



Support The Hobby

I would like to point out to the News Brief readers that there are a number of organizations taking on the challenge against various types of legislation dealing with metal detecting and gold prospecting. MDHTALK's recommendation is to visit their website and give strong consideration to joining the fight. In some cases your support may be to send emails and / or write a letter to specific legislators or to provide funds to help with the fight. Here are the organizations and a link to their website.

[Go to the Join The Fight MDHTALK Webpage to read more about each of these organizations](#)

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What is a News Brief? The news brief provides a brief look into any news event. The intent of the news brief is to provide you, the reader, with news clips on what was taking place in the hobby last month. To read the whole story select the Article Link or go to [MDHTALK.org](#). There are more news stories placed on the MDHTALK website for December the news stories listed in the MDHTALK News Brief are just a portion of all the hobby related news reported the past month. **The news Brief is now available in Adobe PDF format, there is a link at the top of this webpage.** The news brief is no longer emailed; it is only available on the MDHTALK website and can be downloaded.

The Website's featured article for this month is: Recreational Metal Detecting on the Endangered List?

[Download this article to View and Read the Complete Article](#)

Metal Detecting took form in the 1950-60s and the detectorists who were metal detecting at that time had very few restrictions and the finds were fabulous. Metal detecting during this period can be described similar to being in the old west with open ranges and anything goes. The finds stories from those in the hobby during that period are hard to believe against today's detecting results.

So is Metal detecting on the Endangered List? Let's take a look at the barriers and variables that affect the hobby.

Barriers to Recreational Metal Detecting

The Law: Today, the U.S. metal detecting environment is controlled by a hodgepodge of Federal, State, City, County laws. A major reason for this is that there is no regulation, law or statue at the Federal level that provides any support for recreational metal detecting.

Some of the Federal statues were written before metal detecting became a popular hobby and since these acts were drafted to protect America's Heritage it may have been felt that users of a metal detector on federal lands would rob America of some of its heritage. There were four major federal acts drafted to protect America's heritage and everyone (detectorist) should read each of them. They are:

- **1906 American Antiquities Act** [act link](#)
- **1966 National Historic Preservation Act, As amended in 2000** [act link](#)
- **1979 Archaeological Resources Protection Act** [act link](#)
- **1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act** [act link](#)

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The four acts indeed do protect Americas Heritage but at the same time limit or in most situations make metal detecting an unlawful act. If someone is caught metal detecting in National Parks, National Historical Sites, National Monuments, National Recreational Areas, Native American Lands or on archaeological sites the penalties can be severe. There are a few exceptions where portions of Federal Forest Service and BLM lands allow metal detecting if no archaeology sites are present.

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

Other News Sources

- A grandfather's WWII air mission inspires Niskayuna man. [Article Link](#)
- Tim started tinkering with a metal detector two years ago, now he specialises in finding 'lost treasures'. [Article Link](#)
- Dog tag, other items of Danville World War II soldier found in Germany. [Article Link](#)

- **American Digger Relic Roundup.** For diggers and collectors of history. An hour long program every Monday Night at 9:00 PM eastern standard time. Join your hosts Butch Holcombe, Jeff Lubbert and Heath Jones as they explore the past. Learn more about Metal Detecting, Treasure hunting

