



2012 Trips and Events Page 6

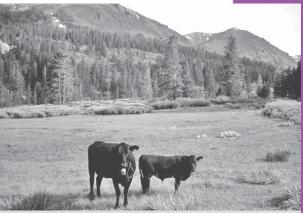
Livestock Grazing: Opportunities for Change in the West

by Rose Chilcoat and Ronni Egan

Livestock grazing on public lands has always been one of the primary interests for Great Old Broads for Wilderness. In the last issue of Broadsides, we discussed the impacts of this activity on both our landscapes and on our pocketbooks.

Welcomed by environmentalists but angering ranching advocates, President Obama's 2013 budget included language for a 3-year pilot project that would allow the Bureau of Land Management to recover some of the costs of issuing grazing permits on its lands. BLM would charge an additional fee of \$1 per animal unit month (forage for a cow/calf pair for one month) to be collected along with current grazing fees. The fee would allow BLM to address the backlog of pending applications for grazing permit renewals as current grazing revenues cover a mere 15 percent of administrative costs.

The current \$1.35 fee per animal unit month applies to nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases administered by BLM and is the same today as it was in 1978 due to the powerful influence of the Western livestock industry. Given that a 2005 Government



An animal unit at Leavitt Creek, Sierra Nevada Tioyabe National Forest, California. Have you ever camped in a cow-pattied pasture or woodland? Not very pleasant. Photo by George Wuerthner.

Accountability Office (GAO) report found federal agencies in 2004 spent at least \$144 million to administer grazing programs but took in only \$21 million in fee revenue, one would think that grazing fees would be a good candidate for reform in these budget-busting times. The GAO found that the BLM grazing fee decreased by 40 percent from 1980 to 2004, while grazing fees charged by private ranchers increased by 78 percent for the same period. In 2005, Great Old Broads joined with four other conservation organizations to challenge these fees, but until now the Obama administration has been unwilling to reform grazing fees. So this budget proposal is an encouraging step in the right direction.

Interestingly, BLM ecological assessment studies are

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RONNI EGAN

Occupy wilderness? Of course not! It says, right there in The Wilderness Act: "man is a visitor who does not remain." But we must occupy our remaining public wild lands in the figurative sense of rising up to protect them from industrial exploitation, attempts at privatization, de-funding

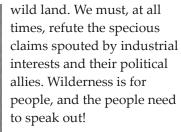
of land management agencies, and despoilation from poorly managed grazing and recreation.

Many past and current legislators and many who aspire to public office maintain that we can't afford to manage our public

lands, that some should be sold to the highest bidder or worse, that federal and state governments (that's all of us) should not even own land. Protected wilderness and roadless lands are some of America's best ideas, and they represent a concept that is unique in the world.

Sadly, a large proportion of our population does not understand the benefits of protected wilderness. You know what I mean: rich biodiversity, ecosystem services like clean water and air, opportunities for human recreation and renewal, and the crucial lessons of interconnectedness and personal responsibility that wild places have to teach us. It is the ones who do not understand who are susceptible to the rhetoric of privatization, believing erroneously that protecting our natural heritage costs jobs or restricts individual freedoms.

Defenders of wilderness must help people understand the true benefits of healthy



The problem is - in 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations are citizens! Hard to fathom but it's true. The highly regrettable Citizens United vs. FEC Supreme Court decision has resulted in scads of undisclosed corporate cash inundating our electoral system. And money talks louder than people.

> It comes as no surprise that huge corporations are flooding the

campaigns of their chosen candidates in both national and local elections with huge sums of money. Many of these corporations have designs on the natural resources contained in as yet undeveloped public lands, and if their chosen legislators and candidates prevail, we may see a roll-back of current protections and even a "fire sale" of public lands.

In Colorado, Republican Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg says he believes Colorado's national forests would be in better hands if they were managed by the state or private individuals. The concept has been introduced in five other Western states to date.

This libertarian ideal was the rule in the 19th century, and led to a free-forall of resource extraction ranging from the clear-cutting of forests to massive overgrazing to mining and petroleum

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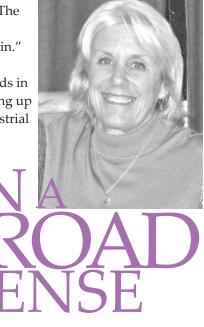
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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national, non-profit organization that uses the voices and activism of elders to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of 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.



Occupy Wilderness?

FLORIDA BROADWALK ADVENTURES IN THE BIG CYPRESS SWAMP

by Rose Chilcoat

A Swampwalk?! What on Earth is that? From Broads world headquarters in southwest Colorado, going to an event focusing on the Big Cypress Swamp of Florida was akin to going to the Moon! This was definitely going expand our wild lands experiences. JoAnn Valenti, long-time Broad and our Florida Broadband Leader exhorted us to come to Florida to experience firsthand the many complex and controversial environmental issues that the Sunshine State's dwindling wild lands and waters face. Fifteen Broads from across the country accepted the invitation and joined us for a memorable and magical weekend.

Ronni and I found ourselves driving the Tamiami Trail across a landscape that was unrelentingly flat, grassy, and liquid. Topographic relief was provided by highway berms and borrow ditch canals. Birds of various shapes and sizes draped themselves on the trees and vegetation. Then without any discernible change in topography, the grass shifted to a cypress forest. Small changes in elevation in a limestone base have created a subtle and complex combination of landscapes containing pinelands, prairies, marshes, hardwood hammocks and cypress sloughs found nowhere else on earth. Species diversity goes off the scale.



Yes, this is what we did in the Big Cypress Swamp!

of the Everglades," who has brought attention to the need to conserve this remarkable landscape. Entering the narrow winding lane to our base camp we were embraced by the surreal, hauntingly beautiful bald cypress trees rising directly from the water.

