

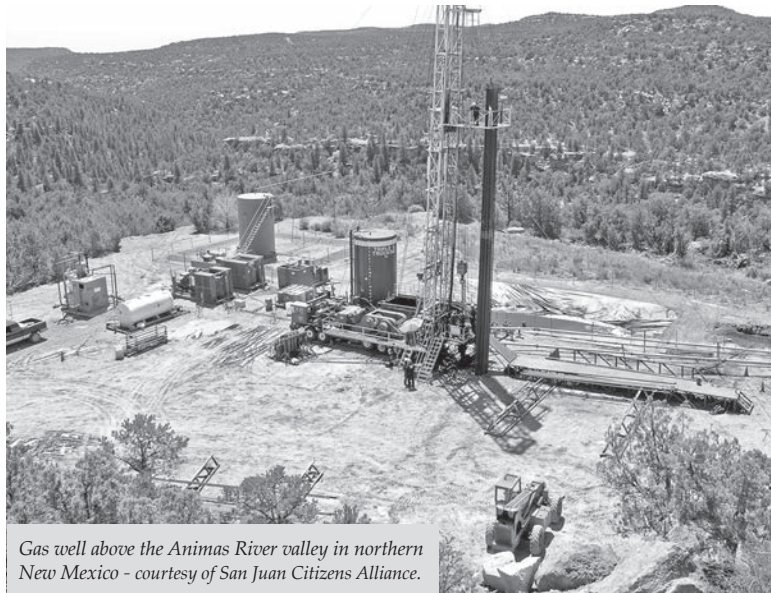


Great Old
Broads
For Wilderness

Get Into The Wild

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS

BROADSIDES



Gas well above the Animas River valley in northern New Mexico - courtesy of San Juan Citizens Alliance.

FRACKING 101

by Jeneane Harter

U.S. public lands are rich in natural resources including clean air, clean water, and abundant wildlife. But our powerful appetite for energy, particularly from non-renewable sources, is threatening the health and availability of many other natural resources.

The top two non-renewable energy sources, oil and natural gas, can be found in all types of geologic deposits, including easy to extract sources in permeable, sedimentary rock, and difficult to extract sources in shale, tight sandstone, and chalk.

Energy companies have been quietly extracting oil and gas from our public lands for years. In fact, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has an entire program devoted to helping energy companies extract oil and gas from public

lands. (www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas.html)

Until recently, these companies have tapped the resources easiest to reach, typically a reservoir that's relatively close to the surface. But technology is changing all that - and we are watching carefully.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is how the fossil fuel industry acquires oil and natural gas today from difficult to reach sources. While companies began pumping pressurized water into rock to increase gas flow as early as the 1940s, modern-day fracking developed a half-century later. New technologies use much larger volumes of water, laden with unregulated chemicals, and injected at much higher pressures. Today's horizontal drilling allows boring of lateral wells, which conceivably

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VOLUME 23 No 2
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ENTER THE
"WILDERNESS
FOREVER"
PHOTO
CONTEST

A Wilderness50
event - See page 7

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Five months – that’s how long I’ve had the honor of serving as your Executive Director, representing our feisty, determined, knowledgeable, and committed membership as we fight to protect the last and best remaining remnants of wilderness left in our country. I have learned so much in this short time, and I want to share a few reflections with you and give you a flavor for the passion and indefatigability of our members who work for the wild.



IN A BROAD SENSE

“Get Wild!”

First of all, I found myself completely enthralled and inspired by our new crop of Broadband Leaders this spring. They honed their craft in wilderness activism at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico. How appropriate to spend four days in the very land that so inspired Georgia O’Keefe – her creative vision, her focus on landscape and flora, and her resolve to break the mold as a woman and artist exemplifies the very grit needed to protect the wilderness we love. With the support of our national office and with a solid foundation from their training, I believe our new Broadband Leaders will effectively tackle tough wilderness issues. I encourage all members to join or start a Broadband in your area – what better fun than to carry out our mission with a bunch of committed gals (as well as guys) armed with walking sticks and hiking boots.

In the face of all the onslaughts to wild lands, to the water we drink, to the air we breathe, indeed to all living things on our planet, we sometimes wonder, does our work make a difference?

As I talk to conservation partners about Great Old Broads, I repeatedly hear that we are unique in the wilderness movement for consistently churning out grassroots voices – and experienced ones at that – to speak at public hearings, stage demonstrations, or meet repeatedly with local agencies. We follow up by monitoring the land, documenting abuses to public lands with useful observations and georeferenced photos. We participate in public

land planning processes. We show up, again and again.

A lot of our work is in rural areas or small towns, where other conservation groups may not have a strong local presence. For example, a dozen Broads worked in early May on a project to remove invasive, non-native Russian olive along the Escalante River in southern Utah (see story, page 3). They took a break from their efforts to deal with another thorny issue, raising specific questions about grazing impacts with the Monument Advisory Committee meeting in remote Grand Staircase-Escalante National

Monument. The points they raised shifted the direction of the conversation, and they were thanked for their presence. Their arguments held strength – not only did they voice concerns, but they earned sweat equity by assisting land managers on the ground.

Citizen advocacy isn’t easy or quick. We must remember that a series of milestones engaged citizens long before the Wilderness Act achieved passage in 1964 (we celebrate the 50th anniversary next year). In the mid 1950s, the successful fight against Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument led to the call by Howard Zahniser for statutory protection of wilderness. Zahniser, then executive director for The Wilderness Society, proceeded to author the Wilderness Act, shepherding it to law along with many colleagues. Unfortunately, Zahniser died a few months before its signing.

The very environmental laws that we rely on today were promulgated during the blossoming of the environmental movement, on the heels of 1960s social activism: Clean Air Act (1967); Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (1968); National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (1970); Clean Water, Coastal Zone Management, and Pesticides Acts (all in 1972); Endangered

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national non-profit organization that uses the voices and 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 to protect their public lands 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.

Today, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness has more than 4,500 members. You do not have to be female, or old, (or even great for that matter!) to join—but you must be “bold” for wilderness. Please join us on the adventure. Wilderness needs your help!

Please credit Broads for any reprinted articles.

RIVER RESTORATION BROADWORK: STUCK ON THE ESCALANTE

by Ronni Egan

When Rose Chilcoat asked me to be the camp cook for the first Broadwork project, helping to remove Russian olive trees from the Escalante River banks near the Calf Creek Campground in Southern Utah, I jumped at the chance. I've hiked along and across the Escalante River for many years, starting long before the designation of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) when there were still cows camped out in the riparian area. Later, Russian olives and tamarisks began taking over the river corridor. Neither situation was ideal, so I was thrilled to be able to return to one of my favorite places and see how it was faring.

