



BROADSIDES

Volume 15, no. 2
Summer 2005

In A Broad Sense by Ronni Egan

I've just returned home from an extended backpack trip in a remote area east of Page, Arizona. My companions Steve Allen, Don Murch, Harvey Halpern, Tom Browne (Broads, every one!), and I never encountered another human being in 22 days! We circumnavigated a large mesa, exploring the huge, deep canyons cutting into its flanks, and hiked across the top, encountering endless evidence of earlier inhabitants, both Anasazi and Navajo. Except for the obvious results of domestic livestock grazing in the last 2 centuries, this landscape seems to have changed very little in (probably) thousands of years. No roads scar the blackbrush flats on top or the rugged slickrock surrounding its base. We found numerous sets of "moqui steps," small depressions

It has been said that wilderness has been a major part of shaping the American character, and I heartily concur.

hacked into the sandstone by long-ago residents to facilitate climbing the steeper sections, and traces of constructed stock trails that were used to get livestock to impossibly remote patches of forage. There were numerous Navajo hogans in various stages of collapse, although some contained stored bedding and equipment, indicating someone's intention to return. Surface archaeological sites abounded, and we saw a few prehistoric granaries and remnant walls of cliff dwellings. This is the "turf" of the famed Weatherill family, credited with the discovery of, among other wonders, Mesa Verde's stupendous ruins. Indeed, one of the major canyons is

named after the Weatherills.

As the days wore on, memories of ringing telephones, obstinate computers, snarled traffic, and "civilized" commitments became dimmer and dimmer. What replaced all of that was the utter peace of living with the rhythms of the land and the season. The biggest problems to be solved became issues like: "How in the world will we get across THAT canyon?" and whether or not to deploy our tents and tarps in view of threatening skies. We actually deployed them a lot, due to an exceptionally cool, wet spring.

One of the biggest blessings of a trip like this, for me, is the necessity of accepting the circumstance in which I find myself, and finding whatever it takes inside me to "handle" inclement weather, difficult terrain, and isolation with equanimity. It has been said that wilderness has been a major part of shaping the American character, and I heartily concur. When Europeans arrived on these shores, Europe was largely settled and on the brink of the Industrial Revolution. Our ancestors left an agrarian/urban setting to find themselves facing a land where the widely dispersed inhabitants were still in the Stone Age. To be sure, there were many unfortunate ramifications of the meeting of these two cultures; but, on a personal, daily level the original European settlers had to fend for themselves or die trying. Talk about "Outward Bound!" So, the traits of determination, resourcefulness and, yes, hopefulness, came to be highly valued in American society. This is



Executive Director Ronni Egan exploring America's wild lands.

still true today, and we have been so very blessed to be the recipients and stewards of the Wilderness System, given to us, after years of negotiations, by our far-sighted predecessors. No other nation on earth has seen fit to protect such vast areas of relatively undisturbed land. Not only are our Wilderness acres reservoirs of biodiversity, clean water and air, and solitude, they are part of our national psyche. Just look at the advertising for SUVs and ATVs. The whole point of owning one of these machines is, ostensibly, to get "out there!" Of course, one can't use them in designated Wilderness, but the attraction to the "wide open spaces" is a peculiarly American trait, and one that the Wilderness community needs to build on in its efforts to gain protection for our remaining wild places.

continued on page 2

In A Broad Sense Cont.

Speaking of SUVs and ATVs, the Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLP) is beginning to prove its utility in a number of places in the West. We are collaborating with the San Juan Mountains Association and the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument management to send trained volunteers into the field to inventory and monitor roads and trails there. Besides being a very fragile, arid environment, the Monument contains the greatest known concentration of archaeological sites in the country. Managers are in the process of preparing a Travel Plan, which will designate which roads and trails are legal for motorized vehicles. This is a vital step in protecting biological and cultural resources. The BHLP volunteers are providing necessary data to the management to aid in this process.