Hugs and laughter, greeting old friends and making new ones. We settled into our rooms, cabins, and tents and enjoyed the first of our amazing dinners, by the Camellia Street Grill in Everglades City, served *al fresco* under a "chikee" traditional shelter on a small patch of dry ground with a roaring campfire and a full moon rising through the bare trees. Magical.

After breakfast, Pedro Ramos, Superintendent and knowledgeable, charming ambassador for Big Cypress National Preserve, talked about the history of the Preserve and specifically

the 146,000 acres known as the "Addition Lands." They recently completed a Management Plan for this area that has proven to be controversial due to final recommendations for wilderness and ORV use. Emotions around this have been running high for decades as native Floridians strive to balance protecting the remarkable lands they love with their desire to continue traditional access and use. This is why the Big Cypress is a "preserve" not a "park" even though the National Park Service administers it.

After our introduction to the place and issues, we dressed for our Swampwalk. Contrary to our expectations, the footing was firm limestone rock not knee deep mud and muck. The crystal clear water flowed steadily in a constant sheet past plants firmly anchored to the ground below. We were amazed by the experience – hiking out into the swamp was something none of us would ever have done alone. Our naturalists from Clyde's Gallery were fabulous, sharing bits of natural history and oddities and patiently herding us along.

Afterward we visited with Clyde and explored his breathtaking black and white photography in the gallery (www.clydebutcher.com).

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We neared our destination – Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery – one of the very few parcels of private land within the boundaries of Big Cypress National Preserve. Clyde is a renowned photographer, billed as the "Ansel Adams

For the Love of Big Cypress

by JoAnn Valenti Ph.D. and Florida Broadband Leader

Big Cypress Preserve in southwest Florida is not in salvage or savage condition. It is one of the most pristine environments in the U.S. Participants in Broads November Swampwalk can now attest to the Preserve's wildness. Florida Natives (I am among this "endangered" species); local hunters, many of whom are 7th generation Floridians; environmentalists; repeat visitors to the area; and Preserve residents like renowned photographer Clyde Butcher have worked tirelessly—make that with much tiredness for decades to protect this very special piece of our state.

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Utah declares war on wild lands

In his State of the State address, Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert defiantly declared that he will "fortify our state as a bulwark against federal overreach" and fight the federal government to gain control over Utah's wild public lands. The governor's complaint boils down to which governing body has jurisdiction over backcountry "highways."

Since then, the State of Utah has filed a notice of intent to sue over nearly 19,000 R.S. 2477 claims, the vast majority of which are dirt two-tracks, cow paths, dry stream beds and abandoned prospector trails. Many

Brodds

with the federal government. Given current politics, we are not confident that the federal government will adequately stand up for the protection of wilderness and national park values. Also, Utah is talking about a "legislative fix" to settle the issue. This too is worrisome because it is unlikely that any fair legislation that addresses the RS 2477 problem would survive. A bill that does great harm could certainly prevail.

We're not sure who the Governor thinks he's representing by taking these actions. A just-completed industrial megaload truck route. The November action was not a permanent win as the corporation and others still have their eye on the U.S. 12 route. Lawsuits are ongoing in both Idaho and Montana regarding permits that authorized the transport of the megaloads.

There is also an ongoing Idaho Rivers United vs. USFS & FHWA case that addresses the issue of megaload traffic through the Lochsa-Clearwater Wild & Scenic Rivers corridor via U.S.12. It is hoped this case, hinging on interpretation and application of the nation's Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, will result in the banning of megaload transports on Idaho's section of

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Updates on issues that have seen Broad action

of these routes are in the America's Redrock Wilderness Proposal championed by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. The state's (and counties') purpose is to disqualify this proposal from protection under the Wilderness Act or any other mechanism to protect public lands. Many of the routes can be found within existing national parks!

Several thousand of these claims are in the Greater Canyonlands area which is the focus of our Broadwalk this September.

The RS 2477 challenge stems from an 1860s law that allowed people homesteading and mining in the West to claim rights-of-ways for roads that they had constructed. The original "revised statute 2477" was repealed in 1976 but existing rights-of-way were grandfathered in. As a result, the State of Utah, aligned with county governments, is trying to prove that these thousands of dirt routes qualify as RS 2477 rights-of-way.

The suit will be filed in mid June unless the state/counties work out a settlement

Conservation in the West survey by Colorado College found that 76% of Utahns think that we can protect air, water and land resources while at the same time maintaining a good economy and more than 90% said that national parks and monuments are both essential parts of the state's economy and quality of life.

www.suwa.org/issues/phantom-roadsr-s-2477/

Beating Goliath – Hwy. 12 megaloads re-routed

Our Palouse/Moscow, ID Broadband is in the thick of this effort and celebrated a "win" this past November when Imperial/Exxon's shipper Mammoet shifted plans to send 300 megaload shipments through Idaho and Montana via interstates rather than on scenic highways enroute to Canada's destructive Tar Sands Oil Extraction sites.

Broads and many others have been fighting to prevent transformation of the pristine Wild & Scenic Lochsa-Clearwater U.S.12 corridor into an U.S.12. If so, Montana will not see any megaloads on U.S.12 to Lolo and Hwy. 93 through Missoula either. This is an extremely important case with implications for Wild & Scenic corridors throughout the United States. This case will either strengthen or weaken the nation's Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

Fightinggoliath.org

Note: Our Weitas Wilderness Broadwalk this August is off Hwy. 12 in the Clearwater Region of Idaho.

more ₽

WANTED

- A fuel-efficient vehicle for staff use
- Volunteer Broadband Leaders
- Donations for our 2011 *Wild for Wilderness* on-line auction

To donate a vehicle, call 970-385-9577. To inquire about being a Broadband Leader, contact rose@greatoldbroads.org. To donate to our auction, go to greatoldbroads.org/ join-or-donate/auction or e-mail Sue at auction@greatoldbroads.org.

