



# BROADSIDES

Volume 14, no. 3 @Summer 2004

## Broads 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Sept, 30 - Oct. 4, 2004

Join Broads young and old in celebrating 15 years of Broadness! This long weekend packed with inspiring speakers, incredible scenery and hikes, Broads camaraderie, and OHV monitoring training is based at Snow Canyon State Park, near St. George, Utah. The campground has hot showers and flush toilets (downright plush!). Camping, guided hikes, speakers, OHV workshop, group breakfasts and dinners are included in the weekend cost of \$125.

**Thursday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** - We'll gather in the afternoon to set up camp and get acquainted. After dinner, words of welcome from our Executive Director, Ronni Egan and a talk by Jen Jackson, SW Utah Grassroots Organizer for SUWA (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance) on the state of wilderness in Utah and what you can do to help protect these fragile lands.

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## In A Broad Sense by Ronni Egan

The Fourth of July has come and gone, and millions of Americans, as well as folks from other lands, are enjoying the peace, solitude and disconnect from everyday life found in our over 100 million acres of designated Wilderness. It is likely that few of these people will be aware that 2004 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act. Nor will they be aware of the many political battles, both local and national, that were fought by the visionary women and men who saw the need to protect the best and wildest places from exploitation by those who would wring every last nickel of profit from our public lands. Our Wilderness system is unparalleled in the world. During my many years as a guide on public lands, my foreign born clients would often remark, "You Americans have no idea how lucky you are to have these places. Where we live all the land is private, and you either can't go there or you have to pay. Don't ever let anyone take this away from you!"

Our Wilderness lands account for less than 5 percent of all public lands. Virtually all of the rest remains open to extractive uses like logging, oil and gas development, dams, roads and motorized vehicles. There are still areas that qualify for Wilderness designation, and many of them should be protected, but the current political climate precludes such protection. The Alaska National Wildlife Refuge is still squarely in the sites of the energy

industry and its cronies in the U.S. Capitol, while our last great remaining temperate rain forests in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests are threatened with below-cost clear cutting thanks to efforts to suspend President Clinton's Roadless Rule. In the "lower 48," protection of wilderness quality lands has just received a severe blow in the Supreme Court's decision (SUWA vs. Norton) not to allow citizens to use the courts to force the Bureau of Land Management to protect Wilderness Study Areas from Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) impacts. Great Old Broads was a party to that suit, which we won in the lower courts. Unfortunately, the southern Utah counties affected, and the well organized and funded OHV industry prevailed this time. Citizen wilderness activists will have to redouble efforts to find ways of holding land management agencies accountable.

But, take heart, all is not lost! Great Old Broads for Wilderness, an organization that many would not associate with cutting edge technology, has been working quietly behind the scenes on two citizen-powered land monitoring programs.

Our *Days in the Desert* workshops over the last 3 years have helped the scientists of the Wild Utah Project to perfect a riparian area assessment system that will enable grazing activists to visit grazing allotments and determine, in a scientific

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## ***Impressions on the Gunnison Broadfloat***

**by Sara Ransom**

Multifaceted reflections on water, reflections of sky and redrock, of cloud and green—now smooth, now wavering; ripples and rocks; and laughter. Lots of laughter. New friends and long-time friends. Conversations while boats were near, then drifting on down the current... Trading boats and duties—with kindness and thoughtfulness with regard to each other's needs. Now, that was a beautiful aspect of a gathering of 25 people from across this vast nation. The individual's needs were always taken into account, gently and matter-of-factly.

Highlight? You mean, besides being on the water in such continually shifting beauty? How about the hikes up Dominguez Canyon with the waterfalls and pools to revel in? The food was so constantly good (who IS that cook?) that we all simply enjoyed it with no thought of complaint. And Margarita Night wasn't half bad...

Bummer? Well, there was the takeout. HA! At least it wasn't muddy, hey. Still, 25 people knuckled down (buckled down?) and formed a team that helped unload 13 boats and

then haul up the boats as well, wash them down, roll them up and load them. And we laughed while doing this in the 98 degree heat and full sun. Had to, or it would have been awful. Oh, yeah. There were the mosquitoes and no-see-ums. Quite a few of us just gave in and sprayed Deet. Ahhh. Can you spell relief?

And in the spirit of Broadness—we were joined one evening by the Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC) who talked with us about the movement to KEEP Dominguez Canyon a wilderness. There ARE movements afoot to drown it behind a dam, so vigilance is necessary. And we were joined one morning by the BLM who were actively working to remove the invasive tamarisk from the shores of the Gunnison. Hard work, seemingly impossible, but every action helps.

### **Send us an Email!**

Please update your email address. Email is the most cost-effective way for us to communicate with you. Please help us save money. Take a moment and email your most current address to Rose at [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org).

## **Upcoming Event!**

### ***Hiking The Escalante***

**Sept. 26 - Oct. 1, 2004**

Backcountry explorer and past Broads Board member, Steve Allen, is generously leading a hiking trip through the Escalante River Basin of southern Utah to benefit the WRA's Utah office. Explore the canyons of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area with an expert and discover places few ever venture. Cost is a contribution or pledge of \$500+ to the Utah Office. The experience includes five guided day hikes, comfortable camping and delicious meals. To learn more or to register, visit

[www.westernresourceadvocates.org](http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org).

*Space is limited, so register today!*

\*WRA attorneys represent Broads in several legal matters critical to protecting wild places.

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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 2,500 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!

## In A Broad Sense Cont.

but “user friendly” way, the health of streamside ecosystems. By becoming “interested publics,” activists will be able to write well informed comments when the grazing plans are being revised, as well as letters to legislators and the press, and hopefully will be able to work with land managers and permittees to improve the health of badly overgrazed public lands.

Our *Broads Healthy Lands Project* (BHLP) is the brainchild of Board member Diane Tracy, a computer “whiz” and avid hiker who developed an interactive monitoring program which will enable citizen volunteers to record the effects of OHV abuse in our database GINGER, and to have this information available on our new website [www.goginger.org](http://www.goginger.org) for use by scientists, land managers and anyone else interested in this crucial issue. Please take the time to check out what we are doing.

