



# BROADSIDES

THE GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS NEWSLETTER

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## In A Broad Sense: Time for Grassroots Power

by Ronni Egan

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***“Time and trouble will tame a young woman, but an advanced old woman is uncontrollable by any earthly force.”***  
—Dorothy L. Sayers



*This spectacular grassland is part of the area protected by the Valle Vidal Protection Act, which was passed in late 2006. Photo by Ray Watt, courtesy of the Coalition for the Valle Vidal.*

We are seeing a glimmer of light at the end of the long, dark tunnel that has been governmental environmental policy for the past decade or so. In its last days, the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress designated new wilderness in New England and northern California, as well as passed the Valle Vidal Protection Act in New Mexico. The 110<sup>th</sup> Congress has already clearly positioned itself to consider new wilderness and other public lands protection bills, along with some sweeping policy oversight. In just a couple short months, the House passed a bill repealing tax breaks for oil corporations, and there are new incentives being considered for alternative energy.

Designated wilderness provides Americans not only with opportunities for adventure and solitude, beautiful scenery

and abundant wildlife; wilderness also provides us with vital ecosystem services. Ecosystem services provided by intact, healthy wildlands include clean air and water, flood control, pollination of plants, mitigation of environmental hazards, carbon sequestration, and, of course, aesthetic, recreational and spiritual opportunities. Although it is widely recognized that humanity depends critically upon earth's bounty for our existence and material well-being, many of these benefits are intangibles which do not have a specific market value and, consequently, are often exploited and degraded with impunity.

The current Administration's trends toward public lands management is extracting every last drop of petroleum

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# Broads Adds New England Voice

Born and raised in Connecticut, Pam Meier inherited a deep love of wild places from generations of naturalists. Having spent many years advocating to protect open space around her own home in Madison, Connecticut, Pam sees joining the Board of Directors of Great Old Broads as a natural extension of her local advocacy work. “Although the trappings of the issues in my locale may differ in scale and name from those that form the cornerstone of Broads endeavors, the fundamental mission, method and morals of the Broads are completely akin to my own and relevant out here,” said Pam.

Living in a town that in Pam’s words, “breeds Nature Deficit Disorder,” and that is rampant with development, completely changing the character of the small summer community she moved into fifteen years ago, Pam is actively involved in trying to protect the open land around her. Early on, she served on the board of the local Land Trust.

Then in 2002, recognizing the increasing alienation between the public and the land, and the need for education and awareness to combat it, Pam founded a co-ed environmental club for kids and last year initiated a Schoolyard Habitat/Classroom project at the local middle school. Inspired by the words of Senegalese conservationist Baba Dioum, “In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, we will understand only what we are taught,” Pam continues to teach numerous children to protect and appreciate the natural world around them.

Pam first heard about Great Old Broads a few years ago, when she and her family—including her three naturalist daughters—traveled to Montana

and met Steve Gilbert, who serves on the Board of Directors of Broads. They started talking and it was clear that they held a lot in common, including the mission of Broads.



*Pam Meier, Board of Directors*

As Pam began learning more about Broads, she knew it was the organization for her. “Broads is a unique combination of small, grassroots-style, hands-on-organization and coast-to-coast inclusion,” said Pam. “The roll-up your sleeves and get in there m.o., no matter where you come from or what age or gender you are appeals to me.”

Public land issues on the East Coast may differ somewhat from battles in the West, but as the newest member of the Board of Directors, Pam’s familiarity with many wild places in the north- (and south-) east, from the Green Mountain National Forest to the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, will help Broads reach further afield and reach out to our East Coast members.

“I have found that there are underlying commonalities between myself and Broads that are fertile ground for some real results both locally and nationally,” said Pam. “The alliances Broads has forged and the good will that it has managed to sustain throughout its wilderness work are testament to a strong, effective and happy organization. I am humbled and honored to work alongside such a wonderful and dedicated group of older women still going so strong!” —*Becky Lawlor*



## Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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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 preserve and protect wilderness and wildlands. 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!

*Please credit Broads for any reprinted articles.*

# Broads Gains Hill Experience from New Director

It only takes a moment with Donna Smith to know that she's a Great Old Broad. Intelligent and tenacious, Donna's passion for life and wild places is a perfect match with Broads. As a new member of the Board of Directors, Donna's expertise in developing public policy strengthens Broads mission to protect wild places.

A native of California, Donna spent most of her adult life in San Diego, where she raised her children and was an educator for 16 years. When her youngest daughter was a year old, Donna decided she "wanted to talk to taller people about real issues," and joined the League of Women Voters, subsequently taking leadership positions at the local and state levels.



Donna Smith, Board of Directors

Donna's involvement in politics increased, when in 1996 she graduated from UCLA with a law degree (yes, at the age of 58!), and worked as chief of staff for Congresswoman Susan Davis during her last two terms as a member of the California State Assembly. When Davis was elected to Congress, Donna followed her to Washington, DC as legislative counsel to assist Rep. Davis in developing public policy. During her tenure with Rep. Davis, Donna handled what she refers to as the three Es: education, energy and the environment.

It was during her stint in Washington, DC that Donna first bumped into Broads. Executive Director Ronni Egan and other environmentalists met with Donna to discuss grazing on federal lands. Donna had recently joined a study trip on grazing issues to Yellowstone and says, "we came to an easy understanding of the issues."

As Ronni was leaving the meeting, she gave Donna a Broads brochure. Donna read the brochure and thought, "these are my people." She immediately became a member.

