



BROADSIDES

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April 2004

In A Broad Sense **by Ronni Egan**

Spring, as they say, has sprung here in the Southern Rockies. Crocuses are tentatively poking up amidst the patches of melting snow, and I'm hearing redwing blackbirds along the creek. The Northern Hemisphere of this, our small, blue mother planet is awakening again to face yet another season of human impacts. This season of renewal has always felt hopeful to me, and it does again this year as the US of A enters into what is arguably the most important election in many decades.

I'm hopeful because I sense a real upsurge of the kind of rage and indignation a mother bear must feel when her cubs are threatened. (Remember "the mother bear in the basement" a couple of newsletters ago?) Citizens across the land, including many Great Old Broads, are rising to the occasion

and becoming involved in the political process, many for the first time in their lives. Democracy is being resuscitated. And not a moment too soon!

The past 3+ years have seen an unprecedented assault on

the resurrection of a defunct 1866 mining rule. All of these things and more have environmental groups reeling. It seems that most of our collective energy is aimed at trying to halt the onrushing degradation of our treasured public lands. But not ALL of our energy!



Rose Chilcoat, Ronni Egan, and Cathy Cowles in Arch Canyon, monitoring OHV conditions prior to the San Juan ATV safari.

environmental protection and citizen participation in land use policy at the hands of a few extremely powerful and ruthless people in high places, and the results are beginning to be felt upon the land.

Perhaps the most distressing, to me at least, has been the opening up of virtually all wilderness-quality lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and the US Forest Service, to oil and gas development, logging, off-highway vehicle (OHV) expansion and spurious "highway" right-of way claims by local governments due to

Great Old Broads is introducing a new project that is one of the few proactive programs on the scene today. Land management agencies have been caught off guard by the explosive growth of OHV use and a lack of sufficient funding and "person-power" to adequately address the issue. Until recently agencies such as the US Forest Service have had no policy at all concerning these machines! So Broads

has decided to take matters into our own hands with our new **Great Old Broads Healthy Lands Project**, which will provide comprehensive citizens' field data for effective off-highway vehicle management on public lands.

Broads Board member Diane Tracy of Salt Lake City is an avid hiker who became increasingly distressed by the exploding OHV impacts around Utah. Using her talents as a database manager, Diane has created a system to monitor and record OHV impacts that can be used by activists, scientists

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Please Join Us!

- ✱ Days in the Desert – May 20-23
- ✱ Gunnison Broadfloat – June 1-5 (trip is currently full)
- ✱ Yaak Montana Broadwalk – July 15-19
- ✱ 15th Anniversary Broadwalk & OHV Workshop – Sept 30-Oct 4

*For details please see pg 10 or visit us at www.greatoldbroads.org

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

In a Broad Sense...

and legal experts in their efforts to encourage appropriate land management policies.

In a nutshell, our OHV project involves training volunteers to use a monitoring form containing spaces to record location, date, and conditions on the ground, which are then uploaded to a web site containing the database, which we dubbed GINGER, after our own inimitable wilderness champion, Ginger Harmon of Ketchum. GINGER stands for **G**reat **O**ld Broads **I**nteractive **N**ational **G**rassroots **E**valuation **R**esource.

Along with Diane's own many tireless hours of work on the monitoring form and database, Tom Messenger, of Moab, Utah has put in countless hours helping to develop the web site that will eventually store Diane's database. (The web site and database are still a work-in-progress, but we will let you know when they are ready for viewing.)

Volunteers will receive training in the use of a GPS (Global Positioning System) unit and digital camera, and given instruction on how to fill out the monitoring form. This training takes only an hour or so, and new

volunteers will be paired with more experienced folks the first time out. I and several other Broads did the training last summer in Monticello, Utah, where we used the system to monitor the San Juan ATV Safari. If *I* can learn to use these tools in an hour, anyone can! The results of the monitoring are then uploaded to our database, GINGER.

We will be working with the Wild Utah Project, Red Rock Forests, Western Resource Advocates and other local Utah groups for the first year, during which time we will be refining the monitoring techniques and database. Thereafter, GINGER will "go national" as we work to create a nationwide OHV database and web site.

As you can see, this project will launch Broads into a whole new realm of environmental activism. We will, however, maintain our focus of providing a variety of opportunities for members, including our Days in the Desert grazing workshop in Moab in May, Broadfloat on the Gunnison River in June, Yaak Montana Broadwalk in July and, of course, our gala 15th Anniversary Celebration near St. George, Utah in late September.



Rose Chilcoat documents rutting damage in Arch Canyon. Photo by Bill Love.

