



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION, TOO

by Rose Chilcoat

The sun slid to the horizon as we drove the rural route to canoe Florida's Peace River. Suddenly, a large animal bounded across the road and slipped into the thick wall of vegetation. Long body, long tail, could it be? Yes!! We'd just glimpsed an endangered Florida panther! A lifetime of outdoor adventuring and this was my first wild cougar sighting. What were the odds? Given their current total population of 100 to 180—extreme.



Today, the only cougar population east of the Mississippi is confined to an ever-decreasing fragment of their former range. With 30 panther deaths in the wild (17 by motor vehicles), 2014 was the deadliest year on record.

The prognosis for Florida panthers is bleak, though they've been listed as endangered for 40 years. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has failed to designate critical habitat to aid in the cat's recovery. Florida approves sprawling developments that fragment habitat, while other important areas such as the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Lands are opened

to off-road vehicles. Florida panthers may soon be a memory, victims of the human hubris that devalues wild nature.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was designed to protect critically imperiled plant and animal species from extinction and recover and maintain those populations by removing or lessening threats to their survival. Signed into law by President Nixon in 1973, more than a decade after Rachel Carson's controversial

Florida panthers may soon be a memory, victims of the human hubris that devalues wild nature.

book *Silent Spring* ignited the environmental movement, it was the result of years of negotiation and compromise. Numerous challenges led the U.S. Supreme Court to find that the ESA's Congressional

intent "was to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost."

When used to the full extent of the law, the Act is extremely effective. So far, only 10 protected species have been declared extinct (eight were likely extinct before listing). At least 227 species, including bald eagles, American alligators, brown pelicans, and peregrine falcons, would likely have gone extinct without the Act. Sadly, many species have vanished while being considered for listing, and FWS has developed only 1,155 active recovery plans for the 1,570 listed threatened and endangered species.

(continued page 12)



HELP PREVENT DE-LISTING OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR!

Are you interested
in working for
continued protection
of grizzlies?

Join a Broads working group
to generate support for
grizzly bears and oppose
delisting (See Study A Broad,
page 11).

Contact us at:
broads@greatoldbroads.org

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THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS

World Wildlife Fund's *Living Planet Report 2014* shows that populations of vertebrate species have declined by half from 1970 to 2010. Freshwater species were the hardest hit, falling by 76%. Marine populations declined 39%. Protected areas globally are hanging on better than overall terrestrial populations, with a decline of 18% since 1970, as compared to 39% for all terrestrial populations. Meanwhile, Audubon's *2014 Birds and Climate Change Report* found that more than half of North America's 588 North American bird species are at risk from climate change. Even our national symbol, the bald eagle, is listed as climate endangered.



Recently, my husband and I visited nearby Angel Peak Scenic Area in northwest New Mexico, a 7,000 foot eroded sandstone mesa rising above the colorfully striated badlands. As we walked these spectacular BLM lands, well pads and roads crisscrossed the scenery and a constant noise of gas pumping units and compressors accompanied us. To the north, we could barely make out the snow-capped San Juan Mountains through the haze from two coal-fired power plants and countless oil and gas wells.

NASA recently discovered America's largest plume of methane, a greenhouse gas dramatically more potent than carbon, rising from this area—a demonstration of the cumulative effects of leaks from wells, pipelines, processing plants, and coal beds that fuel the region's enormous fossil fuel industry. Adding insult to injury, a new wave of drilling and fracking for oil in the Mancos Shale has begun. Even with the drop in fuel prices, new well pads are popping up, and plans for a 140-mile crude oil pipeline are under consideration. Only a few miles away, Chaco Culture National Historic Park, designated a World Heritage Site and an International Dark Sky Park, showcases an astounding collection of archeology that once formed the cultural center of a thriving ancestral puebloan civilization.

Will we ever learn? The demise of the Chacoan culture shows us that humans are far too fragile to survive drought, natural resource depletion, and climatic shifts.



IN A BROAD SENSE

Climate Change: Earth and Our Survival Under Siege

What the Chaco people faced, however, pales in comparison to what we confront with climate change today.

Twenty-five years ago, our founders would not have predicted that climate change would emerge as the biggest threat to wild public lands—indeed, to all life on Earth. Last October, our Broadband leaders, staff, and board members held an impassioned discussion about what to do as an organization. We had

strong consensus to take action on climate protection, to draw clear links between climate disruption and public lands, and to support Broadbands and members in taking action.

Broadbands and the national office are already working with partners to:

- File legal protests against oil shale and tar sand extraction in Utah
- Work on BLM Resource Management and Master Leasing Plans to thwart oil and gas leasing near places like Greater Canyonlands, South Park (Colorado), and beyond
- Fight coal trains and proposed shipping ports in Washington
- Join the national Steering Committee of the Federal Forest Carbon Coalition to propose new national forest management approaches
- Gain victories against megaload equipment en route to Alberta's boreal forests for tar sands extraction

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national non-profit organization that engages and ignites the activism of elders to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of older Americans who want their public lands protected as Wilderness for this and future generations. We bring voice, knowledge, commitment, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

Please credit Broads for any reprinted articles.

Angel Peak Scenic Area, New Mexico





Great Old Broads for Wilderness Climate Change Position Statement

Climate change affects all life on Earth and puts at risk many of the values for which wilderness areas are designated. At the same time, the unbroken habitat and wildlife corridors provided by wilderness give plant and animal species a fighting chance to adapt to changing conditions. Wild lands also sequester carbon in high biomass forests, grasslands, oceans, and other ecosystems. Benefits provided by wilderness, such as water supply, flood mitigation, and biodiversity conservation will become increasingly essential in the future.

- Broads supports keeping fossil fuels in the ground. It is our only chance to keep global temperatures and the Earth's vital signs from reaching a tipping point. Fossil fuel corporations must not be allowed to shift costs of climate disruption to society while reaping profits from public lands.
- Commercial timber harvests and development should take place on public forests only when an analysis demonstrates that carbon benefits exceed carbon costs over a two to four decade period. National Forest planning rules should require conservation of forested areas with a higher than average carbon biomass.
- Public land management plans must consider and minimize the climate impacts of livestock grazing, roads and vehicular routes, recreation, and other activities. Wild public lands should be prioritized for maximizing carbon storage, biodiversity, and ecological function.
- Natural water cycles on public lands must be rigorously protected to maintain quality, quantity, and ecosystem function. The federal government must protect and maintain water resources in trust for all citizens and for the benefit of ecosystem health and stability.
- Broads supports a bipartisan call to action to minimize climate change impacts, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and enhance national and global security.

