



BROADSIDES

Great Old Broads for Wilderness Vol. 16, no. 1 Winter 2006

In A Broad Sense: Keeping Public Lands Protected

by Ronni Egan

One of the major perks of working for Great Old Broads for Wilderness is living in the Four Corners area of Colorado. Within a couple of hours I can be hiking or ski-touring in the magnificent San Juan Mountains, rafting on one of several remote and breathtaking desert rivers, scrambling in one of a thousand tortuous slot canyons, or pondering humanity's earliest endeavors at a pre-Columbian archaeological site. Indeed, Mancos, my tiny town, is at the epicenter of Southwestern archaeological treasures, and the home of Mesa Verde National Park, which kicked off its Centennial Celebration in December with a fabulous evening of festivities. Two major cliff-dwellings, Cliff Palace and Spruce Tree House, were illuminated with propane lanterns and luminarias. People came from all over the Southwest to stroll quietly through the chilly winter evening, speaking in hushed voices,

marveling at the creativity and ingenuity of the vanished builders of these communal dwellings.

This celebration brought home to me how much we Americans cherish our legacy of protected public lands and how unique the American system of federal, state and local preserves is that protects everything from magnificent prehistoric buildings to the habitats of seemingly lowly, but biologically important, plants and animals. Our unparalleled public lands legacy is the envy of the rest of the world. Nothing like it exists anywhere else on the planet. We are truly blessed to be able to pass these wonders on to future generations.

There are, however, forces at work in our country that would strip this system of protection away from our historically preserved "commons," or public lands. A small minority of lawmakers and their corporate cronies hold the view that the main value of our public lands lies in the profit potential they contain whether that . During the second half of 2005 a number of blatant attempts to privatize value lies in commodity extraction such as oil, timber or cheap livestock forage. During the second half of 2005 a number of blatant attempts to privatize significant quantities of our common natural heritage were made in a



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variety of unprecedented legislative maneuvers. Perhaps most "visible" of these sneak attacks on our public lands has been the move by a handful of lawmakers and their industry cohorts to insert a provision to permit oil-drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge into totally unrelated legislation such as the Budget Reconciliation Bill and the Defense Appropriations Bill. These backdoor tactics were deemed necessary because the proponents are fully aware that this unpopular provision would never pass as a stand-alone bill. Both attempts were soundly defeated because the American public demanded that their representatives stand up for protection of this fragile and biologically rich landscape. What is remarkable is that very few of those Americans will ever visit the Refuge, but they still recognize its value as undeveloped "commons."

Several other attempts to undermine our American public

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In A Broad Sense: Keeping Public Lands Protected

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lands system included a provision in the House Budget Reconciliation Bill that would have allowed private entities to stake mining claims without having to prove there was any likelihood of minerals present, perform minimal work on the land, and then sell it off for development of virtually any kind. This would have rendered moot almost all of our efforts to maintain protections of water and air quality, wildlife habitat, solitude and scenic values on everything from national forests to wildlife refuges. Another attempt at destroying hard-won environmental protections came with the cynical title of the “Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act” which would have eliminated the requirement to protect critical habitat, and allowed land management agencies to harm imperiled species through such activities as dam and road building without first consulting the Fish and Wildlife

Service or NOAA Fisheries. Now, we have the latest administration scheme to sell off public lands, which ought to outrage all Americans. The federal government can’t pay its bills, so it wants to sell 307,000 acres of National Forest to raise money to help rural counties with schools, roads and other needs over the next five years. This is akin to selling your house to pay off your Mastercard bill!

Fortunately, all of these short sighted maneuvers were met with such intense public opposition that all of them failed. Interestingly, a broad cross section of the public, including hunters, fishermen, environmentalists, motorized and non-motorized recreationists and wildlife enthusiasts rallied together to stop these unprecedented attacks on our treasured public lands. The environmental community is to be commended for exposing these stealthy schemes for what they were. But, as a colleague of mine has

remarked, “*They* only have to win once: *we* have to win over and over again!” In other words, we can expect all of these specters and more to reappear in 2006 and beyond, so we can’t relax our vigilance for a moment. The only real protection for much of our remaining special roadless, undeveloped places is for them to be designated Wilderness Areas, a concept that is largely absent in the current political climate.