Our anniversary event will include an OHV monitoring workshop, in which we will train volunteers to use our new system. Then we'll go out and use it while hiking the spectacular redrock country around Snow Canyon State Park. I urge everyone to consider participating in a Broadwalk, and especially, to attend the September Celebration. We have a stellar lineup of speakers, including Broads founding Executive Director Susan Tixier, guide and author Steve Allen, Bart Koehler of the Wilderness Support Center and several other presenters. We hope you'll join us!

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a non-profit, public lands organization that uses the voices and activism of elders to increase, protect, and preserve wilderness.

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness was conceived in 1989 by older women who loved wilderness and organized to protect it. The wisdom of their combined years (more than three centuries!) told them that the Broads could bring knowledge, commitment, high spirits, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

Today, the Great Old Broads has over 2,000 active members throughout the United States. You do not have to be female, or old, or even great for that matter! to join—but you must be "bold" for wilderness. Please join us on the adventure. Wilderness needs your help!

Preserving Wilderness in the East

by Kathleen Fitzgerald

Nancy Smith has worked in Boston for the past fifteen years as a tireless advocate for wilderness preservation. She is the Executive Director of Sweet Water Trust, a foundation dedicated to protecting wild landscapes in the Northern Appalachian region. Annie Faulkner is a busy mom with two small children. In her “spare time” she is an advocate for population stabilization, woman’s rights, and low-impact living. She lives in rural New Hampshire.

Merloyd Ludington is a publisher who has produced books such as *Living Down Stream* and *The Wildest Place on Earth*. Merloyd’s desk is in Boston, but her heart is in the wilds of the Northeast. Kathleen Fitzgerald loves to back country ski, rock climb and hike. She is a naturalist by training, but you find her most often in meetings and behind computer screens strategizing on wilderness preservation.

What do these four women have in common? They are Great Old Broads, have a passion for wilderness preservation, and were instrumental in founding and crafting the Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT), the only regional land trust focused exclusively on the protection and restoration of wilderness in the Northeast.

The northeastern states reflect an incredible story of recovery. For more than a century, this region has been regaining *wildness*. Where land had been cleared, forests are returning and wildlife is rebounding. Yet, this remarkable recovery is far from complete. The Northeast’s natural heritage is increasingly threatened.

There have been tremendous conservation achievements in the Northeast; however, less than three percent is protected as forever-wild.

“NWT’s sharp focus on lands to be kept forever-wild and its activity in a distinct and precious region of the country stand out among the many groups with other missions and agendas,” said Merloyd.

When asked about Wilderness, most people think of public land that is designated under the federal 1964 Wilderness Act or the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act as Wilderness. These

The Northeast Wilderness Trust was founded on the core belief that wilderness must become a bigger part of the conservation landscape so that wild Nature will endure in this corner of America.

pieces of legislation enable Wilderness designation on public lands through an act of Congress. However, because a majority of the Northeast is privately owned and can not be deemed as Wilderness by Congress, other solutions are necessary to protect additional wilderness. Northeast Wilderness Trust is focused on preserving private land as wilderness through conservation easements, land acquisition, and other tools.



Left to right: Merloyd Ludington, Virginia Harnden, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Annie Faulkner taking a rest on a ridge Northeast Wilderness Trust is working to preserve. Photo by Rick Van de Poll

So few groups are doing forever-wild protection,” said Annie. “NWT is going ‘where few have gone before’ and it’s fun and interesting to be part of the team.”

Just two years after its inception, NWT has preserved land in the Adirondacks and Vermont and is actively working on wilderness projects of all sizes in New Hampshire, Maine, New York and Vermont.

Wilderness is the cradle of evolution and a longtime refuge and inspiration for Americans. Please join us in our efforts to leave a wild legacy in the Northeast by becoming a member and/or contacting us about preserving your land as wild.

For more information, contact:

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Broads in the Background—Saving the Bay

Great Old Broad Sylvia McLaughlin has a vision in her mind—a vision of the San Francisco Bay as a clean, healthy ecosystem with a necklace of shoreline parks linked together by the Bay Trail system. And it's happening, slowly, but surely.

It's a vision that started percolating back in the early 1960s, when she and two other friends, Esther Gulick and Catherine (Kay) Kerr, got together

“The Bay is never really saved. It's always in the process of being saved.”
—Kay Kerr

and decided that the Bay needed saving. At that time, most of the Bay's shoreline was closed to the public and was used for industry, ports, airports, sewage outfalls, and dumps. The newest plan was to for the city of Berkeley to fill more than 2,000 acres of open Bay water to double the size of the town. “We thought that was a pretty horrendous idea,” Sylvia said. So the three women got busy.