After retiring, Donna joined Broads at the Tumacacori Broadwalk in Arizona last spring. "The Broadwalk

confirmed my hopes and expectations of what Broads does," said Donna. "Now that I have the choice of how to spend my time, I would like to do something meaningful for wilderness so that my grandchildren will indeed have it to experience and treasure."

Donna's strong legal and legislative background has already proven to be helpful as Broads develops strategies to improve public lands management policies and protect more wilderness-quality lands. "My legal background and having worked on The Hill," says Donna, "gives me a way of looking at the possibilities for action." Donna's proximity to Congress, as she continues to live in Washington, DC, also allows her to speak as a representative of Broads to various congressional leaders and attend important hearings.

As Rep. Davis remarked in honoring Donna when she retired from public service, "she [Donna] will be an active player in making our country and the world a better place to live." Broads is grateful that Donna has chosen protecting our last remaining roadless lands as one of the ways she will make our country and world a better place. —Becky Lawlor

## Effective Advocacy Tips

### 1. Know your representative and senators.

Visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) to find your members, their committee assignments and web site links.

### 2. Know who your member's environmental staffer is in your district and in DC.

To find out who is the current staff member for the environment, you can call the local office and ask the person who answers who the current staff member is both in the district and in DC.

### 3. Educate your lawmakers and the staff on the issue.

Try to arrange a personal meeting regarding a specific issue in your district, arrange a go-see visit during district work periods, and take a brief laptop visual (photos or Powerpoint) that will show what the issue is and why it needs attention.

### 4. Keep contact simple.

Who I am [active constituent].  
What I want you to do.  
Why I want it – personally.

### 5. Act quickly on a specific issue when it is up for action.

Call the district office and state the above information and get your neighbors/friends to do the same. Do not mail, e-mail or fax if you want a quick response. Members receive more than a thousand e-mails a week, faxes can get jammed or misdirected, and mail to the DC office takes an additional two weeks for anthrax screening.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Recapture Utah! Monitoring Event

**Date:** April 25-30, 2007

**Location:** near Blanding, UT

**Cost:** \$50 - *space is limited to 24*

Broads want to Recapture Utah! (or at least parts of it), for quiet users and the critters. Come help gather data to support our efforts to document off-road vehicle (ORV) use/abuse while enjoying great hiking. We'll base camp on Cedar Mesa near spectacular Arch Canyon and small teams will hike daily in assigned areas to document impacts from motorized recreation. This part of Utah is home to the San Juan River, Grand Gulch Primitive Area, Canyonlands and many Wilderness Study Areas.

Participants will be trained to use a GPS, digital camera and the Broads Healthy Lands Project monitoring form to collect information. GPS units and digital cameras will be provided for those who need them. We plan on four full days of monitoring. Our data will be used to comment on the BLM Travel Plan that is scheduled to be released this year.

A camp cook will prepare breakfasts and dinners. Evenings will include informative presentations from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, BLM and Canyon Country Heritage Association. Folks can come early to explore the area or stay and play afterwards. There are not many places to camp and hike finer than southern Utah in the springtime!

## Scotchman Peaks Broadwalk

**Date:** July 26-30, 2007

**Location:** near Sand Point, ID

**Cost:** \$125 tent campers, \$135 RV parking, \$190 for bed in shared room bunkhouse

This is a classic Broadwalk where we'll learn about and walk in an area proposed for wilderness designation. We'll spend four nights/three full days learning about a little known chunk of wild country in the Cabinet Mountains that straddles the Idaho/Montana state line—the 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area. Its deep valleys hold pristine microcosms of wild native plants and animals, clear flowing streams and precious solitude. We are basing out of the Clark Fork Field Campus ([www.clarkforkfieldcampus.com](http://www.clarkforkfieldcampus.com)), where we'll have a choice of accommodations and an indoor dining/meeting room where we can avoid bad weather and mosquitoes. Yummy breakfasts and dinners will be provided each day by our camp cook.

Folks from the Friends of the Scotchman Peaks, the local grassroots wilderness advocacy organization, will guide us on an array of special hikes and tell us why this area deserves permanent protection as wilderness. We'll help the Forest Service with a service project and hear from folks from both Idaho and Montana on wilderness efforts in those states. There is a groundswell of support for wilderness designation of the Scotchmans and Broads wants to add to it.

## Doña Ana Broadwalk

**Dates:** October 11-15 2007

**Location:** Las Cruces, NM

**Cost:** \$110

This Broadwalk is in support of the The Doña Ana County Citizens' Proposed Wilderness and National Conservation Area, which will designate wilderness in Broad Canyon and the East Potrillo Mountains, as well as in the eight existing WSAs in the county. The Citizens' Proposal also proposes the establishment of a National Conservation Area (NCA) that protects the entire Organ/Franklin Mountain Recreation Area, and specifically protects parts of the Organ, Tortugas, San Andres, and Doña Ana Mountains from development. We will be camping in a group campsite at the BLM's Aquirre Springs Campground near San Augustine Pass. Warm days and cool nights should make for perfect camping weather. We'll have a variety of speakers from the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, BLM and local communities tell us about the wilderness efforts. We plan on a BLM service project as well.

There will be a variety of hikes into proposed wilderness areas led by local advocates. Especially compelling is the fact that one of the contentious areas in this proposal is a beautiful canyon called Broad Canyon where ORV users like to rock crawl. Broads advocating for protection of Broad Canyon should get the media's attention. Come add your voice.