Great Old Broads is becoming a stronger, more valuable member of the wilderness community thanks to the staunch support of our members and the hard work of volunteers, both members and non-members, who’ve been trained in our monitoring programs. Our Broads Healthy Lands Project OHV monitoring protocol is being used in more places to improve travel corridor management, and our Riparian Area Rapid Assessment

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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!

New Board Members Add Depth To Broads



Margi Hoffmann

grew up on a ranch in northwest Colorado.

When she wasn't fixing fence or loading 350-pound bucks into the chute with her family, she was logging as many vibram lugsole miles as possible through the great pine forests, aspen tree groves, and open meadows of the Rocky Mountains. Summers were spent in the Wind Rivers or Tetons, running Desolation/Grey Canyons or the San Juan, familiarizing herself with the wilderness that defines this nation.

Before moving to Portland, Oregon, Margi worked for three years with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance to protect the outstanding wildlands at the heart of the Colorado Plateau. She ushered hundreds of activists from Utah and across the country to Washington, DC to lobby; she coordinated trainings and national days of action; she even utilized her fence-building skills to work with the Bureau of Land Management to protect sensitive areas from illegal off-road vehicles.

Margi first came in contact with the Broads when the U.S. Department of Interior decided to re-write seven land use plans in Utah, opening up hundreds of thousands of acres to oil and gas exploration and development. "I was floored by the Broads fire in the belly. On the other end of the line there was no hemming and hawing, only, 'What do you want us to do?' They were all about action and that was as refreshing as coming across a pothole when the camelback is empty and there is nothing but slickrock on the horizon. That's what fighting this administration can feel like."

When asked about her future working with Broads, Margi says, "I am honored to be working with fiery individuals of this caliber. I look forward to strategy sessions around the campfire, hiking in wild lands with Broads, and fighting big business and corrupt government in bonnets and frocks that hide our collective intelligence and bulging biceps. These are tough times for all of us working to protect wildlands; we have to laugh, we have to play, and we have to work as hard as we can. Thanks for signing me up."



Steve Gilbert

has been a Montana resident for 38 years. For 35 of these years he has worked as a

biological consultant. Separate from business, Steve has worked in Alaska on salmon studies, Yellowstone Park on grizzly bears, the Teton Wilderness on an early satellite/radio-telemetry study with elk, and many other studies. He is an associate with the Montana Peregrine Institute, and has conducted neotropical bird and raptor surveys in the West nearly every year since 1971.

Steve is a strong environmental advocate and served on the board of Northern Plains Resource Council and is presently in his 6th year on the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) board. He was chosen as the MEIC Community Activist of the Year in 2003. He has testified in the Montana Legislature and U.S. Senate on water and air quality, soils, aquatics and wildlife habitat issues relating to irresponsible energy development, coal and hard-rock mines. Steve

presently is the state non-motorized trails specialist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. As such, he helps administer the federally-funded Recreational Trails Program and gets to inspect trail projects funded by the program, walking 200-300 miles a year in the backcountry.

When asked why he joined Broads Board of Directors, he said, "I was attracted to Broads because of what I perceived to be their 'take-no-prisoners' approach to dealing with motorized vehicle problems and wilderness issues. Although Broads may embrace the concepts of consensus and compromise where I personally do not, I find them to be refreshingly forward and progressive in their thinking and in their actions. They have sharp visions of what is right and wrong in wildland settings and have methodically, intelligently and humorously set about working for what is right. I like that and am happy I've found a place I feel comfortable and where I do not have to mince my words or beat around any bushes, green or otherwise."

In A Broad Sense

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project (see pg. 9) will go into full swing in 2006 with teams monitoring numerous stream reaches.

