogales)



Pimeria Alta Historical Society and Museum

136 North Grand Avenue
Nogales, Arizona 85621
520-287-4621

Duquesne Ghost Town Area

Duquesne, Arizona serves as the central point for any fee/dig activities that might occur in this long-closed area. Green garnets, milky quartz crystals, secondary copper minerals and outcroppings of Japan Law twins are noted here.

Schwartz Fine Minerals has been trying to arrange fee digs in Duquesne. Contact them through their website or through their Facebook page. They respond by FB Messenger. Or call Rick and Jill Pitrone at 520-860-0219. Even if digs have been cancelled, we should thank these people for trying to arrange them.

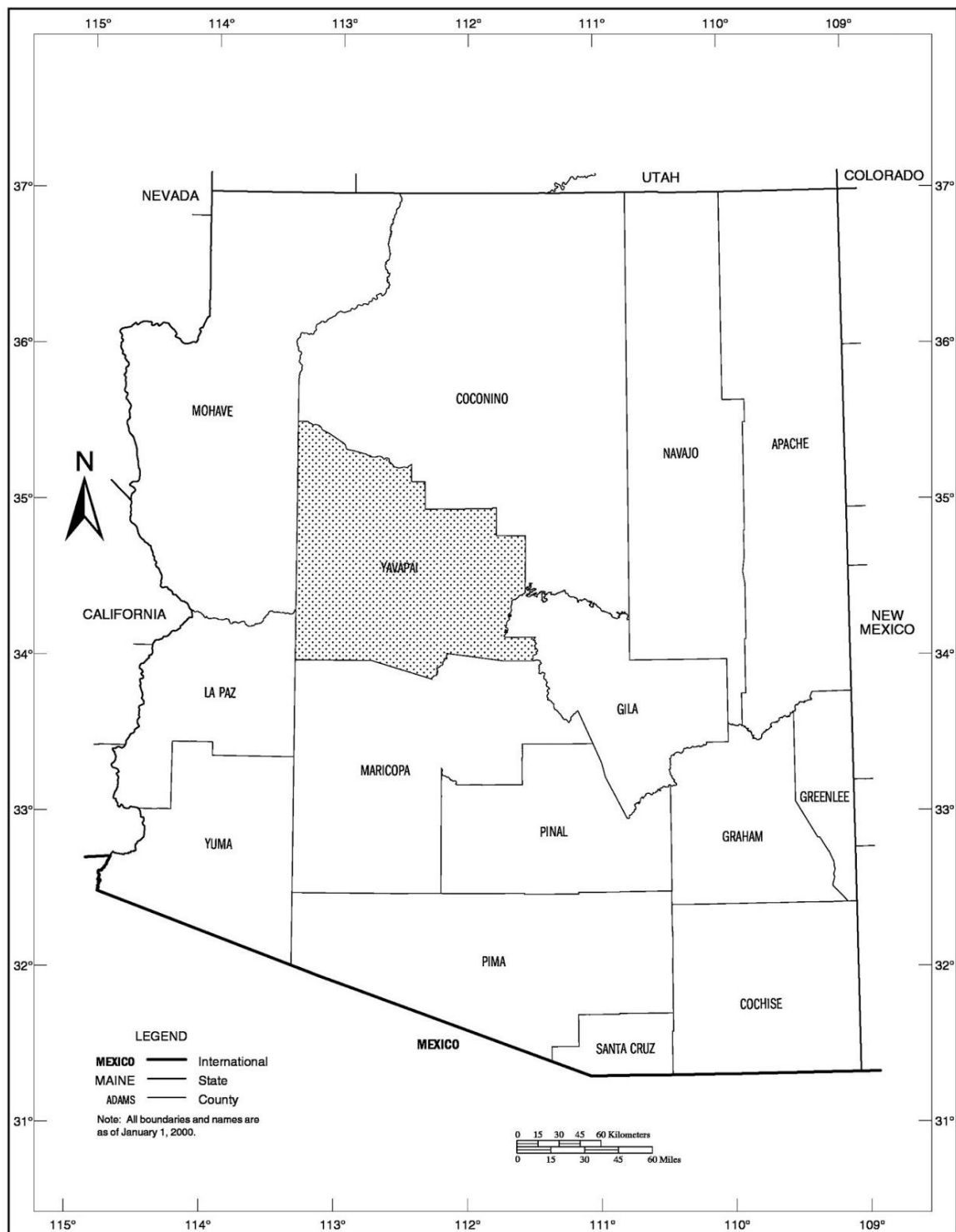
<https://www.facebook.com/schwartzfineminerals/>

