

## Broads Assert Right to Free Speech

by Shelley Silbert

On May 7, 2018, Broads and 13 other organizations filed an amicus brief (see page 14) to support retired Associate Director Rose Chilcoat and her husband Mark Franklin, who have been targeted for criminal prosecution in San Juan County, Utah in what we believe to be retaliation for Rose's work to protect public lands in the county. Rose and Mark were charged with multiple felonies following Franklin's closing of a corral

gate on state trust lands in 2017, even though a fence section was down and the rancher and deputy admit that cattle were never blocked from water. Since then, two charges have been dropped, while two remain: attempted wanton destruction of livestock (a felony) and trespassing on state trust lands (a misdemeanor).

In April, Judge Lyle Anderson denied a Motion to Quash, ruling there was sufficient evidence to go to trial. "Ms. Chilcoat's position with Great Old Broads for Wilderness," writes Judge Anderson, "as well as her letters to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), show that she thinks the world would be a better place if Odell's [the rancher's] cattle were gone."

The judge's shocking statement presumes Rose's association with a conservation organization, specifically Broads, as evidence of the couple's guilt. He calls out her letters to document public land

conditions to the BLM—her right and a regular practice within our organization—as another indicator of criminal intent. He fails to recognize her legitimate concerns (e.g. observation of ground disturbance in a Special Recreation Management Area and Wilderness Study Area) and the value of citizen involvement on public lands.

The amicus brief states, that should this case move forward, members of conservation groups would reasonably fear conducting activities in the county, which would inhibit First Amendment rights to free speech, adding that the county's unconstitutional acts would encourage other like-minded counties to similarly practice intimidation tactics.

### Bullying as a Silencing Tactic

San Juan County is infamous among conservationists. Its officials fought the establishment of Bears Ears

*(Continued page 14)*



Rose holding a flyer found in 2012 that "ordered" Broads to get out of San Juan County.

## NEWS FLASH! Trial Postponed Pending Review by Utah Court of Appeals

On May 18, a three-judge panel of the Utah Court of Appeals granted a motion to stay (temporarily stop) the jury trial of Rose Chilcoat and Mark Franklin, scheduled for May 23–24, pending a review of the case. The defense's emergency motion cites the amicus brief filed by 14 national and local environmental groups in support of the review and discusses the constitutional implications of the prosecution using Rose's association with Great Old Broads for Wilderness as evidence of criminal intent. This type of appeal to a higher court is made prior to or during a trial when there are extraordinary circumstances that could prevent a case from being properly decided. We certainly agree that this case has extraordinary circumstances, and are pleased that the Utah Court of Appeals agrees it merits further review. Stay tuned...

### WOMEN WITH A PLAN

Check out our new strategic plan at <http://bit.ly/BroadsSP>

### MAKE THOSE COMMENTS COUNT

Before you break out your pen and paper, review these tips on how to make substantive comments.

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### CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF BROADBANDS

How it started, looking back, and looking ahead.

PAGE 9



### IT'S TIME TO DONATE!

Help support our work to train and inspire advocates like YOU to protect and preserve our wild public lands.

Learn more at: <http://www.greatoldbroads.org/wild-for-wilderness-donate/>

...from our Executive Director, Shelley Silbert

# In a BROAD Sense

## Finding Hope in History ...and Wilderness



Andy Gulliford

For me, few things could be as uplifting than a few days—or weeks—in wilderness. Choosing in my twenties to spend my life focused on conservation seemed not only logical, but inevitable. It's a good thing I like challenges, because the path of an environmentalist is strewn with sharp rocks, unexpected winds, heavy rains, intense heat, and uncrossable rivers. You learn a few things in the wild, like the value of perseverance and patience.

We need both now—powerfully.

Each day the sun rises; and like clockwork, more distressing news is revealed. The news involves my friends, like the sham charges against Rose and Mark (see cover story). Or a place of my heart, like the crystal clear Boundary Waters at the South Kawishiwi River, whose banks served as our 2015 Broadwalk campsite—endangered again because the BLM just reinstated two previously rejected mining leases. The news mars what I thought inalienable in our country: democracy, truth, respect, and the principle of equal ownership of public lands by all Americans. I wonder how we will undo the damage, and whether our world will survive the apparent mantra of the Trump administration to scrape, rape, desecrate, and escape.

...we can never give up, for giving up is giving in, which is simply not something my heroes have done.

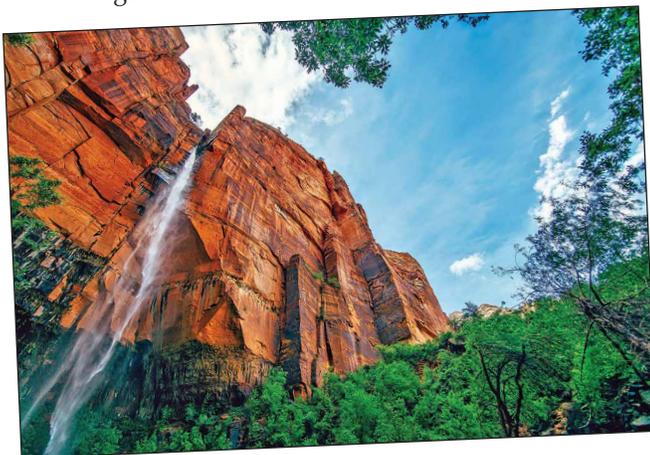
It's enough to make you want to run back to the wilderness, which we must do for our hearts and souls! But we can never give up, for giving up is giving in, which is simply not something my heroes have done.

History gives me hope. Frederick Law Olmsted wrote

in 1890 that the public should respond to a threat to wilderness as "to any crisis threatening a national treasure of art." In that logic, John Muir redoubled his work for wilderness preservation at the turn of the last century, upholding the preservation voice because it did not ring loud enough among those like Gifford Pinchot and his utilitarian, "wise use" approach to natural resources. As part of his campaign, Muir accompanied President Teddy Roosevelt to Yosemite to convince him to preserve these "temples

of nature"—perhaps the most significant three-night camping trip ever. Roosevelt went on to protect six national parks, 18 national monuments, and a multitude of wildlife refuges, bird sanctuaries,

and national forests; moreover, signing the Antiquities Act of 1906, giving authority to future presidents to follow suit.



### Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national grassroots organization, led by women, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands.

Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of Americans who want to protect public lands for this and future generations. With more than 8,500 members and friends, we bring voice, knowledge, commitment, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

Please credit Broads for reprinted articles.  
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# ADVOCACY CORNER

Protect Where You Play and Know Before You Go



Are you as WILD about public lands as we are? Do you bike, climb, hike, backpack, birdwatch, fish, hunt, or paddle a river? Are you an artist inspired by the beauty or a lifelong land steward? As we deepen our connection to a landscape, we develop a desire and passion to find ways to advocate for its protection. Advocacy can take many forms—education, stewardship, citizen science projects, or simply getting out there to be the eyes, ears, and voices for the places you hold dear to your heart.

