



Great Old  
**Broads**  
For Wilderness  
*Get Into The Wild*

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SPRING 2013

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FOR 2013  
BROADWALKS  
AND EVENTS  
SEE PAGE 4**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS

# BROADSIDES



*Broads "Walking" the Arctic Refuge in 2002. An Alaska Senator's proposal would gut NEPA.*

## NEPA UNDER SIEGE

*by Rose Chilcoat -  
Associate Director*

Once upon a time, the federal government informed the people when a project proposed on their land (e.g. PUBLIC lands) had the potential to change the world as they knew it. Average folks pointed out the damage that could happen to their land, water, and air from someone's "bright idea" to "use" public resources. In this magical land, people spoke up BEFORE their government made decisions and irreversible damage occurred.

Everyone took a little extra time and effort to ensure that those affected could learn about the proposal and consider the public's best interest. An amazingly democratic process, it sometimes slowed projects from concept to implementation. The people believed in responsible use of their resources and recognized

that the best project resulted when the government considered all reasonable alternatives FIRST. In this way, the people and the environment would not be unduly affected by a poorly planned corporate project. What a great concept! What a great country!

The previous two paragraphs may read like a fairy tale from the past - but, unfortunately, if some in Congress get their way, this could be the lead to a story written in the next year or so as proposals to "undo" or "rewrite" the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (NEPA) proliferate. In the last two years, over 60 pieces of legislation were introduced aimed at weakening, waiving, or undermining NEPA, mostly via project specific exemptions. With little change in legislative leadership, this is likely to continue. It is up to us, the people, to stand up to these assaults.

*(continued on page 6)*

### In this issue:

The Broad Brush	2
Broads New Executive Director	3
2013 Events Calendar	4
Study A Broad: Susan Lapis	8
Broader Wilderness	10
Broads Beat	11
Broadbands in Action	12
2012 Auction Donors and Sponsors	14, 15

I have never had the good fortune to see a wolverine. Yet few mammals represent the wild, untrammled, and high-elevation wilderness as well as this elusive and powerful animal. On February 1, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to list wolverines as threatened under the Endangered

Species Act, while simultaneously proposing to designate their southern Rocky Mountain habitat in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico as an experimental population area.

Resembling small bears, adults of this largest terrestrial member of the weasel family can weigh between 20 and 70 pounds. Researchers tracked one wolverine that climbed an astonishing 5,000 vertical feet in less than two hours through snow and ice in Glacier National Park. Like our typical Great Old Broad, the wolverine is no shrinking violet!

The proposed listing of the wolverine follows on the heels of recent listings of ringed seals, bearded seals, and the polar bear. Climate change imperils each of these large mammals. To raise her kits in a natal den, the female wolverine requires a deep snowpack that lasts into May. As climate change alters the depth and persistence of snow, wolverine habitat will decrease and populations will fragment.

The wolverine's scientific name, *Gulo gulo* or "gluttonous glutton," comes from their voracious and omnivorous eating habits, including their uncanny ability to locate carcasses buried under avalanches and their propensity to quickly devour whole bones. As it turns out, *Gulo gulo* teaches



## The BROAD BRUSH

### "No Shrinking Violet"

volumes about the urgency of protecting wild lands suffering from our own voracious consumption.

Generally, the wolverine's remote mountain habitat is protected as wilderness or roadless areas. Still, lone males travel remarkable distances to establish new territories. In 2009, scientists tracked the journey of a single male some 500 miles from the Grand Tetons in Wyoming to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.\* This one determined creature, given the scientific moniker of M56, proved to be the first known wolverine in Colorado since 1919.

M56 survived its journey across Wyoming's Red Desert to reach its Rocky Mountain destination. Yet oil, gas, coal, and even uranium development has increasingly industrialized the Red Desert's high elevation sagebrush steppe. Roads and well pads bulge from the terrain like varicose veins. With critical migration and movement corridors falling to drilling and digging in the Red Desert, the Uinta Basin, and even in national parklands like the Big Thicket (Texas), and New River Gorge (West Virginia), how long can species like wolverines, pronghorn, mule deer, sage grouse, and countless lesser known species survive? Can we say that our lust to consume fossil fuels and minerals today merits the loss of these fragile environments forever? Might *Homo sapiens* trade the name "wise man" for the wolverine's gluttonous glutton?

Climate scientists and ecologists have spoken for at least a decade about a

(continued on page 14)



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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.*

\* Meanwhile, another wolverine made its way, likely from Idaho, to the Tahoe National Forest in California. Motion-triggered wildlife cameras have captured it on film, and a solitary backpacker took the photograph of his life when he witnessed it crossing an ice-capped lake.

# BROADS WELCOMES SHELLEY SILBERT AS OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As you can see, there's a different face on page 2. Broads has hired a new Executive Director!

After 10 years under Ronni Egan's leadership, we accepted Ronni's decision to step into retirement and we set out on a search for a new leader who might continue Broads brand of wild land advocacy. We hoped to find one who could and would step into the fray with wisdom, intelligence, courage, and humor - one who could bend the ear of public land managers, legislators, and the media while engaging Broads and Future Broads across the U.S. It was a tall order but our search led us to the experienced and capable Shelley Silbert.

Shelley comes to Broads with more than 20 years in the fields of conservation and sustainability. Most recently, she served as Associate

Director of the San Juan Citizens Alliance in Durango, Colorado. Prior to that, she was the Director of Strategic Environmental Initiatives at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, where she founded and chaired the Environmental Caucus and advanced environmental and Native American programs. From 1994-2003, she directed The Nature Conservancy's Northern Arizona Program, setting conservation priorities, managing three nature preserves, and working on ecological restoration, conservation easements, regional conservation planning, and public open space campaigns.