<https://schwartzfineminerals.com/about/>



**ORE CHUTE OF THE BONANZA MINE,
DUQUESNE ARIZONA**

Yavapai County, AZ (Prescott)



Jim and Ellen's Rock Shop

1019 N Main St
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
928-583-4412

34°44.910' N 112°01.620' W

I haven't visited in person but their website shows some nice things. When are we going?

<https://www.jerockshop.com/>

Jerome Historical Society Mine Museum

200 Main Street
Jerome, AZ 86331
928-634-5477

34°45.057' N 112°07.093' W

Info on the society needed

Jerome State Historic Park

100 Douglas Road
Jerome, AZ 86331
928-634-5381

Decimal Degrees (WGS84)
Latitude: 34.753972
Longitude: -112.111176

State Historic Park is a state park of Arizona, US, featuring the Douglas Mansion, built in 1916 by a family of influential mining entrepreneurs in Jerome, Arizona, a mining region in the northeast of the Black Hills, east Yavapai County. A museum is located in the old Douglas Mansion.

<https://azstateparks.com/jerome/>

The Douglas Mansion has been a landmark in Jerome since 1916 when James S. Douglas built it on the hill above the Little Daisy Mine. This converted home presents Jerome area history along with photographs, artifacts, and minerals.



**THE DOUGLAS MANSION, JEROME STATE HISTORIC PARK,
JEROME, ARIZONA**

The Copper Art Museum

849 Main Street
P.O. Box 474

Clarkdale, AZ 86324
928-649-1858

34°46.265' N 112°03.406' W

Showcasing all things copper with an emphasis on its use in art and its role in Arizona. Mineral cabinet with copper specimens. Museum quality displays and exhibits. Fee charged. Well reviewed at Rock&Gem:

<https://www.rockngem.com/taking-a-closer-look-at-copper/>

<https://www.copperartmuseum.com>

Verde Canyon Railroad

300 North Broadway
Clarkdale, AZ 86324
800-582-7245

34°46.575' N 112°03.378' W

The Rock&Gem article above discusses the importance this railroad was to the mining town of Clarkdale. As writer Helen Serras-Herman notes, “The Verde Canyon Railroad is also a popular attraction in this area. It runs on the same tracks ordered to be built by William Clark for his mining operations, connecting the copper smelter in Clarkdale and the copper mines in Jerome.” The author mentions the train passing

40 acres of slag, a byproduct of copper production. Slag was often used as railroad ballast, but I don't know what ballast was used for the tracks here.

<https://verdecanyonrr.com>

More on slag, railroad ballast, and their meteorite connection here:

<https://southwestrockhounding.com/2019/10/18/beginning-at-the-ending-railroad-ballast-and-slag/>

Copper Mountain Antiques (The shop for the Copper Art Museum)

880 D Hampshire Avenue

Jerome, AZ 86331

928-634-3273

34°45.085' N 112°06.375' W

Call to see if they sell any rocks.