They called a meeting at Esther's house with the leaders of the environmental organizations around at that time. “They all agreed that the Bay needed saving, but they were too busy saving the Redwoods, saving the wilderness, and so on,” said Sylvia.



Esther, Sylvia and Kay at a hearing in Sacramento in the 1960s.

“David Brower (the first executive director of the Sierra Club) was there, and he said he thought that someone should start a new organization to save the Bay. Then they all wished us luck and filed out.”

Looking around and realizing that they were the “someone,” Sylvia and her friends jumped into action, despite not having had any training or involvement in this kind of effort. They mailed off 1,000 letters asking \$1 for membership, and received 900 responses. “We were very lucky. People could see what was happening. You could see the filling. You could see the garbage burning. It was easy to enlist help,” Sylvia said.

By 1963, they were a full-blown organization called Save the Bay with 2,500 members and enough support to go to the Berkeley City Council and convince them to halt plans to fill the Bay. In 1965, Save the Bay won a legislative moratorium against placing fill in the Bay through the McAteer-Petris Act. Perhaps more importantly though, the Act established the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) as a state agency to regulate shoreline development and ensure public access.

While the establishment of the BCDC is considered by Sylvia as one of the most significant accomplishments of Save the Bay, she also acknowledges that it hasn't ended the issue. “When we established the BCDC we

thought, ‘that's it, we've solved the problem,’ but you have to make sure it stays in place, that the BCDC continues to get funding and that the board is not biased or too pro-development,” said Sylvia.



Sylvia at a marsh area along the Bay. Photo by David Sanger

For example, in 1995, Governor Pete Wilson tried to eliminate the BCDC by cutting funding. Save the Bay members mounted a strong PR campaign and also worked with the Bay Planning Coalition, which represents maritime and other industries, to save the agency. “There was a big public hearing. (Officials) were so astonished to see the environmentalists and the business community speaking with one voice,” she said. “Full funding was restored.”

“The price of a beautiful bay is eternal vigilance,” said Sylvia. And even today, over 40 years later, Sylvia is still working to save the Bay. Sylvia's current preoccupation is with the Eastshore State Park, a life dream of hers. “Ever since we started we hoped that it could all be public domain,” said Sylvia.

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Broads Welcomes New Board Member

Our newest Board member Julie Wormser, is perhaps not as gray-haired as some of us, but she has the passion and humor of all Great Old Broads.

Her first encounter with the Broads was in 1996, when she participated in Broads Chix in the Stix mentoring conference. She was impressed by the Broads “wonderful humor, joy and Broadness. Even the name makes you laugh,” says Julie. “The joy and humor of Broads isn’t intrinsic in every wilderness group, but it’s a very powerful quality about Broads.”

As a new board member, Julie is looking forward to working with so many other strong women on wilderness issues and also helping to expand Broads influence and members



Julie, sea kayaking with her dog Rufus.

in the East. “Being with this group of women completely cracks me up and gives me stamina to do my part of the work as well,” says Julie.

Currently, Julie directs The Wilderness Society’s land conservation funding campaign. She created and co-leads wilderness campaigns in Vermont and New Hampshire, and was involved in the planning efforts of our recent Vermont Broadwalk. Her expertise includes legislative strategy development, coalition building, public land management, and grassroots advocacy.

Julie lives in Littleton, Massachusetts with her husband, Fred Small. The two are avid sea kayakers and spend several weeks each summer exploring Maine’s rocky coastline via the Maine Island Trail.

Saving the Bay

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Slowly, it’s getting there—from a feasibility study by State Parks in 1982, to negotiating land purchases and cleanup, to the planning process, the Eastshore State Park has been moving along. Unfortunately, the Park is currently stuck in the implementation process with a timeline of over twenty years. In Sylvia’s usual style, she told the Park District Board of Directors that she hoped the timeline could be shortened as she wasn’t sure she’d live to be 105.

Though there have been ups and downs all along the way, Sylvia wouldn’t trade any of it. “It’s gratifying to go down to the shoreline and see so many people enjoying access to the Bay and to see the view of the Bay as water, not land. People

have become aware of its importance and share our admiration of it.”

Another great part about her involvement in saving the Bay has been those that she’s met and worked with. “All the various connections with many other groups and with many wonderful people,” said Sylvia. “I don’t know if we could do it today. Most of our volunteers were women. Housewives who had the time to go to meetings and write letters. If Broads had existed then, they would have been amongst our supporters.”

