



BLM DIRECTIVE OFFERS HOPE FOR WILD LAND PROTECTION

BY RONNI EGAN

On December 23, 2010, wilderness activists around the country received a Christmas gift from Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. Salazar issued a new Wild Lands directive for the Bureau of Land Management to identify public lands with "wilderness characteristics" that have not already been designated by Congress as wilderness or as wilderness study areas.

Though a clear reversal of Bush-era policies, the order is not an instant win for wilderness. The BLM will have a good deal of latitude in designating areas to be protected, and may remove the protective status for a variety of reasons. The devil, as they say, is in the details, and wilderness advocates still need to pay close attention to how the order is administered.

In January, Great Old Broads staffers Rose Chilcoat, Gary Skiba, and Ronni Egan attended a public meeting in Salt Lake City at the Utah State Capitol regarding the new directive. BLM National Director Bob Abbey, State BLM



(L-R) Miners Mountain, Capitol Reef, and the Henry Mountains, taken from the Boulder Mountain Proposed Wilderness, Dixie National Forest, Utah. © Tim Peterson

Director Juan Palma, and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert were among the featured presenters.

Oddly enough, when the doors to the meeting room opened, it was already filled with more than 150 people sporting "Stop the Land Grab" stickers. Broads staffers and virtually all wilderness supporters were relegated to spillover rooms elsewhere on the Capitol grounds. There is a powerful anti-wilderness lobby in the state of Utah, reaching into the highest offices, and it made itself heard that day. However, in the overflow rooms there were at least as many wilderness advocates. It's just that Bob Abbey didn't get to see us with our

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness has generally been content to add our voice to the wilderness efforts of our many partners around the country, but in the past five years, we've claimed one "campaign" as our own, the Recapture Utah! Campaign. The root of this

campaign is the ATV trail illegally constructed in Recapture Canyon on Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

property east of Blanding, Utah, but it encompasses all of San Juan County and its glorious red rock canyons and sky-island mountain ranges. The case has recently come a step closer to resolution but not without some good old western excitement in the process.

Illegally Constructed Trail Discovered

In case you haven't been following this story since its beginning, please allow me to recap (no pun intended) it for you. In 2006, Broads was alerted, by a friend and local resident, to the presence of a newly constructed ATV trail into and along the bottom of Recapture Canyon, an area rich in archaeological sites and biodiversity. Sometime in 2005, someone had constructed a trail for ATVs – excavating extensively, cutting hundreds of trees, and installing culverts, cribbing, and even a bridge. Such construction is strictly illegal without express permission from the Bureau of Land Management, conducting environmental assessments, and obtaining public comment.



IN A BROAD SENSE

Recapture Utah! Posts Win

The BLM was aware of the trail but was clearly reluctant to pursue an investigation into the identity of the builders. Enter Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Using our Healthy Lands Project monitoring, we recorded the impacts of the trail on the landscape and the archaeological sites over which it was constructed and to which it gave sudden, unrestricted motorized access.

Criminal Investigation Infuriates Locals

The BLM finally opened a criminal investigation

into the construction of the trail but for several years, the case languished. Fast forward... In 2007, the discovery of fresh pot-hunting activity finally moved the BLM to close the canyon to motorized travel, which infuriated a segment of the local population. San Juan County government officials assured the local populace that it would soon get the trail reopened, but it remains closed to this day for a number of reasons. While we can take some credit, other factors include a change in management in the Monticello BLM Field Office; the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office entered the fray; and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance helped us keep up persistent pressure. Meanwhile, the criminal investigation into the construction dragged on with the Special Agent-In-Charge informing us that he had two signed confessions.

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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 (and not so able) 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.

BROADS HEALTHY LANDS PROJECT IS MORPHING

BY GARY SKIBA,
FORMER BHLP DIRECTOR

Broads is changing the direction of Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLP). A main focus of BHLP has been to develop and maintain a centralized database of photographic, textual, and geographic data of conditions on public lands that was accessible through the internet.

We found that the database is not particularly helpful to the land managing agencies or to our conservation partners. So the database and online interface will be archived, but still available to partners who have data in it, and we'll be simplifying the data collection and distribution process.

Be assured that we will continue to collect photographic evidence of the impacts of off-road-vehicles on our public lands. It is merely that we will no longer add new information to the database.

We are in the process of simplifying the field data collection methods to make it easier for citizen activists to collect useful information. Our intent is to use BHLP to direct activists to the best methods for using photographs to influence public land management processes, including how to geotag



Lynne Wagner, Karen Cox, and Barbara Sovee discuss route monitoring in Escalante, UT, October 2009.

(add geographic location information) photos.

We'll also be providing background information on how to get involved in National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) processes and specifically the Travel Management Planning process that the U.S. Forest Service is using.

Changes in Data Gathering Methods

Many of our members have been trained to use BHLP field techniques to collect information on the condition of motorized routes. If you've taken the training, you might recall: estimating levels of use; "synchronizing" the GPS and the digital camera; codes starting with R and S and O and U; WGS 84; and a lot of other technical sounding stuff.

Well, Broads has come to the conclusion that the complexity of the methodology was getting in the way of getting things done on the ground. While the old methods are useful to document conditions

and develop very specific recommendations for land management actions, they just weren't being used very much - except by paid field technicians and a very few volunteers who were able to spend many hours in the field.

We know the importance of photographing route conditions and tying those photos to specific geographic locations, but much of the information that we were collecting wasn't being used. So we've regrouped, tweaked the system, and are going forward down a simpler road.

The approach we're now taking with BHLP is that of the storyteller. The stories will be illustrated with, and referenced through, their own particular geotagged photos. These are photos that have the geographic location embedded in a small data file that is electronically associated with the photo. Geotagged photos can be easily imported into on-line maps on Google Earth and can be used in the Geographic Information Systems that most agencies use.