Shelley has a B.A. in Anthropology and Health Care from the University of Tennessee and an M.A. in Watershed Management from the University of Arizona.

As the Executive Director, Shelley is responsible for the health and success of the entire organization. Along with management duties, she is responsible for setting the wilderness advocacy agenda for the Broads as well as representing Broads to the media, to our members, to our partner organizations, and to the great wild world.

Shelley assumed the lead shortly after the first of the year and has been quick to crest the rather steep learning curve. She understood that the many pressing threats to the health of wild lands across the U.S. just wouldn't wait for a more leisurely pace.

If the spirit moves you, send Shelley a welcoming e-mail at [shelley@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:shelley@greatoldbroads.org), give her a call at 970-385-9577, or stop in to see her at our Durango office.

## Calling All National Park Service Broads

What do Broads Associate Director Rose Chilcoat; Four Corners Broadband member Mary "Jeff" Karraker; Mile-High Broadband co-leader Chris Shaver; and Mile High Broadband members Suzy Stutzman and Janet Wise have in common? All five Broads spent a part of their careers working with the National Park Service (NPS).

Rose spent 10 years with the agency as a Park Ranger (interpretation, resource management, and law enforcement) and Concessions Analyst and Outdoor Recreation Planner in places from Colorado to Alaska. Jeff (met Rose in Alaska) retired to Durango after more than 20 years as a Ranger. Chris Shaver spent 20 years as a national program manager for the agency. Suzy Stutzman, long-time Broads member, retired this year as Lead Planner/Wilderness Coordinator for the NPS Intermountain Region after a life-time with the agency, and new Broad, Janet Wise oversaw natural resource programs for the Intermountain Region before she retired.



We'd love to know if there are other Broads among our ranks who have worked with a federal public lands agency and specifically in the NPS Ranger corps. Rumor has it that Ranger Magazine might be interested in profiling Broads in a forthcoming issue along the lines of how some NPS career women are spending their 'retirement' advocating for the lands they love with Great Old Broads for Wilderness. If this sounds like you, please e-mail [anne@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:anne@greatoldbroads.org) with a little bit of your background.

*"I've tried to delineate the qualities that set the Broads apart from all other groups of conservation activists. Briefly, my conclusion is that it's your light-hearted, whimsical approach to very serious, and sometimes dauntingly complex, public policy issues. You recognize that there are tens of thousands of nature lovers – typified by older women – who haven't found a place in conventional conservation groups. There's a long way to go, but so far you've empowered hundreds of (mostly) women to speak up for wilderness – and their voices are being heard!"*

– Robert Spertus, Peradam Foundation President



# Great Old Broads for Wilderness 2013 Calendar of Events

## Broadband Leader Boot Camp

### Broadband Leader Boot Camp

Dates: April 11-15, 2013

Location: Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM

Cost: Free for those selected

For details, see sidebar on page 9.

## Broadwork Service Project

### Escalante River Restoration Broadwork

Dates: May 5-11, 2013

Location: Calf Creek/Escalante River near Escalante, UT

Cost: \$170 member/\$195 non-member

The waters of the Escalante River carve stunning canyons, nurture wildlife, and sustain communities. One of the West's last free-flowing rivers, the Escalante now faces the spread of invasive species - mainly Russian olive. You can help! Together we can save this river and its many benefits for current and future generations. Volunteer with Rose Chilcoat, other Broads, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) staff and botanists for a six-day adventure in the amazing GSENM; four days of hard work broken up by a day of play/exploring.

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

We'll camp at Calf Creek Campground. Cost includes camping, six breakfasts, and six dinners provided by camp cook Ronni Egan. Group size is limited to 12 so register now!

More information can be found at [greatoldbroads.org/restoration-gsenm](http://greatoldbroads.org/restoration-gsenm). See sidebar on page 6 for registration information.

## FUNdraiser - River Trip

### Desolation-Grey Canyon of the Green River FUNdraiser River Trip with Holiday Expeditions

Dates: June 3-7, 2013

Location: Green River, UT

Cost: \$1,190 per person (a portion of the fee is a tax deductible donation to Broads)

Join Associate Director Rose Chilcoat and other Broads for this wild adventure on the Green River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, as it cuts through the Great Tavaputs Plateau running for 84 miles through Desolation/Grey Canyons. Part flat water, part whitewater (60 class II-III rapids), this raft trip takes you through some of the most remote, rugged, wildlife-rich country in the American west. This incredible stretch of river remains unprotected with no Wild & Scenic or Wilderness legislation and is threatened by nearby oil, gas, and mineral development. Efforts continue to gain permanent protection of this outstanding natural and recreational resource.

The trip leaves from Green River, Utah, via a flight to the put in at Sand Wash. Cost includes shuttle flight, BLM permit fees, great equipment, fabulous meals, knowledgeable guides... Holiday Expeditions does it right!

Space is limited so reserve your spot now by contacting Holiday Expeditions at 800-624-6323. More information is at [www.bikeraft.com](http://www.bikeraft.com).

## 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/wildlife/management topics, and lots of Broad socializing. 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.



*Residents of the Wallow Fire area of Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Photo courtesy of the ASNF.*

Cost includes camping, breakfasts and dinners each day, speakers, and more. Information about the area and wilderness proposal is at [www.azwmc.org](http://www.azwmc.org). Broadwalk details are on our website.

