



# BROADSIDES

THE GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18 No. 1

WINTER 2008

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***"The size of our economy is a direct measure of our indebtedness to the Earth"***

*– Richard Compton, Director, White River Conservation Project*

## BROADS JOIN SUIT TO HALT MINING OF CABINET MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in northwestern Montana is under attack from the east and from the west. Two mining companies are vying for rights to tap copper and silver ore that they believe lies deep within the federally designated wilderness. Neither company is

proposing to dig vertically through the surface of wilderness lands but to dig horizontally from outside the wilderness boundaries with the expectation that this tack will not impact the wilderness environment or the endangered species that inhabit the wilderness.

Attorneys at EarthJustice and a number of environment-savvy organizations, including Rock Creek Alliance, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and the Natural Resources Defense Council disagree, and are bringing legal suit against the U.S. Forest Service for permitting one of the companies, Revett Silver Company, to go forth with their plans to dig the Rock Creek Mine on the west.

Two recent Broadwalks to areas on both sides of the Cabinet Mountains



*The site of the proposed Rock Creek Mine as it backs up to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Photo courtesy of Rock Creek Alliance.*

Wilderness, the Yaak Valley in 2004 and the Scotchman Peaks in 2007, brought Broads attention to the plight of the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly population and the threats these mine proposals pose. We visited Revett Silver Company's Troy Mine, just west of the Cabinets, to see firsthand the destruction that occurs. We've met with Kootenai National Forest staff to encourage stronger protections for these wild lands...to no avail. Thus, as Broads Board member Steve Gilbert said, signing on to this lawsuit, "is Broads doing the right thing for wilderness and wild lands once again."

But Broads' involvement with the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem goes a bit deeper. A Broads Director since 2005,

*continued on page 3*

# IN A BROAD SENSE: BE WARY OF LAME DUCKS

*A message from our Executive Director - Ronni Egan*

Happy 2008, Great Old Broads one and all! With the coming of this Leap Year we have many things to look forward to; the crocuses will soon be poking their heads above the chilly ground in our more southerly states, the buzzards will be returning to Hinkley, Ohio in March, (just like the swallows to Capistrano, wherever THAT is), the stock market will continue to confound us, and the onslaught of political campaign advertising will increase steadily in both quantity and obnoxiousness.

There are some other phenomena that we can count on in the coming year, threats to both designated Wilderness and wilderness quality lands will emanate from the outgoing administration. Some of these threats will undoubtedly be cloaked in the guise of "fair and balanced" compromises in wilderness proposals containing *quid pro quo* provisions that set a terrible precedent of weakening the protections of The Wilderness Act. We have already seen some proposals of this type be introduced and fail in the first round because of the adamant stance of wilderness advocacy groups like Great Old Broads, Wilderness Watch, and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. These proposals have been beaten back but they are sure to return in 2008 with minor revisions. We need to be on the alert for these and similar proposals in this next legislative session.

These proposals include the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act which would, among other things, turn over several thousand acres of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area to private developers and would split the proposed Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness with a motorized trail.



Another proposed compromise that has the potential to "give away the farm" and with it the public's ability to weigh in on important long-term land use policy, is the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Conservation Restoration and Stewardship Act of 2007. The bill, developed behind closed doors by a partnership of timber companies and conservation groups including the Montana Wilderness Association, National Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited, is designed to side-step the Forest Plan Revision process. It is anti-democratic, in that it supplants the principles and procedures of transparency and full-disclosure mandated by NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) and NFMA (National Forest Management Act of 1976).

The bill provides no avenue for analyses of alternatives or environmental effects on resources, nor does it provide for economic analysis. There was no opportunity for individuals or groups to participate before the bill's language was finalized. This bill would actually increase the amount of timber to be cut above the Forest Service's own recommendations in the 2003 Forest Plan Revision, and would result in many miles of roads in currently roadless, wilderness quality lands.

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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 has over 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.*

Steve Gilbert was one of the scientists hired by Montana Department of Environmental Quality in the 1990s to study the impact of the Rock Creek Mine on endangered species. Steve's company at the time, OEA Research, reported that the mine operations with resulting road building, waste dumps, and increased human activity in the vicinity of Rock Creek would cause irreparable damage to grizzly bear, bull trout, and harlequin duck habitat and likely cause further decline in populations of all three species. But, according to Steve, the report was bastardized to infer that mining operations would not have such dire consequences. (See sidebar.) So this is personal!