America is chock-full of public lands where we can play, explore, and find inspiration or solitude. These are our lands, owned by all Americans, and include more than 618 million of acres of deserts, forests, mountains, and rivers covering more than 25% of the U.S. land base. Not all public lands are the same and there are different rules and regulations depending on the designation. As you get out there and roll up your sleeves, be smart and be prepared. Knowing and practicing public lands etiquette will assure a safe and effective trip for you and your community of advocates. Here are some know-before-you-go tips and tricks.



## DO YOUR RESEARCH

WSA, NCA, RNA, ACEC...what do these acronyms mean? Find out what the land designation is, and who manages it. Plan your trip ahead of time and use the resources available to you. Look it up on the web; our federal land management agency websites are full of resources and updated often. Call the local land management agency office and ask about the area. Get a map of the region (often you can even get them for free). Visit the district office before you head out. Are there regulations you should know about? Areas you should avoid? What's the political story? Having the right information before you get there is key!

## READ THE SIGNS

Keep motorized vehicles to designated open roads, bikes on trails where they are permitted, and ATVs on routes marked for their use. If you observe illegal motorized vehicle use, snap a photo of the license plate, mark the location by GPS or landmarks, and alert the local agency.

When camping, set up the mandated distance away from streams and lakes. Be fire wise and find out ahead of time if fires are allowed. Hunt and fish in permitted areas only. No trespassing means no trespassing. Are you taking a group out for trail maintenance? Follow trail etiquette and know who to yield to: everyone yields to horses, then hikers get the right of way, followed by bikers.

## LEAVE NO TRACE

Whether monitoring a stretch of river, collecting data on a botanical inventory, or visiting grazing allotments, when you approach a public road with a gate that is closed, enter and close it again after you pass through. If it is open, leave it open. Enjoy and appreciate archaeological and mining artifacts, but don't remove items, as they are protected under federal law. Leaving evidence of our rich cultural history in place ensures others get to enjoy it as well. Stay on designated trail systems, don't cut switchbacks, leave wildlife alone, and keep your dog on a leash, if required. Have a map handy and avoid private lands and inholdings.

## GET TO KNOW THE NEIGHBORS

Public lands are managed for multi-use purposes. It is common to cross paths with rangers, ranchers, and other recreationists while out exploring and working with the land. If you're approached by someone, say hello and be friendly. Introduce yourself. While we may not always agree with one another on an issue or how our public lands should be managed, we are all human with a story to share.

An educated and aware know-before-you-go approach is a great way to prevent unnecessary run-ins or surprises and ensure you have a good time. We are here to support you. Please don't hesitate to call the office with further questions.

## KNOW YOUR PUBLIC LAND DESIGNATIONS

DOI—America's public lands explained:  
<http://bit.ly/PLdesig>

Land classifications related to Wilderness:  
<http://bit.ly/WildDes>

BLM land-use designations:  
<http://bit.ly/BLMLand>



# Meet a **V**ery **S**pecial **B**road

By Lori Niewold

**W**e all know about fantasy football, right? But fantasy field biology? We all have dreams of what we'll do when retired, and Viviane Simon-Brown, now retired, has chosen to indulge in just that. You can find her and her husband Dale gallivanting around Oregon conducting NOAA marine debris surveys, monitoring black oyster catchers and brown pelicans for Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, or documenting "mile 306" on the Oregon coast for Coastwatch, all to help scientists better understand climate disruption impacts. She is the epitome of a Broad, bringing knowledge and commitment to advocate for our last wild places on earth. And did I mention humor? My first introduction to Viviane was when I called and got her voicemail, on which she declared, "Sorry I can't come to the phone right now, I'm out watching the climate change."

I nearly fell out of my chair laughing until, after a few moments, it occurred to me that it was also the grim, ugly truth we are all faced with now—watching the climate change—and it is time for us to step up and join the fight to save Mother Earth and her vast beautiful creatures.

With an eclectic assortment of degrees in French, biology, and public administration, Viviane's claim to fame is as the first Sustainable Living Specialist in the U.S.; and, she was instrumental in creating the National Network for Sustainable Living—that now has over 100 colleagues from more than 30 institutions! She last worked at Oregon State University as a Forestry Extension professor focusing on

intelligent consumption of natural resources.

"What else should I know about you?" I asked. "When I was 11, I won a Shetland pony in a contest. Haven't won anything since, really, how can you top that?" she replied. (I'm still giggling about that line, too!)

Viviane has been a long-time Broad and her most recent outings with us were the Owyhee Broadwalk and the Redwoods Broadwalk, where she helped cut brush, move massive logs, played in the river with our Executive Director, Shelley, and enjoyed a long ethical leadership conversation with Broads' Board member Di Allison. Viviane's been hooked on Broadwalks since! They provide a wonderful opportunity to visit beautiful places and, "I can do enough work to justify dark beer, and most importantly, learn from the people who are making good things happen. Because, while natural resource issues have different players and diverse features, the problem always comes down to human impact."

Viviane has chosen to make an everlasting human impact by bequeathing stock to Great Old Broads. During the process of updating her living trust, she realized she had financial assets that could benefit causes she believed in. The bequest of stock was easy to do and is TOD (transfer on death)—and without skipping a beat, she says, "hopefully Broads doesn't need it in a hurry..." And no, we don't need

it in a hurry Viviane, stay above, aboard, and a broad!



Alice Elshoff (left) and Viviane Simon-Brown (right) on a Broads adventure.

## GRATITUDE!

We are so appreciative of Viviane Simon-Brown's (VSB, aka, Very Special Broad) fierce passion and love of the wild—and for her generous gift! You too can help us continue to protect public lands for generations to come. Leaving a gift for Great Old Broads for Wilderness in your will can be as simple as including the following language:

*I give, devise, and bequeath to Great Old Broads for Wilderness (insert dollar amount/percentage, stock, real estate, retirement account, etc.) to be used for its general purposes.*

For more information on a variety of ways to leave a gift for your life's passion, please call Executive Director Shelley Silbert at (970) 385-9577 or email [shelley@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:shelley@greatoldbroads.org).

## MANY THANKS TO OUR AUCTION SPONSORS!

We'd like to express heartfelt gratitude to our 2017 Wild for Wilderness Online Auction sponsors. Their donations help cover the cost to conduct the auction, which is our largest fundraiser of the year! Learn more, make a donation, or become a 2018 sponsor at <http://www.greatoldbroads.org/auction>.





# Make That Comment Count!

by Dianne Milliard

How can you help save the places you love? One of the best ways to advocate for a place or a cause near and dear to your heart is to write a public comment to the elected official or agency responsible.

There's a problem, though. Public officials and agencies receive hundreds, even thousands, of comments when a major change in management plans or regulations is proposed (especially now, with so many outrageous changes in the current administration). How can you make sure that your voice will be heard?