See sidebar on page 6 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

*more* ➞

## 2013 Calendar of Events - continued

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](http://greatoldbroads.org/badassbotanists-ut). See sidebar 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



Members of the Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband on their local Dungeness River Broadwalk in the Olympic National Forest in 2012.

Dates:  
September 5-9, 2013

Location:  
based at Sequim Bay State Park, near Port Townsend, WA

Cost: Member \$130, non-member \$155

Polly Dyer  
Cascadia Broadband Leader Shelley Spalding is our host

for this Broadwalk on the Olympic Peninsula. Broads will join the Olympic Forest Coalition, Wild Olympics Campaign, and others to learn about and support efforts to designate more than 126,000 acres of Wilderness and 464 miles of Wild & Scenic River on 19 different rivers on the Olympic Peninsula. Last year, Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Norm Dicks introduced legislation in Congress to provide permanent protections for the towering ancient forests, free-flowing rivers, critical fish and wildlife habitat and clean water, but no action was taken. We'll also be looking at the Olympic National Parks Stewardship Plan.

This is a classic Broadwalk with camping at the gorgeous group campsite at Sequim Bay State Park, hikes into the wilderness proposal led by knowledgeable locals, a service project with the forest service, informational presentations on area resources and Washington wilderness proposals, and lots of Broad socializing. Our campsite is in the forest - a stone's throw from the blue waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca with the

mountains of British Columbia in the distance. We have a covered pavilion and the luxury of available showers!

Cost includes camping, breakfasts and dinners each day, speakers, and more.

More details are on our website. For details about the campaign, go to [www.wildolympics.org](http://www.wildolympics.org).

See sidebar for registration information.

### Service Project Opportunity

#### National Public Lands Day Service Projects

Date: Sat., September 28, 2013

Locations: Various locations across the U.S. through local Broadbands

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. Last year, more than 175,000 volunteers at 2,206 locations built trails and bridges, removed trash and invasive plants, planted millions of trees, and more. Broads were part of this effort.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness will be on the ground in various locales. See if your local Broadband has a project underway...or help them get one going. Find a group or agency to partner with.

To register a project or find one near you, go to [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).

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](http://greatoldbroads.org/events-payment). Questions? Contact Rose at [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org) or 970-385-9577.

# Threats to NEPA

*Continued from page 1*

NEPA, one of the most emulated statutes in the world, has been called the “modern-day equivalent of an environmental Magna Carta.” This bedrock environmental law established U.S. national policy that attempts to balance environmental concerns with the social, economic, and other needs of present and future generations of Americans. NEPA does not advocate environmental preservation at all costs (as some might think and others wish!). NEPA tries to reconcile the inherent tension between our rapidly changing world and its finite natural resources. It ensures that federal agencies work as responsible stewards of America’s natural resources and as partners with state and local governments, concerned individuals, and private and public organizations.

Passage of NEPA did not happen on a whim, nor was it easy, but it was, and still is, needed. Its catalyst was decades of environmental neglect and catastrophe resulting in public outcry in the late 1960s. Remember the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, freeway revolts in response to the construction of the interstate highway system, burning of the Cuyahoga River, Rachel Carson’s book *Silent Spring*? In response, Americans forged an environmental ethic, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and the Wilderness Act. The American people pushed passage of NEPA to “...**foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations...**”

Through NEPA, Congress established the President’s Council on Environmental Quality. Congress recognized that nearly all federal activities affect the environment and that agencies must consider

the effects of their actions on the quality of the human environment BEFORE they make decisions. NEPA set up procedural requirements for agencies to prepare environmental assessments (EAs) and environmental impact statements (EISs) to identify environmental effects of proposed actions.

Attacks on NEPA range from limiting regulatory agency budgets and/or staff to inserting rollback language in bills.

Unfortunately, average citizens today have no real clue what NEPA does beyond creating bureaucratic processes, and many have not fully embraced its power to shape federal actions into the best possible solution. A functioning democratic process requires that citizens get actively involved at the beginning of NEPA processes, propose reasonable “citizen conservation alternatives” that MUST be analyzed and considered, and submit substantive comments, rather than simple thumbs up or thumbs down, insisting that we as citizens are heard. The NEPA process works when we engage it.

Attacks on NEPA range from limiting regulatory agency budgets and/or staff to inserting rollback language in bills. Already in the 113th Congress, the House of Representatives has renamed the “Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands” as the “Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation,” thereby attempting to change NEPA oversight from the full committee to the subcommittee. The rabidly anti-environmental Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) will return as chairman of the beefed-up, renamed panel, thus bypassing GOP rules that limit a member’s time on a panel to six years. This is akin to putting the fox in charge of the hen house!

On February 4, Alaska Senator Murkowski unveiled her “Energy 20/20 – A Vision for America’s Energy Future.” Apparently, her vision includes very little public input, impossibly short deadlines for environmental reviews, and little opportunity for the public to hold the government accountable for decisions affecting their communities, their environment, and their health. Highlights of this evisceration of NEPA and our democratic process include:

- “Simplify” the judicial process to limit frivolous litigation
- Impose mandatory timelines to complete the NEPA process and consider permits (lack of adequate staff or need for further research/information be damned!)
- Establish a 60-day deadline on legal challenges
- Require those filing appeals of Records of Decision to post bond on plans of operation and development authorization. The bonds would be used to pay damages for delays caused by unsuccessful appeals. (That is, it would take significant funds to try to change or stop damaging projects or to lose an appeal. Who is looking out for the public interest in this process?)
- Give greater weight in NEPA documents to comments from directly affected parties and communities. (In this money-driven scenario, who looks out for the greater interest of environmental protection?)

