



BROADSIDES

Volume 15, no. 1
Spring 2005

In A Broad Sense: A New Frame for Wilderness by Ronni Egan

Spring is upon us, and we'll be able to enjoy more time outdoors, some of it, hopefully, in the wild places we treasure. I wish I could report that we have "Healthy Forests" to look forward to, as our President has promised us, but alas, I am not optimistic about this administration's intentions toward the lands I love.

What's Happened So Far

The articles and alerts that cross my desk at "Broads World Headquarters" here in Durango are disheartening. Since the start of Bush's second term, no time has been wasted in introducing many sweeping changes in the way our public lands are managed. The National Environmental Protection Act is in peril of being dropped entirely from planning on National

have to work even harder to thwart this administrative grab at one of our finest wild places. The Roan Plateau, Otero Mesa, and many Wilderness Study Areas in Utah's spectacular canyon country are in the oil and gas industry's crosshairs. Topping all of this off is the spectre of rampant roadbuilding in roadless areas that is now occurring in many forests and other open spaces with the rollback of the Clinton Roadless Rule. The antiquated RS2477 rule continues to also be an ongoing threat, which could allow local governments and private parties to claim rights of way across most public land and even some private land.

Suffice it to say, the next four years could see rollbacks of environmental policies that would take us back 70 years. Never in my lifetime have I seen threats to our natural heritage to rival those we face today.

The Need to Reframe

Since we seem to have our work cut out for us for the next four years, we need to find more effective ways of communicating our message. Somehow, the environment was almost entirely absent in the rhetoric of the last election cycle; yet, most Americans, both Republican and Democrat, are concerned about the environment and want healthy public lands, clean drinking water, and better air quality. Mainstream media and the prevailing political dialogue have been co-opted by those who would have us believe that the current Administration has our

social and physical wellbeing in mind. With glib phrases like "Clear Skies," and "Healthy Forest," being bandied about, the hidden agenda of regulatory rollbacks and corporate giveaways has been hidden from general public scrutiny, and a slim majority of the electorate has been persuaded to vote against its own best interests. When policy is reduced to sound-bites for the "talking heads," the public loses the opportunity to study the real effects of that policy. Those of us who are passionate about our natural heritage must learn to "frame" our arguments differently. I recently read a book recommended to me by Board member Diane Tracy, and found that it gave me renewed hope to successfully communicate our message. That book is *Don't Think Of An Elephant*, by George Lakoff.

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Forest and BLM lands, giving Forest Supervisors, who are at the mercy of Interior Department's (read Gale Norton) whims, full discretion in managing our forests. The Healthy Forests Initiative, passed late in 2003, is a thinly disguised timber giveaway masquerading as fire protection. Public input in land management decisions is being reduced, ignored or eliminated, especially in cases such as the widespread public opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Senate has voted 51 to 49 to allow the drilling provision to remain in the Budget Bill, so we will

Upcoming Events

Be sure to mark your calendar with all of our great events this year! Have fun, meet other fabulous Broads, and help save some wild lands!

- **Days in the Desert IV** - May 20-22, Jemez Mountains, NM
- **Valle Vidal Broadwalk** - June 23-27, northeast of Taos, NM
- **Wild Sky Broadwalk** - July 28-Aug 1, east of Seattle, WA
- **Smoky Mountains Broadwalk** - September 22-26, Bryson City, NC

For more information see page 6 or visit www.greatoldbroads.org

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What Lakoff offers in this book, is a linguistic toolkit to help reframe and reclaim the debate regarding the environment, civil liberties, and social programs. Perhaps Lakoff's most important message is his explanation of the different role models used by conservatives and liberals. He describes the President and his Administration as acting from a "strict father" model, as a leader who will enforce discipline, protect us from threats (real or imagined), and punish "evildoers." This model "*permits no backtalk*" and "*does not ask for a permission slip.*" (Does this sound familiar?) The progressive model, on the other hand, offers a "*nurturing*" scenario. This model encompasses the ideals of broad prosperity, a better future for everyone, empathy for those less fortunate, mutual responsibility, and effective government. He goes on to point out the "moral values" in the progressive model and to give tips on how to frame the debate in ways which will be positively received and which can compete against conservative framing.