While Sylvia may not get everything she’s hoped for in her lifetime, she never stops trying to make things better for the Bay. “You just have to be optimistic. You just have to be persistent and determined and never give up.” Thank you Sylvia, for never giving up. —BL

Broads Broadcast

◆ WE NEED YOUR EMAIL

If you have not given us your email address or have recently changed your email address, *please* let us know what it is! Email is an efficient and money saving way for us to communicate with you. Don’t know if we have your most current email address? We sent out an email to all of our members last month. If you did not get this email, we do not have your email address.

Send your email address to rose@greatoldbroads.org.

◆ BROADS HISTORY

We are celebrating 15 years of Great Old Broads for Wilderness this year! We are putting together a history of the organization and Kathryn Robens (board member) has volunteered to take on this project. She will be contacting members for your memories about the beginnings of the Broads. However, if any one wants to contact Kathryn, please call her at 505-466-6274 or email therobens@comcast.net.

If you have any of the following Broadsides and would be willing to donate them to our archives, please contact Kathryn: summer of 1993, winter of 1993, #3 of 1996, and all for 1999.

◆ DESPERATELY SEEKING

Broads is seeking a computer with Windows 2000 or XP. If you have a computer you are thinking of getting rid of, please consider donating it to Broads. We also need a digital camera. Your donation of these products is tax-deductible. You may also send a cash donation to go specifically towards the purchase of these products. Your help is appreciated.

Here We Go Again, Round 3: Yellowstone Vs. ...

by **Connie Kay**

The second annual Stand up for Yellowstone Rally on President's Day weekend should have been an occasion to celebrate. In December, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan in Washington, D.C. struck down the Bush plan and reinstated Clinton's plan to phaseout snowmobiles in Yellowstone Park, which would mean that by winter of 2005 Yellowstone would finally be snowmobile-free and that for the 2004 season only 493

Instead, he ordered temporary rules for the last few weeks of the 2004 winter season. The Park Service responded by increasing the daily number of snowmobiles to 780. So what was planned to be a rally for skiing in the Park, a chance to show the West Yellowstone community that there *are* skiers who will come and spend money in their town, was now, once again, about the issue of snowmobiles in the Park.

The plan was to gather the evening of Friday the 13th at a local church, but at the last moment the church

was a brisk -14 degrees with blue skies except for downtown West Yellowstone, where herds of snowmobiles sliding out of their barns created a blue haze that held in the



Broads protest snowmobiles in Yellowstone. Photo by Vicki

cold air. The Park Service seemed to be nervous about a large crowd (there were about 150 of us!) demonstrating at the entrance gate to the Park, so smaller groups (50 or so) were let in at intervals. They had prepared a corral for the demonstrators just inside the entrance to the Park. There were no buffalo in the enclosure, just a bear (me), a tiger (Libby Ingalls) and a lot of folks from all over the country that believe strongly enough that Yellowstone should remain free of snowmobiles that they would stand in subzero temperatures for hours.

Soon the noisy parade began. Snowmobiles filed in, spaced in groups of 10 to 20, stuffed in their zoot suits soon to be drugged by their own fumes. There were Park police standing by in case things got out of

"I cannot thank Broads enough for their assistance in making the rally a success. I know you probably hear it all the time, but..... you BROADS are crazy.... but only in the most passionate and productive way."
—Steve Miller, Winter Wildlands Alliance

snowmobiles would be permitted per day, instead of Bush's plan, which allowed for 950 a day.

However, on February 10th, just a few days before we were to leave for Yellowstone, Judge Brimmer, a federal judge from Wyoming, issued an injunction to stop the Park Service from implementing the Clinton-plan.

elders decided not to allow Winter Wildlands Alliance (WWA), who was sponsoring the Yellowstone Rally, to use the facility. Fortunately, the Holiday Inn was gracious and found room for our gathering, even though there was also a convention of snowmobile manufacturers. Despite the confusion, we had a great time that night thanks to WWA being such

generous and fun hosts. The array of protest banners was impressive; kids and adults put in a lot of heartfelt work with their magic markers with sayings such as: "Don't Bushwhack Yellowstone," "Seniors for Silence," "Snowmobile Use = Abuse," and "Can't Bear the Noise" to be carried by a claustrophobe with a weak bladder in a bear suit (that was to be me).



