



Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Twenty Years of
Ageless Advocacy

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS BROADSIDES



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN ESCALANTE, UTAH

BY LINDA LISCOM

There's always magic in the wild lands of Southern Utah.

The Broad's 20th Birthday Party sent that magic soaring here at our birthplace in the land of arches, alcoves, slick rock and natural bridges.

Escalante was the perfect celebration site and Escalante Outfitters was the ideal base camp. From the first "youuuuu whooooo" October 1 to parting Broad embraces five days later, 80 Broads played and hiked. We danced to the live music of Tumbleweedz and dined al fresco at the Escalante Outfitters abundant table.

We dedicated a day to service and education projects within the Grand Staircase Escalante Monument and Dixie National Forest. While Wild Utah Project's Jim Catlin introduced two

dozen Broads to Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment at Lower Calf Creek, the rest of the group mended fences, trashed tamarisk, dispersed campsites, and painted kiosks and a radio transmitter building.

After nightfall, a score of environmental luminaries shared latest news from the frontlines of their wilderness expertise. Liz Thomas (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance) updated us on America's Redrock Wilderness Act and other Utah issues, Doug Scott (Campaign for America's Wilderness) gave us the big picture of wilderness protection. Rob McWhorter, Dixie National Forest Supervisor shared his work to protect roadless areas via their recently completed travel plan. Mary O'Brien, Southern Utah Forest Forests Project Manager (Grand Canyon Trust) told us about beaver benefits

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We can't help but feel a sense of optimism at Broads World

Headquarters, as we begin our third decade of wilderness advocacy and empowering America's elders in their quest to protect and restore our wild public lands. We have a window of opportunity right now, with a much more sympathetic administration in Washington, and more public attention than ever focused on the issues

of resource protection, renewable energy, climate change and, if we have anything to say about it, (and we do!) the vital environmental services such as clean water, healthy forests, and biodiversity that are provided by intact wild ecosystems. Several new wilderness bills have been introduced in Congress, and even America's Red Rock Wilderness Act finally got a hearing in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands sub-committee of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Other encouraging signs in public lands management are a new Bureau of Land Management rule directing National Monument managers to manage primarily for the characteristics for which their monuments were designated. This means that, for instance, The Canyons of the Ancients National Monument here in the nation's Four Corners must be managed for maximum protection of archaeological resources, rather than gas and oil and livestock production.

Travel Planning on National Forests will be completed by the end of 2009 on most forests, and the US Forest Service will begin implementing their Travel Plans. That means they'll be closing undesigned routes, installing signs and barriers, and



IN A BROAD SENSE

Our Choice? Optimism

enforcing their new regulations, thus (we hope) gaining some control of heretofore unmanaged, often destructive, motorized travel. This is where the Broads Healthy Lands Project is becoming an ever more important tool, gathering and archiving information about whether or not the plans are effective, and providing input to agency staff regarding what's working and what's not.

Great Old Broads has been part of a 2-year, court ordered collaborative project that includes conservationists, US Forest Service personnel and ranchers, working together to restore watershed health in the Tushar Mountains of south-central Utah. This is the first effort of its kind, which will, in our optimistic view, serve as a model on

other forests and rangelands. As has been the case for 20 years, Great Old Broads for Wilderness is not anti-cow or anti-ATV, but anti-poor land management. We know that there are many varied interests when it comes to public lands, and they must all have a seat at the table. We also know that the bottom line must be resource protection and restoration if we are to leave a livable planet for our descendants. We will always speak for the land first, because we all, ranchers and hikers and off-roaders alike, depend on it for our very lives. For us, that means leaving substantial portions of public land "untrammelled by man" as the Wilderness Act specifies.

All of this is not to say that we don't still face plenty of challenges, especially given the current global financial situation. While our loyal membership has been extremely generous over the years, and our foundation support has been steady up to now, 2009 has been, not surprisingly, a challenging period for fund-raising for non-profit organizations across the board, and 2010 promises to be even tougher. Many

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness

PO Box 2924
Durango, CO 81302
970-385-9577
broads@greatoldbroads.org
www.greatoldbroads.org

Staff

Veronica Egan, Executive Director
Rose Chilcoat, Associate Director
Tim Peterson, BHLDP Director
Joyce Thomsen, Membership Asst.
Logan Morley, BHLDP Tech. Coord.
Anne Benson, Comm. Coord.
Amy Johnston, Grant Writer

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a non-profit, public lands organization that uses the voices and activism of elders to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Broads was conceived in 1989 by older women who loved wilderness and organized to protect it. The wisdom of their combined years told them that the Broads could bring 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 3,500 active 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.

HIDDEN GEMS ADVENTURES

For this July Broadwalk, Broads worked with members of the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign to seek designation of major new wilderness additions on the White River National Forest and nearby Bureau of Land Management lands. The White River NF is the country's most visited national forest, and along with nearby BLM lands, it straddles an ecologically vital portion of the Upper Colorado River watershed. These public lands contain a critical stretch of a continent-scale wildlife migration corridor while providing core habitat for Colorado's recently reintroduced lynx population.

BY SHERRY BENSON

Okay, I admit, I didn't read enough about this Broadwalk beforehand and I honestly thought that we would be finding gemstones in the mountains of wilderness areas. What I discovered however, was the fact that most of the surrounding public lands of the Flat Tops, Maroon Bells-Snowmass, Holy Cross, Eagles Nest, and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas – including many "Hidden Gems" – are not protected by congressional decree, and consequently, they remain at risk to the damaging influences of motorized recreation and road construction. Thus, the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign was formed to enlarge existing wilderness areas and establish several brand new ones. Lisa Moreno of the Wilderness Workshop, reminded us that "75 percent of designated Wilderness is above 10,000 and is often referred to as 'the Crown Jewels.' The lower elevations that are important for wildlife habitat and connectivity and where we would be hiking are what they considered to be the 'hidden gems.'"