How Broads is Engaged

One of the outstanding attributes of Great Old Broads, both as an organiza-

tion and as individuals, is a sense of perspective gained by having "been to the rodeo" a time or two in our long and varied lives. We understand what all of these policy rollbacks mean and we have the ability to "reframe" our own dialogue to help others understand. As an organization Broads is working to reframe the debate in our work for wilderness.

The Broads staff has been writing comments daily on land management plans or signing on to those created by our fellow organizations. We are on record on issues ranging from protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to removal of the uranium tailings pile outside of Moab, Utah that's leaching toxins into the Colorado River. We're parties to lawsuits in Jarbidge, Nevada on an RS2477 case, in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument on a grazing permit dispute, and in Salt Lake City on the infamous No-More-Wilderness deal between Gale Norton and former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt. One of the reasons that Great Old Broads is able to participate in these actions is that, collectively, **we've been to so many places.** This gives us "standing" in the courts, and enables us to weigh in with our experience and passion. We do this in partnership

with our many friends in the environmental field, including Earth Justice, The Wilderness Society, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Western Resource Advocates.

Another way in which Broads seeks to influence public lands policy is to train citizen volunteers to be active monitors of land use management decisions. Our **Broads Healthy Lands Project** is being used in several locations in the West to record the impacts of motorized travel, legal and illegal, and to attempt to influence Travel Management Plans on numerous National Forests and BLM districts. We have recently joined the Steering Committee of the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition, and are working to develop a national strategy for addressing the off-road vehicle issue, including increased grassroots activism. We are also working to reach out to various types of groups to work with on this monitoring project in hopes of creating a frame that speaks to inclusion—public lands are for all Americans—without risking the health of these precious wild lands. I hope you will join with Broads this year as we work to frame wilderness issues in a positive light. We have a lot of ground to cover over the next four years!

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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 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.

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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, the 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!

Changes Abound for Board of Directors

The thing about life is that it's always changing. Here at Broads, life is no different. At the end of 2004, several members of the Board of Directors announced their resignation due to various life circumstances. Those resigning from the Board include: Katie Fite, Cecila Hurwich, Fran Hunt, and Kathryn Robens. Broads would like to thank them for the tremendous amount of support, time and wisdom they have all given Broads over the years. While their presence on the Board of Directors will be missed, we are excited to have them join our Advisory Board, where we can still gain from their knowledge on many important issues.

New members stepping in to fill the void left are introduced below:

Jen Jackson

St. George, UT



Great Old Broads is honored to have Jen Jackson join our ranks. As one of the newest members to the Board, Jen comes to Broads with many years of experience working in the environmental field. Currently, Jen is the Rural Organizer for Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) in southwest Utah (St. George). She has also worked with the Native Forest Council and Predator Defense Institute. However, according to Jen her full-time job is really hiking every last acre of slickrock and sandstone splendor surrounding her.

Having Jen on the Board of Directors will help facilitate more collaboration with groups working in southern Utah. "The only way that we, as members of the wilderness community, are going to protect the incredible

landscapes around us is through collaboration," says Jen. "We cannot work as insular and separate groups of individuals, but we must instead pool our talents, ideas, and resources so we present a unified front working toward a common goal."

While Jen may be younger than most Great Old Broads, she definitely has "Broad" attributes. She warns, "You should be aware that appearances are deceiving. I may look and sound like a sweet young thing, but I've got another side. Don't mess with me, my family, or my wilderness. I will come out swinging, and I don't like to lose."

Jen Schmidt

New York, NY

Here at Broads, we seem to like to do things in pairs. We already have two Karens on our Board of Directors, and now we're adding two Jens, both at the same time. Jen Schmidt also joins Broads Board of Directors with a long history in activism and is currently the National Field Director for Campaign for America's Wilderness.

Her first exposure to Great Old Broads was in 1999 at our Chix in the Stix Conference. "Participating in Chix in the Stix was like inheriting a whole group of fairy godmothers. But even better than glass slippers, a pumpkin coach (so impractical in the city), and yards of pink taffeta, this amazing cadre of mentors girded me with greater confidence, wilderness know-how, and a sense of how FUN it can be to work with people to save wild places."

