

FIGHTING THE SIEGE ON CLIMATE

by Lionel Di Giacomo

The country has been caught in a deluge of bad news for climate activists. Rollbacks and attacks on policies or tools that could help combat climate change seem to come at such a staggering pace that sometimes it feels as if we are on a sinking ship, taking on water faster than we can plug the leaks.

While these attacks are severe, they are not unprecedented: Ronald Reagan pandered to oilmen and sagebrush rebels; George W. Bush gave billions in tax breaks to dirty energy companies; and yet today, more acres of federal land are protected than ever before.

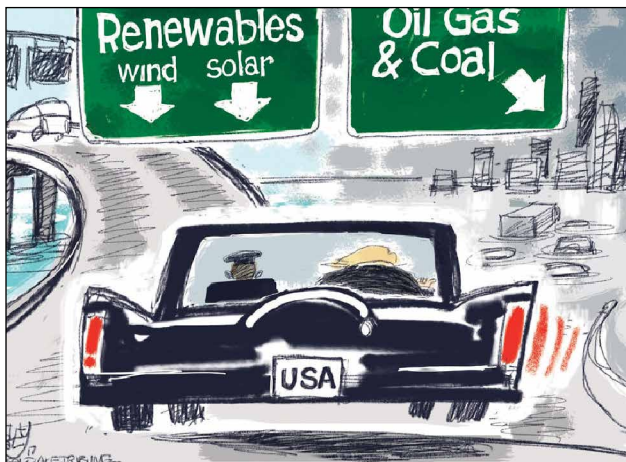
But there's no doubt our public lands are in peril. Fossil fuel and other extractive industries are being invited to dig, drill, and frack more aggressively with far less oversight. It is an old story of selling out the long-term health of public lands and America's citizens for short-term private profits.

DOUBLING DOWN ON DIRTY FUELS

The drive behind Trump's energy policy is "energy dominance". The administration wants to extract and export large amounts of fossil fuels around the world and invest in new

oil and gas infrastructure for years to come.

The Obama administration gave us many rules and decisions to moderate industry's contribution to climate disruption, such as new climate guidelines for public land agencies and a new rule that would require oil, gas, and mining companies to disclose what they pay foreign governments for drilling rights across the globe. As promised on the



Cartoon by Pat Bagley, Salt Lake Tribune

campaign trail, President Trump and the new Congress wasted no time reversing those policies, protecting the industry from scrutiny and making domestic energy production on public lands more appealing.

Next, the administration focused on making more "cheap" federal land available to fossil fuel companies. The sham "National Monument Review" was no more than a

means to reduce monuments such as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante to free up bargain-basement public lands for coal, oil and gas, and other development.

In August, the Department of the Interior set into motion drastic cuts to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews of infrastructure projects. In this case "infrastructure" includes energy production and generation from fossil fuels,

as well as railways, ports, and pipelines. NEPA reviews can take years to properly complete and hundreds of pages to document, but many will be constrained to just 150 pages, with only one year to complete them. Important analyses will

certainly be left out of the decision-making process, greatly weakening the effect of NEPA. Of course, NEPA is not the only bedrock environmental law under attack.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT UNDER FIRE

Despite year after year of staggering profits for oil and gas, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the swaths

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~ See Page 8 ~

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IN A BROAD SENSE

*We are ALL
Wonder Woman*



Andy Gulliford

I am not a big fan of superheroes. I've always been fascinated with spiderwebs, and have imagined having Spiderman powers, throwing silk at the flick of a wrist and flying through the air on a ten-second tapestry. Beyond that, spare me the "Pow" and "Kaboom", or the heroic rescue of the damsel in distress.

But lo and behold, I've recently fallen under the spell of Wonder Woman. She's grabbed my attention like no other scantily-clad, ostentatiously-muscled, save-the-world



figure has before. Who could not feel smitten by this morally-driven heroine who, from girlhood, dreams of training to fight for truth, beauty, and justice?

We need Wonder Woman right now. In this dark night in America, we watch with horror as the EPA

(Environmental Protection Agency) is unraveled from within, national monuments headed towards chopping and parks towards drilling; white supremacists and neo-Nazis march in the streets, and our beloved democracy is threatened with "deconstruction." Is it any wonder that so many flocked to witness the total eclipse of the sun, traveling long miles to witness the world go dark, then re-emerge again to light and normalcy?

WONDER-FULL BROADS

Got Wonder Woman? Yes, indeed. Broads'

ranks are filled with women of wonder who are stepping it up and finding their voices. Broads are facing fears, donning veritable shields and capes, and pressing onward to deflect the attacks on our democratic system

*We cannot trade
our children's
health and the
health of our
planet to meet
today's budget
shortfalls.*

and on our public lands like sparks off wristbands (if you haven't seen the movie, this image might not make much sense!) La Plata Broadband member Lauri Costello traveled to DC, with support from Sierra Club, to testify against a delay in the EPA's methane pollution standards. A retired family physician, she became increasingly aware of methane's impacts after moving to the Four Corners, a region rampant with oil and gas drilling. "They're ignoring us, but we won't go away," she commented. "Out of 118 who testified, only two people opposed the rule. And yet the Trump administration still wants the delay." The federal appeals court ruled this summer against a 90-day delay, but the administration still plans to reconsider the rule.

Broads' board member Rynda Clark lobbied Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read, while other Broads lobbied their state representatives. They aimed to save the 82,500 acre Elliot State Forest from sale to a private timber company—a move Read himself recommended to the Oregon State Land Board to bring money to state coffers.

"As with any family budget, we cannot trade



Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national grassroots organization, led by elders, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands.

Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of Americans who want their public lands protected as Wilderness for this and future generations. With more than 8,500 members and friends, we bring voice, knowledge, commitment, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

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ADVOCACY CORNER

Writing with a Purpose

"It is not yours alone to complete the work (of justice), but neither are you free to desist from it."

- Pirkei Avot, Ethics of the Fathers

by Lauren Berutich

Ever hear the expression, "a picture is worth a thousand words?" Well, what if a letter is worth a million acres? American citizens, nature lovers, and business owners across the country have been called to action to speak for the health of our planet on a variety of issues in recent months—and they have responded in droves.