Ronni Egan, Connie Kay, and Libby Ingalls out in Broads style at the Yellowstone Rally. Photo by Vicki Simarano

February 14th, the morning of the official rally

The Snowmobiles

hand. I wondered what they thought we were going to do—throw ourselves in front of the snowmobiles, chase after them, and throw snowballs? We did make as much noise as possible,



Vicki Simarano.

chanting, “2 stroke, 4 stroke, I just saw an elk choke,” “Give skis a chance,” and “not in the Park.” The snowmobilers just looked ahead trying to ignore us, a few waved, and a few flipped the bird.

After the rally, we dispersed to thaw out and shop, distributing the “skier dollars” that Winter Wildlands had given us to let businesses know that skiers also spend. It is not hard to empathize with these businesses dealing with economic uncertainty. Twenty percent of their revenue comes from the winter season. However, if the Park is closed to snowmobiles there would still be over a thousand miles of trails available on nearby Forest Service land and statistics from a survey of the Outdoor

Industry Association show there are 14.9 million cross-country skiers in the United States, 5.4 million snowshoers and only 1.6 million registered snowmobilers. There *is* economic life beyond the snowmobile.



Bison step aside as snowmobiles pass. Photo by Connie Kay

In the afternoon, 10 Great Old Broads piled into a snow coach (the preferred method of winter travel in Yellowstone) to see one of the wonders of the Park. Our guide, Natasha, awed us with her knowledge and sensitivity to the Park. We went along the Madison River where she pointed out an immense snag with a pair of Bald Eagles on top preparing their nest. We then turned and went along the Firehole River which was alive with water birds, mallards, goldeneyes, coots, dippers and many trumpeter swans, which were close to extinction because of the swan-skin trade in the 1800s, but which have now happily recovered. There were also sightings of elk, bison and two wolves on a distant ridge.

The Old Faithful Snow Lodge, where we stayed the evening, was wonderful with a large lobby and fireplace and lots of comfortable places to look out at the snow falling and sip coffee, visit or read. I walked a mile or so on the extensive boardwalk where there were many different geysers and fumaroles to see and then put on snowshoes to get to the Firehole River.

Yellowstone in winter is an experience I will never forget. I hope I can come back another winter and perhaps enjoy it without the whine of snowmobiles in the background.



Firehole River. Photo by Vicki Simarano

Yellowstone Update

In March, with the snowmobile season almost over, the Bush administration has requested that Judge Sullivan turn over the case to Judge Brimmer (in 2003 Brimmer ruled the roadless initiative protecting 58 million acres was illegal and tossed it out) in a federal court in Wyoming. On March 9, Judge Sullivan refused and set another hearing for April 14, saying that the record would be set straight and that he would address the rejection of his order by the Interior Department. Stay tuned to find out what happens next in this ongoing saga!

California Wilderness Bill Could Coast Through Congress

by Vicky Hoover

At the end of February, Californians had a real breakthrough for an important California wilderness bill we are promoting.

The Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, introduced last March by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA), covers approximately 300,000 acres and 21 river miles of the Golden State's remaining roadless, untouched public lands and streams. For a long time, California activists have been trying to get Senator Dianne Feinstein to support this bill. Senator Feinstein's recent endorsement is exciting news as there is now no substantial obstacle to passage of the bill.

The Thompson/Boxer bill designates key landscapes as

wilderness in Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, Lake, and Napa counties, and protects segments of the Black Butte River as a Wild and Scenic River. Areas of special value include the King Range, the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the contiguous United States, and the Cache Creek area in Lake and Napa counties, which contains the second largest wintering bald eagle population in the country.

The legislation has received unprecedented bipartisan support from



King Range in Humboldt and Mendocino County.

a wide variety of interests, including hunters, anglers, scientists, members of the logging industry, local elected officials, and business leaders. But much remains to be done.

California activists would very much like to ask wilderness-friendly members of Congress around the country to cosponsor this bill. Most are likely to be willing—IF asked by constituents. Please ask your Congressmen today.

One important House member who should hear from EVERYONE: Richard Pombo, (CA) chair of the House Resources Committee, is known for his antipathy to protecting the environment, but his powerful position as chair of this key committee makes him fair game for letters from EVERYONE. The message is—this bill is supported by both the state's Senators and the local Congressmen, and he ought to let it go to satisfy the many millions of Americans who value these lands, and want to keep them protected for the future.

Richard Pombo can be contacted at:
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Washington D.C., 20515
Email: rpombo@mail.house.gov
Fax: (202) 226-0861

Wilderness Act 40th Anniversary Wilderness Week September 18-22, 2004 Washington, DC

This September, gather up your maps, pack your bags, and rally for Wilderness Week, an exciting convergence upon the nation's capital to celebrate 40 years of the Wilderness Act.