The recently departed 112th Congress was the first since 1966 to not designate ANY new wilderness areas, and the House of Representatives had been called “the most anti-environment House in the history of Congress.” Little has changed in 2013. Our vigilance, voices of protest, and concern for the environment are needed now, more than ever.



## Thank You Vehicle Donors!

Bill Hamann of Grand Junction, Colorado, donated a 2002 Ford Ranger pick-up truck directly to Broads for our field work. Ellen Lewis of Berkeley, California found us on line on the Center for Car Donations' website (see below). She donated an inoperable 1998 Saturn netting \$300 for Broads.

Start planning how you will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act!

Go to:  
**wilderness.net/50th**



## 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, get a tax receipt, and know that you're helping us continue our work for wild lands.

Broads is now connected with the Center for Car Donations. They will help you with all the details.

To schedule a pick up, call 877-411-3662. For a PDF of FAQs, go to [greatoldbroads.org/cardonation-faq.pdf](http://greatoldbroads.org/cardonation-faq.pdf).

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

## WANTED

- **Functional Computer(s)** - desk top(s), lap top(s), &/or tablet(s) Our staff is struggling with aging equipment (*computer equipment, that is*).
- **Office Phone System**
- **Volunteer Broadband Leaders**
- **Members** - join, recruit a friend, or give a gift membership
- **Donations** for our 2013 Wild for Wilderness auction

To help, e-mail [broads@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:broads@greatoldbroads.org) or call 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:

# Susan Lapis - The View From Above

"Not only do I get to fly low in circles with the window open, but it's science too." Susan Lapis's playful, curious nature belies her 62 years. "I'm a big wilderness freak," she says. She's also a scientist, a retired teacher, and a pilot.

Susan was the first pilot recruited by SouthWings, a network of volunteer pilots who fly for environmental advocates. That was 20 years ago. "I've flown politicians and celebrities," she said, naming Bobby Kennedy and Woody Harrelson as two of the well-known she's piloted over mountain-top removal mines and threatened forests and waterways. Mostly, she flies environmental stewards and activists.

Several years ago, she and Mark Miller of the Virginia Wilderness Committee spotted an area in the George Washington National Forest in northern Virginia that is now a candidate for wilderness designation. "It was thrilling to know that I can have an impact like that," she said.

Her favorite passengers are the Riverkeepers. "Flying over the rivers definitely helps them to be more effective in their jobs," she said. Riverkeepers patrol the water (sometimes from the air), educate the communities along the river, and advocate for the health of the river. She's flown Riverkeepers for the Shenandoah, the Dan, the James, and other rivers in the area. Along the Shenandoah, Susan said, there are currently 12 farms – mostly industrial chicken and hog farms – about which the Riverkeeper has concerns. "We'll fly the river and take photographs and then Jeff (the Shenandoah Riverkeeper) works with the landowners to help them reduce their impact on the river and the environment."

"I'm just the pilot," she said. "It's



*Susan Lapis - Pilot to the Wild*

like being a mother. You give your children what they need to be responsible adults and hope for the best."

Susan grew up outside of Baltimore and Baton Rouge. Her childhood included an assortment of outdoor activities, like most of us in her generation. The environmental bug didn't hit until she and her husband, Jim, purchased a Cessna 182.

"The big problem here (in western Virginia) is air pollution," she said. "In the summertime – with all the coal-fired power plants – sometimes the visibility is less than 5 miles. It's so bad that we have to register our flight course," she added. "When Jim and I used to fly to the beach or vacation spots, we noticed this grey yuck that topped out to clear, blue sky. I said 'it's pollution' but he said, 'no, it's just mist from the trees.'"

That explanation didn't quite sit well with Susan. When she caught a Public Radio broadcast of *Appalachian Voices* in which Dr. Harvard Ayres spoke about tree mortality caused by pollution, she thought, "Aha!"

"I called Ayers as soon as I got home, and the next day we went flying over Mt. Rogers." It wasn't long afterward that Hume Davenport left a message on Susan's machine telling her that he was forming an environmental pilot network (SouthWings) and asking her if she'd like to volunteer. "I called him back immediately and left a message on his machine saying, 'Hell yes!'"

Susan earned a B.A. in chemistry and Spanish literature and then an M.S. in chemistry from Southern Methodist University near Dallas, Texas. "I had a nice scholarship," she said of her undergraduate program, "and went with Spanish in case chemistry became tedious. It never did."

The couple moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina when Jim was doing his medical residency in gastroenterology. Susan went back to school and took her doctorate in biological chemistry from the University of North Carolina. She has been a research chemist, a college chemistry and biochemistry instructor, and an adjunct assistant professor of chemistry. She has volunteered for numerous community organizations like Girl and Boy Scouts, a chamber orchestra, a church, a library, and of course pilots' organizations. They currently live in Bristol, Virginia.

She and Jim alternate their vacations between cultural locations like London and outdoor adventures to the Galapagos, Costa Rica, or our beautiful National Parks. "Jim requires a lot of outdoors time. He enjoys our trips to London but really needs the hiking and biking vacations. We've been to Big Bend three times," she said. "It's beautiful – not many people go there."

When their two adopted children were still young, they took an Alaskan

*more* ➞



# "I'm a big wilderness freak."

cruise. "Our son was hyperactive, so a long car trip was out of the question. We chose a cruise so he could orbit the ship."

They were advised to get off the ship to really see Alaska - to take flights and tours whenever possible. "So we signed up for a flight," Susan said. "I was in the tail of a (de Havilland) Beaver. It was noisy and horrendous and I loved it! We signed up for all the available flights." When they got home from that trip they immediately took flight lessons. With Jim's career, they had the resources to purchase a Cessna airplane.