The real benefits of these important citizens’ “tools” lies in the using. Now that we can no longer take an agency to court (a last resort in any case) we activists have got to work smarter. In other words, we can no longer simply say we do not like the way a piece of land is being managed. We must be able to back up our opinions with verifiable facts and observations that will lead to direct public pressure on the land managers to do their jobs and manage for the health of the public’s real estate. Believe me, the dedicated public servants in our public lands agencies are getting plenty of pressure from government higher-ups, industry and special interest groups. Those of us who would see our remaining wildlands protected must, lacking political clout and bulging “war chests,” be able to present iron clad reasons to designate an area as Wilderness. This means getting educated and getting active. Neither the grazing assessment program nor the BHLP requires any special education or expertise; nor does one

need to be a super-fit athlete. All that is needed is a desire to see a place one loves, that is deserving of better treatment, be given the management required to keep it healthy. Opportunities to get involved abound! If you’re interested in participating, please contact the Broads office at 970-385-9577 or [broads@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:broads@greatoldbroads.org).

The Wilderness Act isn’t the only thing that is celebrating an anniversary in 2004. Great Old Broads is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, as well. Broads was founded in 1989 by Susan Tixier and a number of other intrepid ladies hiking in southern Utah who were incensed by Utah Senator Orrin Hatch’s assertion that wilderness designation of a place automatically excluded older folks. A number of those ladies, including Board members Ginger Harmon, Frandee Johnson, Edie Pierpont and Dottie Fox, are still members. Since then we’ve grown to a robust 2500+ members, and growing every day. Our programs have grown from one annual Broadwalk to a half dozen events a year, including Broadfloats and monitoring workshops. You’ll find Broads hiking the halls of Congress to educate our legislators on wilderness issues, and hiking the canyons of the Southwest, digital cameras and GPS units in hand, recording evidence of OHV abuse. Other Wilderness advocacy organizations are calling on Great Old Broads to attend hearings and protests, to provide training in monitoring techniques for their members, and to write letters and comments on wilderness issues.

I hope you will forgive me for stepping up on my soapbox again, but I am firmly convinced that this November’s election is the most important in memory. Nothing less than our democratic system of government is at stake. Due to our non-profit status, I am not at liberty to endorse any candidate or political stance. I can, however, urge all Great

Old Broads to become educated about the issues and candidates, to speak out about the things that are important to you, and to get out there and VOTE!

Our strength truly lies in our dedicated, energetic and well-informed membership. A group of Broads makes a mighty impression on lawmakers and media. Margaret Mead, no doubt an archetypal Great Old Broad, once remarked, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” And, for me, the chief pleasure in being Executive Director of Great Old Broads is having the opportunity to work alongside our thoughtful, committed members to preserve, protect and increase Wilderness.

### ***Great Old Broads for Wilderness***

*Old Broads were made for hiking,  
Of that I have no doubt;  
We hike with quiet gusto –  
No need to scream or shout.*

*Don’t need to carry tampons,  
Or fiddle with our hair;  
Don’t care if we get dirty,  
If we have clean underwear.*

*No longer primp for menfolk,  
(We used to be that dumb;)  
Now we just impress them,  
With how very far we’ve come.*

*We’re not into competition,  
Macho’s not our game;  
We encourage one another,  
And support’s our middle name.*

*So keep those hormones flowing,  
And keep those tummies flat;  
Old Broads are made for hiking,  
‘cause hiking’s where it’s at.*

© Bonnie Griffiths

*On the Skyline Trail,  
August 1993  
BroadSides Spring, 1994*



# Grazing Activists Get “Cowrage” to Win Back Wilderness

by Sara Ransom

“This is the place,” Rose and I decided—mimicking the slogan for Salt Lake City. It was the *Great Old Broads for Wilderness* banner, waving in the wind that assured us we had arrived. Our group campsite was at Big Bend, just outside of Moab, Utah.

For a first-timer like me, the event had a flavor of a great school reunion. So many hugs of delighted recognition throughout the weekend as friends arrived, and visited. But I was swept into the warmth, never did I feel like an outsider.

What stands out, though, is the quality of the event itself. I had been attracted to *Days in the Desert III* because it offered a training program on how to determine the health of riparian areas. “Become a trained observer and activist,” said the brochure, “able to effectively communicate the devastating effects of poor grazing.” This event, I thought, would be a far more valuable camping trip than just a get-together in a beautiful place.

The first day in the field we went to a canyon that had not been grazed in

35 years and was full of green vegetation. We divided into two teams, and each of us spent the day measuring and observing different aspects of what makes a riparian area function properly.

This was fun (I mean laughter and playfulness as we slogged and ducked and slipped along), as well as fascinating. On the first day, my assignment was to walk directly down the center of the creek (obstructions and deep pools and all) with an “ocular tube” (which was a toilet paper roll). I would pace off two meters and stop. Then, holding the tube at waist level and looking down at the creek, I was to announce to my sidekick (the one with the clipboard and pen) whether or not I saw algae. We continued doing this for a full 200 meters.

Others on our team were kicking their toes against the banks at intervals to see if they could find overhang. So many observations: the amount of shaded water; the amount of overhang; the amount of high canopy, of ground growth, of mid-level growth; the breadth of the floodplain and the depth of the streambed; the number of riffles and pools, and more—each person had a different aspect to observe.

On the second day, we went into a canyon that is actively grazed. Observing a creek that was actively grazed was a shock to us all. We saw a wasteland of gravel with widely scattered growth, a scraggly shallow creek, an arid land. What we saw was what *had* always seemed normal to us. However, with our newly trained eyes, we could now see the devastation. No riffles and pools for spawning fish. No growth along the banks. No shade over the water—just a vast floodplain which wiped out attempts at vegetation each spring, and allowed for no life in the stream itself.



Riparian area not grazed by cows.



Riparian area still grazed by cows. Can you see the difference? Photos by Nancy Howe

These Broads’ eyes can now see the travesty elsewhere—wherever we travel. And these hearts care. And we will take action. The tools we learned, which will soon be printed in a handy booklet to take into the field, are tools we can use to present our arguments for better land management and grazing policies.

Backed by the data gathered through diligence and repeated observations, we can go to the Forest Service, to the BLM, to whatever officials we must reach. We can show them the health/destruction of riparian areas. Using statistical evidence, we can call an end to “welfare ranching,” and win back the wilderness.

I would like to thank our instructors, Allison Jones and Peter Stacy for their excellent training, their patience, and for the great research that went into creating the tools, which we used in our observations.



