



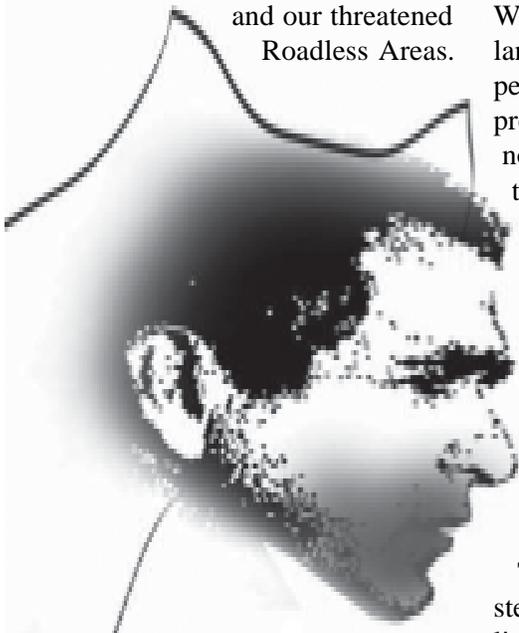
# BROADSIDES

Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Vol. 16, no. 3 Fall 2006

## In A Broad Sense

In mid-July I enjoyed a five day hike into the Scapegoat Wilderness in the company of several friends, including Board members Steve Gilbert and Ginger Harmon. The Scapegoat is a rugged country of limestone reefs, gushing waterfalls and home to a wonderfully diverse mix of wildlife species. We reveled in the solitude, silence and abundant wildlife that is possible these days only in Wilderness and our threatened Roadless Areas.



## Crying Wolf

Artwork by Karla Sulis, courtesy of the Durango Herald

Now the United States Forest Service wants to alter those conditions in a very significant way with a rule change permitting the killing of predators in Wilderness using ATVs, dirt bikes and helicopters. This

outrageous notion strikes at the very heart of the concept of Wilderness, which Congress has decreed shall remain "untrammelled by man." Not only is there no credible evidence of a need to kill predators (as if they were terrorist cells sending suicide bombers out into civilization), but allowing motorized incursions into designated Wilderness is the first step toward breaching the protections that Wilderness designation affords to the landscapes and wildlife that we as a people have decided shall be preserved in their natural state. Make no mistake; this proposal has nothing to do with livestock or big game depredation, and has everything to do with the Bush administration getting a foot in the door of Wilderness. It's not a big step from ATVs roaming cross-country in pursuit of cougars, wolves, grizzlies and many smaller critters to putting in exploratory roads to scout for timber, oil or minerals.

The purported rationale behind this stealth maneuver is to protect private livestock interests and to increase numbers of popular game species such as elk and deer. This translates into a major land management policy shift to benefit a handful of livestock permittees with Wilderness allotments and some hunting outfitters. In places where game numbers are down, scientists have found that destruction of habitat, not predation, is generally the culprit. Occasional loss of livestock is one of the situations to be expected on public land grazing allotments, and could be reduced with better livestock management practices

by Ronni Egan

by the owners. Furthermore, all wildlife belongs to every American, and the large predators are already either extirpated from the majority of their historic ranges, or are under perpetual threat of the death sentence where they do exist. If there is truly a predator problem warranting a rule change of this magnitude, clear and current scientific evidence must be produced by the Forest Service, not merely suggestions from "collaborating parties," as is detailed in the proposal.

Given the Bush administration's clear hostility toward protecting public lands, this scheme is using predators as a Trojan Wolf to gain stealthy entry into our most treasured and fragile places. Such audacity on behalf of a few politically powerful business interests is highly suspect, but the permanent relaxation of the rules allowing what amounts to "industrial management" of wildlife in Wilderness, followed by even more intrusive proposals in the future, is

*continued on page 2*

**Mark Your Calendar!  
Wild for Wilderness  
Online Auction!**

*Oct. 27 - Nov. 19, 2006*



Details on  
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## In A Broad Sense Cont.

easier to buy. Under-Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey's proposals to sell off National Forest lands, the throwing out of the Roadless Rule, the new Forest Planning Rule eliminating public input on Forest Plans, all make it easy to see the handwriting on the wall. This administration has but two years left to undo 30 years of hard-won environmental laws and protections, and will stop at nothing to puncture and deflate some of the finest of our public land management concepts.

We four Broads had the pleasure of remarkably close-up wildlife watching, coupled with the kind of natural soundscape and solitude to be found only in designated Wilderness. If the sanctuary of motor-free zones is lost, these opportunities will be lost as well, not just to us, but to our grandchildren's grandchildren. There is utterly no excuse for this sort of short-sighted rule-bending. Designated Wilderness, which constitutes less than 5% of the United States, is under

attack as never before, and needs its defenders to speak out for those that cannot speak for themselves. The official comment period has now closed, but it's not too late to call or email your Congressman and Senators and register your opinion of this outrageous proposal.