EarthJustice has notified the Forest Service of our intent to sue, kick-starting the wheels of justice. At the moment, it's not known how this suit will affect the other mining company's (Mining Management) proposal to dig to the ore from the east or if any portion of Steve's report is applicable to the eastern site. Whatever happens, we'll be watching closely and seizing any opportunity to protect the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

### **ROCK CREEK MINE – NOT A NEW ISSUE**

*by Steve Gilbert*

The proposed Rock Creek Mine just won't go away. Studies to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were begun in the early 1980s. A Helena consulting company I worked with was hired in the 1990s by Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to write technical biological reports for the EIS. Our portion of the EIS documented probable irreversible negative effects on grizzlies, bull trout, and harlequin ducks among other species. When asked by DEQ what mitigations could be applied, so that mining might proceed, I replied that there were none.

The final printed DEIS showed 17 pages of our final copy had been changed to reflect only positive effects on these species. We threatened the state with legal action and settled for a 17 page errata section with our original narrative in place. This document has been conveniently misplaced over the years of heated battle. Additional agency personnel and consultants appear to have convinced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that setting aside nearby habitat should adequately protect the incredibly vulnerable bears. This was not true in the 1980s and it isn't true now. It is unfortunate that citizens are reduced to litigation, but when agencies change and/or ignore best science in their management decisions, we have no other choice, just as the bears, trout and ducks have no other choice about where to live.

*Steve Gilbert has been on the Great Old Broads Board of Directors since 2005, and is currently the Non-motorized Trails Specialist for the Montana Department of Parks and Recreation. He lives in Helena, Montana.*

For more information, visit one of the Rock Creek Alliance web sites at

[www.rockcreekalliance.org](http://www.rockcreekalliance.org) or [www.saveourcabinets.org](http://www.saveourcabinets.org). - Anne Benson

## **PLANNED GIVING: A LEGACY OF SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S TREASURED WILD PLACES**

Great Old Broads for Wilderness, having reached its 19th year, will be around for the long haul, working to protect the wild and roadless places we all love. While annual memberships and gifts are extremely important, Broads needs legacy gifts to sustain our viability into the future. We know you have many choices about where you leave your assets. We only hope that Great Old Broads will be one of your choices. A legacy gift needn't be large to reflect the values that you cherish. Your legacy gift to Great Old Broads helps us accomplish

your goal of permanent preservation of wilderness for generations to come.

During the fall of 2007, we received gifts of an IRA distribution and securities from some of our dedicated and generous members. We greatly appreciate their thoughtful donations.

If you are interested in making a planned gift to Great Old Broads for Wilderness, or have already included Broads in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or other estate gift, please contact Development

Director Suzanne Strazza at [suzanne@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:suzanne@greatoldbroads.org), or 970.533.9093. We would love to recognize you, (with your permission) as a legacy donor, in our Annual Report.

For more information on planned giving, please visit our web site at [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org) and click on Join or Give. Planned gifts can be an effective way to secure tax advantages for your estate and heirs. We recommend that you meet with your estate attorney or financial advisor to decide what is best for you and your family.



# BROAD IN THE BACKGROUND: STEADFAST VOLUNTEER

Forty years ago, Norma McCallan ran across a national organization that she thought she might like to join. She didn't realize, at the time, that the Sierra Club had local groups. She was living in Phoenix, doing some research for a patron at the branch library she ran, when her "eye hit upon a local listing for the Sierra Club." That's how it all started for her. She gave them a call and started attending meetings. To her surprise the chair (a prominent outings leader) asked her to fill in for his assistant cook, who couldn't make it on a national burro trip to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. It wasn't easy for her to get away from her responsibilities at the library and as a single parent but synchronicity was on her side. The trip fell during a time when her parents were visiting, and she was able to get the week off from the library. "That trip was a huge awakening to the incredible space, beauty, and silence that we have in the southwest, as well as the delight of sharing it with kindred souls," she said. "That did it for me!"