Some comments count more than others. A well-written public comment carries much more weight than hundreds of form comments. Here are a few tips on how to write a public comment that can really make a difference.

**Be Well Informed:** Do your homework. Read the proposed document. Take notes. If there's something you don't understand, contact the agency and ask questions. Note the specific wording you have issues with. Make a checklist of points you want to touch on. What arguments can you come up with? Can you make a strong economic argument? Can you find scientific backing for your point of view? Do the proposed changes conflict with existing laws or an agency's mission statement?

Pay special attention to the "Purpose and Need" section of the document. *Purpose* is the proposed action. *Need* is the federal agency's requirement to act upon it. Does the proposed action overstep the boundaries, or is it within purpose and need? Is there another, less damaging way to achieve the purpose? Look for strong arguments, backed with facts and documentation, to refute the purpose. Doing a little research will result in a much stronger comment.

**Be Specific:** "This bill sucks" is not helpful. What exactly is wrong with the legislation or regulation? Why? Back up your argument with facts. Document those facts. The people you are writing to may not know of studies or developments that you are aware of. Help inform them. Make concrete, scientific statements. Include copies of documents supporting your point of view as attachments or links.

**Be Concise:** Remember that the people reading your comments have dozens, hundreds, even thousands of comments to review. Make your arguments as strong as possible, but don't belabor the point. Focus—what exactly are you trying to accomplish? Clearly state why the specific issues are problematic.

**Be Well Organized:** Make your comment easy to read. Use short paragraphs. Summarize your arguments at the beginning of your document. Back up your points of view in the body. Use sub-headings and bolding to emphasize your points, so reviewers can grasp your arguments with a glance.

**Offer Solutions:** What actions should they take and why? Suggest specific language that can be changed to help clarify

or resolve the issues with the document. Note the page and paragraph to make it easier for them to follow your proposed changes. Are there areas you can compromise?

What are the underlying issues? Try to understand alternative points of view. After all, politics is the art of compromise and polarization gets us nowhere. How can you help make this a win-win situation?

Be creative but realistic. Offer real solutions and constructive criticism. If a similar solution is being successfully used elsewhere, provide documentation or a link to the successful solution.

**Be Polite:** Don't let your anger and frustration get the best of you. It might feel good to vent, but accusations and condemnations will simply get you dismissed as a crank. Your comment will not be taken seriously. Show your concern, but not your anger. Being rude is no way to win the hearts and minds of opposing views.

**Be Personal:** What is your personal connection to the place or issue? Why do you care? How will you be impacted by the proposed change? Have you spent time there? Is it close to home? Is there a connection to your profession? Don't ramble on, but tell them how the issue specifically affects you. Let them know you're not a faceless citizen.

**Start Positive:** Remember that a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down. What did they get right? Tell them. Congratulate them. Let them know what works.

**Follow Up:** Keep track of the issue. If your point of view prevails, thank them for listening. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.

*Dianne Milliard is a freelance writer and photographer living in the tiny town of McCarthy, Alaska. She has worn many hats over the years, including museum caretaker, tour guide, and 21 seasons as a park ranger in Denali, Death Valley, and Wrangell St. Elias National Parks. Check out her blog at [www.ramblingranger.com](http://www.ramblingranger.com).*



## Where Do I Comment?

**Contact information for state and federal elected officials:** <http://bit.ly/USelect>

**To comment on National Park Service planning:** <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

**To comment on U.S. Forest Service decisions that affect all national forests:** <http://bit.ly/FScomm>

**For actions that affect specific forests,** follow the Schedule of Proposed Actions at <https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/> (click on map)

**To comment on BLM lands:** <http://bit.ly/BLMplans>. Click on the state where the action is taking place. Calls for comments will be listed there.

**To comment on government agency regulation changes:** <https://www.regulations.gov/>





The proposed wall would have cut right through the 2,088 acre Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, where over 400 bird species and the endangered ocelot would be affected. Thankfully, following major protest from local residents, tribes, and conservation groups, Congress voted in a provision in the spending bill to block construction through the refuge. Nevertheless, huge swaths of land remain unprotected.

The wall is an antiquated notion that is more symbolic than effective. Immigration is at a 46-year low. That is *real* news.

*To bring attention to this issue, Broads will host a Border Broadwalk in March of 2019. Stay tuned for more information in the fall Broadsides. To learn more about the negative impact of border walls, go to [noborderwalls.org](http://noborderwalls.org).*

## ADVOCACY WINS

by Katya Spiecker

### SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS ACT INTRODUCED!



Nearly 10 years after its initial introduction, Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act to protect approximately 61,000 acres of land in southwest Colorado. The bill also includes a 6,590-acre mineral withdrawal, which would prohibit future mineral development at Naturita Canyon. A result of years of collaboration between three counties, city governments, recreational and environmental organizations, and local businesses, the bill would designate some of the state's most iconic peaks as wilderness areas and protect majestic alpine landscapes for future generations.

Our Colorado Broads stepped up in a big way to support the bill, especially the Northern San Juan and Grand Junction Broadbands, playing a vital role in the collaborative process. Needless to say, the prospect of permanent protections for this iconic landscape—right in their backyard—gets these Broads very excited!

*Please thank Sen. Bennet at <http://bit.ly/SenBenn> and reach out to your House representatives to ask for their support of this legislation at <http://bit.ly/HouseRp>.*



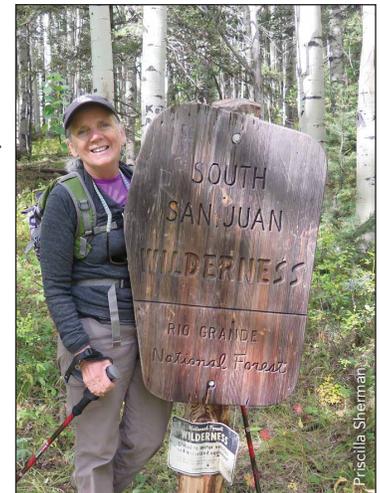
*Broads in Washington, D.C., prepare for their next appointment to lobby for support of the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act.*

### REP. GARRETT GRAVES ON BOARD WITH THE WILDLIFE CORRIDORS ACT

Rep. Garrett Graves (R-LA) has agreed to support the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act with Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), making it a bi-partisan bill.

Rep. Beyer introduced the bill in 2016 and continues to tirelessly advocate for its passage. At a time when climate change increasingly triggers shifts in plant communities, wildlife populations, and ecological processes, habitat connectivity is critical to conserving biodiversity and protecting native flora and fauna.

Broads' efforts advocating for the bill first started with the action-packed Southern Rockies Habitat Connectivity Broadwalk in the San Juan Mountains. Then, last October our efforts came full-circle at the Let's Mother Earth D.C. Broadwalk when Broads and Bros journeyed to the nation's capitol to lobby senators and representatives to support the bill. Broads pounded the pavement and wove their way through the streets of D.C. and halls of Congress to attend 76 meetings in two days! While wearing out their walkin' shoes, they shared their passion for wildlife as well as the need for corridors that allow various species to move in response to climate change, development, and other threats.



