



DIGGING DEEP INTO PUBLIC LANDS MINING

by Shelley Silbert

In 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony voted for the first time and consequently faced a criminal trial. Congress endorsed the penny postcard and established Yellowstone as the world's first national park. And in that same year, Congress enacted the General Mining Act of 1872. Intended to help spur westward settlement, the law encouraged individuals and companies to mine, patent, and acquire public mineral lands for no more than \$5 an acre—a price that, shockingly, is the same in 2015.

Today, women surpass men in casting votes, postcards cost 35 cents, and nearly 100 countries have national parks. Yet mining law remains essentially unchanged, and multinational companies extract over a billion dollars of hard rock minerals each year from our public lands without paying a penny in royalties or posting any cleanup bond*.

This legally sanctioned giveaway of our public lands and mineral resources leaves a legacy of destruction in its wake. Today, acid mine drainage impairs 40% of western river headwaters. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates a half a million abandoned hard rock mines (copper, gold, uranium and other metals) are scattered across the nation. The cost to clean up these abandoned mines—where reclamation is even possible—is estimated to exceed \$50 billion dollars. And taxpayers are stuck with the bill.

* Coal, oil and natural gas companies must pay 8 – 12.5% in royalties and post reclamation bonds on public lands.

Mining today is still one of the top polluting industries in the country. Not surprisingly, the Mining Law has no provisions for environmental protection—who thought about that in 1872? Worse yet, two Clean Water Act loopholes allow mining companies to dump untreated tailings (processing chemicals, crushed ore, and waste) into streams, lakes,

and wetlands. Equally confounding, federal land managers interpret the Mining Act to deem mining as the highest and best use of public lands—more so than clean drinking water, recreation, fishing, or hunting.

Colorado's Gold King Mine disaster that dumped three million

gallons of mining waste into the Animas River in August 2015 (witnessed by Broads' national staff in Durango—see pg. 2) brought immediate and justified attention to the issue of abandoned mines. Yet policy reform is desperately needed to prevent today's corporations from raking in profits while legally skirting responsibility for widespread damage. Any guesses who most vehemently opposes change of this outdated law? Of course, the mining industry!

In February 2015, Reps. Grijalva (D-AZ), DeFazio (D-OR), and Lowenthal (D-CA) introduced the Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act of 2015 (HR 963). This bill would solve the thorniest iniquities of the 1872 law by:



Mining today is still one of the top polluting industries in the country.

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IN THIS ISSUE...

Broadbands in Action.....	4
Broader Wilderness	6
Study A Broad: Becky Rom	8
Insider Tips for Finessing the NEPA Process	12
2016 Events Preview	14

(continued page 13)



*...you'd think that
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precautionary
principle...*

closed for "lack of funds". And, I knew that some Silverton residents had long opposed Superfund designation*, but there was talk that the opposition was softening. That was last spring.

On August 5, 2015, an EPA contractor working to assess conditions at the Gold King mine triggered the release of toxic waters that had built up pressure behind a debris dam. It must have been EPA's worst nightmare to be responsible for the contamination—particularly because they were engaged in the complex task of mine clean up without a Superfund designation that would provide the federal funds to do it right.



* Superfund is the federal government's program to clean up the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

IN A BROAD SENSE

*More Precious Than Gold
—or Silver, or Copper*

Luminous in sunset's pastel palette, the crystalline waters of Gabbro Lake open to our paddles as we glide silently along the forested shore in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). A solitary chocolate-brown fisher lopes along the rocky banks, a thrilling new mammal to me since I've spent little time in boreal forests. We canoe past a large beaver dam in an alcove, soon spying its builder swimming across the lake's surface. The beautifully haunting cry of a loon magnifies the silence.

The Boundary Waters are so clean that some visitors dip their bottles in and take a drink.

That's hard for me to imagine, traveling from home in southwest Colorado, where a few weeks before a blowout of three million gallons of mine waste contaminated the Animas River, the lifeblood of our town. I never thought of the Animas as a pristine river, knowing that hundreds of mines from as early as the 1870s litter its headwaters near Silverton. I knew that acid mine drainage made tributary streams like Cement Creek unlivable for fish and even bugs. I'd heard that water quality had been improving for a time when a mining company had a water treatment plant in place, but again declined after the plant

Still, you'd think that the desperately shocking image of an orange river would invoke the precautionary principle, leading politicians to urge the utmost care in protecting health and the environment. Instead, Colorado's Governor John Hickenlooper (D) went on camera a week after the blowout and gulped down river water, treated with iodine to kill bacteria, and declared the river back to normal.

In all the political rigmarole, there's been scant attention to the long-term ecological effects of the spill, particularly

(continued page 15)



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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national non-profit organization that engages and ignites the activism of elders to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of older Americans who want their public lands protected as Wilderness for this and future generations. We bring voice, knowledge, commitment, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

Please credit Broads for any reprinted articles.



WILD CLIMATE ACTION

by Lionel Di Giacomo

This is an important moment for our planet. Climate change is staring humanity in the face, and most of us are overwhelmed by the sheer scope of the problem. It is easy to feel burdened, that climate change is something to let experts and politicians and business leaders fix, never mind that their actions or inaction helped get us into this mess. But addressing climate change can't and shouldn't be an experts-only movement. We are all in this together and have to own our small piece of solving the bigger problem. So, where do Great Old Broads for Wilderness fit into climate action? The answer—just about everywhere!

PUBLIC LANDS: AN EXPLOITED RESOURCE

As a public lands organization, we support policies that benefit healthy ecosystems, which of course benefit all humanity. However, America's public lands contribute nearly 4.5 times more carbon to the atmosphere than they absorb, spelling disaster for the climate. Because of the way our public lands are used and abused, they are some of the worst climate offenders. Our public landscape is riddled with oil rigs, fracking wells, and coal mines, the source of 25% of U.S. produced fossil fuels. Energy companies do double damage to our public lands: first regionally with the extraction process that pollutes local air and water, fragments habitat, and disrupts ecosystems—then globally, with the burning of fuels. This is why Broads supports keeping fossil fuels on public lands in the ground.

While the White House declares new fuel efficiency standards and invests in renewable energy, our government continues to heavily subsidize fossil fuel energy with cheap, easy-to-obtain leases and bargain basement royalty agreements. Not only do we give energy companies cheap fuel to mark up and sell back to us, we, the taxpayers, are also left with the enormous environmental cost of regional devastation and intensified global climate change.