Norma grew up in Yonkers, New York, and at that time, "hiking" was not in the New York vernacular. Her life in Yonkers wasn't devoid of the natural world, however. "What we did do," she said, "was walk." Her father was a plant pathologist whose hobby of gardening filled their table with fresh fruits and vegetables. He was also a stickler when it came to conserving water. "He was from Bermuda," Norma said, "where the only fresh water came from the sky." She explained that the small island has no rivers or lakes. Her father's family captured rain water from the roof in cisterns and he instilled in her a sense of the preciousness of fresh, clean water - a concept that has proven useful since her move to the desert southwest.



*Norma, happily hiking in Broad Canyon during the Doña Ana Broadwalk, October 2007.*

In 1975, she secured a job with the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe and found that the small city with a big history was the place for her. She has lived there ever since and has taken on numerous roles for the local, state and national committees of the Sierra Club. "Early on," she said, "I was asked to be the Outings Chair of the local group. It was hard to say 'no,'" she admitted. She enlisted the aid of co-chairs because, she said, "two heads are usually better than one," and over the years she organized hundreds of day hikes, backpacks, car camps, cross country ski trips and activist outings. She has been on the Northern Group Executive Committee as Program Chair, Membership Chair, Conservation Chair, Vice Chair and Chair, as well as currently being the Outings Co-chair, Editorial Committee Chair, and Vice Chair for the state-wide Rio Grande Chapter. She served on the national Group & Chapter Outings Committee until term limited out at 6 years.

Norma's assignments with the Sierra Club have seen her trekking through deserts in southern Utah; pounding the Santa Fe streets for legislative and congressional

candidates; and talking with mayors and city council members. "At the local level, you can do a lot of good," she noted.

She has led an outing every month with the Northern Group for more than 25 years. She was on the editorial committee for the recently published 6th edition of *Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area*, which includes eight of her hike write-ups. "Bringing people to wild and special places that they don't know about, is very rewarding," she said.

Norma is a member of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, where, on a raft trip, she met up with Ginger Harmon, a Great Old Broads Board member, for the second time. "I remembered her from a Grand Canyon trip many years ago," she said. Since Norma had been Broad-minded for so many years, Ginger hooked her up with Great Old Broads to great benefit of this organization.

If you happen to be in Santa Fe, you might want to look up Norma. She tends to be extraordinarily busy but if you catch her on the right day, she may invite you on one of her favorite local hikes - and wouldn't that be a wonderful day. - Anne Benson

The conservationists supporting this bill maintain that it will result in collaboration, reduced “gridlock,” and economic stimulation. Logging would be extended onto 730,000 acres, 200,00 acres of which are roadless and suitable for wilderness designation, while a mere 32 percent of wilderness-eligible acres would be so designated, and most of those are in the higher, steeper terrain known as “rock and ice” wilderness.

To quote my friend George Wuerthner, editor of several stunning tomes on threats to our remaining wild places, “From a conservation biology perspective, there is no rational reason to sacrifice nationally significant wildlife habitat, world-class trout fisheries, and spectacular undeveloped backcountry for little or no net public gain. The truly valuable assets on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest should be protected, not sold-off for pennies on the dollar. The B-DNF has some of the finest wild lands in the nation. It is not the nation’s wood box, nor should it continue to be a livestock feedlot or an ORV playground.”

This is yet another *quid pro quo* wilderness deal that eliminates public input and hands over forest management to private industry while designating far less wilderness than is eligible, on the grounds that “it’s the best we can do” given current political and economic conditions. Wuerthner asserts, “We are fighting over the last few scraps of relatively undeveloped landscapes. If we were to really have a genuine compromise we would be advocating the closure of all roads, termination of all logging, grazing, ORV use, and mining...”

In addition to these and other *quid pro quo* “wilderness deals,” there is a proposal included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to designate corridors on Federal land for locating future oil, natural gas and

dramatically expand opportunities for irresponsible, unmanaged motorized travel and recreation. Even if you’ve missed the comment period, be on the alert for these corridors to be proposed in your area, or in your favorite places to recreate.

***“This is yet another quid pro quo wilderness deal that eliminates public input and hands over forest management to private industry...”***

The Draft PEIS is available for review at libraries and BLM and Forest Service

field offices in the 11 western states, at the agencies’ Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and in electronic form (PDF) online at the project Web site <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>.