Rock Creek mine appeal fails

In November, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a finding that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acted properly and in accordance with the Endangered Species Act by finding that the proposed Rock Creek mine "would entail 'no adverse modification' to bull trout critical habitat and would result in 'no jeopardy' to grizzly bears."

After our 2007 Broadwalk on the Idaho/Montana border, Broads joined litigation opposing Revett Mineral's silver and copper mine beneath the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness of Montana. Rock Creek Alliance; Cabinet Resource Group; Earthworks; Alliance for the Wild Rockies; Natural Resources Defense Council; Trout Unlimited; Idaho Council of Trout Unlimited; and Pacific Rivers Council were partners in the appeal.

Read more about the mine and its potential impact at www. rockcreekalliance.org.

Lobo population up in 2011

Lobos are off to a promising start this year, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that there are more Mexican wolves in the wild than last year, or any of the last five years. The numbers increased from 50 at the end of 2010 to 58 at the end of 2011, and there are now six breeding pairs; only two were reported last year.

A population of 58 wolves is still extremely small and at risk from threats such as disease, inbreeding, or catastrophic events like the Wallow Fire, which burned through Mexican wolf habitat last year. USFWS Regional Director Tuggle promised to release more wolves this year, but he made the same promise last year and no new wolves were released into the wild.

Our New Mexico and Arizona Broadbands actively support work to recover the lobos.

mexicanwolves.org/

PUBLIC LAND GRAZING PERMITS (Continued from page 1)

underway in six western regions that specifically ignore the effects of livestock grazing as a possible factor in changing landscapes due to fear of lawsuits. This is in spite of the fact that livestock grazing is permitted on two-thirds of all BLM lands, with 21,000 grazing allotments covering 157 million acres across the West. Even the BLM scientists protested the omission of livestock affects in the assessments. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) filed a scientific integrity complaint against this in November 2011.

In terms of the ecological effects of grazing, livestock production has contributed to the decline of 22 percent of all threatened and endangered species – almost as much as logging and mining combined! As taxpayers, we subsidize this destruction, losing at least \$115 million annually in direct costs. Additional uncounted costs for endangered species recovery, wildlife services, water quality improvement, noxious weed and erosion control bring the cost to over \$500 million per year.

Obama's proposed 75 percent increase in fees to graze livestock on BLM lands drew fire from some Western lawmakers and ranchers including Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), who is chairman of the House National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee, and Dustin Van Liew, who is with the Public Lands Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Van Liew said, "It's fairly safe to say that this would force some number of ranchers out of business."

Which leads to the next bit of good news, the Rural Economic Vitalization Act (REVA H.R. 3432) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA) on November 16, 2011. The possibility that Obama's proposed fee, in the unlikely event that it is enacted, would cause some ranchers (only 6% of Western ranchers use public lands producing only 3 percent of U.S. beef) to go out of the ranching business could give more impetus to REVA. This bill would allow federal grazing permittees to voluntarily relinquish their grazing permits to be permanently retired in exchange for third-party compensation. Current antiquated federal law generally precludes the closing of grazing allotments to benefit fish, wildlife, and watersheds. Compensation for retired permits would come, not from taxpayers, but from conservation organizations that see benefits for endangered species, ecosystem health, or the recreating public.

The goal of REVA is to help wildlife and wild lands while also helping family farmers, ranchers, and taxpayers. For ranchers who are barely surviving economically or who are older, with no children willing to wrangle a grazing operation, REVA would provide a way out.

Legislated retirement of grazing permits has already occurred on Steens Mountain and in the Owyhee in Oregon. Broads has been a supporter of the permit buyout concept for many years and we hope it will continue to be used in future public lands bills. We've been contacted by a number of ranchers who are "ready to quit" and would welcome the opportunity to sell their permits and have them retired.

Regardless of where you live, you can help by talking with your friends about public lands grazing. More importantly, write, call, or meet with your Congressional delegation. Educate them about the facts. Tell them you are tired of subsidizing private livestock producers and seeing public lands despoiled. Ask them to insist on recovery of grazing costs and to support the Rural Economic Vitalization Act.

River Trip

FUNdraiser Yampa River Raft Trip

Location: Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado and Utah (Meet at Vernal, UT) Launch Date: June 8, 2012 Cost: \$895 (\$295 is deductible as a charitable contribution to Broads)

Join Holiday Expeditions and Broads ED Ronni Egan for this 4-day rafting trip down the Yampa River. The Yampa is WILD. It's the last undammed river in the Colorado River system. Through the years the Yampa has defied many attempts to dam its free flow, several by congress, and the most formidable in 1965 by Mother Nature. Just after dinner on June 10th, a flash flood carried tons of rock down Warm Springs draw blocking

Hike or River Raft Trip

FUNdraiser – 4-day Rogue River Lodge to Lodge Hike or Raft with ROW Adventures Location: Merlin, OR Dates: June 10-13, 2012 Cost: \$965 (\$200 is deductible as a charitable contribution)

Love the idea of a river trip but aren't sure about camping anymore? This unique trip is for you – outdoor rafting or hiking each day in remote and scenic canyons coupled with the comfort of a lodge at night. Join other Broads and Broads Associate Director, Rose Chilcoat for this wild adventure. All set in a stunning wilderness background on SW Oregon's legendary Rogue River.



Weitas Creek photo courtesy of Friends of the Clearwater.