As Executive Director of Broads, I am grateful to be working with such passionate and dedicated people. We are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel of environmental darkness in which we've been thrashing for the last five years. I'm feeling energized and am anticipating the battles of 2006, knowing that we're gaining momentum and support for retaining and strengthening the safeguards that protect our American public lands heritage.

Broads in the Background: LUV Makes A Difference

In the small town of Kanab, Utah, big things are happening. In a place where off-highway vehicle use (OHV) is rampant, two locals, Sky Chaney and Randy Cram, have fused their passion for protecting public lands to make a difference. Last spring they organized a group called Land Use Volunteers of Kane County (LUV) to help protect the lands they love from OHV impacts. Their efforts are making a big difference on the ground.

Home to Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA), and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM), Kane County is an oasis of treasured public lands. It is also one of the most politically charged places when it comes to OHV issues. County officials pulled up BLM road signs and illegally erected hundreds of county road signs on federal lands welcoming OHVs on several routes that have been legally closed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to protect wildlife, scenery and cultural resources. Yet, despite blatant hostility in Kanab and Kane County to environmentalists, LUV of Kane County is making strides to protect public lands and to work with others in the community.



Sky Chaney and Randy Cram—founders of LUV.

One key to LUV's success is their balanced approach to land use. "Most of us drive four wheelers on dirt roads, and we want plenty of access to the back country," said Sky, "but we also want to save some the last untouched places in the West from abuse by motor vehicles."

Another key to their success is Randy's roots to the community, where at least four generations of his family have lived their lives. "Long-time residents already knew how I felt about the land before we started LUV," said Randy, "and it may be doing some good because LUV has gotten people looking at the OHV issue and what's going on."

LUV was first founded after an OHV monitoring workshop was held in Kanab by Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Broads suggested that someone volunteer to organize local folks to monitor OHV impacts. "I got together with Randy," said Sky, "and Randy said, 'Someone's got to do it. Let's do it.'" LUV has been going strong ever since.

Right now LUV has about 12-15 active volunteers who get out on the ground and assist with monitoring and restoration projects and another 50 or so folks who receive conservation updates. LUV's overall purpose, said Sky, is to protect and conserve natural public lands in Kane County. To do so, LUV assists the BLM in restoration work and signing of designated OHV routes, collects valid data on the impacts of OHVs that can be used to influence OHV policies and works to be politically active by gathering signatures



LUV marches in Kanab's 4th of July Parade.

for petition letters and writing articles and letters for the local paper as well as the Salt Lake Tribune.

LUV currently monitors and collects data on Moquith Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA), a critical area because there are OHV routes allowed within the boundaries of this WSA. These routes connect to the adjoining Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, a popular playground for sand-churning vehicles. Because of the vehicle traffic there is a lot of use/abuse in the WSA, and it has been a constant battle to keep illegal trails closed. LUV's long-term goal for the area is to change the management plan. "The current management plan isn't working," said Sky, "more than half of the signs or barriers we put up get destroyed or taken down within a month." LUV would like to see improved facilities for OHVs who use the Coral Pink Sand Dunes, and improved law enforcement to keep riders where they belong.

In GSENM, LUV has monitored Willis Creek, Lick Wash, and Harris Wash. "Every accessible wash in GSENM has illegal OHV tracks running into it without exception," said Sky. Furthermore, Sky noted that the trend over the past few years has been to cut law enforcement and

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The Broader Wilderness: Updates and Alerts

As you'll see below, the hard work of many wilderness supporters has halted several actions that were inimical to wilderness preservation. However, there continues to be an urgent need for us to speak out against those activities that threaten the wild places we love, whether we've ever set foot in them or not!

Wolves and Helicopters

In January the US Forest Service was on the brink of issuing a Special Use Permit to the Idaho Game and Fish Department (IGFD) to land helicopters in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness to dart and radio-collar wolves. Not only was this action unnecessary and illegal, but it could easily have been the precursor to the killing of wolves in "the Frank" in the name of increasing elk herds.