Speaking of Congressmen and Senators, I am going to risk sounding like a broken record (are we the only ones old enough to remember broken records?) and remind you that November 7<sup>th</sup> is only a few weeks away. If you haven't already, please consider working for or financially supporting the candidates of your choice in the upcoming election. There is a shift in public attitudes about our environment, fiscal priorities and, indeed, the moral basis for the actions of our government in the last few years. If we allow this momentum to die or be overrun by big money or pseudo-patriotic hyperbole, we'll have only ourselves to blame. And when you go to vote, take a friend with you!

## Shop for Yourself and Give to Broads

Whether you're shopping for office supplies, movies, books, CDs, flowers, toys, electronics, clothing, glasses or just about anything else you can imagine, if you shop at [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) a percentage of your purchase will be donated to Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

At the Mall at [www.iGive.com/joinLink](http://www.iGive.com/joinLink), you get a free membership (no costs or obligations) to shop at 600+ stores such as OfficeMax, Staples, Best Buy, Barnes&Noble, The Apple Store, Sony and more! So, whether it's for Christmas gifts or just shopping for things you need, do your shopping at [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) and up to 26% of every purchase you make will be donated directly to Great Old Broads. Now's that a bargain!

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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 increase, protect, and preserve wild lands.**

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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 3,000 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!

# In Memory of Dottie Fox

## Wilderness Heroine and Great Old Broad

*Dottie Fox, one of the founders of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, a true and passionate advocate for wild places and a talented watercolorist died on September 11, 2006 at the age of 86. Dottie, along with Connie Harvey and Joy Caudill, is credited with preserving more than 400,000 acres as wilderness. They were instrumental in increasing the boundaries of the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness and in getting both the Hunter-Fryingpan and Collegiate Peaks areas in Colorado designated as wilderness. —The tribute below is by Susan Tixier, longtime friend of Dottie's and past Executive Director and a founder of Broads.*

Dottie Fox, gentle, joyful Dottie Fox, was and is a mirror for each of us who knew her. Without her to reflect our ungraceful qualities and turn them into beautiful, we will each have to face ourselves and make believe when we see the worst that Dottie is present, showing us the good. Where we might give in, to the United States Forest Service, for instance, because we're scared, or tired, or buffaloed, Dottie says, "Aw, come on, it's fun," to stand your ground, invite the opponents to tea, then take them on a hike in their own forest. Or, when we worry that our metaphorical gear isn't "right," Dottie pulls out her pink, dollar and ninety-eight cents airplane slippers, wraps a strong rubber band around each foot to hold the slipper on and crosses the cold, slippery river. Or, when we feel used up and wrinkled, old and frail, Dottie's smile



*"I see Stuart Ruckman's black and white photograph of Dottie's hands. Dignity, respect, calm, peace and hope underline the many stories those hands had to tell. I feel blessed to have heard a few." —Liz McCoy, past Associate Director of Broads.*

wrinkles *her* beautiful face, she sticks her strong, slightly gnarled hands in her hip pockets, and says, "Did I ever tell you about the time the moose came up here onto the porch? I was scared to death." And you can see yourself standing on her porch, as afraid, and then, as brave, as she is.

That's the art of bodhisattva, which Dottie possessed: to bring enlightenment, compassion and charity, purposelessly, without intention, to everyone in life. Dottie gave blessings without any warning. She has shown us the way to respond with joy.

Murray Pope, who meant more to Dottie than "life companion," was her best friend and lover. Very soon after he died and Dottie had witnessed the cremation, she took a walk along a favorite path of theirs in the woods near her home in Aspen. She walked along, sad but happy, accepting the beauty of the cycle of love and life and death, when she spotted coming towards her young lovers, holding hands, snuggling, smiling, and kissing. Dottie stepped off the path and hid before they could see her, knowing that they would like to think they were alone. They passed and Dottie looked at the green glory of Colorado high country and saw a slight breeze playing in the long grasses in front of her. She said she knew that Murray was there with her.

I hope there will never be a time when I see green grasses bowing



before a gentle breath of air that I do not think that Dottie, and Murray too, are somewhere close by, smiling, and playing. When we do, as we do too infrequently, open our eyes fully to the wonders of wilderness, when we forget our preoccupation with ourselves, when we are open to receive the blessings that Dottie has given, we must pause to bow, to see swaying greenery and join her smile, and breathe a thank you.

### Remembering Dottie...

"The natural world has lost one of its most effective and passionate defenders," said Tim McFlynn, president of The Wilderness Workshop Board of Directors.

