



White Mountain National Forest

Lord Hill Mineral Collecting Area

Geology: Lord Hill is a pegmatite that is not very different from the Deer Hill pegmatite, except for a chemical composition that contains many more rare elements which lead to forming rare minerals. Rare minerals have been found at Lord Hill including Triplite, Uraninite, Vivianite, Zircon, Gahnite, Fluorapatite, Bertrandite. The more common minerals found are varieties of feldspar, quartz, topaz, phenakite, and garnet. For a short time this location was mined for feldspar but was not profitable. Remains of the mining activity are still present on site.

Location: Lord Hill is located in Stoneham, ME (44° 13'26.71"N 70° 57' 13.85"W). It is accessible from either the north or south by hiking trails.

From the North: Follow Deer Hill Rd. (FR 9) (closed seasonally) 4.7 mi. from NH 113 to the Horseshoe Pond Trail, a small parking area at a curve in the road. From Deer Hill Rd., the trail descends moderately past the Styles grave, which is on the right of the trail, then enters a gravel road and turns right onto it. The trail follows this road, keeping straight at a junction in 100 yd. At 0.3 mi., just before the gravel road ends, the trail turns right onto a grassy road. The trail is a gradual uphill climb to the intersection with the Conant Trail. Go left onto the Conant Trail and follow the trail for .3 miles to the Lord Hill summit. At the summit go left for a great view of Horseshoe Pond. Take the Mine Trail to your right to the abandoned mine.

From the South: From Maine Route 5 in Lovell ME turn west onto the West Lovell Road and cross the narrows at Kezar Lake continuing to the right for approximately 2.75 miles. Turn left on to Foxborough Road staying right for 2.1 miles. At the junction with Horseshoe Pond Road (right) continue straight on Mine road approximately .5 miles to the trailhead. Continue straight on the abandoned mine road approximately 1 mile to the mine.

Mineral Collecting Tips: The Lord Hill mine is actually an open depression in the hill, rather than a deep, dark shaft. It can be very hot and sunny on summer days, so bring a hat, sunblock and plenty of water. The mine area is covered with small pieces of rock. Search for minerals in these rock fragments or in the wall that borders one side of the mine. Miners at Lord Hill were particularly interested in the large chunks of muscovite, silvery mica that can be divided into paper-thin crystals like the pages of a book. Although mica crystals are common in the granitic rocks throughout the White Mountains, the large, striking "books" at Lord Hill were particularly impressive.

Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting Conditions: Surface disturbance is defined as digging, excavating, prying, destroying, or similar activity that results in the removal, displacement, or destruction of rocks, minerals, soil, or vegetation. Surface disturbing rock and mineral collection activities must follow the Forest Plan standards and guidelines listed below:





General Standards and Guidelines

- Only small hand tools are permitted. The use of power, mechanized equipment, or explosives is prohibited.
- Maximum excavation at any one site is limited to one cubic yard. Only one site may be disturbed at a time.
- Excavated holes must not be dug deeper than three feet as measured from the bottom of the hole to a projected horizontal line drawn between the bases of trees or plants adjoining the hole. In areas where the entire site is already disturbed and the original ground level altered, an estimated projection will be made of the earth's surface.
- Prior to leaving the site, restore the disturbed area similar to the condition you found it in.
- In areas otherwise open to recreational mineral collecting no collecting activities are allowed within developed recreation areas, immediately adjacent to roads, trails, other facilities, in stream banks, wetlands, shores, designated rock climbing areas, or cultural or historic features.
- Digging under trees or severing roots greater than ½ inch in diameter is not permitted.
- Surface disturbance that creates or contributes to a safety hazard is not allowed.
- Rock and mineral collecting is not permitted on, in, or adjacent to existing safety hazards, such as overhanging ledges, deep tunnels, and unstable slopes.

