

Free Rock, Mineral & Semiprecious Gemstone Collection Limits

Rocks, minerals and semiprecious gemstones may be collected on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management without charge or permit as long as:

1. The specimens are for personal use and are not collected for sale, barter or any commercial purpose(s).
2. You may collect reasonable amounts of specimens. In Arizona, BLM sets the "reasonable" limits for personal use as up to 25 pounds per day, with a total limit of 250 pounds per year. These limits are for mineral specimens, common invertebrate fossils, semiprecious gemstones, rock, and petrified wood.
3. A group of people do not pool their yearly allotment to collect a piece larger than 250 pounds of either rockhounding specimens or petrified wood.
4. Collection does not occur in developed recreation sites or areas, unless designated as a rockhounding area by BLM.
5. Collection is not otherwise prohibited or restricted and posted.
6. Collection, excavation or removal are not aided with motorized or mechanical devices, including heavy equipment or explosives. Metal detectors are acceptable, with the exception of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.
7. No undue or unnecessary degradation of the public lands occurs during the removal of rock, minerals, or gemstones.
8. For pieces of petrified wood heavier than 250 pounds or situations not covered in this pamphlet, please contact your local BLM office.
9. If you wish to obtain more than 250 pounds of rock in a year, please visit the appropriate BLM office and inquire about arranging a permit.