Broads also held a training in Kanab, Utah, where off-road vehicle (ORV) abuse is becoming critical even in some Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). In addition, the Kane County Commission has been placing County road signs on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and in WSAs, making Kanab ripe for citizen activism. The Willow Canyon Outdoor Store in

Kanab is the local hub of environmental activity, and the proprietors helped organize a group of local volunteers, drawing from the Vermillion Cliffs Trails Association and some ORV groups, as well. After the event two volunteers, Sky Chaney and Randy Cram, stepped up to the plate as local coordinators. Their newly formed group, Land Use Volunteers (LUV) of Kane County, is working with the BLM to inventory ORV impacts and help with restoration efforts. They will be contributing much-needed information to the agency, which will hopefully result in improved management practices. We've also begun working with the Three Forests Coalition, and hope to initiate similar volunteer projects on the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests in Utah.

On another road-related issue, there is good news to report on the Jarbidge, NV "Shovel Brigade" issue. You may recall that the issue was a washout on a primitive dirt road leading to the Jarbidge Wilderness Area boundary. The Forest Service closed the road permanently, as it was deemed harmful to endangered bull trout habitat. Elko County and a group of local citizens calling themselves the Shovel Brigade wanted it rebuilt. A group of Great Old Broads traveled to Jarbidge

on July 4, 2000, to witness the Shovel Brigade's symbolic reconstruction of the road in protest of the Forest Service order. In 2001 Great Old Broads and The Wilderness Society joined a lawsuit involving the Forest Service and Elko County, and we've been mired in it ever since. Well, earlier this spring, in a series of conference calls between all the affected interests, a compromise was reached which, as with all compromises, wasn't all we'd hoped for, but is something we can all live with. The road will be rebuilt as a primitive, not "hardened" road, and barriers will be placed to prevent vehicular incursions into the Wilderness. There will also be increased enforcement. We feel that this is a satisfactory conclusion provided the Forest Service upholds its part of the bargain. It is to everyone's credit that we could participate in civilized discourse and reach consensus on this issue, a process that seems to be awfully scarce in today's environmental debates.

As we plunge into summer I hope you'll take every opportunity to get out and enjoy our wonderful wild heritage in your own unique fashion. And, should you feel so inclined, find a local conservation project to support, while you're at it.

Staff

Veronica Egan, Executive Director
Rose Chilcoat, Programs Director
Becky Lawlor, *Broadsides* Editor
Sue Agranoff, Membership Assistant

Board of Directors

Libby Ingalls, Chair, San Francisco, CA
Karen Cox, Treasurer, Nevada City, CA
Karen Fischer, Fond du Lac, WI
Ginger Harmon, Ketchum, ID
Jen Jackson, St. George, UT
Marcey Olajos, AZ
Edith Pierpont, Santa Fe, NM
Jen Schmidt, New York, NY
Barbara Sutherland, Durango, CO
Diane Tracy, Salt Lake City, UT

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 wilderness.

Broadsides is a publication of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Feel free to reprint articles, but please credit Great Old Broads. Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper using vegetable soy ink.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness

850 1/2 Main Street
PO Box 2924, Durango, CO 81302
970-385-9577, fax 970-259-8303
broads@greatoldbroads.org
www.greatoldbroads.org



Great Old Broads for Wilderness was conceived in 1989 by older women who loved wilderness and organized to protect it. The wisdom of their combined years (more than three centuries!) told them that the Broads could bring knowledge, commitment, high spirits, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

Today, Great Old Broads has over 3,000 active members throughout the United States. 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!

Welcome New Broads Team Members

Marcey Olajos - Board Member

Having a background in biology and ecology and a love of hiking in the Grand Canyon and southern Utah, I feel like I have finally gotten back to my roots, so to speak, by participating on the



Marcey Olajos

boards of the Wyss Foundation and the Center for Biological Diversity.

My introduction to backpacking was as an adolescent in the Grand Canyon with my father, and his love of that canyon and others rubbed off on me. Watching the rapid degradation of the desert in southern Arizona over the past 20 years has made me realize that battles to save it have to be fought on several different fronts with differing tactics. I have been very concerned about the inability of the environmental groups in Arizona to come together and work toward the goals at hand.

Since I enjoy bringing people together, I have been slowly working to bring rather diverse groups to the table to discuss strategies for the protection of our urban and wild places. I find the board of the Great

Old Broads to be very appealing as it is a very active board. The involvement of board members in the work of the group surely brings the organization together in a very functional manner. I look forward to the participation and the challenge!