Broadwalk

Weitas Wilderness Broadwalk Location: near Lowell, ID Dates: August 2-6, 2012 Cost: members* \$125/non-members \$150

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness 2012 Calendar of Events

the river channel. Within 24 hours the Yampa took aim and breached the dam, leaving in its wake Warm Springs Rapid, rated among the 10 biggest drops in the country.

Every May and June this river rises to the occasion and CRANKS with plenty of full-bodied waves from the first day to the last. Like many wild things, the Yampa also has a serene side...miles of white tiger-striped walls that drop 2,000 feet sheer to the water, side-canyon waterfalls, Ancestral Puebloan rock art, and whispering caves. We will spend 46 miles of this 71-mile trip on the Yampa and then merge with the Green River at Echo Park for the balance through Whirlpool Canyon and Split Mountain Gorge. If you feel the need for something rare, someThe Rogue was one of the original Wild & Scenic Rivers in 1968 because of its beauty, vast repertoire of wildlife (otter, black bear, deer, osprey, eagle, steelhead, and salmon) and diverse lush

> flora unmatched anywhere in the Pacific Northwest. From the Cascades to the ocean you'll travel 40 miles of river with over 80 rapids. Legislation is before Congress now to designate more wilderness along the Rogue and increase miles under Wild & Scenic status.

Participants can choose to hike along the river or be on the rafts. or a combination thereof. Lodges are basic but comfortable, set in

remote wilderness along the river. Sign up through ROW Adventures www. rowadventures.com 800-451-6034.

Includes 4 nights camping, breakfast/ dinner each day, hikes, speakers, service project and more! For non-campers lodging is available in Lowell at your own expense.

Our Palouse Broadband in Moscow, ID created this opportunity on the Clearwater National Forest in partnership with the Friends of the Clearwater to learn about and work for wilderness designation of places such as the 260,000-acre Weitas Creek Roadless Area. This lowelevation, broad river valley provides habitat for species like grey wolves, wolverines, black bear, cougar, elk, deer, and west-slope cutthroat trout along with an abundance of solitude and challenge for humans.

The Selway-Bitteroot Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Lochsa and Selway Rivers provide the backdrop for our long weekend where we'll learn about the wild beauty of the landscape and the threats and challenges it faces.

Register by sending payment to Broads office or visit our Broadwalk page at greatoldbroads.org/events/broadwalks to link to our on-line shopping cart.

* member rate applies to current members of Broads or Friends of the Clearwater

624-6323.

thing wild and free... the Yampa is waiting.

To sign up for this amazing, Broad adven-

ture, contact Holiday Expeditions - 800-

Hike or raft the Rogue River with Broads and ROW Adven.

Broadwalk

Protect Greater Canyonlands Broadwalk Location: Indian Creek near Monticello, UT Dates: September 27 – October 1, 2012 Cost: members \$125/non-members \$150

Includes 4 nights camping, breakfast/dinner each day, hikes, speakers, service project and more!

The Greater Canyonlands area is a landscape of plateaus, stunning geologic formations, 10,000 year old archeological sites, and unmatched natural beauty — including iconic Utah landmarks such as Labyrinth Canyon, Indian Creek, White Canyon, Fiddler Butte, Robbers Roost, Lockhart Basin and the Dirty Devil River. Park. President Obama has the power to protect the 1.4 million acres of public BLM land surrounding Canyonlands National Park with the stroke of a pen – if we can convince him to do so. But so far, the Obama administration has continued to defend President Bush's plans that leave this area open to rampant off-road vehicle abuse, proposed uranium and tar sand mining, and oil and gas development.

Join us for a long weekend of adventure, learning, and fun as we learn about the threats to this region and the strategies for gaining real protection. The Greater Canyonlands Coalition includes Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Parks Conservation AssociaRegister by sending payment to Broads office or visit our Broadwalk page at greatoldbroads.org/events/broadwalks to link to our on-line shopping cart.

Annual On-Line Auction

Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction Dates: October 29-November 11, 2012 Location: auction.greatoldbroads.org

Just in time for your holiday shopping or a bit of self-indulgence, Great Old Broads for Wilderness is hosting our 8th annual *Wild for Wilderness* On-line Auction. Funds raised are used to support Great Old Broads' wilderness advocacy work.

The area encompasses 1.4 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land surrounding Canyonlands National tion, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Coloradans for Utah Wilderness It's not too early to donate an item! Go to greatoldbroads.org/ join-or-donate/ auction/auction-donation.

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!

"I couldn't resist Of G

Study A Broad: Anne H. Ehrlich - From the Inside, Out

Growing up, Anne Ehrlich wasn't really an outdoor kind of kid. But that little detail didn't stop the adult Anne from becoming a powerful voice for the environment. As a scientist, researcher, and writer, she influenced national policy as one of seven outside consultants to the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Global 2000 Report (1980); carried out research and coauthored many technical

articles in population biology; writes extensively on issues of public concern such as human population growth, environmental protection, and environmental consequences of nuclear war; and is co-author of a dozen books. When asked if the current administration has access to her books, she said, "certainly, since President Obama's science advisor was a co-author of several of them."

From 1981 to 2000, she taught a course in environmental policy for Stanford's Human Biology Program, and since

2000 has co-taught a freshman seminar with husband, Paul Ehrlich. She is currently working on a book, with Paul and a Mexican colleague,

When asked if the current administration has access to her books, she said, "certainly, since President Obama's science advisor was a co-author of several of them."

Anne Ehrlich photo by Anne

Hamersky.

that is scheduled to be published a year from now, about the accelerating rates of extinction of mammals and

birds worldwide, and the implications for civilization's future.