Join us in Washington for activities, events, and to hear powerful speakers reflect on the last 40 years of wilderness protection and where we go from here! We'll share lessons from today's efforts to protect wild places and strategize about effective ways to preserve our nation's heritage of wilderness in the decades ahead. The week will include networking and socializing opportunities, educational brown bag lunch sessions, and a Wilderness Act commemoration and awards dinner on September 19th, to honor wilderness champions of the past four decades.

Activities organized by the Wilderness Week planning committee will take place primarily on Saturday the 18th, and in the evenings. Broads Executive Director Ronni Egan will be attending and welcomes any other Broads who are interested to join her for a week of wilderness lobbying.

For more information on the 40th Anniversary Celebration visit:
www.wildernessforever.org

Utah Oil and Gas Threats

Utah wildlands are under serious attack from oil and gas leases and seismic exploration, but there is hope.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has suspended its decision to sell more than 45,000 acres of public land for oil and gas leases near Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah after several environmental groups filed protests. Protests were issued because the areas for sell are within close proximity to the Monument and oil and gas drilling may impact the pristine character of the area.

BLM plans include selling 27 parcels on the south side (Colorado-side) of the Monument and 28 parcels on the western end (Utah-side) of the Monument. Of the parcels under dispute, 14 are located in BLM Wilderness Inventory Areas (WIAs) and 20 parcels are located in Citizens' Proposed Wilderness. The BLM is expected to make a decision within the next couple of months.

WIAs, lands that the BLM itself previously sited as eligible for Wilderness designation, were protected from oil and gas drilling until last April, when former Utah Governor Leavitt cut a backroom deal with Interior Department Secretary Gale Norton disqualifying these lands from being protected as future wilderness. Last November, Utah BLM also sold 16 oil and gas leases in WIAs and other wilderness-quality land. These sales are currently being challenged in federal district court.

Meanwhile, a Denver-based gas company, the Bill Barrett Corp., was recently given the okay to conduct seismic exploration on the southern edge of Nine Mile Canyon, an area known for its archaeological treasures and wilderness characteristics. Over 228 shots will be drilled within the Jack Canyon and Desolation Canyon wilderness study areas. Helicopters, explosives, and thumper trucks will be used to pinpoint deposits of natural gas.

Roan Plateau Update

The Roan Plateau, which is under threat of oil and gas drilling, has received a brief hiatus, perhaps due to upcoming elections. Delays in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) draft management plan for the Plateau make it likely that a final plan won't be adopted until after the election.

Many are speculating that the delays are due to strong local opposition and the Bush Administration's desire not to make this an "election issue."

In a recent interview, Steve Smith, a Glenwood Springs volunteer for the Citizens Campaign to Save Roan Plateau noted that Bush has made the plateau a focal point of his push to open up more public lands to energy development. He could press more aggressively for drilling on the plateau if he no longer needs to worry about being re-elected, said Smith.

Once the draft plan is released, there will be a 90-day comment period. We will let you know when it is released and encourage you to comment.

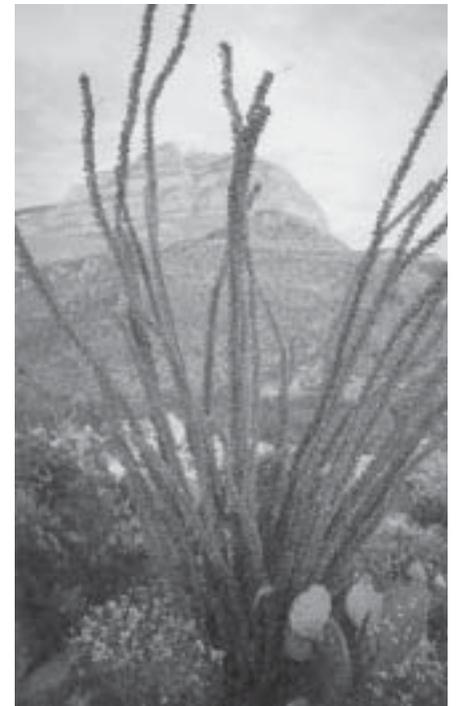
One Small Step for Otero Mesa

In a sweeping gesture to offer more protection to Otero Mesa's area Chihuahuan Desert grasslands, New Mexico's Governor Bill Richardson signed an executive order making it state policy to protect Otero Mesa. An important step in the battle for Otero Mesa's protection.

At a rally in Albuquerque on January 31st, sponsored by New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and attended by several New Mexico and Colorado Great Old Broads, Richardson promised to try to block new oil and gas leases on state land, strengthen rules regarding the disposal of mine waste, and take steps to limit the issuing of crucial water permits to drillers.