Jen's experience in recruiting new wilderness advocates and building coalitions, along with her relationships

with many existing organizations that could provide rewarding partnerships with Broads will be a big asset to the Board. "It's a chance for me to give back to our wilderness movement in a deeper and more meaningful way, and to work with other Broads, young and old, who, like me, may not live near wilderness or be amazing hikers and climbers, but yet who care deeply about protecting our last wild places for future generations," says Jen.

Barbara Sutherland

Durango, CO

Barbara has lived in and migrated through wild lands for over 40 years. Traveling by foot or canoe she has witnessed unwelcome changing conditions throughout our country's sacred places as the pressures of population and politics change the landscape in ways she could never have imagined as a younger woman. Now, as an older woman,

her commitment to make a difference is a passion shared by Great Old Broads everywhere who remember the meaning of a "wilderness ethic" and the pristine nature that our public lands were intended to exemplify. She says, "I love the synergy of helping others to make things work. I am particularly enamored with the off-road vehicle technology that Broads has developed and the contribution that it will make to eventually solving this growing problem."



Barbara is an RN, an educator, and the head-broad of seven wild land loving sons and grandsons.

Banding Together for Change

Canyons of the Ancient National Monument, located in Southwest Colorado, is a unique place that contains an abundance of historic and prehistoric heritage resources, fragile desert ecosystems, and riparian areas. The Monument contains the highest known density of archaeological sites in the nation, more than 100 sites per square mile in many areas.

However, escalating site visitation, increased recreational use, increased vandalism, and soil erosion have become significant problems for the Monument. Unfortunately, due to the lack of personnel, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is unable to steward the land at the level necessary to prevent these negative human impacts.



Board member Diane Tracy trains volunteers to monitor in CANM.

Rather than watch the Monument erode, concerned citizen volunteers have banded together to provide stewardship over these fragile, but historically and culturally important lands. Great Old Broads for Wilderness and the Four Corners Broadband are proud to be part of a broader coalition working toward good stewardship and management within the Monument.

San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA), a local not-for-profit organization that has a sanctioned partnership with the Forest Service and BLM, is partnering with Great Old Broads to

use the Broads Healthy Lands Project to help monitor high impact, priority areas in the Monument. This is an exciting opportunity, not only to test our Broads Healthy Lands Project, but also to work with such diverse recreational users in a positive manner to improve public lands.

Gabi Morey was hired by SJMA to coordinate all of the volunteers and monitoring. She first met with Recreation Coordinators from the BLM to identify priority areas in the Monument. Three high impact areas were identified, including Risely Canyon/Cannonball Mesa, Sand Canyon/East Rock Canyon, and Big Point. The area with the highest impact from illegal ORV users was determined to be Risely Canyon/Cannonball Mesa. Therefore, it was identified as the first priority for monitoring efforts.

The first training for the Healthy Lands monitoring in the Monument took place on Saturday, January 29, 2005. Sixteen volunteers were trained at Battle Rock School, a one-room schoolhouse located in McElmo Canyon next to the Monument. Volunteers represented many of the user groups of the Monument, including horseback riders, ORV users, and hikers.

The morning consisted of covering background information on the Monument, ORV use in the Monument, and the biological and cultural resources in the Monument that could be protected by monitoring. The afternoon portion of the training involved teaching volunteers to use GPS units and digital cameras for monitoring. The group then traveled to Risely Canyon/Cannonball Mesa and practiced their new field monitoring techniques. The day ended back at Battle Rock School, looking at maps and picking out routes to be adopted and monitored.



Volunteers spend part of the day in the classroom learning about CANM.

Monitors will monitor their routes once per season. Already, a few eager volunteers have completed their winter monitoring and more volunteers are excited about participating in another training session to be held April 23rd. More volunteers out monitoring on the land means that the BLM staff will have a better knowledge of problem areas, when and how problems are arising, and therefore be able to better manage the Monument. All data collected from the monitoring will be input into Broads database. If you are interested in being a Healthy Lands monitor in Canyons of the Ancients, you can reach Gabi Morey at (970) 759-1170 or gabi@sjma.org.

Another exciting part of this pilot project in the Monument is that Broads is now receiving interest from other BLM offices for the same type of volunteer monitoring. We are hopeful that Broads ORV monitoring protocols will soon be used across the country by all types of recreational users to help create better management. —BL



ORV trackson Cannonball Mesa.