*We are happy to see Rep. Graves joining the movement—pun intended!—and encourage you to thank him with a brief call at (202) 225-3901 or email him at <http://bit.ly/ContactRepGraves>.*



# 2018 BROADWALKS & BROADWORKS

There are still a few open spots on the following events, so don't miss out on a Broadtastic opportunity to get into the wild!

Expanded descriptions are online at [www.greatoldbroads.org/national-events](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/national-events).



JULY 9-14

## Fishlake National Forest Aspen Broadwork

*Fishlake and Manti-La Sal National Forests, near Fish Lake, UT*

Come see the world's largest aspen stand and help us restore it to its natural glory. Join Broads and our partners at Grand Canyon Trust to learn about the impacts of cattle grazing and non-native invasive weeds on biodiversity, remove invasive species, and document on-the-ground conditions in this lovely setting.

**Members \$190 • Non-members \$230**



AUGUST 25-30

## Bees & Bighorn Broadwork

*Rio Grande National Forest, near Platoro Reservoir, CO*

Discover the gorgeous Conejos valley in the mountains of southwest Colorado and work with biologists to conduct bumblebee and bighorn sheep surveys, measure plant utilization, and more. This trip is for sturdy Broads and Bros who like to hike and are comfortable at high elevation.

**Members \$195 • Non-members \$235**



SEPT 9-13

## Continental Divide Wilderness BROADWALK

*White River National Forest, near Dillon, CO*

Join us for a very special Broadwalk to learn about the heart of the Rocky Mountains—and become advocates for its protection through legislation that would add nearly 95,000 acres to Colorado's most iconic wilderness areas. Evening speakers will introduce us to this important legislation, the history of Camp Hale and the fascinating story of the 10th Mountain Division (including Living History players!), the role fire plays in Wilderness, the remarkable story of wilderness in Colorado, and much more.

**Members \$245 • Non-members \$285**

\* Important: Broadworks are moderately strenuous. Please review Broadwork activities carefully to determine if the event is a good fit for your abilities.

# WALTS: A Grassroots Advocacy Dance—Year 10!

by Lauren Berutich

This spring, the Grassroots Leadership Program welcomed 18 new leaders and two Broads' board members to our 10th Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Sessions (WALTS), held just outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico at the rustic Synergia Ranch. Participants represented 8 different states from the coasts of Maine to California and in between. Many return to co-lead existing chapters and we're excited to announce the start of four new chapters in the Rogue River Valley, OR, Healdsburg, CA, Seattle, WA, and Maine.



WALTS attendees hard at work on an assignment in a break-out session.

ins-and-outs—and, we have some fun in the process! Think *Public Lands Jeopardy*, *Wilderness Bingo*, and running through *What If?* scenarios.

“I loved the Wilderness discussion and the Broads' history overview. Jeopardy and the scavenger hunts were fun ways to learn.”

“I enjoyed WALTS very much and felt it was a great opportunity to connect with other Broadband leaders. I learned new methods to brainstorm and how to implement some of our goals. This was a five-star, life changing experience!”

We gathered every evening for the most talked about section of our workshop—the sharing of our public narratives (see page 13), a highly effective activity designed to identify values and deepen relationships through story development. One leader said, “I think the public narrative was amazing—an effective activity getting us into the nuts and bolts of our individuality and showing that everyone has a story and it probably isn't what you think it is.”

Broads takes pride in offering this five-day program every spring to inspired and dedicated women ready to take on a leadership role for a Broadband in their hometown.

*Do you love wild public lands? Ready to step it up for Mother Nature? We'd love to hear from you! Call the office for more information or email [lauren@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:lauren@greatoldbroads.org) to explore the opportunity to become a Broadband leader.*

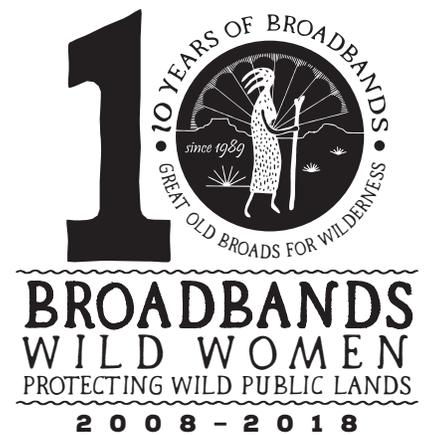


# Celebrating 10 Years of Broadbands

## Protecting America's Public Lands & Waters

In case you haven't heard, 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of our Broadbands, local women-led grassroots chapters that protect and preserve our wild public lands across the country. Our buttons are bursting with pride at how far we've come as an organization; our advocacy footprint has grown from a handful of women to 73 leaders and nearly 40 chapters in 16 states. The work of the Broadbands has brought respect and admiration to the organization and helped spread the word that Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a force to be reckoned with.

This issue of *Broadsides* takes a look back in time, when the seeds of the idea for chapters were first planted and burst forth under Rose Chilcoat's leadership. We'll share impressions from leaders we've trained across the decade, and Grassroots Leadership Director Lauren Berutich will give you a look at where we are today and where we're headed in the future.



## Creating "Bandwidth" for Broads

by Rose Chilcoat

Nearly twenty years after our founding, Broads faced a new challenge. We had created a strong identity for an organization with a quirky name, then moved to a full fledged, dues-paying organization of sassy, strong, and amazing wild women. However, there was a major hurdle—when an excited new member asked, "So, how do I connect with my local chapter of Broads?" Sadly, we would have to say, "There is none. But, you can join us at one of our national gatherings and get involved with the issues..."

In my first couple of years with Broads, I answered a plethora of phone calls from remarkable women with incredible

passion and skill sets gained from many different walks of life. They pined to unite with kindred spirits—to find their sister Broads. Our members wanted to connect, create meaningful relationships, tackle local public lands issues in their own backyards, and have fun with other Broads. What was a small, understaffed organization to do?

The idea of local chapters wasn't new. Susan Tixier, Broads' founding force, envisioned that someday we'd have chapters. Initially, we had a few small clusters of members in places where issues had national significance, and these members gathered on an *ad hoc* basis to help public land protection campaigns. San Francisco, Vermont,

Aspen, Salt Lake City...a few small, but mighty groups flickered to life and worked up a righteous head of steam, only to flicker out when a key inspirational "leader" moved, had health issues, or burnt out. Exciting at times, but not a sustainable model.

As Broads solidified into a credible, sustainable organization, I realized we absolutely had to replicate the kind of wild lands advocacy that was being done by the national office staff. We had to multiply the Broads' model to make a greater impact. With little more than an idea and faith in our membership—and virtually no budget or support staff—we launched our "Broadband" program. So named, as bands of Broads would come together to be advocates for the wild—and so much more.