# Why Scotchman Peaks Needs Wilderness Designation

Roughly 60 miles south of Canada, the 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area spans the Idaho/Montana border, covers parts of three counties and is managed by two national forests. And just to make the jurisdictional politics fun, the forest boundaries follow watershed divides not state lines. Steep and deep valleys hold pristine microcosms of wild native plants and animals, clear flowing streams and precious solitude. Since the 1970s, when the Forest Service carried out extensive evaluations of lands suitable for wilderness, this rugged, scenic and biologically diverse portion of the Cabinet Mountains has been managed for its wilderness potential. The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness believe now is the time to preserve the Scotchmans, one of the last, and largest, wild areas in the region, as congressionally designated wilderness.

Across the vast public lands of northern Idaho and northwestern Montana there are many rugged roadless areas. On the Idaho Panhandle none of these wildlands are protected as wilderness and in western Montana only a small percentage of land holds such protection. The Scotchmans remain pristine because they have been largely forgotten. With many unnamed peaks, the heart of the Scotchmans is tucked out of sight and out of mind. What timber and minerals exist



Looking at Billiard Table in the Scotchman Peaks roadless area. Photo courtesy of Philip Hough

are hard enough to get to that they're not economically attractive. But as our society grows it continues its desire to develop and "own" the last unnamed, untamed places. As technology grows along with population, the pressures and potential threats from mechanized recreation increase.

Access to the Scotchmans' interior is made difficult by imposing mountain slopes, as well as by rock and alder-choked creeks. Yet the Scotchmans holds more than mere high elevation rock and ice. These steep divides are separated by high basins and deep valleys, producing great wellsprings of biological diversity, harboring numerous and varied habitats. As a vital link in the Yukon

to Yellowstone Corridor, the Scotchmans provide special habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species including grizzly bear, bull trout, lynx and wolf. The Scotchmans are home to sensitive species such as mountain goat and wolverine. Big game abounds—trophy elk and mule deer are common; magnificent moose and black bear are found in the Scotchmans' hidden glens.

While preserving the Scotchmans makes sound ecological sense, it also makes good economic sense. The Sonoran Institute has concluded that western counties with designated wilderness have the greatest economic vitality. Population growth and economic development in the west depend on the "quality of life" of a community. Wilderness designation preserves a significant aspect of that quality of life. Preserving the Scotchmans would bring added economic value to surrounding communities. Designating the Scotchmans as wilderness will bring both economic and ecological benefits to local communities, now and for generations to come. —For more information visit: [www.scotchmanpeaks.org](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org)

## REGISTER TODAY!

To register for any of the upcoming events, please fill out the info below:

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Event(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to: Great Old Broads \* PO Box 2924 \* Durango, CO 81302



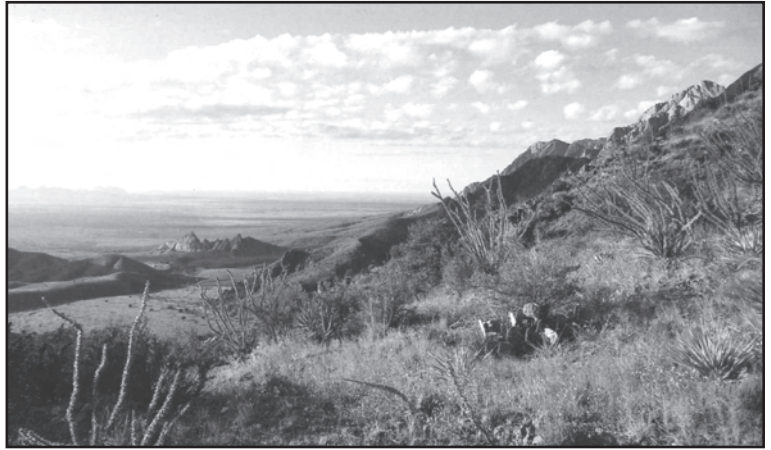
# Doña Ana Wildlands Deserve Protection

Doña Ana County, located in southern New Mexico, is beautiful, wild country with abundant unspoiled public lands. However, the county is also facing unprecedented growth.

A strong community coalition of diverse citizens including conservationists, sportsmen, business leaders, horseback riders, hikers, elected officials and families are working to protect these wildlands by putting together the proposed Doña Ana County Citizens' Wilderness and National Conservation Area (NCA). These proposals seek to permanently protect the Organ Mountains, Doña Ana Mountains, and Tortugas "A" Mountain as a National Conservation Area, as well as to protect certain roadless areas from

development by designating them as wilderness, including Broad Canyon, the East Potrillo Mountains, and eight Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) recommended by the BLM.

The eight WSAs anchor the county's natural treasures, including the majestic spires of the Organ Mountains, the deep canyons in the Robledo Mountains and the grassland mesas



*Organ Mountains. Photo by Nathan Small, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance*

of the Sierra de Las Uvas. The West Potrillo Mountains contain unbroken cholla forests, while Broad Canyon sustains an incredible diversity of plant and animal life, holding water long after it rains underneath sheer cliffs where raptors roost.

Unfortunately, local off-road vehicle user groups will stop at nothing to prevent protection for Broad Canyon and these other special places. Working with local "hobby ranchers," they are determined to oppose wilderness protection, and even advocate stripping wilderness-like protection from the current WSAs.

Community support remains strong. Over 400 people attended a November public meeting supporting wilderness protection. Every incorporated community in Doña Ana County has passed resolutions supporting the Citizen's Proposed Wilderness and NCA. However, a few loud voices backed by the Paragon Foundation and Blue Ribbon Coalition, among other anti-environment groups, are digging in.