Sue Agranoff - Membership Assistant

Sue Agranoff recently joined the Great Old Broads staff and has taken over the laborious task of membership management. Sue is truly a wonder of competence and organization. She

handles membership renewals, mailing, and rescuing others in the office when the computers are “winning.”



Sue Agranoff

Sue, recently retired from the computer software development field, and after spending the last three years traveling around the country in a motorhome hiking in National Parks and other wild landscapes, settled in Durango, Colorado, office headquarters of Great Old Broads. She first heard about Great Old Broads through Senior Outdoors in Durango and joined up. Now, she spends ten hours a week in the office sharing her passion for Wilderness and helping out with membership tasks. Sue is an avid hiker, and a true Broad. We are very grateful to have her with us.

Madison Broadband Has Successful First Event

Great Old Broads and friends from the Madison, Wisconsin area spent the weekend of March 11-13, 2005 “workin’ it” at their table in the lobby of *Canoecopia*. This event is the world’s largest paddlesport expo and this was its 15th year.

With an incredible array of interesting speakers and so many vendors that it can take three days to hear/see them all, the Broads had an endless stream of visitors stop at their table. As they funneled through the checkout area, they were perfectly positioned to pass by. You could tell as soon as they got a look at our banner because there would instantly be grins, laughs, and conversation set off by it.

Local Broad, Pat Connors, did a great job of planning and setting up

our table. She designed two great photo boards with comments about Great Old Broads set in amongst the photos. Broad’s board member, Karen Fischer was Pat’s backup person and we had a fantastic response from other local broads and friends who helped run the table all through the weekend.

We sold almost all our t-shirts, gave out over 500 brochures, 250 newsletters, gathered 10 pages of names of people interested in the organization, collected generous donations, and had a great time telling people about all the good work the Broads do while having a lot of fun.

The Madison Broadband will be meeting to plan some more events together. One of the major upcoming events will be a weekend hike up in



Wisconsin Broadband at *Canoecopia*.

the Trap Hills of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; a Great Old Broads alliance project.

For more information on this event or the Wisconsin Broadband, please contact Karen Fischer at fischerk_2000@yahoo.com.

The North Shore Road

Over sixty years ago, in 1942, just after the bombing on Pearl Harbor, Congress passed an act authorizing Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to build Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina. The dam would flood about three quarters of the length of a state road, NC 288. NC 288 was the only access for owners and residents of land along the northern shore of the reservoir. Displaced residents, mostly poor farmers, miners, and lumber workers, were paid a small sum—\$20 per acre—to relocate. In 1943, the federal government promised to build a road around the lake so that displaced residents could return for visits.

However, the promise of the road has never been kept. By 1972, only 7 miles of what was proposed to be a 40 mile road had been built due to both fiscal and environmental concerns. Since then, no further construction has been done on the road. And now, the North Shore is part of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

One reason the road has not been built is that since 1943 many environmental laws have been enacted, which will severely constrain if not prohibit any further construction. This threatened southwest quadrant of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the largest unroaded mountain tract in the East. Its forests are a haven for neotropical migratory birds. It provides unbroken habitat for both plants and animals. The terrain consists of numerous finger ridges, all precipitous, and any road construction will require mammoth cuts and fills in unstable rock and soil. Along any route, the rock to be exposed contains iron pyrite, which, when exposed to groundwater or rainwater, leaches sulfuric acid, which sterilizes any stream into which it drains.

While so many years have gone by

that it may seem a moot point to build the road, and the road is opposed by the Park Service, Swain County, and the governor of North Carolina, there is a small but vocal group of descendants of persons buried in cemeteries in the Park who want a road for cemetery access. This despite the fact that the 1943 Agreement does not mention cemeteries in any place, despite the fact that in 1943 the then living descendants were given the option of having the graves moved, free of charge to cemeteries outside the Park, despite the fact that the Park Service currently provides ferryboat rides across Fontana Lake and then shuttles residents visiting relatives' graves via bus seven miles to the main area of the cemeteries (residents still have to walk a quarter to half mile to reach graves, but they would have to do this even if the road was built), and despite the fact that they sued in federal court to require the road to be built, and lost in District Court, in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and had a further appeal denied by the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, despite all the reasons why the road should not or cannot be built, Congressman Charles Taylor (R-NC) in whose district this land lies, attached a rider to the Department of Transportation Appropriations for 2000, appropriating \$16 million for further construction of this road. Faced with that, the Department of the Interior has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on further road construction.