Imagine our excitement when in January 2009, we pulled off our first Broadband Leader "Boot Camp" in Albuquerque, New Mexico for 21 aspiring and existing leaders. A Ben & Jerry's Foundation grant covered costs and participants provided their own transportation. We jumped in over our heads with little more than the belief that Broads could do anything they set their minds to—and just look how far we've come over the last decade!

It gives me great joy to know that what began as a vision and a leap of faith in our members has blossomed into a powerful movement of impassioned women working for change.



*The bevy of Broads at the first Boot Camp in 2009.*



# Oh, the places you'll go...

## Celebrating 10 years of local grassroots advocacy efforts

by Lauren Berutich and Mike Kruse

In 2009, we held the first Broadband leader training—referred to then as Boot Camp. Over the years, the program evolved and grew into what we now call Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Sessions (WALTS). To honor a decade of training 137 Broadband Leaders in public lands protection and grassroots advocacy, we interviewed a wild, wise woman from each cohort and asked them to share their experiences and what inspired them to action.

**Boot Camp 2009: Cindy Magnuson, Palouse Broadband—Moscow, Idaho**



The power of a women-led organization adds a lot to the movement and it

gives me strength to know that what I'm working towards is of benefit to others.

I think a lot of people want to hear from women. People are paying attention and they are ready for action. Our strength together will help resolve public lands issues we care about and clearly speak to the value of what we are working for.

I like bringing new people to this organization. I enjoy helping them learn why we work so hard at this and why it's so important to our country.

I am proud that our Broadband was a part of shutting down the Megaload shipments over Idaho's precious scenic Highway 12. Also, our work statewide to stop a land exchange—although we have recently learned that they've revamped it and it will be a new issue to take up again. Even momentary victories are savored and it is reenergizing to face it again!



**Boot Camp 2010: Janna Rankin, Teton Valley WHALES Broadband—Alta, Wyoming**

I love the name of the organization; we can always hook someone in with our name.

We get people laughing and giving us a thumbs-up—and it supports an awesome organization! Joining Broads gives me a connection to things I am passionate about.

I loved the training. The shared experiences of the other women in Boot Camp gave me new ideas to bring home to our Teton Valley Broadband. I also enjoyed learning about the breadth of issues facing the other Broadband leaders.

There is a balance between a national focus and the local focus—and the organization gives the leader a long enough leash to do either of those.

**Boot Camp 2011: Carol Savonen, Willamette Valley Broadband—Philomath, Oregon**



I have always been passionate about public lands and getting out on them. To me, Broads means being involved in important issues

with kindred spirits. It's empowering at this age; we have time, we don't care what anyone thinks, and we're growing in leadership capacity.

I thought once I retired my life would narrow, but, pardon my pun, it BROADened, locally and nationally. I've gone on several regional and national Broadwalks. Meeting people from other states is so inspiring and it's really fun to make friends all over the country.

**Boot Camp 2012: Sherry Schenk, Grand Junction Broadband—Grand Junction, Colorado**



As a leader, I needed to both examine my own beliefs, which Boot

Camp helped me do, and to know where there were resources that I could give to new members.

I really value the Broads for all the things that they do and for their diversity of issues. Being involved

means camaraderie with like-minded people. It means valuing the feminine. It means a sense of connection to everything.

I believe our Broadband's greatest accomplishment has been our incredibly active participation in learning about and commenting on the various sections of long-term documents such as Resource Management and Forest Plans.

I think being an advocate for public lands is going to be bigger in the future—more than just for wilderness. Locally, we've had to learn to work with other groups who have similar interests. We found it to be productive and a place where we've been able to build relationships, and make connections with other groups. We disagree often, but the bottom line is that we all really love public lands.

**Boot Camp 2013: Carol Johnson, Sangre de Cristo Broadband**



—Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Boot Camp experience was terrific! Meeting experienced and new Broadband leaders gave

me confidence and the motivation to help save our wilderness—and create more of it. Sharing ideas, the reasons we were becoming new leaders, and actually developing a strategy outline for the following year was a great stimulus. Evenings spent drinking wine and snacking were relaxing and really opened us all up to new ideas and new friends.

I had been thinking about starting a chapter for a while and Broads was such a natural fit! I was excited to educate the community, take folks out on hikes, and raise awareness. Broads share important information, host great outings, and I love the Broadbands.

One of the achievements I'm most proud of was our work getting Inventoried Roadless Areas added to the existing Pecos Wilderness. 5 of the 7 Northern New Mexico pueblos, 2 counties, and hundreds of businesses and individuals



signed letters of support, as well as state senators and House representatives. It was a grassroots movement that continued until 2016.

I've retired as a Broadband leader, but I'm still fighting. I think our work is cut out for us.



**Boot Camp 2014:**  
**Linda Starr, Rio Grande Valley Broadband—Albuquerque, New Mexico**

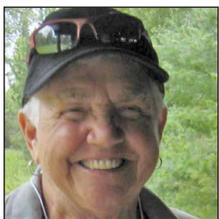
I love the solitude wilderness

provides. When I started in 2014, I really didn't know what I was getting into. I tabled and attended a Broadwalk in the Canyonlands—it was fabulous and my introduction to Broads' events. They inspired me, so I joined as a co-leader and am still today.

I find myself thinking, "How do we get more people involved?" It's so important! I'm excited to provide opportunities for members to engage in fun projects! We do a lot of partnering with local nonprofits and work with agency leaders to support their needs out on the ground. I feel strongly about engaging the youth and I love seeing younger people step up.

One of our more recent wins was attaining open access to the Sabinoso Wilderness—which had been land-locked by private property. It's something we've worked on with other groups for a few years! I was so excited about this that I set up a Broadband trip to backpack down into Canyon Largo to perform service work for the BLM.

Even after all these years, I continue to learn so much! To give back to our natural world...and the pleasure that we feel when we're in it. We have to keep fighting.



**WALTS 2015:**  
**Jan Bourdon, Minnesota Wild Waters Broadband—Maplewood, Minnesota**

I joined Broads because I loved the philosophy of the organization and the inspiration-led women's voice. My whole life I've felt a love for wild places and a want to protect our environment.

We've come so far since our initiation three years ago—building a membership base from scratch and carving a space for our work in our small town. Now we have the opportunity to dive into new areas and I love our latest project! We are working with local partners to help restore a dairy farm back to its original prairie landscape. We're worried about the ecosystem and the polluted Mississippi River.

This work is really meaningful, educational, and also a lot of fun! People keep commenting about how much they're learning about their own state, how our environments work, and how the land can bounce back if we take care of it.



**WALTS 2016:**  
**Chris Gorzalski, SW Utah Broadband—St. George, Utah**

Utah is my home and I love it. It's a privilege to live

here with so many beautiful places to explore, but it's also a curse because the fight to protect it is so continuous. Yet, our Broads remain resilient and so positive. The most important thing to do is to keep paying attention, moving forward, and advocating. This is the most important time to be active and engaged.