- Lost A Precious Keepsake On The Beach? These Guys Will Find It. [Article Link](#)
- A concentration camp in Germany is begging treasure hunters to stay away after a documentary claimed Nazi gold was buried there. [Article Link](#)
- Two years later, remains found by metal hunter at Murrells Inlet park identified. [Article Link](#)
- Defense agency develops mine detector capable of detecting N. Korean wooden-box land mine. [Article Link](#)
- Showing their metal: Long Island's 'treasure' hunters come out in the cold. [Article Link](#)
- 'This is God': Mysterious gold, jewelry washes up on Venezuelan beach. [Article Link](#)
- Showing their metal: Long Island's 'treasure' hunters come out in the cold. [Article Link](#)
- Should we risk our son's social status by gifting him a metal detector? [Article Link](#)
- Go on a metal-detecting excursion. [Article Link](#)
- Newquay nurse's plea for help to find her late dad's wedding ring. [Article Link](#)
- Siouland Stories: Digging into the life of a modern-day treasure hunter. [Article Link](#)
- German museum to restore Enigma machine found on seabed. [Article Link](#)
- Searching old house sites for treasure. [Article Link](#)
- SPH Engineering announces the launch of a drone integrated metal detection system with a Geonics EM61Lite metal detector. [Article Link](#)
- The story of a lost wedding ring found in a burn pile and restored in Bloomington. [Article Link](#)
- Antique coins worth \$25G discovered in attic. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Government to 'redefine treasure finds' in England and Wales. [Article Link](#), [2nd Article](#)
- Dalton metal detectorist who sold finds for thousands 'has concerns' over the plans to redefine treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Birdwatcher discovers \$1M worth of ancient Celtic gold coins. [Article Link](#)
- Wrexham metal detectorist wins award for 'one of the most significant finds in recent years'. [Article Link](#)
- From Gold Coins to Medieval Antiquities, Treasure Hunters Have Discovered 47,000 Artifacts in the UK During Lockdown. [Article Link](#)
- French detectorist accused of looting on vast scale after haul discovered at home. [Article Link](#)
- Roman and medieval treasure finds acquired by West Berkshire Museum. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist, Rob Jones, from Coedpoeth, wins award for discovery of Roman lead ingot. [Article Link](#)
- From hobby to business venture, resident opens antique shop. [Article Link](#)
- Gardener discovers hoard of 15th century gold coins while pulling up weeds. [Article Link](#)
- Homeowner in England finds hidden shelter under manhole cover in backyard, has unusual plans for it. [Article Link](#)
- Rare hoard offers hint of Boudica's rebel booty. [Article Link](#)
- Dalton treasure hunter to appear on new ITV show. [Article Link](#)
- Metal Detectorist In Scotland Unearths Rare Medieval Knife. [Article Link](#)
- Shieldhill Castle Hotel owner finds 'old bombs' near Biggar. [Article Link](#)
- Concerns raised over Thanet metal detecting 'notification' scheme. [Article Link](#)
- Rare Roman artefacts found in Ryedale field. [Article Link](#)
- Tales of trash and treasure on the never-ending quest of Kent metal detectorist. [Article Link](#)

in all its forms, and the preservation of history. [December Pod Cast Link](#)

- **Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** present the BIG metal detecting podcast. A weekly show bringing all areas of history together with our guests, news and much more. [December Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [December News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher** [December Searcher](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [December News](#)
- **Minelab** [December Newsletter](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [December News](#)
- **PLP** - [December Press Release](#)
- **The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** The Archaeology and Metal detecting magazine are one of the lead online sites in their genre. Offering multiple platforms for Archaeological, Historical and metal detecting news, articles, research areas and much more. [December News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [January Newsletter](#)

Jewelry Returns

- A Ring Thought To Be Lost Forever In The Ocean Found From An Australian Beach 13 Years Later. [Article Link](#)
- He lost his wedding ring in a two-ton bin of recyclables. [Article Link](#)
- Couple's lost wedding ring found by metal detector 6 days after it vanished at Clearwater Beach. [Article Link](#)
- Beautiful moment' as nurse finds woman's wedding ring she lost at sea in Morecambe. [Article Link](#)
- Doylestown man unearths Hoover High class ring lost 53 years ago. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Streaking meteor's predawn flash stars in an arresting video for Minnesota sheriff's deputy. [Article Link](#)
- Do meteor showers create meteorites? [Article Link](#)
- Meteorite hunters say 'no doubt, there's rocks on the ground' in parts of Seneca and Cayuga Counties. [Article Link](#)
- After a million-year journey, a meteor explodes above Syracuse in 2020. [Article Link](#)
- Meteor "as bright as the full moon" caught on camera in Japan. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Thousands of Missing Artifacts Back at Mississippi Museum. [Article Link](#)
- Ancient Wolf Pup Mummy Uncovered in Yukon Permafrost. [Article Link](#)
- How do archaeologists know where to dig? [Article Link](#)
- Colonial Williamsburg archaeologists finding 'full, human range of occupation' at ustis Square dig site. [Article Link](#)

Government to 'redefine treasure finds' in England and Wales [Web Site](#)

Plans aimed at protecting newly-uncovered treasure in England and Wales have been unveiled by the government.

"However it is important that we pursue plans to protect more of our precious history and make it easier for everyone to follow the treasure process."