—*Aspen Times*, Sept. 12, 2006

"She loved wide open space, whether it was mountain or desert. It was in her blood. It's hard to find the right words because she was a very, very extraordinary person. She kept saying, 'live in the now.' And she did it beautifully."—*Joy Caudill in the Aspen Times*, Sept. 12, 2006

"I met Dottie on the Broadwalk across Utah. She told me she was 75, followed by that big smile. 'Look what you have to look forward to,' she said. I'm not there yet, but I do look forward to it. And when anyone expresses amazement at my age I give them Dottie's wonderful line."—*Linda Liscom, Great Old Broad*

## The Broader Wilderness Movement

# Good News for Wilderness and Roadless Lands

### Roadless Rule Reinstated!

In a clear and resounding victory for advocates of protecting national forest roadless areas, a federal judge has restored protection to about 44 million acres of roadless lands.

The decision by U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Elizabeth D. Laporte will uphold the Clinton-era 2001 Roadless Rule and protect roadless areas from logging and other types of development.

While the ruling will not end the controversy, it will make it difficult for federal officials to allow logging, drilling or the building of roads on millions of acres of roadless public lands.

Unfortunately, the court did not extend the Rule's protection to the Tongass National Forest. The Bush Administration had previously exempted the Tongass through a lawsuit settlement with the state of Alaska. The Tongass has nearly 9 million acres of roadless lands.

This is a huge victory for the American public, who have made it clear that they value their roadless lands.

### Senate Unanimously Passes New England Wilderness Act

The U.S. Senate Tuesday unanimously passed legislation to increase designated wilderness areas in Vermont and New Hampshire. The bipartisan New England Wilderness Act of 2006 combines the efforts of Vermont Senators Patrick Leahy (D) and Jim Jeffords (I), and New Hampshire Senators Judd Gregg (R) and John Sununu (R) to pass the Vermont Wilderness Act and the New Hampshire Wilderness Act.

The legislation closely tracks the Forest Service's Management Plan for [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org)

the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), with proposed additions in the Breadloaf, Big Branch and Peru Peak areas that are nearly identical to the Forest Service plan. In addition, the legislation adds two new wilderness areas in the Glastenbury and Romance/Monastery Mountain areas. Finally, the Act would establish the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area, which has the strong support of the various communities and local partners in the area. The New England Wilderness Act now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

The last major designation of wilderness areas in Vermont was enacted in 1984, and since then the GMNF has grown by an additional 110,000 acres. The GMNF now encompasses approximately 400,000 acres, constituting about six percent of Vermont. Of these 400,000 acres, roughly 59,000 are currently designated as wilderness. This legislation would increase the number of wilderness acres in the GMNF to a total of about 107,000 acres.

### Valle Vidal Protection Act Passes!

In July, the House of Representatives passed the Valle Vidal Protection Act! This is a huge victory in our efforts to preserve New Mexico's "Valley of Life" for future generations. It is important to note that the bill must still pass through the Senate in order to secure permanent protection for the spectacular area. Please call your senator and respectfully urge him/her to work to pass the same legislation in the Senate.

### Beware of Bad Wilderness Bills

This fall Congress will be voting on a bill that would sell off large amounts of public lands and divert millions of



Big Branch Wilderness. Photo by George Wuerthner

dollars in proceeds from the sale to private developers. This bill would forever harm Utah wilderness, failing to preserve over 70% of the Zion Mojave Wilderness, and open the door to the sell off of America's greatest natural asset - our public lands.

Unfortunately, The Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2006 (S. 3636/H.R. 5769), introduced by Senator Robert Bennett and Congressman Jim Matheson of Utah, is not the first or only bill of this kind. Recently, several bills have been introduced that combine wilderness designation with harmful land and water development provisions.

Some conservation groups support these bills for their wilderness designations, but the bills are laden with environmentally damaging provisions and land privatization schemes that have dire implications for future public lands and wilderness protection.

In recent years, there has been a

*continued on next page*

# Wilderness for the Disabled

by Marge Sill

Who says wilderness is only for the young and fit? There are many of us—some in wheelchairs, some hobbling slowly on two canes or a walker, some with one leg, some who are legally blind—who love wilderness and who work to see it preserved.

Certainly, we appreciate road access to the edge of our wild areas, but we do not need a vehicle to enter and enjoy the silence, broken only by the call of birds, or the feel of rock and running water against our hands, or the knowledge that we may be watched by an antelope or a mountain lion or a lizard. It is not necessary to climb the highest mountain or backpack 15 miles per day in order to

savor the unique experience that wilderness offers.