# Celebrate 15 Years of Broadness!

*continued from front page*

**Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Guided hikes of varying difficulty to explore the incredible landscapes of Snow Canyon and the adjoining Red Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be offered. BYU Professor Emeritus JoAnn Valenti will present her research findings, “Looking Hard at U.S. Environment Reporters: Where are they? Who are they?” Our evening will include Anniversary festivities and talks on the early days of Broads by the inimitable Susan Tixier, founder of Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

**Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – We will hike and explore in several Wilderness Study Areas within an hour’s drive. There will be a variety of locations/difficulty to choose from. Happy hour will begin with Susan Alcorn, author of “We’re In the Mountains, Not Over the Hill,” who will read from her book and answer questions. After dinner, Gloria Flora, past Forest Service Supervisor for 2 national forests who stood up for the land in the face of local threats and agency pressure, will speak on her experiences. Dave Foreman, co-founder of Earth First, and current Director of the Rewilding Institute, will speak on the rewilding of North America.

**Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** – We’ll learn about OHV monitoring. 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) on nearby Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. This data will be entered later in Broad’s own comprehensive database for use in land management planning, decisions, and possible legal actions. This is “Broadness” at its very best!

After dinner, Professor Mary O’Brien from the University of Oregon will speak on developing Citizen’s Alternatives to Land Management Plans and providing meaningful

citizen comments. Steve Allen, Utah backcountry explorer, past Broads’ board member and author of a Utah canyoneering guide-book series, will end the night with a slide show, “Canyoneering Chronicles.”

**Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** – We’ll share our final meal together, break camp and say goodbye. If you would like to connect with other Broads to hike/ explore after the weekend let us know and we’ll try to hook you up.

**Join us in celebrating 15 years of wilderness advocacy and camaraderie!**

## Other Details

We will be conducting a silent auction fundraiser throughout the weekend, ending on Sunday during Happy Hour. Donations of new or lightly used outdoor gear, artwork, books, exotic trips, whatever might appeal to Broads, are being solicited. If you would like to help with this effort or have something you’d like to contribute please let us know.

Area motel rooms may be hard to find due to the St. George marathon, but one of our members has offered her nearby home for those who would prefer not to camp.



*Linda Liscom and Broads founder, Susan Tixier. Come join the celebration!*

Las Vegas, NV is the nearest large airport about 75 miles from St. George. Shuttles from the airport to St. George are available. Please contact Broads for more information.

Questions? Auction donations? Contact Rose Chilcoat at 970-385-9577 or [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org).

\*A more detailed agenda can be found on [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org).

## Wilderness Act 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>

This September gather up your maps, pack your bags, and join Great Old Broads for Wilderness along with other like-minded organizations for Wilderness Week, an exciting convergence upon our nation’s capitol to celebrate 40 years of the Wilderness Act. Join us in Washington, DC for activities, events, and to hear powerful speakers reflect on the last 40 years of wilderness protection — and where we go from here! The week will include training, networking, Congressional visits, socializing opportunities, and a Wilderness Act commemoration and awards dinner on September 19th, to honor wilderness champions of the past four decades.

We hope you will join us for this exciting celebration of 40 years of people protecting wild places. Please contact Rose at [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org) or 970-385-9577 if you are interested in participating. We hope to see you in September!

Unable to attend, but would still like to celebrate the Wilderness Act? Visit the calendar section of [www.wildernessforever.org](http://www.wildernessforever.org) for more information on local Wilderness Walks and other events in your state.



# Broad Actions Needed to Protect

As Great Old Broads prepares to celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Wilderness Act turns 40, countless threats to our wild lands remain. Below are some important action items. Your letters and voice does make a difference—please act now.

Broads does not usually issue action alerts as there are many local and national organizations who do. If you do not already receive action alerts, please consider getting on list serves that can keep you updated on the latest issues (the Wilderness Support Center issues great national alerts).

## Roadless Area Rule Repealed *Comments Due: September 14, 2004*

In the largest environmental rollback of the modern era, the Bush administration has repealed the Roadless Area Conservation Rule which protected America's remaining large natural forest legacy. Despite repeated promises to uphold national protections for America's last large roadless forests, this policy places at risk some **58.5 million acres of America's national forest wilderness** from destructive road-building, logging and drilling. Under Bush's new roadless forest rule, governors would be required to petition the federal government to block road-building in remote areas, with no guarantee that the petition would be accepted. Roadless protections would end in all states choosing not to file a petition. This "opt-in" approach to roadless management provides *no guarantees of real, long-term protections for roadless areas.*

Opening huge swaths of roadless forests to more clear-cutting and old-growth logging will have dire consequences for clean water, wildlife habitat, fisheries and forest ecology. America's last large natural forests are major repositories of genetic and species diversity. **They provide ecological services required to maintain North American and global environmental sustainability.**

America's taxpayers will bear the cost of building new roads into wild forests in order to provide logging trucks and drilling rigs access to the public's resources.

During two earlier public comment periods nearly 95% of the 2.5 million comments supported the roadless policy. We need to let the administration know that the public wants our national forests protected - not given away to corporate special interests. Please tell the Bush Administration yet again how much

America and the world values large, natural and roadless forests; and how the proposed new Roadless Rule jeopardizes the nation's last wild forests.

**Comments are due Sept. 14:**  
Content Analysis Team  
ATTN: Roadless State Petitions  
USDA Forest Service  
P.O. Box 221090  
Salt Lake City, UT 84122  
E-mail: [statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us](mailto:statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us)  
—Information from [www.forests.org](http://www.forests.org)

## New OHV Rules Need More Gas

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Forest Service announced plans to specify which roads and trails are open to off-highway vehicles. Last year, U.S. Forest service Chief Dale Bosworth identified unmanaged recreation, particularly off-road vehicle use, as one of the greatest threats to America's National Forests. He described a litany of adverse impacts to the land, wildlife and other visitors and highlighted the proliferation of unplanned or renegade dirt bike and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) routes that criss-cross National Forests. Unfortunately, the draft rules fall short of what is needed to respond to the obvious and growing threat of OHVs and must be strengthened.

The new policy, now open to public comment, requires all national forests to identify specific roads, trails and areas where off-road driving will be allowed considering environmental sensitivity, potential conflicts with hikers and other factors. Areas not specifically open to such traffic would be considered closed. While that would reverse the current situation where many forest lands are assumed to be open, allowing drivers to roam at will, the Forest Service left the process open-ended. It could be years before individual forest units actually designate motorized routes. The proposal should be strengthened by including a two-year timetable for implementation and by limiting off-road use to the extent that it can be fully monitored and enforced as well as addressing all types of OHV use, including snowmobiles.

Another problem is inadequate Forest Service funds to maintain the more than 380,000 miles of official existing roads in National Forests. Funds need to be created to properly implement and enforce the new policy. Finally, the proposal does not clearly require the Forest Service to study the negative impacts of specific roads or routes it might consider opening to ATVs, dirt bikes and other vehicles.