As the local community rallies to protect its natural treasures, Great Old Broads can lend **their** voice to the thousands who want to see Broad Canyon remain wild—not degraded as an ORV playground. —For more info visit: [www.DonaAnaWild.org](http://www.DonaAnaWild.org).

## Broads Healthy Lands Project Update

- ▶ **Abajo Mountains, Manti-La Sal National Forest, UT** – to collect baseline data on use routes and dispersed campsites to inform the Travel Planning (TP) process.
- ▶ **California National Forests** – continued data collection for over a dozen California forests to inform Resource Management Plans (RMP) and TPs.
- ▶ **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, CO** – continued data collection to inform the BLM RMP and TP process.
- ▶ **Dixie National Forest, UT** – continued data collection to inform the Three Forests Coalition's Natural Heritage Alternative (NHA) for the TP revisions.
- ▶ **Factory Butte, UT** – document success or failure of BLM closures/route designations.
- ▶ **Kane County, UT** – inform agency of WSA and designated route infractions and compel proper management.
- ▶ **Moab, UT** – conversion of historic baseline data to BHLHP database.
- ▶ **Recapture Utah, UT** – compel proper management and inform RMP/TP.
- ▶ **Sky Island Alliance, AZ** – conversion of baseline data to BHLHP database.
- ▶ **Wasatch-Cache National Forest, UT** – continued baseline/impact data collection.

### Our Project Partners

Bear River Watershed Council, BLM, Boulder Community Alliance, California Wilderness Coalition, Canyon Country Heritage Association, LUV (Land Use Volunteers) of Kane County, Red Rock Forests, Sky Island Alliance, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Three Forests Coalition, U.S. Forest Service, Wild Utah Project, and many citizen volunteers.

# In A Broad Sense: Time for Grassroots Power

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resources such as fresh water and forest products, while weakening protections for clean air and water, healthy soils and biodiversity. As the human population continues to grow, and our fundamental reliance upon natural resources (including food production) continues unabated, it becomes increasingly important that we incorporate the value of ecosystem services into conservation and land-use planning.

While there have been several wilderness and wildland protection measures passed since the election, there are many more awaiting legislative action that will be extremely important for the health of our environment. We will all support the good wilderness legislation that is introduced in the next two years, but we must also be keenly aware of the many other fronts on which the health of our planet will be decided. Healthy wilderness areas, now less than 5% of the United States, must not be allowed to be the only remaining islands of healthy, undeveloped land left—*island oases* in a sea of trampled, denuded, road-scarred desolation. We must seize the moment to demand meaningful action from our government to address global warming and other environmental degradations. Mass transportation, more fuel efficient vehicles, consuming locally produced food and goods, and protecting our remaining wetlands, old growth forests and oceans are all top priorities now. Of course, we can all make our own personal commitments regarding lifestyle; smaller cars and homes, recycling, switching light bulbs, etc., but until government and industry get serious about these issues, we'll see limited progress.

The magnitude of the environmen-

tal issues we face was brought home to me last week as I drove into the San Juan River Valley in the Four Corners area. I have hiked and boated in this magnificent country for well over 30 years, and one of its most impressive features has always been the limitless vistas. When I first started prowling this desert landscape, I could almost literally see forever. Over those same 30 years, a number of large coal-fired power plants have been constructed around the Four Corners, with more being proposed. On this particular morning, the valley was filled with what appeared to be a thick fog, which is not unusual near desert watercourses

***“We have an opportunity right now to shape the future of environmental policy, and it is incumbent upon us to keep up the pressure on our leaders to do the right thing.”***

in the winter. When I drove to higher ground, though, I found that the “fog,” which had a distinctly brownish tinge, nearly blotted out all distant views. Yes, this remote, sparsely populated corner of Utah was swathed in a blanket of good old-fashioned *smog*. This degraded air quality is becoming the norm in many of our national parks and monuments, destroying one of the qualities for which these places were protected. If we can't even keep the air clean in these remote places, I shudder to think of how the rest of the nation and planet are faring.

I know that we're all pretty “*wrung out*” following last year's political battles, but we have a whole new cast of characters in Washington and in our state capitols who need to be informed and educated about the issues, who need to know that their pro-earth decisions will be supported by an

engaged and informed public. We, the people, who voted overwhelmingly for change, have an opportunity right now to shape the future of environmental policy, and it is incumbent upon us to keep up the pressure on our leaders to do the right thing.

Alarmingly, the President has just signed an Executive Order (Jan. 24, 2007) that gives the Executive Branch power to control regulatory agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency, which must now submit any new regulations to the White House for approval. Also recently re-introduced by the White House

is another bad piece of public lands policy: the sale of our public lands to fund federal programs. This misguided idea was proposed last year by the Bush Administration, only to be shot down by loud public outcry and bipartisan Congressional opposition. The idea is back again this year, a wolf in sheep's clothing, proposing to sell off \$800 million worth of our national forests to fund rural school systems impacted by reductions in royalties paid by extractive industries. Having lost control of Congress, the President is now striving to control government by other means. We still have at least two years of hard work ahead. Great Old Broads, along with hundreds of other local and national organizations, are continuing to build the kind of grassroots power that will be heard in the halls of Congress and corporations, hammering on the message that it is time to get serious about cleaning up our collective human act.

As David Korten, author of *When Corporations Ruled the World* and *The Great Turning* has said, “We are the ones we've been waiting for.” So, let's roll our sleeves back up, take a deep breath and jump back into the fray!