Broadening Our Reach with Broadbands

Broadbands, local ad hoc groups of Broads, are an integral part of creating a local voice for wilderness protection. Broadbands are started through member initiative and gather periodically to get acquainted, share concerns about local wilderness issues, and hopefully initiate some projects, activities, or educational events to help further wilderness and roadless area protection.

There is no magic formula for starting a Broadband in your area, but if you would like to get one started, the Broads staff is glad to provide the contact information for other members in your area to be used to call, e-mail, or send a postcard of invitation to get together. Broads staff can also help provide your group with information, ideas, coaching, connecting you with individuals from other organizations that can assist with projects, and perhaps even a visit from one of our staff or Board members early in the group's formation to help inspire and focus the group. All it really takes is someone willing to make initial plans to get folks together. An informal social event with entertainment or an informational program of local interest, but still relevant to Broad's mission, can be a good beginning.

Some groups gather periodically for hikes and picnics, dinners, programs, or monitoring/work projects on public lands—each group can make it up as they go. The person who initiates getting the group together doesn't need to plan everything—it should be up to the group. Broadbands generally start small with just a handful of individuals and grow in numbers over time. It will be through friendships and the synergy of the group that a core of active Broads evolves and works together to define areas and issues that you want to be involved with.

As a Great Old Broads Broadband, the group represents Broads and

The Broadband Buzz...

Northern Sierra Broadband by Karen Cox

A beautiful, sunny, February Saturday (a break in the storms) greeted the 13 Great Old Broads who showed up for a weekend in the snow. We gathered at a friend's cabin at Alpine Meadows just north of Lake Tahoe for coffee, tea, and getting-acquainted before heading off for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. After a day of vigorous outdoor activity we were all back at the



Northern Sierra Broadband members out enjoying a beautiful day in the snow. Photo by Libby Ingalls

cabin ready for social hour and conversation. The Co-Chair of our Broads Board, Libby Ingalls, came up from San Francisco to enjoy the snow weekend and brought us all up to date on issues and plans for the coming year. The collective environmental knowledge in the dining room was quite impressive and made for some stimulating discussions. The food was great and the company was even better.

After dinner the five who had come for the day only, departed for Nevada City and the rest of us jumped in the hot tub. Sunday we had time for another outdoor adventure before enjoying homemade soup by Dorothy and then heading for home.

should keep its activities within our mission and program areas: Wilderness/roadless area protection, specifically from impacts of off-road vehicles, grazing, and oil and gas exploration.

For more information on starting a Broadband in your area or joining an existing Broadband contact Rose at rose@greatoldbroads.org or call 970-385-9577. Local Broadband activities are updated on the web at www.greatoldbroads.org.

The snow weekend was the third event for the Northern Sierra Broadband. Everyone who participated had a fabulous time, and, I think, came away with more understanding of who the Great Old Broads are and what we are trying to accomplish. The many conversations on local and national conservation issues helped inform our views. The discussion of Broadwalks and events for 2005 motivated some to make plans to attend.

In addition to offering good company and fun, a local Broadband is a way to put a local face on a national organization. One truism about a Great Old Broads event of any kind is, it attracts just the kind of person you would like to get to know.

Housekeeping.....

- If you have not received an email from Broads in the last few months, please email Rose at rose@greatoldbroads.org with your email address so that we can keep you updated on wilderness alerts and local events in your area.

- If you have extra airline miles, please consider donating them to Broads. We could really use them!

2005 Calendar of Events

We have a great calendar of events, taking us from Washington to New Mexico to North Carolina. Broads' unique, passionate voices are needed in many places on many issues that threaten our nation's wild lands.