Those who maintain that wilderness locks out the elderly and the disabled are simply wrong. Only machines are prohibited in these special areas. Many of our newly designated Nevada wilderness areas are accessible for those in wheelchairs or who have difficulty walking long distances on rough terrain. Some are accessible by raft or canoe.

These are some of Nevada's wilderness areas that are at least partially accessible to people with disabilities: Rainbow Mountain, La Madre Mountains, Mt. Charleston, Arrow Canyon Range, Wee Thump, El Dorado, Black Canyon, Jimbilnan,



*Marge Sill, at 80 years of age and recovering from a hip-replacement surgery, still finds ways to enjoy Nevada's wilderness areas.*

Black Rock Desert, Calico Mountains, North and South Jackson Mountains, High Rock Canyon and Little High Rock Canyon.

If you, as a disabled person, have experienced wilderness or roadless lands, Great Old Broads for Wilderness would like to hear from you.

*cont. from page 4*

transformation in the approach both Congress and some wilderness advocates have taken to formulating and gaining support for wilderness legislation. The new approach carries severely adverse consequences for both public lands and wilderness, and Great Old Broads believes the trend must be stopped now.

Bills such as the Washington County Growth Act would profoundly alter the landscape of southwestern Utah and threaten the proposed Zion-Mojave Wilderness. Also, this bill was introduced without any public hearings in Utah or elsewhere in the country.

Please contact your representatives and tell them you oppose the Bennett/Matheson effort to sell off our public lands. Tell Congress that they need to keep our public lands in public hands — and stop the sell off of our public lands and natural heritage to fund urban development.

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## WILD FOR WILDERNESS ONLINE AUCTION OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 19, 2006

Going once, going twice, sold to the highest bidder! Don't miss the fun or the incredible offers available at Great Old Broads for Wilderness 2<sup>nd</sup> annual online auction. Shop for Christmas gifts, vacations, outdoor gear, outdoor adventures, restaurant meals, books, music, artwork and more, all while supporting the Great Old Broads!



You will be able to bid on brand-name top-quality gear, including footwear, backpacks, jackets, headlamps, and clothing, guided outdoor adventures from mountains to rivers, delicious meals from gourmet restaurants, even **an original Dottie Fox painting** and a **trip through Southern Utah with Aron Ralston**, outdoor adventurer and best-selling author of, "*Between a Rock and a Hard Place*." Cash gift certificates for popular brands such as Dansko are also available.

With over 150 items and more being added daily, this is one auction you don't want to miss! So please visit the auction, tell your family and friends about it, and bid for a good cause!



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\* A special thanks to our corporate sponsor Dansko.

# Broadening Horizons at the Manti-La Sal Broa

Thirtyfive Great Old Broads for Wilderness gathered at a primitive car and tent camp site surrounded by aspen and oak brush interspersed with grassy meadows on the south side of the La Sal Mountains near Moab, Utah, June 8-12, 2006. Coming from as far as Virginia, Michigan, California and Idaho, some folks tented, some had camper rigs, some slept in their vehicles. The weather, for most of the weekend was lovely with the exception of the first night when we experienced torrential rains just as we finished dinner!

The next morning found us in training sessions learning the technique of “monitoring” per the Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLP). Most of us were not familiar with GPS



*Broads note ATV tracks off route that have trampled vegetation.*

(Global Positioning System). Many brought and used their own digital cameras, in addition to those supplied by the Broads. We learned how the marriage of a digital camera, a GPS unit, a clipboard with forms to note the data, and an off-road vehicle (ORV) route can magically come together to document vehicle impacts. It was stressed that we are not police, nor are we the enemy of motorized users,

but that our aim was to gather data for public lands managers in documenting the location and impact of motorized vehicles (i.e. ATVs and motorcycles) in areas of the Manti-La Sal National Forest where such vehicle use is not permitted. With the use of GPS and camera it is possible to accurately document an area (route) and subsequently follow up on changes in the same exact area (for better or worse!), even years later.

Our weekend included not only trail monitoring, but working to “restore” some of the illegal user created trails to natural conditions. Plateau Restoration, a local non-profit that is working with Broads to monitor the La Sal Mountains, and whose forte is restoration work, taught us the technique of “trenching” to dissuade intruders and “transplanting” native vegetation to re-vegetate the impacted areas. Hard work with shovel and pick, but it works!

