



Frequently Asked Questions

What are Broadbands? Does grassroots mean activism? How do I get involved? Where is my local chapter? Great Questions! Thanks for asking! Please read below to find out the answer to your frequently asked questions and feel free to call or email for follow up.

ABOUT THE BROADS

What does Great Old Broads for Wilderness really do anyway?

Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Broads or GO Broads or Great Old Broads, is a nonprofit that engages and inspires women to protect and preserve our wild public lands across the U.S. Broads give voice older Americans who want to protect their public lands and Wilderness for this and future generations. Our grassroots advocacy approach shines in our Grassroots Leadership Program, home of 36 Broadband chapters. Broadbands are regional volunteer advocacy teams that gather to write letters, attend public meetings, stage rallies, show films, and much more to educate and engage their communities in a variety of issues concerning our public lands.

Do I have to be a part of a Broadband to be a member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness?

No, we have active Broadband chapters in 14 states, but a membership database in almost every state in the nation. It's easy to join and extremely valuable to our organization! Find a brochure in your local library, from a Broadband leader, or at a public Broads event and sign up today. Your membership dollars go a long way! Each member contributes to the organization's ability to protect and preserve our wild lands and public spaces through campaigns, on the ground stewardship, and education. Don't want to wait? [Join now](#) and thank you for your support!

Is Great Old Broads for Wilderness a Durango organization?

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national nonprofit organization. We are based out of Durango, CO and have a Board of directors composed of members from the east to the west coasts. Our Broadband chapters range from Portland, Maine to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. Nationally we focus on Wilderness designation, Healthy Public Lands (including Off Road Vehicle Use and Grazing), Oil, Gas, and Mineral Development, and Climate Change. To find out more about Broads issues, visit [Our Work](#) page and click on the six position states for more detailed information.

I like the Broads. How do I get involved?

The simplest way to support our work is by becoming a member. Our members and supporters are the backbone of our organization's work. Membership supports two-thirds of our general operating budget and plays a major role in our visibility, advocacy, voice, and sustainability. Ready for the next step? You can support Broads in multiple ways: become a sustaining member, join a Broadband chapter, participate in our annual auction, [join a rally or campaign you are passionate about](#), or become a chapter leader.

ABOUT OUR GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

What is the Broads Grassroots Leadership Program?

The Grassroots Leadership Program supports our organization's national, on-the-ground chapter based advocacy and outreach efforts. This program facilitates the organization's mission to protect and preserve our nation's Wilderness and wild public lands by engaging and igniting the activism of women (and men!) through educational outreach, trainings, grassroots organizing strategies, and the development of Broadband chapters across the country.

What is grassroots organizing anyway?

Grassroots organizing is a from-the-ground-up, democratic, and collective approach to advocating for a specific issue. It is often referred to as a movement of the people. This organizing approach celebrates movements where people come together in collective voice and action.

How does grassroots advocacy play a role in Broads approach to public lands protection and Wilderness designation?

Grassroots advocacy comes in many forms from letter writing campaigns, public speaking at hearings, and rallies and protests. Our Broadband chapters are our mechanism to advocate around issues facing regional landscapes across the country. Each chapter has a group of women and men that work together to coordinate educational outreach, stewardship opportunities, and on-the-ground efforts to move a conservation agenda forward.

There are issues I'm really passionate about in my area. How do I know if your organization works on them?

Broads' mission is to protect and preserve Wilderness and wild public lands. Our position statements are available to you online. Follow this link for more information to see if your issues fit with our mission. Contact your local Broadband by finding them on our website or call the main office 970-385-9577 for more information. Our Grassroots Leadership Program can guide you in the right direction.

Do these efforts make a difference?

Yes! But it's not easy and often takes a lot of time. It is often asked, what would have happened if we didn't act? Broads have been making a mark on wilderness designation and public lands protection for over 26 years now. We have contributed to Wilderness protection, monument designation, climate action, road closures, healthy grazing practices, responsible recreation use, and forest, water, and land health.

ABOUT THE BROADBANDS

What do the local Broads chapters do?

What don't these amazing teams do?! Our local Broadbands identify issues they feel passionate about and dedicate their time and energy to educate, engage, and act to carry them forward. Each Broadband has a unique character and way of doing things, but they all share the deep desire to protect and celebrate our healthy public lands. Broadbands can be found tabling at an Earth Day events, marching in a Keep it in the Ground Rally, hosting a book club and discussion, out in the field collecting samples, monitoring, or helping with trail work, planting native vegetation, writing letters to local and state representatives, speaking at a hearing, meeting over coffee with partners and collaborators, hosting a lecture or film, writing a grant, celebrating successes, leading a fun hike or ski trip, or mountaineering a favorite slot canyon. Broads do all of these incredible activities with humor, dedication, and as Women in Loving Defense.