Energy extraction is only part of the story. Livestock grazed on public lands

generate hundreds of thousands of tons of greenhouse gases. Unsustainable grazing practices degrade land, soil, and water quality, fragment habitat, threaten biodiversity, and raise the risk and intensity of wildfire. The Center for Biological Diversity reports that grazing on public lands results in the highest

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ecological cost in the American West, causing damage that takes away the land's ability to adapt to climate stress.

Forests—particularly high biomass and old-growth forests like those in the Pacific Northwest—sequester and store large amounts of carbon and provide continuous habitat for diverse ecosystems. Franklin D. Roosevelt pointed out that forests “are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.” One of the most visible effects of climate change on forests is longer and more intense wildfire seasons. And more acres are burning: in the last decade, the average acreage burned annually jumped to seven million acres, up from an average annual acreage of 3.5 million from 1983–2003.

Many other uses aggravate climate change and compromise our public lands. Irresponsible off highway vehicle recreation and ever-expanding development also fragment habitat, degrade land and water quality, and further pollute the atmosphere with greenhouse gas emissions. Commonplace abuse and exploitation of public lands has to stop.

PUBLIC LANDS: NEED OUR WILD CARE

Great Old Broads for Wilderness believes our public lands need to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. When allowed to thrive, public lands protect water resources, absorb greenhouse gases, preserve biodiversity, and help mitigate humanity's impact on climate



change. In many ways, healthy public lands are our best defense.

Enter Broads' new program: WILD Care (WILD = Women In Loving Defense). We've conducted seven pilot events around the Pacific Northwest, gathering feedback to enhance our program. Each event is designed to:

- Build awareness of the little-recognized relationship between public lands and climate change
- Pinpoint how local land issues relate to climate, inspiring strategic activism to halt damaging activities
- Identify community allies with whom to partner to strengthen advocacy

Through this program, we hope to ignite the understanding that by taking action locally to protect our public lands, we collectively have a global impact on alleviating the effects of climate change. Contact our national office if you would like to be involved.

As a new member of Broads' staff, I meet new members every day whose knowledge and humor make the sometimes-dreary world of conservation vibrant and engaging. What a valuable resource in this time of climate change, when finding solutions at times feels impossible. But there is hope. Broads embody the lines sung by Billie Holiday, “The difficult I'll do right now, the impossible will take a little while”. When it comes to climate change, a little while might be all we have, and right now is the time to roll up our sleeves.





BROADBANDS IN ACTION

BROADS' CHAPTERS WILDLY ENGAGE TO PROTECT LANDS & RIVERS



IDAHO & WASHINGTON



SNAKE RIVER

Boise, Moscow, Teton Valley, and Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadbands have joined the *Free the Snake* campaign to promote the dismantling of four outdated dams on the lower Snake River. The dams destroy endangered salmon and steelhead habitat and prevent the free flow of water into the Pacific Ocean. With Friends of the Clearwater, Patagonia, and the Nimipuu (Nez Perce) Tribe, Broads encouraged national attention through a float to the Granite Dam and post-flotilla advocacy party. Broadband leaders have sparked activism through educational campouts, petitions, and activities to raise awareness in their regions. Washington residents can take action at <http://damnationfilm.com/take-action>.

NEW MEXICO



GILA RIVER

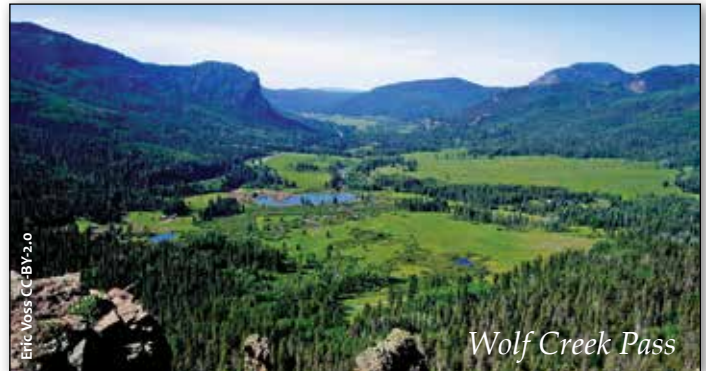
This 649-mile tributary of the Colorado that travels through New Mexico and Arizona is the last free-flowing river in the southwest. The most current threat to this precious resource stems from a controversial proposal to divert 14,000 acre-



feet of water annually from New Mexico to Arizona. The Aldo's Silver City and Sangre de Cristo Broadbands engaged in public education and political action to voice concerns. Members attended the Grant County Commissioner's meeting, one step of a complex decision process prior to a November deadline that could trigger a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process on the diversion.

The Rio Grande Valley Broadband members are a busy bunch—actively writing letters, calling state representatives, and attending hearings in Santa Fe to support legislation to protect the Gila River from diversion and development, promote responsible tax spending, and bring transparency and fiscal responsibility to the Interstate Stream Commission's planning process. These Broadbands also are fighting attempts to gut the state's common-sense renewable energy requirements and participated in a *Conservation Voters* New Mexico rally. Additionally, these ambitious Broads sharpened their skills through a citizen lobbying training.

In September, Aldo's Silver City Broadband hosted their second annual Gila Hot Springs Weekend Retreat to celebrate the Gila River and honor conservationists who have worked to protect the nation's wild lands and rivers.



FOUR CORNERS REGION



WATERS OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN

The Southwest Colorado Broadbands are busy advocating for clean water and the protection of public lands from mining contamination and development. Wolf Creek Pass, which connects the pristine and wild landscapes of the Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas, is threatened by the proposed Village at Wolf Creek, intended to house 10,000 people year round at an elevation of 10,000 feet! This will negatively impact a critical wildlife corridor, ecologically valuable wetlands, backcountry recreation opportunities, and water quality and supply for downstream communities. Broads join Rocky Mountain Wild and the San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) to express in unison, "No Pillage at Wolf Creek!" In support, the Pagosa Springs Broadband hosted an educational outreach event, participated in a "bioblitz" to document local species biodiversity, and distributed petitions for public advocacy.



The Durango Broadband is working for Animas river health and making plans to work on river monitoring. Voicing concerns at local Commission meetings in support of Superfund designation to clean up abandoned mines in Silverton, the Broadband is promoting support of H.R. 963, a much awaited and long overdue overhaul of the antiquated Mining Act of 1872.