A Broadwork is the latest in Great Old Broads' quiver of events and opportunities designed to entice our members (and other interested parties) into wild places to learn, serve, and socialize. We have offered Broadwalks for years, which feature hikes, guest speakers and various programs and talks. A Broadwalk always has one "service day" on which participants perform volunteer work on public land. A Broadwork differs in that it is mostly all service work, with one "play-day" included. In this case, we had 10 stalwart volunteers, Broads and Bros alike, wielding handsaws and loppers in advance of two young sawyers with chainsaws, our objective being to remove enough of the thorny lower branches of these wickedly barbed trees so the sawyers could get at them. This is an ongoing project of the Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) (Broads is a partner organization), which since 2009 has worked on freeing the watershed of invasive, exotic plants. Kris Waggoner of the Grand Staircase Escalante Partners cheerfully and ably planned and supervised our project. This is Great Old Broads first time in the field on this project, but I'm sure it won't be our last.



Broadworker Janet Kilbride sticks it to the thorny olive.

The weather was unsettled, but mostly cool and cloudy which was a blessing for the crew. Wrestling with these thorny creatures proved to be hard, scratchy, and sometimes unpleasant, but in true Broad spirit our gang managed to get a lot done while maintaining a cheery outlook - mostly! We cleared approximately five acres in four days; a piece of more than half of the river's 70 mile length that has been cleared by ERWP and its partners in the past four years!

Russian olives and tamarisk trees were originally planted to stabilize the banks of severely eroding southwestern streams and rivers caused by drought conditions and years of mismanagement and overgrazing by domestic livestock beginning in the late 1800s. Alas, while it seemed like a good idea at the time, these imported trees quickly outcompeted the native willows and cottonwoods, which are "ice-cream" plants to cattle. The Russian olives had become so dense that it became nearly impossible to walk along the riverbank, but we hope ERWP restoration projects will give the native vegetation a chance to recover.

This recovery of native grasses, shrubs, and wildlife in the Escalante has been hastened by the removal of cattle from the river corridor. Importantly, it has resulted largely from passive restoration, with the only "treatment" the removal of exotic plants (Russian olives) and animals (cows.) There have been no seedings or human reintroduction of native species: they've all come back on their own. As one who has spent hundreds

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Broads Speak to GSENM Advisory Committee

by Rose Chilcoat

Serendipitously, the GSENM Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) was meeting in Escalante during our Broadwork and a number of us were able to speak during the public comment period. Beyond a few local ranchers and elected officials, members of the general public have rarely spoken to the MAC. Our participation caused a bit of a stir - in a good way! Our Broads and Bros brought their perspectives - a former outfitter/guide and canyoneer, a former park ranger, a farmer, a recreational boater - speaking from their hearts about this extraordinary landscape. They addressed such issues as grazing, invasive species, and recreation, sharing valuable information and love of place. We are so proud of these Broads!

We were told that the points we raised sparked lively conversations in subsequent MAC meeting sessions. With the upcoming grazing permit renewal collaboration and Environmental Impact Statement for GSENM getting underway, we will make sure that Broads have an ongoing and powerful voice and presence in the process.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness 2013 Calendar of Events

Classic Broadwalk

Leopold's White Mountains Broadwalk

Dates: July 18-22, 2013

Location: near Nutrioso, AZ

Cost: member \$125, non-member \$150

In the Footsteps of Leopold Broadband Leader Billie Hughes is our host for this incredible experience. Join us camping on her private land in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona near the New Mexico border where we'll learn about the White Mountain Conservation League's Escudilla Wilderness Proposal, the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery program, Wallow Fire recovery, the history of Aldo Leopold (considered by many the father of wildlife management and of the U.S. wilderness system), and more.

This will be a classic Broadwalk with hikes into the proposed wilderness, a service project, informational presentations on a broad range of wilderness and wildlife management topics, and lots of Broad socializing. We've included a wildlife tracking workshop in this Broadwalk.

Our campsite is surrounded by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest at an elevation of 7,680 feet, ensuring pleasant temperatures and likely afternoon thunderstorms. We'll have shelter if needed.

To register for Broadwalks or Broadworks, send full payment to the Broads office or go to our on-line payment page at greatoldbroads.org/events-payment. Questions? Contact Rose at rose@greatoldbroads.org or 970-385-9577.



Mexican wolf, courtesy of Lobos of the West - www.mexicanwolves.org.

Cost includes camping, breakfasts and dinners each day, speakers, and more. Information about the area and wilderness proposal is at www.azwmcl.org. Broadwalk details are on our website. See box below for registration information.

Broadwork Service Project

Utah Bad Ass* Botanists Training and Broadwork

Dates: August 1-7, 2013

Location: Manti-La Sal National Forest - near Huntington, UT

Cost: Member \$170, non-member \$195

Join Rose Chilcoat and others to become part of a regional team of knowledgeable, passionate, and committed botany volunteers who will stop at nothing to provide plant

identification for critical decisions on the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. You will help the Grand Canyon Trust's Forest Program staff, led by the truly GREAT Old Broad Mary O'Brien, with fieldwork to collect plant data that will be used

strategically to increase protection and restoration of native plant communities on southern Utah public lands. If you don't know how to identify plants yet, you will after this training!

Regional experts will provide a basic overview of plant taxonomy and common Utah plant families, with a focus on grasses, sedges, willows and exotic species. After intensive training, we will dive right in to fieldwork.

We'll be camping at 8400 ft so we expect pleasant temperatures and afternoon thunderstorms. Space is limited so register now! Cost includes camping and six breakfasts and six dinners prepared by our camp cook Ronni Egan.

More information can be found at greatoldbroads.org/badassbotanists-ut. See box below for registration information.

* Urban Dictionary definition of Bad-Ass:

1. (adj.) having extremely favorable qualities
2. (adj.) pertaining to a person or thing that is rugged, strong, and/or ready to show these qualities

Classic Broadwalk

Wild Olympics Broadwalk

Dates: September 5-9, 2013

THIS EVENT IS FULL! To get on the wait-list, email rose@greatoldbroads.org, with "Broadwalk wait list" in the subject line. For information, go to greatoldbroads.org/wild-olympics-broadwalk/

Year-Long Celebration

Celebrate the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary

September 3, 2014 is the 50th Anniversary of The Wilderness Act and wilderness lovers intend to make a very big deal of it next year...all year long. Planning for a wide variety of national celebratory events and actions is well underway including a conference in Albuquerque, NM, a commemorative postage stamp, Smithsonian photo exhibit, Washington D.C. Wilderness Week, etc.

