LAND OWNERSHIP

About two-thirds of Utah’s lands are managed by the Federal Government. Most of this land is managed either by the BLM (open to rockhounding) or U.S. Forest Service (open to rockhounding with a permit). Collecting is strictly prohibited on other federal lands, such as: national parks, national monuments, tribal lands, military reservations, dam sites, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and lands withdrawn from mineral entry for other reasons.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

In general, the rockhounder may collect reasonable amounts of rocks and minerals from unrestricted BLM property for recreational purposes or personal use. Petrified wood can be collected for personal non-commercial uses, in which the maximum limit is 25 pounds plus one piece per person a day and cannot exceed 250 pounds per calendar year. Due to restrictions on collecting petrified wood on some public lands, please check with the local BLM office before you begin collecting. If rocks, minerals, or petrified wood are collected to be sold, a permit must be obtained from the local BLM office. The use of explosives and power equipment, such as tractors, bulldozers, plows, or power shovels, is strictly forbidden.

U.S. Forest Service

Rock and mineral collecting on these lands requires a permit. Although collecting is allowed in most ranger districts and the permits are free, collecting rules vary, so check with the various districts before collecting (see Federal Agencies).

STATE LANDS

Most state-owned property is managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (see State Agencies) and an annual rockhounding permit is required to collect on these lands. A fee is charged for this permit. Rockhounds may collect up to 25 pounds plus one piece per person per day, up to a maximum of 250 pounds per year. Collecting is also allowed on lands administered by the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands if you obtain permission from the Division through the Salt Lake City office (see State Agencies) or area offices in Logan, Vernal, Richfield, Moab or Cedar City. However, collecting is prohibited on lands that are administered by other state agencies, such as the Division of Wildlife Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Transportation.

PRIVATE LANDS

On private land or land encumbered by mining claims, the collector must get the permission of the owner before removing any rocks or minerals. Collectors may collect on the surface of mining claims provided that their actions do not endanger others or materially interfere with prospecting or mining activities. Site-specific land-ownership maps may be found at the recorder’s office in the county in which you intend to collect.
LAND OWNERSHIP

The rock and mineral collecting localities described here are on Utah's federal, state, and private lands for the casual collector. Because permission or permits are required in some cases before you can begin collecting rocks and minerals, land ownership must be determined first. Land ownership maps can be obtained from any U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office or the Natural Resources Map & Bookstore (see State Agencies). To obtain the telephone number and address of the nearest BLM field office, you can call the Salt Lake City BLM office (see Federal Agencies). Once land ownership is established, collectors must follow all rules and regulations established by the owners of these lands.

FEDERAL LANDS

About two-thirds of Utah’s lands are managed by the Federal Government. Most of this land is managed either by the BLM (open to rockhounding) or U.S. Forest Service (open to rockhounding with a permit). Collecting is strictly prohibited on other federal lands, such as: national parks, national monuments, tribal lands, military reservations, dam sites, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and lands withdrawn from mineral entry for other reasons.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

In general, the rockhounder may collect reasonable amounts of rocks and minerals from unrestricted BLM property for recreational purposes or personal use. Petrified wood can be collected for personal non-commercial uses, in which the maximum limit is 25 pounds plus one piece per person a day and cannot exceed 250 pounds per calendar year. Due to restrictions on collecting petrified wood on some public lands, please check with the local BLM office before you begin collecting. If rocks, minerals, or petrified wood are collected to be sold, a permit must be obtained from the local BLM office. The use of explosives and power equipment, such as tractors, bulldozers, plows, or power shovels, is strictly forbidden.

U.S. Forest Service

Rock and mineral collecting on these lands requires a permit. Although collecting is allowed in most ranger districts and the permits are free, collecting rules vary, so check with the various districts before collecting (see Federal Agencies).

STATE LANDS

Most state-owned property is managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (see State Agencies) and an annual rockhounding permit is required to collect on these lands. A fee is charged for this permit. Rockhounders may collect up to 25 pounds plus one piece per person per day, up to a maximum of 250 pounds per year. Collecting is also allowed on lands administered by the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands if you obtain permission from the Division through the Salt Lake City office (see State Agencies) or area offices in Logan, Vernal, Richfield, Moab, or Cedar City. However, collecting is prohibited on lands that are administered by other state agencies, such as the Division of Wildlife Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Transportation.