**Comments are due September 13:**  
Proposed Rule for Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use  
c/o Content Analysis Team  
P.O. Box 221150  
Salt Lake City, UT 84122  
Email: [trvman@fs.fed.us](mailto:trvman@fs.fed.us)

—Information compiled from Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society alerts.

**Broader Wilderness Movement**

# Wilderness

**BLM Office Releases Plan Handing Wildlands to Oil and Gas***Comments Due: October 15, 2004*

On July 16th, the Price Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office released the first of its draft revised Resource Management Plans for Utah. The plan reveals the Bush administration's vision for oil and gas development at the expense of all other uses in the magnificent San Rafael Swell and the Book Cliffs of central Utah, as well as the ten million acres of additional public lands in Utah now under review.

Although the BLM is directed to manage America's public lands for multiple uses, the Price plan is a single use plan that sacrifices wildlife, wildlands and recreation for oil and gas drilling. The proposal for managing the Price area, which includes over a million acres of proposed wilderness and spectacular landscapes once proposed for preservation as a National Park, shows the true colors of an administration that views wild country as just another hurdle to development. Simply put, the BLM is giving away the store to the oil and gas industry.

Except for the lands that Congress specifically directed BLM to protect as Wilderness Study Areas, the draft land use plan for the 2.5 million-acre Price Field Office opens essentially every other acre to oil and gas development. It is the first such draft plan to be released in the wake of the April 11, 2003 "No More Wilderness" deal between then-Governor Leavitt of Utah and Interior Secretary Gale Norton. In this far-reaching backroom settlement, Secretary Norton barred the BLM from identifying and protecting public lands eligible for wilderness preservation in Utah as well as across the country. Conservationists have challenged the deal in court, but hearings have not yet been held.

The Price plan will decide the fate of scenic landscapes such as Eagle

Canyon, Muddy Creek, Sids Mountain, the San Rafael Reef, and the remote and wildlife-rich Book Cliffs of eastern Utah. In addition to its single-minded focus on oil and gas development, initial analysis of the BLM's draft plan for the Price area shows no meaningful protection for proposed wilderness and appears to abandon any attempt to reign in damaging off-road vehicles.

**A few details of the Price Draft RMP:**

*Oil and Gas Development in Proposed Wilderness:* Areas proposed for wilderness but open to oil and gas leasing under the BLM plan included Desolation Canyon, Turtle Canyon, Mexican Mountain, the San Rafael Reef, and Eagle Canyon. Of the entire 2.5 million-acre planning area, only 584,128 acres will be closed to leasing (almost all of which are Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) that are already protected from leasing by Congressional mandate).

*The Proposed Plan Gives up on Efforts to Designate ORV Trails:* The BLM is proposing to close only 400,000 acres to ORVs, less than what is actually designated Wilderness Study Areas. The remaining 2 million plus acres will remain open to a spider web of routes and trails with only a spattering of location-specific restrictions. The plan leaves open such contentious routes as those in the Sids Mountain WSA, including the Devil's Racetrack and Coal Wash, the notorious Five Miles of Hell, and Behind the Reef Road.

The explosion of unmanaged ORV use is widely recognized as one of the biggest threats to the Price resource area. It is astounding that the BLM would release a draft plan without a



*The Book Cliffs, one of Utah's most remote and spectacular areas is under threat for oil and gas development. Photo by Steve Mulligan*

strategy to more effectively deal with this problem. Already, 80% of BLM lands managed by the Price office are within one mile of a motorized route, while a mere 20% of the lands offer visitors a quiet refuge in the desert backcountry, more than one mile from a road. BLM's proposed plan would do little to correct this imbalance.

Self-initiated, hard-copy letters are always best. Please note on your calendar the following public meetings hosted by the BLM where you can talk directly to BLM planners.

**Public Meetings:**

- 1) Castledale—Aug. 24th, 4-9:00 pm, Museum of the San Rafael, 96 N. 100 E.
- 2) Green River—Aug. 25th, 4-9:00 pm, J.W. Powell Museum, 885 E. Main
- 3) Price—Aug. 26th, 4-9:00 pm, Holiday Inn, 838 Westwood Blvd.
- 4) Salt Lake City—Aug. 31st, 4-9:00 pm, Best Western Hotel, 122 W. South Temple

**Comments are due by October 15:**

Price Field Office RMP Comments  
Attn: Floyd Johnson  
125 S. 600 W.  
Price, UT 84501

Email: [comments@pricermp.com](mailto:comments@pricermp.com)

—Information provided by SUWA

# 15 Years and Great Old Broads Keep Getting

by Kathryn Robens

The history of the Great Old Broads For Wilderness is an extraordinary story, and I feel honored to be able to tell it. Honored because, in this adventure of gathering up the “facts” and the “values” of our founders, I have been enriched, restored, and validated for my own “olderness” and love of wilderness.

At this, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness fifteenth anniversary of being, it seems appropriate, if not necessary, to look at our beginnings. Who are we, what are we about, how did we come to be, and more important what is/was the vision of our first great and older women who had and still have a relationship with wilderness?

Susan Tixier founded the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. She was ideally experienced for this task. She served as an environmental aid to Governor Toney Anaya in New Mexico, was a founder of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center (where she met and enlisted another founding Broad, Edie Pierpont), and was with Southern Utah Wilderness

Alliance (SUWA) when the idea of Great Old Broads for Wilderness emerged. She was, and still is, articulate and passionate about wilderness.

## On the Farside of 45: Beginnings

It was the 25th year anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Tixier was angered by the statements of Senator Orrin Hatch (Utah) that creation of wilderness would lock out the elderly. Since she hiked in wild places and had many older women friends who did the same, she thought “huh?” And decided something had to be done to counter this belief. But what could women do?

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness was formed by a group of women who were fed up with the idea that wilderness can be enjoyed only by the young. One afternoon Tixier and her friends were relaxing in a restaurant after a hike in the Red Fish Lake area in Idaho and some older women came in and someone said, “there go some great old broads.” The idea formed that getting older women before Congress arguing for wilderness was needed.

The women seized on the name to capture the spirit of a new environmental organization. This was 1989.

Tixier soon garnered help from her many older women friends and colleagues in the environmental movement to form the organization and to help it grow. Dottie Fox agreed with Tixier’s ideas and joined the board. She didn’t think wilderness designation locked it up so that the elderly couldn’t get in. She was always meeting older people on hikes and backpacks. She often met

“tough old gray haired desert rats, who were completely at home on a tough trail.” This sentiment has been expressed over and over by many of the early members of the organization.