Simplified Protocols

Most of the simplification will come in the field data collection protocols. It's still important to take notes on the photos as they're taken, but we're no longer using the coding scheme. All that will be needed is the photo identification number (from the camera) and a text description of what's going on in the photo. We're in the process of developing new field forms, and they'll be much simpler.

Once you have photos and a tracklog (gpx) file from the GPS, what do you do with them? If the camera and GPS were synchronized, simple software (such as Robo-Geo or GPS PhotoLink)

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Morley replaces Skiba as BHLP Director



Gary Skiba retired (again), stepping down from his position as Director of the Broads Healthy Lands Project in mid February. Logan Morley, the BHLP Technical Coordinator for the last five years has assumed the director responsibilities.

Wolf Delist Threatens Endangered Species Act

Anti-wolf rhetoric is at an all-time high and political pressure is mounting to weaken the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Bills by Montana Rep. Denny Rehberg(R) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) Utah, are being introduced to strip Gray Wolves from Endangered Species protection in 48 states, even where there currently are no wolves. It would also threaten the Mexican Gray Wolf Recov-

Rodger Schlickeisen, the president of Defenders of Wildlife, said the bills would set “a terrible precedent that will open the floodgates to legislation to strip protections for any other species that a politician finds inconvenient to protect. Grizzly bears, salmon, whales, polar bears and Florida panthers are just a few that could be at serious risk,” he said.

Help stop these threats. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at: (202) 224- 3121.

expenses of the federal grazing program, which costs taxpayers at least \$120 million dollars annually according to a Government Accountability Office report. Conservationists contend that Americans lose even more in compromised wildlife habitat, water quality, scenic views, and native vegetation.

Greta Anderson, Arizona Director for Western Watersheds Project and Great Old Broad said, “Year after year, we watch as the government gives a

Broads Beat

Updates on issues that have seen Broad action

ery along the Arizona/New Mexico border. The Mexican Gray Wolf is the most endangered mammal in North America.

The ESA does allow for species to be delisted, but this is done under the recommendation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife using the best available science. Never before has a species been removed, or made exempt, from the ESA by legislative means. If passed, these bills will set a terrible precedent that politics overrules science when making sound wildlife management decisions. The ground work will be laid that could threaten all of America's wildlife.

Senator Hatch is calling his legislation the “American Big Game and Livestock Protection Act.” It has seven Republican co-sponsors: Mike Crapo and Jim Risch of Idaho, John McCain and Jon Kyl of Arizona, John Barrasso and Michael Enzi of Wyoming, and Mike Lee of Utah. In the House, Rep. Rehberg's bill is called the State Sovereignty Wildlife Management Act.



Mexican wolf photo courtesy of Lobos of the Southwest - www.mexicanwolves.org.

Ask to be connected to the offices of your two senators and your representatives and let them know you oppose weakening ESA protections. More info is at Mexicanwolves.org.

Obama Administration Refuses to Reform Public Lands Grazing Fee

After a five year delay, we finally received an answer from the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture concerning the artificially low fee federal agencies charge for livestock grazing on public lands. Claiming higher priorities, both departments declined to address the outdated grazing

fee formula. The government's response was prompted by a lawsuit filed by Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and Oregon Natural Desert Association.

The 2005 petition asked the government to address the grazing fee formula and adjust the fee in order to cover the

sweetheart deal to public lands ranchers at the expense of taxpayers and the environment. We had hoped the Obama Administration would have done better, but it's business-as-usual for the western livestock industry.”

“Given the massive budget shortfalls our country faces, we can no longer afford to subsidize a small group of ranchers to graze public lands at public expense,” said Mark Salvo, Director of the Sagebrush Sea Campaign for WildEarth Guardians. Grazing fees have not kept pace with inflation or with comparable grazing leases on state and private land. The just announced 2011 grazing fee was again just \$1.35 per cow per month, the fifth year in a row that the fee was set at its lowest legal limit.

Litigation may be our next step. More info is at www.sagebrushsea.org.

Law Suit on Pike-San Isabel National Forest, CO

A law suit was filed January 31 in U.S. District Court in Denver by five conservation groups, including Great Old Broads for Wilderness, to have 500 miles of routes stricken from the Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Map until they undergo an environmental review. The other

plaintiffs are The Wilderness Society, the Center for Native Ecosystems, the Quiet Use Coalition and Wildlands CPR.

Earthjustice is representing us in this effort. The routes slice through some of the most treasured parts of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest which is one of the 10 most popular forests in the US: in wetlands, along gold-medal fishing streams and across important habitat for endangered Preble's meadow jumping mice and Mexican spotted owls. National Forests already are crisscrossed by thousands of miles of vehicle routes — for cars, Jeeps and all-terrain vehicles — but new routes are supposed to undergo a thorough review to determine their potential impact on endangered species and other recreational activities such as hiking and biking before they are approved. The 500 miles of disputed routes did not go through such a process but appeared anyway on the Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Map without public input. They are illegal roads and tracks — "rogue" trails formed by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles over the years.

Quiet Use Coalition President Alan Heald said, "Everyone knows that this forest's management and enforcement of [off-road vehicles] has been lackadaisical for decades. But now, instead of utilizing the new rules to rein it in, they are attempting to officially lock in the decades of illegal use without a public and environmental process."

The Forest Service should not have included these routes without undergoing an environmental review. "We really just want the Forest Service to look before it leaps," Mary Kay of Earthjustice said. "The problem with opening these routes before analyzing them is we really don't know what impact these routes are going to have."

Megaloads Threaten Wild and Scenic River Corridor

The Palouse Broadband, based in Moscow Idaho, has been in the thick of local protests about Idaho's approval of the shipment of monster oil processing equipment from the Port of Lewiston on the Columbia River across Idaho on scenic, mountainous U.S. Highway 12, which runs along the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River and Middle Fork of the Clearwater River for part of its length and into western Montana on narrow two lane roads. The machinery's destination is the tar sands fields of Alberta, Canada, which is a whole different horror story. The loads are wider than the road's 2 lanes, as tall as a three-story building and 2/3rds the length of a football field, each with a combined weight exceeding 500,000 pounds. Hwy 12 is also part of the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway (one of the Nation's 27 All American Roads), the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and provides access to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, all with values that are inconsistent with these huge loads.