Susan can't remember how she found out about Broads. "Someone must have mentioned you to me. But it's inherently wonderful," she said of Broads, "because wilderness is wonderful." She has been a member

of Broads for just two years but she's been dedicated to the efforts to protect wilderness and the environment for more than 20 years. She hopes to meet up with more Broads at our Wild Olympics Broadwalk in September.

"I think wilderness is fabulous. The whole concept thrills me - old growth forests and all the critters. Once it's logged, though, it's millennia before it can recover," she added mentioning the visible scars created by logging roads - even very old roads.

"Flying with SouthWings has been



*Susan has 1,350 hours flying her Cessna 182, most of them as a volunteer with SouthWings.*

a lucky confluence for me," she summed. "It combines two things that I love - teaching and science" and perhaps, with her permission, we could add one more love - the joyful exhilaration of "flying in low circles with the window open." - Anne Benson

## Broadband Leader Boot Camp 2013 at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico

Boot Camp will activate your heart and mind and prepare you for a leadership role that can make a lasting difference on the land. Perhaps this New Year you resolved to get outside more, get involved in meaningful activities about issues you care about, or meet new and interesting people? Volunteering as a Broadband (local chapter) leader can help you turn your resolutions into reality. Broads Boot Camp will teach you how to toughen your stance on ecological abuses, interact and advocate for wilderness and healthy public lands with elected officials and land management agencies, and meet wonderful like-minded Broads.

These Boot Camps are for Broads who are interested in leading (or co-leading) a Broadband in their locale and can make a two-year commitment.

Broadband Leader Boot Camp 2013 will be at Ghost Ranch Education & Retreat Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico, April 11-15. We will train up to 15 new leaders from across the country and offer this training, including meals and lodging,

at no charge. Participants are responsible for travel to Abiquiu, attending the full training, and developing an annual action plan for their Broadband.

More information is at [greatoldbroads.org/boot-camp-2013/](http://greatoldbroads.org/boot-camp-2013/). Questions? Contact Ellen Stein at 970-385-9577 or [ellen@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:ellen@greatoldbroads.org).



*2012 Broadband Leader Rendezvous near Buena Vista, CO. Broadband Leaders can attend our annual Rendezvous where we play, plan, and network. Our Membership Maven, Joyce Thomsen says, "We have a lot of fun doing serious work." See page 13 for story.*

## MT - Bison Win Some but Still Stand to Lose

In January, Montana's Sixth Judicial Court dismissed all 10 counts against agencies of the State of Montana regarding the wanderings of the Yellowstone bison herd. The Park County Stockgrowers Association and the Montana Farm Bureau Association brought the petition forward out of a belief that the buffalo herd can spread brucellosis, a disease that can cause cattle to abort, lose weight or die. Buffalo management agencies had recently expanded the herd's perimeter and the petitioners sought to prove that they didn't follow the letter of the law when doing so. Judge E. Wayne Phillips disagreed with the petitioners and dismissed all counts.

But attacks against bison continue with two anti-bison bills now before the state legislature:

### House Bill 396 (House Agriculture Committee).

This bill would require county board approval before any wild buffalo are translocated or restored to any part of their native range on public lands in Montana. This legislation undermines Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' authority to manage native wildlife. Counties do not have expertise in wildlife management.

**Senate Bill 256 (Senate Fish & Game).** This bill makes Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks liable for private property damages caused by wild bison. This unnecessarily burdens the agency and Montana taxpayers alike while establishing a dangerous precedent that is not applied to other species of wildlife. SB 256 clearly contradicts the longstanding precedent that "struggles with wildlife are a consequence of living in Montana with

her abundant wildlife." Interestingly, a USDA laboratory conducted DNA analysis on brucellosis from 1998-2011, publishing results last spring that determined cattle in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming had been infected with a disease strain that spread through elk. No cattle infection cases have been linked to bison.

"Buffalo Field Campaign is heartened that migratory bison will have some room to roam their winter range in Gardiner Basin," says Daniel Brister, Buffalo Field Campaign's Executive Director - unless the

"The Forest Service squandered an important opportunity to finally do something about highly destructive impacts caused by off-road vehicles in the Stanislaus Forest," commented Erin Tobin, attorney for the public interest law firm Earthjustice. "This decision confirms that the Forest Service needs to do a better job of protecting the forest and its streams and wildlife from these damaging machines."