But, the real connection of people to the idea of wilderness is going to happen at the local level with a plethora of events that educate about and celebrate Wilderness and engage youth. Ad hoc groups in many states are planning events from museum displays, wilderness walks, movie and speaker series, photo/writing/quilt contests and much more. Broadbands are making plans. Wherever you are, you can get involved. Go to Wilderness50th.org to learn how!

Delisting of Gray Wolves Proposed, Speak Out During 90-Day Comment Period

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a plan to end Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the lower 48 states. A 90-day comment period began June 7. Stop the delisting! Contact your members of Congress and Secretary of Interior Jewell immediately to demand continued protection for this keystone carnivore.

While recovery in the Northern Rockies is encouraging with a population today of approximately 1500 wolves in Montana, Idaho and Montana, state-level efforts have aggressively pushed to reduce wolf numbers. Wolves are still missing from most of their historic range. Most Americans want wolves in the wild. Scientists show they make game herds and ecosystems healthier by restoring balance to the land and waters. They bring millions of dollars in ecotourism

Court Judge James H. Heffernan reversed and remanded BLM's illegal 2008 Final Decision and Environmental Analysis that permitted livestock grazing and a host of range developments. The ruling found that BLM broke the law by failing to provide for proper public involvement, to properly assess cumulative impacts, or to even know how many cows were on the allotment.

"We sincerely hope that today's victory reforms the BLM's fundamentally biased way of assessing the health of the land," said Jon Marvel, Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project.

"The decision to remand the Duck Creek Allotment grazing permit could have far-reaching effects both for grazing management policy and for sage grouse habitat on BLM lands in the west," said Dr. James Catlin of Wild Utah Project.

private market compensation. It would also allow the agencies to permanently retire the grazing permit.

Current law does not allow for the retirement of grazing permits. This legislation would be a win for ranchers looking to retire but wanting to recoup their investments, a win for public lands with resource conflicts complicated by grazing, and a win for taxpayers who are currently heavily subsidizing grazing management. Ask your Congressional representatives to support this common sense bill. For more, go to www.democraticunderground.com/1014495032.

Broads has advocated for this bill since its initial introduction in 2011.

Weitas Creek as Wilderness Needs our Voices

Last summer, we Broadwalked the incomparably wild and beautiful Clearwater Region of Idaho with our

Broads Beat



Updates on issues that have seen Broad action

to rural communities. Wolves embody wildness. We want the opportunity to have healthy, genetically viable populations of wolves for this and future generations to experience the thrill of seeing and hearing them in the wild.

Broads have consistently spoken for wolves. Now it is your turn!

To take action and learn more, go to earthjustice.org/our_work/campaigns/wolves-in-danger.

Healthy Wild Land 1; Livestock Grazing 0

Conservation groups won a solid victory in May in the long-running legal battle between the Western Watershed Project and Wild Utah Project and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over livestock grazing in the Duck Creek allotment in Rich County, Utah. Administrative Law

Through Broads involvement with several collaborative grazing groups, Broads is painfully aware of the impacts of poorly managed livestock grazing on arid lands. We hope Marvel and Catlin are correct in their assessments of the future of grazing policy.

More info at www.thewildlifeneews.com/2013/05/23/blm-abuse-of-its-public-trust-duty-conservationists-win-duck-creek-case/

Smith Reintroduces REVA

In May, Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) reintroduced the Rural Economic Vitalization Act (REVA) that addresses federal grazing policy on our public lands. H.R. 2201 would allow ranchers with grazing permits to voluntarily relinquish their permits to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in exchange for

focus on "Weitas as Wilderness." That vision was challenged by the just-released proposal of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative that some, but not all, area conservation organizations and others participated in. Their proposal makes some recommendations for Wilderness designations but ignores the Weitas Creek watershed for protection. Broads and our partners, Friends of the Clearwater, take exception to their omission and we aren't giving up. The collaborative's proposal is not binding but is merely one of many for the agencies to consider. It is imperative that we make our wishes for the Weitas known. Contact Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Wyden (D-OR) with your thoughts. (www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml)

For more information, go to friendsoftheclearwater.org.

Attorney Joins Broads Board of Directors

Welcome Caroline

Not exactly an “Old” Broad, Caroline Kirksey Munger, L.L.M., is immersing herself in Broadhood somewhat before her 50th birthday. She’s diving in head first, so to speak, as the newest Director on the Board for Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

Caroline brings extensive education and experience in the area of public lands and its respective legal issues. She holds an advanced law degree (L.L.M.) from the Wallace Stegner Center at the University of Utah School of Law where her studies were focused on tribal, water, public land, and natural resource issues in the west. She has worked as a water counselor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, handled a variety of oil and gas regulatory issues, and litigated both occupational and environmental toxic torts.

Like this issue’s *Study*, Deb Overn (page 8), Caroline ran across Broads while working with Western Resource Advocates. (Thank you WRA!) Instead of Denver where Deb found us, Caroline was in Salt Lake City working with Joro Walker, who is currently the Senior Attorney and Director of the Utah office of



Caroline Kirksey Munger, L.L.M.

WRA. Joro is also a former director on Broads board. “When we were deciding to move to Durango, Joro told me about this great organization that was based there,” Caroline said. “I was a little surprised that there was a national organization like Broads in Durango.”

In 2007, Caroline moved with her family to the Durango area with every intention of connecting with Broads. But life takes over and with a new baby and two ranches to manage, she wasn’t able to make that connection. In 2012, she met Shelley Silbert, who was, at the time, Associate Director of

San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA), one of Broads local partner organizations based in Durango. Caroline was on the SJCA Board of Directors and she and Shelley became friends. When Shelley became Executive Director of Broads, Caroline offered to join the board.

Caroline already serves on the Board’s Issues and Litigation Committee and, with her experience in regulatory law, she expects to assist with legal issues related to Broads public lands advocacy. As a lawyer, Caroline understands the importance of engaging knowledgeable citizens who support healthy lands (in large numbers, if possible). She is impressed with the grass-roots aspect of the Broads organization. “It’s very special what the organization does,” she said, “creating legal standing. It’s women on the ground who know these places – developing litigation capacity. There’s this bevy of women who can say, ‘yeah, I’ve been there and hell no you can’t mess it up!’”

Even though Caroline might be considered a Training Broad by Broads standards, according to her experience and dedication to wild land protection, she’s definitely a “Great” Old Broad.