The Palouse, ID Broadband joined others to protest megaloads on US 12.

Local residents and businesses fear that the sinuous 2 lane road may fail under the weight of the shipments, toppling a piece of huge oilfield equipment into the river. At the very least the shipments will cause repeated, lengthy delays for local traffic, potentially wreaking havoc on the area's tourist economy. Activists went to court to attempt to stop the loads but did not prevail, and the first load rolled out of Lewiston on January 20. Broadband members have traveled to Boise and elsewhere for meetings with Gov. Butch Otter to express their concerns, but the die has been cast. Broads were also front-and-center in recent protests in Lewiston, ID against the loads.

The first load to travel Hwy 12 may have done the job for the opponents of the loads, at least temporarily, as it delayed traffic for as long as 59 minutes, violating the 15 minute maximum delays promised. A spokesman for the Idaho Transportation Department told the press there were 10 delays that broke the 15 minutes put forth in Idaho Transportation Department's (ITD) approved travel plan. The agency is requiring Conoco Phillips to rewrite the plan before the loads can roll again. Local residents have formed monitoring teams to accompany the loads and record any infractions or incidents, The monitoring effort continues on the megaloads, with many individuals and groups, such as Idaho Rivers United, taking pictures and timing the loads. The Palouse Broadband has signed up for the 10 pm to 3 am shift, a tough slot to fill, no doubt!

Take action. More info at www.fighting-goliath.org.



Off-roading in Pike-San Isabel National Forest, Colorado.

Boot Camp 2011

Broadband Leader Boot Camp 2011

Location: Moab, UT

Dates: March 17-21, 2011

Cost: N/A

This is the annual event in which Broadband Leaders 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.

ture. On day four, twenty-three big cataracts, including the grand-daddy of them all, The Big Drops, will take you laughing and cheering, 30 feet closer to sea level in less than a mile.

Sign up through
Holiday Expeditions
www.bikeraft.com 800-642-6323.



San Juan Mountains, Colorado.

Broadwalk

San Juan Mountains Broadwalk

Location: Ridgway, CO
Dates: July 28-August 1, 2011

Cost: members \$125 /
non-members \$150

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

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness 2011 Calendar of Events

The event is limited to 15 Leaders but is offered annually. If you miss out on this one, perhaps the 2012 Boot Camp will meet your needs.

Interested members may nominate themselves for Boot Camp 2011 (and 2012) by submitting an application at <http://greatoldbroads.org/get-involved/broadbands/boot-camp-ap>.

River Trip

FUNdraiser – 5 day Cataract Canyon River Trip with Holiday Expeditions

Location: Moab, UT

Dates: July 11-15, 2011

Cost: \$1,145 (\$350 is deductible as a charitable contribution)

Join us to raft down the legendary Cataract Canyon gorge in the heart of Canyonlands National Park. Explore canyon grottos, waterfalls and ancient ruins that are otherwise inaccessible. On this trip we see the most vivid contrast between utter tranquility and all-out high adven-

River Trip

FUNdraiser – 3 day Broads & Their Brood/No Child Left Inside San Juan River Trip with Wild Rivers Expeditions

Location: Bluff, UT

Dates: July 19-21, 2011

Cost: \$696 per adult or a “pairfare” of \$1,250 for an adult and youth. (\$300 per adult, or \$460 per pairfare is deductible as a charitable contribution)

Bring your daughter, granddaughter, niece, or neighbor’s kid; leave the computers, ipods, cell phones, and all those other electronic gadgets behind and take them on a wild adventure they’ll never forget. This leisurely 26-mile journey from Bluff to Mexican Hat with two nights camping is the ultimate kid’s trip with the perfect sampling of archaeology, geology, and natural history that the San Juan River has to offer. Visit ancient rock art sites and cliff dwellings as we travel through a quarter of a billion years worth of stunning rock formations. Explore these wonders while enjoying fine meals, camping on the beach, swimming, sunsets, and star gazing. This three-day trip is an easy canyon country getaway and introduction to the landscapes that are the focus of Broads’ Recapture Utah! Campaign. (Don’t want a trip with kids? Check out our September trip.) Sign up through Wild Rivers Expeditions. <http://www.riversandruins.com> or 800-422-7654.

Located in Broads Headquarters ‘backyard’, the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act of 2009, crafted from the bottom up and with lots of local community support, seemed like the sort of wilderness bill that should have sailed through Congress. Unfortunately, it was among many left high and dry at the end of last year. With a different political climate and loss of its House sponsor, this effort now needs Broads attention and voices to help it get back on track. The Wilderness Support Center, Sheep Mountain Alliance, and others will share their experiences crafting this proposal. The majestic and wild San Juan Mountains in mid-summer are truly spectacular with wildflowers at their peak. Join us for a wild time in the Rockies.

Register for the San Juan Broadwalk by sending payment to Broads office or visit our events page at <http://greatoldbroads.org/events> to link to our on-line shopping cart.

Service Projects

Escalante Headwaters Service Projects

Location: Dixie National Forest, UT

Dates: June 26-July 2, 2011 - strenuous

Dates: July 26-August 1, 2011 - strenuous

Dates: August 2-8, 2011 - strenuous

Dates: Sept 1-7, 2011 - moderate

As a member of the Escalante River Watershed Partnership, Broads encourages our members to volunteer for projects that help with land restoration in the



Cataract with Holiday Expeditions.

more ⇌

headwaters of this iconic slickrock canyon riddled watershed. Help with travel plan implementation (route closures) on Boulder Mountain on the Dixie National Forest or with building grazing exclosures on private inholdings to protect beaver habitat and create reference areas for scientific observation. The Grand Canyon Trust is the lead for these important projects. Mary O'Brien is leading the fencing projects and Tim Peterson the route closures. All are car camping trips.