A number of organizations including The Wilderness Society, Western Watersheds Project, Idaho

Sporting Congress and Wilderness Watch quickly formulated a plan to hire an attorney to seek a temporary restraining order and file a lawsuit if necessary to stop this egregious use of mechanical devices in Wilderness. Broads was chosen as the lead organization on the suit, and Ginger Harmon, Ketchum ID resident and co-chair of the Board of Directors was chosen as the media contact. Laird emailed both the Forest Service and the IGFD with our intentions. Within two days of notification, the Forest Service had reversed its decision, stating the need for "further study" of the idea. Apparently battling it out in court with Great Old Broads, et. al., was too much for Regional Director Jack Troyer. Score one for the grandmas and the wolves!

Labyrinth Canyon, Utah

There was good news for Wilderness in Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River and the San Rafael Swell in

Utah in early February, when the Bureau of Land Management announced it was withdrawing over 90,000 acres of wilderness quality lands from oil and gas leasing for at least a year, in order to "study the appropriateness" of energy development in these remote, unspoiled areas. Both Labyrinth Canyon and the San Rafael Swell are far more valuable as undeveloped recreation and wildlife havens, and the thousands of concerned citizens who raised their objections to short-sighted exploitation there have much to celebrate. The battle is not over, though, as only Wilderness designation will provide permanent protection to these and other as yet unspoiled places.

Great Smoky Mountains Alert

In 2005 we held a Broadwalk at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park where we investigated the "Road to Nowhere" a controversial

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Broads in the Background Continued

very few people are being cited for illegal OHV activity. While such practices are frustrating, Sky and Randy are optimistic that LUV and its actions can make a difference. "Over time, when there is a change in the national administration this data will be used to influence policies in OHV areas," said Sky.

Already, LUV is seeing success with collecting monitoring data. One of Randy's biggest successes happened last year when he submitted pictures of Hog and Trail Canyon that he had taken. Now Trail Canyon is completely closed to OHV traffic and Hog Canyon has been changed from open to designated routes only.

While there is resentment in town regarding environmentalists, Randy and Sky have learned to take it in stride. They have offered to work with the 4x4 Club on restoration projects, and have made an effort to show those in the community that they have a lot in common. "The majority of people want to preserve public lands," said Sky. "There are also a lot of people in town who are more conservationist than you would expect. For example, a lot of long-time residents and OHVers don't agree with the county wanting to take over thousands of miles of dirt roads on public land."

Though there is still much to do to achieve its goals, LUV is an example of how a relatively small number of people with commitment and passion can make a difference. —BL

KANABITES by Sky Chaney



Make Plans to Join Broads at a 2006 Broadwalk

Tumacacori Highlands Broadwalk

Location: Southern AZ (near Nogales)

Date: April 6-10

Cost: \$110 per person for members of Great Old Broads for Wilderness
\$130 per person for non-members

We will gather in the Sonoran Desert this spring to explore and learn about the importance of this area and why it is deserving of Congressional Wilderness Designation. Representative Raul Grijalva, (D-AZ, 7th District) has agreed to sponsor a wilderness bill in Congress for the area. We need to help ensure that our elected officials know there are many citizens who want this area protected.

The Tumacacori Highlands are one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States. As one of the most popular birding areas in the world with more than 400 bird species, the Sky Island region and Tumacacori Highlands also host more mammal and reptile species than anywhere else in the United States. Jaguars, elegant trogons, gray hawks, mountain lions, javelina, coati...an amazing array of animals call this place home. But increased pressures from population growth, off-road vehicles, Border Patrol activities, and the energy industry threaten to change the natural character of this region. Come discover this part of the Sky Islands and learn how to add your voice to the call for its protection.

We will be camping at Calabasas Group Campground on the Coronado National Forest. Pena Blanca Lake is nearby. Folks will gather Thursday afternoon to set up camp and things will get underway with dinner and speakers afterward. Breakfast and dinner each day will be catered so we

don't have to spend our time cooking and cleaning up. We can have full days in the field and time to socialize and learn from our array of speakers from such organizations as the Sky Islands Alliance, Native Seeds/SEARCH and the US Forest Service. We will also spend some time doing a service project in conjunction with the US Forest Service. The Broadwalk will end with breakfast on Monday.