PRIVATE LANDS

On private land or land encumbered by mining claims, the collector must get the permission of the owner before removing any rocks or minerals. Collectors may collect on the surface of mining claims provided that their actions do not endanger others or materially interfere with prospecting or mining activities. Site-specific land-ownership maps may be found at the recorder’s office in the county in which you intend to collect.

SUGGESTED READING

Some of these suggested books and maps can be found at universities, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Natural Resources Map & Bookstore operated by the Utah Geological Survey. These references will help you find other rock and mineral collecting locations in Utah.


STATE OF UTAH

IN UTAH

Localities for Selected Rock & Mineral Localities

LAND OWNERSHIP

Sources for Information and Publications

Federal Agencies:

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Earth Science Information Center
2222 West 2400 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84110
Phone: (801) 272-2742
Fax: (801) 272-2742
E-mail: geoinfo@usgs.gov
Internet: h/tt://www.usgs.gov
You can order USGS publications here, or some of them may be purchased at the National Resources Map & Bookstore (see State Agencies).

U.S. Forest Service

15500 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
Phone: (801) 395-3656
Fax: (801) 524-4111
Internet: h/tt://www.fs.fed.us
Updated collecting regulations, permits, and site information.

State Agencies:

Natural Resources Map & Bookstore
15500 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
Phone: (801) 395-3656
Fax: (801) 524-4111
E-mail: info@nrmbs.state.ut.us
Internet: h/tt://www.nrmbs.state.ut.us
Updated collecting regulations, permits, and site information.

Rockhounding in Utah

Suggested Reading

Some of these suggested books and maps can be found at universities, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Natural Resources Map & Bookstore operated by the Utah Geological Survey. These references will help you find other rock and mineral collecting locations in Utah.


One page of a document has been provided, containing detailed geological information about various rock and mineral localities in Utah. The text is rich with geographical names, mineral descriptions, and directions for exploration. The document also includes references to sources and maps for each location.

Here are some examples of geological details from the page:

- **LOOKOUT PASS, TOOLE COUNTY**
  - Rocks and Minerals: Quartz, orthoclase, garnet, diopside, vesuvianite, clinozoisite, and molybdenite.
  - Directions: Take the Knolls exit from I-80, approximately 80 miles west of Salt Lake City, and go south on the old highway. The dunes are found on both sides of the road in this vicinity. Stay away from fenced areas that are posted with the “Unexploded Ordnance” signs from the nearby bombing range.

- **GUARDIAN MOUNTAIN AREA, HILLiard COUNTY**
  - Rocks and Minerals: Gypsum and calcite.
  - Directions: From Delta, proceed west on U.S. 60/65 about 60 miles and take the gravel road to the right near milepost 33. It should be marked with a sign indicating “Panther Springs, 10 miles.” At 9.4 miles an intersection with a water tank is reached. Turn east toward the mountains and continue for 1.5 miles to Panther Springs. A 4WD or high-clearance vehicle may be necessary to cross the wash just below Panther Springs.

- **BLOODY MOUTH, GRAND COUNTY**
  - Rocks and Minerals: Gypsum and calcite.
  - Directions: From Delta, proceed west on U.S. 60/65 about 60 miles and take the gravel road to the right near milepost 33. It should be marked with a sign indicating “Panther Springs, 10 miles.” At 9.4 miles an intersection with a water tank is reached. Turn east toward the mountains and continue for 1.5 miles to Panther Springs. A 4WD or high-clearance vehicle may be necessary to cross the wash just below Panther Springs.

- **BLUE SPURS CAMPGROUND, GARFIELD COUNTY**
  - Rocks and Minerals: Agate and jasper.
  - Directions: Go north out of Escalante and across the Escalante River.

The document provides a wealth of information for geologists and mineral enthusiasts, outlining specific locations, types of rocks and minerals, and detailed directions for exploration. It also includes references to sources and maps for each location, facilitating further research and study.