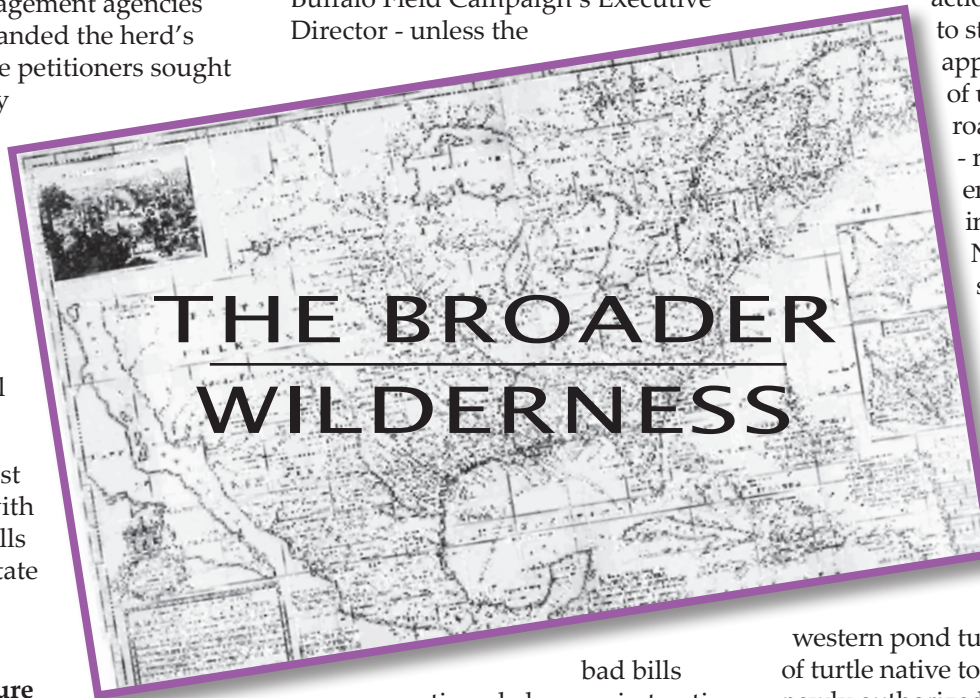
Conservation groups took legal action in August 2010 to stop Forest Service approval of 137 miles of unauthorized off-road vehicle routes - many of which cause environmental harm in the Stanislaus National Forest. The suit sought to block a significant expansion of motorized trails that often damage streams and habitat for rare species. Among the affected wildlife are California spotted owls, northern goshawks, and

western pond turtles, the only species of turtle native to California. The newly authorized routes would have allowed noisy off-road vehicles to enter 55 separate "protected activity centers" that the Forest Service had previously established to protect spotted owls and goshawks while they are nesting and raising young.

## New Interior Secretary a Real "Gem"?

President Obama surprised many with his nomination of Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) chief executive Sally Jewell to replace outgoing Interior Secretary Ken Salazar who is stepping down in March to return to his Colorado ranch. The next step for Ms. Jewell is confirmation by the Senate. Jewell has received numerous awards for her environmental leadership and her appointment has been lauded by such environmental

more ➡



bad bills mentioned above gain traction.

More information can be found at <http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org>.

## CA - Court Finds Stanislaus NF Travel Management Plan Lacking

In a victory for wildlife habitat in the Sierra Nevada, a federal judge ruled in January that the U.S. Forest Service failed in its management of forest routes created by off-road vehicles in the Stanislaus National Forest. The court ordered the Forest Service to minimize environmental damage done by off-road vehicles stating that the Travel Management Plan (TMP) violated federal law because it did not minimize damage to the environment caused by off-road vehicles.



groups as Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Earthjustice. However, others are more cautious citing her past experiences as a former oil company engineer and twenty years as a commercial banker.

Opinions aside, Jewell knows the value of public lands for the recreation economy and she is an avid outdoorswoman who believes children need to be connected with nature. We think Jewell's gray hair and her desire to get "out there" makes her a real Great Old Broad!

The Interior Department manages one-fifth of the nation's landmass, vast resources off the U.S. coasts, and the energy and mineral resources within our borders.

### NPS YouTube Videos

With over 40 million acres of designated wilderness, the National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for stewarding some of America's most iconic protected landscapes and engaging the American public with these special places. To capture the diversity of experiences people

may share with wilderness, the NPS partnered with film students at American University in Washington, DC to develop a webisode series called America's Wilderness.

The 3-5 minute webisodes take place in different wilderness parks across the country.

The NPS hopes that by 2014 - the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act - an array of wilderness stories will be in circulation. There are approximately 14 webisodes uploaded to date. <http://www.youtube.com/user/NPSWilderness>

# Broads Beat

## Updates on issues that have seen Broad action

You may have heard that the 112th Congress was the first since 1966 to fail to enact a single piece of wilderness legislation. Even though there were good bills to consider, they refused to protect a single acre of our wild public lands. What this means for Broads is that we really need to amplify our message to the 113th. Is there a wilderness proposal in your area? Should there be? Write a letter to the editor. Send e-mails to your congressional representatives. And do it now while the 113th is getting settled. Don't let them forget the importance of protecting federal lands from the ravages of our consumer society. Here's a link to a site that has contact information on all of our federal elected officials: [www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml).

### Victory for W&S river corridor - Forest Service granted jurisdiction over Highway 12

In early February, our Palouse and Boise Broadbands joined a crowd that filled an Idaho courtroom as Advocates for the West brought suit against the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for allowing mega-loads to be shipped up Highway 12. In a clear victory for Idaho's Wild and Scenic Rivers, a federal judge ruled that the USFS and FHWA "acted unlawfully" when they determined they could not regulate mega-loads within the Wild and Scenic Lochsa-Clearwater river corridor of northern Idaho.

U.S. Chief District Judge B. Lynn Winmill wrote in the decision that "the Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration acted unlawfully in determining that they lack jurisdiction to regulate the use of Highway 12 for mega-loads within the Clearwater National Forest and the Wild and Scenic River corridor." The judgment takes final management decisions about the Wild & Scenic corridor out of the hands of Idaho Transportation Department (IDT), which permitted mega-load shipments on Highway 12 that had major impacts on the Lochsa-Clearwater River corridor. "This authority clearly



A recent mega-load on U.S. Highway 12.

gives the federal defendants jurisdiction to review ITD's approval of mega-load permits that authorize acts along the river corridor including the construction of turnouts along the rivers, the trimming of hundreds of trees, and the restriction of the public's recreational opportunities," Winmill wrote.