Days in the Desert IV – Jemez Mountains, NM

(north of Albuquerque)

Date: May 20-22

Cost: \$70 incl. meals and camping

If you want to understand the effects of livestock grazing on our desert riparian areas, this is the workshop for you! This year's event is in partnership with Forest Guardians. We gather Friday afternoon at an undeveloped campsite near La Cueva for dinner and to begin our awakening to the way streams in the desert *should* look. Scientists from the Wild Utah

Project will train us in the field to systematically assess the health of a riparian area. We will spend a day visiting an ungrazed stretch of creek as our reference site, where we will be able to see what optimal conditions look like and to practice using the assessment tools. Sunday, we will visit an overgrazed, impacted stream, and continue to learn how to evaluate the health of the stream. Our weekend will conclude with a wrap-up Sunday afternoon. Folks are welcome to arrive early or stay longer to enjoy the beautiful Jemez Mountains, hiking trails, and hot springs. For more details on the area we'll be in visit http://nmshtd.state.nm.us/scenic_byways/JemezMountainTrail.asp. Cost includes campsite expenses, 2 breakfasts and dinners, and the assessment training.

Valle Vidal Broadwalk – northeast of Taos, NM

Date: June 23-27

Cost: \$90 incl. meals and camping

The Valle Vidal, a lush mountain basin in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, is threatened by potential oil and gas leasing. Donated to the American people in 1982 by Pennzoil, the Valle Vidal is managed by the Carson National Forest primarily for its wildlife, as well as its outstanding scenic and recreational opportunities. However, a forest management plan has never been developed for this area. Now is the time for public input into the decision process. The Santa Fe Broadband is helping host this Broadwalk, so that Broads from all over can experience this special place and learn to speak for its protection.

What is a Broadwalk?

A Broadwalk is first and foremost a whole lot of fun! If you have never been on a Broadwalk, this year offers several locations and dates for you to join us.

Every Broadwalk takes on its own unique character, but we usually begin gathering on Thursday afternoon to get acquainted and set up camp. Things really kick off with dinner and a speaker from the local grassroots organization to frame the weekend's events and purpose. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we spend our time hiking with local guides in proposed wilderness or threatened landscapes to learn firsthand about the place. Usually we build in some sort of service project on one of the days – removing old culvert, pulling

noxious weeds, inventorying potential wilderness, restoring trails, monitoring ORV impacts—the possibilities are endless. Each day at some point we have more local speakers to share information on the area's history,

“The fellowship of older women with a mutual commitment to environmental activism is incomparable in my experience.”

—Mary Black, speaking about the Yaak Broadwalk in 2004

natural history, wilderness issues, music, writings, photography, etc. We really rub elbows with locals on both sides of an issue, with agency land managers, and with other wilderness advocates. We also often get to talk to the media about our group and the wilderness that we work to protect. The event ends on Monday after breakfast, sometimes with a meeting at government offices, sometimes

just with farewell to friends, old and new.

Meals have become a group event either catered or prepared by a camp cook, which allows us more time in the field and more time to get acquainted with each other. Trail lunches are left to each participant to bring. Delicious food, drink, and camaraderie are an essential part of our weekends! There is nothing like spending time with a group of Great Old Broads!

For those who prefer not to camp, there are often local motels where you can stay and just join us each day for our activities, speakers, and meals. We can help folks connect with others who are driving or flying into the area to share rides or rental cars. Sometimes folks join us for just part of an event which is generally OK as long as we have enough space and know which meals and nights to plan on.

Calendar of Events continued...

Folks from the Valle Vidal Coalition will lead us on hikes and talk about this special place. Forest Service District Ranger Ron Thibedeau will give us agency insight and a tour of the Valle. Tweeti Blancett, NM rancher, will share the horrors of oil and gas development on her ranch and adjoining BLM lands. Broads will help the Forest Service with a service project. We'll be camping at a Forest Service campground. Cost includes camping fees, 4 breakfasts and dinners, and speakers.

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. Two 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 Southern Appalachian Forest Council's (SAFC) effort to nationalize the North Shore Road issue. This proposed road along the north shore of Fontana Lake would cut across the largest inventoried roadless area in the East, which is within Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Park Service opposes it, Swain County opposes it, the governor of North Carolina opposes it, but Senator Charles Taylor (Senate Interior Appropriations Committee) 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 SAFC, 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. More information is also available at www.greatoldbroads.org

Wilderness Updates

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The US Senate has voted, by a 51-49 margin, to allow a provision to permit oil development in ANWR in the 2006 Budget. While the news is gloomy, the battle is not over yet. Congress now needs to release a budget resolution, which is expected in April. If the final budget resolution does contain Arctic drilling, which is expected, intense lobbying will need to be done to persuade Congress not to pass the budget resolution. A budget resolution has not passed in the last two years, so the outcome is hopeful. More information can be found at www.wilderness.org