Our chapter really worked hard against the reduction of Grand Staircase Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments—but the reductions still happened. On the other hand, we were successful in stopping the oil and gas leases by Zion National Park. It was a great effort by a combination of groups.

I don't think I could get through this time without this group. It's a friendship that is like a big family for me.

I started co-leading our Broadband without the benefit of WALTS for several months. When I went to WALTS, I was able to connect with leaders who had started their groups with just a few people, and they reassured me that it would come together. They helped me learn to celebrate every success. When we shared our stories, I realized how strong this group of women was and how much we had in common. Thanks, Broads!



**WALTS 2017:**  
**Anne Heikkila, Blue Ridge Broadband—Morganton, Georgia**

In the last year since I attended WALTS, my greatest achievement has been to get the chapter organized and off the ground! We have grown to 117 members! I'm also proud of the partnerships and relationships we have formed with other local conservation organizations.

I have learned so much from our community members and partners and it keeps me going! We can make a huge difference, especially on the grassroots level. There are a gazillion hiking groups, but there's more to it with the Broads. There is education, stewardship, and then a deep need for action.

We have to fight so hard to protect what we have and not many people know about that. The advocacy work is the main reason to get into any of this. It's my window to make a difference and give others opportunities to get involved. And, it's about being able to help protect our wild places and wild things, make this planet better for our children and future generations, and have a darn good time doin' it.



**WALTS 2018:**  
**Janice Rosenberg, Willamette Valley Broadband—Philomath, Oregon**

I'm the crazy lady at all the rallies

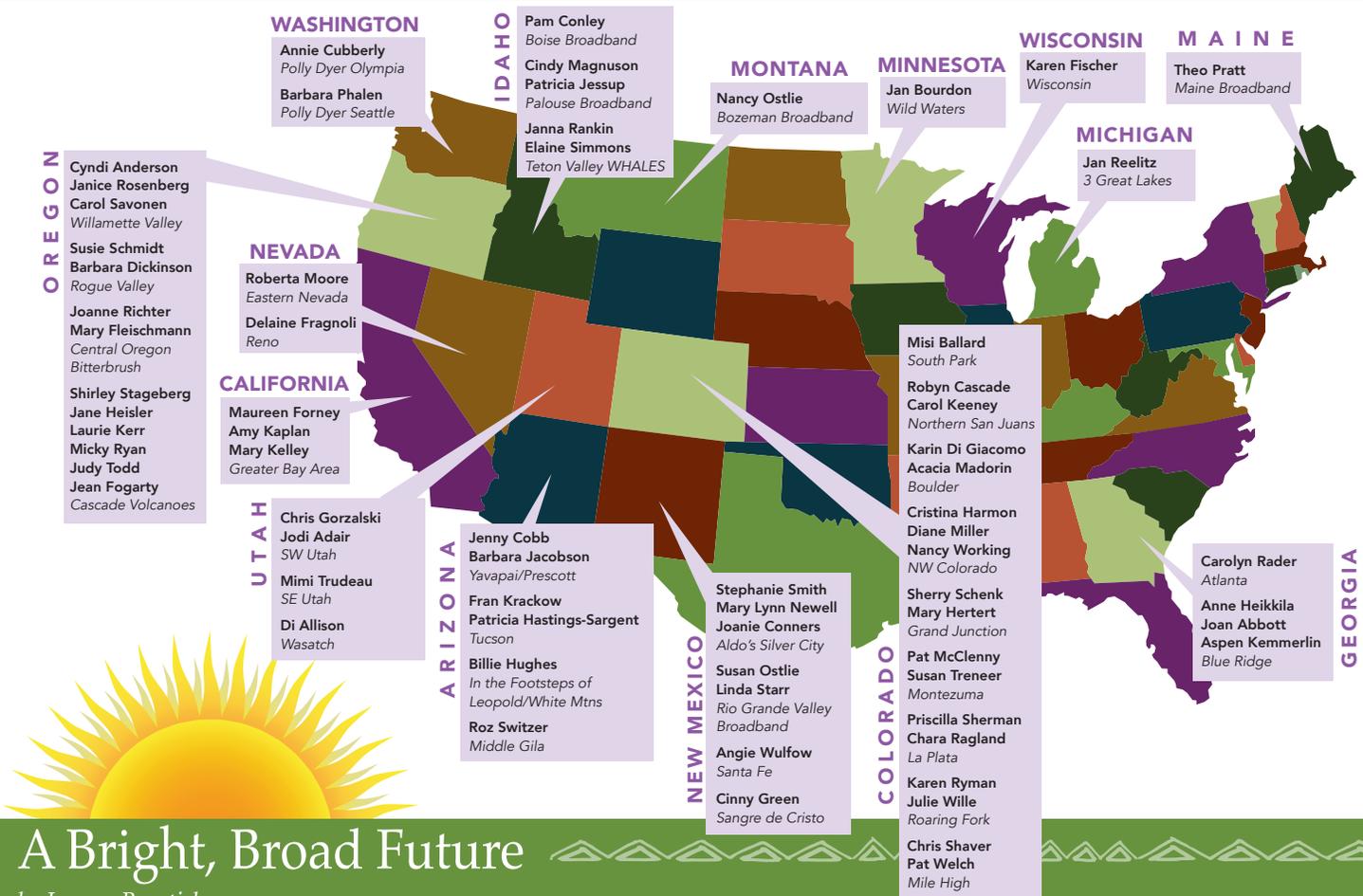
and town hall meetings, asking the questions about public lands, saying we're part of your constituency! We're not just starting out, we care, we vote, and we value public lands!

I really think that the Broads are part of a much broader movement, and working together, we are very powerful. Seeing how we've gone from regional actions to national issues is really powerful. It impacts all of us no matter where we live. It's about engaging with the world and being a voice for wildlife, the land, air, water, and plants.

That is definitely one of the things that set the Broads apart from other organizations; this is really serious work—but we do it creatively, with humor.



# Celebrating Our 2018 Broadband Leaders



## A Bright, Broad Future

by Lauren Berutich

What started out ten years ago as a vision to deepen our advocacy has brought about powerful change rooted in local action that has national implications on policy and decision-making. Our Broadband members have brought their knowledge, experience, and commitment to conservation to countless management plans, stewardship projects, educational events, and other actions. The last 10 years have seen 100 wilderness and monument designations, and I'm confident our Broads were involved in many of them.

We grow ever more sophisticated, taking legislation introduced at Broadwalks to Washington, D.C., where we lobbied state representatives for their support (see *Broader Wilderness*, page 6). The clear connection of activities that take place on public lands and global warming has led us to climate activism. Broadbands engage in *Keep it in the Ground* demonstrations and *Too Wild to Drill* actions. They work on national clean air mandates, advocate to enforce methane rules, and more.

Our work is not finished. It never is. It is a constant cycle of identifying needs,

building power in our communities, planning and strategizing, and implementing action. Then, we evaluate, celebrate, and do it again. Together, we can move mountains. Together, we will continue to fight for our lands, cultural heritage, and wild creatures.