The Southwest Colorado Broadbands are planning an evening to learn the latest on new fracking threats near Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Navajo communities, and sacred



tribal lands. The following day, a field trip to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands near the park will provide a firsthand view of the communities, lands, and waters most threatened by proposed drilling. The BLM has permitted drilling of more than 230 exploratory wells; thousands more are proposed. In August, a federal judge failed to temporarily halt the drilling, in spite of inadequate environmental review and a lack of a comprehensive plan. The Broadbands add their voices to our partner organizations who have long fought drilling in this sparsely populated region of northern New Mexico.

ARIZONA RUNNING FOR WATER

*I run in
reverence for
all living things.
In our prayers
may we always
remember that
water is life.*

Phoenix Broadband co-leader, Kathy Ann Walsh, partnered with Grand Canyon Trust and Bucky Preston, a member of the Hopi Tribe and founder of the Paatuwaqatsi Water is Life Run, for a two-day trail restoration project. A five-person team cleared 22,000 square feet of brush and a quarter mile of trail covered by Russian thistle in preparation for the September run. For the past 12 years, runners have gathered for this event in support of protecting these lands and the sacred waters they house.

Jane Goodall reminds us, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." As we move into a time of great environmental fragility and climate disturbance, Broads step up together to be the change. We believe our public lands can be part of the solution. Educate, Engage, and Act!



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THE BROADER WILDERNESS

Frog Lake



Frog Lake in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Custer County, Idaho.

MONUMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

With a Congress not inclined to wilderness designations or the very concept of federal public lands management or protection of our nation's air, water, and wildlife, what is one to do? Write the President and ask him to designate national monuments! President Obama has used the 1906 Antiquities Act nineteen times to protect significant cultural, historic, and natural places after local communities across the country asked for his help to preserve our national heritage.

In July 2015, President Obama created three more national monuments (NM). The 330,000-acre *Berryessa Snow Mountain* NM in northern California extends 100 miles from north to south through Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Solano, and Yolo counties. Less than 100 miles from the heavily populated Bay Area and Sacramento, it protects important species and offers excellent opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and whitewater rafting.

and plants and animals found nowhere else. Senator Reid (D) and Representative Titus (D) had introduced popularly supported legislation that was unlikely to be considered by Congress, thus prompting presidential action.

Waco Mammoth NM in central Texas is the third in this round of recent designations. A paleontological site and museum where fossils of 24 Columbian mammoths and other mammals from the Pleistocene Epoch have been uncovered, it is the largest known concentration of a distinct herd of mammals dying from a single event, likely a flash flood. Attempts to pass legislation in Congress failed, prompting the President's action.

BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS WILDERNESS AREAS DESIGNATED

More than 40 years in the making, in August President Obama signed the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and

Jerry Peaks Wilderness Act, designating three new wilderness areas in central Idaho: the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness (67,998 acres), the White Clouds Wilderness (90,769 acres), and Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness (116,898 acres).

While wilderness designation is always cause for celebration, Broads are dismayed that nearly a quarter million acres

of wilderness quality lands were NOT included in the Act. Part of that missing acreage is 153,003 acres from four BLM wilderness study areas (WSA) and Forest Service lands recommended for wilderness that were "released" from Wilderness Study Area protections. Now, those lands will be managed for multiple use—without restriction. One conservation partner shared, "this has been a race to the bottom" in terms of wilderness acres protected; another, called it "bittersweet".

On the bright side, the final bill passed was cleaner than previous versions, stripping some special language that weakened wilderness protections. Another win—the Act allows for voluntary retirement of grazing permits within 700,000 acres of high-quality summer and winter wildlife habitat. Private foundations could pay willing ranchers to retire grazing, even though livestock grazing is a use Congress specifically allows in wilderness areas.

Congress acted swiftly on this Wilderness designation to avoid a national monument proclamation by President Obama that would have doubled the protected acres but without the level of protection wilderness provides.

(continued page 7)



Basin and Range

The *Basin and Range* NM, a two-hour drive northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, spans 704,000 acres of remote undeveloped mountains and valleys. It is described as "one of the emptiest spaces in a state famous for its emptiness". The area contains Native American artifacts



Boulder-White Clouds

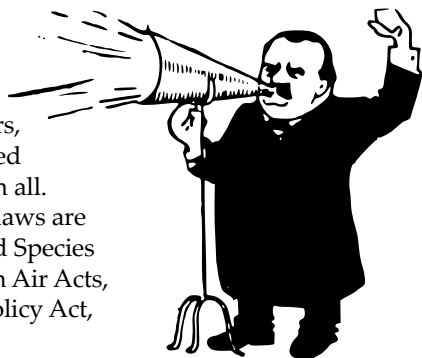


Historically, opposition to wilderness has come from extractive industries (mining, oil, gas). Today, opposition to wilderness is often due to recreation-based conflicts. In this case, motorized users supported this compromise legislation because the Wilderness boundaries were adjusted to exclude trails coveted for snowmobile and motorcycle use. The mountain biking community favored a more bike-friendly monument designation.

One of the largest unprotected wild places in the lower 48 states, Boulder-White Clouds is considered the crown jewel of Central Idaho. Its diverse 10,000-foot peaks, alpine lakes, and meadows provide habitat for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, elk, moose, and pronghorn. Rare predators such as wolverine, gray wolf, lynx, and mountain lion call it home, and it includes critical habitat for recovery of sockeye salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead on one of the longest, highest-elevation river migration routes in the world.

STOPPING THE BAD STUFF IN CONGRESS

How else should we say it? There really are too many terrible proposals, provisions, riders, and amendments introduced in this Congress to list them all. Our bedrock conservation laws are threatened: the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water and Clean Air Acts, National Environmental Policy Act, Antiquities Act, and more.



Be eternally vigilant. Don't let the names of bills deceive you. Look at what the proposed legislation would do. Do your research. Contact your members of Congress and let them know Americans expect uncompromised protection of our air, water, wildlife, and public lands. This is what good government does—protect our natural resources. Ask Congress to fund the agencies tasked with management. Ask them to

stand up for what they know is right instead of capitulating to ideology, corporate dollars, and greed. Ask them to act as if their grandchildren's future depends on it...because it does!