The Broads formed to bring awareness of the need for more wilderness, to turn away threats to what little existed, and to demand persistent diligence in protecting public lands.

Tixier explains the name, “Why old? There’s an African proverb: you do not teach the paths of the forest to an old gorilla and that’s why. Why Broads? For a long time a male dominated world made manlike, masculine, efforts to make the earth his: pound, plow, and pulverize; divert and drain; dam and cut and grow and graze; and kill and eradicate. Feminine ways with the

**“Those who take offense or think it’s [the name] degrading, probably are not Great Old Broads; it implies strength, individuality and someone who’s not afraid to get out. . . and to get scratched up.”  
—Frandee Johnson**

world are more gentle. This way is caring rather than controlling; it seeks harmony rather than arrogance. Why wilderness? It won’t be asked by one of us. We know why Wilderness.”

Some have said they’d like to join but thought “broads” was a derogatory term. Why not name it the grand old women? But who would pay attention to a group with that name. If you’re laughing at yourself, Great Old Broads is not an epithet.

Broads soon found that their organization had a special appeal. An article in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* described: “The group shows an abiding faith in and relationship with wild country. They see it as a source of comfort, of growth, of humor and the future.”



From left to right: Ginger Harmon, Frandee Johnson, Edie Pierpont, Cecilia Hurwich, Marilyn Price-Reinholt, Susan Tixier, and Dottie Fox at Grandmother Mountain in Idaho.



# ing Broader & Greater!

## Write Letters and Write Checks: The Organization

The Broads were incorporated in 1989. The mission was to protect wild lands and to bring more lands under the National Wilderness Preservation System. Working solely through grassroots connections, with no full-time staff and a small budget they made themselves heard.

In the first two years, a board was formed and membership solicited, a draft made of the organization's purposes, an annual conference planned, and a newsletter published to get the word out on wilderness issues.

Tixier wrote a framework document for the organization. Here it is in part. It declared:

Great Old Broads are women 45 years of age or older (in fact or in fantasy) who actively participate (or wish they could) in wilderness use and enjoyment. . . there are no dues or fees for membership . . . an annual meeting will take place in a designated or proposed wilderness area . . . Therefore, Great Old Broads for Wilderness is hereby declared to be a nonprofit, social organization dedicated to the protection, use and enjoyment of the wilderness (designated or proposed or imagined).

For the founders, The Great Old Broads for Wilderness was more substance than process. A well-informed, strong advocacy Board of Directors was important.

The Great Old Broads t-shirt became "THE fashion

statement across the country" as members wore them everywhere, women wanted to join and, of course, have a t-shirt. Cathy Sullivan, an artist, in Santa Fe designed the shirt logo with the Kokopelli Mani, the humped backed dowager, with the cane representing the elder part of the organization and the circle representing women. Then as now the t-shirt is the symbol for Broads. They were worn while addressing Congressional representatives and were given to them as a gesture of goodwill. It is worn today at gatherings and given to others as we go about our activities, to funders, and to speakers who give us their time at Broadwalks and meetings.

An ad in an outdoor catalog for the t-shirts read: "Hold the wild in your heart? Set a pace that only those with experience and wisdom can maintain. Struggle for wilderness preservation. Know the importance of laughter. Sound like you? Then you're a Great Old Broad."

A 75 year old woman from New Jersey, Thelma Laifer, while vacationing in the west, bumped into a woman wearing a Broads T-shirt. "It was such a kick," she decided to look into the organization. "I discovered it to be an excellent voice for senior citizens and for protecting the federal wilderness that belongs as much to

Great Old Broads from New Jersey as from Utah." Many others made the same comments about how the t-shirt attracted them to the Broads.

Then letterhead and cards followed due



## Susan Tixier, Founder of Great Old Broads

"The Great Old Broads for Wilderness can bring expertise, wisdom, and humor to the battlefield. We're not doing this for ourselves . . . but we can do this little bit for the rocks, hawks, flowers, and space that cannot speak in the halls of Congress, cannot vote, do not have standing in a court of law. This will be fun and it will be work. And it will be worthwhile."

to the efforts of Susan Morgan. She paid for the first printing and for the first t-shirts.

The publication, *Broadsides*, our voice to our members and the public came about when a group of Tixier and friends were skiing and got "Broad-sided" by a young, male skier. Dottie Fox dubbed it the name for Broads newsletter. At first, SUWA staff helped publish it, but then the number of members grew and the mailings grew, making it necessary for a bank account and a membership data base. Broads began to function as an organization.

*continued on page 10*



*Susan Tixier taking on the good 'ole boys of the Jarbidge, Nevada Shovel Brigade.*

# Greatness Becomes Older

## Kitchen Table Leadership

The first board members were a loosely formed group, a bunch of women sitting around a kitchen table. They made decisions and acted upon them without formal ado. Marilyn Price-Reinbolt explained it this way, "We were a woman's mentoring group, it was an opportunity for women to get together, share philosophies and then go home to work on individual wilderness issues." They were determined not to have a paid staff and a formal organization. That way they did not spend their time creating a "company"—instead they spent it on action to protect wilderness.

Frandee Johnson, board member, worked on organizing the first annual conference in Eldora, Colorado. She knew people who ran the old hotel there, so that was where it was held. The focus was on the Colorado Wilderness Bill. It established what was to become the annual wilderness conference with an agenda of educating members on wilderness issues, legislation, and they always

dues of \$25 per year. Then in 1994 it became necessary to hire staff to keep the membership data base, publish *BroadSides*, and do public relations. Paula Raines-Hoffer and husband Mike Hoffer became staff.

So, going against the earlier philosophy, the Broads were forced to get more organized. Tixier lamented, "We moved in this direction reluctantly but positively... We were freewheeling and loose, but that was our intent. Membership grew, we made a name for ourselves." They hired an Executive Director, Liz Thomas, and opened an office in Boulder, Colorado.

## Broad Actions

The Broads were dedicated specifically to adding more wilderness and to the protection of existing wilderness. Since only Congress can add to the Wilderness system, Broad-Climbing the Hill began to be a yearly activity. They met with key women and men in Congress, introduced them to The Great Old Broads for Wilderness and offered to assist them in any way to promote wilderness. This activity continues today.