"This administration's approach to energy is to drill, drill, drill," said Richardson during a recent interview. "They pander to their core base: the energy and oil industry. We are an oil-and-gas state, but Otero Mesa deserves to be protected, and I intend to make that clear to the administration."

Otero Mesa remains some of the finest remnant Chihuahuan Desert grassland in the state and many threatened or endangered species such as Baird's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Cassin's Sparrow and Burrowing Owls are drawn to this remote grassland. This area is also home to one of the states most genetically pure herds of pronghorn.



Worth protecting? Photo taken at the Otero Mesa Broadwalk, 2000.

Upcoming Events—Please Join Us!

Days in the Desert III

Moab, UT
May 20 – May 23
Cost \$90

When you hike in the southwest do you find yourself wondering how things would look if there weren't cattle grazing there? Do you wish you knew if an area was overgrazed or not? Do you wish you could do something about the sorry conditions you experience? Have you ever experienced the cool, shaded wonder of a fully functioning stream in the desert?

Join Broads near Moab, UT for our third annual training on how to determine the health of riparian areas. Turn your disgust with areas trashed by cattle grazing and other abuses into a tangible means of measuring and reporting on the health of areas. Become a trained observer and activist, able to effectively communicate the devastating effects of poor grazing management in the west.

We have three terrific scientists associated with the Wild Utah Project who have developed a systematic method for assessing range conditions with emphasis on riparian areas. We will learn the methodology and then test our skills by doing actual assessments on grazing allotments on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in the Negro Bill Canyon area, near the Colorado River north of Moab, UT. We will also meet with staff from the Moab office of the BLM to peruse the grazing files and learn how to become an interested public and make our voices heard to make a difference on our beloved public lands.

When: Check-in is 1-3 on Thursday, May 20. The training session will begin at 3 pm and will end around the campfire on Saturday.

Breakfast on Sunday and then for those who can stay, a fun hike in the area's magnificent slickrock country.

Cost: \$90 – includes your camping fees (showers available in Moab or bring a solar shower; however, bring a swimsuit so you can jump in the Colorado River next to our campsite!), delicious meals served to us at the campground (dinner Thursday, breakfast and dinner Friday and Saturday, and breakfast Sunday), course materials and your training. You will need to bring your own packable lunch items/snacks for each day (coolers and ice will be available to keep things cold).

Gunnison Broadfloat **Gunnison, Colorado** **June 1 – June 5**

Currently this trip is filled. There may be cancellations, so if you are interested, please contact Rose at 970-385-9577 or rose@greatoldbroads.org to get your name on a waiting list. For more information about this trip visit: www.greatoldbroads.org

Yaak Broadwalk **Yaak, MT** **July 15 – July 19** **Cost \$90**

Sparsely populated areas have few voices to speak for their protection. That is why we need yours! Join us and our hosts, a small but enthusiastic group of Montana Broads, for an event filled with explorations of the far northwest corner of the state.

The Yaak Valley, Montana's only rain forest, will captivate you with its logging-scarred, but unique and haunting landscape, which is threatened



Broads find out what to look for in a healthy desert stream at last year's Days in the Desert.

by increased ATV and snowmobile incursions, and salvage logging.

Hike the Yaak's roadless areas. Meet members of the Yaak Valley Forest Council, including well-known author and activist Rick Bass, and hear about how you can contribute to efforts to achieve wilderness designation for Yaak roadless lands. Learn about fire ecology, endangered grizzly bears and old growth larch ecosystems. Talk with the Forest Service regarding the upcoming Forest Plan Revision and help persuade them to manage the Kootenai National Forest, and particularly its roadless areas, for their biological and spiritual values rather than as a motorized playground.

When: We'll gather Thursday afternoon to set up camp, after dinner we'll have informal talks by Robyn King, Director of the Yaak Valley Forest Council, about Yaak issues and the Council's work and a short talk by Rick Bass on the need for wilderness, and what you can do.

Friday, 16th – Hike to Henry Lake, in Mt. Henry roadless area (2 easy miles, with the option of a few more miles up to a lookout). Lunch includes a discussion about restoration projects in Yaak. After dinner, a talk on grizzly bears, wolves, lynx, other Yaak wildlife, by Joni Gilbert, USFS biologist.

continued on next page

Events continued....

Saturday, 17th – There will be a field trip on old growth larch ecosystems/fire ecology led by Mike Arvidson, USFS botanist. The evening will conclude with a slide show by photographer Randy Beacham.