"The Forest Service has previously indicated its desire to protect the Wild and Scenic corridor. Now that it's been established that it has that ability and authority, we look forward to working with the agency to protect this very special place," said Idaho Rivers United Conservation Director Kevin Lewis.



## 2012 Broadband Volunteers Log Nearly 10,000 Hours

Across the country, 22 Broadband Leaders and members in 11 states are actively advocating for wild lands protection and against bad ideas like mega-loads traveling through wild lands in Idaho, or inappropriate land use in western Colorado. Broads are commenting on resource management and forest plans, saying “no” to trapping or rampant oil and gas development, monitoring for wilderness character, clearing trails, restoring creeks and riparian areas, and so much more. Broadbands racked up almost 10,000 volunteer hours in 2012, and are poised for more in 2013 as existing Bands grow and new ones are established.

### NV - Reno takes shape

Invoking Margaret Thatcher’s adage, “If you want something done, ask a woman,” Rita Smyth and Jeneane Harter, Broadband co-leaders and colleagues at the Nevada Wilderness Project along with a dozen other Reno-area Broads and Bros, are off and running. The Band hosted the second of two organizational meetings on February 2. In true grassroots-style, Broads shared potluck dishes and their ideas for Broadband programs and projects. Renee Aldrich from Friends of Nevada Wilderness (Friends) presented on an invasive weed eradication and monitoring project in the Mt. Rose Wilderness area and two training opportunities on weed monitoring and wilderness first aid for hike leaders. Friends’ also plans to offer Broads a “Stand by Your Land” advocacy training this spring. The Reno Broadband has plans to reach out to the Winnemucca BLM, Sierra Club, Sparks Kiwanis, and Advocates for the Black Rock Playa. They will participate in the Friends of Black Rock High Rock’s 2013 Black Rock Rendezvous and partner on stewardship and advocacy projects on the Black Rock Desert. Jeneane will share information on fracking in Nevada at their next meeting on March 2. Go Reno-area Broads!



*Jeneane Harter and Rita Smyth, new Reno Broadband co-leaders.*

other conservation groups (particularly Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness), volunteering for the Community Collaborative on the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area, attending a lobbying training in Helena, meeting with U.S. Forest Service and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks representatives on various matters including limiting trapping, establishing an Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup

project, going on wildlife tracking excursions, hosting speakers, tabling at local events, and more. In 2013, the group plans to build Broads’ presence and impact doing projects that make a difference in southwestern Montana. There’s much to be done.

### CO - Mile High: reaching new heights

This fledgling Broadband met in January at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden to review 2012 accomplishments, celebrate over 400 volunteer hours in its first year, and plan for 2013. About 30 Broads and Bro’s attended this gathering. Formed in April 2012, the Mile High group immediately got busy working on trail and riparian restoration projects, hiking, educating children about the value of wilderness, local FUNdraising, and reaching out in Broads style to numerous organizations and agencies. Highlights of January’s meeting were a slide presentation on hiking and working on the Colorado

*more ➡*

### MT - Bozeman Leader blazing the way

Nancy Ostlie, Bozeman Broadband Leader, exemplifies Margaret Mead’s quote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Nancy is building participation and engaging the group in many efforts. In February, Nancy shared terrific displays highlighting 2012 accomplishments and future plans with 15 area Broads who convened for a “Get Acquainted” party at the Emerson Cultural Center. Her exhaustive list included: public lands monitoring, collaborating with



*Mile High Broadband co-Leader Chris Shaver, Wild Connections President Deb Overn, and South Park (CO) Broadband Leader Misi Ballard at the American Mountaineering Museum for the Mile High Broadband winter meeting.*

Trail, made by Jean Mortenson, a truly Great Old Broad; and a talk by John Kraft with Metro Denver Partners about opportunities to introduce at-risk youth to wilderness experiences. Co-Leaders Chris Shaver and Pat Welch explained options for 2013 activities, including additional restoration service projects, educational events (e.g., Earth Day, National Trails, and Public Lands Day), healthy land monitoring opportunities with federal land management agencies, and various hiking and social activities. The Band learned more about Broads, socialized, and discussed their 2013 interests, which include healthy lands monitoring, and opportunities to work with the Forest Service, Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. Chris and Pat will distribute a menu of activity options so that members can indicate their preferences and passions. Join them!

### CO – Grand Junction: ready for prime time

Grand Junction BLM just released a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) that updates their 25-year old plan and attempts to respond to

a much changed community and environment. Broads are at the table, on the ground, in the papers, and on TV making their mark advocating for sensible land use and conservation of wild places on public lands. They are learning the issues, listening to diverse viewpoints, and commenting on draft documents like the RMP. They are also part of area collaborations like the DeBeque Working Group (a subset of the Grand Valley Trails Alliance) that represents all recreation user groups. The working group is creating a proposal for recreation activities in the DeBeque area that will be submitted to the BLM Grand Junction Field Office draft RMP. GJ Broads are also reviewing



**Special Report**  
**Sherry Schenk**  
**Great Old Broads for Wilderness**  
**8 abc HD**  
**10:08 PM**  
*Grand Junction Broadband Leader Sherry Schenk was interviewed on local television regarding her thoughts on preserving public lands in Western Colorado. Photo courtesy of KJCT News 8.*

the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the motorized proposal for the Bangs Canyon area. The Broadband has led two groups and a number of individual hikes into the area to introduce people to the beauty of the land. In cooperation with members of the Quiet Trails group, individuals submitted comments to the BLM opposing the way this EA was handled. They asked for continued protection of the area, which has wilderness characteristics, and opposed the addition of motorized trails in an area that previous documents declared should be managed for non-motorized travel only. In the coming months, Grand Junction Broads, with Sherry Schenk's leadership, will be getting out on the land, reviewing the plan alternatives, and drafting and submitting comments on it. Partner conservation organizations working in the area are grateful for Broads' presence and insist it is a vital one. Get involved, make your voice count, and speak for the wild.