This was especially apparent after President Trump issued an executive order to review national monuments designated since 1996 and greater than 100,000 acres—ironically, just four days after the celebration of Earth Day. American's were given only 60 days to defend 27 national monuments and the country stepped up with pens in hand! The Wilderness Society reports more than 2.8 million comments were submitted to Secretary of Interior Zinke. Of these comments, 99.2% were loud and clear, expressing that the American people love their public lands, support the monument designations in question, and want them to remain protected. This overwhelming support is undeniable.

I have a feeling we will need to continue this pattern of pen and ink advocacy (or keyboard and modem) for years to come. So, how do we keep this momentum of political pressure and collective action? Keep those letters coming and make them good!

"A lot of people don't realize the power of writing a letter to their elected officials—just a tiny fraction of citizens will ever take the time to do it, so one letter can speak as loudly as thousands of votes."

– Britni Rillera, The Trust for Public Lands

THE POWER OF THE PEN

Every letter counts! While online campaigns (where you sign a petition or send a letter with a few mouse clicks) can be a great way to raise awareness about an issue, "clicktivism" is not always an effective advocacy tool. Generally, duplicated "canned" comments are counted as a single comment. Taking the time to personalize your communication makes the greatest impact. These days, congressional offices may receive only a handful of personally-written letters on most issues. Each time you take the time to write (or call) your representatives, you carry a lot of power as a participant in the democratic process.

Here are five strategies to write an effective, powerful, and meaningful letter...now go get 'em.

1. WRITE TO THE RIGHT PERSON

Be sure you send your message to right elected official, public leader, or decision maker. Is this a local issue instituted through your city council or Mayor's office, a county or state matter, or a federal campaign? Still unsure? Seek support from our office or ask a partner organization connected to the same issue. Find your congressional representatives at: <https://whoismyrepresentative.com/>.



2. USE YOUR RESOURCES

Support is out there. Check the Broads' website for campaign information, watch for action alerts, or contact your local partner organizations for the most updated and comprehensive talking points. You don't have to reinvent the wheel or be the expert on the matter, but you do have to have clear and accurate information.

3. TELL YOUR STORY

Make sure you get personal and use examples from your travels, experiences, and memories from the landscapes you are writing about. Talk about how the issue will negatively impact you and your family. On-the-ground testimonials go a long way to provide validation to your recommendations.

4. BE BOLD, BE BROAD, AND BE BOSSY

Write your letter respectfully and with heart, but be sure to be succinct and clear with your ask. Be specific about your expectations; make suggestions on how you'd like the issue resolved, and why it is important to you and to your district.

5. SHARE YOUR GRATITUDE

Don't forget to thank your representative for their time and consideration of your letter and recommendations. Ask them to join you and others in making the right decisions, and celebrate their power to do the right thing as they move forward.





BROADBANDS IN ACTION

Broads Walk the Talk: The roll-up-your-sleeves advocacy approach

by Lauren Berutich

Broads love to play outdoors and this summer was no exception. Our Broadbands *walked the talk* this season and got down to business to give back to the landscapes they treasure and want to see protected. Teaming up with partner organizations to offer their eyes, ears, and hardworking hands as stewards and citizen scientists, our Broadbands continue to take an “all hands on deck” approach.

COLORADO

LA PLATA BROADS: A WILDERNESS BROADWORK AND MORE

It is true—we can actually love a place to death. With the increased enthusiasm for camping, hunting, and exploring beautiful landscapes comes the inevitable increase in human impact on these places as well. Broads in southwest Colorado



La Plata Broads invade the Weminuche Wilderness to survey invasive plant species.

were called to action to help clean up the recently designated Hermosa Creek Wilderness. Planned by Broads' member and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) representative Anne Dal Vera, the Hermosa Creek Wilderness Broadwork involved a 3-mile hike into the Salt Creek trail area of the Wilderness. Four members of the local Backcountry Horsemen chapter

enthusiastically joined the project to provide the “horsepower” to pack out the trash. Thank goodness for their WILD support because they were much needed. Our Broads collected and hauled out more than 600 pounds of trash! In addition to



Boise Broads and Friends of the Owyhee show off the bags of thistle they removed.

all their hard work, they had the opportunity to explore the beautiful backcountry area and hosted guest speakers in the evenings at basecamp. Hiking in gorgeous mountain country, sleeping under an endless starry sky, and making a difference for the places you love—does it get any better than that?

From day hikes to overnight camps outs, the La Plata Broads also packed it *in* this summer! Our team partnered with the USFS to survey invasive species in the Weminuche and Hermosa Creek Wilderness areas. The data collected will be used to develop a management plan to restore sections of the forest to native vegetation.

After two training sessions hosted by the Forest Service to school participants in plant identification and data collection, the Broads enthusiastically surveyed several areas on multiple day hikes and overnight trips. By the end of the summer, they monitored and collected data on 40 miles of Wilderness trails. Now that's commitment!

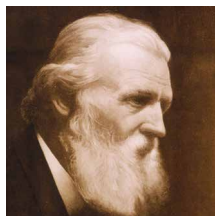
IDAHO

BOISE BROADS: STICKING TO STEWARDSHIP

This summer the Boise Broadband joined the Friends of the Owyhee for a prickly project to remove rampantly invasive thistle from the Succor Creek State Natural Area. Organized by Friends of the Owyhee, the crew had to climb a steep slope, remove a copious amount of thorny thistles, and load the weeds in bags to haul them back down the incline to the vehicles. It was hard work, but the clouds kept it cool and Broads report the scenery was gorgeous. Tired, but proud of their accomplishment, they celebrated avoiding rattlesnake and tick bites, and headed home knowing they'd given native plants the room to flourish once again.



La Plata Broads take a break from picking up trash to enjoy the spectacular scenery in the Hermosa Creek Wilderness.



*“For going out, I found,
was really going in...”*

— John Muir



In early September, Broadband Leader Jan Bourdon and her adventurous Broadband held the Boundary Waters Broadwork in northern Minnesota. In partnership with Northwoods Volunteer Connection and the USFS, they adopted an entry point for Daniels Lake in the breathtaking Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and took tools in hand.