In this election year, don’t let your focus be directed away from the current administration’s onslaught on the environment. We don’t want to start 2009 knowing that the Duck gave the farm to big business. And during this election, I hope that you will bring the environment front and center. Insist that the candidates answer the tough questions concerning our natural heritage in this country and around the world. The ship of state may turn slowly, but it seems to be picking up momentum, and it’s up to all of us to help steer it back on course.

hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure in the West. With far-reaching and potentially devastating impacts to roadless and wilderness quality lands, these corridor proposals will, no doubt, be cloaked in the banner of national energy security-at-any-cost. Public hearings were held throughout the West in January, and the public comment period on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) closes Feb. 14.

Needless to say, the potential for these corridors to negatively affect watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, scenic and historic values and much more, is huge. In addition, these corridors will



*Broads as Little Red Ridinghood, BB Wolf, and a bevy of Grannies make an appearance at the University of New Mexico campus in Albuquerque during Wolf Awareness Days in October.*



# BROADS WALK IN BROAD CANYON FOR DOÑA ANA WILDERNESS

Though parched by a summer of intense southern New Mexico sun, Broad Canyon was still a-buzz with critters in mid October. Lizards scurried away from foot fall. Raptors soared overhead and butterflies gathered on damp sand in the shadowy crevices of the creek bottom. The canyon is a short drive from Las Cruces and was the focus of a classic Broadwalk in 2007.

With the help of The Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition, 28 Broads learned about the ecology, politics, and natural history of southern New Mexico while camping in the shadow of the Organ Mountains. The Broadwalk was aimed at calling attention to the coalition's Proposed Wilderness and National Conservation Area. The Proposal calls for the designation of wilderness in Broad Canyon and the East Potrillo Mountains as well as in the eight existing Wilderness Study Areas in the county. It also proposes the establishment of a National Conservation Area that protects the



*Broadwalkers gather after a hike into Broad Canyon near Las Cruces, NM - October 2007.*

entire Organ/Franklin Mountain Recreation Area and specifically protects parts of the Organ, Tortugas, San Andres, and Doña Ana Mountains from development.

Day hikes with knowledgeable local guides took us into some spectacular country and gave us all a sense of the prickly, inhospitable nature of these desert landscapes. Evening talks reminded us of the fragility of the ecosystems – particularly when humans force “civilization” on them.

Speakers included Nathan Small and Jeff Steinborn, both of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance; Tom Phillips and Tim Sanders from the Las Cruces Bureau of Land Management; Paul Harper of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park; Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity; and cowboy poet and singer/wilderness advocate, Patricia Buls. We learned about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert, the difficulties faced by land managers in the area, the plight of the Mexican wolf, and the trials and trails of a “lonely” cowgirl.

Daylight hours found us hiking, fauna watching, and photographing on trails on both sides of the Organ Mountains and into Broad Canyon, which is in the Tortuga Range. Trails

presented moderate challenges with altitude climbs and boulder scrambles mixed in with dirt trail flats. Broads of a wide range of physical abilities enjoyed each other's company for the largest portion of each hike.

On Sunday, the group helped the BLM office close a trail to motorized traffic. We donned gravel picks, heavy rakes, and shovels and beat down the roadside gravel berms at a park just west of Las Cruces. We filled sacks and sacks with trash and covered tracks with local brush in an attempt to naturalize the site. There was still plenty to do when we left but, as is the case of most of Broads endeavors, our efforts were merely part of a much larger effort that continues into the future.

Monday morning before leaving town, a group of Broads visited with staff at the Las Cruces offices of Senators Domenici and Bingham, urging them to protect the priceless wild areas in their state and especially to support the proposals for Doña Ana County and Broad Canyon. Now it is up to each of us to ask our representatives to do the same.

For more information, contact The Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition at [www.donaanawild.org](http://www.donaanawild.org).



*Donna Smith demonstrates her berm-breaking technique during the BLM service project near Las Cruces.*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **Gold Butte, NV Broadwalk**

Date: April 10-14, 2008

Location: South of Mesquite, Nevada

Cost: \$110

This Broadwalk takes us to an area of stunning wild desert scenery. The Gold Butte region is in the southeast corner of Nevada, just west of the Arizona/Nevada border. This gorgeous area has been described as “like someone took southern Utah, Joshua Tree, and the AZ Strip and put them in a blender.” It is a geological jackpot with jagged limestone and basalt peaks rising over 5,000 feet. There are also slot canyons, jumbled granite boulder fields and bizarre sandstone sculptures in a multitude of colors. Archaeological remnants, petroglyph, wildflowers, migrating birds, desert tortoises... come explore with us.