The Broads supported wilderness bills in Congress, such as the California

Desert Protection Act, the Utah Wilderness Bill, the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act of 1993 (the Arctic Refuge), and the Colorado Wilderness. The group decided the proposed wilderness, Grandmother



*Dale and Frandee Johnson, past Board members of Great Old Broads.*

Mountain in northern Idaho needed "mothering" so they had a Broadwalk there to "wrap their arms around" this wonderful resource.

In the beginning, it was thought that the organization would go state to state and help pass wilderness bills. This became too scattered a goal, so in 1996, the Escalante was chosen as a focus. Broadwalks and conferences were held there for several years.

The Broads adopted the Escalante Canyons and worked to stop or limit grazing in areas where grazing adversely impacted public lands. While the Broads are not anti-grazing, they are most definitely opposed to "its taking place in areas where the plodding, fat-hoofed, eating (and pooping) machines tromp delicate and biologically important soils, graze every blade of grass, and destroy the few riparian areas and springs essential to wildlife."

One effort, led by Ginger Harmon, was for Broad members to become interested parties with local BLM offices. Called an "affected interest" they could participate in the decision-making processes with BLM and the Forest Service. Broads also adopted individual grazing allotments.

Broadwalks introduced participants to allotments and gave training from experts to learn about abuses to the



*The Broom Brigade at the Moab Jeep Safari, sweeping up unwanted tracks.*

included a Broadwalk, a hike to learn about the area they wanted to protect.

Membership increased, costs increased and in 1993 the board found that they had to ask for membership



land from grazing. BLM managers welcomed the adoption of grazing allotments. Broads provided information that was used to implement allotment evaluations. Firsthand observations of overstocking or overgrazing helped in making land use decisions.

Marilyn Price-Reinbolt observed that Broads were very effective. Allotments were withdrawn in some cases and the BLM made changes in others.

In 2000 the Broads took on the Easter Moab Jeep Safari. Armed with brooms, dust pans, bucket and scrub brushes, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness visited Moab to “sweep up the mess caused by off-road vehicles.” A reporter from the *Salt Lake Tribune* asked, “What’s with the brooms?” “A woman’s work is never done” replied Susan Tixier. Such levity characterizes most of the group’s interactions with the four-wheelers and others. “Part of our effectiveness is the humor associated with us,” said Susan.

**“Wilderness is a loaded word, it means that mankind is a visitor on that land. People have a hard time envisioning that nature can take care of itself without man managing it. We’ve got to keep our hands off of it.”  
—Marilyn Price-Reinbolt**

### Broadways

Wilderness is for everybody—a message that older women feel qualified to deliver. In every society there have been crones that have carried the wisdom of the tribe, the feminine characteristics of nurturing, rather than controlling, and that is what Great Old Broadness is.

Members were and still are passionate about protecting wilderness. Humor and hiking go along with the passion as well. How are a bunch of older women seen?

An aid for Maurice Hinchey, congressman from New York said,

“What [Broads] have is energy, commitment, and a lot of life, and they are serious and knowledgeable, too. You just can’t meet these people and not want to sit down and talk with them.” Hinchey introduced a bill that the Broads co-authored proposing to preserve acres in Utah as permanent wilderness.

When Broads visited a BLM office in Utah to ask about land management, the BLM guys did a double take, then grinned. A strident attitude could have been taken as confrontation, instead, when introduced as the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, they snickered and laughed. They were put into a relaxed state instead of getting their defenses up.

Tom Lustig, attorney for the National Wildlife Federation, said, “Women, such as the Great Old Broads, are terrific for the environmental movement, they have the ability to see beyond the in-your-face confrontation to a broader view. They are also capable of going chin-to-chin with strong adversaries.”

Frandee Johnson commented, “People are more willing to listen to seniors than college students. I think because we’re older, we can walk up to people, who are initially very hostile and they will be polite. I can sit down and talk to loggers.”

“We’re much less rational than other environmental organizations, we don’t have to be politically palatable. We’re old.” Tixier told the Associated Press.

Embedded in the name is a sense of humor, and because of it, Broads are effective.

To sum up, BLM manager, Jerry Meredith said: “If you want to have a lot of fun, go out on one of their



*Previous Executive Director, MB McAfee with Broads well-known German member, Klaus Nuber.*

Broadwalks. They laugh and joke and have a really good time.”

### Changing of the Broads

In the beginning, a bunch of active older wilderness lovers got together to see what they could do to protect the wild places they cared about. Their enthusiasm and passion led to the growth of the organization to what it is today. During that growth, changes were made in how the organization does business and who does that business. Even so, the humor, the hardiness, and the passion remains.

Dottie Fox explained that Wilderness is more than a use, it’s a relationship, and I am sure that is true for everyone of us. “We who feel so strongly that as much land as possible should be set aside . . . must continue to be a presence in Washington, in Utah, in Alaska, in Yellowstone—wherever we can make a difference. It is a big order, but I have seen small grassroots groups make that difference, so I know it works.”

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Note: This article is the beginning of a larger essay on Great Old Broads history. The information was gathered from interviews, *BroadSides*, letters, minutes of meetings, and newspaper clippings. If anyone wishes to know the sources of what has been written, please contact Kathryn Robens, 505-466-6274 or email: [therobens@comcast.net](mailto:therobens@comcast.net).



# Spotlight on Founding Board Member Edie Pierpont

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness has been around for 15 years now, and so has Edie Pierpont, a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Great Old Broads. Like any Great Old Broad, and certainly one who has been with Broads as long as Edie has, she has a deep-felt passion for wilderness and a long history as an activist.

Edie's beginnings as an activist go back to her own childhood beginnings. "The whole idea of being an activist has been with me my whole life," says Edie, whose father she describes as a "quiet activist," who brought Edie up with a strong environmental ethic.

**"To defend wilderness, you need hope and to have hope, you need to laugh and enjoy life with like-minded companions. It's the combination of wonderful settings for meetings, great conversation, hard facts and touch of nature's mystery that makes the Great Old Broads unique. I think we're on to something. May it continue and grow."**

**—Edie Pierpont, *Broadsides*, vol. 1, 1992**

Spending her summers hiking and mountain climbing in the East, Edie says, "I was brought up unafraid to be by myself outdoors. I used to ride miles [on a horse] by myself and I enjoyed the feeling of being close to the forest without intrusions."

While raising a family and living in Connecticut, Edie was involved with local issues, such as trying to stop building permits close to the shore or wetlands, and reducing pollution on Long Island Sound. She was on the board of the local League of Women Voters and spent time teaching her own children about the environment in the same way her father taught her.