Changes to the 1996 Treasure Act will see artefacts defined as treasure if they are of historical or cultural significance.

Once they have officially been identified as treasure they become the property of the Crown and can be acquired by museums for public display.

They are intended to ensure significant artefacts are not lost to the public and will instead be able to go on display in museums.

Rise in illegal metal detecting at historic sites

The move follows the growth in popularity of metal detecting.

The DCMS said the new rules would have protected discoveries like that of a Roman figurine, depicting a British person, found near Chelmsford, Essex, in 2014.


V&A snaps up 600-year-old brooch found on farm

What is it like to find 'treasure'?

Finder 'had no idea coin was worth £10k'

The artefact, now in the Chelmsford City Museum after an export license delayed its sale, would not have previously met the definition of treasure because it is made from a copper alloy.

Under the pre-existing rules, objects are classified as treasure if they are found to be more than 300 years old, made of gold or silver, or found with artefacts made of precious metals.

Bronze sculpture of a "licking dog"  image captionThe "licking dog" is an example of a healing statue thought to be linked to a Roman temple at Lydney

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said a number of Roman finds on UK soil had not met the current criteria for the definition of treasure.

The department added that a four foot-tall bronze Roman statue of a dog found in Gloucestershire by metal detectorists in 2017, was sold to a private collector as part of a hoard as it was not made from precious metal.

Dog made of lead sold

"The search for buried treasures by budding detectorists has become more popular than ever before and many ancient artefacts now see the light of day in museums' collections," said culture minister Caroline Dinenage.

"Although it was of outstanding archaeological importance, the dog did not fall under the definition of treasure in the 1996 Act because it was made of lead," the DCMS said.

Event News

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2021 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

Check out your event before going it may have been postponed or canceled.

[Select here to View the Complete Event Details for January](#)

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

- **January 08, 2021** Event: (Three Days) Stanton, Arizona
2021 Backhol Push Dig at Stanton LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **January 16, 2021** Event: (One Day) Quartzsite, Arizona
2021 Super Hunt
Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club

For 30 YEARS: PLP exists to "Represent and assist outdoor user groups and individuals interested in keeping public and private lands open to prospecting, mining and outdoor recreation through education, scientific data and legal means."

December 2020

Oktoberfest is in the books and we are planning the next big event!

We really enjoyed meeting many of you at our recent Oktoberfest outing in the historic Stringer Mining District near Randsburg CA. We were blessed with perfect weather, great food and a fantastic location. We met old friends and made new ones. Folks who hadn't seen each other in years enjoyed catching up. The kids' metal detecting hunt was a big hit! There is nothing as pleasant to see as kids smiling, laughing and having a great time finding treasures. The parents enjoyed "helping" the kids out too!

Saturday night started with an amazing smoked BBQ dinner, topped off with yummy potluck deserts! After dinner, Clark Pearson our Legal Researcher gave a stellar performance at the campfire updating the group on all that PLP has been working on both locally and in Washington, DC.

All weekend there were prospecting tips and tricks shared with those who were interested in improving their gold recovery skills or just learning for the first time. There was a guided tour of a nearby small-scale placer mine as well which was very educational for all! There was some bragging about the gold that was found, but most prospectors were tight lipped about what they found at their 'secret spot'!

Miner's Keepers was there with some fantastic nuggets for sale. They are huge PLP supporters and we were honored they came out.

Coming Soon: Watch for the announcement for our next outing.

2021 is PLP's 31st Anniversary and the 2021 Grand Raffle tickets are on sale NOW! They make great gifts or investments in supporting PLP. Raffle donations are still being accepted and will be mentioned in the monthly Mining Journal raffle ad.

December PLP Update by Scott Harn published in the Mining Journal [Web Site](#)

"The Department of Interior released revised regulations pertaining to complying with the Environmental Policy Act, but these revisions pertain to special use permittees, which does not include miners.

Public Lands for the People's Clark Pearson continues to have monthly meetings with officials via phone/video in Washington, DC, in the ongoing effort to get regulatory relief for miners. Those talks are now focused on immediate relief that can be provided by the current administration should the election results be certified in favor of Joe Biden.