The cost for this long weekend includes camping fees, four breakfasts, four dinners, and speakers. For more information on the issues see www.skyislandalliance.org

Manti-La Sal Broadwalk

Location: mountains near Moab, UT

Date: June 8-12

Cost: \$60 per person for members of Great Old Broads for Wilderness
\$70 per person for non-members

This Broadwalk focuses on Broads Healthy Lands Project – our travel corridor monitoring project that collects information on impacts caused by off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and puts it into a comprehensive database. If you don't know much about this project or the database please check out our OHV monitoring website www.goginger.org. Broads has partnered with Plateau Restoration and Redrock Forests to train volunteers and monitor impacts on lands in the Manti-La Sal National Forest. We will spend a morning learning about the project and the monitoring process and then break into small groups to collect data on impacted routes that have been identified in collaboration with the Forest Service. At least half of another day will be spent hiking

routes and collecting baseline data for this project.

We will also have time for some fun hikes with a range of difficulty such as peak climbs in the La Sals or exploring in portions of the Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area (true redrock country). Various speakers will cover topics such as geology, the status of Utah wilderness efforts, RS2477, and oil and gas threats. On Monday morning, after we break camp, there will be an optional Colorado River float for those interested.

Moab, UT in the heart of redrock country is the jumping off point for this Broadwalk adventure but we will be heading up into the La Sal Mountains where the weather should be lovely and cooler in June. We will camp at a dispersed use site on the La Sal Pass Road called Medicine Lake (elevation about 8,500 feet so nights will be cool!). Port-a-potties and potable water will be provided.

The Broadwalk will start Thursday afternoon with time to set up camp, dinner and speakers afterward. Breakfast and dinner each day will be prepared at camp by Plateau Restoration. We can have full days in the field and time to socialize and learn from our array of speakers. The Broadwalk will end with breakfast Monday morning.

To reserve your spot for any of these events, send full payment to Great Old Broads, PO Box 2924, Durango, CO 81302. Please include an email address if you have one. Detailed information on logistics, packing, and agenda will be sent to registered participants. Information on other 2006 event will be available online at www.greatoldbroads.org.

Tumacacori Highlands Worth Preserving

The Tumacacori Highlands are a national treasure. This large, remote roadless area offers visitors a unique opportunity to hike, hunt, and explore one of Arizona's last remaining true wildlands. Home to magnificent species such as the jaguar, elegant trogon, and Chiricahua leopard frog, in addition to hosting a great diversity of cultural and historic sites, the Tumacacori Highlands are now threatened by off-road vehicle use and impacts from an expanding population. The best way to protect the area is to designate it as Wilderness. The Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Proposal aims to designate approximately 84,000 acres of the Coronado National Forest (no private land) as Wilderness to help permanently protect this amazing landscape.

One of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States, the Tumacacori Highlands is one of the most popular birding areas in the world with more than 400 bird species,



Photo provided by Sky Island Alliance

area provides exceptional habitat for rare and sensitive species and offers refuge for many endangered species, such as the peregrine falcon, Chiricahua leopard frog, and Mexican spotted owl. Southeastern Arizona also boasts the highest concentration of jaguar sightings in the nation and offers

birding enthusiasts one of the most species-rich habitats in the world.

With a dwindling number of places free of roads, designating the Tumacacori

Highlands as Wilderness will not only protect exceptional habitat, but also provide an area free of human influence with outstanding recreational opportunities, including hunting. The Tumacacori Highlands are an exceptional whitetail deer hunting ground, rated "excellent" by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The primitive nature and unroaded areas of the Tumacacori Highlands offer hunters an increasingly rare traditional backcountry experience in Arizona.

Furthermore, as part of the Santa Cruz River watershed, the Tumacacori Highlands provide a naturally functioning ecosystem that offers clean air and water for residents surrounding the area. Wilderness designation in the Highlands will help to keep watersheds and air healthy for the future.