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- **An 18 cubic foot roof box**, like the Yakima Skybox 18: <https://www.yakima.com/skybox-18-carbonite>
- **iPad or tablet with keyboard**
- **Fuel-efficient small car** (30+ mpg)
- **DSLR Digital Camera**



Study A Broad

Becky Rom: Boundary Waters' True North

by Susan Kearns

Becky Rom was born to lead the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. As a third-generation resident of Ely, Minnesota, one of the gateways to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), she grew up in a family that cherished that wilderness and dedicated their lives to its protection.

Becky's father, Bill Rom, ran a successful outfitting business and store in Ely for nearly 30 years, and spent many hours roaming the woods. Bill studied under early wilderness warrior and author Sigurd Olson, who inspired both father and daughter to pursue wilderness advocacy work.

THE APPLE FALLS CLOSE

Becky took her first canoe trip at age two, hoisting a pint-sized pack made by dad. Put to work as soon as they were able, she and her three brothers carried packs across portages for canoe parties. Becky reminisces, "It was just what you did as part of the family."

Her parents instilled in her the belief that she could do anything. By the time she was 14, Becky was guiding canoe trips. She learned to fly a plane before she learned to drive. Not the typical 1960s teenager, this "girl guide" caught the interest of the media. She appeared on the television show *To Tell the Truth* and was featured in articles in *Seventeen* magazine and the Sunday newspaper magazine. Self-conscious, she shied away from the attention and wouldn't watch the television program when it aired.

But, she didn't shy away from advocacy. In school, she talked about the ideas her family shared nightly over the dinner table. In 1963, her class debated the

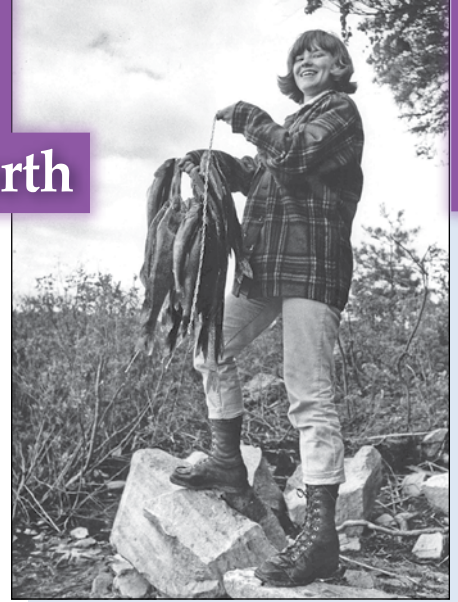
merits of the Wilderness Act. Becky gave her strongest argument, yet the class voted 148 to 2, overwhelmingly against the Wilderness Act. The other favorable vote came from her boyfriend; however, when the two broke up he changed his vote, leaving Becky as the lone "yea" on the debate.

"People from all over the world came into the store and would go on and on about how remarkable their experience in the wilderness was," said Becky. Yet, she said the folks of Ely didn't understand the value of the wilderness and the wonder it inspired. "People didn't go into the woods—especially girls. My family and our life were really unique."

A CAREER OF ADVOCACY

After attending Mt. Holyoke College and then law school, Becky spent time in Alaska and the Virgin Islands, eventually making her way back to Minnesota. After working as a trial lawyer and in real estate law, she joined the prominent law firm of Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis. She chaired the firm's pro bono committee, handling cases related to the Endangered Species and Wilderness Acts; she assisted organizations with citizen advocacy and lobbying, and has served on the Governing Council of The Wilderness Society since 1996.

In 2012, she returned to Ely to begin building what would become the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters to protect the clean water, air, and forests of the BWCA Wilderness from mining of copper, nickel, and other metals. Becky's years as an attorney and conservationist was invaluable. Under her guidance, Northeastern Minnesotans



for Wilderness, the lead organization for the campaign, saw substantial growth. As they built the organization and the campaign, the group worked hard to learn all they could about mining. They studied successful movements and spoke with lawyers and activists from around the country to develop an effective strategy.

The threats continue as Twin Metals, a Chilean-based mining company with a terrible environmental record, pushes forward with a proposal to bring toxic sulfide-ore copper mining to the region. Those in Ely who favor mining feel the community needs the activity to prop up the local economy. Rom's argument: there is much more sustainable economic opportunity with tourism and *no mining* is a far better option for the health of the region and the citizens that make their home there. "Any decent economist recognizes the economic foundation of the community is wilderness," says Becky.

When asked if she had advice for Broads and Bros facing similar battles, she responded: Start early. Be clear on goals—utterly clear. Work hard on a strategy that gets you to a win and be completely focused on that strategy. Understand that diverse groups and organizations with differing points of view are important. And finally, make your issue local and national.

What keeps her in the fight? "I have a good support network. And, I do this for me, my dad, and Sig Olson—I feel an obligation to carry on their work." Nevertheless, she told members of the Campaign staff, "The next battle is yours. After our historic win for the Boundary Waters, this is my last campaign."

A Struggle for Wilderness

Even before the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, which included some protections for the BWCA, many Ely residents saw wilderness designation as a threat to mining, logging, and motorized tourism. They considered Bill Rom a traitor.

With the passage of the Wilderness Act, the BWCA fell prey to compromises that allowed some logging and motorized boats and portages to continue. Rom fought against these and other activities, stirring up local controversy that pitted economic development against wilderness protection, a division that continues to this day. It was not until 1978 that President Carter granted full wilderness status to the BWCA, eliminating logging and snowmobiling, restricting mining, and further reducing motorboats. For a timeline of the struggles faced by BWCA, visit: www.friends-bwca.org/about/history/boundary-waters-timeline



BROADCASTIC SUPPORTERS

Mal Jones describes himself as an inventor, machinist, philosopher, activist, and investor in a better world. He believes in the cohesive power of women to think creatively and address the root causes of problems on our planet. Carol Koury is a long-time feminist, environmental and health activist, writer, and founder of Asheville-based Sow True Seed. As spouses and long-time confidants, Mal and Carol see women's leadership as the strength behind Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Mal, who signs his letters "In Women We Trust", notes that men have failed at protecting basic needs like water, air, and social cohesion.

"I support Great Old Broads because I think it's now up to women to determine how we solve our global issues, and there's not much time left," Mal comments.



Left to right: Broads' Executive Director Shelley Silbert, Carol Koury, and Mal Jones.

"Wilderness is critical. We can't have endless growth on a finite planet."

Great Old Broads for Wilderness thank Mal and Carol for their strong commitment and generosity to wilderness and wild lands.