Roan Plateau

In 2003, Broads visited this spectacular landscape to add our voice to local opposition to oil and gas drilling. Locals in the area also opposed. The Bureau of Land Management has released its draft plan for the Roan Plateau and is now taking public comments. Unfortunately, none of the BLM's alternatives offer the protection these important public lands warrant. Please send comments to the BLM asking them to revise its final plan to honor the community-supported Community Alternative that protects the Plateau's top and cliffs. More info can be found at www.saveroanplateau.org.

Otero Mesa

The 2002 Broadwalk to Otero Mesa opened Broads eyes to this pristine grassland area. However, it is still under siege by the Administration for oil and gas drilling. The Coalition for Otero Mesa is currently trying to generate 250,000 letters to President Bush to ask that he protect the area and not open it to oil and gas drilling. To submit a letter or for more information about the current status of Otero Mesa visit www.oteromesa.org.

—For more wilderness updates visit capwiz.com/awc/home or ga1.org/wilderness/home

Drilling Valle Vidal is Bust for Local Economies

The Valle (Va-yay) Vidal is a 100,000 acre gem smack in the heart of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains northwest of Cimarron, New Mexico. It has been called a 'reservoir of wildlife' and justly so. The Valle hosts the largest elk herd in the state, sixty other species of mammals including black bear, turkey, bobcat and bison, nearly 200 species of birds and 33 kinds of reptiles and amphibians. Its verdant valleys are ringed by one of the largest stands of Bristlecone Pine in the nation. Pure strains of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout can be found in many of the waterways.

The Valle Vidal is also the lifeblood of local recreation-based economies. It hosts outfitters, hunting and trekking guides, backpackers, horseback riding, world-class fly-fishing and over 3,000 Boy Scouts a year from the Philmont Scout Ranch. Currently, the Valle Vidal is in danger of oil and gas development despite opposition from locals because of the negative impact drilling would have on the local economy. A report released by the Coalition for the Valle Vidal confirms drilling the Valle Vidal will undermine Colfax County's local economy.

"The Valle Vidal makes Colfax County unique and it's a critical piece of our economic equation," said Colfax County Commissioner, James Marchetti. "Drilling it is shortsighted, it destroys the very reason why our children want to stay here and others want to relocate, retire, and visit here."

The report, "*Local Economic Impacts of Gas Development in Valle Vidal, New Mexico*," reviews economic trends in Colfax and Las Animas (Colorado) counties and the projected level of gas development for the Valle Vidal based on a recent Carson National Forest document (RFDS). The report finds growing economic sectors in Colfax County

include service, retirement and recreation activities. Additionally, gas development on the Valle Vidal will bring insignificant jobs or revenues to the area, while simultaneously threatening existing, robust sectors.

Other key findings are:

- Drilling the Valle Vidal will be a net economic loss for the communities of northern New Mexico. Recreation on the Valle Vidal currently generates anywhere from \$2-5 million dollars to local economies. Income generated from coalbed methane (CBM) drilling will not offset that loss.

- Most of these jobs will not be available to local residents due to the specialized workers upon which the oil and gas industry typically relies.

- Any revenues generated to local governments will be offset by the burden that the oil and gas industry brings to county roads, fire and other emergency responders, and other services.

Area Chamber of Commerce organizations and public officials from both Colfax and Taos areas agree that the report's findings reflect critical community realities. Tracy Boyce, former president of Cimarron Chamber of Commerce and local business owner, says "The Valle Vidal brings millions every year into our economies. That money is coming from wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, horseback riding and camping. All of these people spend money on the way to and from the Valle Vidal. We can't afford to lose that."

Don Francisco Trujillo II, Taos County Commissioner and Chairman of the Intergovernmental Council of the Enchanted Circle in northern New



Elk gather in the open valley of Valle Vidal. Photo by Ray Watt

Mexico, says that Taos does not have anything to gain and has everything to lose from the drilling. "I come from a long standing, time honored family whose love for the land runs deep in our roots and flows through our veins.