A reviewer for the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB), a program founded by Paul at Stanford in 1984, says of the Ehrlichs' 2004 offering, One with Nineveh: Politics, *Consumption and the* Human Future: "With unflinching clarity and directness, it exposes the three elephants in our proverbial living room--overpopulation,

overconsumption, and political and economic inequity--that together are increasingly determining today's politics and shaping humankind's future. The Ehrlichs warn that the hubris of our own civilization could be leading us to an end similar to Nineveh's. Thankfully, the Ehrlichs also point toward a

way out of this mess we've gotten ourselves into. Perhaps One with

> Nineveh would be an appropriate summer read or re-read in this election year.

Born and raised in Des Moines. Iowa, Anne met and married Paul while attending the University of

Kansas. Her career in the biological sciences at Stanford University started in 1962 as a research assistant. She

rose through the ranks of academia to become a Senior Research Associate in 1975. Having been involved with the CCB since its inception, Anne stepped into the Associate Director/Policy Coordinator position in 1987 and continues in that capacity.

After living in faculty housing on campus for many years, the couple recently moved off campus to a nearby retirement community. When asked

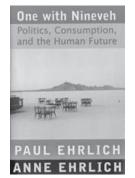
if she got

outdoors

much, Anne

responded,

"I married a





field biologist. What do you think?" She's also been known to do some field work, herself. These days, she and Paul still spend several weeks each summer at the Rocky Mountain

Biological Lab near Crested Butte, Colorado. "Working vacations," she quipped, adding, "the computers always come with us."

Along with summer student projects, the renowned lab hosts environmental biologists from around the world working on a wide array of projects. One focus of the lab is on the interactions between pollinators, such as birds, bees, and moths, and the plants they visit. And it is particularly well known for a decades-long research project on global warming. Along with studying the ecology of bird and butterfly populations, the

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the name." reat Old Broads for Wilderness)



Copper Creek Road above the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, 8 miles from Crested Butte, Colorado.

Anne and

Paul on

Ehrlichs enjoy interacting with scientists from other institutions during their summers in the Colorado Rockies.

Anne joined Broads in the fall of 1999 after Lois Snedden, past president and current member of Broads Board of Directors, showed her one of our newsletters. At the time, Lois and Anne were both on the Board for the Sierra Club. "I couldn't resist the name," Anne said.

Though we haven't been able to entice her onto one of our Broadwalks or other outdoor adventures, the fruit of Anne's indoor pursuits makes her near and dear to our Broad hearts.

- Anne Benson

BROAD SENSE: OCCUPY WILDERNESS?

Continued from page 2

development without regard to the health of air, water, and soil or wildlife. The buffalo and wolves disappeared, as did the Passenger Pigeon.

Today these same animals (except, of course, the extinct Passenger Pigeon) are still being crushed to benefit a few members of the powerful livestock industry, and this is just one example of how moneyed interests influence management on our public lands. Just imagine the wealthiest 1% buying up our national forests and grasslands, our historic monuments and trails, and managing them for profit. It's enough to make your hair turn gray. Oh, right, it probably already has!

So, while we may not be able to set up permanent housekeeping in our favorite wilderness areas, we still need to elect representatives who serve the people and the great nation we live in, and not corporate masters who require regulatory favors and privatization of resources in return for their largesse. Our wild places can't be bought!

LOVE OF CYPRESS

Continued from page 3

There are no simple or generic solutions to complex problems such as reconciling nature preservation with human enterprise. Intricate, historicallyevolved social, political, and agricultural issues challenge a one-size-fits-all mindset. Sharing land can have unintended consequences but one must keep in mind that degradation of natural habitats is not always a result. Ecologists are in conflict over the strategies of land sharing versus land sparing. Setting our sights on species richness alone can be simplistic, although in the case of Big Cypress, populations of the now hybrid Florida panther (mixed with some much needed Texas cougar DNA) and the once endangered wood stork have rebounded over recent years. Gators, orchids, and a breathtaking diversity of flora and fauna abound.

A range of management practices is often needed to fully consider, understand, and evaluate best outcomes. In Florida, we struggle against centuries of abuse from outsider politicians focused on profits from extraction industries and wetlands development and even Mouseketeers. Now after many years of mismanagement and sometimes violent struggle, sustaining what Big Cypress is to us who know and care deeply about this unique Florida swamp is, we feel, now in good hands under the watch of Preserve Superintendent Pedro Ramos and his staff. Misguided, distracting lawsuits serve only to fill the tills of attorneys and take valuable time and resources away from continuing efforts to protect the Preserve.

California's lone(ly) wolf

The California Dept. of Fish & Game, and many wolf fans, are tracking the state's only known wild wolf, a 2.5-year-old male named Journey (officially known as OR-7). On December 8, 2011, a gray wolf entered California from Oregon and has traveled southeast through Siskiyou, Shasta, and Lassen counties. In doing so, he passed through public lands managed by the Forest Service (Modoc National Forest, Lassen National Forest and Shasta-Trinity National Forest), the National Park Service (Lava Beds National Monument), and the Bureau of Land Management

(Alturas Field Office and Eagle Lake Field Office).

As of February 9, 2012, he had padded across numerous wild places, including inventoried roadless areas, proposed wilderness areas, national monument designated wilderness, and wilderness study areas. Is there a

pattern here? Journey's passing across these roadless lands is a reminder of the importance of our collective work to defend the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, identify and defend previously unmapped BLM and FS roadless areas, and pass wilderness bills. We all look forward to the day when these places will be protected as designated wilderness and when wild wolves in California will no longer be noteworthy.

For more information including a map of Journey's travels, visit www.dfg. ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/wolf.