After a fun orientation and a *Leave No Trace* workshop, the Broads hopped in canoes to paddle to their worksite to clean up this

treasured spot off the historic Gunflint Trail out of Grand Marais, Minnesota. As you may guess, this three-day outing was not “all work and no play.” The Broads explored the area in a pontoon boat, swam at a beautiful beach, and hiked the lush trails surrounding the camp that overlooked several BWCAW lakes.



Participants traveled from all over Minnesota to join this incredible event. I’m selfishly hoping they offer it again so I can shut my eyes, click my heels, and magically appear there to join them.



GROWING YOUR GRASSROOTS: *Commenting on Public Land Issues*

by Lionel Di Giacomo

Have something to say about a decision on public lands? Agencies will take your comments, but just saying “NO!” doesn’t cut it. Writing substantive comments drawn from your own experience, knowledge, and research is stronger than canned talking points. Commenting also allows you to request notifications about further opportunities for feedback and final decisions.

Here are tips geared toward commenting on public land projects and decisions proposed by local, state, or federal agencies:

- **Visit the local agency office.** If you live near public land, chances are an agency office is nearby. Get to know the staff and never be afraid to ask questions!
- **Get maps of the project.** Agencies create and keep maps for most projects, and the staff can help you interpret maps and answer questions—or connect you with someone who can. Discussing a map is a great way to learn about the project’s impacts on water, habitat, endangered species, cultural sites, and more.
- **Develop your list of concerns.** Common issues include threats to wildlife and habitat, risks to public health (i.e. air and water quality), and effects on

recreation and the local economy. Meet with agency staff working on the project to discuss your concerns.

- **Take a field trip.** Visit the project area and note wildlife, habitat conditions, prior damage, and anything else that stands out or could potentially be affected by agency actions. Take photos to include with your comments.
- **Talk with specialists.** Call up or meet with people who may have special knowledge—scientists, academics, field observers, graduate students, anglers, etc.—to dig further into details about the area. Retired federal agency staff can also be a great source of information.
- **Write and submit your comments.** Talk about your connection to the area, your concerns, and how you think the land should be managed to best protect it. Be sure to provide a vision of ideal management rather than simply saying a project is unacceptable.



Researching and writing good comments can take an hour, days, or weeks depending on your time and how much help you have. Having a team tackle it together can break up the work, ensure you cover all the important points, and keep you inspired.

Want to start tackling issues? Visit greatoldbroads.org or call the national office to learn more about Broadband chapters and public land issues near you.



THE BROADER WILDERNESS

by Carrie King

SAY NO TO THE OCHOCO SUMMIT TRAIL SYSTEM!

Great Old Broads for Wilderness and allies filed a complaint against the Forest Service, challenging the construction of **137 new miles** of off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails in Oregon's Ochoco National Forest. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) proposed the additional motorized trails, despite concerns from the public and steady opposition from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Ochoco National Forest already contains 674 miles of OHV trails. If the proposed trail system is completed, almost half of the new trails would be within 656 feet of an existing road or another motorized trail. The trails would cut through old growth stands of ponderosa pine, described as a "mecca" for more than 400 species of wildlife.



Oregon's Bitterbrush Broads in the Ochoco National Forest encounter a vandalized sign that was installed to alert OHV riders that the area is closed to motorized vehicles.

The effects of existing motorized trails on wildlife, rivers, and fish are bad enough. But if new trails are constructed, then the added effects (known as cumulative effects in NEPA language) on habitat fragmentation for wildlife, would be exponentially worse. One example: this project cuts through 21 miles of critical winter range for elk and 69 miles of deer fawning habitat. The EIS states the combination of the old trails and new trails *would not* affect the endangered gray wolf. However, science shows that wild animals need large expanses of undisturbed and undeveloped habitat to survive and to avoid human activity. Period.



Broads' least favorite cowboy, Secretary Zinke (left), surrounded by the hind ends of horses, possibly postulating on his plans to protect (oil and gas interests on) America's public lands.

More motorized trails means more dust in the air, which decreases air quality. More trails also increase erosion, causing sediment to find its way into precious rivers, degrading water quality and harming fish habitat, which has negative impacts on threatened and endangered aquatic species.

The good news—our complaint stops construction until the Forest Service complies with federal regulations and environmental laws. They must take an honest, scientific look at the direct, indirect, and cumulative impact of the project on the forest's natural resources. We believe once they do, the Forest Service will be forced to abandon this project.

MONUMENT UPDATE: SECRETARY ZINKE'S "REVIEW"

We aren't sure why this Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, continually compares himself to the renowned conservationist Teddy Roosevelt. You may recall, Zinke rode a horse to report to his first day on the job. For those of us at Broads HQ, it brings to mind the phrase, " you and the horse you rode in on." Sometimes, humor is the best defense in these troubling times.

As this newsletter was going to print, Secretary Zinke slid his "secret" final recommendation for 27 national monuments under the door to #45. We hear Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments are at the top of the "hit list". Both are in Utah, a state whose delegation is overtly hostile toward conservation and public lands. Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is also likely to be reduced (insert chainsaw sounds here as the admin's cronies set their sights on timber harvest). It is rumored that Trump will reduce the size of these monuments despite that 99% of the 2.8 million comments made in favor of keeping *all* our national monuments intact.

Colorado's Senator Michael Bennet (D) nailed it when he released a statement in response: "Keeping today's recommendations secret is further proof that this ill-conceived and unnecessary review process is not in the best interest of local communities and tribes. Despite claims of transparency, it is troubling that Secretary Zinke would leave the American public in the dark, while the President decides the fate of our public land and water. Stakeholders and tribes... worked tirelessly to protect their ancestral home from future



development with the designation of Bears Ears National Monument—yet the Trump administration failed to consider their input or address their concerns in the review. We will continue to oppose this wildly unpopular effort to dismantle national monuments with all the tools at our disposal in the United States Senate.”

Please thank Senator Bennet and all others who have opposed the reduction of Bears Ears or any other monuments. Stay tuned for action steps and legal action from Broads once the results of Zinke’s review are made public.

MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY PLAN— A TRAJECTORY TO EXTINCTION?