There are also economic benefits to designating this special place as Wilderness. In Arizona, 41.4%—or 1.6 million residents—take part in hiking annually. [Source: Outdoor Industry Foundation, Outdoor Recreation Participation and Spending Study, A State-by-State Perspective, 2002.] The Tumacacori Highlands offer an increasingly rare wilderness backcountry experience in Arizona and will help protect the spectacular wildlife habitat found throughout the Sky Island region.

Please join Great Old Broads on our Tumacacori Highlands Broadwalk and discover for yourself why this amazing area is worth protecting as Wilderness and help lend your voice to its protection.

—Information provided by Sky Island Alliance

It is true that not everyone can visit all of the wilderness areas but that is not the reason to have them. Humans don't have to be using, tramping, building or developing every piece of land on Earth. Some of it has to be set aside for other species and just a place that is quiet and serene. —Elaine Mays, in The Arizona Republic, February 3, 2004

the Sky Island region and Tumacacori Highlands also host more mammal and reptile species than anywhere else in the United States. TROPICALLY-ORIENTATED plants and animals, such as the Mexican vine snake, epiphytes (plants that grow in trees), five striped sparrow, Sonoran Chub (endangered fish), and others cannot be found anywhere else in the United States.

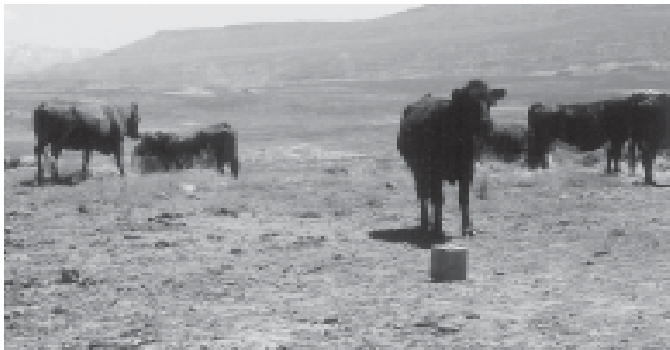
The Sky Islands are also the most diverse U.S. area for mammals, with some 90 different native species. The

Huge Subsidies Paid to Public Lands Ranchers

by Mark Salvo and Greta Anderson

It's finally, *officially* confirmed. Federal public lands ranchers annually receive millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies to graze public lands. In some cases ranchers could not continue grazing without taxpayer support. In nearly every case subsidized ranchers pursue their activity at the expense of native flora, fauna and ecosystems on public lands.

In October 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) finally released a report that found that public lands ranching costs taxpayers at least \$123 million annually on



Cattle often degrade public lands at taxpayers expense.

National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (see the report and additional information at www.publiclandsranching.org/htmlres/subsidies.htm). Overall, ten federal departments and agencies spend \$144 million dollars annually to manage public lands grazing, while receiving only \$21 million per year in grazing fees (most of which are deposited into the "Range Betterment Fund" and similar dedicated accounts).

While taxpayers subsidize numerous and worthy government programs, in the case of public lands grazing, only a select few benefit

from the public's largesse. Of the approximately 989,460 livestock producers in the United States, only 2 percent hold federal grazing permits/leases. The report also shows that the current grazing fee not only falls short of fair market value, but fails to recover even one-sixth of the costs of the federal grazing program. **If grazing fees were to recover costs for these two agencies, the BLM would need to charge \$7.64 per animal unit month (AUM) and the Forest Service would have to charge \$12.26 per AUM. The current fee is \$1.79 per AUM.**

GAO's report exposed the galling ubiquity of federal government support for public lands ranching. The report lists an array of federal departments and agencies that spend millions of dollars to support the federal grazing program, from APHIS-Wildlife Services, which contracts with exterminators to kill predators on public lands, to the Department of Justice, which pays lawyers to defend federal grazing policy against citizen lawsuits to protect public lands and resources.

