



# BROADSIDES

Great Old Broads for Wilderness Vol. 16, no. 2 Summer 2006

## In A Broad Sense **by Ronni Egan**

One of the greatest privileges of having attained Old Broad-hood is learning that I don't have to try to make everybody happy or to have everyone "like" me. There are those who may find it hard to believe, but I have spent a major part of my life being the "good little girl" I was raised to be, avoiding confrontation and keeping my angry or unpopular thoughts to myself. I think I can safely say that most women of my generation, yes, the Boomers, originally thought that our role was to marry Prince Charming, make happy homes, raise perfect children and be good little consumers. Then the 60s happened, and we found out that, in addition to the aforementioned, we were supposed to make the world safe for peace, love and rock and roll. We had a pretty good run at that one for a while,

but then the dark forces gained control of our government, media and commerce and making everybody happy just didn't seem to be top

priority for me any more. So, this spring the Mother Bear in my basement is wide awake and feeling pretty cranky!

**The Mother Bear in the basement redux:** Some of you may remember one of my earlier columns which referenced an essay I'd recently read by Elizabeth Sawin entitled "The Mother

Bear in the Basement" (March, 2003). In the essay, Sawin asserted that when the people or things she loved were being threatened she was aware of an

inner power, normally dormant, that awakened and emerged, ready to do battle to protect her loved ones. I'd expressed admiration, and indeed, could identify with Sawin and her Mother Bear. At that time, in March of 2003, I thought that what we were experiencing in terms of corporate and governmental assaults upon our public lands and

resources could hardly get much worse. How

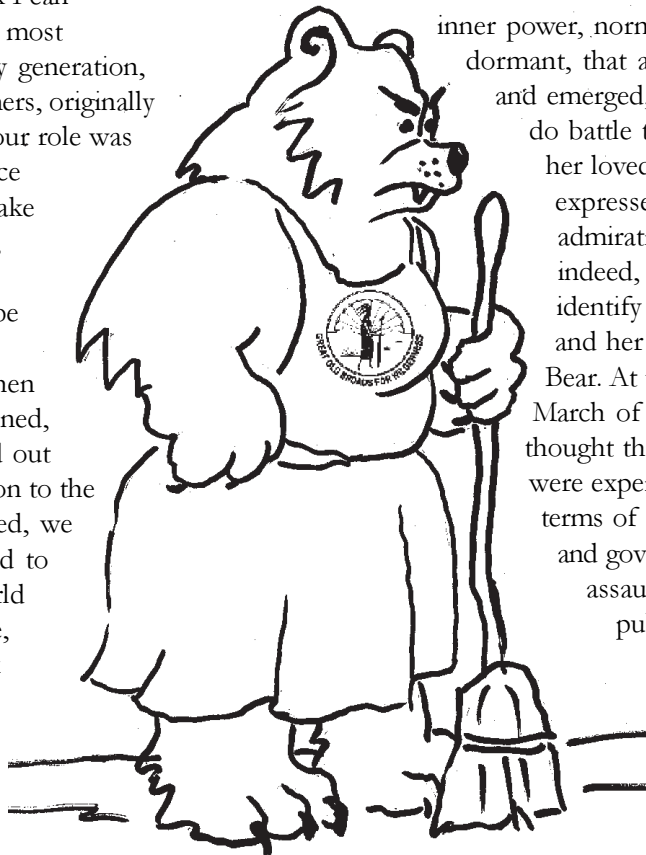
wrong I was! Since then, when learning of yet another scheme to sell off pieces of National Parks or Forests, cynical attempts to dilute the power of the

Wilderness Act, or reduce the role of the public in our democracy, to name but a few, I find myself thinking "They can't DO that, can they?", only to find that "they" were about to do just that, or that "they" already had.

The wild lands, indeed the whole planet, that I love are besieged by such a multitude of insults that I hardly know where to start most days when I come to work at Broads World Headquarters in Durango. The best thing about my job, though, is that I get to spend a good part of each day "venting"; that is, writing letters to the media and legislators, doing interviews, and working to fulfill Broads mission of applying the passion and wisdom of our Boomer (and pre-Boomer!) membership to the many thorny public lands issues that arise. In fact, I sometimes think that if I weren't working for Broads I'd probably be in jail for civil disobedience or what the current administration would probably call eco-terrorism. That mama bruin has been nipping at my heels, and I'm more inclined than ever to sound off on the current state of affairs.

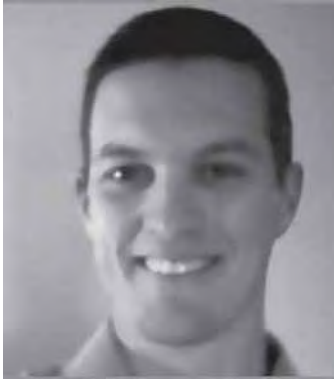
I'm quite certain that I'm not the only Great Old Broad that feels this way. No matter where you live in our fair land, you are no doubt aware of this administration's efforts to roll back environmental protections that we've worked so long to secure. But the tide of public opinion is slowly turning, just as it did in the 60s and 70s. We citizens are finding our voices once again, and a great many of us are expressing our

Time for a clean sweep!