As the week went on, many different sorts of gems were uncovered. Let me tell you about a few of them.

First, was a gal named Connie Harvey, who spoke to us about how she conspired with two of her friends, Joy Caudill and Dottie Fox, to conceive the Wilderness Workshop with the intent of preserving the area. She loved animals as a kid and ran around in the woods of New Jersey, "communing with wildlife." She was not an activist at the start but discovered politics and policy-



Monitoring teams hit the trail to survey Clear Fork.

making from the bottom, up. Her main discovery? "Writing letters and telegrams to leaders was an effective way to generate change." Her advice? "Get to know your people and get active in politics." Her message to the Great Old Broads for Wilderness? "Keep up the good work. To all you grand 'dams,' fight for your wilderness." She went on to say that the "criteria hasn't changed a bit. The weakest point is still politics."

The first night, the group watched "Wild For Good," a film that demonstrated the efforts of Connie and her friends (known as the "Maroon Belles"). These three gals drew wilderness boundaries on a map while sitting around a kitchen table. In 1989, the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Act, was passed after many years of work. They were pioneers in this advocacy community and have created a legacy of activism along with protecting the wild lands around them. According to Connie, the next step is for "someone to manage the wilderness." I discovered what can be done from the grassroots level from her that night!

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF WILDERNESS ADVOCACY

GREAT OLD BROADS FOR
WILDERNESS IS 20 YEARS
OLD THIS YEAR AND WE'RE
CELEBRATING! WE'VE
WEATHERED A FEW STORMS
SO WE HAVE MUCH FOR
WHICH WE ARE GRATEFUL.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,
WE'VE SET OUR SIGHTS ON
THE NEXT 20 YEARS AND
WE CAN SEE THERE IS MUCH
TO BE DONE! PRESSURES
FROM OUR INSATIABLE
APPETITES FOR MEAT,
ENERGY, AND MOTORIZED
RECREATION HAVE NEVER
BEEN MORE POWERFUL.
ROADLESS WILD LANDS
HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE
THREATENED.

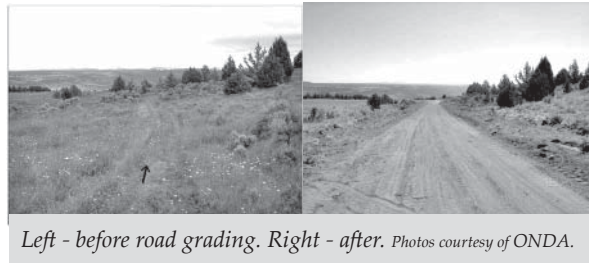
HELP US MAINTAIN OUR
VIGILANCE. CONSIDER
GIVING AN EXTRA \$20 OR
SOME MULTIPLE 20 AS AN
ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO
GREAT OLD BROADS FOR
WILDERNESS.

Broads Join ONDA Suit Against BLM for Illegal Road Developments

Broads joined the Oregon Natural Desert Association in a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) after ONDA discovered extensive road construction, grading and widening of several routes totaling over 14 miles in the Steens Mountain Wilderness. These included two primitive routes, Burnt Car Road and Tombstone Road, which had become completely obscured by sagebrush and rock in places.

Recent visits by hikers and anglers revealed construction of a newly-bladed two-lane road into the area, including road construction into the Steens along the Donner Und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River. The development uprooted

In their lawsuit ONDA and Great Old Broads are asking that BLM close and restore all unlawful road construction. Settlement discussions are now underway.



Left - before road grading. Right - after. Photos courtesy of ONDA.

To read the full complaint visit: [http://www.onda.org/enforcing-conservation-laws/legal-actions/cases-1/pdf/09-__Complaint_ONDA_v_Suther_-_Burnt_Car_Road_\(signed\).pdf](http://www.onda.org/enforcing-conservation-laws/legal-actions/cases-1/pdf/09-__Complaint_ONDA_v_Suther_-_Burnt_Car_Road_(signed).pdf)

views and mountains including the slopes of Mt. Sneffels and Wilson Peak; two of the state's most famous "fourteeners" - peaks above 14,000 feet. Broads is thrilled at the prospect of new wilderness protection in our backyard. See more about the bill at <http://www.sanjuancitizens.org/wildsanjuans/goals-01.shtml> or http://www.house.gov/list/press/co03_salazar/PR_102209.html

Sign Switching by Kane County, UT Ruled Illegal

From Tom Wharton of the *Salt Lake Tribune*:

"In a split decision, a federal appeals court panel in Denver ruled that Kane County had no authority to remove signs restricting off-highway vehicle use, and

Broads' Beat

Updates on issues that have seen Broad action

dozens of junipers, including several old growth trees. The area also contains important habitat and breeding territory for Greater Sage Grouse which is currently proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

"It's just appalling. BLM's actions represent a breach of public trust and a significant impact to lands they are charged with protecting, not destroying," commented Brent Fenty, ONDA's Executive Director. "BLM needs to make clear how they plan to right this wrong and investigate how this was authorized."

Since the suit was filed, BLM has temporarily agreed to cease work on these routes. ONDA is continuing to investigate how BLM could have authorized this major alteration to the landscape without public notice and without preparation of an environmental analysis under NEPA.

Rep. Salazar Introduces San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act

In late October, U.S. Congressman John Salazar, (D-CO) introduced the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation includes 61,682 acres of public land on portions of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest, the San Juan National Forest and the San Juan BLM Resource Area. Over the last two years, the proposal has gone through a very thorough vetting process, and enjoys the enthusiastic support of San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, local towns, and numerous stakeholders such as ranchers, outfitters, and hundreds of local residents. This overwhelming support has resulted in a non-controversial bill that should easily move through the Congressional process. The bill will provide permanent protection for some of Colorado's most renowned

put up new signs inviting such use, in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and other areas overseen by the Bureau of Land Management.