How do I find a Broadband chapter in my area?

Currently, we have over 30 regional Broadband chapters in 14 states. Our website is a great resource to find Broads in your neck of the woods WILDLY engaged in protecting and preserving our public lands. Go to the [Broadband Directory](#) from the Broadbands tab to search for a Broadband near you.

What if my area doesn't have a local Broads chapter?

Create one! Do you have a passion to protect and preserve wild lands from development, over use, irresponsible grazing, or have a specific movement you are working on and would like to engage more members? We are always looking to expand our Broad reach across the country and you can help us do that. Each year, we mentor, facilitate, and support the growth of new volunteer chapter leaders who are ready to start a chapter in their community. We can help you recruit members, set up meetings, and provide you with the tools and resources needed to be an effective agent for change. [Follow this link](#) to our main Broadband page to find out more about our local chapters and how you can start or lead one today.

I've just retired and want to get involved in the conservation movement, but don't have a lot of experience. Can I still join?

Absolutely! Our Broadband members have diverse interests and backgrounds. Each person contributes a unique perspective to the group as a whole and all are welcome. Everyone can contribute to our teams! A few examples include tabling representatives and participation in public outreach events, hosting a meeting at your house, facilitating a book club, attending or speaking at a public meeting, sharing expertise in a specific area of interest, creating or supporting a team newsletter, writing advocacy letters, helping with social media, joining a rally or protest, leading a hike, helping with hours and reporting... the list goes on! We ask that you are able and willing to learn, appreciate the beauty and health of our natural surroundings, and most importantly, have fun! [Click here](#) for our calendar of events and find out more about our organization and what our Broads are up to.

How do I find out about meetings and activities to join?

We offer a Broad menu of engagement opportunities through both the national and local chapters of our organization. Use our online [Calendar of Events](#) page to find out about upcoming meetings, activities, events, lectures, Broadwalks, Broadworks, or advocacy campaigns happening in your neck of the woods. If you are not finding what you are looking for or the calendar is not up to date far enough ahead for you to plan, [contact the main office](#) with questions or write to the [Broadband leader in your area](#) to find out what they're up to.

ABOUT LEADERSHIP AND BROADBAND FACILITATION

What are Broadband Leaders?

Broadband Leaders are volunteers who are passionate about bringing change and helping others find their voices to designate wilderness, protect and preserve our wild public lands, and participate in advocacy campaigns across the country and specific to your region. Our leaders are trained in essential skills to build and motivate others to use effective and meaningful grassroots organizing methods to protect the places we love most. To find out more about our annual Wilderness Advocacy Training, [watch this fun video!](#) Our leaders are often retired and serve as grandparents, mothers, hikers, explorers, writers, artists, musicians, financial advisers, teachers, biologists, agency reps, coordinators, public speakers, event planners, and...the list goes on. Each leader facilitates their Broadband teams in

fun, passionate, effective means to creating real on-the-ground change for healthy, sustainable planet. Interested? [Apply today](#) or call Lauren, Grassroots Leadership Coordinator for more information 970-385-9577.

What is the Wilderness Advocacy Training? Can I go?

Join us! The Wilderness Advocacy Training is an annual grassroots leadership training held in the early spring for anyone interested in joining our Broads team as a volunteer Broadband chapter leader. The weeklong training is an excellent way to learn about and improve your skills in grassroots advocacy, leadership, public outreach, and issue development. We provide you with the tools to be an effective leader, an empowered advocate, and a dedicated steward to our land. AND it's a lot of fun! We host speakers, facilitate small group and large group discussions, and explore the local areas through hikes and site visits. Our leaders get themselves there and we cover the rest. Space is limited so [apply today!](#) Looking for more information or want to find out if this is a good fit? Visit our [Broadband Leadership site](#) to learn more.

I'm ready to get more involved and would like to lead a chapter or join a chapter as a co-leader. Where in the world do I start?

We Broadly welcome you to our team! In 2015, we celebrated 51 volunteer Broadband leaders and their dedication to support and lead a team of fun and passionate women (and men) who worked to protect the health of our public lands. Our co-leaders provide leadership and support to their Broadband chapters. Some chapters create "leadership committees" and share a leadership team approach with their Broadband, each taking on an area of work that most interests them. [Apply today!](#)