*continued on page 3*

## Broads Welcome New Staff Member



Logan Morley recently joined the Great Old Broads as our Broads Healthy Lands Project

(BHLP) Coordinator. Logan will have a range of duties including data entry of all off-road vehicle (ORV) monitoring data collected and technical support for streamlining the data-collection process and database, as well as being an on-the-ground trainer and staff interface with our various project partners (see page 10 for more info on our current BHLP projects).

Logan was raised in the mountains of southwest Virginia. He received a BA in Archaeology from Fort Lewis College in Durango. He is an outdoor

enthusiast and enjoys hiking, climbing, biking, and running. He is excited to be working for an organization such as Broads that allows him to combine his educational skills with his passion for wild lands.

“Broads brings an important awareness to the general public about how to respect and protect public lands,” says Logan. “BHLP is important because typically this type of information is not accessible to the general public, but having web-accessible data on ORV impacts available so that people can actually see the impacts to specific trails or areas is important.”

Logan will also spend part of his time training volunteers how to monitor. “I enjoy working with people,” says Logan, “but I especially enjoy that in the process of training I’m able to let people know about the importance of monitoring and data collection.”

## Give the Gift of Stock

We recently established a brokerage account so that contributions can be made by gifting stocks. If you own stocks that have appreciated in value, it may make sense to gift these securities rather than cash. Benefits include:

1. Since Broads is a tax-exempt organization, we can liquidate stocks with no tax liability, whereas you would have to pay capital gains taxes.
2. You can claim a charitable deduction for the full market value on the date of transfer and thus reduce your income tax liability.
3. You retain all your liquid cash for other personal needs.
4. Gifting stock may reduce your estate tax liability.

If you are interested in this method of contributing, please call us for more information at 970-385-9577 or email [broads@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:broads@greatoldbroads.org). It is relatively simple to transfer stock from your brokerage account to our brokerage account.

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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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Great Old 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!

# How Two Old Broads Got Wet, Got Muddy, Got Naked, and Got a New Nickname

Under a fat orange moon, the Great Old Broads floated down the San Juan River in Utah from Mexican Hat to Clay Hills where the river drops into Lake Powell. For five days we looped through the Four Corners on the slow-moving river; four rafts and four kayaks loaded with fourteen people, tents and food, a banjo, autoharp, fiddle, two guitars and a ukulele. The Slickrock String Band from Kanab, Utah, plus two musician friends, had packed the instruments, ready to play bluegrass each night. The band members hopped into kayaks, looking like water striders ahead of us while we lumbered behind in heavy rafts. We camped in the willows, and at twilight the band began to play—banjo, fiddle, and guitar echoing across the water. The stars were big as cotton balls.

In the cool mornings, washed, fed, and refreshed, we'd float. But by ten o'clock, the sun blasted off the red canyon walls so we tossed buckets of cold river water back and forth. We got wet.

Noon, we'd climb the riverbank for lunch, our toes sticking in and sucking up thick, black mud. Whew, did we get muddy.

In Slickhorn Canyon, the girls found a deep green pool and plunged in. We got naked. That night the band played, "I Just Don't Look Good Naked Anymore."

Nicknames? My friend and I are 68 and 71. We leave home and husbands at the drop of an e-mailed suggestion for a week to run a river, explore canyons, or climb a mountain. Our



*Betsy Caplan and Shelia Delamere enjoying their San Juan River trip.*

bemused boatman, recalling the movie, called us "Thelma and Louise."

Hey. Okay. Would Brad Pitt be interested in two wild grannies?

—by Betsy Caplan, reminiscing about a 2006 spring fundraising trip for LUV (Land Use Volunteers) of Kane County and Great Old Broads for Wilderness off-road vehicle monitoring work in Kanab, UT.

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## In A Broad Sense Continued . . .

disillusionment and anger over the betrayal of public trust in so many areas of life, not just in the environmental arena. A series of Letters to the Editor recently appeared in the Durango Telegraph and the Green Valley News, a weekly paper published in a small town south of Tucson, Arizona, following our very successful Broadwalk there in April. A local anti-wilderness activist wrote a letter excoriating Great Old Broads for all the old, tired hackneyed myths about environmentalists; you know, that we're all rich SUV driving elitists that want to "lock up" our public lands for our own private playgrounds. There was a

backlash of letters defending, even lauding, Broads activities in the Tumacacori Highlands (see page 6). All of those who wrote responses, Broads and non-Broads alike, pointed out the fallacies in the gentleman's argument, and in the process gave voice to the desire of the majority of Americans who wish to see more of our wild places protected from rampant development and recreational overkill. I was sure proud of all of our allies for speaking out so eloquently!