WHAT A SITE TO SEE!

In case you haven't heard, this summer we launched our new website. This major makeover gave us a fresh, contemporary look that showcases our wilderness advocacy activities, educational programs, and stewardship opportunities—all seasoned with the usual dash of Broads fun.

Something new: a Broadband Directory search page that allows visitors to find Broadbands by city, state, or zip code.

The "Our Work" section of the site includes pages devoted to Wilderness Protection, Public Lands Grazing, Roads & Vehicular Use, Recapture Utah!, Energy/Mineral Extraction, and our newest focus, Climate Change.

The "Get Involved" section includes national and regional Broadband events, information for our Wild for Wilderness Online Auction, and Advocacy Resources—which has a search function to find

contact information for your Congressional representatives, links to government agencies, and tips for effective communications.

Please take a moment to click on over to www.greatoldbroads.org and let us know what you think at Broads@greatoldbroads.org.



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membership to
a deserving
Broad or Bro?

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EVENT RECAP

Oh! The fun we had!



BOUNDARY WATERS BROADWALK

by Jan Bourdon

Spectacular, awesome, educational, inspirational, motivational...just a few words to describe the Save the Boundary Waters Broadwalk held in August at the Kawishiwi River Campground south of Ely, Minnesota, near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA).

Whispers of wind in the pines, bubbling of the river, and the call of loons entranced us, while beautiful campsites and sharing excellent locally-influenced cuisine made us comfortable and content. Each day, interesting and inspirational speakers exposed the threat of sulfide-ore copper mining that could release sulfuric acid and heavy metals into the pristine waters of the region. While iron ore mining has been active since the early 1900s, the more dangerous sulfide mining has never been allowed in Minnesota. The risk of massive earth movement, noise, air and water pollution, and toxic spills remains on the minds of everyone who was there.

Thursday, the Broadwalk kicked off with introductions, followed by Peta Barrett, of Women's Wilderness Discovery, who set the stage with a moving reading from Sigurd Olsen's *A Sense of Place*.

Friday, hardy Broads pulled, lopped, and dug up the stubborn and invasive Siberian peashrub on nearby forest lands. That evening, Superior National Forest Supervisor Brenda Halter (decision maker for the proposed mining activity) discussed history and management of the forest. Becky Rom, chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters (see Study A Broad), gave a heartfelt and personal presentation on the impact of mining on the regional landscape. Iggy Perrillo shared her adventurous 800-mile bike journey towing "Sig" the canoe (named for Sigurd Olson and covered with signatures of support) to raise awareness about the proposed mines.

Saturday and Sunday's cool rains didn't dampen spirits during



Determined Broads beat down the scourge of Siberian peashrub.

a menu of activities, including a bear hike along the river, paddling Hegman Lake, hikes exploring forest and bog ending at arctic explorer Paul Schurke's Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge, and a tour of Sigurd Olsen's Listening Point retreat. Saturday night, Amy Freeman, National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, inspired us with her extraordinary 2,000-mile paddle and sail from Ely to Washington, DC to create awareness about threats to the Boundary Waters.

Sunday evening, we were joined by many members of EMPOWER (Ely Minnesota Progressive Organization of Women for Equality and Reform) and the combined energy was palpable. Jane and Steve Koschak (see pg. 11) poignantly shared how mining threatens businesses and the environment. Campaign organizer Samantha Chadwick led letter writing to our members of Congress, and the entertaining and informative Sherry Abts, "loon ranger" extraordinaire, unraveled the mysteries of loons. A sing-along and impromptu dance to the tunes of Irene Hatfield brought it all together in a final celebration of new friends and love for this special place.

A powerful and engaging experience, the Broadwalk inspired new Minnesota Broads to kick-off the first official Minnesota Wild Waters Broadband meeting. Co-leader Donna Andrews and I will continue our

partnership with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters; we jumped right into the Campaign's education booth at the Minnesota State Fair immediately following the Broadwalk. As we recruit and engage more Broads this fall, we look forward to being a wild presence in the conservation of our gorgeous state.

You too can help by signing the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters petition at www.savetheboundarywaters.org.



Minnesota Wild Waters Broadband Co-Leader Jan Bourdon (left) and Kat Audette-Luebke speak out for the Boundary Waters.



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE

Broadwalker Ann Kreilkamp's blog, exopermaculture.com recounts the tour to "ground zero" led by Steve Koschak.



Broads give a big "thumbs down" to the devastation caused by copper mining from sulfite rock.

On the final day of our introduction to the Boundary Waters area, I elected to go with the group that was to tour places where mining explorations have already disrupted the Boundary Waters—and this was back in the late '60s and early '70s!—leaving places that are still, to this day, devastated, unable to support life.

Jane and Steve Koschak, both Ely natives from mining families have, over the past 40 years, built their glorious resort (formerly a tiny lodge operated by his father on weekends), into an elegant world-class place—from scratch. And I do mean built. Steve personally, over the years, has constructed all the cabins and lodges and little buildings with specific purposes.



Where mining companies dumped waste, back in the 1960s. Notice nothing grows here.

Jane and Steve have endured the incessant hammering and pounding of nearby drill rigs during the off-seasons, operating 24/7. As Jane confessed, both to us and later, at a dinner that night with all the Broads, "We live under a constant black cloud of unknowing. This entire place that we have spent our lives creating, could be ruined. Sometimes we go around completely depressed, and have to pull each other out of it."

Hearing her speak of both the beauty and the threats, I am struck by the fact that both she and Steve are from mining backgrounds, which means, as she says, "there's nothing they (the opponents) can say to us." As native stock, they are NOT outsiders. Together, they have constructed an extraordinary enterprise from modest beginnings on teachers' salaries, scrimping and saving every penny to get where they are today. And yet, as she tells us, shrugging her shoulders ruefully, "the townspeople just think we are lucky."

IT'S AUCTION TIME!

Do Your "Bid" for Wilderness



NOVEMBER 2-15TH

Whoosh! Yes, that was 2015 roaring by and once again we stand at the brink of our 11th Annual Wild for Wilderness Online Auction.

This is our major fundraiser for the year—bringing in a large portion of the funds that support our programs, training, and communications (like this newsletter). Not to mention, (but we will) that our auction is a great way to find unique holiday gifts, all while supporting a good cause.

THERE ARE SO MANY GREAT ITEMS...

