

Rock Hunting in National Parks

Non-Commercial Mineral Collection

Random mineral *collection* for non-commercial purposes in the national parks is prohibited by section 2.1(a)(iv) of title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations ([36 CFR](#)). New mining *claims* pursuant to the General Mining Act of 1872 (30 USC 22 *et seq.*) are prohibited in all park areas.

Similarly, under the Mining in the Parks Act (16 USC 1901 through 1912), mineral development in the parks will only be permitted on existing patented and valid unpatented mining claims, and then only in conformance with the regulations for mining claims found in [36 CFR Part, 9, Subpart A](#).

Commercial Mineral Leasing

Federal mineral leasing for commercial purposes is permitted in only three (3) national park areas, namely (1) Lake Mead National Recreational Area (NV); (2) Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreational Area (CA); and (3) Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (UT).

No one may explore for Federal minerals—including hardrock minerals such as precious metals and precious and semi-precious gems—in these areas except in accordance with a prospecting permit issued pursuant to 43 CFR Part 3500 (online at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=c2423ad82acf0239d420b71e837814fc&node=43:2.1.1.3.64&rgn=div5#43:2.1.1.3.64.2.86.1>).