Paul Buck, Recreation-Trails Specialist for the Monticello Office of the Manti-La Sal National Forest spoke to our group one evening. He touched upon the financial problems faced by the Forest Service (FS). One fact that I found particularly disturbing is that there is only one FS enforcement officer for the million acres in the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Thus, spreading the task pretty thin! The officer is primarily (and understandably) concerned with protecting the ancient artifacts and has limited time to deal with illegal use of motorized vehicles. With limited resources it is impossible to do a proper job of the many tasks at hand. It seems like a band-aid approach to the job of managing our nation’s resources. One interesting observation dealt with the posting of signs in re-vegetated areas. When the

FS posts a “Keep Out—Area Closed” sign, that kind of sign is often pulled out and vandalized. Those trails are re-used and impacted. When a sign is placed stating “re-vegetation,” usually the sign is left undisturbed and the area is respected.

We were treated to other speakers on other evenings. Doug McElhane of the Red Rock 4 Wheelers and Moab Jeep Safari spoke of his group’s efforts to be responsible recreationists. They want to be understood as an environmentally concerned group, but also realize there are many offenders with whom they try to negotiate when possible. Their efforts are a work in progress and we appreciated hearing their perspective.

We were fortunate to have Plateau Restoration in charge of our wonderful meals, prepared by Michael Smith and Tamsin McCormick. Not only was the food great, but their presentation of the work of Plateau Restoration was interesting and informative. Tamsin, with a doctorate in geology, neatly explained the convoluted landscape around us.

Fellow Great Old Broad, Jo Ann Valenti spoke of important ways we could work with our local media in spreading the word regarding our efforts and concerns for our land. We also heard from Franklin Seal of SUWA (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance) regarding Utah wilderness issues. Particularly impactful was his map of the Moab area showing all the roads and how few truly roadless wild areas are left! Wayne Hoskisson, former Executive Director of Red Rock Forests, Sierra Club activist, and candidate for Grand County Commissioner gave us the rest of the story about Utah wilderness issues.

On our last day, most of us went into the higher elevations (to an 11,000 foot

# Broadwalk

by Joyce Olson

pass) for fun hikes, while a few hardy desert rats descended into the redrock canyons of Mill Creek to spy petroglyphs, ruins and swim in the creek. The final morning we broke camp and watched our well used Porta-potty being VERY carefully towed away. The large and now empty water containers were packed up and all of the tents, campers, and sundry vehicles departed leaving a tidy site. Some of the group continued their adventure with a rafting trip on the Colorado River, near Moab, and the rest departed for home in various directions.

On July 25 and 26, 2006, I had the opportunity to put my new monitoring expertise to work once again. The Four Corners School of Outdoor Education headquartered in Monticello, Utah had a group of students enrolled in a month long outdoor education/work program

called the Canyon Country Youth Corps (CCYC). One of the projects assigned the students was that of “monitoring” ORV use and trails in the southern section of the Manti-La Sal National Forest in the Abajos Mountains near Monticello, Utah.

The Great Old Broads had offered to partner with the CCYC to train them in our BHLIP monitoring protocol and then input the data collected into GINGER, their online database.

There were about 10 young students and their crew leaders. After being trained in the monitoring process by Logan Morley, BHLIP Coordinator, we were able to break into three groups with about three students each and cover some ground monitoring. They were interested, curious, and very



*Broads enjoy gathering in the beautiful La Sal Mountains.*

adept at learning the monitoring process. It was a successful, although brief, event. The students were from nearby Indian Reservations. The hope is that this newfound skill will be helpful in monitoring situations in their home areas. These young people seemed to appreciate the need to protect the land.

—Broads would like to thank the National Forest Foundation for their support of our ongoing monitoring work in the Manti-La sal National Forest.

## A Broads Perspective on the Manti-La Sal Broadwalk

by Nancy Shipp

Imagine camping with a group of women (and a few brave men), in a magnificent forest, learning about local public lands roadless issues, hiking, working, and sharing with each other. Picture this group from all walks of life (a home inspector, a professional storyteller, a journalism professor, archaeologist, postal worker, flight attendant; just to name a few) and from age 26 to 75....a gathering of passionate souls with a common bond to the natural world and its stewardship.

This is a group of Great Old Broads on a Broadwalk in the Manti-La Sal National Forest in southeastern Utah, near Moab. We

were gathered to work and learn about the Healthy Lands Project Travel Corridor Monitoring. With expert guidance we learned to use a GPS along with digital cameras to monitor off-road use. We collected data and worked on off-road trail restoration and revegetation. (For me, the trail work was incredibly *fun* and gratifying to see the results.) We were guided by Tamsin and Michael from Plateau Restoration, a local preservation and restoration organization.

When I originally joined Great Old Broads I never imagined being a part of such an adventure. The energy and collective knowledge of the group were incredible. And the scope of the organization’s work is far reaching. I returned to Durango feeling like I had just been exposed to a whole new

level of environmental activism and camaraderie. A Broadwalk is a unique opportunity to meet new friends, learn from others (including the “other” side of the issues), see a new area, do some very important work and have an incredibly FUN time! Some of us were fortunate to go on a raft trip on the Colorado on the last day, which was icing on the cake (go Captain Ronni!!).