Plans are also under way to coordinate with the incoming chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. We had difficulty getting current chair, Senator Murkowski (R-Alaska), to provide much-needed regulatory relief for small miners, but her term as chair will expire. We expect Senator Barrasso (R-Wyoming) will be the incoming chairman and we had several good in-person meetings with his staff prior to the COVID pandemic.

As mentioned in the Legislative and Regulatory Update, President Trump signed another Executive Order related to critical minerals on September 30. The President declared a national emergency under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the National Emergencies Act related to critical minerals and the threats imposed by relying solely on countries such as China for our critical mineral needs.

The order requires federal agencies to provide details on existing and planned efforts to jump-start critical minerals mining and production here in America and those reports are due within 60 days at the White House. Once started, this could be a difficult path to reverse by Former Vice President Joe Biden if he eventually is sworn in as the next President.

Some of our readers have wondered aloud if they will be left behind when it comes to regulatory relief related to critical minerals because they mine gold and/or silver. But the administration has made it clear that critical minerals are byproducts in many cases, so any regulatory relief must be across the board for all commodities. President Trump's Executive Order 13817 issued in 2017, stated, "Of the 35 minerals deemed critical, 12 are byproducts. Therefore, strategies to increase the domestic supply of these commodities must necessarily consider the mining and processing of the host materials because enhanced recovery of byproducts alone may be insufficient to meet US consumption."

We will continue to keep you updated on our joint efforts to provide regulatory relief for miners at the federal level.

In the meantime, please consider joining PLP by purchasing a yearly \$50 membership, purchasing raffle tickets or by making a donation. These funds allow PLP to continue their fight for small miners, as they plan to return to Washington, DC, in early 2021".

For more information, visit: [Web Site](#) © ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal, ICMJ Inc.

REVIEW these decisions for YOUR future wins:

PLP Member Wins "No Addition Argument" in CA State Court

For the very first time in CA State court a small miner has won the "no addition argument"- This time against the CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Previously, PLP member Godfrey won the issue against the Forest Service and CA Water Board in 2015. Gold miner Michael Osterbrink along with PLP's expert testimony delivered by PLP's legal researcher Clark Pearson fought back a charge by the Sierra County DA that what Mr. Osterbrink had done "had polluted State waters with materials that are deleterious to fish in violation of section 5650 of the CA Fish & Game code."

WINNING: Mr. Osterbrink was found not guilty of violating section 5650 of the CA Fish & Game code which prohibits pollution of state waters with materials that are deleterious to fish and wildlife (count 2). PLP cannot understate the importance of this legal decision in our present battles with the political powers of the regulatory swamp. This IS a really big deal! So-called environmentalists in CA believe that miners are polluters - not true! There are no foreign substances added, a fact PLP has been touting for many years, and the Court agreed! The Court stated "...I really think 5650, the intent of the Legislature there is to deal with situations where a defendant has deposited something new, a foreign substance. Here, there doesn't seem to be any dispute that this defendant did not add anything new. So I am going to find Mr. Osterbrink not guilty on count 2."

If you may recall back in 2015 PLP member John Godfrey also won the "no addition argument" in count 5 against the Forest Service. (see: [Web Site](#))

The Forest Service had in that case even called a so-called expert lead engineer from the CA Water Board to testify that what Godfrey had done amounted to pollution - to no avail to the government. Godfrey won in federal court and now Osterbrink has won in CA state court. PLP had confidence that it was a solid argument that could be won, even in a California state court, and WE DID.

Osterbrink's decision will go a long way in helping get suction dredging to legally return to California and other states. PLP once again successfully stood by its arguments that are successful and applied them where others have waived and compromised. PLP is effectively fighting for your rights to mine responsibly without compromise.

The Mining Journal supports PLP, and publishes the detailed PLP UPDATE article every month. Thank you again Mining Journal!!! [Web Site](#)

Do you want to support PLP AND get a tax deduction? PLP accepts all types of financial donations: stocks, bonds, annuities, real estate, mining claims, etc. All donations are tax deductible within IRS rules. Some folks are naming PLP in their Living Trusts and Wills as a beneficiary for a designated amount as a donation in the future. We appreciate every donation, it all helps!

We hope to see you next year, and Let's Keep Taking it Back while we Make Mining and Multiple Use Public Land Great Again!

Join or renew here: [Web Site](#)

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Metal Detecting Hobby Talk [MDHTALK HOME PAGE](#) <http://www.mdhtalk.org>