Western voters value public lands and protecting them

The results from the 2012 Colorado College State of the Rockies Conservation in the West poll find that western voters across the political spectrum – from Tea Party supporters to those who identify with the Occupy movement and all those in between – believe the U.S. does not have to choose between environment and economy. They view parks and public lands as essential to their state's economy, and support upholding and strengthening protections for clean air, clean water, natural areas, and wildlife.

The survey, completed in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico,

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Survey results are a sharp contrast to the energy and environmental debates currently happening in Washington, and in many state capitals. "Western voters consistently believe that conservation helps create and protect jobs for their states," said Dave Metz. "In fact, by a 17-point margin, voters are more likely to say that environmental regulations have a positive impact on jobs in their state rather than a negative one."

Seven in 10 Western voters support implementation of the Clean Air Act, and updating clean air standards. They see regulations designed to protect land, air, water and wildlife as

having positive impact on public safety (70 percent), the natural beauty of their state (79 percent) and their quality of life (72 percent).

> "What we read in the press and what politicians say about an eversharpening tradeoff between environment and jobs in a deep recession do not square with views of many western voters,"

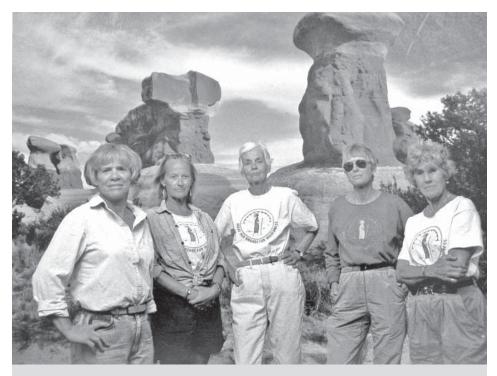
said Colorado

College economist and State of the Rockies Project faculty director Walt Hecox, PhD. "Instead, those stubborn westerners continue to defy stereotypes, by arguing that a livable environment and well-managed public lands can be -- in fact must be -compatible with a strong economy."

The survey results echo the sentiments of more than 100 economists, including three Nobel Laureates and Dr. Hecox, who recently sent a letter to President Obama urging him to create and invest in new federal protected lands such as national parks, wilderness, and monuments. Studies have shown that together with investment in education and access to

Utah, and Wyoming by Lori Weigel of Public Opinion Strategies (a Republican firm) and Dave Metz of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (a Democratic firm), found that four in five western voters view having a strong economy and protecting land and water as compatible.

Two-thirds of Western voters say America's energy policy should prioritize expanding use of clean renewable energy and reducing our need for more coal, oil, and gas. Even in states like Wyoming and Montana, which are more often associated with fossil fuels, voters view renewable energy as a local job creator.



A bunch of western voters in 1999 - Ginger Harmon, Susan Tixier, Edie Pierpont, Frandee Johnson, and Dottie Fox - These original Great Old Broads knew the importance of educating politicians.

markets, protected public lands are significant contributors to economic growth.

Similarly, western voters voiced support for continued funding of conservation, indicating that even with tight state budgets, they want to maintain investments in parks, water, and wildlife protection. When specific local issues were tested with voters in some states – such as increasing the state's renewable energy standard in Montana, establishing national monument protections for the Arkansas River canyon in Colorado, and updating energy standards for new homes in Utah – voters want to actually strengthen protections.

While there are geographic and partisan distinctions on a number of key issues, such as energy development on public lands, the data show that the broad conservation values uniting westerners are much more prevalent than the occasional issues that divide them.

Obviously, we need to make our wishes better known to the decision makers. Use this survey data to support your desire for conservation. www2.coloradocollege. edu/stateoftherockies/ conservationinthewestsurvey_e.html has all the results broken down by state, topic, and voters.

Keystone XL –

Let's not underestimate the power of the people – that would be you and me. Bill McKibben, 350.org, and several thousand demonstrators at the White House got President Obama's attention leading to the Adminstration's decision to deny the Keystone XL pipeline permit in January. The pipeline is proposed to connect Canada's dirty tar sands crude oil with Texas refineries all in the name of Big Oil profits and purported jobs. Big Oil is fighting back hard trying to get Congress to circumvent due process and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Success in stopping this fiasco will be due to the voices of individuals like you communicating with members of Congress making sure they hear what we want: clean air, clean water, and movement towards clean energy rather than continued bowing to Big Oil and the real impacts of water and air polluting, habitat destroying, health threatening, climate changing tar sands oil production. Never think that your voice, your concern won't matter. As Ghandi said, "Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it."

Western states coordinate regional wildlife habitat data

In June 2010, governors from 17 Western states committed to having their states complete regionally compatible assessments of crucial wildlife habitat. Recognizing that wildlife habitat as well as energy, transportation, and land development projects cut across state lines, the Western Governors' Association developed the Western Wildlife Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) in an attempt to bring greater certainty and predictability to planning efforts.

The idea is to weave information from individual states into a regional wildlife habitat assessment to be available to the public in 2013.

Arizona, Montana, and Washington have developed their state-specific data, and a regional-level data set is now available that covers several states in the southern Great Plains.

In mid January, the Bureau of Land Management announced that it will use the state and regional data and maps developed through the CHAT process to help it identify wildlife corridors and crucial habitat in future land-use planning and management efforts.

For more information, visit the Western Governors' Association site at www.westgov.org/initiatives/wildlife.