When she moved west to Santa Fe twenty-one years ago, she saw the extensive logging in the surrounding

forests and got a better sense of what Wilderness meant in the West, her belief about the need for Wilderness became more solid. "Wilderness unchanged is becoming more and more important," says Edie, "I think the whole world is going to suffer from not having enough Wilderness."

Edie transferred her membership in the League of Women Voters to Santa Fe and said that she was interested in working on environmental issues. After volunteering less than a year, she was lobbying at the state legislature and eventually spent six years as the Natural Resource Chair for the New Mexico League.

During this time, Edie met Susan Tixier, Great Old Broads founder. Susan was working for the then New Mexico Governor, Toney Anaya, and because Edie was often at the state legislature lobbying, they got to know each

other. In 1987, before starting Broads, Susan helped get the New Mexico Environmental Law Center started and asked Edie to join as one of its founding Board members.

Two years later, the idea of Great Old Broads came to Susan, and Edie was once again asked to join the initial Board of Directors. From there, Edie spent several years as Treasurer, keeping track of Broads money (or lack thereof!). Though no longer acting as Treasurer, Edie still keeps her eye on the financial big picture of Broads.

From the first Broadwalk on, Edie has enjoyed being a part of Broads. "Being part of Broads has shown me a lot of places I wouldn't have seen otherwise and put me in touch with



*Edie Pierpont continues to be a devoted Broad and Board member. Thank you, Edie.*

lots of great people," says Edie. "For me, Broads has been the way to get to know and love the western land and wilderness."

She believes strongly that Broads has an important niche in the environmental community. "The whole structure of Broads and its programs are key to our success. For example, we take trips to places like Otero Mesa where we really get on the ground and see what the problems are, train our members about grazing damage, and monitor OHV impacts," says Edie, "All these acts in small numbers stick in your head and influence the big picture."

Looking ahead and looking back, Edie has seen lots of changes and sees more to come. While she believes that there has been a heightened awareness of the issues over the years, she acknowledges that the fight for Wilderness is going to become more difficult. "I think it's going to be harder and harder, as the need for natural resources and population growth impinges on particular areas we want to become Wilderness and even on areas already designated as Wilderness. Politically, those who want to exploit these areas are going to continue to try to do so," says Edie. "One way to protect Wilderness is to

*continued on page 13*

# Words from a Great Old Broad

I joined the Great Old Broads Board fifteen years ago. During those 15 years, it has been very gratifying to take part in the important mission of Great Old Broads: to increase, protect and preserve wilderness. We have worked hard, accomplished much, and had a ton of fun doing it. Besides the battles we have fought and the fun we have had, I am grateful for all that I have learned and the many good friends I have made.



*Ginger Harmon, one passionate, tough, and GREAT Broad!*

I first heard of Great Old Broads for Wilderness when I saw an ad with our now famous logo in High Country News. My response, "Oh, I am an Old Broad." I signed up the same day and by return mail got an invite to the first meeting of Great Old Broads in Eldora, CO. To my surprise and delight I was invited to join the

*continued from page 12*

start using wind power and solar power as much as we can."

While Broads may be one small piece in a big puzzle, Edie has no doubt that our efforts are important. "Big organizations ask for your money and say, 'we'll do it,' but it's very important to train individuals and give them the opportunity to get out on the land," says Edie, "And that's what Great Old Broads does." —BL

board and that was the beginning of 15 great years that, broadly thinking, I would not trade.

Great Old Broads was the idea of Susan Tixier. The founding of Broads was only one of many original ideas from Susan that gave shape to the Broads: Broadwalks, Conferences, Chix in the Stix, our logo, BroadSides, Protests, Hike the Hill, Walk across Utah. Susan got us off to a flying start.

In 2001, MB McAfee became Executive Director—in the nick of time—just when we were very ready for more structure and a serious financial foundation for our organization. MB did miracles. Under MB we began to achieve a serious reputation in the world of environmental activism.

Now we have Ronni Egan as Executive Director, with Rose Chilcoat as side kick kicker. They are a formidable combination and we are on a roll. There are new ideas, new plans

and new programs being pursued every day with incredible energy and determination. In addition to these two superbroads, we have a quality board of directors to support the executive team. I'd say we have come into maturity.

Maturity or not, environmental organizations exist on a slippery slope. Maintaining income from memberships, foundation grants and donor-giving is an ever present problem. As membership chair, I urge each of you to help by seeking new memberships. Ask Rose for copies of our new membership brochure.

For the past three and a half years, environmental organizations have been seriously stymied by an anti-environmental administration. I am truly hoping this unfortunate situation will soon end.

I am proud that our membership tends to be slightly crazed about both local and national wilderness issues. I am proud of the passion and commitment I have seen from Broads during my fifteen years with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

I like this quote from "The Abstract Wild" by Jack Turner: "We must become so intimate with wild animals, with plants and places that we answer to their destruction from the gut. Like when we discover the landlord strangling our cat."

## The Song of the Canyon Wren

*I cannot tell you of the song of the canyon wren. You must come to the canyons to hear that sweet, magical sound. In the morning, when the sun has touched the canyon walls, you will hear a silvery trill of perfect descending notes. It is music as lilting and lovely as any ever heard. It is at once an ode to joy and a haunting refrain of melancholy and mystery. The song of the canyon wren will touch the very quick of your soul.*

*While walking in deep, hidden canyons of southern Utah, I listen for the flowing water. It sings of hot sun on redrocks and the smell of juniper and sage. The lyrical melody tells of crimson monkeyflower, yellow columbine, and purple penstemon. Bright shafts of light on carved sandstone walls and still pools are reflected in the wren's brilliant arpeggio. Each note is an echo of the peace and serenity of slickrock places and unending blue skies.*

*Come to the canyons. Come hear the song of the canyon wren. Come!*

*Ginger Harmon  
BroadSides, Summer 1995*



# Broadwalking in Montana's Roadless Yaak

by Pat Cary Peek

"It's not that these ancient larch and cedar *escaped* disease, fire and lightning, they *lived through* all of them," Mike Arvidson, botanist for the Kootenai National Forest, explained to our group as we huddled in the meager shade on a blistering afternoon. Just like us, I thought to myself. Old Broads have weathered a few storms. The remnants of old growth are still here and we are still here speaking up for them and the grizzly, the fungus, the mountain goat, the owl, the wolf and the butterfly, because, though they can survive nature's tough blows, they can't continue to survive man's stupidity.