More and more of us are speaking our minds, and a glimmer of hope is beginning to show. We Mama (and

Papa) Bears are standing up on our hind legs and roaring our displeasure at the people and policies that are ripping our land apart, both figuratively and actually. Great Old Broads, as "elder states-persons" are in the forefront of this awakening. We've seen this sort of thing before and we know the power that resides in a passionate, informed and vocal citizenry. My hat is off to all of you who are working at being the change you wish to see. And to those of you who may still be unsure what to do; pick up a pencil, boot up your computer, get on the telephone, go to the polls, and make your opinions heard loud and clear. That Mother Bear is out of hibernation, and she wants your company on her quest!

## The Broader Wilderness Movement

### New Wilderness Bill Introduced for Eastern Sierra Areas

A new wilderness bill for California, introduced by Congressman Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-CA25), will protect three areas of the Eastern Sierra’s. On April 6, McKeon introduced the Eastern Sierra Rural Heritage and Economic Enhancement Act, HR 5149. At the same time Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein introduced companion Senate legislation, S. 2567.

This bill would designate as Wilderness nearly 40,000 acres of the proposed Hoover Wilderness Addition, just east of the Sierra Crest near Sonora Pass, and adds approximately 640 acres to the adjacent Emigrant Wilderness, containing two miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the Leavitt Bowl. In addition, 24 miles of the Amargosa River, southeast of Death Valley National Park, would become a Wild and Scenic River.

These are truly unique and beautiful areas, representing remarkable natural, recreational, economic, and cultural values. The Hoover Additions offer excellent day hiking, fishing, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, and cross-country skiing. It is the headwaters of the West Walker River, with habitat for diverse wildlife, including black bear and mountain lions.

The Amargosa River is the only river flowing into Death Valley. Cutting through ancient, rugged canyons, this unique desert river supports a wide array of wildlife, including 260 types of birds, and presents outstanding recreation potential.

In spite of a less than inspiring title, this regional bill has good language and is a significant achievement for Mr. McKeon. Especially praiseworthy is the bill’s assumption that wilderness helps the economy. To quote from the bill’s preamble: “To maintain the rural heritage of the Eastern Sierra and enhance the region’s tourism economy by designating certain public lands as wilderness...” Also, his important

involvement in wilderness legislation could lead to other representatives following his precedent.

#### Summing up California’s Wild Bills

We now have two regional bills, each for a single Congressional district: the new McKeon bill, and Rep. Mike Thompson’s Northern Californian Coastal Wild Heritage Act, HR 233 and S. 128. This latter has already passed the Senate, and awaits a markup in Rep. Richard Pombo’s (R-CA11) Resources Committee.

And, Senator Boxer’s statewide Wild Heritage bill is back! Sen. Boxer waited until now to reintroduce her bill, as she had some additions to make to it. On March 16, Sen. Boxer and Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA32) introduced the California Wild Heritage Act of 2006,



Hoover Wilderness Addition. Photo by David Finkel

S. 2432 and HR 3325, to protect more than 2.5 million acres of California lands, as well as free-flowing portions of 21 rivers. Both Sen. Boxer and Rep. Solis, who introduced the bill in the U.S. House, deserve thanks from all who care about California’s wild lands.

—Information provided by Vicky Hoover, Chair of the Sierra Club California/ Nevada Wilderness Committee. To learn more about the efforts to preserve the Eastern Sierras, visit [www.californianwild.org](http://www.californianwild.org)

### Help Stop the Washington County Growth Act!

In March of 2006, Senator Robert Bennett and Representative Jim Matheson of Utah proposed draft legislation for Washington County, titled the “Washington County Growth and Conservation Act of 2006.” The draft proposal calls for the sell-off of 40 square miles of public lands to private developers—lands that belong to all Americans. The Growth Act also fails to protect over 70% of lands in Washington County that qualify for wilderness designation as part of America’s Redrock Wilderness Act. The proposal makes minimal conservation gains, and fuels uncontrollable sprawl by mandating hundreds of miles of new roads, ORV trails, utility corridors and pipelines—all at a cost to Utah taxpayers.

In its current form, the Washington County Growth Act would permanently change the face of southwestern Utah, and because other counties in Utah are waiting in the wings to see how the Washington County process moves forward, the bill could set a disturbing precedent for the entire state. Yet the general public has been largely excluded from the planning process.

To review the draft legislation of the bill by the Utah Wilderness Coalition, or to find out more about the Zion-Mojave proposed wilderness, please visit [www.zionmojavewilderness.org](http://www.zionmojavewilderness.org). —Information provided by SUWZA

## *The Broader Wilderness Movement*

### **The Colors of Purple: Wilderness for the Kootenai?**

It's been a roller coaster ride for wilderness advocates on the Kootenai National Forest lately. After being delighted, at the unveiling of the Starting Option of the next 15-year Forest Plan, at the sight of two dark purple areas on the map that represented Recommended Wilderness status for the Yaak's Roderick Mountain and Northwest Peak, we of the Yaak Valley Forest Council were shocked and dismayed when the Draft Plan came out three months later, and dark purple had faded to lavender (wilderness "lite?"), a category called "wildlands" invented by Supervisor Bob Castaneda for the apparent purpose of appeasing angry snowmobilers. Motorized users promptly proclaimed victory, despite the fact that the "wildlands" category was defined as being managed similarly to wilderness, that is, no roads or motorized activity allowed. And Bob Castaneda congratulated himself on "defusing" the controversy, though confusing was more like it.