Our Middle Gila Broadband chapter (AZ), led by Roz Switzer, signed Great Old Broads for Wilderness onto comments with other partners for the 2017 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. The plan quashes the best available science and kowtows to the state’s illegal demands to take over “management” of Mexican wolves even before they are considered recovered (i.e. delisted). To sum it up, previous iterations of recovery plans have called for three “naturally connected” populations, with each population maintaining 200–350 wolves, totaling at least 750. However, a population of 750 wolves does not guarantee the long-term survival of the species because of challenges associated with genetic inbreeding. This draft plan cuts the previous number of wolves in half and recommends 320–380 individuals are all that is needed for species recovery. And, the plan does not address habitat connectivity, which is critical to ensure movement and genetic exchange between populations.

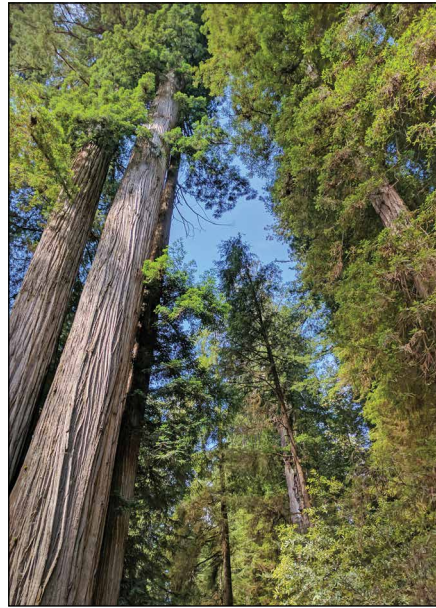


For more information, visit <http://mexicanwolves.org>.

HELP PROTECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA’S PUBLIC LANDS

The proposed *Northern California Conservation and Recreation Act* is gaining traction after California’s Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA2), held a series of public meetings across northern California to present the bill and get feedback from local communities. This bill “safeguards and restores important public lands, rivers, and streams in Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte counties.”

Broads and Bros attending our Redwoods Broadwalks learned about this effort and were inspired to write letters in support of the legislation. These letters were hand-delivered to Rep. Huffman at one of his public meetings in August, in front of a packed audience.



The messenger was our fabulous caterer for the Broadwalks. She relayed how 100 people traveled from around the country to learn about this spectacular region. They fell in love with it and wanted to ensure long-term protection of these ancient forests and pristine watersheds. Additionally, she discussed the importance of geotourism as an economic driver for rural communities, which supports local

businesses including her catering company and boyfriend’s kayaking business. Broads will be taking Huffmans’ bill to Washington, D.C. on October 16-20, when we will meet with more than 40 Senators and House Representatives to garner support.

To learn more about the bill, visit mountainsandrivers.org.
To write a letter of support, go to <http://bit.ly/NCMRItr>.

2018 W.A.L.T.S.

Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Sessions

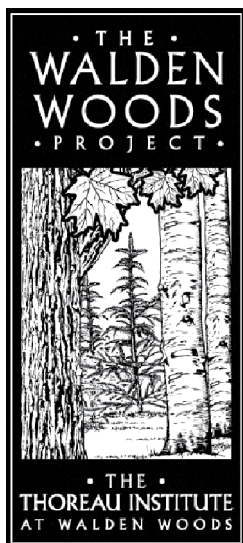


It’s our Broadband Leadership Program’s 10th anniversary!

Ready to step it up for mother nature? Become a Broadband Leader and learn the creative, effective, and WILD ways of a grassroots advocate. Your wild public lands need you. For more information visit our website or call Lauren at 970-385-9577.



BROADS RECEIVE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE AWARD



On September 15, 2017, the Walden Woods Project honored Great Old Broads for Wilderness with a Global Environmental Challenge Award. The award, which is given to three to four organizations and/or individuals every other year, recognizes efforts that create new opportunities and solutions to environmental challenges, drawing inspiration from the foundational thinking of Henry David Thoreau and building upon his principles of environmental stewardship, global interconnectedness, and personal responsibility.

Broads' board members Antonia Daly and Rynda Clark accepted the award, which was presented by songwriter

and recording artist Don Henley, who founded the Walden Woods Project in 1990. Paul Simon gave a special performance at the event, which was held at Boston Symphony Hall.

2017 Global ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD DINNER

On the same stage, E.O. Wilson, Harvard biologist

and author who is well-known as the "father of biodiversity," was presented the Global Environmental Leadership Award.

The Walden Woods Project preserves the land, literature and legacy of Henry David Thoreau to foster an ethic of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. The organization achieves this mission through the integration of conservation, education, research, and advocacy.

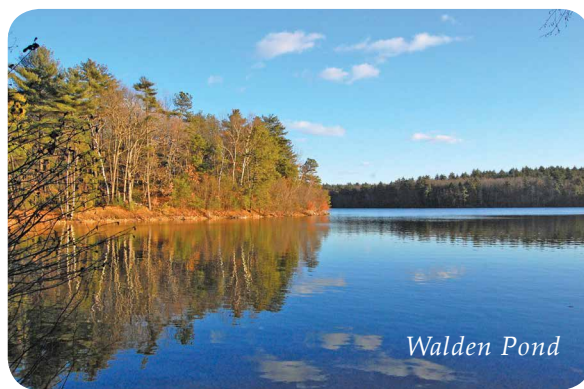
The Project uses the land it has protected in Walden Woods to foster an ethic of environmental stewardship and social responsibility, both cornerstones of Thoreau's philosophy.

Executive Director Kathi Anderson first encountered Broads through a piece on a news program. She researched Broads, and later we came to her attention through a sign-on in support of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

"We have long admired the fine work of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and value the opportunity to share its mission and accomplishments with the media and those in attendance at the Awards Dinner," said Anderson.

In addition to the recognition award, Broads received a \$1,000 contribution to further our work for the wild.

"We couldn't be more honored than to be recognized for carrying out Thoreau's principles," said Broads' Executive Director Shelley Silbert. "We will hold this honor in high regard as we move forward to protect nature, educate others, and even practice civil disobedience as needed."