A NEW YEAR, A NEW CONGRESS

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; power is ever stealing from the many to the few."

—Wendell Phillips
19th century abolitionist, activist, and attorney

We conservationists have our work cut out for us. With Republican majorities in both the House of Representatives AND the Senate, plus key Committee Leaders professing:

- ▶ anti-government
- ▶ anti-wilderness
- ▶ anti-conservation
- ▶ and anti-public lands views

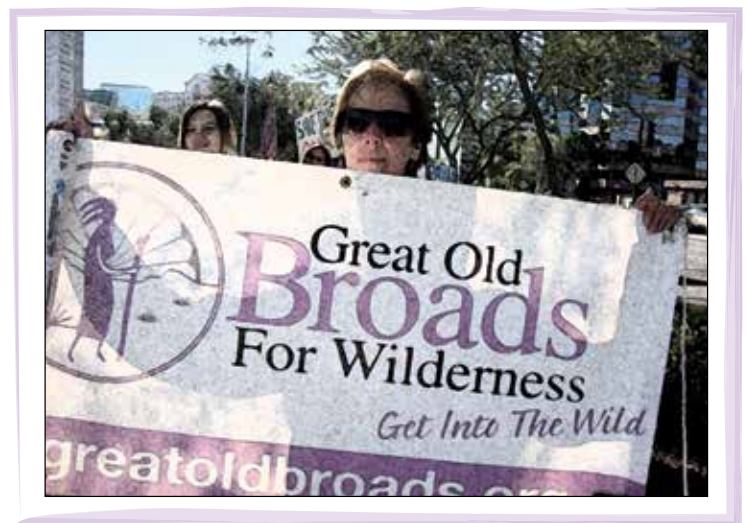
—anything is possible!

Most recently the Keystone XL Bill included a smörgåsbord of riders, such as Alaska Senator Murkowski's amendment eliminating protection for millions of acres of Wilderness Study Areas if not designated by Congress within the year—and everyone knows Congress can't move that fast.

Another rider attempted to strip the President of his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate National Monuments, unless the Congress AND State happen to agree! With criteria like that, we'd have lost Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Grand Teton, Grand Canyon, and Olympic National Parks to development. While these riders were removed, a number of similar bills are already in play.

Congress is making Endangered Species Act decisions that scientists should be making. As they prevent listing of the sage-grouse and push for de-listing of gray wolves, Congress is eviscerating the ESA and hastening extinction and ecological collapse.

Now, more than ever, we must be ever vigilant to stop these threats to the wild lands we love. Keep your congressional contact information handy, sharpen your pencils, and get your dialing fingers limbered up!



2015 Calendar of Events

GET YOUR GEAR AND LET'S GO!

We have some Broad-acious events lined up for 2015, with opportunities to buddy up with fellow Broads and Bros to experience and learn about our precious wild places. Events fill up quickly, so for the fastest way to register, visit our website at greatoldbroads.org/events. If you have any questions or if you wish to register contact us by phone at 970-385-9577 or email rose@greatoldbroads.org.

To mail your registration, send to:

GREAT OLD BROADS, P.O. BOX 2924, DURANGO, CO 81302

CRUSTS IN THE CANYONS BROADWORK

April 21–27, 2015

*Grand Staircase Escalante
National Monument,
near Kanab, Utah*

Members: \$150 - Non-Members: \$175



Become a Crust Connoisseur and Data Diva (or Divo)!

In partnership with the Grand Canyon Trust, working with Mary O'Brien and staff, you'll spend five full days in the incomparable landscapes of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument learning all about biological soil crusts, which play an important role in the environment.

You'll travel in small groups by vehicle and on foot to collect data on the condition of soil crusts in various areas. There will be some hiking to survey sites, but it won't be much more than a mile or so.

Getting Dirty for Data

An Environmental Impact Statement is being developed for the Monument and your help collecting data is critical to

developing an understanding of the condition of the area's biological soil crusts and the impact of grazing on the health of the ecosystem.

You, Too, Can Be a Citizen Scientist

This is a great trip for beginners, because no experience (or pocket protector) is necessary—Mary and team will train you about the natural history, the importance of soil crusts, and in data collection methods.

Camping, Camaraderie, & Cuisine

We'll camp in a cozy primitive site, away from the bustle of the crowd. But no worries, porta-potties will be provided. Our camp cook extraordinaire, Ronni Egan, will prepare a delicious breakfast and dinner each day for attendees.

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS BROADWALK

May 28–June 1, 2015

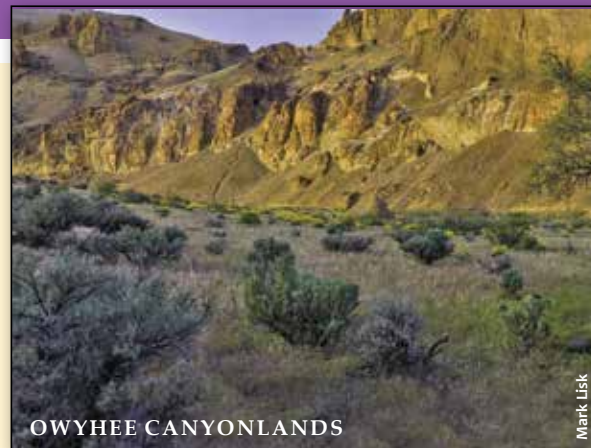
Southeast Oregon

Members: \$170 - Non-Members: \$195

Wild and Diverse

Join Broads and our partners at the Campaign for the Owyhee Canyonlands for a long weekend to discover this remote, wilder-than-wild corner of southeast Oregon and learn about the ongoing efforts to gain permanent protections.

The Owyhee Canyonlands encompass 5 million acres of craggy canyons, vast rolling hills, sparkling rivers, starry skies, and diverse wildlife including bighorn sheep, greater sage-grouse and red band trout. Volcanic features include hot springs, lava beds, craters, and cinder cones. It is the largest undeveloped natural area left unprotected in the continental United States.