Sunday, 18th – We will do a work project—either trail work or weed pulling at Hoskins Lake. Dinner is pizza catered by Yaak’s infamous Dirty Shame Saloon, with a reading by Rick Bass and music by a local acoustic band.

Monday, 19th – We will meet at 10 am with Kootenai N.F. Ranger and Supervisor, and members of the Forest Plan Revision planning team. Afterwards we will have another hike for those who can stay, which will include training on our new OHV monitoring for citizen volunteers.

Cost: \$90 - includes camping and meals (breakfast and dinner, bring your own lunches). Camp on private land, where you will be awakened each morning by the song of the ruby crowned kinglet and the “winnowing” of the common snipe. Nearby lodge accommodations are also available.

Broads’ 15th Anniversary Celebration & OHV Workshop
Snow Canyon State Park,
near St. George, UT
September 30 - Oct 4
Cost \$125 (incl. meals/camping)

Great Old Broads is 15 years old in 2004! We’re going to celebrate in the gorgeous southern Utah redrock at Snow Canyon State Park. There’s spectacular hiking all around, and several excellent speakers and presentations are scheduled including Broad’s inimitable founder Susan Tixier and former Broads board member and guide book author, Steve Allen, who will present a Utah Canyoneering slide show.

The real high point though, will be our first-ever OHV Monitoring

Workshop. We’ll start with a brief training session on the use of the system, including use of GPS and digital cameras, then divide into teams and go out to collect data on OHV use (and abuse) to be recorded later in our own comprehensive database for use in land management decisions and possible legal actions. This is “Broadness” at its very best!

The campground is comfortable with hot showers and flush toilets. Area motel rooms may be hard to find due to the St. George marathon being held that weekend, but one of our members has offered her nearby home for some of those who would prefer not to camp.

Join us in celebrating 15 years of wilderness advocacy and camaraderie! More details will be in the next issue of *Broadsides*.

***Travel details and items to bring will be sent to you once you have registered. For more info on our events, visit:**
www.greatoldbroads.org

Help Celebrate 15 Years with Broads!

We are asking our members to take the **15 New Members Challenge**. Recruit 15 new members in 2004 in honor of Broads 15th anniversary and receive a Broads tee-shirt, tote bag, and a nalgene with Broads logo.

Great Old Broads is strong, but we could be stronger. Just think if all of our members recruited 15 new members—boy would we be a force to reckon with! With so many attacks against our beloved lands, we need to be stronger than ever. Please help us get there. Even if you only recruit 1-2 members, **every new voice for wilderness counts!**

Please put your full name on any membership form you distribute or email Rose the names of members recruited at rose@greatoldbroads.org.

We are happy to mail you membership brochures. Just let us know!

Event Registration

Registration for all events requires a **\$50 deposit**. Full payment is due by check-in at the event (or you can pay in full now). If you need help with travel logistics, carpooling, or equipment, please let us know.

Event	Date	Cost	Amount Enclosed
Days in the Desert	May 20-23	\$90	
Yaak, MT Broadwalk	July 16-19	\$90	
15th Anniversary Celebration	Sept 30-Oct 4	\$125	

Total enclosed _____

*Questions? Contact Rose at 970-385-9577, rose@greatoldbroads.org or visit: www.greatoldbroads.org

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____

Please return with check or money order to:
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
POB 2924, Durango, CO 81302

Join The Great Old Broads Today!

For contributions of \$100 or more, we will send you a short-sleeve Broads t-shirt! New Member Member Renewal

Basic Member \$30 Rockin' Broad \$50+ Wild Broad \$75+
 Outrageous Broad \$100+ Budget Broad \$29 or less (fixed incomes)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____ (please include!)



*There's no end to the things Broads can do!
Julie Wormser, at Vermont Broadwalk.*

Broads Paraphernalia

Send a **ONE-YEAR GIFT MEMBERSHIP** to a Broad-minded friend! Please enclose additional dues for this membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ (please include!)

Phone _____

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

Please do not share my information with like-minded organizations.

**Please return with check or money order to:
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
POB 2924, Durango, CO 81302**

Item	Size	Cost	Quantity
Broads Tee (natural)	S, M, L, XL	\$15	
Long Sleeve Tee	S, M, L, XL	\$20	
Scoop-neck Tee (white)	S, M, L	\$15	
Sage Tee	S, M, L,	\$15	
Button or sticker (please circle)		\$1.50	
Canvas Tote		\$15	
Nalgene Bottle w/ logo		\$12	
Dung to Dust Booklet		\$4.05	

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

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
PO Box 2924
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