Our protected public lands are our lifeline to a sustainable future. More and more we are seeing that communities that protect their public lands are benefiting economically."

The Coalition for the Valle Vidal and others are increasingly insisting that these types of debates are not stark, limited choices between jobs and the environment. Referring to a recent comprehensive study by the nonprofit Sonoran Institute, Jim O'Donnell says, "You destroy the environment you lose your jobs. Period. Sound economic studies of rural western communities are showing time and again that protecting public lands create thriving and sustainable rural communities. Today's findings show that the same is true for Colfax and Taos counties."

The report and related materials are available at: www.vallevidal.org/about.html. Please send comments asking the Forest Service to protect Valle Vidal to:

Martin Chavez

Supervisor, Carson National Forest
208 Cruz Alta Road

Taos, New Mexico 87571

—information provided by the
Coalition for the Valle Vidal

Thursday Hikers Add Voice to Broads

by **Ginger Harmon**

Meet the Thursday Hikers of the Monterey Peninsula: Norma, 75; Helena, 74; Elizabeth, 75; Peggy, 70; Becky, 75; Carol, 73; Joanne, 77; Marty, 66; Margaret, 75; and my sister Cynthia, 78—all quintessential broads. The group was formed somewhere around 1988 (no one remembers for sure) by five women in their early sixties. It now stands at 10 people plus two regular dogs. It was my good fortune to hike with the Thursday Hikers while I was visiting in Carmel this winter.

These septuagenarians think nothing of knocking off up to 2,000 vertical feet and ten miles on a long day of hiking high above the Big Sur coast or up and down the steep oak hills near the Carmel Valley. So what motivates them to show up, rain or shine week after week, for what most senior citizens would consider a death march? My simple answer is because they are having fun—lots of fun. Of course, being fit is basic to having fun. These women are a testimonial to slowing the aging process through regular exercise. They glow with good health. One amazing lady was hiking while undergoing radiation for cancer.

For me, hiking with this group was a total delight. No small part of that was the group compatibility. Marty said, “I feel wonderfully lucky to be part of this group. Never before have I belonged to a group where I genuinely liked every single member, and had so much in common with everyone.” Helena put it this way, “I really appreciate the walks with the Thursday hikers, the companionship of these

old and trusted friends and the conversation and exchanges of opinions, idea, film reviews, book reviews and what have you...” I hiked with the group just after the presidential election and I was pleased that I could express my strong opinions about the new administration. Marty understated it: “...a right winger wouldn’t quite fit in...we have some pretty lively discussions, but we all have a similar value base, which makes for a real bond.”

Love of nature and wild places is, undoubtedly, a big part of the common bond. The group includes two accomplished naturalists, Peggy and Norma,



Like all Broads, Thursday Hikers are passionate about preserving wild lands. Photo by Cynthia Chaplin

and as Margaret pointed out, “Thanks to my very knowledgeable hiking friends, I am learning to recognize wildflowers, trees, mushrooms, lizards, snakes, beetles, scat and birds.” Norma said, “I like hiking because I like the natural world. I want to see plants including mushrooms, birds, butterflies, mammals, insects, geology and the big blue or gray sky.”

Few would disagree that the environs of the Monterey Peninsula have a surfeit of world class beauty. Margaret commented, “I love...to see places and scenery that would never be available to see any other way but hiking.” Elizabeth remarked, “I’m partial to the Big Sur hikes where I can look down to the ocean while climbing up hill.” From Marty, “I like

panoramic views, especially ridge tops. East Molera on a clear day is magnificent.” The group often stops to marvel at the scenery. Several of the women told me that, even with hiking once a week, year in and year out, they could never tire of the glories of the coastal range and shoreline.

I asked each member about her favorite environmental organization. The unanimous winner, not surprisingly, was the Big Sur Land Trust. The Trust has protected more than 30,000 acres of shoreline, wildlife habitat, streams, forests, grasslands and awe inspiring views along the coast and

inland from the Monterey Peninsula. The big winner for volunteer work was the Point Lobos State Reserve. Eight of the women work regularly as docents at Point Lobos; Cynthia has been a docent for 15 years, Carol for 22 and Norma for 24. All of the women had contacted public officials and agencies about environ-

mental and conservation issues. Two had taken part in protests.