OWYHEE CANYONLANDS

Mark Lisk

Feed Your Mind and Your Soul

We'll hear from Oregon Natural Desert Association and other experts about the area's unique natural resources, work on a stewardship project, hike and explore with knowledgeable local leaders, and learn how to help gain protection for the amazing Owyhee Canyonlands.

Our base camp will be in the beautiful Succor Creek State Natural Area, which lies in a deep, rocky canyon and is a haven for rock hounds and wildlife watchers.

Though our camp is primitive (no running water), we'll have portable toilets. Our camp cook will prepare a scrumptious breakfast and dinner each day for the group. We'll be treated to evenings of camaraderie and star watching.

Did We Tell You It's Remote?

The nearest airport is Boise, Idaho, 2 hours away. Our campsite is about a 6-hour drive from Bend, Oregon. Carpools will be arranged for those interested. The area where we'll camp is accessible by sturdy passenger vehicles (i.e.: a Subaru), though high clearance and four-wheel drive vehicles are optimal.

SAVE THE BOUNDARY WATERS BROADWALK

August 20–24, 2015

Ely, Minnesota

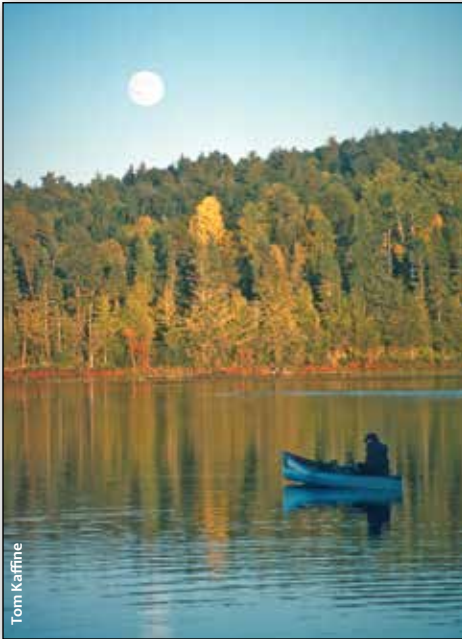
Registration: \$180

The mist was all gone from the river now and the rapids sparkled and sang. They were still young as the land was young. We were there to enjoy it, and the great machines seemed far away. —Sigurd F. Olson

Away Up North

Come to one of the nation's oldest and most loved wilderness areas, the boundary waters country of the far north. Rapids, falls, and quiet rivers connect this





Tom Kaffine

labyrinth of glacially carved lakes and rugged cliffs. Rich forests, marshes, and aquatic habitat shelter moose, bear, bald eagles, loons, and more.

This is our chance to join forces and save this national treasure from sulfide ore mining, a toxic mining method used to extract copper, nickel, and other metals, that has never been allowed in Minnesota in the past.

Our partners at the Save the Boundary Waters Campaign will teach us about the threats facing this pristine area and how to help. We'll also be treated to speakers on a variety of topics, have the opportunity to participate in service projects—and of course—enjoy hikes and canoe trips.



outfitted guided trip with longtime Broad supporter, Wilderness Inquiry. Trips will take place just after the Broadwalk, on August 25–29.

For more information and to register for this additional trip, visit:
<http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/find-your-trip/event/?e=EVT12795>

That Perfect Time of Year

Late August gives us great conditions with warmer water temperatures, balmy days, and the least number of biting insects.

We'll be camping as a group at the picturesque South Kawishiwi River Campground, located in Superior National Forest near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, about 10 miles from Ely, Minnesota. The campground is located in a mixed aspen, birch, and conifer forest.

Delightful Accommodations

A charmingly historic and rustic enclosed shelter built by the CCC will be our base for the weekend and we'll share campsites reserved for our event. Sites are spacious, private, well maintained, and shaded. Some have electricity. There are vault toilets and drinking water.

Best of all, you can swim, fish, canoe, or hike right from camp! A yummy break-



Come for the Broadwalk, Stay for a Canoe Trip!

Those with a boundary waters canoe trip on their bucket list can schedule a 5-day fully

fast and dinner will be provided each day. We'll fall asleep listening to the water lap on the shore and the call of the loons.

ESCALANTE RIVER RESTORATION BROADWORK

Sept. 27–October 3, 2015

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, near Escalante, Utah

Members: \$170 - Non-members: \$195

Work Hard and Play Harder

Broads return to continue restoration of one of the west's last free-flowing rivers, the magical Escalante. Join Broads and Grand Staircase Escalante Partners staff for a week-long adventure: four days of hard, but rewarding work removing Russian olive, an invasive plant that threatens the riparian habitat, along with a day of hiking to fabulous Phipps Arch.

The level of activity is challenging to strenuous, as you will be bending, kneeling, using hand tools, pulling tree branches, and using herbicides. A younger crew will follow us to "finish" the job with chainsaws. The results are truly gratifying.

Camping and Culinary Delights

This year we'll have an easy backpack to our campsite several miles downstream of Highway 12, where camp culinary queen Ronni Egan will craft yummy breakfasts and dinners each day. Heavy gear will be transported by horseback, leaving us lighter packs of personal items to carry to camp along the river near Phipps Wash.

Help us restore the Escalante River while having an amazing canyon experience with a great gang of gals (and a few guys). It doesn't get any better than this! Group size is limited to 12, so register now.





BROADBANDS IN ACTION

WILD BROADS CONNECT, CELEBRATE, AND TAKE ACTION



The Bitterbrush Broads bundled up in March for an educational hike in the Badlands.

OREGON



CENTRAL OREGON BITTERBRUSH BROADBAND

It's been non-stop Broadness for the Bitterbrush band. From February through September, they hosted 52 folks for five educational hikes led by scientists and experts to discuss geology, botany, cattle grazing, and motorized use on public lands.

Stewardship projects in Paulina Creek, Diamond Peak, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas found this active Broadband pulling weeds, cleaning up bridges, and dismantling illegal fire rings. With newfound knowledge and appreciation for citizen science, they set up photo points, established a control enclosure, surveyed 15 areas for potential beaver habitat, and monitored six groundwater wells on the Deschutes National Forest.