# Recapture Utah! Broads Revs Up to Stop ATV Abuse

by Ronni Egan

In the fall of 2006, Great Old Broads was contacted by Lynell Schalk, a retired Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Special Agent, now residing in Bluff, Utah, regarding a number of illegally constructed ATV routes on BLM land in San Juan County, Utah. She had been observing and recording these illegal activities on her own since early 2006, and contacted Broads for assistance with the egregious situation because of our Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLP) off-road vehicle monitoring program.

Broads staff traveled to Utah, hiked into Recapture Wash and other places, and, using the monitoring methods of BHLP, recorded evidence of unauthorized route construction (cut trees, bladed trails, culverts, bridges, rock cribbing, stiles over fences, etc.). Of particular concern was a route built into Recapture Wash that now provides direct motorized access from Blanding, Utah. Recapture Wash contains over 30 recently documented archaeological sites. Prior to the construction of this route, vehicular access was very difficult, but it is now easily accessed by ATVs, and the route runs through and near numerous archaeological sites. Another area of concern is the recent construction on

the San Juan Hill portion of the historic Mormon Hole-In-The-Rock Trail, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Despite attempts by the public to get accurate information on what is occurring, the BLM, in numerous instances, has given incomplete and less than accurate information, has attempted to “cover up” and legitimize these illegal activities, and is receiving considerable pressure from San Juan County and SPEAR (San Juan Public Entry and Access Rights), the local ATV organization, to acquiesce to their demands. Needless to say, Broads is disturbed at the renegade nature of these activities on public



*Cribbing/fill constructed along the cliff face of the Recapture Wash route allows new ATV access where it was previously impassable.*

lands. We are working in partnership with SUWA (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance), which is providing legal assistance and grassroots organizing expertise, to stop illegal activity on these lands. A new local group, the Canyon Country Heritage Association, has recently formed in Bluff in response to these and other

issues concerning our public lands and is applying pressure on San Juan County and the BLM as well.

While the actual builders of the routes are supposedly unknown, SPEAR, which has installed route signs and done trail related maintenance legally as BLM volunteers, has also been observed by the BLM doing illegal trail work. The Monticello Field Office of the BLM has been all too eager to accommodate SPEAR and the San Juan County Commission, to the point that it intends to give permanent rights-of-way to San Juan County for these ATV routes.

SPEAR and San Juan County also intend to build and/or connect hundreds of miles of routes in a county-wide “Canyon Rims Trail System” using county “mapped and claimed” roads that have not been adjudicated. Many of these proposed ATV routes would be in areas now closed by the

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*Recapture Wash—two years ago there was no trail or route here, only a steep slope.*



# New Director for Broads Healthy Lands

*Due to the success and expansion of Broads Healthy Lands Project (BHLP), in January 2007, Broads welcomed Tim Peterson as the Director of BHLP. We opted to let Tim introduce himself.*

As a fifth generation westerner, I care deeply about our public lands, and I value the window they can give us into a time when North America was still a vast, wild and unforgiving expanse. We are so lucky to have been given the gifts of shared ownership in the land, as well as a shared responsibility to leave it in better shape than we found it. We are truly blessed that, in many places, our public lands retain traces of that wild character.

I joined the Great Old Broads because they believe in direct involvement, through ground-truthing, in managing our public lands. I am excited to help the BHLP get more concerned citizens involved in land management planning processes while

proactively protecting ecosystems and repairing resource damage. We have our work cut out for us in the coming years, as those at the helm of our public land agencies are attempting to frame public lands recreation planning exclusively as a matter of designating motorized corridors, without taking the necessary hard look at how those motorized corridors affect other recreationists and ecosystems. We have a choice now, to let the few remaining adherents to the last century's model of extraction usurp the public good, or to boldly speak for the majority, a majority that wants to preserve and restore our still-wild landscapes.

I come to the Broads with nearly a decade of on-the-ground field experience inventorying and advocating for wildlands in five western states. I cut my teeth assisting with a comprehensive statewide field re-inventory of Utah's Redrock Wilderness Act, and moved on to conduct field inventory and off-road vehicle monitoring on

Utah's National Forests, and in Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada,



*Tim Peterson, BHLP Director*

and Montana. Between stints, I've conducted GIS mapping, NEPA project work, and policy and legal analysis for local, regional and national conservation groups, most recently with preservation powerhouse Wildlands CPR.

I appreciate the prescience of Broads, as they allow me to continue my active participation in the Utah Forest Plan revision and recreation planning while managing and expanding BHLP. I am delighted to have joined Broads – for their dedication, humor, exceptional perspective, and dogged determination to fight for what's essential for all— protection of our shared natural heritage.

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BLM to motorized use or in Wilderness Study Areas, and this whole county is fragile high desert, and subject to extreme damage from poorly managed motorized use. The county arguably contains the highest density of archaeological sites in Utah, if not in the country, and the number one threat to this resource is the increased motorized access, which is precisely what this system would provide.