For full details on these and other service projects with the GCT and to sign up for a project, go to <http://www.gcvolunteers.org/trip-schedule.html>.

Please let GCT know you are a Great Old Broad for Wilderness and let Rose Chilcoat (rose@greatoldbroads.org) know if you register for one of these opportunities.

River Trip

FUNdraiser – 3 day San Juan River Trip with Wild Rivers Expeditions

Location: Bluff, UT

Dates: September 16-18, 2011

Cost: \$696 per adult (\$300 per person is deductible as a charitable contribution)

Join us on a memorable wild adventure. This leisurely 26-mile journey from Bluff to Mexican Hat with two nights camping is the perfect sampling of the archaeology, geology and natural history the San Juan River has to offer. Visit ancient rock art sites and cliff dwellings as we travel through a quarter of a billion years' worth of stunning rock formations. Three days exploring the upper canyon affords time to explore these wonders while enjoying delectable meals, camping on the beach, swim-

ming, sunsets and star gazing. This trip is an easy canyon country getaway and introduction to the landscapes that are the focus of Broads' Recapture Utah! Campaign. Sign up through Wild Rivers Expeditions <http://www.riversandrains.com> or 800-422-7654.

Broadwalk



Big Cypress Swamp, Florida, 2010.

Big Cypress Swampwalk

Location: Near Everglades City, FL

Dates: November

10-14, 2011

Cost: members \$225/non-members \$250

Our custom weekend includes 4 nights camping or

slumber party lodging at photographer Clyde Butcher's swamp retreat (<http://www.evergladesswampwalks.com>), breakfasts, dinners catered by Camillia's restaurant, a guided swampwalk, and more.

We're heading south to the unique, mysterious, and secretive environment

of the Big Cypress Swamp. Difficult to explore and understand, swamps are easily bypassed for more friendly terrain but their rich biodiversity and ecological importance needs to be experienced and understood. Join us for a truly one-of-a-kind weekend experience and let local naturalists unlock the mysteries of the swamps. Learn about the issues and challenges faced by the National Park Service as they manage Everglades National Park and the Big Cypress National Preserve. Fabulous birding, botanizing, and general mucking about with like minded Broads ensures this will be a

Broadwalk to remember.

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

On-Line Auction

Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction-

Dates: Oct 31-Nov21, 2011

Location: <http://auction.greatoldbroads.org>

It's not too early to donate an item or ask a friend for adonation! 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!

Study A Broad:

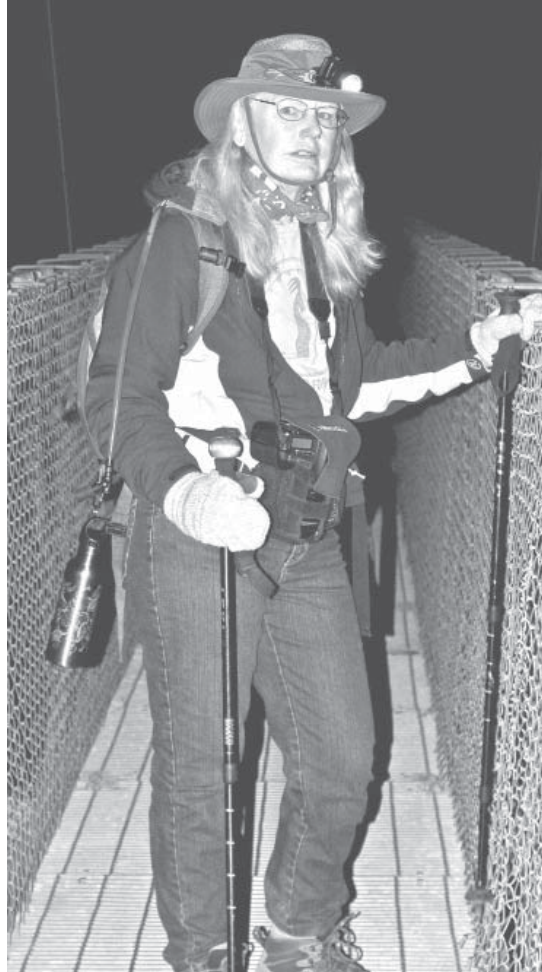
On Track with Billie Hughes

Born into an “outdoor-loving family,” Billie has remained true to her heritage.

“My parents were native Arizonans who met at a Civilian Conservation Camp in southern Arizona where my grandparents worked. Later, my grandfather worked for the Forest Service and we spent many hours hiking, camping, and picnicking in the National Forests. When she was a child, my mother literally lived some summers in a tent in the National Forest in Arizona. The only vacations we knew as children were camping trips in northern Arizona. We didn’t own a tent or a sleeping bag. Our beds were tables, car seats, and the wide and wondrous round. Unlike today where folks are afraid to let their children explore on their own, my sister, brother, and I were turned loose along mountain streams to fish and explore.”

Billie graduated from sleeping on picnic tables in national forest campgrounds to backpacking with her husband, Russ Winn. For many years they escaped into the wild with their packs on their backs – along the Continental Divide in Colorado, the Olympic Coast Trail in Washington State, and on numerous trails in Arizona, New Mexico, and southern Utah. Pitching a tent is always optional. When camping with their six rescue dogs, they take their travel trailer (roving den) and seek dispersed camping sites.

When they’re not on one of their outdoor adventures, Billie and Russ split their time between Las Cruces, New Mexico, where they have a passive solar, adobe home, and Nutrioso, Arizona, where their protection from the elements is currently a yurt. Nutrioso is a tiny



Billie on Silver Bridge on the Bright Angel Trail near Phantom Ranch in the Grand Canyon.

community in eastern Arizona. Nestled in the White Mountains, it is surrounded by the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, where Billie has been encouraging participation in the Travel Management and Forest Planning process.