Nature

*O Nature! I do not aspire
To be the highest in thy choir, -
To be a meteor in thy sky,
Or comet that may range on high;
Only a zephyr that may blow
Among the reeds by the river low;
Give me thy most privy place
Where to run my airy race.*

*In some withdrawn, unpublic mead
Let me sigh upon a reed,
Or in the woods, with leafy din,
Whisper the still evening in:
Some still work give me to do, -
Only - be it near to you!*

*For I'd rather be thy child
And pupil, in the forest wild,
Than be the king of men elsewhere,
And most sovereign slave of care;
To have one moment of thy dawn,
Than share the city's year forlorn.*

— Henry David Thoreau



KEEP THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND ALIVE!

by Vicky Hoover

Here's an opportunity for you to help make key private lands public through the campaign to reauthorize the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Using a small part of the royalties paid to the federal government by oil and gas companies for offshore energy, the LWCF provides funds for agencies to purchase private inholdings within national parks, national forests, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and wildlife refuges. The stateside program of LWCF provides grants that allow counties and communities to acquire land and develop new community parks and other outdoor recreation facilities—like swimming pools, bike paths, tennis courts, and campgrounds.

Americans enjoy the benefits LWCF brings to their communities, but take the source of the funds for granted. Few understand that the LWCF will expire at the end of 2018 unless Congress acts to reauthorize it.

Many members of Congress are aware of this impending expiration and want LWCF's "free" funding to keep on



coming. As of mid August, the House reauthorization bill, HR 502, has 174 bipartisan co-sponsors, and Senate bills, S 569 and S 896, have 39—impressive numbers that show the LWCF's popularity.

If the bills are so popular, then what is the hang-up? Alas, one powerful opponent, Utah Congressman Rob Bishop (R), chair of the Natural Resources Committee vents his dislike for public lands by not allowing the House bill to be heard in his committee. There is only one way to overcome his malice. We need MORE Republican co-sponsors. Calling YOUR member of Congress can make it happen!

If you live in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Michigan,

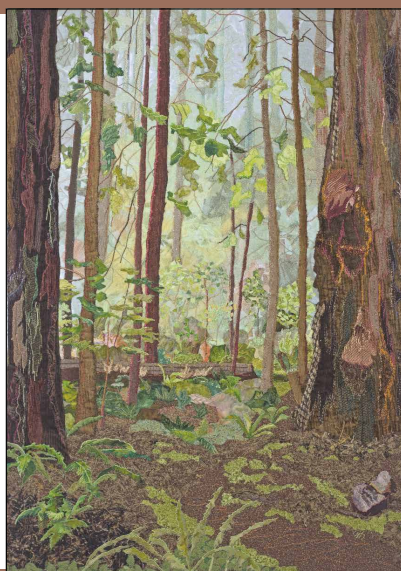
Few understand that the LWCF will expire at the end of 2018 unless Congress acts to reauthorize it.

Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, or Wisconsin, your senator and congressional representative could be an important addition to the co-sponsor list. If you live in other states—your representative may deserve some thanks.

Call your congressional office in Washington, D.C. and ask for the staffer who works on public lands/natural resource issues to urge them to get their boss to co-sponsor HR 502, or S 569 and S 896.

For more specific info on where your representatives stand and how to make an effective call to Congress, contact Broads' member Vicky Hoover (Sierra Club LWCF task force chair) at Vicky. hoover@sierraclub.org or 415-977-5527

Reactivating the LWCF is especially important now, because more Americans than ever live in urban areas and need public places to enjoy nature.



2017 RAFFLE!

Among The Redwoods

In case you haven't heard, for our 2017 raffle, we are pleased to present this breathtaking piece of art created by celebrated fabric artist Patricia Hastings-Sargent (Trish).

Trish and her husband John joined us at the first Redwoods Broadwalk, where she shared her inspiration for the art piece (the audience was moved to tears). She also talked about the innovative techniques she employs to achieve this beautiful effect with fabric. We are grateful for her generous donation!

To purchase raffle tickets (\$5 each or 5 for \$20), visit <http://bit.ly/BroadsRaffle>. The drawing will be held December 1, 2017.



Study a Broad

Janice Shepherd: Belle of the BLM

by Susan Kearns



If you're a member of the Grand Junction Broadband or the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Grand Junction Field Office, you're likely part of the Janice Shepherd Fan Club.

This exceptional Broad, with the heart of an explorer, is a documentation dynamo esteemed for her keen sense of organization, and land restoration and hike planning skills. She has not only won the admiration of her fellow Broads but also that of the BLM. In January, Janice received a state award for her volunteer activities; then, in May, she was given a national award for Outstanding Achievement as part of the BLM's "Making a Difference" Volunteer Recognition Program.

A retired computer programmer, Janice is involved in a cornucopia of activities that take her outside and give her a chance to learn, grow, and help others. She said her activities were first inspired several years ago when she attended a talk about Broads' Healthy Lands Project given by former associate director, Rose Chilcoat.

*She's inspired
the rest of us
to do more
in the way of
volunteering*

Janice's love of exploring feeds her innate curiosity and desire to see new places. She's documented everything from roads to climbing routes to grazing conditions and wilderness characteristics. She's discovered unknown trash dumps, cabins, and other oddities, such as a pond filled with dead salamanders in the Uncompahgre National Forest.

Armed with a camera and GPS, Janice is highly adept at incorporating the data she gathers into meticulous reports that serve as important resources for land management planning. Grand Junction Broadband Leader Sherry Schenk says Janice has an amazing ability to read large, complex documents and point out missing components. As skilled in paperwork as she is in fieldwork, Janice has proven to be invaluable to the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office. They've armed her with a top-of-the-line GPS and turned her loose on projects with the utmost confidence in her abilities.

Many Broads sing Janice's praises, saying she's smart, funny, warm, and a great storyteller. Jennifer O'Donnell met her on a Western Slope Adventurers hike, where Janice was the hike leader.

"One of the characteristics I loved about Janice was her keenness to observe all that was around her. She noticed the little things, like how a leaf settled lightly atop the

snow; the big things, such as a grand vista; and everything in between," Jennifer recalled. "Meeting Janice was pure joy and opened up my life in new ways."

The Grand Junction Broadband has worked the last few years gathering native seed and replanting areas to restore damaged landscapes. Keeping people off these fragile areas to allow recovery has been a challenge, so Janice helped design a sign—and even paid for it with a portion of the money she received for the national BLM award.

Sherry has worked with Janice to train students and at-risk youth about ecological restoration through the Western Colorado Conservation Corps. She, along with others, comment on Janice's gift for keeping young people engaged and motivated.