Wilderness enthusiasts responded with letters and petitions demonstrating that a sizeable local constituency prefers dark purple to light. However, the Proposed Land Management Plan made public on May 10 sticks with the paler hue. Meanwhile, Supervisor Castaneda has retired, leaving a legacy of profound ambiguity with regard to the future of wilderness on the Kootenai.

You might well ask, if light purple is to be managed just like dark purple, what's the problem? The problem is that only lands officially recommended as wilderness by the managing agency will ever be considered by Congress for designation as Big W, the forever category. "Wildlands" have no permanence beyond the life of the

[www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org)

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

### **WILDERNESS WEEK IN WASHINGTON**

**September 10-13, 2006  
Washington, DC**

This September, gather up your maps, pack your bags, and rally for Wilderness Week, a biannual convergence upon the nation's capital to advocate for protection of our wild public lands.

Join wilderness advocates from across the country in Washington for workshops, events, meetings with decision-makers, and a chance to share lessons from current campaigns and strategize about ways to preserve our heritage of wilderness in the years to come.

Wilderness Week activities will kick off the evening of Sunday, September 10 with a welcome to Washington reception. There will be a half day of workshops on Monday, and the rest of the week will feature evening networking and socializing opportunities, educational brown bag lunch sessions, and a Congressional Wilderness Reception on September 12 to honor our wilderness champions. Groups will have the rest of the time to hold their own campaign-specific strategy sessions, meet with Members of Congress and their staffs, and hold other events during the week. Wilderness Week will end with a rally for the Arctic Refuge on Wednesday, September 13.

We hope you will join us in Washington this September to gather new ideas, build alliances, and spend time with leaders on Capitol Hill. And together, we'll raise the profile of wilderness at a critical time for all of us.

If you are interested in coming to Wilderness Week, contact Michael Carroll with The Wilderness Society's Wilderness Support Center at (970) 247-8788, [mcarroll@cmedics.net](mailto:mcarroll@cmedics.net) or Jen Schmidt with Campaign for America's Wilderness (503) 282-9453, [jschmidt@leaveitwild.org](mailto:jschmidt@leaveitwild.org). There will be sponsorship opportunities for groups wishing to participate in the Congressional Wilderness Reception, as well as a number of scholarships for volunteers to travel to Washington.

proposed forest plan: they could at some future time turn gold (motorized) or green (general forest, logging likely) or even white (private, heaven forbid). There's good reason why the organization whose newsletter you are reading is not called Great Old Broads for Wildlands.

But all is not lost: we have 90 days in which to muster comments from far and wide, as well as locally, in support of the Forest Service reinstating

Recommended Wilderness into the Final Draft. They put it there once; they can put it back. All in favor of dark purple on the Kootenai, please write, asking for Recommended Wilderness status for Roderick Mountain, Northwest Peak, and Scotchman Peak Roadless Area. Send your letter, postmarked by August 10, to Kirsten Kaiser, KIPZ Revision Team, 1101 U.S. Hwy 2 West, Libby, MT, 59935; or email [kkaiser@fs.fed.us](mailto:kkaiser@fs.fed.us).  
—written by Mary Campbell, Yaak, MT

# Rockin' with the Broads in Tumacacori by Shelley Spaulding

Glimpsing a flash of brilliant red, I dashed for my binoculars. It was my first sighting of a vermillion flycatcher – one of many delightful critters that I would marvel at in the next few days – critters that do not exist in my northern, wet climate of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. Yellow breasts, rose throats, emerald caps, slate, rusty gray, brilliant blue and indigo, tan, brown. I



*As part of a service project, Broads help pick up litter. Photo by Libby Ingalls.*

marveled at all of this color while exploring a “sky island” in southern Arizona.

In April I joined a group of Broads for a Broadwalk that immersed me in the Tumacacori Highlands. Over the next four days, with speakers both morning and evening, all connection with my past routines and future obligations were put on hold and relegated to a place of lesser importance in my brain. What became important was to understand and experience this largely roadless ecosystem, the Tumacacori Highlands. Picture mountains that reach high in the sky, but are surrounded by a sea of desert and you will begin to picture a “sky island.”

The Broads work for wilderness involves protecting and supporting both wilderness that is already designated and wilderness that is [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org)

precariously awaiting designation. I knew this much about Great Old Broads before I left my home town. What I did not realize, was that I would be in the company of so many extremely passionate, capable, raucous, informed, and spirited Broads. And that Broads come in all ages, sizes, genders, and shapes. The trip was full of many serendipitous delights, including a few unexpected challenges.