For four nights and three days, we'll learn about and explore this unique area with the help of the Nevada Wilderness Project. We'll set up camp and get acquainted Thursday afternoon. Breakfasts and dinners will be provided by a camp cook, leaving us more time for learning and adventure. Local speakers and hike leaders will join us each day to share the wonders of Gold Butte. We'll spend one day on a volunteer project with the BLM and the other two days exploring, with a range of difficulty offered. We break camp Monday morning.

The Las Vegas Field Office of the BLM has designated Gold Butte as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). It's not enough. Population growth in Las Vegas and St. George means increased use, especially by ORV's, which are causing extensive damage. Come join us to discover how we can help this amazing area get the protection it deserves.

## **Indian Creek ORV Monitoring**

Date: April 24-28, 2008

Location: NW of Monticello, Utah

Cost: \$60

Our Second Annual Recapture Utah! Monitoring Event - Space is limited to 16 participants. Broads want to Recapture Utah, (or at least parts of it!) for quiet users and the critters. Come help gather data to support our efforts to document ORV use/abuse while enjoying some great exploring. We'll base camp near Indian Creek surrounded by BLM lands east of the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. After receiving training in our Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHL) monitoring techniques, we will divide into small teams to monitor our assigned areas. This part of Utah is home to the famous Indian Creek climbing area and Newspaper Rock.

Participants will be trained to use a GPS, digital camera, and the BHL monitoring form to collect information on use impacts along travel corridors. Equipment will be provided for those who need it. We plan on two full days of monitoring and one day of play. A camp cook will prepare breakfasts/dinners. Evenings may include speakers from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, BLM, and Red Rock Forests. There are not many places to camp and hike that are finer than southern Utah in the springtime!

## **San Juan River Trip FUNdraiser**

Date: May 4-9, 2008

Location: Leaves from Bluff, Utah

Cost: \$1,099

Join Broad's staff and author Amy Irvine (*Trespass: Living on the Edge of the Promised Land*) for this fully outfitted fundraising float with Wild Rivers Expeditions. Overnight in

Bluff at the Recapture Lodge then launch for this five day, 58-mile journey through the San Juan's deep, sinuous, and wild lower canyon (the Goosenecks), one of the most scenic floats in N. America. The relaxing pace allows for side canyon hikes and enjoying the canyon's serenity. Highlights include hiking the Honaker trail, Slickhorn Canyon, Grand Gulch and Oljeto Wash. The trip is limited to 15 spots so register early. Wild Rivers Expeditions is donating \$400 per person to Broads. See <http://www.riversandruins.com/store/p14details29.php#>.

## **Spring Basin, OR Broadwalk**

Date: September 18-22, 2008

Location: Near Fossil, OR

Cost: To Be Determined

Planning is in progress but the date is firm for this Broadwalk in the high desert of central Oregon. The Spring Basin proposed wilderness encompasses rolling hills of sagebrush and dramatic rock spires where you'll find sensitive archaeological sites and endangered plants and animals. Local landowners, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) have worked together to develop a Wilderness proposal that could permanently protect Spring Basin. With widespread local support for the proposal, the future of a Spring Basin Wilderness rests in the hands of Congress. Broads will do a restoration project with the BLM, hike, explore, and learn. Watch the web site and the summer edition of *Broadsides* for details.

*To sign up for any of these events send full payment or a \$50 deposit to Broads Durango office. For more information, call Rose Chilcoat at 970.385.9577 or e-mail [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org).*



# BROADS TAP WINTER ALLY FOR BOARD

Her energy focused and her enthusiasm highly contagious, Sally Ferguson has a passion for life and wilderness that Broads was bound to tap. In November, Sally accepted an invitation to join the Great Old Broads Board of Directors and she's excited to get to work.

Sally ran into a few Broads in 2003 during a protest of snow mobile access in Yellowstone Park. At the time, she was working for Winter Wildlands Alliance in Boise, Idaho, the protest-sponsoring organization. "They (the Broads) were so much fun and so dedicated that I knew I had to work with them again," she said.