It's uncertain whether Kane County will appeal the latest decision in this long-simmering case.

After removing 31 signs in 2003, the county put its own signs on hundreds of roads within the monument and outside it, asserting it had authority to manage them under a Reconstruction-era statute known as R.S. 2477, passed by Congress to allow road development throughout the west. That law was repealed in 1976, although existing roads were grandfathered.

In 2005, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and The Wilderness Society sued the county over the sign swapping and in May 2008, U.S. District Judge Tena Campbell ruled Kane County was in the wrong: It hadn't proved in court

that it owned the roads in question, so the federal government got to decide how those rights of way should be used.

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance associate director Heidi McIntosh said the court confirmed that Kane County cannot take the law into its own hands by ripping down BLM signs that closed areas to protect resources or archaeological sites. By citing the Constitution's Supremacy Clause, she added, the court also dealt a blow to proponents of the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion, who argue that federal ownership of public lands is unconstitutional."

Broads' first Healthy Lands Project (BHLF) training was in Kanab, Utah, providing locals with the means to track impacts resulting from the County's actions.

This fall, Broads and BHLF monitored the Monument for compliance and found NO signs at all. Kane County has not only removed all signs, they are refusing to maintain arterial roads on Federal Land.

Yellowstone Winter Use Plan Approved

A new plan to provide for limited, regulated snowmobile and snowcoach access in Yellowstone National Park for the next two winters has been approved.

The plan allows up to 318 commercially guided, Best Available Technology (BAT) snowmobiles, and up to 78 commercially guided snowcoaches in a day in Yellowstone for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 winter seasons. This continues to move winter use towards more of the less impactful snow coaches and fewer individual snowmobiles.

During the next two years, the National Park Service will prepare yet another Environmental Impact Statement (their 4th in 8 years!) and a new long term plan for winter use in Yellowstone National Park. Broads has participated in rallies in Yellowstone and commented on this issue since the Bush administration rolled back the snowmobile ban.

More at <http://greateryellowstone.org/issues/lands/Feature.php?id=40>



Organ Mounains in So. New Mexico. Photo by Anne Benson

announced his support for the bill remarking, "From the jagged spires of the Organ Mountains to the petroglyphs in Broad Canyon, this bill will protect some of the finest ecosystems and vistas that New Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert has to offer, while making an important contribution to our country's wilderness and National Landscape Conservation System."

High Level Support for the Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks Wilderness Act

The Obama administration has offered its support to legislation introduced by New Mexico Senators Bingaman and Udall that would protect more than 350,000 acres of scenic areas in Doña Ana County including the Organ Mountains, just east of Las Cruces.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson also



Wishes Granted! Thank you to Bill and Laurae Fortner-Welch of Cedaredge, CO. This summer, these two Broads donated a 2000 Chevy Astro van to Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

The bill would also release 16,350 acres currently designated as a wilderness study area along the county's border with Mexico. That's intended to address concerns that law enforcement patrols are hampered by rules against motorized vehicles entering the protected area.

The City of Las Cruces, Town of Mesilla and Doña Ana County governments support these designations, demonstrating how crucial local support is to gaining wilderness protection these days.

In 2007, Broads worked with the Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance to support wilderness designation of these lands with a Broadwalk.

For information on the bill, go to <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1689>

20 Years After Its Introduction, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act Gets Hearing

For the first time in the 20-year history of the effort, protection of millions of acres of Utah's public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management was considered by the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. The hearing was held on October 1, 2009.

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ADVENTURES IN THE HIDDEN GEMS

(continued from page 3)

The next day, we divided up into groups to hike and experience some of these Hidden Gems. In addition, we took inventory of uses and abuses in these areas – each team armed with compass, GPS, camera, and paper and pencil for recording purposes. I chose to go on a “hike of your lifetime” with Aron Ralston, author of *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*. As we bushwhacked part of our route from Assigination Ridge to Lake Ridge and back, gaining 2000 ft elevation in 80 degree temperatures, I wondered about my choice of hikes! What hidden gems did we find in this part of the wilderness? Something Aron and Susy Ellison of Carbondale, Colorado called “outrageously scenic beauty” - fields and fields of absolutely gorgeous yellow mules ears.

The third hidden gem was multi-faceted. Sue McEvoy, a reporter for the Crystal Valley Echo newspaper, was our speaker on Saturday night. She also took us on a special guided tour (with her fascinating personal stories) of the historic Redstone Castle.

Having lived in this valley for 30 years, she revealed some interesting facts about this area. For example, the marble from this tiny town of Marble, Colorado, was used in the construction of more than 30 buildings in Colorado and more than 100 additional buildings across the country, including the Lincoln Memorial and The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. What a fascinating discovery!

The final guest speaker at the event was Steve Smith of The Wilderness Society. He spoke to us about wilderness activism and left us



Zoe Osterman, Mary McCracken, Nancy Savage, and Pat Cary Peek document Clear Fork's wild attributes (amidst a field of yellow wild flowers).

with some thoughtful gems. What had he discovered? That “women from all over the state were moving needed policies on environmental issues forward. Women’s style and approach and personal expression seems to work in Congress. They’re roundabout, subtle, and cajoling,” he said. When asked how a bill becomes law, his response was to “think globally and act locally.” He continued saying that “there’s geological time and congressional time. In between, it’s tedious and slow. That leads to magical moments in which you latch on, and then lead others along. Wilderness takes legislation, which is slow work,” he added. “It takes tenacity to move Congress and patiently work through the conflicts and technicalities.” His thoughts? “Bring your adventure and the gleam in your eye. Bring the passion that’s worthwhile to you and keep teaching the rest of us!”

What were some of the most amazing discoveries among the Broads?

For Laurae Fortner-Welch, from Cedaredge, Colorado, it was the “willingness of people to come from great distances to gather together for a common purpose, sleep in tents and fight bugs.”