At this time, the EIS study has identified three alternatives which involve construction in this roadless



The Hazel Creek area could be placed in jeopardy and degraded if the North Shore Road is built. Photo by Charles Seifried

zone of the Park. (1) Partial construction of a 4.7 mile segment. (2) Full construction near the lake shore, 27.4 miles long, ending at Fontana Dam, and then crossing the top of the dam on an existing roadway. (3) Full construction on a route deeper in the Park, and continuing to NC 28 below Fontana Dam, a length of 34.1 miles. The second alternative, along the lake shore, would require construction of three bridges across embayments where the water is too deep to use ordinary pier supports. Those crossings would utilize “non-conventional structures” (defined as steel-arch bridges and cable-stayed bridges) with spans ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 feet, and height above footings of 300 to 600 feet.

The County Commissioners of Swain County, NC, in which all of the proposed road lies, by a vote of 4-1 have asked for a cash settlement in lieu of any further construction. The major national conservation organizations, and all the regional and local conservation organizations are and have been supporting the effort of the County Commissioners to obtain a cash settlement. A group of local residents have formed their own organization, Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, and is waging

cont. on next page

2005 Calendar of Events—Don't Miss the Fun!

Wild Sky Broadwalk – east of Seattle, WA

Date: July 28- Aug 1

Cost: \$125

Broads' first foray to the Pacific Northwest is to drum up continued support for the Wild Skykomish Wilderness Proposal. With strong, local bi-partisan support, this area should have been declared Wilderness when it was first introduced in Congress. Years later, despite massive support, it has not. Last fall, Rep. Pombo did not allow the Wild Sky proposal to clear the House Resource Committee but put forth a greatly watered down version instead.

Join us to discover this lush area with towering mountains, rushing streams, and old growth forest on the doorstep of Seattle. Kris Jonason, owner of Wave Trek, a local whitewater company, will host us at her place in Index, where we'll camp on the banks of the Skykomish River under old growth trees (complete with showers and hot tub!). Folks from the WA Wilderness Coalition will educate us about the campaign and lead us on

hikes in the Wild Sky. We'll work with the WA Trails Association and USFS on a trails service project. Come for a truly wild and fun weekend with Broads from across the country. Cost includes camping fees, 4 dinners, 4 breakfasts, and speakers. For more info visit www.wawild.org/campaigns/wild_sky.htm

Smoky Mountains Broadwalk – Bryson City, NC

Date: September 22-26

Cost: \$125

Broads are coming East again—this time to lend our unique voice and image to the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition (GSMC) effort to nationalize the North Shore Road issue. This proposed road along the north shore of Fontana Lake would cut across the largest roadless area in the mountains of the East. This roadless area is within Great Smoky Mountains National Park and has been recommended by the Park Service for wilderness. The Park Service opposes it, Swain County opposes it, the governor of North Carolina opposes it,

but Senator Charles Taylor (Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee) is really pushing it and appropriated \$16 million dollars to conduct an Environmental Impact Study for the road construction! See the full story at safc.org or www.northshoreroad.info.

We'll be camping in a private campground on Deep Creek just outside the park. Folks from GSMC, the National Park Service, and Swain County will share the story with us. We'll hike and explore the north shore of Fontana Lake. We'll talk with media to let them know how outrageous it is to even consider building this road, much less spend our tax dollars to study it! Cost includes camping fees, 4 dinners, 4 breakfasts, and speakers.

To reserve your spot for any of these events, send full payment or a \$50 deposit per event, per person to Great Old Broads for Wilderness, 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.

North Shore Road Cont.

a campaign for a cash settlement. The Governor of North Carolina, which was one of the four original signatory parties to the 1943 Agreement, also supports a cash settlement. However, those in favor of the road reject the cash payment stating the initial agreement said a road.

A cash settlement alternative is now one of the options being considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. It is the only reasonable, and non-damaging alternative under consideration.

—*Information and article excerpts provided by Ted Snyder of the Sierra Club.*

Recycle Your Cell Phone AND Give To Broads

EARTHWORKS is launching a campaign to dramatically increase the rate of cell phone recycling. The campaign, "Recycle My Cell Phone" aims to make recycling cell phones, PDAs, and pagers easy while raising money for charities like Great Old Broads.