Billie holds three degrees in education-related fields. From the University of Arizona, she earned a bachelor of arts in elementary education and a master’s of library science. In 1982, she earned a doctorate in educational technology from Arizona State University. Her educational career has run the gamut from teaching

and consulting to designing instructional curricula. In the mid 1980s, she was co-director of a team at Texas A&M that was at the forefront of on-line instruction methods.

Along with starting a Broadband in Nutrioso, Billie currently works with a number of environmental conservation organizations. She is on the Board of the White Mountain Conservation League and manages their website and e-mail alerts. She leverages local efforts by working cooperatively with larger organizations such as the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, and the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council to develop comments for the National Forest planning processes.

Through the White Mountain Conservation League, she and Russ helped organize a centennial event around the arrival of Aldo Leopold in the Southwest. “The unique combination of attending Leopold scholars and knowledgeable locals led to the discovery of the site where Leopold (or his companion) shot the fabled wolf of green fire,” she said. Their web site has the details - <http://leopoldcentennial.org>.

Her first encounter with Broads was only two years ago during the Healthy Lands Project monitoring in Southern Arizona. Broads teamed with Sky Island Alliance in April of 2009 for that effort and Billie was a wildlife monitoring tracker for the Alliance. “I received an e-mail of a Healthy Lands survey in my beloved Chiricahua Mountains,” she said. She signed up and said she met Broads from across the country and the “ever-inspiring Rose” (Chilcoat,

are critical for wilderness and wilderness is critical for wolves.”



Billie lifts a cast she made of a Mexican wolf foot track in October 2010.

Broads Associate Director). Three months later, she joined Broads and began talking about forming the Nutrioso Broadband.

One of her hopes for the new Broadband is that they will adopt a wildlife tracking workshop project that she and a friend developed last year. They used rubber animal foot casts to make tracks for the participants to follow. The workshop

attracted 10 participants “who all loved it,” Billie said. “There was even one wildlife biologist,” she added. “Most wildlife biologists aren’t trained in wildlife tracking so this project is a great match for them.” She hopes to add Global Positioning System (GPS) training in future offerings.

Billie’s tracking skills couple nicely with her passionate commitment to the program to reintroduce the Mexican wolf. “Wolves are critical for wilderness and wilderness is critical for wolves,” she said. “I follow the introduction efforts carefully and work to engage others in support for the effort. I encourage others to understand the critical role that keystone predators, including wolves, play in a healthy ecosystem.”

A recent development in the politics of wolf reintroduction has the conservation

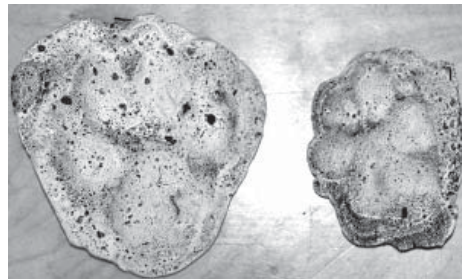
community alarmed. In an early February e-mail to Broadband leaders, Billie laid it on the table. “The most egregious attack on the Mexican gray wolf since the wholesale slaughter by the government and ranchers in the first part of the 20th century has begun. Congressman Rehberg from Montana has or will introduce two bills that will eliminate Endangered Species Act protection for all wolves, including the Mexican gray wolf. This will provide those opposed to wolves with an open season to kill at will.” Visit the White Mountain Conservation League at <http://azwmcl.org/blog/> or Mexicanwolves.org for details on how you can help.

org/blog/ or Mexicanwolves.org for details on how you can help.

“I don’t believe we can separate forest and wilderness issues from the wildlife that inhabit them,” she said.

“They are all part of

one system that needs to be protected for future generations.”



Foot casts of a female Mexican wolf and her pup.

BLM Directive

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“Thank You!” and “Protect Wild Utah” buttons.

Abbey said “Part of the agency’s multiple-use mandate is to protect some lands for future generations. It’s not just about today.” Of course, this sentiment is high on Broads list, as is the restoration and protection of fragile wildlife habitat, clean water and opportunities for peace and quiet.

In mid January, 46 Democratic Senators signed a letter to the

Secretary defending the policy against critics with their sights set on extractive and motorized recreational development. “Such criticism is based on a misunderstanding of the order and a misunderstanding of wilderness,” they wrote. “No law requires the federal government to transform unsuitable land into wilderness and that is not what the order contemplates. Further, the order acknowledges that wilderness designations have always been, and remain, the prerogative of the Congress,” the letter said. This new policy attempts to restore some balance to public land management

after Gale Norton, President Bush’s secretary of Interior, “unilaterally” imposed a policy of “no more wilderness” in 2003, they added.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness will continue to raise the wilderness protection banner high in Salt Lake City, in Washington DC, and around the nation, keeping it visible above the dust raised by those who would push roads and other destructive uses into the deepest recesses of the peoples’ last wild places.

Secretarial Order 3310 can be found on the BLM’s website at www.blm.gov.

CALIFORNIA: Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness Designated

More than 11, 000 acres of BLM lands were designated as wilderness in January when the agency declared that the area had sufficiently recovered from years of timber cutting. The lands were an acquired in-holding when the Northern Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act passed in 2006. The area had naturally rehabilitated itself over the past five years and the traces of past logging operations and associated road construction has been determined to have reduced so that the area "appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and exhibits outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation."