Creative co-leaders Rynda Clark and Joanne Richter came up with BroadChats, a great way to informally learn about and discuss specific conservation issues. They found this approach opens doors to advocacy, as members passionately connect to challenging regional issues, such as grazing and wildfire management.

The Bitterbrush Band collaborates with strong partners: the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service, Oregon Wild, ONDA (Oregon Natural Desert Association), Landwatch, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Friends of Central Cascades Wilderness to jointly sponsor presentations, films, hikes, and other activities.

In 2015, the Bitterbrush Broads look forward to work with climate change and its intersection with wilderness preservation. Many plan to join the Owyhee Canyonlands Broadwalk.

GET INVOLVED!
Find your nearest Broadband at
greatoldbroads.org/broadbands

COLORADO



GRAND JUNCTION BROADBAND

Grand Junction Broads kicked off 2015 with education, outreach, and action. Mary O'Brien, from the Grand Canyon Trust, led a grazing workshop for 15 broads and bros, sharing her expertise from decades of research, advocacy, fieldwork, and personal experience. Broads are fired up! The group plans to compile grazing use information for local BLM lands and take to the field to assess grazing allotment conditions.

Last fall, the Broadband proudly restored about 700 feet of decommissioned trails at Palisade Rim. In four days, 17 volunteers loosened compacted soils, spread, raked in, and mulched native seeds, camouflaged the old route with rocks, dead trees, clumps of grass, and planted 50 native plants purchased from a nursery.



Grand Junction Broads used their combined Broadpower to perform restoration work funded by a DEAR grant.

Whew! They even hand collected native seed the summer before the restoration in preparation! Youth volunteers participated as well, providing much appreciated energy and intergenerational connection. Funds for the project came from a DEAR (Desert Ecosystem Analysis and Restoration) grant. Impressive work, gang!

ARIZONA



PHOENIX BROADBAND

In recent months, the Phoenix Broadband has placed major emphasis on the re-introduction of the Mexican gray wolf. Leader Kathy Ann Walsh tirelessly works with members on this issue, giving public testimony at two Arizona Senate Environmental Committee Meetings, speaking directly with Arizona Senator Kavanaugh, and working outreach/educational tabling events. After a presentation at the Arizona Game and Fish Commission meeting, a Commission Chairman was quoted saying, "Well, before this, I had never heard of your organization, but I will remember it now."

The bustling Band partners with Sierra Club's Arizona Water Sentinels on monthly field trips to collect water samples, measure wells, and conduct observations of rivers to track impacts and advocate for protections.





A Phoenix Broad and Bro tackle a downed tree on a trail maintenance project.

In December, the group joined the effort to save Oak Flats, protesting the destruction of a popular recreation area and an Apache sacred site in the Tonto National Forest. A land trade with a multi-national mining company would bypass multiple environmental laws to build an enormous copper mine there.

There's never a dull moment with these wild women. Other activities included sponsoring hikes, a regional Mini-Broadwalk, stewardship projects with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Borderland work, and protests.

A Budding Tucson Broadband? Realizing the need for more grassroots voices and engagement, Kathy Ann planned a Broads outreach event in January in Tucson. The turnout was incredible, with 40 Broads (new and current members) who came to learn about the many challenges facing Arizona's wild lands. Several signed up for future activities and expressed interest in stepping into Tucson leadership roles. It's an exciting time to get involved with this active and growing team of southern Arizona Broads.

NEW MEXICO



RIO GRANDE BROADBAND

A warm welcome goes to co-leader Linda Starr, who joined forces with leader Susan Ostlie last spring. Wow, did they cover a lot of territory in 2014!



Sara Walker takes notes at the Magdalena monitoring and stewardship project.

Twelve broads spent a long weekend in the Magdalena Mountains hiking in isolated areas to monitor wilderness potential with iPhones, GPS, and cameras to detail narratives of what they observed. They traveled to the Zuni Mountains four times to install monitoring equipment for the Zuni Bluehead Sucker, recently listed as endangered, and to learn about Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration thinning projects for fire abatement.

The group attended many controversial meetings across the state to comment on potential wilderness, grazing issues, and healthy lands issues for the Cibola National Forest Plan Revision process. This busy band also installed beaver fencing, performed trail maintenance, and picked up trash in the Rio Grande Bosque on their adopted trail.

And if that wasn't enough, they also pulled cheatgrass in the Sandias, helped with the National Wilderness conference, and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act leading a hike in the Ojito Wilderness for 40 conference attendees. After a busy field season, they somehow found time for advocacy campaigning with a successful rally at the state capital for public lands. Oh, and did we mention they had FUN?

Your voice matters!

Your membership makes a difference!

Your engagement creates change!

Join us to practice wild democratic action and protect your treasured places!



BOOT CAMP 2015



WILDERNESS ADVOCACY TRAINING

April 30-May 4

Commander's House
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

DEADLINE to APPLY is MARCH 20!

Boot Camps are for Broads who are interested in leading (or co-leading) a Broadband in their locale.

Apply to be a volunteer Broadband Leader and attend the 2014 Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training. This is no ordinary boot camp! We will activate your heart and mind and prepare you for a leadership role that can make a lasting difference on the land.

Find out more at:

<http://greatoldbroads.org/boot-camp-2015>



THE BROADER WILDERNESS

SNOWMOBILE TRAVEL RULE ISSUED

How national forests will address the use of snowmobiles has been codified in a final rule. Forests snowy enough for over-snow vehicles (OSV) will need to designate and publish maps of roads, trails, and areas open to OSV use ("closed unless designated open"). Unfortunately, previous decisions on OSV use will stand no matter how outdated those decisions might be. Definition of what constitutes an "area" gives us concern, as an entire Ranger District could be an "area" declared open to OSVs.

The rule is a step in right direction, but will require input and vigilance from quiet users to ensure that undisturbed and silent winter wonderlands continue to be available.

DECEMBER WILDERNESS WINS INCLUDE LUMPS OF COAL

Cheers!