The goal of the **Recycle My Cell Phone** campaign is to **double the rate of cell phone recycling in America** — to recycle one million phones over the next twelve months. Last year, less than 1% of retired cell phones were recycled.

By participating in this campaign you can help protect the environment and help your organization raise money. On average, participating organizations earn \$2 per cell phone collected.

If you have a cell phone, PDA, or pager to recycle, you can visit our website at www.greatoldbroads.org and follow the easy online steps to print out a pre-paid shipping label to send in your cell phone or contact the Broads office at 970-385-9577.



Broads Healthy Lands Project Gives Local Community Broads Inspire LUV in Kane County

by Sky Chaney

What is LUV (Land Use Volunteers) doing in Kane County... an epicenter of conflict over wilderness and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use? Here's the scoop. On March 10, 2005, due to the request of concerned local citizens, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness journeyed to Kanab, Utah to present their Healthy Lands Project Training Workshop to a group of interested locals. Twenty-three people showed up for the training, including a mixture of quiet sport and OHV enthusiasts.

The workshop started with a morning seminar instruction at the Rocking Vee Restaurant (yummy). Via an engaging visual presentation, we learned basic steps for effectively monitoring the dirt roads and tracks that are criss-crossing our natural lands. The goal with Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLP) in Kanab is to gather accurate standardized data on the impact of motorized vehicles and other human activities. This data is



Kanab citizens out on the ground during monitoring training.



LUV volunteers assist the BLM in building a barrier to illegal OHV incursions at Moquith Mtn Wilderness Study Area.

then shared with policy makers and land managers who are making key land use decisions.

In the afternoon we practiced our new skills in the field at Moquith Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). With the exception of a few designated areas, no motorized travel is allowed in this WSA. We located and monitored a recent illegal track made by motorcycles and ATVs. We used digital cameras to record the impacts of this track on soil, vegetation, and scenic values. We noted the exact location of each photo on a log sheet using compass and GPS.

Our track ended at a fence that had been cut by the illegal OHV riders and recently repaired by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Although the damage of this illegal track was unpleasant to see, it felt good to get out on a nice afternoon

and do something that may help to prevent further motorized impacts to protected lands.

So where does the LUV fit in? Following the workshop, I and another Kanab local, Randy Cram, decided to head up a new volunteer organization called Land Use Volunteers (LUV) of Kane County. Since March, LUV members have monitored a number of critical environmental areas near Kanab, and have become volunteers for the Kanab Bureau of Land Management. LUV members assist BLM staff in repairing human impacts in Wilderness Study Areas, and work to report impacts that may need attention and prevention.

Regarding the mission of LUV of Kane County, I

"I think you're excellent, but... and in the area of motorized... to work for... extremely... between the... possible a... minds." —P

cont. on next page

Communities the Tools to Make a Difference



Volunteer documents ORV use in a riparian area. Photo by Dan Miller

"Thank you, Broads, for your stellar performance at our Kanab workshop, and for the OHV monitoring program. In regards to getting a handle on the issue of OHV damage to public lands, I've drawn more encouragement and empowerment from the weekend's activities than from the previous year's experiences."
 —Susan Hand

Broads Helps Train Local Volunteers

On May 21, Bear River Watershed Council and Great Old Broads held a Broads Healthy Lands Project training, which trained nine local volunteers in motorized use data collection. The workshop focused on the nuts and bolts of collecting information about motorized vehicle use in the Bear River Mountains in Northern Utah and is part of the Council's Motorized Use Data Project better known as Project MUD.

Project MUD has collected data on off-road vehicle (ORV) use for

two years and is planning to collect an additional 400 miles of data this summer. The compiled data is presented to the National Forest Service's Logan Ranger District and is included in a national database managed by the Great Old Broads. To view Broads' ORV database, please visit www.goginger.org.

For more information on monitoring in the Bear River Mountains, please contact Dan Miller at 258-4432 or visit www.BRWCouncil.org.



Project MUD volunteers learn to check information signs to make sure all info is up-to-date with current travel plan. Photo by Dan Miller

r (Kanab) workshop was both in the training provided ability to bring together both and non-motorized travelers a common goal. You were sensitive to the differences e two groups, and made totally civil meeting of the eg Simmons

never start! Getting out and helping Mother Nature is good for the heart. It's fun. Now I know what it feels like to be a Great Old Bro for Wilderness!" (I'm a guy.)