- **Outdoor Gear** - Packs, pads, clothing, footwear, & more
- **Home Stays** - Hawaii, Montana, Colorado, Utah, Washington, and more
- **Adventures** - Behind the scene tours
- **Gift Certificates** - Wine and dine, yoga classes, massages
- **Art, books, and jewelry** galore!

YOU CAN HELP!

- Make a donation (quick, we're almost out of time!)
- Spread the word—Tell your friends and family
- Invite friends over for an auction bidding party
- Send the auction link to your email address book contacts
- Register and start browsing

ARE YOU READY TO GET WILD?

Start browsing **NOW**. Once you register, you can:

- Put items on a watch list (to keep track of activity)
- Send an email to "recommend" an item to a friend (great way to give a hint to your significant other)
- Check the site often—new items are added all the time

And once it starts, bid, bid, bid! Get wild for wilderness and help us preserve the last wild places on earth. Check it out today at <http://auction.greatoldbroads.org>.

HOORAY FOR JOLYNN!

Congratulations to Broad Jolynn Jarboe who was chosen from the hatful of folks who submitted answers to the quiz in our last edition of Broadsides! Jolynn is wildly sporting her winnings: a new Broads Cap and T-Shirt.



INSIDER TIPS FOR FINESSING THE NEPA PROCESS

by Lisa Therrell

Want to submit comments on public lands that can influence the outcomes? Read on to learn how to craft comments that get attention.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) calls for public participation in environmental planning in the federal domain. The purpose of the law, in part, is to “encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment.”

Unfortunately, most letters sent to agencies provide few comments that help shape decisions. While it is important for agencies to know where you stand, and a huge groundswell of public support or resistance could influence a decision maker, NEPA is not a voting process. Five hundred identical form letters count as one comment. Agencies need “substantive comments” and it’s critical to know how to write them.

The public can provide meaningful input at two main junctures. First is the “scoping” process, when a project is first initiated and the agency puts out a “proposed action”. The second, in the case of some projects, is an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These analyses include an array of alternatives and are put out for public comment prior to the agency making a NEPA decision. This article will discuss how to provide comments that are useful to the agency and may help sway things in a direction you wish to see.

The scoping process identifies issues that are important for the agency to analyze and helps shape the alternatives. Comments need to be as specific as possible and submitted to the agency by the due date.

Let’s say for instance, that the Forest Service has a vacant cattle allotment in a Wilderness Study Area that they propose reassigning to a new operator. Your best bet is to familiarize yourself with federal laws, agency policy, and the applicable land management plan before you weigh in. If you determine the proposed action is in violation of law, policy, or an existing

plan, point this out in your scoping letter. But don’t stop there. Point out any specific resource values at risk, and state that those values need to be analyzed. Suggest criteria that might be measurements for an analysis, such as effects on wilderness character, recreational use, water quality, or spreading invasive plants. The more specific you are in describing this, the better, especially if you can demonstrate your firsthand knowledge of the area. “Key issues” identified by the agency and taking into consideration public comments (such as yours) will shape alternatives and the decision.

If you want to recommend a different alternative than the proposed action, state specifically what that might look like. For example, you might say that you support reassigning grazing in the portion of the allotment outside the Wilderness Study Area, but not inside. The agency isn’t required to analyze your exact alternative, but you should see a range of potential actions similar to what you proposed, unless your proposal is not deemed feasible or is “outside the scope” of the project.

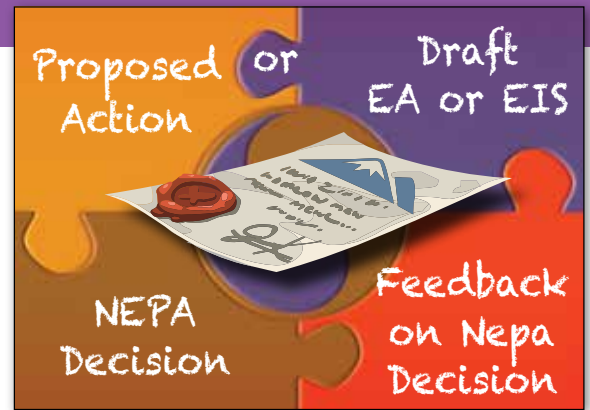
Once the draft EA or EIS is available for public comment, your job is to identify your preferred alternative and explain why. Point out any fatal flaws in the analysis, for example, those based on inadequate science, poor data, or failure to comply with a land management plan, laws, or best management practices. If the agency agrees, they will fix the analysis before it is finalized. If you want a variation on an alternative,

explain that as well. It’s helpful to chat with agency staff members that worked on the analysis to understand things from their point of view before you finalize your comments. Once again, mail in your comments by the due date.

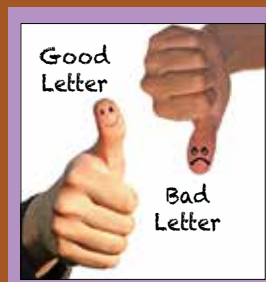
The final NEPA decision will often include small modifications that don’t require exhaustive additional analysis. Once the decision is made, you have one final chance to participate for the price of a stamp or email. If you believe the decision is based on fatal flaws in the analysis or procedure, you can “appeal” the decision. This can be done as an individual or with other organizations. In a letter, outline the flaws, and state what you think the alternative outcome should be. A reviewing official at a higher level decides whether or not your appeal has merit. If they agree with your appeal points, you are first asked to negotiate an appeal resolution with the decision maker. If the flaws truly are fatal and a resolution is not reached, the reviewing official may require the decision be remanded (taken back). Don’t send in a frivolous appeal, simply because you didn’t get your way. In order to have standing, your appeal points need to relate to information you provided in response to scoping or reviewing a draft analysis.

Agency personnel appreciate thoughtful substantive comments from the public. Sometimes your firsthand knowledge adds new information that specialists were unaware of prior to your participation in the NEPA process. Always remember the Golden Rule: treat others how you would like to be treated. Keep the tone of your letter cordial and not combative. Now go grab your pen or get to your keyboard...

A big broad thank you to Lisa Therrell for this helpful article. Lisa is a retired Forest Service employee who participated in a variety of NEPA planning projects.