"I have seen her in action on a trails cleanup event with 25 eighth graders who were wielding scrub brushes and firefighter water packs," said Broadband member Renee Brown.

For Janice, every undertaking is an educational adventure. Fascinated by archaeology, she is a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is a trained cultural resources site steward. She documents all artifacts in her exploration—not just those from ancient cultures—which provides a unique insight into the lives of early settlers.

Janice organizes and leads many hikes, regaling fellow trekkers with interesting and enlightening tidbits, while also raising awareness of the importance of land protections. "Every hike is likely to be a data collection site—whether it is old rusty cans found on the trail, lithics that indicate tool and arrowhead building, or sheep fences that need recording," shared Broadband member Mary Hertert.

Last year, the Grand Junction Broadband logged 849 volunteer hours and Janice's time commitment represents about half that figure. On top of that, she had 365 more hours dedicated to the BLM. All these hours working with the BLM has given Janice a better appreciation for just how tough their job can be. She observes the agency's staff is pushed and pulled in many directions, but despite that, they try to be evenhanded in their actions.

"She's inspired the rest of us to do more in the way of volunteering—and her volunteer work has also made Janice our expert on all affairs BLM," says Sherry.

Words of wisdom from this volunteer extraordinaire? Janice says getting involved with land management agencies takes extra effort. While you would think the agencies would greet volunteers with open arms, you have to remember it takes time for staff to interact with volunteers. She advises patience—don't give up—just keep on being helpful to build those relationships.



Janice helped design and fund this sign to protect fragile areas that have been replanted.



EVENT RECAP: *Oh! The fun we had!* THE REDWOODS NATIONAL BROADWALK

by Monica Gray

To celebrate public land in the Redwoods we drove late into the night, with a 19-hour highway ride from Montana lying ahead of my mother and I. When we found the Broadwalk spot, after much (and yet not enough) exploration, the air was sweet-smelling of cedar and Doug fir and full of forest sound. We had arrived.

Susanne Twight-Alexander was the first whom I met; a poet and I did not even know it. I introduced myself to a few other tellurian and alluvial broads and circling up, we shared tidbits about ourselves including our spirit animal. Choosing a place to put a tent was simple enough, and I soon let the day come to an end.

A cloudy Friday morning, I awoke to a banana slug halfway in my teacup, halfway out. Setting the mug atop the coffee station near our kitchen tent for all to extol, the slug drifted down and, with the veracious guidance of Jan Ewing, freed itself from the hum of the tea party, going back to the earth. Almost a dozen Forest Service rangers arrived during our scrumptious breakfast to prepare us for our stewardship project.

Who knew service of the forest could involve leaf blowers and weed whackers, some of the heaviest machinery I have operated? About 11 of us Broads cleaned up the nearby campsite, scrubbing picnic tables and scooping ashes from pits. One of the rangers explained that this type of flat, natural meadow in the forest is unusual to find.

After dinner, Broads enjoyed a presentation by Dan Sealy, of Northcoast Environmental Center, about the history of women in the redwoods. Then, Ryan Henson, from the California Wilderness Coalition, kept us laughing with “punny stories” throughout his presentation about the proposed Northwest California’s Mountains & Rivers legislation (since retitled as the Northern California Conservation and Recreation Act).

Saturday morning came quickly and we headed off for a paddle. Advised by the raft-guide bros on how to do this thing, with implicit understanding, we set off on the placid Smith River. My attention cast from the clear waters to the tremendous cedars on the shore, with an optimistic eye peeled for the marbled murrelet bird. I experienced a personal struggle to remain with the group instead of diving into the tranquil watercourse. The highlight of the float for me, was chatting with Eva while strolling the well-trodden path through magnificent Sequoioideae.

That evening, preceding dinner and the sharing circle, Mary Ellen Hannibal, author of *Citizen Scientist* and *Spine of the*

Continent, helped us to understand that the death of one species may correspond with the prosperity of another species. The food chain is an ever-changing web of consumption.

Yoga in the morning was lovely. Carol Savonen reminded us to look for the carnivorous

Darlingtonia californica, the California pitcher plant or cobra lily, which grows on serpentine soils in the area. Some of us took off for a hike down the lush canyon above the Smith River on a trail cleared of a wet and snowy winter’s fallen oak trees and brush by Broads the day before. We discussed “factioning,” pondered the term “environmentalist,” and reflected on the origins of such terms as “liberal,” “conservative,” and “pigeonhole.” While admiring the twisted Madrone trees and Sword Ferns, Joe Gillespie from Friends of Del Norte explained how the Carter Administration coined the term “sustained yield” and how that evolved to “departure from sustained yield” to facilitate logging and money grabbing. He also told us about “Hugelkultur,” an example of using traditional ecological knowledge to rehabilitate ecosystems.

Upon return to our meadow camp, we wrote letters to Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA2), who will introduce the Northern California Conservation and Recreation Act. We also wrote to Secretary Zinke, imploring the preservation of national monuments under fire.

That evening held a discussion about trout populations presented by Phillip Barrington from California Fish & Wildlife. Our second speaker, Kimberly Baker, educated us about the historic liquidation of biomass that happened in these unique and rare, mixed conifer, temperate rainforest biomes, and shared the story of the Redwood Summer of the 1990s.

On Monday, the Broads concluded with teatime and goodbyes. Martha Harnly and I settled on a few things: local knowledge is validity and a healthy forest does not involve fire fighters or logging of any kind.

Considering tree sitting as an occupation, mother and I set out for a day of swimming and continuance of our journey, leaving no trace behind.



A tellurian Broad contemplates Sequoian toweriferousness.



Monica (left) and her mother, Bozeman Broadband leader Nancy Ostlie (right), put pen to hand on behalf of the Northern California Conservation and Recreation Act and public lands.



our children's health and the health of the planet to meet today's budget shortfalls," Clark told him, "Sometimes the solutions to problems cannot be determined until you have committed to do the right thing."

Oregon Broadbands from Portland, Willamette Valley, and Bend activated members to call, write letters, and demonstrate at the capitol to stop the sale of this treasure trove of carbon-storing trees. To the public's shock and delight, the Land Board reversed its decision in May and declared the forest will not be sold. Now Broads and partners will work towards a conservation-oriented forest management plan.