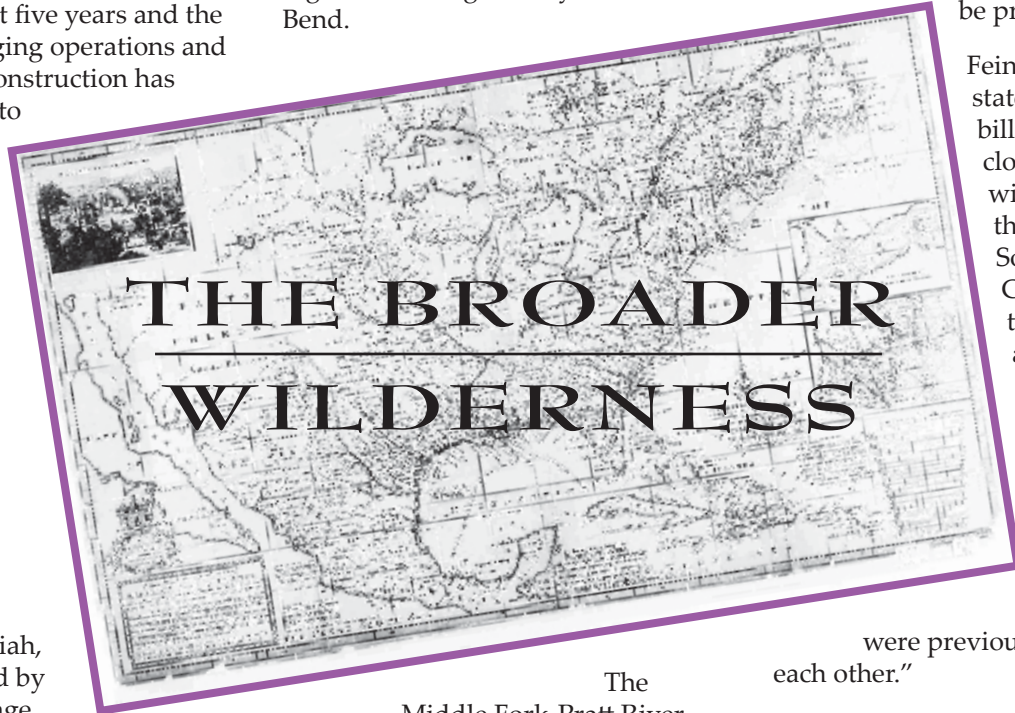
Located about 60 miles north of Ukiah, the area is marked by rugged Coast Range ridges covered with thick forests of redwood, Douglas fir and tan oak. The new wilderness area includes a 7-mile-long segment of the South Fork Eel Wild and Scenic River, which provides spawning habitat for federally protected salmon and steelhead trout.

Thank California Rep. Mike Thompson (D), the bill's primary sponsor, for his effort in securing permanent protection of this area.

WASHINGTON: Middle Fork-Pratt River Legislation Reintroduced

Conservation minded Republicans might be rare but they can still have an impact. Rep. Dave Reichert, R-WA introduced legislation to protect the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River, the closest mountain valley to Seattle.

Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash., reintroduced legislation to protect the Middle Fork under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and put 22,000 acres - mainly the wild Pratt River - into the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., is expected to introduce an identical bill in the U.S. Senate, part of a two-year cross-the-aisle collaboration with Reichert. The Middle Fork-Pratt River region is in King County east of North Bend.



The Middle Fork-Pratt River legislation passed the House by voice vote last year but did not make it on the Senate's crowded calendar. The House Natural Resources Committee is now chaired by Washington's GOP Rep. Doc Hastings, who in 2009 led opposition to the Omnibus American Wilderness Act. Hastings has raised no objection to the Middle Fork-Pratt River legislation. However, there are a lot of new and very conservative Republicans on the committee that could create hurdles for wilderness legislation this year. More info <http://www.wawild.org/>

CALIFORNIA: Desert Protection Act of 2011 Introduced

In late January, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who wrote the landmark 1994 California Desert Protection Act, introduced a parks bill to expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mohave National

Preserve protecting 1.6 million acres of desert lands.

Additionally, the bill would create two new national monuments: the Mojave Trails and the Sand to Snow National Monuments. It would also designate five new wilderness areas and protect 76 miles of 4 different rivers including the Amargosa River and Deep Creek as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The old Route 66 corridor would also be preserved.

Feinstein said in a statement that the bill was "drafted in close cooperation with stakeholders throughout Southern California," adding that "Conservation and renewable energy development can exist hand in hand....I believe we've found the right balance between interests that

were previously set against each other."

More info <http://www.californiadesert.org/>

MICHIGAN: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act

In late January Sens. Carl Levin (D-MI) and Debbie Ann Stabenow (D-MI) introduced legislation to protect over 32,500 acres of wilderness in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

This area is on the mainland shore of Lake Michigan and is popular with hunters, anglers, hikers and boaters.

Secretary Salazar's Wild Lands Policy Needs Your Support

New battle lines are being drawn over an Interior Department policy to protect roadless lands in the West, with opposition from some states

more ➡

and oil and gas trade groups being countered by support from public officials in Colorado and elsewhere. Meanwhile, Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah has announced plans to introduce legislation that would block the policy altogether.

The policy announced in late December by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar orders field managers at the Bureau of Land Management to take stock of wilderness-quality lands during resource planning and project-level analyses. After taking public comments, BLM may temporarily designate “wild lands” and manage them for nonmotorized activities such as hiking, hunting or fishing.

Salazar, backed by environmental groups and dozens of House Democrats, said the policy is on “solid grounds” and is crucial for BLM to meet its multiple-use mission, which includes oil and gas development, recreation, archaeological resources and wilderness.

Seventy Colorado state and county officials and dozens of Western environmental groups (including Broads) sent letters to Salazar thanking him for returning wilderness qualities to equal standing with other public land uses. The officials cited findings by the Outdoor Industry Association that activities like hunting, hiking, camping, skiing and fishing support nearly 6.5 million U.S. jobs and provide \$730 billion in annual economic activity. “Visitors come from around the nation and world to visit our prized landscapes and tourism has remained a reliable economic driver for generations.”

Make your voice of support of the Wild Lands policy heard by writing a Letter to the Editor of your local

newspaper. We cannot let a vocal minority undermine protection of our wild public lands.