For information on having a Healthy Lands Project Training Workshop in your community, contact Ronni at ronni@greatoldbroads.org or call 970-385-9577.

You may reach LUV of Kane County by calling Sky Chaney at 435-644-5744 or Randy Cram at 435-616-1853.

feel our work in healing the environment will never end... but unless we get our butts off the couch, it will

The Perfect Meander

by Barbara Sutherland

“Here it is...the perfect meander.” Pete Stacey was not speaking of a leisurely stroll down a well-worn hiking path or a complex dance maneuver. He was pointing to a U-shaped bend in the Rio Cebolla north of Jemez Springs, New Mexico where Great Old Broads gathered in May to learn how to assess the health of riparian areas. Pete is a Wildlife Biologist from the University of New Mexico who has worked with four other scientists to develop a unique and user-friendly method for non-scientists to assess the quality of their regional riparian areas.

I attended this Broadwalk with more interest in meeting fellow Broads than in attempting to learn techniques that I fully expected to be as incomprehensible as the mechanics of my automobile. Instead of being zoned into narcolepsy or a full blown anxiety attack, I was mesmerized by the magic of Pete’s description of nature’s symbiotic intricacies. I didn’t want to

leave his side as I became fully engaged by tales of why beavers are necessary to stream health (I’d always heard the blurb about how they needed to be trapped and transported out of the area before they did too much damage) and a stream that looks trampled to death by cows is not necessarily hopeless if other factors are healthy. He introduced us to the many small, but hugely important systems working together for the good of the whole. I’ve seen many rivers and streams, and yet I’ve missed the big picture my entire life.

Of course, no Broad event is complete without entertainment. Ours was provided by a Broad who tumbled into a hole neck deep and emerged like a true Broad, gasping with laughter and victorious as if the winner of the wet T-shirt contest. Then there was another who walked around with a toilet paper roll as the official noxious weed spy, and the brave Broad who clung precariously to a willow branch, butt in the air, as she



A Broad uses hi-tech toilet paper roll technology to spot noxious weeds. Photo by Barbara Sutherland

repeatedly slipped her foot over the edge in search of cool dark places for fish to hide. It was all fun.

So, I scored on two counts: I met some more great Broads, and I learned a lot that has changed forever the way I look at a watercourse. Another fascinating Broadwalk. Hope YOU can attend the next one!

Days in the Desert IV: Objectivity and Serendipity Rule

by Vera Snyder

Our 2005 riparian assessment training was held in the Jemez Mountains of the Santa Fe National Forest, comparing exclusionary and grazed sections of the Rio Cebolla. As in other Broads happenings there was a delightful commingling of first-timers and veterans, of in-and-out of staters, of other environmental groups (Forest Guardians and New Mexico Wilderness Alliance), and the enjoyable, patient and scholarly leadership of Peter Stacey (University of New Mexico Biology Department), all supported by the experience of staff members Ronni and Rose, and Cathy

Cowles’ culinary treats.

Since I first participated in Days in the Desert in 2002, there has been an evolution and streamlining of the stream assessment worksheets and scoring developed by Pete Stacey and other scientists working on the project. There is now greater clarity and less ambiguity or complexity of procedures; nonetheless, we bombarded Pete with endless questions both at the stream and at the follow-up question and answer sessions. Throughout our walking/wading, taking measure-

ments, and noting observations Pete stressed the need for data-based conclusions versus a priori judgment;

cont. on next page



Broads use their feet and sticks to determine the amount of algae growing on rocks beneath the surface. Photo by Carrell Foxx

New Forest Rules Weaken Safeguards

In 1976, Congress enacted the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), requiring the Forest Service to develop land and resource management plans for each of our National Forests at least every 15 years. An essential provision of the legislation was thorough public involvement at every stage of the planning process.

To say that the original NFMA rules adequately protected the national forests is to exaggerate. But it is wholly accurate to say that citizens interested in the management of our forests greatly benefited from those rules and used them to participate effectively in planning matters.