This was the first time that Devorah Lanner of Nebraska had visited this area. Her greatest moment was seeing the “unsurpassed Rocky Mountain splendor.”

Hailing from Texarkana, Texas, Jane Bouterse was impressed with “the sense of commitment and passion of these women from all parts of the country, coming together for a common purpose of protecting the wilderness.” “And,” she adds, “It looks like they won’t be stopped.”

As for my greatest discovery (other than reading about the next Broad adventure in greater depth)? I’d have to say that now that I’m aware of how to help get the Hidden Gems area designated as wilderness, I plan to contact my elected officials with letters and e-mails, urging them to support the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign.

The need for getting things done at the grassroots level is clear. And the Hidden Gems need you and me to support this grassroots effort to save this “outrageously gorgeous beauty” for us and for future generations.

For more information about the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign, go to the Wilderness Workshop website at <http://www.wildernessworkshop.org/our-work.html?page=147>.

(Sherry Benson has been a member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness for 3 years. She is serving as the Vice-President on the Board of Yampatika, a local non-profit environmental education organization in Steamboat Springs. She is a retired psychotherapist and college instructor.)

ANNIVERSARY *BROADWALK* IS FIRST FOR *BROADS* STAFFER

Amy joined Broads' staff earlier this year as our grant writer.

by Amy Johnston

It was my first Broadwalk, and it was awesome. I was thoroughly impressed with the attitude and activities of this energizing event. The women I met had a lot of attitude; it was a positive, can-do, git-'er-done attitude. These women are smart and funny and they are comfortable with themselves and with being outdoors. I felt a strong current of compassion and caring for healthy, natural, well-managed public lands and listened to a lot of stories where Broads were involved with stewardship and advocating for protection of wild lands.

I was awed by the number and variety of activities: service projects,

hikes, educational opportunities, and speakers. The speakers who attended were informative, entertaining, and sometimes both. I thought the participants listened very carefully to what was said, and afterwards I heard additional informal discussions about the topics presented, with plans being made to take further action.

I also participated in my first Broads Healthy Lands Project monitoring. I have to give kudos to the Forest Service for putting up signs and barriers on the portion I monitored, closing the area to off-road vehicles, because I saw no tire tracks. I experienced beautiful, quiet surroundings. The other section I was monitoring was not so well managed. It was on the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and unfortunately had no signs or barriers

and did show tire prints on the ground. It seems more work needs to be done.

I attended two sessions on range management and cattle grazing. The knowledge of how to manage this land use responsibly and in a manner that is more in balance with the natural, biological, and ecological cycles on southern Utah public lands is available; the management practices and science are not new or trendy or experimental. Politics, not science, has resulted in poor management of these public lands, which has reduced the viability and diversity of plant communities.

Thank you, Ronni and Rose for arranging a splendid, broadening experience. I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

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 of the gain

♦ 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



© George Whitham

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

Study A Broad: Broad Ombudsman of the Desert

BY ANNE BENSON

If ever a town needed an environmental ombudsman with Broad qualities of humor, passion, discretion, and tolerance, it's Kanab, Utah. The seat of Kane County, with a population of about 5,400, Kanab sits at the heart of all that's grand and glorious about the desert southwest.

Zion, Bryce, and Grand Canyon National Parks, Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument, and Lake Powell National Recreational Area with all their majestic, scenic, and wild lands, surround this small city. And this is an "old west" town where the folk are proud of their rugged individualist ancestry, their independent lifestyle, and their strength of character. Needless to say, when the federal or state government tries to protect a landscape that the locals have considered their own for generations or some agency says their activities on public lands are harmful to the environment and must cease, tension in the community runs high.

Susan Hand knew the political environment she would encounter when she and her former husband, Charlie Neumann, moved to Kanab to open Willow Canyon Outdoor, a coffee/book/outdoor gear retail store, in 1994. "We made a pact when we moved here," she said, "to never talk publicly about politics, religion, or the environment." But Susan's passion for what's right and her passion for her children kicked her out of the environmental closet and into the public discussion when her 2nd grader came home from school



Susan Hand. Photo by Allen Gilberg.

one day with papers containing misinformation about the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument. "It struck me as inherently wrong," she said, "using my child to distribute information that I knew was wrong. I called the school. They told me the flyers came from the County so I called the County. I totally blew my cover. But you know," she said, "two teachers called me to thank me. They didn't feel right about sending the materials

home with the kids but were afraid to say anything."

Susan got her feet wet with small town politics by volunteering for the City trails committee. The result was that she was blacklisted for her views. "Not everybody plays fair," she said. "I tried to be honest and open but that doesn't always come back to you."

In the end, it was a good thing. Really. Because she couldn't participate locally, she took her argument national. "I never would have jeopardized my place at the local table by going national if I hadn't already been blacklisted," she said. In 2003, she joined a group of activists (from The Utah Wilderness Coalition, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Sierra Club) who traveled to Washington, DC to lobby for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. "It was so refreshing to sit with people who respected my opinion, who cared about what I thought, and to talk with people who had the power to get the job done," she said. She returned to the Capital this past spring and again came home with renewed hope for our public lands and a fresh perspective on "being an American. The government IS accessible," she said. "It's all very empowering."

Though Susan had met Broads members in passing at Willow Canyon Outdoor, her first real connection with us was in 2004 when the Vermilion Cliffs Trails Club, a group of which she is a founding member, hosted a Broads Healthy Lands Project monitoring workshop. "We created quite a stir, locally," she said. It was controversial that the Trails Club was hosting an "environmental group's" monitoring workshop. After they were kicked out of the meeting room at Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument because of complaints to Monument staff, a local restaurant opened their doors for them and the workshop was able to proceed. Susan said there were about 30 people in attendance and that several of them were moles from local off-road vehicle groups. "That turned out to be another great thing," she said. "They were very adversarial at first but the experience started a dialog between the two groups. Those who came along to monitor helped us all recognize the common ground."