MONTANA: Yellowstone Bison – Wildlife or Livestock? Still Threatened

The fate of one of America’s most iconic native wildlife species continues to be a political circus with nearly 400 bison in traps within Yellowstone National Park awaiting slaughter. The Yellowstone bison population includes



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

America’s last continuously wild herds, and is the last population that still follows its migratory instincts. As unique native herbivores that evolved across the North American continent, scientists

believe bison can help restore the native grasslands, sagebrush steppes, and prairie ecosystems that are considered to be some of the most endangered habitats in the world. Yet the National Park Service and the Montana Dept of Livestock continue to round-up, capture and slaughter these magnificent creatures as part of the seriously flawed Interagency Bison Management Plan.

A coalition of conservation organizations, Native Americans and Montanans have been waiting for a final decision from federal Judge Charles Lovell on the merits of their lawsuit challenging the Plan since September 2010. Recent NPS actions forced the coalition to file for an injunction in January 2011 asking the court to stop the agencies from killing bison in and around Yellowstone National Park and to discontinue the use of traps like the one at Stephens Creek to capture, confine, and ship bison to slaughter.

Additionally, just released new genetic research demonstrates that Yellowstone’s bison (as well as all other

bison herds) have already suffered from inbreeding problems due to genetic bottleneck resulting from the small founding population size. These wild bison have some serious deleterious genetic mutations (mitochondrial disease) that are amplified by current and on-going slaughter that compounds these problems. The maternally acquired gene affects genetically pure bison in North America.

The entire rationale for capture and slaughter is based on extremely exaggerated fears of brucellosis transmission between bison and cattle. No transmission can occur if there is no overlap between cattle and bison. Hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands outside of Yellowstone (i.e. Gallatin National Forest lands as well as some state wildlife lands) with no cattle present make any fears of brucellosis transmission completely groundless. Only two small livestock operations exist near the park, and both ranchers support wild bison roaming outside of the park.

There is no reasonable excuse for killing wild bison on public lands. One can vaccinate cattle against brucellosis for about \$4 a shot—but Montana does not require this—and instead we waste millions of dollars of taxpayer funds on senseless capture and slaughter of wild bison—basically because the livestock industry fears competition for forage by bison on public lands that are currently leased to ranchers for summer grazing. The Montana legislature (dominated by ranchers) is even trying to change the classification of wild bison to “livestock” so that it can put management of all wild bison under the Dept. of Livestock.

Write your US Senators and Representatives urging them to stop the slaughter of Yellowstone bison www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml and Yellowstone Park Superintendent Colin Campbell colin_campbell@nps.gov. For more info www.buffalofieldcampaign.org.



BROADBANDS IN ACTION

In 2010, Broadbands grew in numbers and engaged members on a broad range of issues and actions. All tallied, they posted more than 6,000 hours of volunteer time last year! And that doesn't include all the fun hikes and outings, of which there were more than a few.

Silver City (NM)

New Broadband leader Lorna Ruebelmann is a woman on a mission! In less than two months, she has enlisted several dozen members for Broads in the small community of Silver City, New Mexico. On Saturday, January

22, the group held their first demonstration - a wolf-walk parade through downtown Silver City, which is smack-dab in the middle of the lobo controversy, to raise awareness about the endangered Mexican Gray Wolf. They declared 2011, "The Year of the Mexican Wolf."

Dressed in Big Bad Wolf, Little Red Riding Hood, and Grandma costumes, the Broadband demonstrated the cruelty of leg-hold traps and hosted Kim McCreery from the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance who gave a presentation on Mexican wolves and their place in the Southwest. Nancy Kaminski, from the Gila Conservation Education Center, brought a trunk full of educational wolf items to share her knowledge of the wolf's plight.

The group collected

signatures on a petition that encourages the ban of leg traps on public lands in New Mexico. The traps are already banned in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Washington State.



Granny and Red are hoping to catch a glimpse of the shy BBW in Silver City, NM. © Tom Vaughan/FeVa Fotos

renewal of commitment," said Lorna. "Because the numbers of our desert lobo have been diminishing for the past four

Benjamin Tuggle, southwest regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, promised there will be more wolf releases and a new recovery team assembled to write a new recovery plan for el lobo. "We celebrate this



Big Cypress National Preserve with the Florida Broadband, 2010.



Grand Junction and Moab Broadbands get together for a hike of Fisher Mesa, UT.

years, and there is grave concern that our local wolf will disappear again."

Grand Junction (CO) and Moab (UT)

The Grand Junction and Moab Broadbands gathered for a day hike of Fisher Mesa, near Moab, in late October. The groups were determined to get out and enjoy the fall weather and Moab Broadband leader Vicki Allen figured it would be good for members of the two groups to meet. After the hike, a smaller group went to see dinosaur footprints that are nearby and we're told they got in some good, "Wow that's amazing!" comments.

Florida

Eight Florida Broads gathered for a mini-Broadwalk the first weekend of November in the Big Cypress National Preserve. There are not many people who

more ➡

brave the difficult swamps and cypress stands in order to understand the beauty and peace found in more than a million acres of swamps and land located in the Everglades eco-system of South Florida. The natural world of Big Cypress Swamp is a richly diverse wilderness of subtropical flora and fauna found nowhere else in our country. Their experience provided inspiration for our upcoming 2011 Swampwalk/Broadwalk.

Sangre de Cristo (CO)

The Sangre Broadband continues to set the bar high for volume of service days and hours. Average group size is small but the frequency and duration of each day's work adds up to impressive volunteer hours for the year.....1,243 in 2010. Impressive!

Reno (NV) and Northern Sierra (CA & NV)

In July, Reno Broads joined Northern Sierra Broads for a non-wilderness walk/exploration of the Chinese tunnels up on Donner Pass. The tunnels were built to allow the railroads to travel safely through the Sierra in winter. Sue Graf led the outing and served as historian. The group also walked part of the Lincoln Highway from Donner Pass east as it heads down the mountain toward Truckee. They viewed interesting rock art and an old sign for a Truckee establishment that could be read on the rock below as they walked down the slope.



Above: The Sangre de Cristo Broadband on their New Year's Day work project, clearing trail up Swift Creek.