In New Mexico, Rio Grande Valley Broads jumped in as a primary conservation voice at the table in the Zuni Mountain Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project in the Cibola National Forest. Helping to shape forest management decisions in this rural and sparsely populated portion of the state, the Broads are looking at large-scale restoration and its impacts on wildlife and habitat, including installing monitoring equipment to assess an endangered fish, the Zuni Bluehead Sucker.

And in California, Greater Bay Area Broadband leader, Maureen Forney, spoke at a public hearing in Eureka to support the California Conservation and Recreation Act, the crowd breaking into wild applause as they heard our organization's name. At the Crescent City public hearing, another wonder woman—the lithe Chelsea Baier, who catered food for eighty people at our Redwood Broadwalks—delivered nearly 100 letters of support from our group to Congressman Jared Huffman (see *Broader Wilderness*). Like so many Broads across the country, our Broads in northern California are gearing up for action.

"I AM WONDER WOMAN"

This summer during the Redwoods Broadwalk, a group of us walked in a spellbinding old-growth grove of coastal redwoods on the banks of the aqua-clear Smith River. As we rounded a bend in the trail, we saw enormous fallen trunks, some growing thickly with sword ferns and huckleberries. A young woman, jet-black hair shining beneath a metallic gold ball cap,



hopped from trunk to trunk. She ran up an angled tree, taking an action pose as her friend shot photos.

"You look like Wonder Woman," I told her with a grin.

"I AM Wonder Woman," she declared with confidence and glee.

That, I thought, is a broad in the making.

With just that much determination and certitude, we must face the

conservation battles ahead, leaping from streamside to county commission, from canyon to Congress, from tree to town square. Together, we can keep up the fight, against all odds, until we re-emerge again into the light.

A Broad Tribute Effie Neth, 1946–2017

In January, we were saddened to lose Effie Neth, a member of the Willamette Valley Broadband in Oregon. She came to Broads for the same reasons many do... she liked the name and loved that this group of mostly older women was "doing something" to protect public lands—and she was looking for hiking companions.

In an interview at the Owyhee Broadwalk in 2015, Effie shared that preserving wilderness was close to her heart—particularly saving the land from the impacts of overuse and keeping public lands in public hands—a threat that has since come to the forefront of Broads' concerns.

"Now that I'm retired, I want to give back in a way that is meaningful to me—and what Broads does...works," said Effie.



The Owyhee was her first Broadwalk and Willamette Broadband Co-Leader Cyndi Anderson says that trip was a turning point for Effie. She became more deeply involved with the Broadband, especially during the last year before her death.

"She attended the Broadbands' Hart Mountain Broadwalk, and it was there we started to get to know her and love her," said Cyndi.

Effie contributed in many ways, helping with meetings, social gatherings, and tabling at events. She was one of the first to sign up when the Willamette Broadband chartered a bus to the Women's March on Portland. Unfortunately, Effie fell ill and was unable to attend. She passed away just a few days after the march.

Effie continued her commitment even after her passing, honoring Broads with a generous bequest of stock. We acknowledge and express our overwhelming gratitude for Effie's gift, her kindness and love for the natural world, and her devotion to Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

Our broadest appreciation, Effie, for protecting what you have always loved.

If you have a passion for our work and would like to include us in your will or trust—or if you already have—we'd love to know. Contact us at broads@greatoldbroads.org or call our office. Thank you for your commitment to Broads!



A BROADS' YEAR: Priceless Homestay Adventures

by Laura Johnston

Looking for a way to have an adventure and support Great Old Broads for Wilderness at the same time? Consider bidding on homestays during the 2017 Wild for Wilderness Online Auction. It is the perfect combination of travel and adventure—plus your money goes to a good cause!

In 2016, my husband and I chose to bid to stay in other people's homes. We liked the idea of meeting like-minded people around the west, learning about local issues, traveling, and also stretching our comfort zone. If knocking on a stranger's door to spend the night seems uncomfortable, that was our starting point too. Now, after visiting six lovely homes, we are thrilled to report the experience far surpassed anything we could have hoped for.

Our first stop was to a cozy garage apartment in Ridgway, Colorado. The owners of Stone House Cottage have created a lovely space to relax and enjoy the beauty of the mountains. Our trip focused on cross country skiing, but there are many other outdoor activities to enjoy. We discovered that Ridgway has great food for such a little mountain town.

Our next stop took us to Steamboat Springs, Colorado where we stayed in a



home in town and a more remote home twelve miles away. Both were a delight. Great breakfasts, good conversation and more Nordic skiing highlighted the visits. Learning about Broads by staying with a current board member is the best because we could ask so many questions.

Then on to Aspen, Colorado to a lovely condo, more skiing, and a chance to learn about the area from a long time local conservationist. Seeing how people connect with their local communities and the projects that they are involved with was a unique part of this trip. We skied up to the Maroon Bells Wilderness on a groomed track on a beautiful Colorado winter day.

The snow started melting, so we put away the skis and grabbed our bikes. We headed down near Grants, New Mexico to stay at the handcrafted adobe Zuni House with two world travelers. Their tales of the places they've visited only

increased our desire to travel. We got to explore a local national monument and do some hiking and biking. The weather was lovely and the first of the season's daffodils were blooming in their garden.

Our last adventure was near Durango, Colorado, where we stayed with two scientists who have created an energy efficient home on a remote property. We saw turkeys roosting, great horned owls, a small herd of deer, and many songbirds. One highlight: they shared photos from a motion-activated camera that captured a mountain lion passing by their home two nights earlier!

Now we have many new friends, ideas on how to live a better life, and huge appreciation for the kind people who opened their homes and lives to us. And guess what? Our comfort zone has stretched so far that we are going to offer our home in the 2017 auction!

If you are looking for a unique vacation consider bidding on one of the many homestays in the Wild for Wilderness auction this November. Whatever your final bid, to experience a homestay with Great Old Broads is "priceless".

The Wild for Wilderness Online Auction is not only a great way to get your hands on awesome gear and getaways, it also helps Broads train, inspire, and support public lands activists across the country. Do your part and make a "bid" for wilderness!