As a new Broad I want to thank everyone who put the trip together for doing such an amazing job (the food was the BEST). And I want to thank all the participants for sharing themselves and for having such a “can do” attitude. These Old Broads are awesome. I look forward to meeting more of them and showing others the power and impact of a group of “old” folks!

# The Tracks of Time

## *A photo essay* by Diane Tracy

Already the day was hot, the sun arched into the sky, desert sand slid beneath my shoes as I raced forward, intent on completing the final challenge of an outdoor program—a 10 mile run from the Gulch to Boulder, Utah. I was hot and thirsty, but the desert of southern Utah is not a forgiving place. Water, a cool breeze, shade—these are rare commodities in a landscape of



*View of Deer Creek and its lush grasses and perennial waters.*

sparse vegetation and brilliant red slickrock. I tried not feel my tongue, parched and swollen. I put one foot in front of the next, moving rapidly through the silent heat. Still, all I could think about was water.

Six miles into the run, lush green vegetation came into view. Was I dreaming? Was this some kind of desert mirage? I ran on, the horsetail and rushes brushing lightly against my calves until finally, I came to a stream. The water ran clear and cool. I stopped and drank. Kneeling next to the stream bank, the air felt cooler, soft grass padded my knees, and the soothing sounds of moving water buoyed me up and rejuvenated me. I had found a small desert oasis. I wiped my mouth, stood, and began to run again, feeling the strength of this

place and its life-giving water move through my body. I finished my run knowing that I had gained more than the endurance and will power to finish. I had found, along this run, a special place.

That was thirty three years ago. The name of my desert oasis is Deer Creek, a perennial stream that winds through the deep canyons of the Escalante Basin in the Grand-Staircase Escalante National Monument and is named after the profusion of mule deer that inhabit the canyon. In the harsh climate of the desert, perennial streams make up less than 1% of the landscape, but over 80% of desert life depends upon these lush riparian zones for survival. Deer Creek not only quenched my thirst that hot summer morning, but its waters also support populations of rainbow and brown trout. In the winter, the lush grasslands of its floodplain provide important wintering habitat for deer and elk which in turn support populations of mountain lion. It is an integral part of the desert ecosystem.

Many times I have returned to Deer Creek. When friends were ailing, I brought them to this place to sit beside the water and drink in the sounds and calming atmosphere. Family members have come with me to enjoy the quiet and the wildlife while the yellow Navajo Sandstone cliffs and domes of Durffey Mesa towered above. I have hiked up the creek from the Escalante River, running my hand along its rocky bends, getting to know this canyon intimately.

Thirty three years have



*ATVs have trampled the vegetation and fragile soils in this once pristine area.*

passed and now this place that holds a piece of my soul is under siege. In mid-July I returned to Deer Creek to seek its usual comforts, but found instead that the tracks of time have changed from footprints to tire tread. Despite Grand-Staircase Escalante National Monument rules, which limit travel to existing roads, ATVs have trampled reeds, run over willows, crossed the creek and muddied its waters. For over a mile I followed these new tracks, my gut knotted; my heart fractured. On the bench above the stream, more tracks—vegetation trampled, deep ruts ground into the soil, and fragile cryptobiotic soil crusts vanished under the crush of tire tread.

Time has rushed forward,  
technology creating threats to wild

*continued on next page*



*Deep tracks in the sand leave an ugly mark.*

## Why Do It? The Allure of Backpacking

by Bill Schneider

As I watched the sun line creep down the rock face toward our camp and listened to that wind-loosened rock bounce down the scree slope, I fretted.

When the first light finally reached me on my rocky perch above that glassy lake reflecting perfect images of Granite Peak and Mount Villard, I was still worrying about how many more years I'd have the legs and lungs to make it up to a place like this on the Beartooth Plateau. How many more years could I go deep into the Wilderness and listen to the mountains gradually becoming molehills?

I've been backpacking for thirty-seven years, and it has become a tradition in my family. My three children grew up with a pack on their backs, and I suspect they'd rather hike

full time instead of have jobs. When they think vacation, they don't think Vegas or Orlando, nor waterskiing or gambling. They think Beartooths, Glacier, Yellowstone, and Wind Rivers, or peak-bagging and fly-casting for native cutthroats or sitting on a similar rock deep in the wilds waiting for the sun to peek over the ridge, probably, hopefully, planning to bring my four grandchildren up the same way.

