



Moat Mountain Smoky Quartz Collecting Area

Geology: The Moat Mountain range is located 4 miles west of North Conway. The east side of the mountain range is a contact between the Moat volcanic rocks and Conway granite. This contact is known for an abundance of miarolitic cavities (pockets) of smoky quartz and feldspar, with some samples of topaz, fluorite, reibeckite, cassiterite, and some other minerals in very small abundance.

Location: From West Side Rd. in Conway turn onto Passaconaway Rd. Travel 1.2 miles and turn right on High Street (dirt). The road leads into the White Mountain National Forest, passing a gate at 1.4 miles. At 1.7 miles, bear left at the sign pointing to the mineral site and drive 0.7 miles to the parking area. Hike 0.9 miles to the Moat Mountain Smoky Quartz Collecting area.

Mineral Collecting Tips: The most common finds in this area are small smoky quartz crystals embedded in the Conway granite. Look for minerals in the rock fragments. Make sure to bring Ziplock baggies or newspaper for specimens collected. Other recommended items include safety glasses, gloves, geologist's hammer and cold chisel, hand trowel for loose dirt and a field guide to rocks and minerals.

Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting Conditions: A rock and mineral collecting use permit is being developed. The public will be notified when these permits become available. Surface disturbing rock and mineral collecting activities will require a use permit. Hobby mineral collecting without a use permit is allowed as long as there is no surface disturbance. i.e. picking up a rock. 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 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 for the purposes of monitoring and enforcement.

- Prior to leaving the site, restore the disturbed area similar to the condition you found it in.
- 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.

For more information contact: Saco Ranger District
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