Are you WILD for Wilderness? October 29–November 12, 2017
AUCTION.GREATOLDBROADS.ORG

B.S. - Broadly Speaking

We want you to share thoughts, experiences, and creative expressions about your connection to Mother Earth. What moved you to be an advocate? What inspires you? Why Broads? Please share poetry, essays, art, and other musings.

Please keep your word count to about 400 words. We may edit your piece, but will seek approval and let you know when it will appear in *Broadsides*. Not a writer? Give us a call, share your story, and we'll write it down.

We are accepting submissions online at: <http://www.greatoldbroads.org/broadly-speaking>

...or send by mail to P.O. Box 2924, Durango, CO 81302. If sending by mail, please double space and title the document, and include your name, address, phone, and email.





of critical habitat the Act protects have long been blamed for stifling the industry. This year, dozens of amendments and bills have targeted the ESA. Proposed “fixes” include defunding enforcement of the ESA, bypassing land managers and scientists to delist species directly, and giving industry outsized seats at the table when determining which species need protection.

Republicans in Congress justify these proposals by questioning the ESA’s effectiveness, however out of more than 1,600 plant and animal species protected under the act, only 10 are now extinct—eight of which were suspected to be extinct before being listed. We cannot let this successful law be dismantled.

PACKING THE JUDICIARY

Administrations, Congress, and laws are vulnerable to changes in government leadership, but in the judiciary, appointments are for life. Neil Gorsuch’s confirmation made headlines, but the dozens of federal judges selected by Trump have gone relatively unnoticed until recently.

Despite hundreds of key positions that remain vacant in the administration, Trump has been diligent in nominating federal judges faster than his predecessors. The reason is clear: the Supreme Court handles only about 80 cases a year, while lower federal courts have the final word on more than 50,000 decisions annually.

The new judges are generally pro-industry, anti-regulation, and younger than average. One of Trump’s nominees, Allison Eid, is typical in

consistently favoring the rights of oil and gas companies to do as they please over the objections of the public.

GRASSROOTS ACTION FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

For all the bluster and attacks on public lands and the climate, Trump’s energy policies have a core weakness: According to Pew Research Center, 61% of the world’s population and 54% of Americans know climate change is a top threat facing humanity. Gallup Poll reports that over two thirds of Americans recognize that climate change is human-caused.

All the money-backed climate denial in the world is failing to suppress the facts, and we can take action now:

- **Make public lands part of the solution to climate change.**

With good management, our public lands can protect carbon stores and absorb greenhouse gases. Get involved in protecting more public land from oil and gas, mining, over grazing, and logging (especially old-growth and long-established forests). Work with agencies on resource and forest management plans to be sure the conservation voice is key to the discussion. (See *Growing your Grassroots* on page 5 and *Too Wild to Drill* on page 15.)

- **Preserve the Endangered Species Act.**

Contact your elected officials to ask them to support the ESA and to protect critical habitat from dirty energy companies.

- **Defend democracy.**

Bad judges may be here to stay, but they are a reminder that elections have consequences. Stay indivisible and step up involvement with community groups and local politics to strategize for elections, educate the public, and get out the vote.

This is the power of grassroots—when enough local efforts are pointed at the same goal, it yields global results as people across the U.S. and around the world are spurred to action to protect our Earth’s future.

Broads is committed to grassroots action and real talk that builds community, educates people, and improves local decision-making. Get involved with one of our 38 Broadband chapters across the country, or call Broads’ office to step up your involvement.



HQ WISHLIST

We’ve worn out our welcome borrowing equipment from staff, friends, and family. Donations towards purchasing gear are gratefully accepted as well!

Campsite Counters (river tables)

New, used, or something similar.
<http://bit.ly/CampCounter>

Anodized 14” Aluminum Dutch Ovens

<http://bit.ly/DOven>

Hand washing stations

<http://bit.ly/HWstation>

Repair for Broads’ Honda Pilot

Sadly for both, it met with a deer on the way to the Redwoods Broadwalk. Repair estimate: \$4,000.



Too Wild to Drill

Last spring, Broads began a partnership with The Wilderness Society (TWS) to protect public lands from new oil and gas leasing. TWS appreciates our strong grassroots presence in rural and urban communities in the interior west, and supports our involvement to strengthen a “Too Wild to Drill” project. Our joint effort helps us get our members in the field to identify, document, and photograph lands at risk. In this way, we can generate comments from local citizens on potential lease sales, support media efforts, and find individuals with *standing* for legal challenges (*legal standing* means that an individual has or will sustain direct injury from an action, such as a lease sale, and therefore can serve as a plaintiff in a lawsuit).

In June, Broads’ staff member Lionel Di Giacomo accompanied Grand Junction and La Plata Broadband members to visit parcels in Colorado’s Mesa and Garfield counties. They documented conditions and then submitted

both organizational and member comments asking that these parcels be deferred from leasing until a fuller, site-specific analysis can be carried out that follows law and policy mandates. Oil and gas drilling on these parcels would impact prairie dogs, pronghorn, mule deer, elk, as well as two significant natural communities and four imperiled mammal and lizard species. Development would also lead to deterioration of water resources, air quality, and climate.

Janice Shepherd (see *Study A Broad*) wrote an eloquent Letter to the Editor to the *Grand Junction Sentinel* describing how we need to balance oil and gas extraction with other values of our public lands, so we can experience wide open spaces rather than memorialize them in expensive paintings on a wall.

Broad continues to work closely with TWS to identify public lands we must watchdog as the Trump administration continues to grease the skids for new oil and gas development.



**BE BOLD
BE BRAVE
BE A BROAD**



**Step up and join
the fight for
Mother Earth.**

Put your life experience
and passion to work.

Get involved
with Broads today.

**EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
STEWARDSHIP
AND FUN!**

WWW.GREATOLDBROADS.ORG/JOIN-US/

**Support our work
to save wild places
for the future!**



*I saw old Autumn in the misty morn stand
shadowless like silence, listening to silence.*

– Thomas Hood





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Lorena Herron of the Cascade Volcanoes Broadband (OR) helps remove invasive Yellow Flag Iris from Pierce Nat'l Wildlife Refuge.



Join or Renew Today!

Do it online at <http://bit.ly/joinbroads>

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!

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