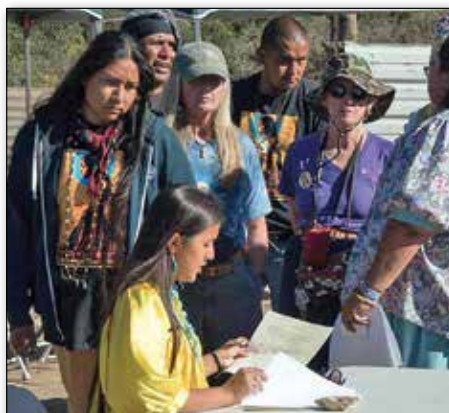
Significant lands protections were wrapped into the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act, which Congress passed in the last days of December. Conservation gains include:

- Protection of nearly 245,000 acres as wilderness in five states—Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington.
- More than 400,000 acres of other designations to safeguard lands in Colorado, Alaska, and Montana from resource extraction.
- Wild and scenic river protection for dozens of miles of waterways.

Jeers!

The lumps of coal included public land giveaways for multitudes of purposes oft under the guise of "sustainable" or "economic development". They are:

- An exchange of 2,422 acres of federal land in Pinal County, AZ (Oak Flat) to a multi-national mining company. This has led to a formal protest by the Apache Tribe for desecration of sacred lands. A token area, Apache Leap, was designated a Special Management Area.
- A rewrite of livestock-grazing laws gives ranchers even more freedom to despoil public land; and, the public no longer has a voice as grazing permits are renewed—without review or change.
- A giveaway of 70,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest to Sealaska Corporation, notorious for scorched-earth logging practices.
- Other provisions harmful to the integrity of Wilderness, in opposition of the Wilderness Act, such as allowing motorized vehicle use.



In February 2015, Broadband leaders Kathy Ann Walsh and Jenny Cobb along with Broads Rose Cassidy, Roz Switzer, and Fran Krackow attended a spiritual gathering held by the San Carlos Apache Tribe at Oak Flat. Tribal leaders created a proclamation petitioning the USA to abandon the land exchange and invited non-native groups to sign. Kathy Ann, Jenny, and Fran signed on behalf of Broads.



The Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest and most carbon-rich national forest, covers most of Southeast Alaska, surrounding the famous Inside Passage.

Some Wins and Trade-Offs

Remember, even wilderness wins are the result of years of negotiations and trade-offs.

Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection, WA – 22,100 Forest Service acres were added to the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness, plus wild and scenic designation for parts of these rivers.

Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act, CO – 37,236 acres of new wilderness was designated and 70,650 acres set aside as a Special Management Area allowing some motorized and mechanized uses in the San Juan National Forest.

Wovoka Wilderness, NV – Preserves 47,500 acres of new wilderness on Forest Service lands in Lyon County; this included concessions allowing construction of livestock water developments and the use of motor vehicles/helicopters for wildlife management. A trade-off: 12,500 acres were conveyed to the city of Yerington for economic development surrounding a copper mine.

Pine Forest Range Wilderness, NV – Protects 26,000 acres of new wilderness on BLM lands in northwestern Nevada. This was offset by the release of nearly 1,000 acres of wilderness quality lands and authorized use of motor vehicles/helicopters for wildlife management in wilderness.

Columbine-Hondo Wilderness, NM – Designates 45,000 acres of new wilderness north of Taos in the Carson National Forest. Removed part of the existing Wheeler Peak Wilderness to allow for a mountain bike trail.



Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area and Wilderness Additions, MT – The first new Wilderness designation in Montana in more than 30 years, 50,401 acres was added to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and 16,711 to Scapegoat Wilderness.

The bill also statutorily locks in existing uses such as ATVs and mountain bikes on tens of thousands of acres of adjacent roadless land that conservationists have long advocated for Wilderness designation.

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST OIL AND GAS LEASING EIS RELEASED

The White River National Forest in Colorado released its long awaited 20-year leasing plan in early December. The proposed plan does much of what the public asked for: closing much of the Thompson Divide to future leasing and

requiring surface-use prohibitions for any future leases in roadless areas. This is a substantial win after years of advocacy! Conservation organizations are working to have the Forest Service further improve the plan during the objection period.

A VICTORY FOR COLORADO'S ROAN PLATEAU

In late November, the decade-long battle to save the Roan Plateau took a major step forward when the BLM announced a legal settlement that removed the immediate threat of drilling from much of the top of the plateau. A coalition of conservation groups led by Conservation Colorado were involved in the lawsuit, and we're extremely pleased with this outcome!

Under the terms of the settlement, BLM canceled all but two of the leases on top of the plateau and will develop a new



The Thompson Divide area covers 221,500 acres of public land in Colorado.

management plan likely to protect more than 90 percent of the top and more than 50 percent of the base of the plateau from any surface disturbance. There were plans to drill as many as 3,200 oil and gas wells atop the Roan in 2008 before the suit was filed to block the plan.

POLLS HIGHLIGHT DISCONNECT BETWEEN VOTERS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The bipartisan results are in for Colorado College's 5th annual Conservation in the West Poll. Surveying 2,400 voters in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Utah (400 per state), the poll gages public opinion about "conservation, environment, energy, the role of government, trade-off with economies, and citizen priorities."

WE VISIT & LOVE PUBLIC LANDS

Results clearly demonstrate that Westerners value our national public lands, visit them regularly, and prioritize their preservation for future generations. An amazing 95% of Western voters have visited their federal national parks and forests in the past year, with a majority visiting public lands six or more times per year. Clearly westerners of all ages love our public lands, and 96% say that their top priority on public lands is protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations. They also recognize

them as American places belonging to the nation, not just the state's populace, with 69% expressing opposition to selling public lands (76% Democrats and 63% Republicans strongly oppose).

Elected officials who push to have federal lands turned over to the states or to remove the sage-grouse from protections under the Endangered Species Act are clearly out of touch with their constituents. All six of the states included in this survey have passed, introduced, or are considering resolutions demanding the federal government transfer federal lands to state ownership.

WORRIES: MANAGEMENT RESOURCES, HABITAT, & WATER

Strong majorities (72%) say the lack of resources to properly manage and care for public lands is a serious problem. Sixty-nine percent are worried about the loss of habitat for fish and wildlife, and this same percentage supports stronger protections for sage-grouse habitat.