Below: The Reno and Northern Sierra Broadbands met for a hike on Donner Pass in July. Photo by Louise Jensen

Healthy Lands

continued from page 3

can be used to embed the location information in the photo. But don't forget – even if all you have is the right trail or road junction as a starting point, your photos can be useful to the agencies in charge of managing the land.

Now the fun begins—you get to tell the story. Simply describe what's going on in the photo, and if and why it's a concern. This is the real power in using photos. Once you

have your story completed, contact the appropriate land management agency. If there's a trail that's causing erosion problems, or a violation of a wilderness or wilderness study area boundary, the agency needs to know. Armed with photos that show what's going on, tied to locations on the ground, you can advocate for land management changes that protect our natural resources. And, after all, that's what it's all about.

The Healthy Lands Project website

will give you the tools and tips on creating your story and how to communicate your results with the land managers. It will also feature some of your stories and successes to inspire others to pick up their camera and GPS and become advocates for Healthy Lands.

As we update the BHLP website (www.healthylands.org), we'll include information on various methods for geotagging photos. Check in often!

BROAD SENSE: RECAPTURE UTAH!

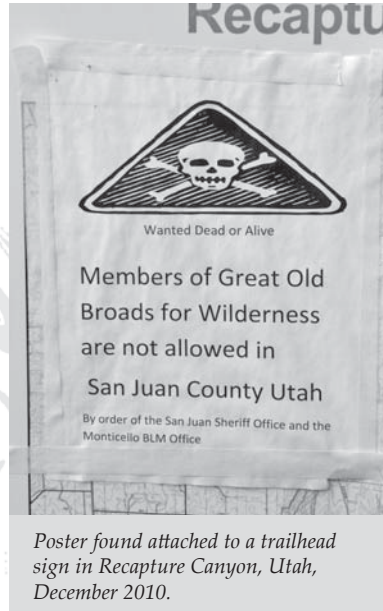
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Much to the chagrin of San Juan county a Section 106 (of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act – ARPA) Consulting Party Process was begun, involving multiple meetings between all interested parties (including Broads) regarding the trail's effects on the archaeological resources in Recapture Canyon and how to potentially mitigate them. The process requires, among other things, that all damage to cultural sites be repaired before the trail can be reopened, a process whose cost is estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The BLM lacks funding for this, nor is it likely that the county will foot the bill. Broads has made repeated monitoring trips into the canyon to ascertain that the closure is being respected. It is, mostly. We are happy to note that Mother Nature is rapidly reclaiming the often poorly sited trail, especially on the steep slopes and in the riparian areas.

The Plot Thickens

In December 2010, on a fact-finding hike during one of the Sec. 106 meetings, the BLM and Broads Associate Director Rose Chilcoat discovered a number of crudely produced "Wanted Dead or Alive, Great Old Broads for Wilderness" posters taped to road signs near access points to Recapture Canyon. The signs proclaimed that Great Old Broads were not allowed in San Juan County by order of the BLM and the sheriff's office (both agencies denied any responsibility for the posters). Stories about the threatening posters in the press have prompted a great deal of supportive feedback from Broads members and environmental colleagues, most of whom expressed dismay at this sort of violent,

threatening rhetoric. It certainly appeared that animosity toward environmental activism, though not new in Utah, was intensifying.



Poster found attached to a trailhead sign in Recapture Canyon, Utah, December 2010.

Two Sentenced in Trail Building

On Saturday, January 22, the two Blanding men, who had confessed to helping build the trail, were found guilty of a misdemeanor, given probation, and fined \$35,000. This is a major win in the fight against motorized abuse of public lands, especially when one considers the light sentences given most of the 26 people charged in the big artifact theft sting in Blanding in 2009. We were expecting similar "wrist slaps" in the Recapture Canyon case, but the judge clearly wanted to send the message that unauthorized construction/destruction on federal lands is not to be taken lightly. Our resolve has only been strengthened by

the petulant, juvenile threats we've received. We must be doing something right to have deserved such irate warnings.

Next Steps

Our ongoing task is to make sure that San Juan County's request to the BLM for a right of way to the trail is denied. (The county has revised the application but originally claimed that the purpose and need for the trail is "to authorize an ATV trail that was mostly constructed illegally by unknowns" and more recently that it is "necessary" to meet increasing demand for ATV use and "to protect archaeological resources," which is ironic when one considers the long, sometimes violent history of looting and grave desecration in the locale.) Archaeological protection is not in Great Old Broads mission statement, but, like the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act can be used to protect America's wild and fragile public lands from rampant motorized incursions as well as from other destructive uses.

Letters, calls and/or emails are needed immediately to BLM Director Bob Abbey, Utah Sate Director Juan Palma and Moab District Manager Shelly Smith urging them to keep Recapture Wash closed to motorized traffic. Contact information is on our website or at www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/info/directory.html.

WANTED

- ⇒ A fuel-efficient **vehicle** for staff use
- ⇒ An **office copier** that duplexes and collates
- ⇒ A functional **office phone system** (or funds for one)

If you can donate any of these items - please let us know by calling Ronni or Rose at 970-385-9577 or e-mailing broads@greatoldbroads.org.

2010 Wild for Wilderness Donors!

Thanks to our many 2010 Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction donors, our sixth 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!

To donate to our 2011 auction, e-mail auction@greatoldbroads.org or visit our on-line donation page at <http://greatoldbroads.org/join-or-donate/auction/auction-donation>. 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 2010 auction donors!** Please support them and let them know you appreciate their support of Broads.

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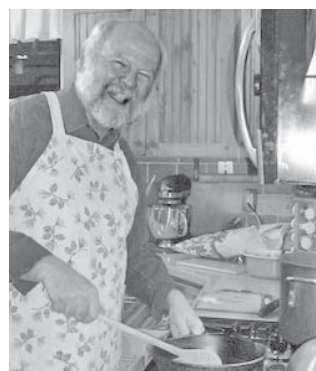
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