Sally grew up in Portland, Oregon, where she developed her love of the outdoors, spending as much time as possible on skis or hiking and backpacking in nearby wild lands. "Winter sports are my first love," she said, "so moving to Idaho was a natural for me." She moved to Idaho in 1978 and to Boise in the late 1980s where she encountered the nascent Winter Wildlands Alliance. She was their first Grassroots Program Director and, for the next 6 years, she developed an impressive national network that now includes 26 groups in 11 states.

"My most rewarding achievements," she said, "have been creating relationships measured in personal empowerment through education, outreach, and advocacy." With Winter Wildlands Alliance, she was able to exercise her passion by providing resources and leadership to groups in support of wilderness values.

Since that first encounter with Broads in 2003, Sally has sought opportunities to continue her experience of Broad-minded wilderness advocacy. In the years that followed, Broads were present at a second



*Sally Ferguson joined the Great Old Broads Board of Directors in November 2007.*

Yellowstone protest and Broads and Winter Wildlands collaborated on several winter access efforts and conferences. But what she's really itching to pursue, now that she's an integral member of Great Old Broads, is the Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLPP) monitoring program.

"This BHLPP project is what sparked my interest in becoming a board member," she said. "The need to gather, distribute, and apply this kind of information is tremendous and the potential the program presents for creating change is Broad!" With her love of quiet winter recreation, she hopes that she can help institute a winter monitoring project in the not-too-distant future.

Sally brings her passion for wilderness values along with a wealth of experience in event organizing, grassroots fund raising, and volunteer coordinating.

What makes her a Broad? "I believe that the simple importance of bringing everyone, regardless of age and physical constraints, outside to experience the natural world and feel the joy of physical movement is a key to protecting and preserving wild places in the front and back country." — Anne Benson



*Sally Ferguson at an old U.S. Forest Service fire lookout in the Sawtooth Mountains.*



# THE BROADER WILDERNESS MOVEMENT

**Roan Plateau:** Energy development on top of Colorado's majestic Roan Plateau (Broadwalk 2003) has been contentious for years, with proponents and opponents holding sway at different times. The Roan Plateau, near Rifle, is rich both in natural gas and oil shale, and wildlife and ecological diversity. It's home to some of the state's largest deer and elk herds, mountain lions, peregrine falcons, bears, rare plants and genetically pure native cutthroat trout dating to the last ice age. It is a rare island of wildness surrounded by a sea of oil and gas fields, and local residents overwhelmingly prefer to see it left untouched. Colorado legislators Sen. Ken Salazar, Rep. John Salazar and Rep. Mark Udall have proffered a bill that would leave more acreage protected than the BLM proposal, but still opens far too much of the Roan's roadless acreage to mineral exploitation. For current status, see [www.saveroanplateau.org](http://www.saveroanplateau.org).

**Repeal The RAT!** In 2004, the Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act, *aka* the recreational access tax or RAT, imposing various fees for everything from picnic tables and privies to scenic turnouts along roads, became law. On certain public lands it was possible to be ticketed for taking a hike without paying a \$5 fee. Help is at hand, though, in the form of the Fee Repeal and Expanded Access Act of 2007, introduced by Senators Baucus (D-MT) and Sen. Crapo (R-ID). The bill would revoke authority given federal agencies, with the exception of the National Park Service, in 2004 to institute new fees and increase existing fees at campgrounds, trailheads, and other public areas.

Baucus, a long-time critic of the fees, said the current system amounts to double taxation. "Americans already pay to use their public lands on April



*Colorado's Roan Plateau. Photo courtesy of SkyTruth.*

15," Baucus said. "We shouldn't be taxed twice to go fishing, hiking, or camping on OUR public lands. It just doesn't make any sense." The Western Slope No-Fee Coalition is currently campaigning to get as many Congressional co-sponsors to the bill as possible. For more information on your legislator's stand on this bill, and how to ask him/her to sign on to it please go to [www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org](http://www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org)

**Energy Corridors:** The November 2007 "West-wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" (DPEIS) – <http://corridoreis.anl.gov> – proposes huge swaths of habitat-fragmenting corridors through hundreds of thousands of acres of public land (including national recreation areas, monuments, wildlife refuges, and more) to "accommodate multiple pipelines (such as for oil, gas, or hydrogen), electricity transmission lines, and related infrastructure, such as access and maintenance roads, compressors, pumping stations, and other structures." Once these corridors are designated, energy companies will then push to "connect the dots" between far-flung segments of public land over thousands of miles of private and state lands, such as state parks and wildlife areas. Although the DPEIS makes no mention of it, these massive swaths will also connect proposed

coal-fired power plants. This is a real step backward, supporting 19th century energy technology, when the emphasis must shift increasingly toward local, sustainable energy sources.