The interim rules change that and change it markedly. Timber cutting could be allowed in any forest outside wilderness or other statutorily protected areas. Where once the agency was **required** to manage to protect such things as species viability, that protection is now discretionary. Where once the agency had a duty to ensure that its management decisions comported with the best available science, the role of science is now diminished to just “one aspect of decision-making” and not even the **most** important:

“competing use demands” can now override science.

And where once the agency was required to prepare an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) whenever a forest plan was revised or significantly amended, the agency is now free to “categorically exclude” forest plans from the clear terms of NEPA. While the forest supervisor **may** consider a range of options, as under NEPA, there is no guarantee that the agency will do so. And there is no assurance that planners will consider the cumulative effects of logging, grazing, mining and off-road vehicle uses of the forest. There’s no assurance, either, that the agency will provide the public enough information to make informed comments on the agency’s proposal or options (if any).

A bedrock strength of the NFMA was its requirement that the agency operate to maintain viable populations of fish and wildlife species on our national forests. Now it’s gone. Instead, the new regulations contain only an “overall goal” to “provide a framework to contribute to sustaining native ecological systems.” The

directives are similarly vacuous, giving broad discretion to the forest supervisor to protect sensitive species populations “to the degree determined appropriate.” The combined weight of these changes is to make it difficult, if not impossible, for the public to effectively participate in the management of our national forests.

Please voice your concern over the new rules! Contact your legislators and write a letter to the editor. We must make Congress and the public understand that these new rules will have serious consequences.

Green Mountain Forest Plan Falls Short

Vermont’s Green Mountain National Forest forms the backbone of this idyllic, pastoral state. Visitors hike, ski, camp and explore in its rolling mountains.

The future of this forest is very much at stake today as the Forest Service develops a plan for managing the forest for the next 10 to 15 years. The agency’s draft plan recommends far too little wilderness protection and proposes opening up much of the forest to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The sensible course is to recommend more wilderness and to keep the forest free of ATVs. We need your help today to send that message to the Forest Service.

Write your own letter to the Forest Service, and send directly to their email address, gmlplanrevision@fs.fed.us, or send a letter by snail mail to:

Forest Plan Revision
Green Mountain National Forest
231 N. Main Street
Rutland, VT 05701

—*Information provided by The Wilderness Society. For more info visit www.wilderness.org*

Days in the Desert IV Cont.

objectivity versus bias. This concept really became evident Sunday as we stepped around fresh cowpucky, noting the cattle as well as the virtual absence of riparian trees and shrubs, the latter having been repeatedly nipped in the bud by cattle and elk. “Aha,” we thought, expecting notably different scores compared to the previous day’s ungrazed transect. Surprisingly, the comparative overall scores of stream health were not that divergent. So we talked about our assumptions, including the probability that this transect would degrade over the summer. We had to agree that this possibility lacked

validity until or unless we returned later to the same transect and took the same measurements. Hence, our critical learning was the importance of and respect for objectivity, particularly when attempting to influence agencies and decision-makers regarding land use policies.

The serendipity? The unusually cold and damp weather preceding the event switched to sunny and warm everyday; the bugs were minimal and bites were rare. We were also fortunate in securing a camping area for all of us in an extremely popular camping and fishing campground. It was, as always, a great Broad event.

Grandmother of Nevada Wilderness

At 80 years old Marge Sill certainly fits the portrait of a grandmother and a Great Old Broad. Like all Great Old Broads, Marge's grandmotherly instincts have been gathered up through a lifetime of nurturing and caring, and not just for others, but for nature's wild lands. For over fifty years Marge has been fighting tenaciously for the protection of Nevada's wild lands. So far her passion and persistence have helped push through several wilderness bills, but Marge isn't done yet; even now she continues to work towards her vision of "nurturing all wild lands for future generations."

Marge's work for wilderness extends as far back as the Wilderness Act. From 1956-1959 Marge lived in New Mexico where she met with Senator Clinton Anderson and lobbied for the 1964 Wilderness Act. Then in 1959, Marge moved to Nevada with her husband. Although she could count the number of environmentalists



on one hand, she and her husband, who was also very active in conservation, began working to get a good wilderness bill

passed in Nevada. It was an uphill struggle, but Marge never gave up even though it took over twenty-five years to see success.