The first day Coronado National Forest Nogales District Ranger, Keith Graves, minced no words as he described the challenges of a National Forest that shares a 30 mile border with Mexico and becomes the first stepping stone to the United States for an average of 1,000 illegal immigrants per day. As we worked at our service project, fixing fence and picking up litter, the Border Patrol, helicopters, immigrants, and smugglers became not something read about in the paper or heard on the news, but something that was ever present during our stay.

While exploring and immersing myself in the Tumacacori Highlands, whether searching for the dainty, rare but feisty chiltepin (a native chili pepper) or navigating Sycamore Canyon in search of Montezuma quail, I couldn't help but think about people so desperate that they would take great risks and undergo immense hardship in hopes of a more secure life for their families. The sheer number of individuals and the extreme poverty associated with this type of

immigration is having a substantial impact on the lower elevations of the Tumacacori Highlands—roads and trails carved by illegal immigrants destroy sensitive vegetation and wildlife habitat; trash and human waste impair soil, water quality and wildlife; and roads and fence-building projects by the Border Patrol disturb wildlife, destroy habitat and shift migratory patterns. At the same time I was seeing firsthand the steady flow of desperate immigrants trying to enter the US, massive immigration rights protests and marches were being planned for the day we would be leaving Arizona. My basic beliefs about social justice and environmental issues were being put under intense self scrutiny and left me feeling somewhat conflicted. Not a bad thing.

That first afternoon, a couple of us went for an afternoon dip in Lake Pena Blanca before returning to our camp and

savoring the first of many delicious meals provided by Armando of Paricutin Restaurant. He put an entirely new meaning to “meals on wheels” with his wonderful mobile kitchen that rolled in to provide breakfasts and dinners.

There is not enough time or space to describe all the amazing and dedicated speakers that made their way to our camp in order to enrich and expand



*Broads look at map of proposed wilderness for t*



*Ocotillo cactus blooms with Atascosa Peak in background.*

*Photo by Jen Schmidt*

our sense of place: ornithologists, botanists, wildlife biologists, living history dramatists, and conservationists appeared. We learned about the Arizona Grazing Buyout Bill, about the



*the Highlands. Photo by Jen Schmidt*

the Grand Canyon and is now an occasional migrant into southern Arizona from Mexico. We were treated to a couple of evening slideshows via a generator-powered projector atop a jeep, with a sheet hung between the privies for a screen, that illustrated the

[www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org)

areas proposed for Wilderness protection and included a number of recent photos of jaguars taken in the area. Talk about eye candy! Certainly, if an area is wild enough and undisturbed enough to support jaguars it should be protected as Wilderness!

The second afternoon, while most of the hardy Old Broads were hiking to a fire lookout atop Atascosa Peak (Ed Abbey resided at this one) that overlooks the wilderness proposal or searching for the spot where jaguars were recently photographed by a remote camera, my new found friend, Jeri, and I made a trip to the Ruby Mine in search of another swimming

hole. We had heard there was a caretaker by the name of Sun Dog and a beautiful lake surrounded on one side by a sandy beach (turned out they were mine tailings). The caretaker was kindly and colorful, the lake was delightful and included two kayaks, one regular kayak paddle, and one paddle fashioned from cow shoulder blades. We had a blast!

It wasn't until the next day that I started having vague, uneasy feelings about my wallet. When I got back to camp following a hike in Sycamore Canyon I realized that my wallet was not in its secure spot and it most likely was left near a little knoll on the sandy beach of Ruby Mine. The Broads were about to take off for the cross-border Nogales, Mexico supper, and I did not want to interfere with those plans. A young man named Mike offered to drive me back to Ruby Mine. I learned quite a lot about this fellow while we drove the very windy, steep, tortuous road to and from Ruby Mine. He had been waiting at camp to hear about a firefighting job and had joined a group of Broads on the second day of lookout tower hikes.

This was a three mile hike with a 2000 foot elevation gain. Needless to say he was quite impressed by the Broads, and especially by Board member Ginger Harmon, who is a septuagenarian. During our drive he expressed his amazement at this incredible group of women and went on to say that the Great Old Broads were so powerful, they were second only to the Democratic Party! When he asked if I could give him some words of wisdom, I searched my soul and all I could come up with was "be sure to experience and love nature."

*continued on page 9*

## Illegals

To blame me for seeking a future more secure  
Is like blaming the fish for taking the lure

I would have liked to stay in my village  
I have the heart of a native son  
And the journey was a risky one

But I know what that life holds in store

A little shack of adobe  
Sheet-metal roof with earthen floor  
Me raising corn on a rocky hillside  
She raising kids in our simple abode

That kind of life has its own risks  
We'd be young in years  
When we were gray and old

We weighed the risks and made our choice

And the only way we can pay  
For a better life and home  
Is to risk it all

Our lives  
The only all we own

*by Raymond Jantz*

—Shelley found this poem in the local Tubac, AZ paper, *Connection*, that provides "a monthly open forum allowing all voices to be heard."