Unfortunately, GAO's report suffers from some gaping holes in the data. For example, GAO refused to estimate some direct and indirect subsidies (agency planning, range management, etc.) that contribute significantly to the total subsidies received by ranchers. Several agencies, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Environmental Protection Agency, also failed to

provide estimates of their grazing related costs to the GAO, even though these agencies are charged with mitigating grazing impacts to soil, water, and vegetation. A study published by the Center for Biological Diversity in 2002 responsibly estimated these missing costs and concluded that the total cost of federal grazing program is closer to \$500 million annually. Finally, the GAO report does not address the environmental costs of livestock grazing on public lands, such as impaired habitat and diminished recreational and aesthetic values.

Despite its flaws, the new GAO report has finally settled a debate between conservationists and public lands ranchers about whether public lands grazing is a losing proposition for taxpayers. It is, in fact, a rotten deal. Representatives of the public lands ranching industry did not dispute the findings in the report. Rather, Jeff Eisenberg, executive director of the Public Lands Council of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said the numbers don't reflect the value of "maintaining a way of life and keeping land free from development" and that low grazing fees represent "a sound investment that reflects decades and decades of public policy." Of course, both contentions are a pile of cow poop. Some people just don't get it.

Take action by letting your representative know you are tired of subsidizing private ranchers and the impairment of your public lands.

Mark Salvo directs the Sagebrush Sea Campaign (www.sagebrushsea.org) from Chandler, Arizona. Greta Anderson coordinates the Range Restoration Campaign for the Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson, Arizona (www.biologicaldiversity.org).

Broads Train Citizens to Assess Health of Public Grazing Lands

by Ronni Egan

Great Old Broads has, for the past four summers, hosted our Days in the Desert workshop, in partnership with a team of scientists and the Wild Utah Project (WUP). During these workshops non-scientist volunteers, mostly Great Old Broads, were trained to assess the health of desert riparian areas using a protocol designed by the scientists. The aim has been to produce a user guide that, with a day of training, could be used by citizens to identify the condition of a stream and its banks, and to provide a way for them to make substantive, useful comments to land managers regarding the functioning condition of the system. The role that the Broads played was as “guinea pigs,” who commented at the end of each training on what worked and what didn’t in terms of lay-people understanding and applying the methods. Early on, we found that the scientific jargon and complex measuring techniques were simply too burdensome for us “mere mortals,” and worked with the scientists to simplify the technique so that even a bunch of Broads could use them. After numerous revisions by primary authors Pete Stacy, Allison Jones, Jim Catlin and Don Duff with some final edits by Rose Chilcoat and myself, the User Guide will be available this spring.

Broads and WUP are happy to announce that our first real training of citizens is in the works for this summer. My little town of Mancos, Colorado has formed a Conservation District to inventory the condition of the Mancos

River and all its tributaries, and Broads will be assisting in training local volunteers, using the newly published *User’s Guide for the Rapid Assessment of the Functional Condition of Stream- Riparian Ecosystems in the American Southwest*. Working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, we hope to engage everyone from the Ute Mountain Ute tribe to local Junior High School students in learning about their river, its current state of health (functioning condition) and how to restore those reaches in need of improvement.

These days, it seems that too many folks feel they have no say in our democratic processes. Great Old Broads for Wilderness is proud and excited to help empower those who wish to be involved in the management of their public lands by offering another tool to grassroots activists. If you’re interested in learning more about this project, more information will be available soon on our website.



Allison Jones and Ronni Egan walk a desert stream to learn how to assess its health at a 2003 Days in the Desert.

Broads Sue to Protect Glen Canyon Recreation Area from Grazing Impacts

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area typifies the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau. The area includes an incredible diversity of plant and wildlife species, riparian areas that are critical in the area’s arid environment, breathtaking vistas that attract visitors from around the world, and a rich deposit of cultural resources.

However, livestock grazing is significantly damaging these resources. Although the National Park Service attempted to address the damage to Glen Canyon resources by developing a Grazing Management Plan in 1999, the agency has not implemented the plan. Rather, the Park Service sat by idly while the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reauthorized grazing on at least twenty-three allotments within Glen Canyon since 1999 without conducting the appropriate environmental analysis. Although the Grazing Plan identified damage to Glen Canyon resources and contained specific standards for reducing the damage, the Park Service did not implement the Plan on these allotments.