Worries about "low levels of water in western rivers" are greater than worries about unemployment. Voters in New Mexico and Arizona are most apt to call

the problem "very serious or extremely serious."

Eighty percent of those polled see "inadequate water supplies" as a serious problem, although southern states rank this higher than northern states. Three quarters of voters in CO, UT, and WY prefer encouraging more conservation, recycling, and reducing use of water over diverting water from rivers in less populated areas.

Hispanics and suburban women are especially concerned about water pollution, but 79% of voters say the pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams is a serious and worrisome problem.

WHY CHOOSE THE WEST?

Clean water, clean air, and the environment are primary reasons people decide to live in the West. This is given by more than half (57%) across the political spectrum and in every state. Eighty-seven percent of the Latinos surveyed rank clean air, clean water, and the environment as one of the reasons for living in the west, compared to 62% of the entire poll.

(continued page 10)

69% *express opposition to selling public lands*



It is interesting that Latino voters consistently express stronger concern for the environment and greater concern about environmental threats than other voters in the survey. For example, 77% of Latinos note their ability to live near, recreate on, and enjoy public lands as “significant”, compared to 48% of the others surveyed.

PROTECTION RUNS STRONG

Majorities consider themselves to be conservationists and want to protect what makes their state special. Sixty-three percent say “we ought to continue to protect natural areas and wildlife habitat from poorly planned development and

industrial activities that can pollute our air and water” while only 28% say “we have gone too far imposing unnecessary restrictions on land use that holds back our economy and cost us jobs.”

FUTURE BROADS & BROS

Millennials, voters aged 18–32, stand out in the polling for their strong support for future presidents having the ability to protect existing public lands as monuments (85%). They also enthusiastically favor (78%) renewable energy (wind/solar) and policies that will support it. According to U.S. Census Bureau projections, Millennials will eclipse Baby Boomers in the west in 2015, and coupled with the growth in Latino voters, the conversation is poised to change.

ENERGY & CONSERVATION

A separate bipartisan poll commissioned by the Center for American Progress shows American voters prioritize developing clean renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro) and protecting public lands from fossil fuel development

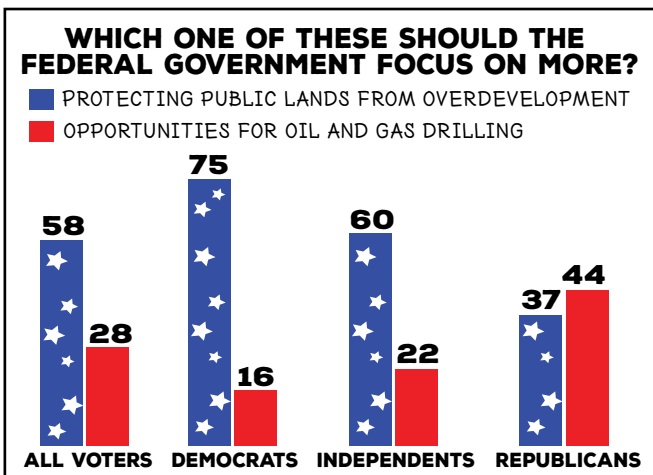
(oil, gas, coal). Five out of nine voters want the government to do more to promote renewable energy. Clearly there is a call for balancing America’s energy needs with protecting our best and wild-est lands for conservation and recreation. This is out of synch with our new Congress that is busy advancing priorities of the fossil-fuel industry.

NO BACKSLIDING!

There was intense opposition to increasing oil exports (69%), rolling back protections for clean air and water (78%), and stopping creation of new parks, wilderness areas, and monuments (69%). Nine in 10 voters support stronger protections against the pollution of drinking water and air and permanently safeguarding some public lands such as monuments, wildlife refuge areas, and wilderness.

CORPORATE INFLUENCE VS. VOTERS

Clearly Congress is out of step with the priorities of most Americans and is listening most to the oil, gas and coal companies that invested \$721 million dollars in lobbying, political contributions, and TV advertising. Do we need to deliver hearing aids to members of Congress to remind them who they are supposed to be listening to and to help them “hear” what their constituents really want?



LEGACY GIVING

Wilderness for Generations to Come

Future generations are depending on us.



A planned gift or contribution of stock to Great Old Broads for Wilderness supports advocacy, education, and stewardship for wild public lands. You may also save on capital gains, estate taxes, and leave more to your heirs. Talk to your financial advisor about these options:

PLEASE INCLUDE BROADS IN YOUR PLANS!
(and let us know if you do!)

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- Include us in your will with a gift of cash, property, or a portion of your estate
- Appreciated Securities

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AT SHELLEY@GREATOLDBROADS.ORG OR CALL 970-385-9577.**



Study A Broad

NO HIBERNATION FOR LOUISA WILLCOX

by Susan Kearns

After 35 years advocating for grizzly bears, Louisa Willcox shares more than a few traits with her chosen kin: strength, leadership, and persistence. Her deep devotion to saving grizzlies from extinction is driven by her love for these powerful creatures and the wilderness they inhabit.

EYE-TO-EYE WITH THE FUTURE

At 17, Louisa met her first bear in a clearing in Yellowstone. Both stopped in their tracks, eyeing each other with surprise and curiosity. As the bear ran off, Louisa stood in awe, thinking this creature epitomized “the most wild wildness we have left in the world.”

By the time she graduated from high school, Louisa wanted to be a communicator and a teacher. She received her bachelor’s in English and Environmental Studies and later, a master’s in Forestry from Yale. Additional studies in business and law gave her a solid foundation as she headed into the world.

THE NOT-SO-RELUCTANT ACTIVIST

“I kind of backed my way into activism,” Louisa says. After doing some teaching, in 1985 she became Greater Yellowstone Coalition’s first program director. She thinks of this decade as her most inspiring time with a non-governmental organization, where she harnessed the power of grassroots advocacy. Her fledgling team achieved “alchemy,” by transforming diverse factions into a unified force to stop a proposed gold mine near Yellowstone.

In 1997, Louisa started working with the Sierra Club on the Grizzly Ecosystems Project and in 2002, she moved to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), where she and her boss attracted the attention of NRDC leadership, effectively putting the Montana office on the map with their activities. She retired as a senior wildlife advocate from the organization in 2013, with plans to write and reflect on a full career.