# Protecting the Jaguar: Keeping the Big Cat Alive

At our April Broadwalk to the Tumacacori Highlands, Broads were educated by Sky Island Alliance's biologist Sergio Avila about the importance of protecting this rugged, unroaded country for large predators like the jaguar.

In 1973, when the Endangered Species Act was passed, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed jaguars as endangered only south of the US border. It was assumed that the jaguar was extinguished from the US. However, in 1996, two jaguars were sighted in southern Arizona mountain ranges. It was the first sighting of jaguars in US territory in several decades.

The state of Arizona, ranchers, hunters and conservation groups created the Jaguar Conservation Team (JCT). The Team founded the Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project, which placed about 40 automatic cameras in the mountains. In the last four years photos of two and possibly three jaguars have been recorded. JCT also helped persuade Arizona and New Mexico to increase legal protections for jaguars. The Arizona Houndsmen began a reward program to prevent illegal killing, and the Malpais Borderlands Group, a local organization working toward sustainable ranching, created a fund to compensate ranchers who lose

livestock to jaguars. The US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services, an agency that controls predators for ranchers, has even agreed to suspend the use of certain lethal control measures in the border region.

While much has been done to protect the jaguar, they still face serious threats. The biggest threat to the persistence of jaguars in the US comes from the border itself. Since 9/11, congressional representatives and federal agencies have proposed walls, lights and new roads along the border that have the potential to seriously impede the movements of jaguars and other wildlife. So far, the Department of Homeland Security and its subsidiary agencies have refused to participate in the JCT.

Senators Craig Thomas (R-WY), John Kyl (R-AZ), Ken Salazar (D-CO), and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) have offered an amendment to the immigration bill. The amendment directly addresses the need to better integrate border security with protection of our cherished public lands in the following respects:

- It requires the Homeland Security Secretary to coordinate with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to develop a border

protection strategy that best protects National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and other federal lands along the border.

- All Border Patrol agents must undergo natural resource training to minimize the adverse impact on natural and cultural resources from border security efforts within protected federal lands.
- It emphasizes the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, remote camera systems, and other low-impact technologies on National Parks and other protected federal lands.
- Federal land managers shall inventory and submit to the Homeland Security Secretary all costs incurred as a result of illegal border activity. The amendment requires the Homeland Security Secretary, with the NPS and FS, to develop and submit to Congress joint recommendations for recovery mechanisms for such costs.

This amendment provides important directives to ensure that border security efforts do not unnecessarily harm federal lands along our borders.

**Please call your Senators TODAY and ask them to support this amendment.** —*Information provided by Defenders of Wildlife ([www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)).*

## Predator Poisoning and Killing Planned in Wilderness Areas

The US Forest Service just announced plans to relax rules that govern "predator control" in federal Wilderness areas and Research Natural Areas of our National Forests. The move would greatly expand the ways that wolves, coyotes, cougars, bears, foxes and other predators can be killed in these areas, and it signals a very disturbing shift in the way our public land is managed. The proposed rule would permit aerial gunning and motorized vehicles in

Wilderness areas to trap and kill predators and meet nebulous "wildlife management objectives, which would be created by industry-driven "collaborative groups." The rule would also allow notoriously dangerous "M-44" cyanide guns to be used in Wilderness areas, even though these devices have accidentally killed thousands of family pets and non-targeted wildlife. Please take a minute to write the Forest Service and demand that it reverse this disastrous plan - and

instead put its energy and resources towards ensuring these animals continue to grace the wild.

Please write or email by August 7:  
Director, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Resources  
US Forest Service  
201 14th Street  
Washington, DC 20250  
[PDM@fs.fed.us](mailto:PDM@fs.fed.us)

—*Information provided by the Center for Biological Diversity*



# Broad in the Background: Birdie Stabel

Retirement is a great thing, especially if you put your new-found free time to good use protecting America's precious wild lands. Three years ago, Roberta "Birdie" Stabel retired after 23 years as a real estate agent. Since then, she has devoted a significant amount of her free time to trying to win protection for the Tumacacori Highlands—an area proposed for wilderness designation and home to one of the highest concentrations of threatened species in Arizona, including the elusive jaguar.

Birdie's love of wilderness is as old as she is. "I've loved wild places ever since I knew there was such a thing," says Birdie, who grew up in upstate New York in a rural area and spent a lot of time outdoors. But like many, she was a passive activist for most of her life—belonging to conservation organizations and writing an occasional letter. Now, she is elbow deep in working to protect the Tumacacori Highlands, which have been her "backyard" for over 30 years.

"I believe the biggest threat to the area is off-road vehicles (ORVs) and the subsequent fragmenting of habitats and wildlife," says Birdie. "Right now, the Highlands are a healthy habitat—evidence of jaguars and other large mammals proves it—but lots of roads

will kill that." Winning a wilderness designation for the Highlands will close the area to ORVs and help provide needed protection to both the wildlife and habitat. "It's a healthy place and I'd like to see it remain that way," says Birdie.