Yaak, Montana. The land that urban sprawl and traffic jams forgot, the land where the track along the sandy creek bottom is more likely to be four footed than two footed, has not been forgotten by the timber companies, miners and ORV enthusiasts. That is why about twenty of us traveled to this far northwest corner of Montana, just across the border from Canada, to give our support to the Yaak Valley Forest Council, who care about the very unique ecosystem here and want to keep it whole. They are a small

group with a big voice and we lend our voices to theirs. Rick Bass, outdoor writer and activist, along with Robyn King, President of the Council, give an overview of the area and some of their concerns on the first evening.

Mary Campbell and Pam Fuqua welcome us into their little piece of wilderness, as we assemble in the green meadow near their home. Western tanagers, loons, pine siskins, red crossbills, and numerous other birds claim this space as well. Tents, trailers and vans spring up like mushrooms near the large

canopied cooking and eating area. Nearby we have a wash station with cold clear water and two or three outdoor shower stalls built by our talented hostesses. Their large beautiful garden is delightful to behold and each evening we are

treated to it's bounty along with a main course and luscious dessert.

The forest here is cool, deep and extremely diverse, with western red cedar, larch, fir, spruce, hemlock and aspen. Some pockets of

trees are five hundred or more years old. On the sun-dappled forest floor are numerous shade loving plants such as exquisite ferns and bright green kinickinnick. Tiny jewel-like twinflowers (*linnaea borealis*) bloom among the hundreds of mosses and other plants. The Yaak is called "Montana's only rain forest" and is like another country compared to the rest of Montana.

***"The Yaak Broadwalk was for both me and Pam one of the most worthwhile endeavors we have ever put our energies into. The "fellowship" (there must be a feminist version of this term) of older women with a mutual commitment to environmental activism is incomparable in my experience. Women who know who they are and have gotten beyond caring very much what anyone thinks about it; and have mostly left behind issues of ego and control and shakey self esteem which can be so divisive. Truly a breath of fresh air for the two of us. In graciousness and appreciation and inclusiveness, the Broads have no equal. We consider ourselves lucky to have made so many great new friends."***

***—Mary Campbell***

On our way to West Fork Falls we see a cow moose cooling off in a pond not far from the road. She lifts her head to watch us pass, then continues munching on her underwater lunch. As we hike on the trail to the Falls, Mike shows us lichens growing on rotting wood and reminds us that without the microscopic bacteria, fungus and lichens, the forest could not exist. The total ecosystem, from beneath the ground to the tops of the tallest tree, is interconnected in ways we only partly understand. Their interactions hold the mysteries of life itself.

In the evening, as the sun disappears behind the mountains, a small doe steps out and looks at all the activity, amazed, I'm sure, to see the invasion of aliens on her grounds! After dining on spaghetti with elk meatballs supplied by Rick Bass, Cesar Hernandez from Montana



Another GREAT Broads outing. Photo by Ronni Egan





*Great Old Broads working to remove invasive weeds from the forest.  
Photo by Ronni Egan*

Wilderness Association talks about the Cabinet Mountains and the threat of the Rock Creek Mine, which, if approved, would tunnel under the Cabinet Wilderness. Another area of concern is Scotsman's Peak. It is mountain goat habitat and no motorized vehicles are allowed, but they go in anyway. We need to work for a national policy to require the Forest Service (USFS) to designate roads for off-highway vehicles (OHV) and snowmobiles and keep them off the rest.

On the second day we hike up to beautiful Henry Lake, a jewel at the base of rugged cliffs that lead up to a lookout. As we approach the shore, a mother golden eye duck paddles across the glassy surface with her string of ducklings lined out behind her. Now that's really having "your ducks in a row!" Kris Newgard, with the Three Rivers Ranger District, is with us today, and she gives us a new perspective to this area and its possibilities and problems. For those who hiked to the summit lookout, which sits at 7200 feet and is above the treeline, the reward was a bird's eye view of the Yaak and a look at how little untouched land is left. In the evening, we are treated to a wonderful slide show by photographer Randy Beacham.

The third day presents a new challenge. Invasive weeds are

threatening our natural areas across the west and this emerald green paradise is no exception. Mary and Pam have written a proposal for weed management in the Hoskins Lake Research Natural Area. In a cooperative effort with the USFS, Three Rivers Ranger District and Great Old Broads we are going to help eradicate a nasty invader, Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) from #62 trail that leads to the lake. These persistent weeds, along with Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) are choking out the native plants such as sego lily, bunchberry, yarrow and huckleberry. We pull on gloves and set to work, digging and shaking out the roots of the plants before placing them into large sacks and soon we have a pile as high as our shoulders (30 bags worth)! Whew! Hot, dirty work but satisfying as well, to do our tiny bit in the big scheme of things. At the end of the day we rush to our reward, beer and pizza at the Dirty Shame Saloon in Yaak!

On Monday we don our Great Old Broads shirts, pack up and prepare for our last stop before heading home, our meeting with the Kootenai National Forest Planning team and Ranger Michael Balboni. When we meet them we ask if they've seen an article about the Broads that was in the Missoula paper. "Oh, yes," they

answer, grimacing, and we smile broadly. We know we don't need to tell them who we are! We quiz them about the Rock Creek Mine, OHV use, grizzly habitat, fire policy and their nine areas designated as IRA (Inventoried Roadless Areas). We wondered why they have designated a ranch in the middle of the forest as an *urban interface*, including miles of timber around it. Is that an excuse to log it?

In the fantastic Missoulian article, written by Michael Jamison, Rose is quoted as saying "We're old women. Our knees are shot, our eyes are shot, our backs are shot, but we're still here. We're not going away either!" And I say "Right on!" The people on the Council know we are behind them and the Forest Service Planners know we are watching. Like the old trees, the grizzly and the loon, we plan to be here for a long time.

Pat Cary Peek has recently published her second book, *Cougar Dave, Mountain Man of Idaho*, the narrative nonfiction story of David Lewis, 1855-1936. He was a hunting guide in the Idaho wilderness and around his fire the idea of preserving the vast Idaho Primitive area first took shape. Published by Ninebark Publications, Box 8915, Moscow, Idaho 83843, [pcaryp@moscow.com](mailto:pcaryp@moscow.com) or [www.patcarypeek.com](http://www.patcarypeek.com)



*Mike Arvidson waxes poetic about lichen in the Yaak. Photo by Libby Ingalls*

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Button or sticker (please circle)		\$1.50	
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Nalgene Bottle w/ logo		\$15	
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.

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