Despite Marge's best efforts, it wasn't until Representative Harry Reid (D) took up the battle for the

Great Basin National Park in 1986 that any wilderness legislation was passed since the passage of the 1964 Act, which protected just one small area in Nevada—the 64,667 acre Jarbidge Wilderness. Then in 1989, three years after Reid was elected to the Senate, a meager 750,000 acres were designated as wilderness, but for Marge and others who had been working for wilderness in Nevada for a long time, it was a big moment of celebration.

Since Marge had already waited over twenty-five years to see one wilderness bill pass, she knew how to bide her time. From 1989 until 2000 Marge continued to work for Nevada's wild lands. While there was no opportunity to pass another bill, she spent the time "doing her homework," looking at many areas that could qualify for wilderness designation and working to influence public opinion. Finally, over 10 years later, another chance came along.

In 2000, Senator Bryan decided to retire and the one thing he wanted was the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Conservation Area. "We saw the opportunity to get several wilderness areas," said Marge. And they did—752,000 new acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness were included in the bill.

Since 2000, Marge and Nevada wilderness have been on a roll. In fact, for a state that had to wait so long to get any wilderness designated, they are doing better these days in this difficult political environment than most other states. In 2002, the Clark County Conservation of Public Land



Marge's passion and dedication for wilderness will out last her lifetime.

and Natural Resources Act was signed, and was the only large amount of wilderness—452,000 acres—to come into the National Wilderness System that year. Then, in 2004, the Lincoln County Public Lands Bill was signed, which designated 768,000 acres of wilderness—the largest acreage of any wilderness that went into the National System in that year.

While Marge has worked tirelessly to help these bills come to fruition, she acknowledges other forces at work. First, there is the political aspect. "I think politics is the name of the game," says Marge. "If you're talking about the environment, you have to be talking about politics." Marge notes that the wilderness community owes a tremendous amount to Senator Harry Reid.

The second factor for success says Marge has been the development of a wilderness coalition. "I want to emphasize the importance of having a coalition of groups," says Marge. "It makes a big difference."

For Marge's part, she has worked on media in helping to get wilderness designated. She has met with editors of newspapers, written a column called, "It's Your Turn," about wilderness, testified before County Commissioners, and anything else that she can do that has to do with influencing the public. Every ounce of her effort has been volunteer.

continued on page 11

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 also save us money, resources, and time. 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.

Sustaining Members may receive a free short sleeve Broads T-shirt as a token of our appreciation.

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: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Select payment method: Visa Mastercard Amex Discover Check (attach voided check)

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
P.O. Box 2924
Durango, CO 81302

Marge Sill Cont.

And while Marge can no longer physically visit wilderness, like other Great Old Broads, it's comforting just to know it's there. She also tries to mentor young people. She says, "It is the most important thing we elders can do, to bring along the next generation. It's the only way we're going to be able to keep our magnificent wild areas."

Marge acknowledges that the current political atmosphere is grim for wild lands, but with her never-failing dedication and optimism that has kept her going for so long she says, "I don't see much hope until we can change the makeup of the Administration, but at the same time we need to keep working with the agencies, keep bringing young people in, and just have hope that things will change for the better."

As for Great Old Broads, Marge hopes that Broads continues to expand. "I think it is so extremely important that women be involved. Older women have a lot of influence. People aren't going to treat them the same way as others. The antagonism is not there."

"You don't have to be young and macho and carry a sixty pound pack up a mountain in order to care about wild places," says Marge. And nobody has shown this to be more true than Marge Sill—a true grandmother of wilderness.

—Marge Sill is currently the Secretary of the Board of Directors of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. She has been honored as a Wilderness Hero by national conservation groups for her enduring volunteer efforts to save Nevada's special wild places. —BL



Catch the cash, Ronni! Broads made over \$1,000 at a Southern Utes Sky Ute Casino money grab for charity.

Join The Great Old Broads Today!

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

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Email _____ (please include!)



Great Old Broads use hi-tech methods to measure distance during a recent Days in the Desert Workshop.

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ (please include!)
 Phone _____

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

- Please do not share my information with like-minded organizations.

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 only	\$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 \$ _____

Please return with check or money order to:
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
POB 2924, Durango, CO 81302

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
 PO Box 2924
 Durango, CO 81302

Non Profit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Durango, CO
 Permit No. 682