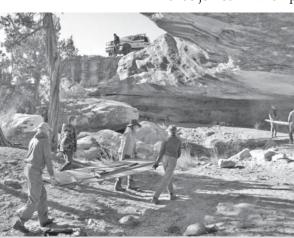
Wilderness Bills in 112th Congress on page 13

Broadbands post nearly 10,000 hours

Elsa, our Broadband Coordinator, is proud to report that Broadbands posted 9,545 hours of volunteer service in 2011. These hours, whether spent organizing an event, writing a letter to the editor, perched on the steps of a state capitol, clearing trails in our national forests, or even developing the report to send to Broads Headquarters, were hours spent in pursuit of healthy public lands. Go Broads!

Four Corners Broadband (AZ, CO, NM, UT)

The Broadband recently joined with others to clean up trash left behind by public land users in a thousand-yearold prehistoric cliff dwelling in Utah. BLM volunteer Lynell Schalk coordinated the effort. Two years ago she first discovered the trash and offered to help cleanup Dance Hall Ruin, an



Four Corners Broadband members cleaned up the Dance Hall Ruin site near Blanding, UT.

archaeological site west of Blanding but got no response from the BLM.

More recently she revisited Dance Hall Ruin and was appalled at the amount of new damage and dumped trash. The prehistoric room blocks had been used as a paint ball war site, with bright

colored splotches of paint dotting the ancient ruin walls. Logs had been dragged into the site to use as seating around several recently constructed fire rings that included rocks from the ruin's walls. Baby's diapers, broken beer bottles, three large house wall panels...the site was trashed.

Schalk approached the BLM again, and this time, was encouraged to organize our



Members of the Boise Broadband, Anne Olden, Carol Weins, Ann McClanahan, Sandy Carter, and Kathleen Fahey, brought their protest of megaload shipments on Highway 12 to the state Capitol last March.

volunteer crew of 16 people from the Four Corners area, including Bluff, Cortez, Durango, and Telluride. Supervised by a BLM archaeologist and two BLM law enforcement rangers, the volunteers finished the clean-up in 5 hours, hauling out bag after bag of trash filling the beds of two pickup trucks, closing an illegally created spur road, and posting BLM signs.

Four young adults were among the volunteers, including two exchange students from Thailand and Ecuador.

In October, Broadband co-leader, Holly Rankin, and two friends joined BLM employees to re-vegetate a newly

> installed vault toilet and decommission an old road in the Indian Creek area near Canyonlands National Park. The group toiled faithfully under the hot autumn sun, moving rocks for barriers, installing scrub for screening on the road, and transplanting some native vegetation to bare areas. They learned a few things on the way, made some new friends and saw some incredible country. A nice plus was that the ATV use was minimal during the weekend, rather than the expected rip-

roaring, ear-splitting weekend of camping.

Boise and Palouse Broadbands (ID)

Five members of the Boise Broadband protested tar sands megaloads on the steps of the state Capitol last March. Anne Olden, Carol Weins, Ann McClanahan, Sandy Carter, and

> Kathleen Fahey wrote personal letters to the governor and delivered them personally. While at the Capitol, they took it further by 'marching' with their signs of protest on the steps. The megaloads were slated for transport up Highway 12, an historical route of the Lewis & Clark Trail.

> The Palouse Broadband has been involved with this issue from the get-go. And they had some great news to report in November when permits to ship these huge loads up state highways was denied. (More in Broads Beat on page 4 of this issue.)

The megaload opponents were applauded in the Lewiston-Tribune newspaper for boosting the local economy. Palouse Broadband leader Cindy Magnuson wrote, "In his much-enjoyed annual 'Cheers and Jeers' column, Lewiston Tribune editorialist Marty Trilhasse credits megaload opponents -- yes YOU -- with causing Exxon to cut up its Port-parked modules at a cost of \$500,000 each and, thereby, bringing moolah to Lewiston-Clarkston."

Trilhasse wrote, "Specialized crews brought into the valley to perform this work spent a lot of cash on housing, hotel rooms and RV parks. They rented equipment. They hired local earth-moving workers. They ate at restaurants. And when these people weren't working, they were spending money on everything from fishing tackle to propane. What would you call that?" he wrote. "Green jobs?"

Broader Wilderness

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Wilderness bills in 112th Congress

In spite of polarization and anti-environment sentiments, some forward momentum has occurred in Congress with wilderness legislation. Here are some of the most promising to date. *These bills have passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and await Senate action. Those marked with ^ have also had testimony in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

• S.140*/ H.R. 977^ Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act, introduced by Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow (both D-MI) and Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI) to protect more than 32,500 acres in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on Lake Michigan

Broadband Leader Boot Camp

Each spring, Broads invites leader-types from around the country to train as Broadband Leaders. Participants are trained in grassroots organization, communication, lobbying skills, wilderness history, documentation of on-the-ground abuses, and Broads positions on issues such as grazing, off-road vehicles, and oil, gas, and mineral development. The training runs for three full days and four evenings over a working weekend. To apply to next year's Boot Camp, fill out our on-line form at greatoldbroads.org/get-involved/broadbands/ boot-camp-ap/. For more information, contact rose@ greatoldbroads.org.



The Four Corners Broadband entered a float in Durango's annual Snowdown parade. The theme this year was "Fairy Tales," which gave them the opportunity to don their granny, red riding hood, and wolf costumes for a howling good time. The float featured a rescue wolf who was a sweet addition to the efforts to debunk the myth of the big bad wolf.