Fracking 101 - *Continued from page 1*

reduces surface disturbances. These lateral wells can extend beneath the surface of a community, wilderness area, or farm field 5,000 to 10,000 feet - that’s nearly 2 miles. They call these techniques “unconventional” because you can’t extract these deeper resources using “conventional” vertical wells that rely on natural pressure.

What’s really “unconventional” about fracking is the damage it can do. Many who have experienced the effects of fracking can testify to the unprecedented amount of pollutants emitted into our air and injected into our land and water.

The Fracking Process

Fracking is a highly complex, technological process that starts with water – vast amounts of clean, fresh water. Each natural gas well requires an average of 400 tanker trucks to carry water and supplies to and from the site. The water is mixed with sand and up to 600 chemicals to create a proprietary fracking fluid that includes acids, salts, and other chemicals that are known carcinogens and toxins such as radium, methanol, hydrochloric acid, formaldehyde, lead, uranium, mercury, and ethylene glycol.

The fracking fluid is then pressure-injected into the well where the high pressure causes the nearby rock to fracture, creating fissures where natural gas flows into the well. During the process, methane gas and toxic chemicals can leach out from the system and contaminate nearby groundwater.

There are about 500,000 active gas wells in the United States. If you multiply that by 8 million gallons of water per fracking and figure that each well can be injected up to 18 times, that’s 72 trillion gallons of water and 360 billion
(continued on page 15)

Wilderness Act Turns 50 in 2014

The Wilderness Act of 1964 turns 50 next year! Broads is involved! We'll be celebrating all around the country with local Broadband events, sponsorship of the Smithsonian Photo contest, and participation in the September D.C. Wilderness Week and the National Wilderness Conference to be held in Albuquerque, NM, Oct. 15-19, 2014. Broads Associate Director Rose Chilcoat is a member of the National Wilderness 50 Planning Team and a member of their Local Events Committee.

It's time to start YOUR planning! For ideas on how you can join in the fun, go to wilderness50th.org.



Wilderness Forever Photo Contest!

As part of the celebration, event organizers for the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act are accepting entries of photographic images that illustrate the sheer majesty, diversity, and value of our

nation's wilderness areas through Sept. 3, 2013. This is a professionally-juried contest conducted by Wilderness50, Nature's Best Photography, and the Smithsonian Institution. Fifty winning entries will be chosen for display in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History as part of a 2014 exhibition.

Find the entry details here: www.wilderness50th.org/smithsonian



WANTED

- **WordPress Design Help**
- **Office Phone System**
- **Volunteer Broadband Leaders**
- **Board of Directors Applicants**
- **Members** - join, recruit a friend, or give a gift membership
- **Donations** for our 2013 *Wild for Wilderness* on-line auction

To help, e-mail broads@greatoldbroads.org or call 970-385-9577.

Vehicle Donation Program

Yes! You can donate any old motorized vehicle (car, boat, truck, tractor, ATV, snowmobile, etc.), from anywhere in the U.S., to Broads through the **Center for Car Donations**. Get a tax receipt, and know that you're helping us continue our work for wild lands. To schedule a pick up, call 877-411-3662. For a PDF of FAQs, go to greatoldbroads.org/cardonation-faq.pdf.

For even more information, contact Laurie at 970-385-9577.



PLANNED GIVING MEANS WILDERNESS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Future generations are depending on us.

If humans are to survive on this amazing blue planet, we need to get serious about leaving a legacy of a healthy environment. Resource development, recreation excesses, and just plain human encroachment all pose threats to biodiversity, climate stability, and peace of mind.

Your gift to Great Old Broads for Wilderness helps build a steady foundation for us as we stand firm in our advocacy of wild public lands. You may also save on estate taxes and be able to leave more to your heirs.

There are many mutually beneficial ways for you to support Great Old Broads for Wilderness through planned giving. Talk to your Financial Advisor about these options.



Bequest

Include us in your will with a gift of cash, property, or a portion of the estate

Appreciated Securities

Avoid capital gains tax by making a gift

Retirement Plan

Name us on your plan and avoid income tax on the plan's assets

Real Estate Gifts

Stay in your home while avoiding capital gains tax and leaving more to your heirs

Life Insurance

Write a new policy with Great Old Broads for Wilderness as a beneficiary or donate all or part of an existing policy

Other options to discuss with your Financial Advisor include:

Pooled Income Fund
Charitable Gift Annuity
Charitable Remainder Unitrust

We'd love to know if you've included Broads in your estate plan!

Study A Broad:

Deb Overn - The Original Training Broad?

She may have been the very first "Training Broad." In 1997, and not even close to age 50, Deb Overn convinced an older, more experienced Broad, the late Kelley Green, to let her "tag along," on a Broadwalk in the Escalante in southwestern Utah. Deb is certain that calling herself a Training Broad was partly the reason Kelley acquiesced. "It was my first time climbing slot canyons," she said, "and Frandee Johnson, Kelley, and Susan Tixier found my first ginger attempts to be endlessly amusing. They stood below me and heckled and laughed."

A native of Jersey City, New Jersey, her early outdoor experiences were quite tame by comparison. "Both of my nanas," she said, "loved to grow things and that was difficult in Jersey City in the 1960s and 70s." She recalls lilies of the valley, apple and pear trees, and a "secret cubbie" under the hydrangea. Later, she was awed by the splendor of the Rocky Mountains as they panned across the big screens of the movies. "At age 13, I decided that I was going to live in Colorado when I was old enough. I left Jersey a month after my 18th birthday on a one-way ticket to Denver, to attend the University of Denver (DU). I had never been west of Pennsylvania at the time."

That was 1979. She earned a B.A. in Environmental Science from DU and worked for several years as a science teacher in the non-profit sector, including as Volunteer Coordinator during the early years of the Denver Audubon Society's Urban Education Project. In 1992, she earned her J.D. from the DU College of Law, with honors.



Deb Overn and her youngest in the wilds of Alaska.

Deb ran across Broads during her first summer in law school. She interned with the Land and Water (LAW) Fund (now Western Resource Advocates), which was founded by Kelley Green. That was "when the LAW Fund was housed in a rabbit-warren of rooms over the Environmental Defense Fund offices," she said. "In addition to the numerous things she taught me, Kelley allowed me to join a group of Broads who were going to southwest Utah (even though I was too young by her standards), to Escalante, Kanab, St. George, and the upper Paria. I had a fabulous time."

After graduation and a clerkship in the U.S. District Court of the Honorable Zita Weinshienk, Deb worked two years with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (n/k/a EarthJustice). Though she later entered private practice, she continued to do environmental pro-bono work, including working as a member of CLEAN-IT!, a citizen group that helped convince the Environmental Protection Agency to overturn its Record of Decision (ROD) at the Shattuck Radium Site in Denver. (To Deb's knowledge, this is the only implemented ROD ever reversed by the EPA).