<https://www.copperartmuseum.com/gallery-and-shop>

The Miner's Pick Rock Shop

317 Main St.

Jerome, AZ 86331

928-274-4499

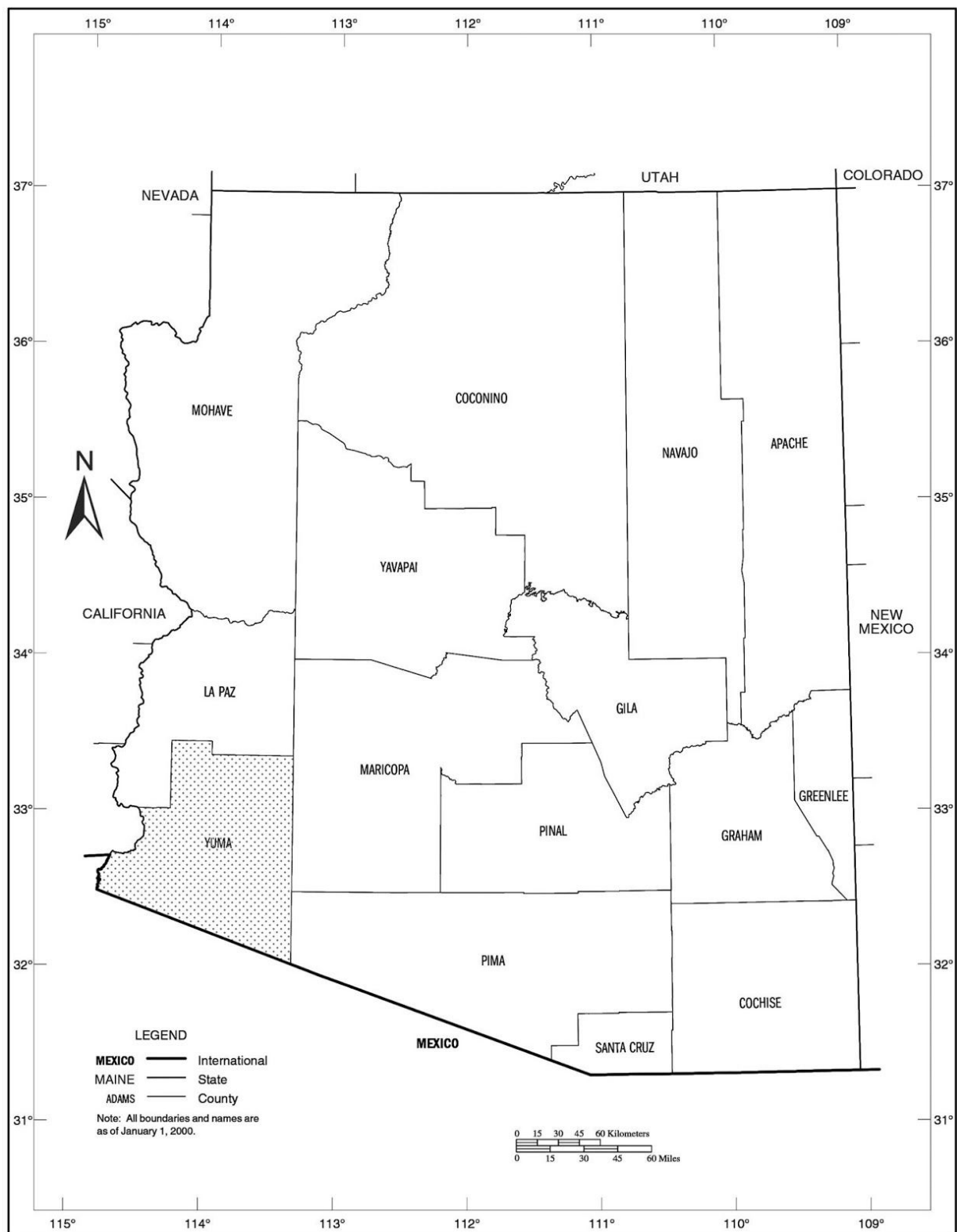
“Featuring hand-picked gemstones, minerals, fossils & crystals from our mine and around the world.

In addition to featuring hand-picked gemstones, minerals, fossils & crystals, we also use local woods and minerals to craft unique handmade products, all right here in Jerome! Our goal is to provide high quality products at great prices and to educate the public about geology.”

Their website redirects to a browser extension so I am not listing it. Google the store's URL.

34°45.031' N 112°06.941' W

Yuma County, AZ (Yuma)



Castle Dome Museum / Mine Tours
Castle Dome Road

Western Rock Ramblings by Thomas Farley

Yuma, AZ
928-920-3062

33°02.807' N 114°10.679' W

<http://castledomemuseum.org/index.html>

Museum with a ghost town setting that preserves Castle Dome City's history. Associated with the Hull Mine. The Hull Mine has an outstanding fluorescent wall, a natural occurrence of fluorescent minerals. Book ahead for mine tours.

<http://castledomemuseum.org/hull-mine.html>

Fee charged. Seasonal hours. Call first.

BLM Yuma Field Office

7341 E 30th St.
Yuma, AZ 85365
928-317-3200

32°40.408' N 114°30.426' W

Manages campsites near Quartzsite, variously called Dome Rock Road and Dome Rock Mountain. The Dome Rock Mountain Camping Area allows 14-day stay.