One of the ways Birdie works to protect the area is as a Wildlife Monitoring Volunteer for the Sky Island Alliance, a non-profit group that works to protect the Tumacacori Highlands. Birdie and her husband, Nick Bleser, have a transect that they walk together every 6 weeks looking for evidence of mountain lions, black bears, jaguars, and other animals. Data collected from the Wildlife Monitoring program are then used to help determine important wildlife corridors within the area. "Bears (and other large animals) need to be able to move from one mountain range to another," says Birdie, "We hope that by documenting what pathways are important to them we can affect future management decisions."

Birdie also uses her past business connections to garner support for the Highlands. "Because I had been in business for so long in the Tubac area I became a liaison with the local businesses," says Birdie. Birdie collected 60 signatures from Tubac businesses on a resolution of support for a wilderness designation bill to protect the Highlands. Her efforts to garner support with local businesses also helped get enough backing for the Chamber of Commerce to vote unanimously to protect the Highlands.

Birdie is shy at taking credit for her efforts to protect the Tumacacori Highlands, acknowledging that many others have worked hard to protect the area as well. She also is grateful for Broads recent Tumacacori Broadwalk, which she says brought a lot of media



*Birdie Stabel at the Tumacacori Broadwalk.*

attention to the Highlands and helped establish a good relationship with the Forest Service. "I think Broads are doing exactly what they should," says Birdie. "By going to little known areas and drawing a little attention and media, Broads makes a difference."

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When we got to the Ruby Mine, Sun Dog came tearing down the road waving my travel bag. Once again, all was well in the universe and Mike deposited me back at the camp just as the sun was going down. It was a bit eerie being the only person there, and I climbed to a vantage point to watch the brilliant sunset light up mountains both east and west. I couldn't help but think about how, throughout all of those ridges and valleys around me, there were people hiking quietly and quickly. Those hills were alive!

There is a strong grassroots effort afoot to add new Wilderness designations. Tumacacori Highlands is one of several areas that need advocates to help convince Congress to do the right thing. After this trip I felt optimistic about the potential for protecting and designating more Wilderness, something I had not felt in a long time.

## Call for Submissions

*Broadsides* is looking for new voices! Please submit essays, poems or artwork that speak to the idea of wilderness (we love the humorous as well as the serious). Send submissions to [becky@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:becky@greatoldbroads.org) or mail to PO Box 2924, Durango, CO 81302.

We also are seeking artists willing to draw or sketch images when needed. If you would be willing to do this, please contact Becky Lawlor at [becky@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:becky@greatoldbroads.org) or call 970-385-9577.

# Broads Healthy Lands Project

Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLP) is an off-road vehicle (ORV) monitoring program that Great Old Broads initiated in 2004. BHLP works with local citizen groups to monitor back-country corridors threatened by excessive use. The data collected – including GPS coordinates, digital photographs, and text descriptions of monitoring routes, sites, and conditions – is made available through an online database at [www.goginger.org](http://www.goginger.org).

BHLP has evolved into a successful program. We currently have seven ongoing projects with data collected from almost 50 monitoring events by over 50 volunteers and observations covering over 566 miles of routes. The data has enabled local groups to pinpoint and initiate restoration projects in areas impacted by ORV activities, but most importantly, it is being used to develop and respond to Resource Management Plans and Travel Plans.

Below is a synopsis of the projects we are currently working on. We encourage you to get involved in this program. For more information on becoming a volunteer monitor, please contact Rose at [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org) or call 970-385-9577.

## *Arch Canyon, UT*

Arch Canyon, located in Southern Utah, is a deeply incised canyon with ancient Anasazi Indian ruins, three dramatic sandstone arches, and the only perennial creek in the area. Currently, ORV traffic is allowed in Arch Canyon and the legal route crosses the perennial stream over 50 times in six miles. The BLM has recently granted permits for commercial ORV events in Arch Canyon, including the Moab Jeep Safari and an ATV Safari. We are tracking the impacts of these permitted events along with the associated use/abuse that comes with event publicity. Broads have monitored this area for



*Volunteers took this photo of deep rutting in the Ogden/Logan Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah. Photo by Dan Miller*

the past three years and has gathered both baseline data and data on increasing impacts to the area.

## *California Forests*

During the summer of 2006, the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) will coordinate ORV route inventories of roadless areas and other sensitive lands within as many as 13 National Forests in California. Broads is assisting in training volunteers and entering data collected into our database.

## *Canyons of the Ancient National Monument, CO*

Working with the San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), volunteer monitors are collecting data in three high impact areas identified by the BLM. CANM does not have a current Management Plan, but with the information received, the BLM will be able to make decisions about each route – whether it should be an official BLM maintained route or if it should be closed to vehicles. It is hoped that the BLM will be able to act on at least some of these routes, and will close some routes even before the Management Plan is finished in 2007.