Susan grew up in a military family, living the "nomadic" life until they were able to settle in Colorado Springs in 1966. "By the time I went to college, I already had a pretty big passion for wildlife and the outdoors. I have three older sisters, and we grew up playing outside. I remember my mom telling us, 'Go outside and play,' and we did. I remember hearing her or my dad or one of my sisters standing on the porch, calling out my name because it was bedtime. My best friend moved into the mountains about the time we started high school, and so I spent lots of time hiking on the back side of



River, rock, sky ... S

...s for passion...

- Susan Hand

Pikes Peak. Then I got a summer job at a guest ranch in the mountains, and that pretty much sealed my fate. Ever after, I've found a way to work and play outside."

"I spent three seasons with the National Park Service – two summers at Mesa Verde, Colorado, and one at Glacier in Montana. Then, after finishing college (a BS in biology of animal behavior from Fort Lewis in Durango), I worked for the Zoological Society of San Diego, leading, then developing, then managing education programs. Fortunately, I took up surfing while I was there, and we always lived near the beach. That made the city feel sane, in that I could turn my back on the madness and look out across the vast wilderness of the ocean. - pelicans, dolphins, sand sharks."

These days, the people of Kanab, Utah, still talk to Susan in private because many fear what their neighbors, relatives, or co-workers will think of them if they talk openly. But, the point is, they talk to her.

They ask for advice, for contacts, for help with environmental problems they encounter. They can rely on her to provide the right contact or suggest the right course of action, and they can rely on her for the discretion that's required in such a tight community.

Next time your travels bring you to the heart of the desert southwest, stop in at Willow Canyon Outdoor, where Susan can set you up with a cappuccino, a book, a tent, a really nice pair of socks, and all the Broad help you may need.

"I like to think I'm passionate about just about everything I do (well, not cleaning the bathroom)...

Otherwise, why do it? The challenge for me is to use

passion in a positive

way, and not let it

foster anger. When

I drag branches and

debris and rocks

to obscure some

inappropriate set of

tread marks in the

sagebrush, it's easy

to get mad about the destruction. Instead, I think about

how lovely the surrounding area is, where it hasn't been

disturbed. I think about how I might be able to help restore

that—to protect a horny toad, or some desert phlox, or an

arrowhead. I try to pause for just a moment and watch a

raven fly overhead."

"I was once very shy and inclined to avoid any sort of

confrontation, and the best part of getting older – I'm

almost 50! – is outgrowing that! I feel more comfortable

in my skin. There are so many people who can't or

won't speak their mind because they're afraid. And I'll

admit, I've been burned plenty. But coming out of the

environmental closet, and even being ostracized for it, was

in many ways liberating. It's easier to speak up if there is

somebody ahead of you that seems even more radical. I've

had some great role models, and I hope I can be one."

- Susan Hand



Susan in the Grand Canyon.

Photo by Allen Gilberg.



Photo by Allen Gilberg.

Susan and a boat.

Anniversary Fun in Escalante

(continued from page 1)

in Utah: "The Strange and Wonderful Relationship of Beaver and the Willow Family," in Utah.

And then by day, a very special day, Mary introduced us to the incredible Dennis Bramble, biologist/functional and evolutionary morphologist, on his 160-acre homestead near Escalante. For several hours, Dennis briskly shepherded Broads up, down and across his century-long grazed land and described the strategy of his 17-year restoration project: "I'm grazing with fewer cows, only in the fall and not at all during drought years. Timing seems to be most important." Meanwhile, some 30 photo stations plus weather stations retrieve electronic data to support countless hours Dennis walks the land noting the increase and decrease of plant and animal species. There's much more to the story but things are looking up - grass species have tripled since Dennis bought the property.

As always, this Broadwalk's highlight was communing with wild women and men as we strolled, hiked and canyoneered together in the spectacular lands and canyon corridors that we passionately work to protect.

I thought of the day, 19 years ago, when I was born a Broad. Acres of lichen covered slick rock - like a gigantic artist's palate splashed with gold, chartreuse and jade - were under my feet.

From behind came the grandmotherly voice of our founder, Susan Tixier: "We've barely met but I sense you're a perfect match for a special new group."

For the next two days, rites of passage lay ahead: moqui steps (pre-Anasazi toeholds chiseled on vertical red rock walls); quicksand; cottonwood tree trunk ladders - and even a pour-over, with a deep freezing pool below where we ferried backpacks on air mattresses only to find we had to retrace our steps.

"If it's this pretty, it's worth doing twice!" she chirped.

Thanks, Susan.



Broads celebrated in many different ways: reunions over chow, hikes into the desert wilds, fun in slots, monitoring for land abuse, learning of grazing practices that promote healthy land, and assessing stream health.

Photos by Sandy Sherman, Libby Ingalls, Jim Case, Rose Chilcoat, and Linda Liscom.

Many Thanks to the Hard-Working Volunteers Who Helped with our Anniversary Broadwalk!

Steve Roberts, Dana and Dennis Waggoner, and the staff of Escalante Outfitters

The Tumbleweedz of Kanab

Jim Catlin of Wild Utah Project

Mary O'Brien of Grand Canyon Trust

Rob McWhorter and staff of the Dixie National Forest

Drew Parkin and staff of GSENM

Doug Scott of Campaign for America's Wilderness

Liz Thomas of SUWA

Broads Board of Directors

Chuck and MB McAfee, Former Broad's Executive Director

Lynn Prebble of Sangre de Cristo Broadband

Dennis Bramble

Volunteer hike leaders: Ginger Harmon, Jim Case, Tom Pringle, Jim Catlin, Sky Chaney, Dennis Bramble, Mary O'Brien

And everyone else who pitched in

GREEN RIVER REFLECTIONS

A poetic compilation of observations from those who were there:

A handful of us were lucky bidders on the 2008 Great Old Broads Auction. Our collective prize? Six days on the Green and Colorado Rivers, softly canoeing from Mineral Bottom to Spanish Bottom, then jet-boating back to Moab in fashionable mechanical style. Along the way, we gathered our impressions, an odyssey of what we saw, and heard, and touched, and tasted, and smelled during one most memorable September week.