• S.322*/H.R.608^ Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act, introduced by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA) to add 22,100 acres to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and designate parts of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers as Wild and Scenic

• S.667*/H.R.1241^ Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act, introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman and Rep. Ben Lujan (both D-NM) to protect as a conservation area some 235,000 acres northwest of Taos, including more than 21,000 acres of designated wilderness

• S.766*/H.R.1413^ **Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act of 2011**, introduced by Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Rep. Peter DeFazio (all D-OR) to safeguard nearly 30,000 acres on Wassen Creek in Oregon's Coast Range

• S.1090* **Tennessee Wilderness Act**, introduced by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker (both R-TN) to protect nearly 20,000 acres of wilderness in the Cherokee NF

• S.1574/H.R. 41[^] Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act of 2011, introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to protect 21,000 acres in north San Diego County

• H.R. 113[^] Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests Protection Act, sponsored by Rep. David Dreier (R-CA), to designate approximately 18,000 acres of the two forests near Los Angeles

• H.R. 490[^] Manzano Wilderness Addition, sponsored by Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), to expand by nearly 900 acres the existing Manzano Mountain Wilderness in the south end of the Cibola NF near Albuquerque

Your voice of support is needed for these proposals to become reality. Status of legislation involving wilderness (83 in this Congress) can be found at www.govtrack.us/ congress/legislation.xpd.

SWAMPWALKING BIG CYPRESS

Continued from page 3

Next was a tram tour of Shark Valley in the adjacent Everglades National Park; so close yet so totally different. Large vistas of open grass dotted with hammocks of trees and vegetation. Alligators basked on the roadside. From the observation tower, we saw its immensity...endless views of the river of grass with water, water, everywhere.

That evening Captain Franklin Adams, a local Collier County resident, shared stories of the struggle to gain protection for these south Florida wild lands. Mixed messages emerged of passion, love of place, support for park service management, and disagreement on proposed management and wilderness designations. This is a place where the issues and solutions are complicated.

Saturday morning found us at Big Cypress Swamp Visitor Center where we were lined out for our volunteer service project of cutting out non-native invasive plants. This was hard, hot, sweaty work made more challenging by mosquitoes and the idea that snakes or alligators might be lurking in the dense undergrowth. Our band of Broads attacked the vegetation with gusto and in a few short hours we had thinned our designated areas and created massive piles of vegetation to be hauled away. It was a satisfying endeavor.

After our work project we scattered - for naps and relaxation. Some joined the Preserve biologist to search for Manatees in a nearby harbor. Success! We found eight of the large, slow moving "sea-cows" and were treated to close observation as they fed and surfaced to breathe.

That evening John Adornato of the National Parks and Conservation Association shared his group's view of south Florida "park" management issues and the reasons behind their recent and unusual lawsuit against the National Park Service. Native Floridian and Florida Broadband Leader JoAnn Valenti took issue with some of his observations and conclusions while vertebrate geneticist Thomas Pringle was in complete accord noting that Florida panthers need deer to eat and undisturbed habitat if populations are ever going to recover. (see JoAnn's discussion on page 3.)

Next day found us canoeing the Turner River upstream against a gentle current. Alligator sightings were more frequent. Downstream, oceanward, we entered close tunnels of mangroves draped in bromeliads and orchids. Surreal...

Our afternoon focus shifted to human history of the region with visits to the historic Smallwood Store in Chokoloksee and the Everglades City Museum where Timothy England treated us to glimpses of the early days of south Florida. We capped the weekend with dinner at Camillia's restaurant and luxuriated in the waterside setting with live music that had some of us up and dancing.

In Big Cypress, management decisions have been made and lawsuits filed. Emotions are running high. Broads found amazing diversity and beauty deserving real protection along with surprisingly familiar conservation issues that beg for citizens to become educated and engaged.

Visit the Preserve web site at www.nps. gov/bicy/

Law suits test nexus between conservation and historical use

Our Florida Swampwalk explored the many conflicting positions involving local residents, who fought for the original Big Cypress Preserve to be established while protecting local custom and culture (backcountry access to inholdings and hunting), the region's various conservation organizations, and the National Park Service (NPS).

The heart of the matter is the number of acres the NPS found eligible as wilderness (109,000 acres) and the very different number (71,000) in the Final General Management Plan for the 147,000-acre "Addition Lands" and the process NPS used in spite of 10 years, hundreds of meetings and thousands of comments. Acquired through the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Act of 1988, these lands became publicly owned in 1996 but were closed to both off-road vehicle (ORV) use and ORV-assisted hunting pending a final plan. The plan recommended just 47,000 acres to Congress as future wilderness and allows for a 130-mile network of ORV trails that undisputedly would create conflicts with non-motorized users, fragment habitat, impact water quality and flows, and facilitate the spread of non-native and invasive species. This is an important area for habitat and biodiversity, with nearly 100 endangered/threatened plant species and 29 animals having federal protected status.

Two lawsuits have been filed challenging the NPS decision and process regarding wilderness and motorized recreation. The first was filed in October 2011 by the National Parks and Conservation Association (the nation's leading park advocacy organization), for failure to protect unique wilderness lands and Florida panther habitat in Big Cypress NP by exposing the Addition Lands to ORV use. The second suit was filed November 2011 by the South Florida Wildlands Association, Sierra Club, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Florida Biodiversity Project, and Wilderness Watch. They are challenging the NPS decision to open the Addition Lands to motorized recreation as violations of the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, Park Service Organic Act and the National Environmental Protection Act.

2011 Wild for Wilderness Donors!

Heartfelt thanks to our many 2011 Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction donors, our seventh annual auction was a great success, netting nearly \$65,000 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 2012 auction. Simply e-mail Sue at auction@greatoldbroads. org or visit our on-line donation page at http://greatoldbroads.org/join-or-donate/auction/auctiondonation. We are looking for corporate sponsorships as well as donations of adventure trips, outdoor gear, vacation stays, restaurant meals, and more.

Here are our amazing, wonderful, generous 2011 auction donors! Please support them and let them know you appreciate their support of Broads.

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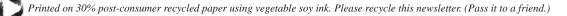
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Maggie Oswald, NJ, found swampwalking to be soooo much fun.

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