"I am proudest of the Beaver Brook (project)," she said. Deb intervened on behalf of SOLVE, a Gilpin County, Colorado group that was attempting to keep the Beaver Brook Watershed from being sold off in 2-acre residential lots. "The case ended well," she said, "with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Mountain Area Land Trust buying the land and then selling it to the U.S. Forest

Service. People said that if I hadn't been there, we would never have been able to protect that watershed." She was named the LAW Fund's Pro Bono Attorney of the Year for 2000 for her work on Beaver Brook.

Deb is now with the Denver City Attorney's Office and still keeps up her volunteer work for the environment. Her current projects are with Wild Connections. Founded by friend Jean Smith in 1995, Wild Connections' mission is to "protect the network of wild lands that will sustain biodiversity, wildlife and wildlife habitat for our own and

more ⇨

“They stood below me and heckled and laughed.”

future generations.” They focus on the mountain headwaters of the Arkansas and South Platte rivers, which spill southeastward from the Continental Divide in Colorado. Deb joined Wild Connections’ board of directors in 2005 and currently serves as their President. Find out more at www.wildconnections.org.

She recently reconnected with Broads when Chris Shaver and Pat Welch instituted the Mile High Broadband in the Denver/Boulder area. She said she had kept up with Broads but didn’t officially join until last August. “I was excited when I heard that they were forming a Front Range Broadband,” she said. She went to Mile High’s meeting in January and knew she had come to the right place. “Sometimes I feel like an outlier or an oddity and then I entered that meeting and found *I am not alone*,” she said.

“There was this entire roomful of interesting women!”

Since joining, she also snagged another Great Old Broad for the Wild Connections board. Misi Ballard is the leader of the South Park Broadband and now a member of Wild Connections’ board.

As a Training Broad, Deb made it through that early Broadwalk safely and with, I might add, Broad humor. Though she has not yet added any more Broadwalks to her vitae, I think we can expect more in her future. In true Broad fashion, Deb has devoted her career and volunteer efforts to wild land advocacy, conservation, and protection.



Deb and her family on one of their annual pilgrimages up Colorado’s Mt. Evans. They have climbed the Rocky Mountain fourteeners most years for the past 27.

She has reconnected with Broads and has connected Broads with Wild Connections. It’s enough to warm our Broad hearts. - Anne Benson

Escalante BroadWork - *Continued from page 3*

of days hiking in and around GSENM witnessing scores of miles of streams and springs denuded and dried up by cattle, I am amazed that the BLM continues to allow damaging grazing practices elsewhere on the Monument, when nature has proven that these watercourses, left to their own devices, can recover quite rapidly. Since water is the lifeblood of the desert, with streams serving over 80% of the wildlife species on the Monument, one would think that riparian areas would receive the highest protection possible. This has not yet been the case.

Mid-week during the Broadwork, Escalante author Jana Richman and her husband Steve invited our crew, along with local supporters, to a potluck supper at their home. Since Great Old Broads was founded in the tiny town of Escalante in 1989, it has always been my fantasy that an Escalante Broadband might be formed. The thirty or

so folks who attended the potluck showed considerable interest in the idea. Broads headquarters will do all it can to encourage this local group of Broads and Bros to support each other to watch over and speak out about Monument management. In Southern Utah, a perceived distaste by locals for the federal government often trumps science-based land management. We know from our visit that not all local residents accept a “this is the way we’ve always done it” attitude, and many believe resource extraction -- including inappropriate grazing management -- should not overrule resource protection.

Broads plan on being more involved in GSENM in the coming years. Based on participant feedback, another Riparian Restoration Broadwork is in the plans for 2014. Come join us! ❖

Wilderness Bills introduced in the 113th Congress

Wilderness bills are stacking up nicely. The 112th Congress did not protect a single acre as wilderness, so many of these bills are reintroductions. Are these places you know and care about? Regardless of where you live, please let your senators and representatives know that you'd like to see these wild lands protected as wilderness. Write a letter to the editor. We need to remind everyone of the importance of protecting federal lands from the ravages of our consumer society. See the box on page 11 for a link to contact information for federal elected officials.

AK - The Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act (H.R. 139) would designate the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as Wilderness. Introduced by Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), with co-sponsor Rep. Michael G. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) in January.

AZ - The Sonoran Desert Heritage Act of 2013 (H.R. 1799), would protect approximately 954,600 acres of public lands west of the White Tank Mountains as wilderness, national conservation areas, and special management areas. Introduced by Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) in April.

CO - The San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act (S. 341) would protect over 61,000 acres and designate 33,000 acres as wilderness. Introduced in the Senate by Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) and co-sponsored by Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) in February. Hearing held in the Senate subcommittee on Public Lands in April.

CO - The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act (S. 841/H.R. 1839) would protect the Hermosa Creek

watershed in the San Juan National Forest in southwest Colorado, with 38,000 acres as wilderness and 70,000 acres as a special management area. Introduced in the House and Senate in April by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and co-sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO).

ID - The Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (H.R. 145) would protect more than 333,000 acres of the snowy mountain peaks and gorgeous lake-filled terrain in the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains. Introduced in the

protect a million acres of western Montana, including 700,000 acres as wilderness on three national forests: the Kootenai, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, and Lolo National Forests. Introduced in the Senate by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) and co-sponsored by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) in January. Broads does NOT support this bill due to its *quid pro quo* trade-offs.