BEARLY SURVIVING

Over the years Louisa has campaigned to restore grizzly populations through continued protection and habitat expansion and connection. It has been a constant battle against many opponents lobbying to de-list the species.

In the Yellowstone region, the climate-related white bark pine die-off has forced these omnivores to forage further distances and become more dependent on meat sources to survive. This means more encounters with livestock and people, meaning more grizzlies are killed. Though grizzlies are protected under the Endangered Species Act, they may be killed in order to protect human life or if determined to be a “nuisance”.

In 2015, Louisa anticipates a push by MT, ID, and WY to de-list grizzlies. The Fish & Wildlife Service is expected to hand over management to state game agencies who are hostile to large carnivores. States plan to reduce grizzly populations in areas where there is high potential for human/grizzly conflicts and reinstate sport hunting of grizzlies. There are concerns that populations will be isolated, negatively affecting genetic diversity.

Today, there are only 1,500 grizzlies in the continental U.S., existing on less than 2% of their historic range—and the population continues to decline. With the lowest reproductive rate of any North American animal, this doesn’t bode well for grizzlies.

KEEPING THE FIRE BURNING

When asked what fuels her commitment, Louisa says, “It’s the power of bears. There are bears in my imagination—they’re in my dreams all the time. It’s their resilience, intelligence, their memory, and fortitude.”

The mythos of the grizzly bear infuses many cultures, where the creature is seen as a feminine force symbolizing wisdom, healing, reflection, cycles of life, and resurrection. Some say Bear goes into her den and dreams the entire re-creation of world during the winter before she

emerges in the spring. In other stories, Grizzly Mother created the Earth.

Why, despite this ancient and global connection, are bears hunted and demonized by so many in North America? Louisa believes it stems from the Manifest Destiny concept held by early settlers driven to remove threats (wolves and bears) and subdue the landscape. The patriarchal system, focused on power and control, has led to centuries of violence against this feminine symbol of the wild.

“The wild *other* within ourselves is what we fear—that’s why we fear bears. On the other hand, protecting bears is a way of acknowledging the wild *other* within,” she adds.

NO TIME FOR HIBERNATION

It seems the spirit of the grizzly bear is not yet ready for Louisa to retire to her den. New hope has awakened in the form of GOAL (Guardians of Our Ancestor’s Legacy), a growing coalition of 32 Native American tribes, who, based on ancient spiritual connections to grizzly bears, have pledged to fight de-listing.

Led by husband and wife team Rain Bear Stands Last and Sarah Atiqtalik, GOAL is quickly gaining momentum, showing the potential to significantly affect the recovery and reconnection of grizzly bear populations.



Protecting bears is a way of acknowledging the wild “other” within.



YOU CAN HELP!

All are welcome to join this fight—and Broads, bringing the feminine voice to advocacy, are well matched to join Louisa and GOAL in their efforts to stave off the de-listing of the grizzly.

Learn more at <http://www.goaltribal.org/> and visit Louisa’s website, www.grizzly-times.com to share bear stories and support.





MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BE A BROAD



You know in your heart you're ready, so why not take the step, if you haven't joined yet?

Or, why not give a gift membership to a deserving Broad or Bro?

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Due to popular demand, we're keeping the price for new members rolled back to \$25.

**Help support our work
to save wild places
for the future!**

ESA THREATENED, TOO (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Fast forward forty years and the ESA faces its own possible extinction, in spite of polls indicating that two-thirds of Americans want it strengthened. At a time when climate change is an unequivocal reality affecting all earthly species (including humans!), gerrymandering and Congressional disregard is leading to lack of funding for ESA implementation and threats of its dismantling.

Removal of endangered species protections could become the new normal, with management decisions made without regard to science. In 2011, through a rider to a Defense appropriations bill, Congress directed FWS to change scientific determinations and effectively remove the Northern Rockies population of gray wolf from ESA protections. In 2013, the Obama administration announced intentions to de-list gray wolves nationally; yet these apex predators number only 5–6,000 and occupy about 5% of their historic range. Montana and Idaho now allow recreational hunting and trapping of wolves.

Last December, another defense bill rider removed "threatened" status for Gunnison sage-grouse. Their cousin, the greater sage-grouse has lost more than half its native habitat to oil and gas development, livestock grazing, invasive plants (cheatgrass), increasing wildfires, and housing developments. Their numbers have

plummeted from 16 million to less than 500,000. While a Center for Biological Diversity suit won an agreement with FWS for a listing decision by 2015, the year began with a rider on the FY15 Omnibus Appropriations bill prohibiting FWS from using any funds to issue new rules on greater sage-grouse, effectively preventing any listing.

And so it goes—species by species interference whenever the science might limit someone's ability to maximize profits. Current FWS Director Dan Ashe says he sees a "giant clash" between those who favor conservation and those who favor economic development, and he believes conservationists "must accept a world with fewer wolves, salmon, and spotted owls"; we must accept "a world with less biodiversity."

Not every species is iconic or has a community of advocates. This is why the ESA was passed; to protect for the public trust our biological treasure trove of plants and animals. The endangered Chiricahua

leopard frog and golden sedge are two of our "canaries in the coal mine" species—tangible and visible indicators that we are making our world increasingly inhospitable to life. As goes the sage-grouse or Florida panther, so goes humanity. Do we have the foresight to keep the world habitable for all species?



*...species
by species
interference
whenever the
science might
limit someone's
ability to
maximize profits.*



When I arrived on the planet, there were only two billion. Wildlife was more abundant, we were less so; now the situation is reversed.

—Sylvia Earle

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We gather
in coffee shops and cafes
in libraries and bookstores
in homes, on trails
in desert sands
atop mountain summits
in streams and caverns

Grey haired
eyes sparkling like stardust
knuckles wrinkled
blue blood coursing like braided rivers
across aging translucent skin
toting bags of wilderness writings
and wit on our tongues

You can't deceive us
with your two speak
and "conservation" policies
we honor the planet
care for Mother Earth is a feminist principle, she said
wilderness is our church, our sanctuary
where we feel most whole and alive

We protect her – not just for ourselves
but for the seventh generation
in the words of our nation's first people
she nurtures us, cradles us
we are her children
her voice
her stewards

We laugh, we curse
we speak our truth
we hike, we paddle
we pull weeds,
we photograph the damage
we listen, we hug
we write our souls upon the earth.