I was unmerciful in insisting that the Thursday Hikers should be Great Old Broads and I think all have joined. I am very proud and pleased to have these indomitable great old broads as real Great Old Broads!

Please let me hear from you if you know any woman or groups of women, whatever age, who resemble the old broads I have described above. We need them to join because every new member gives Broads a more powerful voice in the protection of America’s last wild places. My email is ginharmon@aol.com. Thank you.

—Ginger is co-chair of Broads Board of Directors.

Polls Show Public Favors More Wilderness

To assess current attitudes about protection of additional public lands as wilderness, Zogby International conducted interviews of 1,001 likely voters chosen at random nationwide between January 4 and 6, 2003.

As a baseline, the questions began with assessing how much of all land in the country respondents believe is currently protected as wilderness. The questions proceeded to more specifically probe how much land respondents think should be protected as wilderness, both generally and then in their own states.

1. *What percentage of all lands in the United States do you believe are currently protected as wilderness?*

- Two of three respondents thought that more than 5% of all land in the country is protected as wilderness, while a near majority (46%) thought that more than 10% is so protected. Americans believe that more land has been designated for protection than is, in fact, the case.

2. *What percentage of all lands in the United States do you think should be protected as wilderness?*

- More than two-thirds of respondents (71%) think that 10% or more of all lands in the United States should be protected as wilderness. Only 8% feel that as little as 1-5% of U.S. land should be protected as wilderness.

- Two-thirds of Republicans (65%) think that more than 10% of all lands should be protected as wilderness; as do 71% of Independents and 74% of Democrats.

- More than three in five likely voters age 50+ (64%) think that more than 10% of all lands should be protected as wilderness. Only 7.2% of those age 50+ feel that as little as 1-

5% of U.S. land should be protected as wilderness.

- A majority of respondents age 65+ (57%) think that more than 10% of all lands should be protected as wilderness. Only 6.8% of those age 50+ feel that as little as 1-5% of U.S. land should be protected as wilderness.

3. *In fact, 4.7% of the land in the United States has been designated by Congress as Wilderness. Do you think Congress has designated too much wilderness, the right amount of wilderness, or not enough wilderness?*

Too much	6%
Right amount	23%
Not enough	64%
Not sure	7%

- More than three in five likely voters (64%) think that the 4.7% of the land in the U.S. designated as wilderness is not enough. Compared to the 6% who think that the present extent of protected wilderness is “too much,” this reflects an overwhelming public consensus.

- A majority of Republicans (51%) think that 4.7% of all lands designated as wilderness is not enough; as do 70% of independents and 72% of Democrats.

- A majority of respondents age 50+ (54%) think that 4.7% of the land in the U.S. designated as wilderness is not enough. Only 8.4% of respondents 50+ believe that the present extent of protected wilderness is “too much.”

- Of those surveyed age 65+, 46% think that there is not enough wilderness, while only 11.3% think that there is too much protected wilderness.

4. *How do you feel about designating more of the public land in your own state as wilderness? Would you say you strongly favor, somewhat favor, neither favor nor oppose,*

Petition for Wilderness

To be able to counter the argument that the elderly or disabled, who are often physically unable to access public lands, want roads into roadless areas, Broads is gathering signatures in support of roadless wild lands. Please make copies of the petition on the next page and share them with others to sign. The more names that we collect, the stronger our voice can be to decision makers and land managers that there is a significant portion of the population who want Wilderness preserved for others, even if they cannot access it themselves.

Please mail your signed petition back to the Broads office.

somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this idea?

Strongly favor	41%
Somewhat favor	24%
Favor	65%
Neither	12%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	10%
Oppose	20%
Not sure	4%

- Respondents are more than three times as likely to favor (65%) than oppose (20%) designating more public land in their own states as wilderness.

- A majority of Republicans (54%) favor more wilderness being protected in their own states; as do two-thirds of Independents (66%) and three-quarters of Democrats (75%).

- Respondents age 50+ are much more likely to favor (59%) than oppose (23%) designating more public land in their own states as wilderness.

- Respondents age 65+ are much more likely to favor (52%) than oppose (27%) designating more public land in their own states as wilderness.

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New board member Jen Schmidt speaks passionately for wilderness at D.C. rally.

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

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

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