Each August, my son Greg and I go on what we affectionately call an "animal trip," a long, hard, often off-trail trek to a revered destination, such as this high-elevation lake, eighteen miles in and filled with big, not-so-smart trout, my favorite kind. We've been here once before, nine years ago, and vowed to return because it instantly became a special place for us—so special I can't bear to name it here. I hope you understand.

I can't explain why, but for some reason the allure of backpacking was so strong within me on that morning last week, on that rock up in nature's penthouse, I had to wonder why more people didn't do it. At first, I instinctively wanted to be glad more didn't so I wouldn't have to share this experience. On a second thought, though, I decided I'd like to share it, especially with people who have not been as fortunate as I've been, who have never had opportunities like this, to see the real wonders of nature—not the Disneyish, over-regulated, crowded versions. And so I can watch the spirit of the Wilderness take root in their souls. For twelve years, I led backpacking trips for The Yellowstone Institute, mostly with beginners, and I've seen it happen many times.

Happy to share this with others as long as they vowed to take care of it, I should say. When I'm up in a place like this, I treat it like I would a rare piece of art. I try not even leave my

footprint in the mud because it seems like going to the Louvre and carving my initials in a Renoir. So, be forewarned. One trip to a place like this makes a lifelong Wilderness supporter out of anybody. Guaranteed.

I'm long past the time when my sons insisted on carrying heavier packs than their father, and I remember giving up on that one without protest. But what's next? They carrying everything as I attempt to follow burdened by only a fanny pack? Hiring a sherpa? Buying a llama? Contracting with an outfitter to pack in my base camp on mules? Whatever it takes, I say, to keep experiencing this.

I'm convinced that anybody who opposes Wilderness has never been in a special place like this, where the only sounds are nature's voices, and at night, the only visible lights come from stars and moon. No mercury-vapor streetlights shielding the stars, no train whistles or barking dogs stealing the silence. No diesel exhaust hiding the smell of huckleberries and elk.

While sitting on that rock in the middle of nowhere, I not only relished in the glow of how backpacking became a common ground for my family, a lynch pin that helped pull us and hold us together, but also how it helped form me in many ways. The adventure is always appealing, of course, but that's only part of it. Backpacking has not only helped keep me fit and strong beyond my years, but it has taught me how to be extremely organized, if necessary, and the true meaning of self-reliance and independence. And one more fringe benefit—how to find pleasure in being a minimalist. It's amazing what you can get by without and thoroughly enjoy it. You'd also enjoy it, I'm sure. Give it a try. —*This article was originally published in NewWest.net*

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### The Tracks of Time Cont.

lands that I could not have imagined on that hot summer morning thirty three years ago. And now, I stand here observing this wild landscape of Deer Creek, which so many creatures depend upon for survival in this harsh desert climate, and it has been laid to waste for human entertainment. I ask myself what can I do?

And then I know. I pull out my camera and I begin to take photo after photo of these tracks, the jagged lines of tire treads gleaming like a vicious smile in the sand. These photos not only bear witness to the destruction, but they are their own mark in time, showing how the past has changed and what the future will hold if we do not find a way to stop or control the human impulse to wantonly destroy these last remaining wild lands.

—*Diane is the creator of BroadSides Healthy Lands Project, which uses photos and a database to document the health of our public lands.*

## Broad in the Background: Andy Kerr

*“A radical notion may become rational, and then, over time, reasonable and realistic — if you work your butt off.” quote by Andy Kerr*

Andy Kerr, who describes himself as a conservationist, writer, analyst, political operative, inside/outside agitator, public speaker, strategist, tactician, foot soldier, schmoozer and raconteur, is a long-time conservation activist who has spent his life working to make radical notions realistic.

Since attending an Earth Day event as a sophomore in high school, Andy has been fighting to protect wild places. “The issue that drew me to drop out of college was the Forest Service’s roadless areas. “I thought I would stop college for a few years and get the roadless areas protected, but it’s taken longer than I thought,” chuckles Andy, “We’re still working on it.”

From there, one thing led to another and in 1976 Andy began working for the Oregon Natural Resource Council (ONRC), where he is most well-known for his efforts to save the Pacific Northwest’s last ancient forests. In 1981 Andy and his colleagues used the endangered species protection for the northern spotted owl for the first time in a timber sale appeal. By the time Andy left ONRC in the late nineties, logging in the past decade had declined by more than 80 percent on Oregon and Washington public lands.

If there’s one thing Andy’s learned, it’s that you have to confront conflict head-on. Andy grew up in Caswell, a small Oregon logging town, where his actions to stop logging have not been popular. He has been called the timber industry’s “most hated man in Oregon,” according to the Oregonian’s *Northwest Magazine*, and a “white

collared terrorist,” in *Time* magazine. However, it has also been said of Andy in *Lasso the Wind*, by New York Times correspondent Tim Egan, that Andy “...forced some of the most powerful timber companies to retreat from a binge of clear-cutting that had left large sections of the Oregon Cascades naked of forest cover.”