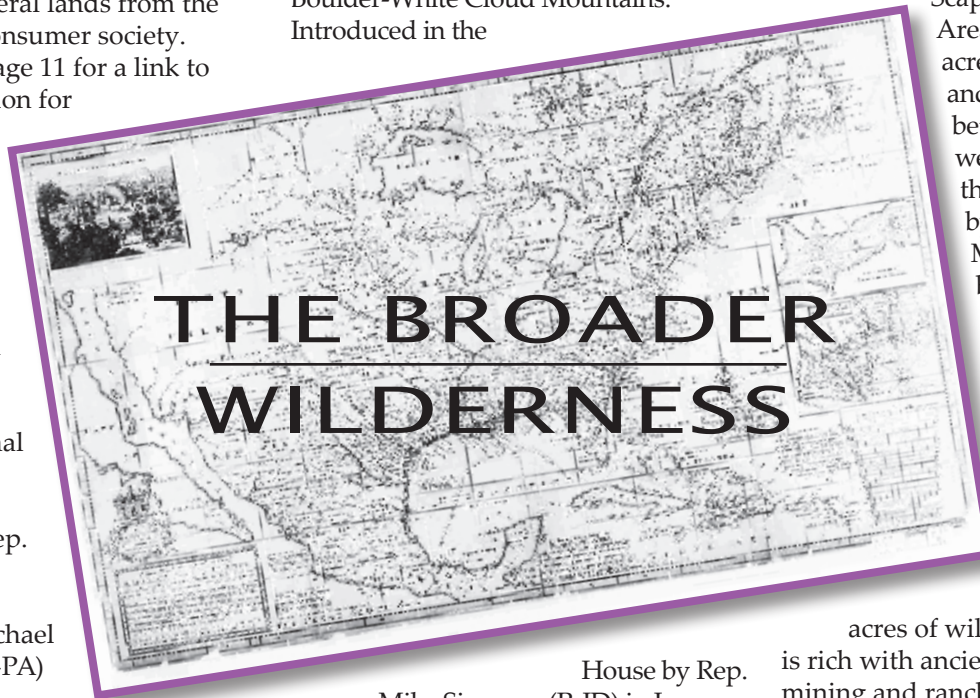
MT - The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act (S. 364) would add 67,000 acres to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas, establish a 208,000-acre Conservation Area, and help federal agencies better control noxious weeds. Introduced in the Senate in February by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) and cosponsored by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT).

NV - Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act (S. 1054) would create a 350,000 acre BLM administered NCA with 220,000

acres of wilderness. The area is rich with ancient rock art, historic mining and ranching resources, is prime Desert Tortoise habitat, and has scenic desert vistas. Introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) in May.

NV - The Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act of 2013 (S. 342/H.R. 433) would protect 26,000 acres of wilderness in northwest Nevada. Introduced in the House and Senate in Jan./Feb. by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV) and Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV). Hearing held in the Senate subcommittee on Public Lands in April.

NV - The Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act (S. 159/H.R. 696) would designate approximately 48,000 acres of central Nevada's Pine Grove Hills as wilderness. Introduced in the House and Senate in Jan/Feb by Rep. Steven



House by Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) in January.

ME - The Maine Coastal Islands Wilderness Act (H.R. 1808) will designate 3,125 acres of wilderness on 13 islands, preserving pristine habitat for migratory seabirds and waterfowl and elevate the profile of the area, boosting tourism. Introduced in the House by Rep. Mike Michaud (D-ME) in April.

MI - The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act (S. 23/ H.R.163) would protect 32,557 acres as wilderness. Introduced in House and Senate in January by Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI). Passed out of Senate committee in March.

MT - The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2013 (S. 37) would mandate timber harvests and permanently

more ➡

Horsford (D-NV) and Sen. Dean Heller (R, NV) and cosponsored by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV). Hearings held in the House and Senate in April.

NM - The Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Act (S. 776/H.R. 1683) would protect 45,000-acres as wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Introduced in the House and Senate in April by Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) and by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) and co-sponsored by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM).

NM - The Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act (S. 241/H.R. 560) would protect as wilderness roughly 13,500 acres of the Ute Mountain and 8,000 acres of the Rio San Antonio areas, within the newly designated Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area. Introduced in the House and Senate in April by Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) and Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) and co-sponsored by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM). Passed out of the Senate committee in May.

OR - The Oregon Treasures Act of 2013 (S.353/H.R. 1240) would protect 3 miles of the Chetco River, add 60,000 acres of wilderness to the Wild Rogue Wilderness, and designate 21.3 miles of the Molalla River as "recreational" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It also protects 143 miles of tributaries and preserves 17,000 acres near Horse Heaven and Cathedral Rock. Introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and co-sponsored by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) in February. Introduced in the House by Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) in March. Hearing held in the Senate subcommittee on Public Lands in April.

OR - The Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act of 2013 (S. 352) would designate approximately 30,540 acres of National Forest and BLM lands in the central Oregon Coast Range as wilderness. It would also add roughly 10.4 miles of Wasson and Franklin Creeks into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Introduced in the Senate

by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and co-sponsored by Sen. Merkley (D-OR) in February. Passed out of committee in March.

UT - America's Redrock Wilderness Act of 2013 would protect more than 9.1 million acres of iconic western landscapes and red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in Utah including Desolation Canyon, Cedar Mesa, Labyrinth Canyon and lands within the Grand Staircase Escalante



Archaeological site on Cedar Mesa. Photo by Rose Chilcoat.

Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act (S. 112/H.R. 361) would protect an additional 22,173 acres of Wilderness adjoining the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area and would designate nearly 30 miles of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and 10 miles of the Pratt River as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Introduced

in the House by Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA) and in the Senate by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) in January. Passed out of the Senate committee in March.

Northern Rockies States

- Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) (H.R. 1187) would designate wilderness on public lands in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming and establish a Northern

Rockies Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Corridors Information Program and Information System and designate segments of specified rivers in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Introduced in the House by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in March.

"THE IDEA OF WILDERNESS NEEDS NO DEFENSE. IT ONLY NEEDS MORE DEFENDERS." - EDWARD ABBEY

Be a Defender! Contact your representatives:
www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml

National Monument. Introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) in April with 60 House and 11 Senate original cosponsors.

WA - The Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and the Pratt and Middle

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Rio Grande Valley Broadband (RGVBB), NM, Works for Wolves

On a temperate weekend in early May, 17 members of Broads, WildEarth Guardians, and other volunteers gathered in the Gila National Forest. The mission: to examine fencing and stream conditions impacted by USFS-approved livestock grazing in the Mexican grey wolf recovery area. They found many of the livestock

fences in desperate need of repair, giving cattle access to sensitive riparian habitat that supports the Southwest willow flycatcher, Chiricahua leopard frog and a number of imperiled fish. The group documented downed fences and other permit violations to use in WildEarth Guardians grazing reform comments to the Gila National Forest.

Later in May, RGVBB Broads and Bros, along with a Sierra Club Service Trip and three Youth Conservation Corps members from local pueblos, participated in a volunteer work day at the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VC). The work involved moving fencing around small Biomass Project study sites and snipping blades of grass and other plants. The biomass data will be used to calculate the carrying capacity for the commercial grazing operation that is part of VC's mandate. The work was easy, the day beautiful, and Broads and the Broadband got a little more publicity.

Flagstaff, AZ Broadband Aids the Forest Service

In April, the Flagstaff Broadband convened over a dozen Broads to plan for the summer field season. Broadband Co-Leaders Ilona Anderson and Ursula Wallentin are training the group to conduct surveys and collect data on wilderness and campground conditions in the Kachina Wilderness in Coconino National Forest and to prepare comments on the upcoming Coconino Forest Plan Revision Draft that hasn't been updated since 1987 (unfortunately, all too common across the West).