The Monticello BLM is in the process of revising its Resource Management Plan and is supposed to complete a Travel Plan. Rather than fulfill its past promises to defer ATV route decisions to the travel planning process, the BLM is considering requests one by one from San Juan County for "connector" trail

rights-of-way. This type of decision-making could bypass the National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA) requirements for considering cumulative impacts of proposed actions. The BLM will not (or cannot) provide the interested public with maps of the routes that are being connected. There also is complete disregard for federal law, departmental policy, the agency's own land use plans and the public review process. There is failure to abide by requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Archaeological Protection Act (ARPA), the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

In late April, Broads is planning a Recapture Utah! Monitoring Event to train volunteer monitors and gather

baseline data on the route construction and proposed routes. We will gather important information and help engage local citizens in the effort to hold their public officials accountable for appropriate and legal land management. The resulting information will be used to support legal and procedural challenges to the BLM and to raise public awareness of the imminent threats to this special place. While everyone has the right to access our public lands, no one has the right to damage irreplaceable resources or to take actions that violate established laws and regulations.

Call or write your Congressional representatives and ask them to hold the BLM accountable in Utah. Ask them to also co-sponsor America's Redrock Wilderness Act.

## 2006 Ends With Big Wins for Wilderness

After so many years of stalled efforts and disappointments in the fight for more wilderness designation, 2006 ended with an exciting flurry of wilderness bills being signed into law. Great Old Broads has been an active supporter and advocate of many of these bills.

### New England Wilderness Act Passes

The New England Wilderness Act increased designated wilderness areas in both Vermont and New Hampshire. The bill designates 42,000 acres of wilderness in six different parcels in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest. The measure also created the Mount Moosalamoo National Recreation Area in Vermont, a 857-acre tract south and east of Middlebury, Vermont.

During Broads 2003 Vermont Broadwalk, Great Old Broads helped garner support for the New England Wilderness Act. "Dozens of Broads brought their trademark passion for wild nature to Vermont a couple of years ago," says Jim Northup, Executive Director of Forest Watch, "infusing our wilderness campaign with a jolt of high energy, good humor, hard work and intelligence at a time when our spirits were flagging. Thanks to the help of those gorgeous, green-sneakered grannies, Congress approved, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, another 120 square miles of wilderness in New England."

### Valle Vidal Protection Act Signed

The 120,000-acre Valle Vidal unit of the Carson National Forest is renowned for its elk and other hunting opportunities and is prime habitat for recovering the Rio Grande cutthroat

trout. The Forest Service has managed the area since Pennzoil Co., which never allowed drilling in the area, donated the tract to the federal government in 1982. This special area rises from around 7,800 feet to 12,544 feet at the summit of Little Costilla Peak, New Mexico's third highest mountain.

The Forest Service undertook a process to determine whether or not to lease portions of the Valle Vidal for coal bed methane development. In response, a wide range of interests in-



*Lost Coast, an area included in the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. Photo courtesy of Vicky Hoover*

cluding sportsmen, local governments, tribes, the former president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and conservation groups joined together to oppose plans to allow drilling in the area. In 2005, Great Old Broads held a Broadwalk in the Valle Vidal to help garner support for legislation protecting this unique place from drilling. In September of 2005, Rep. Tom Udall and Sen. Jeff Bingham introduced legislation to withdraw the area from mineral entry and on December 13, 2006, after passing both the House and Senate, the Valle Vidal Protection Act was signed into law by President Bush.

### New Wilderness for California's North Coast

A grand sweep of wildlands in northern California is now protected forever from development. This is the first new wilderness for California in nearly four years, since Rep. Sam Farr's Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act became law in December, 2002—shortly after Broads held a Broadwalk in the Big Sur area.

On October 17, 2006, President Bush signed into law the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act authored by Sen. Barbara Boxer and Rep. Mike Thompson. This bill protects approximately 275,000 acres of new wilderness, including the incomparable King Range Wilderness on California's north coast.

The legislation covers some of the most beautiful and majestic lands in five northern California counties – Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Napa. In a remarkable show of local support, 21 of the 24 county supervisors in the five counties encompassed by the bill were on record in favor.

Both Republicans and Democrats expressed support for the bill, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act designates key landscapes as wilderness and preserves segments of the Black Butte River as a wild and scenic river. Areas of special value include the King Range National Conservation Area and the Cedar Roughs Wilderness, with the world's largest grove of the rare Sargent cypress. Endangered and threatened species whose habitats are protected by the bill include the bald eagle, California brown pelican, steelhead trout, coho salmon, northern spotted owl and Roosevelt elk.

*continued on page 11*



## New Wilderness Bills Need Your Support

### Wild Sky Wilderness Bill

The Wild Sky Wilderness Bill was re-introduced in February by Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Rick Larsen. After five years of frustration, Murray and Larsen are confident that the new Democratic majorities in Congress will finally pass this bi-partisan bill.

The bill, which would protect 106,577 acres in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest northeast of Seattle, has already passed the Senate three times, all by wide margins, only to see the effort die in the House. The major obstacle in the House has been former Rep. Richard Pombo of California, who lost in November elections. Pombo chaired the House Resources Committee, which allowed him to hold up the bill in committee.

The last wilderness legislation was passed in 1984 in Washington and almost all of the designated wilderness in the state is in remote, high-elevation areas. With some 30 percent of its 106,000 acres at lower elevations in eastern Snohomish County, Wild Sky will change that pattern, preserving important lowland forests and protecting salmon-bearing streams.

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*continued from page 10*

### Nevada Wilderness Bill Passes

On December 10, 2006, Congress passed the White Pine County Public Lands Bill as part of year-end omnibus legislation. While 557,000 acres of wilderness were designated, this was a *quid pro quo* wilderness bill that also surrendered 45,000 acres of federal lands to the county for development. Broads opposed this bill because we believe that wilderness protection should not occur at the cost of losing other public lands.

In 2005, Broads held a Broadwalk in Washington in support of the Wild Sky Bill. We continue to support this bill and are optimistic for its future.