While Andy left his full-time position with ONRC in 1996, he continues to serve as Senior Counselor for the organization as well as working on many other conservation-focused projects. His most current projects include directing the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign, which introduced legislation for a federal buyout program that is gradually gaining momentum locally and nationally, runs his own company, The Larch Company, which consults on environmental and conservation issues, and has written two books, *Oregon Desert Guide: 70 Hikes*, and *Oregon Wild: Endangered Forest Wilderness*.

Currently, Andy points to the Bush administration and their attempts to take the clock back to a time that we haven’t seen since the 1950s as the biggest threat to wild lands. However, his optimism and tenacity remain intact. “As bad as it is, I’m also quite optimistic,” he says. “At one point, two square miles of forest was being cut per week. Even as bad as this Administration is, the conservation movement has been successful in blunting a lot of their worst efforts.”

However, many challenges remain. “One of the greatest challenges for the conservation community is that we are not as well-disciplined as the off-road vehicle folks. They stay on the message and follow orders. In a good



*Andy Kerr hard at work protecting our public lands.*

volunteer movement our diversity is the greatest strength, but sometimes it’s also the greatest limitation because we’re not as coordinated as I would like,” says Andy.

Whatever angle Andy takes or whatever tactics he employs, Andy’s thoughts are always on how to get the ultimate designation of wilderness for an area. He believes that the environmental community’s greatest accomplishments lie in the designation of wilderness areas because they offer the most permanent protection that the government can provide. “Something about opening maps and seeing those protected areas brings it home,” says Andy. “Not just now, but for future generations.”

As for Broads, Andy, a Great Old Broad himself since 2002, believes that Broads humor is one of our greatest strengths. “The conservation community is generally a little humor-impaired,” he says. “For a group of women to call themselves Broads brings levity to the conservation movement.” He also notes that Broads is helpful in setting up a counterpoint to the stereotype that wilderness is for young males.

Thanks, Andy, for your voice for wilderness protection and for joining your voice with other Great Old Broads for Wilderness to make a difference. —BL

## New Board Member Accepts the Challenge

Lynn Prebble is not afraid of a challenge. Having summited Denali, Aconcagua, Everest South Summit, and Cho Oyu, all in the last five years, Lynn knows about persevering in the face of difficult circumstances to meet her goals. Stepping onto Great Old Broads for Wilderness Board of Directors, Lynn is well aware of the problems facing our public roadless areas and she is up for the challenge. “In my climbing endeavors I see environmental problems,” says Lynn. “I would like to be part of the solution.”

Lynn’s passion for wilderness has been brewing for a long time. She grew up camping and since moving to Colorado has spent as much time as possible backpacking, hiking, and climbing. “My best times in life are the ones spent outside appreciating nature’s wonders,” says Lynn.

Lynn first recognized the challenges facing our public lands fifteen years ago while backpacking in the West Elk

Wilderness Area near Crested Butte, Colorado. “We witnessed first hand the destruction of the land and flora caused by overgrazing of a huge herd of cows,” says Lynn. “We documented, reported, and complained to no avail to the Forest Service to monitor this grazing lease.” While Lynn couldn’t change the land manager’s attitudes, she says she did change hers. She quit eating beef as a political statement.

Later, discussing domestic sheep destruction, high on some 13,000 foot mountains, with some volunteers working with the Forest Service in the San Juan Mountains, they suggested Lynn contact the Great Old Broads. “The Broads philosophy and mine matched perfectly,” says Lynn. “And after my husband and I immersed ourselves in our first Broadwalk, I was convinced that if anyone could make a difference in protecting our lands it was the Great Old Broads!”

“Individually, I haven’t been able to



*Lynn Prebble enjoying the wild lands she works to protect.*

influence environmental decisions,” says Lynn, “but the Great Old Broads as a group have much more influence in affecting public policy to protect wild lands. The off-road vehicle and grazing monitoring systems Broads use gives them a scientific base for exact environmental impact so better decisions can be made for protecting our wild lands. What better group than the Great Old Broads to increase awareness (in ourselves, the public and policy makers) of wilderness issues to protect our wild lands for future generations.”

## Become a Sustaining Member!

Please consider joining our Sustaining Member program and help provide critical support for our work to protect our nation’s pristine roadless public lands. Giving on a monthly basis provides reliable funding for Broads so that we can focus our energy and resources on the many wilderness issues at hand. It’s easy and secure—you can sign-up using a credit card or a voided check. Please, give Broads the greatest gift you can—your ongoing support.

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