As of the 10th Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training held in April of this year, the national office has had the honor of training 137 women. And, we don't intend to stop growing our ranks. We are always looking for new, inspired members to join our incredible Broadband leadership team and start new chapters. Contact us if you're ready to step up.

Terry Tempest Williams wrote, "Once upon a time, when women were birds, there was the simple understanding that to sing at dawn and to sing at dusk was to heal the world through joy. The birds still remember what we have forgotten, that the world is meant to be celebrated." And so, Broads moves forward—during a time of a future unknown, a political, social, and economic environment of turmoil, we gather, sing, and celebrate.

We are deepening our political voice

and our work as policy influencers; we are raising the bar for effective, local advocacy, and bringing diverse voices to each action. We are digging into citizen science to ensure quantitative data and on-the-ground monitoring informs decision-making and land management planning.

We must never forget the power of the people and the riches of democracy. These are our fuels for change. As we continue to practice resilience and tenacity, Broads will also continue to flock together in our harmonious song for healing, joy, and in gratitude for this beautiful, wild planet.

*Please help support the continued growth of our Grassroots Leadership Program by giving to our 10-Year Anniversary Campaign: add \$10 to your sustaining membership or multiply your annual gift by 10. As a contributor to the campaign, you are voting "yes" for women's leadership and for the sustained development of grassroots teams across the country fighting for the wild places we love and treasure.*



# Hello and Goodbye

Big changes are afoot at Broads' headquarters. We are excited to welcome two new members to the Grassroots Leadership team, Mike Kruse and Katya Spiecker. However, we'll dearly miss Lionel Di Giacomo as he moves on to new adventures.



**Mike Kruse, Grassroots Leadership Coordinator**

Mike joined us shortly before WALTS in March. It only took a day of hanging with Broads before Mike was leading the “yoo-hoo” calls like a seasoned pro (yeah, the low octave version).

Mike comes to Broads with more than 10 years of experience in the environmental field and has made it a priority to seek out, advocate for, and find refuge amongst America's public lands.

When not mountain biking, hiking, or simply enjoying the beauty of public lands with his dog Roady, he is out and about meeting new people, visiting old friends, playing or seeking out music, and hoping that he can travel soon.



**Katya Spiecker, Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator**

Katya attended WALTS as a member of the Bitterbrush Broadband leadership team. Lucky for us, she decided to step up her game and joined the HQ team. (Bitterbrush Broads, you know she still loves you!)

Katya grew up exploring the old-growth juniper and towering ponderosa woodlands of central Oregon. She has worked and volunteered for over a decade in the environmental field, developing a diverse knowledge of natural history, grassroots organizing, and event management.

When she's not channeling her inner-geek with insects and botany, Katya enjoys hiking, birding and discovering the natural / cultural treasures of the southwest.



**Farewell, Lionel**

Last, but not least, there's Lionel... who became more than our Research and Advocacy Associate—he was our go-to for technical issues and set many important reporting processes in place to track and quantify the great work our Broads do across the country. He was part advocacy

advisor, part counselor, part troubleshooter, and all heart.

Lionel is moving to Portland, Oregon to start the next chapter of his life as Director of Information Technology for Button Poetry, a poetry promoter and publisher committed to finding ways performing poets can make a living creating and sharing their art. Our loss is their gain, but we wish him the best and hear the Broads of the Pacific Northwest are thrilled to welcome him to the region. Bon Voyage, Lionel!

# Our Stories Matter

At WALTS, Broadband leaders were asked to write a “public narrative”—a three-part story about their lives. Based on author and activist, Marshall Ganz's philosophy that leadership requires the use of both head and heart, and our stories can help translate our values into action. Writers take a journey of experiences and motivations, turn it into tangible actions, and then communicate to the reader why the need to act is so important.

Our leaders used this model to reflect on how they became connected to wild places and what inspired them to become advocates. Here is an excerpt from one of the 2018 stories...

*“We walked into a room at the San Juan Bautista Retreat Center. There were around 50 religious leaders there: Catholic priests, Sisters Religious, Protestant pastors: Presbyterian, Methodist, my own United Church of Christ, the African American Church of God in Christ, two Jewish Rabbis. The room felt electric to me. I was riveted. I found myself, literally, sitting on the edge of my chair.*

*There was a banner up on the wall: Faith, Power, Action. I could not keep my eyes off it. These people were talking about the reality that there actually is enough of everything in the world for everyone, and that together we could create a vehicle by which to act on that belief.*

*Something within me was awakening to a memory of something with which I deeply resonated that I did not realize I had left behind. This was my introduction to the IAF (Inter-American Foundation)...this work changed me. Changed how I walk through the world. I came to understand my own story in new way. I developed a public life. I came to understand there is a systematic, strategic way to build power that can be used to create justice.”*

— Carol Keeney



## 2018 Raffle: “Looking Up”

Patricia Hastings-Sargent will once again create a fabric art piece for our 2018 fundraising raffle.

The inspiration for this year's piece is a photograph by Rob Lee of an aspen tree taken from the base. Rob has graciously given his permission to use his photograph.



The piece will be a free-form, two-dimensional sculpture that is rigid, with an outline of yellow-orange felt that will make it stand out from the wall on which it is hung. Tickets will be available for sale soon on the Broads' website.



67% of the human rights activists murdered in 2017 around the world were working to protect land and water.

National Monument and cheered the monument's illegal reduction by the Trump administration. Many Broads remember that in 2012, our banners were vandalized at a Broadwalk in San Juan County, the exit gate padlocked at the campsite, and a hag mask with fake blood stuck on a fencepost with a note that read, "Stay out of San Juan County. No last chance."

As you may recall, San Juan County has sued the U.S. for an ATV trail right-of-way through the bottom of Recapture Canyon, as well as hundreds of other claims on public land routes under the auspices of R.S. 2477 (see Winter/Spring 2018 *Broadsides*). In 2015, San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman was found guilty of conspiracy and driving on BLM lands closed to off-road vehicles. We suspect his vendetta against Great Old Broads, and specifically against Rose, is the primary driver in the inflated charges filed by the prosecution.

It's no secret that San Juan County's intimidation extends beyond environmental groups. In a particularly egregious act, the county's lawyers are trying to halt a federal judge's 2017 decision to redraw district boundaries to give Navajo voters the political power they are due in the county—this after years of blatant discrimination against the Navajo half of the county's residents.

### A Terrifying Trend

Yet San Juan County is not an anomaly. There are rampant examples of intimidation and legal harassment of activists in the current political era. Three examples:

1) In January, ten volunteers from *No More Deaths*, a humanitarian group based in the Unitarian church, were

charged with federal crimes after leaving water for migrants in a remote desert wilderness in Arizona.

2) The nonprofit *Public Herald* in Pennsylvania, as well as the Seneca Indian Nation and the citizen's group *Save the Allegheny*, received letters from two energy companies demanding that they "cease and desist" from press coverage of a proposed treatment plant for wastewater from fracking.