Great examples of good and bad letters:



<http://bit.ly/LetterSamples>

- Protecting certain lands from mining exploration and extraction (such as roadless areas, Wilderness Study Areas, or areas recommended as Wild & Scenic Rivers)
- Giving federal land managers the legal gumption to deny permits if other resource values could be damaged by mining
- Providing a process for state, local, and tribal governments to declare lands off limits to mining
- Requiring habitat restoration that sustains pre-mining uses, minimizes disturbance to groundwater and surface water resources, and maintains water quality standards without permanent treatment
- Instituting per-ton royalties of 8% for new mines and 4% for existing mines to fund reclamation, Community Impact Assistance programs, and reclamation bonds with established cleanup standards
- Permanently ending patenting and privatization of public mineral lands
- Establishing enforcement and oversight, and halting operations if a company does not address a violation.

Since 1983, wilderness areas have been closed to new mineral leasing and claims. Congress and the courts generally recognize that wilderness and mining are incompatible. However, on rare occasions, prior claims or legally valid leases may be considered for development. Two glaring examples:

IDAHO

FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS

Court cases in the past ten years affirmed the right to validate a dormant claim located on a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Mining began there in the 1890s; the claim in question was established in 1981. In June 2015, wilderness advocates filed suit over the Payette National Forest's final decision to allow construction of four miles of temporary roads, hundreds of motorized trips per season, the reopening of an old mine tunnel, and the construction of drill pads and trenches within the wilderness.

MONTANA

CABINET MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

This lone wilderness in the 2.2 million acre Kootenai National Forest is essential to restoring the endangered bull trout and threatened grizzly bear in the Northern Rockies. Since 2003, wilderness advocates have fought against the proposed Rock Creek silver and copper mine. The mining company plans to discharge three million gallons of treated wastewater each day into the Clark Fork River and impound 324-acres of tailings above the river. Legal challenges have succeeded in delaying permits, however, the Forest Service's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is expected soon and may trigger new public opposition. In a separate proposal in the Cabinets, Earthjustice sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in July 2015 on behalf of long-time conservation defenders to block the 1,500-acre Montanore Mine. The same groups petitioned FWS last spring for detailed reviews of

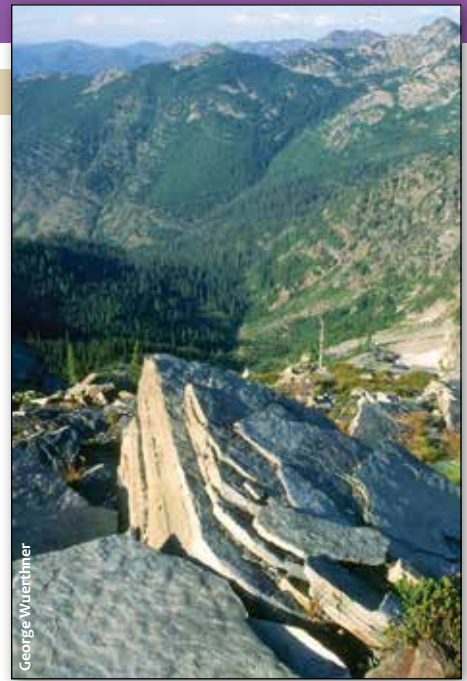
mine impacts and mitigation plans to address grizzly bear protection.

Other mines are regularly proposed on the unprotected edges of wilderness and national parks, such as a 2,500-acre gold mine near Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness (MT); a sulfide-ore copper mining adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (MN); and a uranium mine re-opening six miles from Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim (AZ)—all proposed by foreign-owned mining companies. These examples, and many more, would tear a hole in the fabric of our wild public lands, opening them up to nearly unregulated devastation. Meanwhile, mining companies boast some of the highest paid executives in the world. In 2011, the highest paid Arizona resident was the CEO of mining giant Freeport McMoRan, with a total pay package of \$82 million.

If you believe in fairness, corporate responsibility, clean water, and healthy wildlife habitat support the reform of the antiquated 1872 Mining Act and spread the word about mining abuses on your public lands. Your voice can be the change, but we must act now.

Take action: <http://bit.ly/SupportHR963>

To read more about HR963: <http://bitly.com/HR963Text>



Cabinet Mountains Wilderness



WE'RE JUST WILD ABOUT LIONEL

A warm welcome to Broads' newest addition, Lionel Di Giacomo, Research and Advocacy Associate (Extraordinaire!).

Lionel researches issues, develops advocacy materials, and has been instrumental in providing Broadband support and working on the development of the WILD Care program (see his article on page 3). We've also found him to be invaluable in unraveling computer mysteries and assisting with website refinements. He's a jack of all trades and we're delighted to have his talents on board as a valued Bro.

Lionel developed his passion for wildlife and wild lands camping and working on trails near his hometown of Boulder, Colorado, while volunteering for numerous environmental and other non-profit organizations along the front range.



2016: MONUMENTAL EVENTS

We're still working on the details, but we wanted to let you know what's cookin' so you can plan ahead and save the date. More information will be available in the Winter BroadSides and on our website in the future. If you'd like to get your name on a waiting list we'll contact you when we open registration, visit: www.greatoldbroads.org/2016-broadwalks-tell-me-more/



MARCH 17-21, 2016

MOJAVE DESERT BROADWALK, CA

Along with our partners from Sierra Club and California Wilderness Coalition, this event will focus on Senator Diane Feinstein's *California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act* that would:

- Create Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments (NM)
- Designate six new BLM wilderness areas (250,000 acres)
- Add acreage to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and Mojave National Preserve

Parts of the act include controversial actions such as:

- Designation of five existing OHV recreation areas
- Creation of solar energy zones and transmission corridors.

A lack of momentum in Congress means portions of this proposal are ripe for national monument designation by President Obama, which could happen at any time.

More on the Mojave Desert monuments:
<http://californiadesert.org/monuments/>

Sign the petition at:
californiadesert.org/get-involved-2/take-action/

MID TO LATE JUNE, 2016

BIRTHPLACE OF RIVERS BROADWALK, WV

We'll join the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition and others to advocate for the Birthplace of Rivers National Monument proposal that would extend protections to the headwaters of



six regionally-significant rivers in the Monongahela National Forest: the Cranberry, Cherry, Gauley, Elk, Williams, and Greenbrier. The area stands as one of the largest expanses of contiguous wild forest in the eastern United States. At its core is the Cranberry Wilderness, the largest federally designated wilderness area in the east.