Thus, Great Old Broads for Wilderness and the Center for Biological Diversity recently filed suit against the National Park Service and the BLM for failing to properly manage grazing allotments in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to force the agencies to comply with the law by taking into account the impacts of livestock grazing on the precious resources of Glen Canyon and to prevent any further damage.

Wild for Wilderness Online Auction Huge Success

The Board and staff of Great Old Broads for Wilderness would like to thank both our donors and those who participated in our online auction as bidders. This was our first ever online auction fundraiser and it was a huge success. We raised over \$28,000 for our work for wilderness!

If you would like to donate any item(s) for our 2006 online auction, such as adventure trips, outdoor gear, vacation stays, restaurant meals, and more, please email Rose Chilcoat at rose@greatoldbroads.org.

Below is a list of our donors, without whom this auction would not have been possible. We are deeply grateful for their generosity. Website links to our donors can be found online at www.greatoldbroads.org. We encourage you to patronize our sponsors as a thank you for their support of Broads.

Thank You!

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Ann Gambrino and Barbara Eaton surf through auction selections at a Broads gathering in Salt Lake City.

Mark Meloy
Mary Ann Warner
Meg Ingraham
Milwaukee Admirals
Nancy Mike
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Ninebark Publications
Olivia Diaz
Osprey Packs
Pack Creek Ranch
Pat and Jim Peek
Patagonia
Petzl
Piatti Ristorante
Pine Needle Mountaineering
Plateau Restoration
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Rockhouse Guides
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Synergy
Terry Vandiver
Tom Joyce
Valley of the Gods Bed and Breakfast
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wilderness Inquiry
Wilderness Journeys/Pagosa Rafting
Willow Canyon Outdoors

The Broader Wilderness: Updates and Alerts

Continued from page 5
road proposal that would cost taxpayers over \$600 million and irreparably impact the East Coast's largest roadless area.

The National Park Service has acknowledged in the past that this road would serve no transportation need and would jeopardize the agency's mission to protect the Park's rich biological and cultural resources. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released by the Park in January and does not specify a Preferred Alternative in spite of pages of findings of major, adverse, long-term or permanent impacts. The agency then makes a totally unsubstantiated conclusion that "*Based on the information obtained to date, which is presented in the impact analysis, none of the alternatives would harm the integrity of GSMNP or AT resources or values...*"

The DEIS can be viewed at www.northshoreroad.info/documents.htm. More info on this issue is available on Broads website/ past *Broadsides*. **Your comments are needed and can be made electronically at northshoreroad@arcadis-us.com or mail your comments to:** North Shore Road Project, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, PO Box 30185, Raleigh, NC 27622. Please send a copy of your letter or e-mail to your Congressman and Senators.

Cabinet Mountains Alert

A tiny population of grizzly bears hangs by the thinnest thread in the Cabinet Mountains of NW Montana, along with a population of imperiled bull trout. Nevertheless, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has signed off on construction and operation of a huge copper and silver mine in the middle of this important

habitat and **under** the Cabinet Mtns Wilderness.

In 2000, the Service concluded that the proposed Rock Creek mine would jeopardize the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly population and wipe out the the Rock Creek bull trout population. Responding to a 2002 Earthjustice lawsuit, the Service withdrew its Opinion to reconsider potential mitigation measures. In 2003, they issued a new Non-Jeopardy Opinion concluding the mine does not pose an unacceptable threat to grizzlies and bull trout. Another lawsuit, and in March 2005, Judge Donald Molloy threw out the Service's Opinion.

The mine proposal has resurfaced again. Letters of protest are urgently needed: Kootenai National Forest, 1101 Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923.

Become a Sustaining Member!

Join 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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Nalgene Bottle w/ logo	(violet)	\$15	
Dung to Dust Booklet		\$5	

If you are making a \$100+ contribution, be sure to circle your size for the Broads t-shirt on the order form.

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