## **The Travel Planning Process:**

The US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are in the process of identifying and designating roads and trails for all of the various modes of transportation, from shoe leather to Hummers, on our public lands. Many Travel Plans are being released this winter, and public hearings and meetings are being held to gather public input. The motorized recreation community has been very effective in mobilizing its constituency to attend these meetings, which gives the appearance that they represent the public's interest. They claim that the plans are "locking them out," preventing them from enjoying their chosen recreational activities. We "quiet users" have until now remained altogether too quiet, failing to give the agencies our "side of the story." Many of us don't really understand how much peace and quiet we're giving up, and it's up to us to attend these meetings and speak up. For more information on how to get involved in saving some solitude please contact your local conservation group or The Wilderness Society's Recreation Planning Program, [josh\\_hicks@tw.org](mailto:josh_hicks@tw.org).

# 2007 WILD FOR WILDERNESS ONLINE AUCTION DONORS

Thanks to our many 2007 Wild for Wilderness Online Auction donors, our third annual auction was a bigger success than last year, netting more than \$55,000 for Broads' wilderness work. We are deeply grateful to our donors for their generosity and to all of our members who participated by bidding and helping to spread the word. Please support our 2007 auction donors listed below as a thank you for their support of Broads.

If you would like to donate any item(s) for our 2008 online auction, please e-mail [anne@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:anne@greatoldbroads.org) or visit our online donation page at [www.greatoldbroads.org/nadf.php](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/nadf.php). Corporate sponsors as well as donations of adventure trips, outdoor gear, vacation stays, restaurant meals, and more are needed.

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*Continued on page 11*

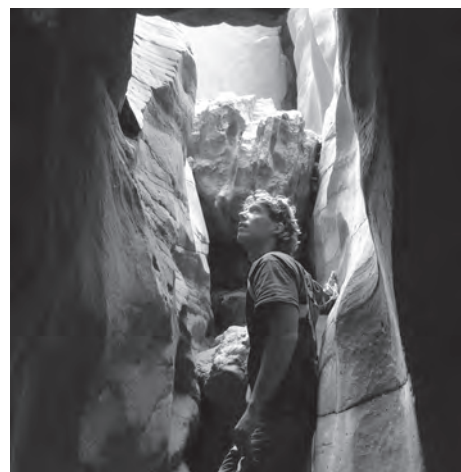


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Aron Ralston in Blue John Canyon, Utah.

## An Evening with Aron Ralston

Date: March 7, 2008 - 7:30 pm  
 Where: Eccles Center, Park City, UT  
 Cost: \$15

Join us for an evening of inspiration. Aron Ralston, outdoorsman and author, will talk about how his life changed after the accident in Blue John Canyon, Utah, where he severed his own arm to free himself. He now takes every opportunity to advocate for the conservation of threatened landscapes. His book, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, is an international best seller and was on the New York Times Best Seller List for 20 weeks.

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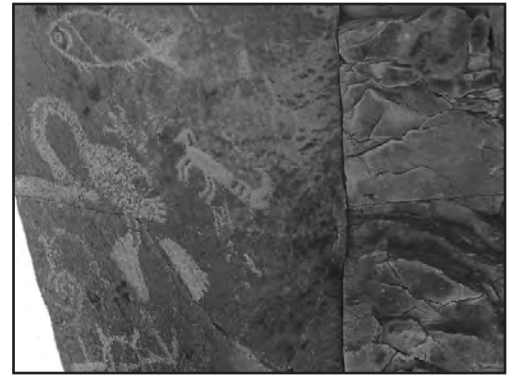
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*Pictographs in Broad Canyon, Las Cruces, NM.*

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