### New California Wilderness Bills

Two new pieces of wilderness legislation have been recently introduced. The first is Rep. Mary Bono's new bill, the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act. The bill would designate about 125,000 acres of Riverside County as wilderness in order to limit future development in the fast-growing area east of Los Angeles. 78,000 acres in the Joshua Tree National Park would be set aside as wilderness, as well as additional lands in the Cleveland and San Bernardino national forests and BLM lands.

The second wilderness bill introduced in California, was introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer and Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis. The California Wild Heritage Act of 2007 would protect over 2.4 million acres of federal public lands in California.

### Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

The Northern Rocky Mountains encompass the last great expanse of native biodiversity in the contiguous United States. This bioregion—known as America's Serengeti—is the last stronghold of the grizzly bear, the woodland caribou and the bull trout.

Congress has made great strides in protecting a portion of this great region, designating some areas as wilderness, and others as national parks such as Yellowstone and Glacier. However, more than 20 million acres of these unspoiled lands remain unprotected and increasingly vulnerable to being lost forever through excessive

road building, forest clearcutting, mining and other developments that mar the beauty of the landscape.

To reverse this alarming trend, common citizens from all walks of life have developed a plan to protect the Northern Rockies Ecosystem. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) is sponsored by a bipartisan coalition in the U.S. Congress led by Rep. Christopher Shays and Rep. Carolyn Maloney. *—Information from [www.wildrockies.org/nrepa/](http://www.wildrockies.org/nrepa/)*

Please contact your congressional representatives and let them know you support these important bills.

## Thank You!

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is thankful for our many members and supporters who give generously. Thanks especially to those of you who have forgone a thank you letter, saving us resources. You know who you are, and we want you to know how grateful we are for your support!

Thanks too to the foundations who supported our work in 2006.

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# Vicky Hoover Wilderness Educator and Advocate

Vicky Hoover has spent over the last twenty years of her life protecting wild places. Whether she is working, volunteering or recreating, wilderness advocacy has become a way of life. Even Vicky admits that it is “sometimes hard to draw the line.”

Describing herself as a “full-time volunteer with a job on the side,” Vicky’s dedication to protecting wild nature has evolved out of her love for the wild places she often visits. In the late 1960s, Vicky began leading backpacking trips for the Sierra Club in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. “When I started leading trips I took it for granted that these wild places were just there,” said Vicky. “But all those years of leading outings made me think that I should try to get more places protected.”

In 1985, Vicky began devoting herself whole-heartedly to wilderness advocacy work. She started working part time for the Sierra Club’s Alaska Task Force, working to educate



*Vicky on a kayak trip in Southeast Alaska.*

and interest Sierra Club members from the lower 48 states in Alaska wilderness issues—a job Vicky still does today.

Vicky started her volunteer wilderness work in 1985, joining the Wilderness Committee of her local Sierra Club chapter. At the time, Senator Alan Cranston was about to introduce the California Desert Protection Act; Vicky became caught up in this new campaign and began working to help make the bill a statewide issue. As part of her efforts, she succeeded in getting 14 counties to pass resolutions in favor of the bill. “Fourteen out of 58 may not seem like a lot,” said Vicky, “but they were the counties with the majority of the population. They were the ones that counted.”

It was during the almost decade-long campaign to get the Desert Act passed that Vicky first met the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. It was 1991, and Broads, only a few years old at the time, wanted to help get the Desert Act passed. When Susan Tixier and Frandee Johnson, two of the original founders of Broads, came to the Sierra Club to discuss what Broads could do, they were referred to Vicky as the local campaigner. “They gave me a t-shirt and made me a member right then, and I’ve been a member ever since,” said Vicky.

The California Desert Protection Act was finally signed into law on October 31, 1994. To add to the delight of seeing her hard work pay off, Vicky was given the honor of presenting Senator Dianne Feinstein with an



*Vicky presents Senator Dianne Feinstein with an award for helping secure protection for California’s deserts.*

award for her leadership in securing protection for California deserts.

After successful completion of the desert campaign, Vicky devoted her energy to working on wilderness issues in Utah, where in 1995, Rep. Jim Hansen introduced the Utah Public Lands Management Act, dubbed by the conservation community as the anti-wilderness bill. Vicky set up numerous volunteer phone banks, until 1996 when the bill was defeated for good.

Still going strong, in 1997, Vicky fired up her volunteer energy to start the Sierra Club’s California/Nevada Regional Wilderness Committee, which she continues to chair, keeping Sierra Club members in both states up-to-date on upcoming legislation for wilderness, new threats and management issues on already designated lands.

In the midst of her numerous volunteer efforts, Vicky continues to lead outings for the Sierra Club. No longer just leading people into wilderness, Vicky structures her outings to teach others about wilderness issues and wilderness advocacy, often with a service-oriented feature, such as removing exotic Russian olive near Utah’s Escalante River or building

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barriers in Nevada to protect wildlands from off-road vehicles (ORV).

In 2004, Vicky was presented with the Sierra Club's highest honor, the John Muir Award, for her persistent commitment to wilderness advocacy by taking others on wilderness outings and pushing them to become activists. It is clear to all who know Vicky that she works for wilderness protection out of a deep love for wild places.

"Once harmed, once altered, the wild qualities of an area are destroyed and you can't ever get it back," said Vicky. "I'm alarmed every day as I see new developments being built and open space being torn up. I believe that every bit of roadless area that we have now should stay that way to compensate for all of the development."