A night sky thick with stars, and our minds filled with grand thoughts we cannot say.

The White Rim Trail, coiling off the mesa and dropping precipitously down to the river below.

Piles of paddles, life jackets, wet bags, packs. And people, talking all at once.

Marching orders—or are they paddling orders?—spoken softly, oh so softly.

A splash of water, then a half dozen canoes bumping and swinging downstream.

Red rock sculptures, gnarled windblown junipers. Tamarisks, giant leafy leeches, too many.

A single shell, scoured by sand on the canyon floor.

Sharp slot canyons, slashing darkly into narrow slices of space.



Paddling down the Green in September. Photo by Libby Ingalls.

Buckets, boxes, groovers and gaiety.

Sliding ourselves into the river, a primordial ooze of mud between our toes.

Turning upside down, a damp chill of water alongside our skin and grit caught in our hair.

“Yoo-hoo,” our captain calls. “Not before dawn,” we moan.

Oatmeal and granola. Pesto and pasta. The welcome crunch of watermelon in between.

Laughs. Comaraderie.

Ghostly ruins, stones wrought by men and women hundreds of years ago.

We hear their footsteps in the breathless air.

And the solemn words of John Wesley Powell, urging us to look for shapes he described so well.

The sweet silver song of a canyon wren, alongside the ranting of ravens.

Water striders playing bumper cars among wide gentle bubbles of swirling water.

Campfire stories, campfire songs, sans campfire. Chairs pulled together.

More laughter.

Smells of damp rice grass and scents of powdered dirt.

Swirls of orange rock, where a master potter wheeled a golden vase.

Above, steeply high above, a lonely granary abandoned long ago.

A green Colorado, colored wrongly, as if a belligerent child had picked the wrong crayon.

Cataract ripples, just a few, to remind us of what lies ahead if we make a mistake.

A Dolls House surrounds us with enormous chess pieces carved in amber stone.

The Jack stares royally into the distance. His Queen nearby, head down, robes faded in shadow.

Brown Betty Beach. Earth in the nude.

An arch of green-gold rainbow against a blue-black sky.

The wind at midnight sends us scurrying, as it whips tent sides into sails.

A raucous jet boat, too crowded and too noisy, too civilized but fun.

More laughter yet. And hugs. And final good-byes.

One final thought: the desert smells like rain.

We had a wonderful time!

Captain: Ronni Egan; First Mate: Marcy Olajos; Crew: Sue Agranoff, Mary Chatfield, Libby Ingalls, Lou Ellyn Jones, Cindy Levy, Taylor Pittman, Lois Snedden, Anne Taylor, Lee Verner; Scribe: Ann Ronald

In A BROAD Sense: *Optimism*

(continued from page 2)

Broads have been renewing their memberships at a higher level, and our sustaining memberships are increasing, but we will need to rely more than ever on our loyal members to sustain us.

As we come to the close of our 20th year we hope you'll feel that our work is important enough to dig a little deeper, and keep in mind that a Great Old Broads membership makes a perfect gift.

“In Wildness is the preservation of the world”

- Henry David Thoreau

CA - Federal Judge Rejects BLM's West Mojave Management Plan

From *LA Times'* Louis Sahagun:

A federal judge rejected key provisions of a plan for managing millions of acres in the California desert, saying the U.S. Bureau of Land Management designated roughly 5,000 miles of off-road vehicle routes without properly taking into account their impact on public lands, archaeological sites and wildlife.

In late September, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston ruled that the West Mojave plan, which the bureau approved in 2006 after a decade of development, is “flawed because it does not contain a reasonable range of alternatives” to limit the number of miles of off-road routes.

She also determined that the bureau's analysis of the routes' impacts on air quality, soils, plant communities and sensitive species did not address the fact that the desert is “extremely fragile, easily scarred, and slowly healed.”

“The court recognizes the complexity of the issues presented in this case,” Illston said, “and that defendants have been given the difficult task of addressing the interests and needs of OHV [off-highway vehicle] recreationists while at the same time protecting listed species as required by law.”

The ruling came in response to a legal challenge brought in late 2006 by a coalition of conservation

groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Desert Survivors.

WA - House Votes to Protect Salmon Stream

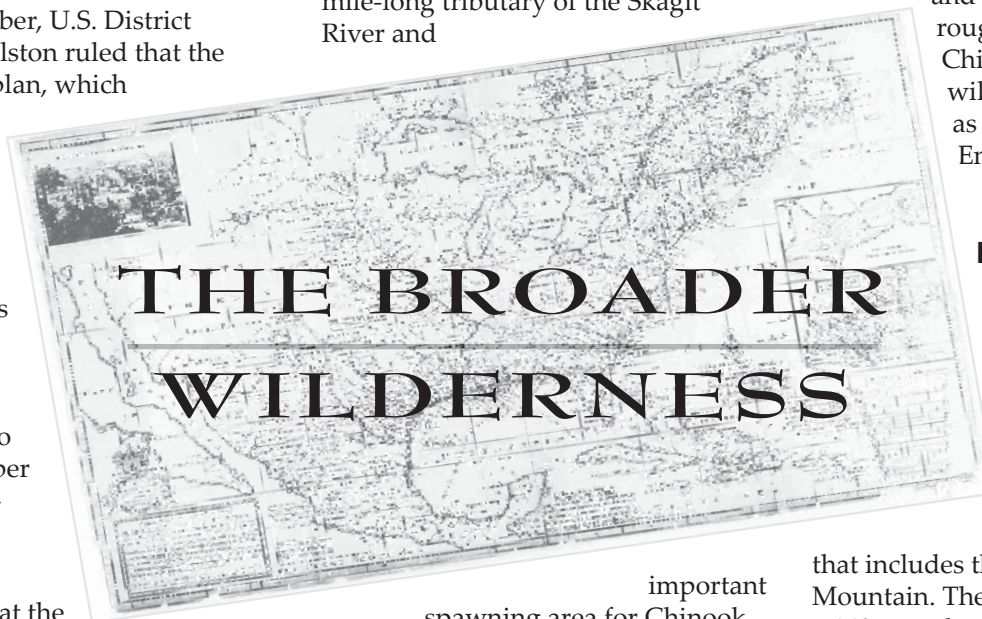
This from the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer's* Joel Connelly:

The U.S. House of Representatives approved wild and scenic river designation for Illabot Creek, a 14-mile-long tributary of the Skagit River and

Designation of Illabot Creek has been a project of U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash. It has won support not just from conservationists and fishermen, but from Skagit County Commissioners.

“This wild and scenic designation will benefit not only endangered species such as Chinook salmon but also families who hunt, fish and hike near this pristine creek,” said Larsen. Nor is Illabot Creek guaranteed protection by being made a component of the wild, scenic and recreational river system. A private land owner can log near a stream if he or she complies with state regulations.

“This is a major spawning area for salmon and steelhead,” DeYonge added. “The simple fact is that salmon and steelhead are having a rough time on the Skagit. Chinook salmon and wild steelhead are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.”



NM - Chupadera peak granted wilderness status

Congress approved wilderness status for a parcel of donated land at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

that includes the peak of Chupadera Mountain. The peak was part of a 140-acre donation made in 2007 by the Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge that made visitor access to the top of the mountain possible.

Campaign for America's Wilderness tells us that Congress did not have to enact a law to add this parcel to the wilderness. Donation of this parcel triggered a process for its automatic inclusion in the adjacent already-designated wilderness within the wildlife refuge. Though it is a little-known provision, section 6(a) of the 1964 Wilderness Act permits this kind of automatic designation of contiguous donated land to a wilderness area, after formal notice is given to Congress.

important spawning area for Chinook salmon and wild steelhead.

The legislation goes on to the Senate, where it is being sponsored and pushed by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

The “Magic Skagit” and its tributaries are the largest producers of salmon and steelhead in Washington outside of the Columbia River. The main river and several tributary rivers were designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act more than 30 years ago.

“In general, however, the management has been quite loose,” said Jack De Yonge of Sedro Woolley, a longtime fisherman of the Skagit system and former editorial page editor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

More Broads' Beat

(continued from page 5)

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would protect more than 9 million acres of publicly managed wilderness-quality land in Utah.

As old as Great Old Broads for Wilderness,

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act was first introduced in Congress in 1989. It has been reintroduced every other year since then and was reintroduced again in April of this year by Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). Durbin said, "I believe it is the responsibility of Congress to ensure that these fragile lands of magnificent beauty, which already belong to the public, do not fall victim to oil, gas and mining interests, increased commercial development, and proposals to construct roads, utility lines, and dams. We are the stewards of these creations and our legislation will help achieve this important goal."

Great Old Broads for Wilderness and the more than 240 conservation groups that form the Utah Wilderness Coalition (<http://www.uwcoalition.org/about/history.html>) are very hopeful that this is the year we garner the support necessary to protect these amazing wild lands.

For more information, go to the website of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, www.suwa.org.



Photo by Jim Case

More Protection Proposed for Big Sur

Representative Sam Farr, D-Carmel, CA introduced the Big Sur Forest Service Management Unit Act November 6 that would add more than 2,000 acres to the Ventana Wilderness, add local rivers to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System thus preventing dams, and provide for independent funding of the Big

Sur portion of the Los Padres National Forest thus allowing for local spending decisions. Broads' Ventana Wilderness Broadwalk in 2002 preceeded the last expansion of the Ventana Wilderness.

For more info see <http://www.ventanawild.org/forum08/viewtopic.php?p=1501&#p1501>

Letter to Santa (A Broad Wish List)

Dear Santa,

We've been good all year and hope that you will bring us our true hearts' desires this year.

- ⇒ Each of our members will *introduce a young child (or two!) to a wild place*. Then tell us about the adventure
- ⇒ Members and Friends will *donate an extra \$20* during our 20th anniversary year (or how about multiples of 20!)
- ⇒ Members will *recruit 20 friends* to become members of Great Old Broads for Wilderness
- ⇒ Membes will give *gift Broads memberships* to Broad-minded friends and family this holiday season
- ⇒ Members will volunteer to become Broadband leaders (see sidebar on page 15)
- ⇒ Members will *become a fan of Great Old Broads for Wilderness on Facebook* and recruit at least 20 of their friends
- ⇒ 20 more members will support us with *sustaining memberships of \$20 a month* to help cover our monthly office overhead
- ⇒ Passionate candidates (doers, donors, and door-openers) will *apply for our Board of Directors*
- ⇒ A generous friend will donate a functional *office phone system* (or funds for one)
- ⇒ Our Ginger Harmon Wilderness *Essay Contest will attract sponsors*, mentoring teachers, and numerous student participants - go to www.greatoldbroads.org/gingeressayinfo.pdf for information
- ⇒ Our Broads Healthy Lands Project (*BHLP*) will *boast numerous new partners* and our members will tell their local grassroots organizations all about how BHLP can help (visit www.healthylands.org)

If you can be our Santa and bring us any of the wishes above - please let us know by calling Ronni or Rose at 970-385-9577.