RGVBB member, Susan Craig, snips some biomass as a volunteer for Biomass Survey at Valles Caldera National Preserve in Northern New Mexico's Jemez Mountains.

Bitterbrush Broadband, OR: Well-Adapted to Desert Life

In May, 10 Broads and Bros, including Circuit Rider Shelley Spalding, attended the first-ever meeting of the Bitterbrush Broadband. Named after a regional plant well-adapted to desert life, the Broadband gathered Broads east of the Cascades at the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) office in Bend. During the meeting, newly-minted Broadband Leader Andrea Sigetich found a volunteer co-Leader in Rynda Clark. In July, the Broadband will take a field trip to Horse Heaven, a proposed Wilderness area along the John Day River. ONDA is ready to help with hikes and projects that will engage this new Broadband.

Springing into Action for the Gila: Aldo's Silver City, NM Broadband

Twelve Broads of the Aldo's Silver City Broadband met last March to identify local concerns. A proposal to dam the Gila River and pipe its water out of the basin tops their list. New co-leader Denise Smith returned from Boot Camp energized to lead by tabling at an Earth Day event and is excited to plan activities with area groups and agencies. In mid May, six members maintained trails with the Glenwood Ranger District, and enjoyed a productive day in the wilderness by helping to tidy up a well-used trail to the Gila Hot Springs/San Francisco River. They're planning a July 4th float with the Gila Resources Information Project & Upper Gila Watershed Alliance to review Gila River concerns. Cross-pollination is also occurring between Silver City and the Albuquerque Broadband with both Broadbands gathering baseline data on the effects of grazing in a remote area of the Gila wilderness (see RGVBB story, above).

Circuit Rider visits Reno, NV, Broadband

Circuit Rider Shelley Spalding made a stop in Reno during her May ride (see story on our web site at greatoldbroads.org/broadbands). At the Reno meeting, Marge Sill, longtime wilderness advocate and Broad, talked about networking for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Wilderness Act (see page 7) and Broadband Leader Rita Smyth guided discussions about engaging youth and the issue of hydraulic fracturing (see page 1, *Fracking 101*).

more ➡

South Park, CO Broadband Gaining Ground (and Partners)

Since an organizational meeting in April, Broadband Leader Misi Ballard has made wonderful new connections for Broads work. Misi was invited to attend the annual board meeting of the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI), a local nonprofit working to conserve unique natural areas. She will soon meet with MRHI board members to discuss collaborative projects, especially in the area of youth engagement.

Oil, gas, and related water issues continue to dominate South Park Broadband's activities including overcoming outdated regulations in the development of a Master Leasing Plan (MLP) for the area. The good news is that the BLM has reversed its decision of 2 years ago and now favors developing an MLP for South Park. The bad news is that the MLP must be developed in conjunction with, and not prior to, the Resource Management Plan revision and that new leases must be subject to current and outdated regulations, a situation the community strongly opposes.

The local community has also worked since fall 2012 toward a Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) designation for the Upper South Platte watershed. Misi has attended all related meetings and met with local activists. She sees public education as one of the Broads' most important roles in this process.

Illegal off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity on both the east and west sides of South Park has become another issue of great importance that the Broadband had discussed with the Quiet Use Coalition (QUC) and the South Park Fire Department. They've scheduled a hike with Coalition members in June to an area above timberline impacted by OHV use. Participants will learn about the history of QUC, the lawsuit contesting route designations, how to identify, monitor and document illegal OHV activity and the best channels for reporting.

Among recent outings, the Broadband hiked into Browns Canyon, trying to increase local awareness and appreciation of this newly-nominated National Monument & Wilderness Area. They also joined the Wild Connections/Sierra Club/Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition in the Lost Creek Wilderness Area in early June and will join in the Geneva Basin restoration project on top of Guanella Pass in the Arapahoe National Forest later this summer. This is a collaborative effort between several conservation groups, the Pike National Forest, and Stay the Trail, an OHV group.

Misi and Mile High Broadband Leader Chris Shaver have been active with the state-wide Wilderness 50th planning committee, making local plans to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act (see page 7). Misi has met with the Colorado Quilt Museum, the Colorado State Library, Tattered Cover Bookstore and others, developing ideas to celebrate our public lands. She has also been working hard on Land with Wilderness Characteristics monitoring together with Wild Connections, on whose board she was recently appointed to serve.

Willamette Valley, OR Broadband Emphasizes Education

A dozen women came to the Willamette Valley Broadband picnic in May organized by Broadband Leader Carol Savonen. Future plans include a talk by Chandra LaGue of Oregon Wild! on BLM Coast Range forest wilderness areas that need protection and a half-day trip to BLM old growth areas in the Alsea River watershed that may be threatened by timber harvest. The Broadband also plans to cooperate with the newly established Bitterbrush Broadband (see page 12), especially with the Burnt Car Road site on Steens Mountain where Broadband members photo-monitored BLM illegal road building last fall.

Greater Wasatch Broadband Visits the West Desert of Utah

Eleven Broads and Bros from the Greater Wasatch Broadband and the Salt Lake Sierra Club trekked in Utah's West Desert over Memorial Day weekend. The group,

(continued on page 14)

On Our Web Site

Spring 2013 Circuit Ride



Left: Life in the rearview with Reno Broadband co-Leader Rita Smyth's truck saying it like it is! Shelley rode the circuit in May.

For the full story, go to our web site at greatoldbroads.org/broadbands.

2013 Boot Camp Gets Wild



Thirteen new Broadband Leaders graduated from the fifth annual Broadband Leader Boot Camp wilderness advocacy training program at Ghost Ranch Education & Retreat Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico. They were joined by Dave Foreman (front and center), life-long champion of the wild! For the full story, go to our web site at greatoldbroads.org/broadbands.

2013 Wild for Wilderness On-Line Auction: Nov 4-17

<http://auction.greatoldbroads.org>

Just in time for your holiday shopping or a bit of self-indulgence, Great Old Broads for Wilderness is hosting our 9th annual Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction. Funds raised are used to support Great Old Broads' wilderness advocacy work.

It's a great time to donate to our 2013 auction. Simply e-mail auction@greatoldbroads.org or visit our on-line donation form at greatoldbroads.org/auction-donation. We are seeking corporate sponsorships as well as donations of adventure trips, outdoor gear, vacation stays, restaurant meals, and more.