Vicky acknowledges that there are many challenges for wilderness. "The greatest physical challenge to wildlands is increasing ORV use and the increasing technology that's not stopping," said Vicky. "We don't know what type of mechanized recreational toys will be developed in 20 years and the agencies seem obliged to accommodate ORVs. We need to work for a cultural change in the permissiveness of managing our public lands for ORVs."

Yet, Vicky also remains cheerfully optimistic. "We have a good opportunity these next two years in Congress. Wilderness protection is basically a political thing and we now have a favorable Congress with leaders who favor wilderness protection. We've got to push hard in the next two years because who knows what we'll have after that."

There is no doubt that Vicky, and her tireless efforts, will help push for the type of grassroots action that is needed to increase the preservation and protection of wildlands.

## New Broadband Blooms in Sangres



*After learning about Broads and local land management issues, many of the guests headed out for a little play time in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains.*

Lynn Prebble, a member of the Board of Directors of Broads, recently hosted a gathering in her hometown of Westcliffe, Colorado to introduce Great Old Broads for Wilderness to interested local folks, and to provide a forum to discuss travel and forest planning issues in their local area. The event included an overview by Broads Executive Director, Ronni Egan, on Broads national environmental projects, including our off-road vehicle monitoring program, *Broads Healthy Lands Project*.

Westcliffe is located in the beautiful Wet Mountain Valley, and has become increasingly popular with climbers seeking to "bag" the many 14,000 foot peaks surrounding the valley. This popularity has led to unprecedented recreational impacts in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest, and particularly in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. Dave Walker, from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Cañon City, gave an overview of the travel plan alternatives under consideration for the BLM lands in the area. Mike Smith, of the Forest Service, addressed the proposed South Colony Road closure. The road leads to the trailhead for a number of peak climbs

in the area, and has become increasingly impacted by vehicle travel, leading to soil erosion and vegetation damage.

Due to strong interest from the thirty guests that attended the event, a Sangre de Cristo Broadband was formed to work with the Forest Service to assist with environmental monitoring and other projects the Forest Service deems essential for the area. Making sure that folks got the picture that Broadbands are not all work and no play, that afternoon Lynn led sixteen adventurous snowshoers and cross-country skiers up nearby Hermit Road. Thanks, Lynn, for tapping into the desire of local folks to make a difference on the public lands they love, while having fun doing it!

*—For more information on Broadbands or to find out if there's one near you, please visit [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org). If you would like to start a Broadband, please contact our Program Director, Rose Chilcoat, at [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org) or call 970-385-9577. If you would like more information on the Sangre de Cristo Broadband, please contact Lynn Prebble at [lynn@wetmountainvalley.us](mailto:lynn@wetmountainvalley.us) or call 970-783-9155.*

# 2006 Wild for Wilderness Online Auction Donors

Thanks to our many **2006 Wild for Wilderness Online Auction** donors our second annual auction was an even bigger success than last year, netting nearly \$35,000 for Broads wilderness work. We are deeply grateful to our donors for their generosity and to all of our members who participated by bidding and helping spread the word. Below is a list of our 2006 auction donors. Donor web site links can be found online at [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org). Please support these businesses as a thank you for their support of Broads.

If you would like to donate an item(s) for our 2007 online auction, please e-mail Becky at [becky@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:becky@greatoldbroads.org) or visit our online donation page at [www.greatoldbroads.org/adf.htm](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/adf.htm). We are looking for corporate sponsorships as well as donations of adventure trips, outdoor gear, vacation stays, restaurant meals and more.

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# Tribute to Great Old Broad Molly Ivins

Great Old Broads recently lost a good friend and a very great old broad. Molly Ivins was taken from us prematurely by breast cancer on Jan. 31, 2007. As with all the battles she fought, this final one she waged with humor and style. We will miss her fun, but pithy, no-holds-barred pleas that we hold the powerful accountable for their lies and illegal actions and to “raise hell...and make the ridiculous look ridiculous” when they fail us, which is regularly.



Molly Ivins with her Great Old Broads for Wilderness t-shirt.

“So keep fightin’ for freedom and justice, beloveds, but don’t you forget to have fun doin’ it. Lord, let your laughter ring forth. Be outrageous, ridicule the fraidy-cats, rejoice in all the oddities that freedom can produce. And when you get through kickin’ ass and celebratin’ the sheer joy of a good fight, be sure to tell those who come after how much fun it was.”

Bless you, Molly. We’ll do our best to hold up our end of the deal. We know you’re with us in spirit as we continue our efforts to achieve honest and equitable management of our wildlands. —Steve Gilbert, Board of Directors of Great Old Broads

## Definition of a Broad

*Below is an excerpt from Kathleen Parker’s tribute to Molly Ivins.*

The thing I loved best about Molly Ivins is that she was a great broad... You don’t hear that word much anymore – “broad.” It went out the door with “lady” and is considered derogatory by younger generations.

But to the World War II crowd, and to some of us who were raised by them, a great broad was more than a mere woman. The best compliment my father could pay a woman was to say, “She is one great broad.”

Those five words were the equivalent of a kiss blown across the room, a cape tossed over a puddle, a bow to an intelligence at least equal to one’s own. It did not mean “hot,” as everyone seems to say these days...A great broad might be “hot,”—there’s no rule against it – but that’s the least of her charms. The physical, as Ivins knew as well as anyone, is fleeting.—(c) 2007, *The Washington Post Writers Group. Reprinted with Permission.*

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*Broads Board of Directors at our annual meeting, November 2006.*

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