Utah Wilderness Coalition

<http://www.uwcoalition.org/about/history.html>



ON FACEBOOK? Become a Fan of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Search our name or go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Great-Old-Broads-for-Wilderness/181641605322?ref=ts>
Don't forget to invite all your friends!!

Northern Sierra (CA & NV)

At the end of June the Northern Sierra Broadband held a fund-raiser event at the home of Karen Cox and Kathleen Kershaw. The inspiration for the menu came from a Spanish/Moroccan cookbook recently purchased at a London restaurant. Karen and Kathleen (with help from friends) served up gourmet tapas (small plates), wine, and beer. The meal and conversation were enjoyed by 29 Broads or "soon-to-be" Broads.



Above: Wow! That's a Broad spread to be proud of! l-r Kathleen Kershaw, Gail Shierman, Marcia Braga, and Karen Cox.



JoAnn Valenti stewards nesting sites of black skimmers.



Florida

Broads monitored nesting sites of black skimmers and least terns at a half dozen locations along Gulf beaches in June, July, and August. Most of the hatchlings were ready to take off in mid August. Broadband Leader JoAnn Valenti said it was an "amazing 'continuing education' opportunity and a great service project that actually helped preserve a bit of Florida."

Four Corners (UT/AZ/CO/NM)

A cadre of 8 members gathered for the weekend for National Public Lands Day projects in SE Utah on September 26. In such a vast landscape, the work that needs to be done can seem overwhelming, even to the agency staff in the field. Having even a few souls helping out is a wonderful gift for for the agency and for our beloved wild places. We worked to close, remove, and rehabilitate off highway vehicle intrusions into Fish and Owl Canyon Wilderness Study Areas on Cedar Mesa. It was gratifying work with immediate visual results. It wasn't all work and no play. The next day, Fred Goodsell led a hike on Comb Ridge to several sweet archeological sites including one he called "Baby Foot Ruin." You should

have seen and heard the reaction of the grandmothers in the group at the sight of an ancestral puebloan infant's footprint imprinted in the ancient plaster on a wall. It is for our grandchildren that we toil to protect Utah's stunning wild landscapes.

New Broad, Nancy VanArdall wrote, "The weekend was truly a life-changing one for me. As tired as I was yesterday, I still was savoring every moment. And yes! sign me up for next year!"



Closing off-road vehicle routes into WSAs is a great way to spend National Public Lands Day.

Sangre de Cristo (CO)

The Sangres Broadband was a busy group in October with 12 Broads and Bros assisting with the clean-up of Highway 96 on October 17. A hike in the Wet Mountains followed for those who wanted to enjoy our nice weather.

Then on October 20, the Broadband had a great turnout (14 people and one pack horse!) for the Grape Creek Wilderness Study area fence building project.

They built a fence on the boundary of the BLM Grape Creek Wilderness Study area to help protect the riparian environment near Grape Creek per the BLM Travel Management plan.



Lake of the Clouds trails required some heavy-lifting TLC this year.

The group has been busy all year doing projects ranging from tree-planting to trash clean-up from backcountry trails and campsites to sign installations. They have logged nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer service in 2009! Way to go Broads and Bros.

Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband Walks the Dosewallips

by Shelley Spalding

The newly established Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband (WA) chose the magnificent Dosewallips watershed for their first mini-Broadwalk in late June.

The Dosewallips was chosen because the Olympic National Forest plans to build a road through the old-growth Polly Dyer Grove, which abuts the Buckhorn Wilderness. The old road, adjacent to the river and sandwiched between two wilderness areas (Buckhorn and Brothers), was blocked by a land slide in 2002. Now there's an opportunity to convert it to a trail. Washington Trails Association volunteers have already put in the "Up and Over Trail" that takes users above the washout and back to the now abandoned road leading to Elkhorn Campground and the Dosewallips Campground in Olympic National Park. Unfortunately, the Forest Service continues to push for motorized access.

Fifteen of us gathered at Dosewallips State Park on Friday night, with participants coming from as far north as Orcas Island and as far south as Ashland, Oregon.

On Saturday morning, Dean Yoshina, Hood Canal District Ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, made a presentation on land management activities and projects on the Olympic Peninsula, including the Dosewallips Road. Broads were well versed on the road's history and were aware that the June 2008 draft EIS drew a large public response in favor of converting the abandoned road to a trail, with other agencies and local tribes in agreement.

When asked why the Forest Service was so intent on proceeding with the road project, Dean referred to a memorandum that identified the shared responsibilities and interests of the National Park Service and National Forest Service in the restoration of motorized access to the Elkhorn and Dosewallips Campgrounds. We also learned that the Federal Highway Administration has no funding

to contribute to the project, nor are any such funds seen as becoming available.

Following Dean's presentation, the Broads headed for the Dosewallips River. At the trailhead of the washout area, we found more than 30 cars parked; apparently lots of folks were enjoying the Dosewallips without motorized access. Hiking the abandoned road, we

were heartened to see how quickly a road will close in and become people-friendly once the cars are gone. Wildflowers were in glorious profusion along the river that constantly changes from roaring cascades to still pools. In the words of CarrieAnn Thunell following her visit to the Dosewallips, "There is quiet here, solitude, serenity, and the longer one stays, the more this unique community of living things stirs the heart."

Olympic Forest Coalition staff recounted the history of the area for Broads and explained the Coalition's monitoring efforts.

Along with new warm friendships, we took with us a commitment to write letters in support of the Dosewallips being freed of a road that impedes its ability to function as a wild salmon and steelhead river and a place for respite, quiet and genuine interaction with the natural world.



Broads gathered at the road wash-out next to the Dosewallips River in the Olympic National Forest.

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UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation has challenged Great Old Broads for Wilderness to raise \$30,000 from members and friends before the end of the year. Stretch your support dollars by **DONATING NOW!** Go to www.greatoldbroads.org and click on the "Join or Give" icon, e-mail us at broads@greatoldbroads.org or call us at 970-385-9577.



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