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BROAD BRUSH

Continued from page 2

Species Act (1973), Federal Land Policy & Management Act (1976). Indeed, citizen engagement – true democracy – was the impetus and the foundation for these laws.

I was a teenager in that era. Perhaps I was naïve, but I firmly believed that our world would be powered by renewable energy by the year 2000. I could not have imagined the rampant oil and gas development happening in 2013 on public lands (See “Fracking 101 on page 1). I thought that conservation and environmental protection would continue to receive bipartisan support, as was historically the case with the Wilderness Act and President Nixon’s later signing of NEPA and other environmental laws.

Unfortunately, anti-environmental deregulation policies gained strength under the Reagan administration, and opponents to environmental laws have since grown increasingly shrill. The current push under President Obama for the energy industrialization of many public lands shows that the fate of the environment can’t be trusted to any political party.

One thing has become crystal clear to me – citizen activism is absolutely critical to the future of the planet as we know it. As Nicholas Lehmann states in his article *When the Earth Moved: What Happened to the Environmental*

Movement? (The New Yorker, April 2013), “Even as the environmental movement has become an established presence in Washington, it has become less able to win legislative victories. It has concentrated on the inside game, at the expense of efforts at broad-based organizing.” He continues, “For people who are serious about trying to restrict carbon emissions and slow the onset of climate change, the question is how to restore the environmental movement to the public realm.”

It sounds like Lehmann was talking about us. “Broad-based organizing” is what we do. Our very goal is to restore conservation and the environment to the public realm – to bring citizen action, knowledge, and commitment to public lands management. And it can’t hurt to bring a few grey hairs to the process. After all, many Broads got their start as activists in the 1960s and 1970s – and saw remarkably encouraging results. The time has come to bring that political savvy, outrage, and yes, humor, to the halls of Congress, to local government and land management agencies, and to the streets.

So get the fire under you, get involved, get going, and get wild. Take your experience to the legislature, to the trails, and to the streets. We can help, and we are with you all the way. ❖

Greater Wasatch Broadband

Continued from page 12

which included two Broads from Reno, spent a couple of days hiking, feasting, swapping stories and enjoying the incredible basin and range vistas. The 12,000 foot peaks of the Deep Creek Mountains rise dramatically from the sage desert floor. Though Broads didn’t make it to the top of the tallest, Ipabah Peak, they did take in the silence, smells and sights of a wonder-filled piece of wild Utah.

A Wilderness Study Area since the 1980s, the Deep Creek Mountains sit above the aquifer that Las Vegas is eyeing for its own. After two days and nights, and a gorgeous full moon, the group easily understood why the area deserves protection, not exploitation.



Greater Wasatch and Reno Broads felt like they were at the top of the world in Utah’s West Desert. Standing, from the Wasatch Broadband: Leader Valoree Dowell, Melody Graulich, and Rebecca Wallace. Lower level, from the Reno Broadband: Ann Ronald and Broads Board Member Lois Snedden.

gallons of chemicals needed to extract the resource from *current* gas wells.

Any waste fluid that is not trucked out, evaporates in open air pits, releasing harmful volatile organic compounds into the atmosphere, creating air pollution, acid rain, and ground-level ozone.

Fracking on Public Lands

Modern fracking began in the Bakken formation in North Dakota, the Marcellus formation in Pennsylvania, and the Barnett Shale formation in Texas; all areas of the country that are largely privately held. But as fracking moves west, the practice increasingly intrudes on public lands.

And that's where Broads comes in. Privately held land has many champions to guard against hazardous extraction technologies. Public land has few. For instance, when resource extraction is practiced on private lands, like those in the eastern U.S., legislation and regulation occurs at the state level. On public lands, such as national parks, monuments, and forests and BLM lands, regulation occurs at the federal level. Federal agencies, Congress, and the President have regulatory authority over resource extraction on federal lands. As citizens involved with the health of our public lands, Broads takes great interest in how new regulations concerning fracking are developed as well as how the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other historical Acts are implemented at proposed fracking sites.

We are intently aware that the BLM, which has the distinction of not only developing fracking regulations but developing extraction programs on lands it manages, recently released its proposed national fracking regulations. The proposal requires: (1) public disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on federal lands; (2) confirmation that wells meet appropriate construction standards; and (3) operators must have plans to manage flowback waters

appropriately. While this may appear to be a big step forward, Broads and many public lands advocates believe the rules rely too heavily on voluntary reporting, include easy loopholes for operators, and allow companies to submit critical information on well integrity and fracking chemicals only AFTER fracking has occurred. In short, the new rules prove to be even friendlier to industry than a draft released last year.

What can Broads do?

- Do your research on federal and state legislation and regulations (see *Fracking Information Sites* below).
- Write letters to representatives and the media expressing your concerns.
- Plan a mini-Broadwalk to a fracking operation. (Nothing wakes up the public and educates a state legislator or county commissioner more effectively than a face-to-face confrontation with hazardous chemicals.) If they won't go, take your local media.

• Advocate for H.R. 1084: Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act. Called the FRAC Act, the bill was reintroduced into the 113th congressional session as a bipartisan bill on May 9, by Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Chris Gibson (R-NY). Thank them both for introducing the bill, and rally support from your Congressional representatives.

In all cases, dive into the fray with Broads sense of humor - 'cause there's no end to the prophets of doom and gloom. Make no mistake, this is serious business. But life's short and laughter is the ultimate force in the universe. It pricks the pretentious balloon of politics, refocuses the lens of history, and it's far, far more powerful than fear. ❖



Jeneane Harter is the former Executive Director of the Nevada Wilderness Project and a member of the Reno Broadband.

Fracking Information Sites

- The Center for American Progress has a great map of drilling threats to our national parks: www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2012/09/12/37152/drilling-could-threaten-our-national-parks/
- This interactive USGS map allows you to mouse over the map to learn about a particular basin: energy.usgs.gov/OilGas/AssessmentsData/NationalOilGasAssessment.aspx
- The National Conference of State Legislatures details state legislative activities: www.ncsl.org/issues-research/energyhome/fracking-update-what-states-are-doing.aspx
- The Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission show regulatory information on fracking by clicking on a U.S. map: groundwork.iogcc.org/topics-index/hydraulic-fracturing
- To track federal legislation, visit Fracking Insider: www.frackinginsider.com/
- For federal and state reform information: Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project www.earthworksaction.org/reform_governments/oil_gas_accountability_project
- "Stand By your Land: An Activist Guide to Helping People Protect America's Wild Places" outlines strategies for campaigns related to oil and gas development: www.foreverwildfilm.com/PDF/StandByYourLandActivistGuide.pdf



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