## 2006 Wild for Wilderness Online Auction

In late October, Great Old Broads for Wilderness will hold our second *Wild for Wilderness* online auction fundraiser. Our debut online auction in 2005 raised over \$28,000 and we hope to surpass that in 2006. This year, we have set a goal of \$35,000, which will allow Broads to continue providing on-the-ground protection and stewardship of our nation's roadless public lands. Here's how you can help us reach our goal:

**Donate:** We are looking for donations of adventure trips, guided hikes, outdoor gear, vacation stays, restaurant meals, and more. Don't be afraid to think outside the box or ask family and friends that may be able to donate! To submit a donation, please contact Becky Lawlor at [becky@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:becky@greatoldbroads.org) or call the Durango office at 970-385-9577.

**Participate:** The 2006 auction will be from October 27-November 19<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to visit [www.auction.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.auction.greatoldbroads.org) and start bidding!

**Spread the Word:** The more bidders, the better. Please let your family and friends know about our auction. With 100+ items, there's something for everyone.

*"We had a fabulous time. Our host was incredible and treated us more generously than we expected and deserved...I really like the idea of sharing your house, meeting people, and sharing your natural world with others." —Liz McCoy, Salt Lake City, UT, winning bidder of a bed and breakfast stay.*

**Dixie National Forest, UT**

This project is taking a proactive strategy to uphold the new Forest Service rule in the Dixie National Forest in southern Utah. The project includes inventorying key corridors in the Dixie Forest during spring/summer of 2006. The data gathered will be used to develop a Sustainable Alternative to the Forest Service proposal in the Plan process. This Alternative will be developed by the Three Forests Coalition and, we hope, will contribute to subsequent citizens' alternatives on other National Forests.

Monitoring will document conditions of selected routes and areas which the Coalition feels need to be closed. The Coalition encourages Utah volunteers to sign up for the Coalition's SWAT (Strategic Watching and Tallying) Teams and accompany Conservation Corps interns in order to be trained in BHLPL route documentation; become familiar with issues on-site on the Dixie NF; and extend the ground monitored for this project.

**Kane County, UT**

The Land Use Volunteers of Kane County was established in 2005 after Broads held a BHLPL monitoring workshop. Kane County is the epicenter of a battle that will affect the future of public lands around the US. The local County Commissioners are attempting to claim jurisdiction over roads on BLM and National Monument lands by signing these routes and opening them to ORV traffic, even when the federal agencies have closed the routes to ORV's.

Field work consists of collecting data on impacts and working with BLM personnel to complete restoration projects and install signs and barriers in areas where ORV's are traveling illegally in restricted areas.

**Manti-La Sal National Forest, UT**

The aim of this project is to assist the Forest Service in maintaining the integrity of forest and grassland resources by providing local citizen-based monitoring, data collection, and analyses of designated routes and

closed areas. Such information is now lacking, but is critical to the formation and enforcement of responsible policies that will maintain the ecological health of our public lands and reduce conflict between the Forests' multiple users. This project is in partnership with Plateau Restoration, Canyon Country Youth Corp, and Red Rock Forests.

**Ogden/Logan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, UT**

Broads, in conjunction with eight other partner organizations, is working on a multi-year program concerning ORV use in the Logan and Ogden Ranger Districts of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah. To date, over 200 miles of routes have been monitored with over 500 observations entered into our database.

**In-Kind Donations**

Any of the following items would be GREATLY appreciated: scanner, digital cameras, GPS units, computers. Thank you!

**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.

Yes, please send me my free t-shirt for supporting Broads as a Sustaining Member! S, M, L, XL (circle)

**Yes, I want to help! Here's my commitment to a monthly gift:**

\$100  \$50  \$30  \$15  \$10(minimum)  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Broads to arrange automatic payments from my account on the 20th day of each month. I understand I may cancel at any time with 30 days written notice.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with voided check to : Great Old Broads for Wilderness \* PO Box 2924 \* Durango, CO 81302

# Join The Great Old Broads Today!

- New Member     Member Renewal  
 Basic Member \$30     Rockin' Broad \$50+     Wild Broad \$75+  
 Outrageous Broad \$100+     Budget Broad \$29 or less (fixed incomes)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Nothing beats a good snooze out-of-doors! Photo by Libby Ingalls*

Send a **ONE-YEAR GIFT MEMBERSHIP** to a Broad-minded friend! Please enclose additional dues for this membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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\*We will include a note that the gift membership is from you.

- Please do not share my information with like-minded organizations.  
 Save paper and postage, no receipt is necessary.

Please return with check or money order to:  
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## Broads Paraphernalia

Item	Size	Cost	Quantity
Broads Tee (natural)	S, M, L, XL	\$15	
Long Sleeve Tee	S, M, L, XL	\$20	
Scoop-neck Tee (white)	S, M, L, XL	\$15	
Slim Fit Sage Tee	S, M, L, XL	\$15	
Button or sticker (please circle)		\$1.50	
Canvas Tote		\$15	
Nalgene Bottle w/ logo	(violet)	\$15	
Dung to Dust Booklet		\$5	

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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