### NM – Rio Grande Valley: with their boots on

One could say that the women of the Rio Grande Valley (RGV - Albuquerque) Broadband sleep with their boots on. This 'ready-to-go' group of Broads is as busy as their fearless leader, Susan Ostlie (yes, Nancy's sister). They are great at 'hiking with a purpose' and are already hard at it in 2013 working in partnership with agency and environmental group staff. In February, RGV Broads learned about surveying for wilderness character for the Cibola National Forest plan revision. They then did a monitoring training in the Mt. Taylor Ranger District learning to use GPS and cameras in preparation for a monitoring project in roadless areas in the Magdalena Ranger District that, combined with roadless areas in the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, could be recommended for wilderness designation. In 2013, RGV Broads will also do a service project with the Southwest Jemez Landscape Restoration Project and more trail maintenance on their Adopt-a-Trail area in the Rio Grande Bosque - Shining River Trail. Get your feet wet and hang out with a great group of motivated Broads!

## 2012 Rendezvous Finds Broadband Leaders in Hot Water

Broads are accustomed to getting into some hot water. But this time, it was of a different nature as 13 Broadband Leaders from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, and Washington gathered in late October at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs, in Nathrop, Colorado, for the 2012 Broadband Leader Rendezvous. Broads shared project accomplishments, challenges and opportunities; learned about Public Lands Travel Management Planning and Monitoring; and got out on the land to the BLM's 6,600-acre Browns Canyon

Wilderness Study Area with John Stansfield, local writer, storyteller and wilderness advocate.

Misi Ballard, Southpark (Colorado) Broadband Leader said, "I feel strongly that gathering leaders together is important for nurturing friendships and connections, 'cross-pollinating' of ideas, and re-enforcing national goals." The Rendezvous weekend energizes new and seasoned Broadband Leaders and affords learning opportunities, camaraderie, and a little rest and relaxation.

[Go to greatoldbroads.org/broadbands](http://greatoldbroads.org/broadbands) for information about other Broadbands and contact information.



## 2012 Wild for Wilderness On-Line Auction Sponsors and Donors

**Heartfelt thanks** to our many 2012 Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction donors, sponsors, and bidders. Our eighth annual auction was a great success, netting nearly \$60,000 for Broads wilderness work. We are deeply grateful to our donors for their generosity, to all of you who solicited donations, and to all of you who participated by bidding and helping to spread the word. Thank you!

It's not too early to donate to our 2013 auction. Simply e-mail [auction@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:auction@greatoldbroads.org) or visit our on-line donation form at [greatoldbroads.org/auction-donation](http://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 - WOLVERINES TO HEARING AIDS

*Continued from page 2*

reshuffling of ecosystems due to climate change, making it impossible to predict how habitat cards will play out. As weather patterns create the likes of Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, hellacious firestorms, a plague of bark beetles and historic drought followed by damaging flooding, polls show that Americans are beginning to connect the dots. One would think this would create terrific urgency – if not outright citizen demand - to slow the drilling and burning of fossil fuels and protect our wild lands. But here's what we see instead:

- Oil and gas companies reported astounding profits again in 2012 – the top five oil and gas companies earned some \$120 billion (yes, with a “b”) in profits, with Exxon Mobil leading the pack at nearly \$45 billion.
- In January, a NOAA/University of Colorado research team reported that 9% of total methane production is being lost to the atmosphere in Utah's Uinta Basin, wildly surpassing industry assumptions. This exceeded previous Denver area studies showing a 4% loss. The January 2013 Nature article states “If methane - a potent greenhouse gas - is leaking from fields across the country at similar rates, it could be offsetting much of the climate benefit of the



*This wolverine was spotted in Tahoe National Forest, California. Photo by Cameron Miller.*

ongoing shift from coal- to gas-fired plants for electricity generation.” Yet the myth of clean natural gas persists.

- The 112th Congress, completely mired in quicksand of its own making, did not protect even one new acre of public land as wilderness, national park, or national monument – the first time Congress has recorded such inaction since World War II. Without wilderness designations, public lands remain vulnerable to oil and gas development (as the 112th clearly understood).
- As U.S. coal usage begins to decline, the Pacific Northwest and now the Southeast look towards expanding coal export terminals, including the extensive rail and truck transport needed to get coal to the ports.

For Broads, this means our voice is more important than ever - it's what we do best. Local citizen advocates remain our only hope to turn the tide against the industrialization of our public lands and to moderate the constant pressure of commercial interests on our public decision-making bodies. Great Old Broads brings the voice of experience into the discussion, as well as the reputation for not backing down.

So it's time to amp up the volume. If our representatives don't seem to be listening, maybe it's time to deliver huge numbers of hearing aids to members of Congress with Broads trademark humor. Hear us now: the U.S. needs a climate policy to match the dire emergency sounding on our planet! Hear us now: the path to energy independence does not lie in massive drilling, but in a radical shift toward conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy technology! Hear us now: we won't tolerate massive shipments of coal through our lands and communities, methane leaking into our air, and powerful lobbyists from a dinosaur fossil fuel industry drowning out our voices – and our power as citizens. It is past time for change. For the wolverine, for the Red Desert, for our very survival, it is time to speak out and be heard.



## 2012 Wild for Wilderness On-Line Auction Donors

Please support them and let them know you appreciate their support of Broads.

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