3) Investigative journalists charged while covering the protest at Standing Rock still await trial. (As of late April, 337 of the total 831 people arrested at Standing Rock have had their cases dismissed or acquitted at trial.)

Most chilling, 67% of the human rights activists murdered in 2017 around the world were working to protect land and water. A total of 197 environmental activists were killed in 27 countries. Predictably, nearly all fought mega-projects associated with extractive industry and big business. These statistics leave no room for complacency when it comes to attacks on activists or the press. Are these assaults harbingers of a future where free speech is squelched by fear of retribution?

In an era of escalating political vendettas, blatant lies, and abuse of justice at many levels of government, we are angered to see Rose and Mark caught in the crossfire. We couldn't agree more with Michael Bloomberg, who decried in a recent graduation speech at Rice University that Americans now face an "epidemic of dishonesty," and saying, "When elected officials speak as though they are above the truth, they will act as though they are above the law."

We sincerely hope that the falsehoods and reprisals will be ironed out in the courts—and Broads will continue to do everything in our power to work against the miscarriage of justice in this and other cases.



## WHAT IS AN AMICUS BRIEF?



An amicus brief is filed by an amicus curiae ("friend of the court," plural amici curiae), which is an individual or group who is not a party to a legal case that, through a written brief, provides information, expertise, or insight. In cases that may have broader repercussions (such as the infringement on the free speech of advocates), an amicus brief is a method to articulate concerns and provide an outside perspective to the court. The consideration of an amicus brief is at the discretion of the court.

Groups signing onto the amicus brief with Broads include Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Trust, Wild Earth Guardians, Advocates for the West, Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project, Alliance for a Better Utah, Wild Utah Project, Torrey House Press, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners, Wilderness Watch, Wildlands Defense, and Wildlands Network.

### LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION:

**The Amicus Brief:**  
<http://bit.ly/AmBrief>

**Motion for Leave to File An Amicus Brief:**  
<http://bit.ly/M2File>

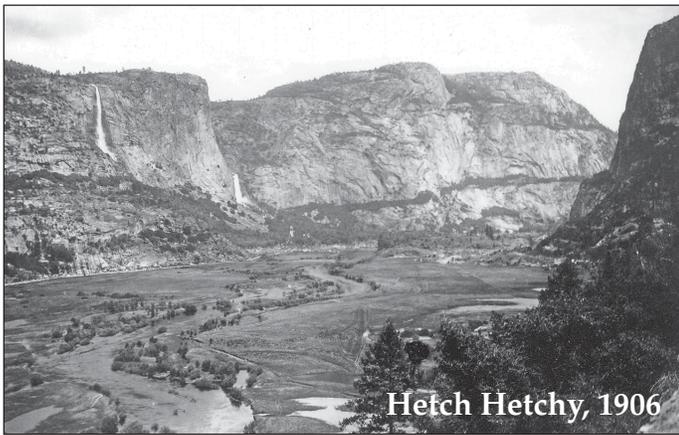
**Amicus Brief Exhibits:**  
<http://bit.ly/Abexhibit>

**Amicus Brief Press Release:**  
<http://bit.ly/AB-PR>

### GOOD REPRESENTATION COSTS BIG BUCKS.

To donate to Rose and Mark's legal fund, visit <http://bit.ly/RoseMark>.





...out of today's darkness will be born much light, brilliance which we can't yet imagine.

I think of the battle for Hetch Hetchy valley, sparked in 1882 when San Francisco city engineers suggested a dam to provide water and power to a thirsty growing city. While the designation of Yosemite National Park in 1890 should have guaranteed a wilderness preserve, political forces thundered ahead. An intense and vigorous fight ensued, only to end in a Congressional vote and the fatal signature of President Wilson in 1913 to approve the dam. The loss at Hetch Hetchy served as a rallying cry for new wilderness leaders, raising public sympathies for wild country in the face of threats from roads, logging, mining, and a burgeoning population.

Within ten years of the dam's approval, Aldo Leopold gained support for the idea of wilderness preservation within the national forests. In the 1930s, Bob Marshall argued to keep roads out of undeveloped areas, and recommended a Wilderness Planning Board, a radical idea long before its time. In the 1950s, David Brower joined with wilderness giants like

Olaus and Mardie Murie, Sigurd Olson, Howard Zahniser, and Wallace Stegner to defeat the Echo Park dam in Dinosaur National Monument, inspiring the idea of a national system for wilderness preservation. After eight years of active gestation, the Wilderness Act was born in 1964.

In April, we lost an architect of the Wilderness Act and a great hero, Stewart Brandborg. Known affectionately as "Brandy," he activated a grassroots movement for wilderness, the very legacy carried on by our Broadbands today. When faced with the setback of a provision in the Act that required Congress to pass specific legislation for each and every new area added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, he did not falter. From 1964 to 1976, he served as Executive Director at the Wilderness Society and took to the streets to organize, train, and unleash grassroots wilderness advocates to lobby their Congressional delegations. We can thank Brandy's foresight for the 765 wilderness areas today that protect 110 million acres in 44 states.

And we can thank this setback for the birth of a movement.

For the last 29 years, Great Old Broads has carried on this campaign as unwavering defenders of wilderness. We have gained recognition as a vital grassroots arm of the wilderness movement, and have extended our focus to protect broader (ahem) public lands. And we will continue the fight, no matter the political mess swirling around us.

I know that out of today's darkness will be born much light, brilliance which we can't yet imagine. Each of us is a catalyst, a glimmer, a ball of fire to keep that light shining. We go to the wilderness to draw our strength, knowing that the trails are not easy, but the rewards are boundless. We keep coming back, for ourselves, and for all life dependent on wilderness. What other choice could there be?



## Event Recap: Amargosa Broadwork

In early March, a dozen hearty Broads and Bros made a big impact on restoring habitat in California's Mojave Desert. Working with our friends from the Amargosa Conservancy, the group planted an impressive 700 willows along the Amargosa River to restore prime habitat for the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher. But that's not all, we also cleared downed trees and harvested and planted several hundred bulrushes to restore a wetland area fed by springs to re-establish habitat for the endangered Amargosa Vole.



We marveled at pupfish and the powerful beauty of the desert; learned new warm up stretches while laughing together at the start of each day; endured powerful winds and bone-chilling mornings; and treasured our time around the campfire with new friends at day's end. Only a few weeks later, we heard from our partners that many of the willows had already taken hold and sprouted as the weather warmed.

Word of our incredible accomplishments spread through the villages of Shoshone and Tecopa, and as we bid the region farewell, the villagers were heard to say, "There go a bunch of great old broads."





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John Muir and Broads' founding board member Ginger Harmon—two powerful advocates for the wild.



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Do it online at <http://bit.ly/joinbroads>.

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- Rockin' Broad \$50+
- Wild Broad \$75+
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