Robyn Cascade
Northern San Juans (CO) Broadband Co-Leader

SUPPORT FOR THE ESA

"The recent killing of a gray wolf in Utah is a tragic reminder that we need to strengthen, not weaken, the Endangered Species Act and our public outreach efforts to protect these animals. The ESA exists to protect gray wolves and other vulnerable species and help them reestablish themselves in their natural habitats. Every time a gray wolf is killed—no matter where it happens—we lose another chance to return these beautiful animals to their natural role as part of a thriving North American ecosystem. Unfortunately, gray wolves now inhabit just five percent of their historic range. Increasing that figure shouldn't be a partisan issue, either in Washington or in the West. Our country needs the Endangered Species Act. Our wildlife need the Endangered Species Act. Weakening it now will only lead to more needless, avoidable killings of rare species that deserve our respect."

—House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member
Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.)



Mark Dumont

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS



We give our broadest and warmest welcome to two new and unbelievably skilled staff members:

Lauren Berutich, Grassroots Leadership Coordinator (aka Broadband Coordinator), brings more than a decade of experience in organizing, project coordination, and conservation in Flagstaff, Arizona. Most recently, she worked as Program Coordinator for the Campus and Community Based Action Research Teams at Northern Arizona University and as Volunteer

Coordinator for the Grand Canyon Trust. Lauren will be the point person for supporting Broadbands as they get down and dirty in wild lands advocacy and stewardship. With her dog, Lili, by her side, Lauren will keep the troops in-the-know, motivated, and having fun!

Susan Kearns, Communications Director, joined our staff full-time in the fall from Wrightwood, California, having beautifully designed and edited our full-color BroadSides since January 2014. She brings her extensive communications, graphic design, and marketing background to Broads, as well as her passion for painting, drawing, printmaking, and her devotion to all things wilderness. You've already been enjoying her professionalism in our newsletters and emails. Be watching for her wizardry as she performs a facelift for our website soon!



And a fond and Broad farewell to **Ellen Stein**, former Broadband Coordinator, who has taken on new challenges as Development Director of a non-profit health organization in Durango after two and a half years with Broads. A growing Broadband program with dedicated and hard-working leaders is the best testament to Ellen's dedicated work. Thank you, Ellen!





We must join forces and act now if we are to have any hope of making a difference.

Lands across North America are under siege from fossil fuel extraction: air and water contamination, road and well pad proliferation, pipelines and transport infrastructure, coal mining, power plants. The social and ecological ravages of industrialized rural landscapes affect local communities and wildlife. Tribal hunting and gathering grounds fall prey to tar sands, oil spills, pipelines, and other forms of permanent destruction. As if that were not enough, logging and grazing wreak havoc on carbon-storing forests and grasslands, and global weirding brings intensified droughts, wildfires, and storms, further damaging public lands and the benefits they provide.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, fossil fuel subsidies totaled \$3.2 billion in 2013, but this figure does not include below-market leasing of public lands, nor the external costs that government and society pay for climate disasters, habitat deterioration, health impacts, and more. We cannot let corporate profits trump the future and pass these costs to society.

With our wild land protection mission, we are compelled to become more deeply engaged (see page 3 for Broads' position statement on climate change). We must join forces and act now if we are to have any hope of making a difference.

Few have spoken more powerfully to climate change as a catalyst for action

than Naomi Klein, author of the must-read book, *This Changes Everything*. Broads' national office is working with Klein, filmmaker Avi Lewis, and their team to develop a presentation and toolkit designed to inform and trigger broader action on climate change and public lands. If you would like to host an event in your community, or if you'd like to join locally with others to take direct action, please contact our office.

An April 2014 Gallup poll reported that a quarter of Americans worry "not at all" or "a little" about climate change. Of these, 66% are male. Only 39% of Americans attributed global warming to human actions and are worried "a great deal" or a "fair amount", yet 60% of this group are women. So gals, that means it's up to us.

Women have greater scientific knowledge about climate change than men, according to a 2010 assessment, however, women underestimated their knowledge more than men (hmmm...). There is no time to waste—we must claim our knowledge, grab any hope we can, and believe in the power to put our concerns into action. We must break down the silos between organizing efforts—whether along racial, social, economic, age, or other divisions. We are all in this ark together. Join us, bring everyone you know, and row hard.



THE WINNER IS...

Congratulations go to Kim Nelson of Corvallis, Oregon! You are the envy of a swarm of folks who hoped to win this stunning work of art!

This spectacular quilt raised \$6,455 to support Broads work for wilderness! Woo hoo!

A Broad and heartfelt thanks to all the talented quilters who contributed squares of their favorite wild places, Broad Sue Gunckel who spearheaded this project from concept to construction of the final quilt, and all those who supported Broads work by buying raffle tickets.

WATCH FOR A NEW QUILT RAFFLE IN 2015!



Host a climate event in your community.

Make climate change a Broadband initiative.

Start a new Broadband to tackle local climate change issues.

Contact broads@greatoldbroads.org or 970-385-9577 and we'll help you get started!

WANTED!

- **Passionate wilderness advocates to lead local Broadbands**
- **Board of Director Applicants**
- **Wild for Wilderness Auction Donations**

- **Auction Acquisitions Team Lead**
Broads needs an enthusiastic volunteer to lead the team that solicits donations for our Wild for Wilderness Online Auction. Can work from any location!



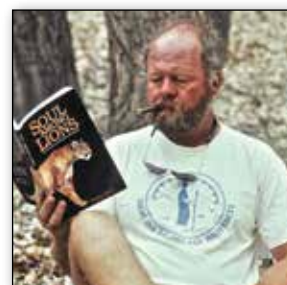


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Great Old Bro, Dave Foreman styling his Broad's t-shirt.

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Pistachio Green Tee	S, M, L, XL	\$20	
Logo Earrings		\$12	
Button or sticker (circle)		\$1.50	
Coffee Mug		\$20	
Canvas Tote		\$20	
Aluminum Water Bottle		\$22	

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