More on the Cranberry Wilderness:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=12368>

More on the Birthplace of Rivers Campaign:

<http://www.birthplaceofrivers.org/>

MID TO LATE SEPTEMBER, 2016

BEARS EARS BROADWALK, SAN JUAN COUNTY, UT

Continuing Broads' long tradition of advocacy for the canyon country of southern Utah, we'll join with partners from the Bears Ears Coalition to focus on the most significant unprotected cultural and archaeological area in the United States, encompassing more than 100,000 cultural sites. A blend of National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands, this bold 1.9 million acre proposal is supported by 24 Native American Tribes and Pueblos.

More on the Bears Ears Coalition and to sign the petition:
<http://www.bearscoalition.org/action>.



For one-stop monument protection, check out Keen Footwear's Live Monumental campaign petition to protect Mohave Trails, Gold Butte, Birthplace of Rivers, and Owyhee Canyonlands at: www.keenfootwear.com/livemonumental/petition.aspx

on river-dependent birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and bugs. Bio-accumulation or bio-magnification—the buildup of contaminants over time in living organisms and the increased concentrations moving up the food chain—are little mentioned.

After returning from the Boundary Waters Broadwalk, I canoed with Southwest Colorado Broadband co-leader Anne Markward and our spouses through a slow-moving oxbow section of the Animas River. We saw red-brown sludge thick on the river bottom, coating algae, and scattered on riverbanks. No surprise to anyone, sediments sampled by the EPA and others after the blowout show elevated levels of toxic cadmium, zinc, arsenic, lead, and manganese, leading Anne to coin a potential bumper sticker, “Hickenlooper, Eat My Sludge!”

On a hike through the Weminuche Wilderness to an upstream section of the river a week earlier, we saw newly stained red cobbles and sludge on the shoreline. Looking for bugs, we discovered rocks so cemented into the river it was impossible to pry them loose—not a recent phenomenon, but a long-term impact of years of mineral buildup from mining pollution.

Despondently, we acknowledge that toxic discharge from abandoned mines is a daily occurrence across Colorado—and in most other western states as well. This toxic legacy we’ve inherited from former mining glory days is largely ignored by the media and the public.

Which brings me back to the Boundary Waters. The most visited wilderness area in the country, the BWCA within the Superior National Forest holds a fifth of the freshwater found in the entire National Forest system. Wouldn’t all agree that such a critical resource is worthy of protection? And yet, in 2013, the BWCA was named among America’s Most



Broads on the Boundary Waters: Left (front to back): Broads’ Board member Karen Ryman, Guide Peta Barrett; Right (front to back): Grassroots Leadership Coordinator Lauren Berutich and Northern San Juans Broadband Co-Leader Robyn Cascade.

Endangered Rivers, due to the very immediate threat of large-scale sulfide-ore copper mining from multiple mines. This mining practice, never before allowed in Minnesota, would produce large amounts of waste rock, sulfuric acid, and a toxic soup of heavy metals. Across the western U.S. and around the world, sulfide-ore mining has never existed without pollution, and that pollution continues in perpetuity. Once the mining companies are gone—and they do not stay forever—local communities and taxpayers are left with daunting treatment costs. We are living this reality in Colorado.

Hydrologic models show that the proposed Twin Metals mine on the South Kawishiwi River, site of our August Broadwalk, would threaten not just the BWCA, but also Voyageurs National Park, and Quetico Provincial Park in Canada. High-quality waters such as these are an increasingly rare resource, and because they are highly interconnected, the spread of pollutants would be extensive and uncontrollable.

I only wish all waters were free of mine contamination and as clean as the Boundary Waters. I know that Broads will do our best to try to make them so. I implore anyone who cares about clean water to be bold and raise your voice to protect the Boundary Waters and elsewhere from new mining, and to bring attention to cleaning up mining operations, current and past. In the case of the Boundary Waters, prevention is the best medicine.

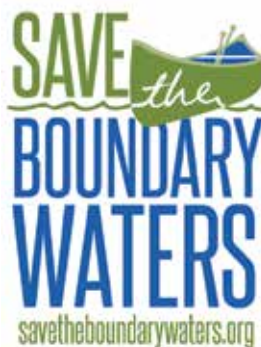
Our freshwater resources are more precious than copper, than gold, than silver. They are, indeed, life itself.

How Do YOU Mother Nature?



The Oregon Bitterbrush Broadband in action.

Calling all advocates! It’s time to let your love light for wild lands shine. What actions have you been involved with lately? A rally, a hearing, or a stewardship project? Send your photos with a short description to susan@greatoldbroads.org and we’ll choose a few to feature on our website or in the next newsletter.



To learn more and take action to protect the Boundary Waters, go to www.savetheboundarywaters.org

To see a map of metal mining interests that will impact the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness: <http://bit.ly/BWmines>

To learn more about the Animas spill: <http://bit.ly/orange-river>





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ONLINE AUCTION

NOVEMBER 2-15, 2015



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Diane and Libby get ready to rumble at the Boundary Waters Broadwalk.



Join or Renew Today!

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!

- ☐ **SPECIAL** 25th Anniversary Rate for New Members \$25—**LAST CHANCE!**
- ☐ Basic Broad \$35 ☐ Outrageous Broad \$100+ ☐ Other \$_____
- ☐ Rockin' Broad \$50+ ☐ Bedrock Broad \$1,000+
- ☐ Wild Broad \$75+ ☐ Budget or Training Broad < \$35

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Date _____

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Exp. Date _____

Security Code _____

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

PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO: GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS, PO BOX 2924, DURANGO, CO 81302

BROADS LOGO GEAR

ITEM	SIZE	COST	QTY
NEW! Long-Sleeved Wicking Tee (Passionate Purple or Sky Blue)	S, M, L, XL	\$30	
in Late Wild Woman Headband	n/a	\$10	
OCT Purple V-Neck Tee (wicking)	S, M, L, XL	\$25	
Ball Cap (Denim Blue or Moss Green)		\$20	
Fidel-Style Hat (Jungle Green or Earth Brown)		\$25	
Broads Tee (natural—runs large)	S, M, L, XL	\$20	
Long Sleeve Tee (natural)	S, M, L, XL	\$22	
Pistachio Green Tee	S, M, L, XL	\$20	
Logo Earrings		\$12	
Button or sticker (circle)		\$1.50	
Coffee Mug		\$20	

Go to greatoldbroads.org/join-or-donate/shop
to view items or to join, donate, or shop online.
Ship merchandise to ☐ Me ☐ Gift Member

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