

Keeping the Public in Public Lands Planning

by Lauren Berutich and Katya Spiecker

Agency acronyms—RMPs, TMPs, FMPs*—no matter how you spell them out, these federal planning processes are valuable and necessary for determining how our wild public lands are managed, used, and protected. Thanks to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the process is designed to ensure the public participates every step of the way. NEPA mandates planning processes meet established requirements through

resource management over 15 to 20 years—frequently longer on oil, gas, and mineral extraction, grazing, OHV use, recreation, and investments in conservation initiatives.

Once in place, the BLM conducts continuous evaluation, planning, and monitoring to ensure that RMPs and implementation decisions remain consistent and comply with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

There are many steps to the Resource Management Planning process. It is important to pay attention and participate at each opportunity. As concerned citizens, it is up to us to collaborate and provide the best scientific, factual, and on-the-ground data to support decisions that benefit land health and wildlife habitat.

Wise policy makers put these laws into place decades ago to prioritize local communities and the environment in land management decisions. Fast

forward to today, however, and the scary truth of our current political environment shows the public losing its democratic power to participate. Evidence abounds of this administration and certain politicians attempting to undercut or dramatically weaken NEPA and ignore local stakeholders—and even agency staff in its planning decisions. Directives coming straight from the Department of the Interior order local agency staff to eliminate or ignore all conservation lands and municipal water safeguards in the name of **maximum resource extraction and energy dominance**.

According to the Center for Western Priorities, of the draft RMPs under



Members of the Rio Grande Valley Broadband (NM) lobby for sponsorship of America's Redrock Wilderness Act.

two review methods: Environmental Impact Statements, or the less complex Environmental Assessments.

Public land advocates, including Broads and other community members, have labored with local, county, state, and tribal governments for sometimes years on management plans. WHY? **Because they have the potential to determine decades of ecosystem health.**

As an example, the BLM develops Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to serve as a map or blueprint to “keep public landscapes healthy and productive.” The plans are generational decisions that often guide

*RMP - Resource Management Plan, TMP - Travel Management Plan, FMP - Forest Management Plan

(Continued page 14)

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**HELP FUND OUR
WORK TO
PROTECT THE WILD!**

EVENT PREVIEW!

That's right!
We've got our
Broadwalks
mapped out for
2020 so you can
start planning now.

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ADVOCACY CORNER

Celebrate!
Recognizing
wins keeps us
fired up and engaged.

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BROADBANDS IN ACTION

Our Broadband
Leaders put on
some awesome
regional Broadwalks in 2019.

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In a BROAD Sense

30 Years of Broads' Magic

What do you get when you combine skinny-dipping in mountain streams, grassroots lobbying in D.C., data collecting, slide shows under starlit skies, wetland restoration, bone-chilling winds that blow down port-a-pots, raucous happy hours, poems and songs and skits, desert hikes in searing sun, and the smartest, most committed, and funniest women and men you've ever met? You get one hell of an organization, dear broads and bros!

Thirty years old—that may sound like a *youngster* to a great old broad. But thirty years of Broads' undeniable attitude has earned us standing in the conservation community, and in the many communities where our chapters raise a ruckus, educate, and get all hands on deck to restore wholeness to habitat.

We've a proud history of hard work to ensure the long-term protection of America's public lands, while finding unique ways to shine a spotlight on threats that imperil them. In 1995, Board President Susan Tixier planned an ambitious month-long "Broadwalk across Utah" to generate publicity for the 5.7-million-acre American Redrock Wilderness Act. Each Monday, up to ten participants began hiking the proposed lands, ending on Friday by discussing impacts observed with local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials. Always key was the experience

of this venture: "...not just to make the statement that this vulnerable and exquisite landscape must be protected for all time, but to [also] soothe your souls." (Susan Tixier, Summer 1995 *Broadsides*). Weekends meant resupply, press meetings, relaxation, and always, fun. But Broads didn't stop there that year—they also "hiked the hill" in D.C. and met with legislators to garner support for wilderness.

In the early days, members adopted specific concerns, such as grazing. Ginger Harmon observed conditions, took photos, and wrote the BLM about three grazing allotments in Utah's Escalante Canyons, participating in scheduled evaluation processes. It may have been the first time a backpacker acquired "Affected Interest" status in all of Utah. To Ginger's delight, in 1994 the BLM rejected an increase in cattle numbers, established a pasture rotation schedule, and began their own allotment evaluation.

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*"To love a place is not enough.
We must find ways to heal it."*

— Robin Wall Kimmerer



Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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

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

Please credit Broads for reprinted articles.



2020 EVENTS

ADVENTURE CALLS



REGISTRATION OPENS
JANUARY 6, 2020



Broads' events are open to members only. If you are a member and have never attended a Broadwalk, you're eligible for the First-Timer's 10% Discount. Call us to obtain the secret code before you register at 970 385-9577.

JUNE 1–5, 2020

CLIMATE CHANGE & COASTS: THE MAINE REASON TO ACT

Blueberry Cove Summer Camp, St. George, Maine

FOCUS: Marine ecosystems, ocean warming and sea level rise, community resilience, and climate change.

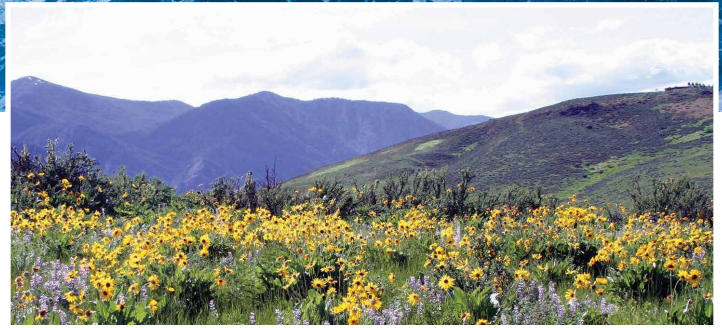
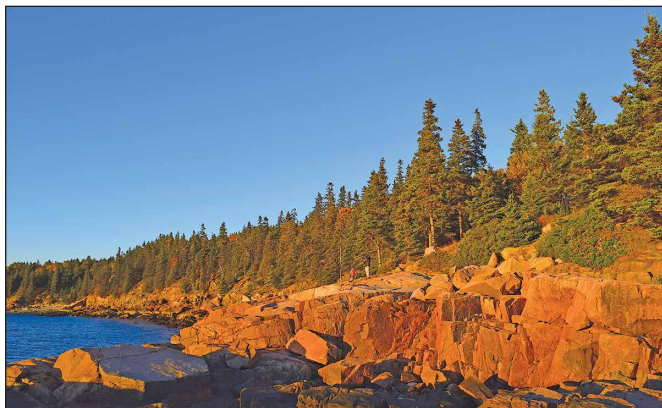
Join us at Blueberry Cove, a twenty-five-acre camp that has it all. We'll be right on the coast, overlooking Tenants Harbor, nestled in mature spruce forest and meadows. The camp offers a beautiful swimming beach, tide flats, and plenty of opportunities for hiking, canoeing, and more!

A SALTY SITUATION

On this unique event, you'll explore this distinctive region and discover how the ocean, marine life, and coastal systems—such as estuaries, rivers, and salt marshes—are being impacted by a changing climate. We'll partner with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to learn the history and current state of the wild inhabitants of the Weskeag Salt Marsh, and support Maine Broadband members involved with the Weskeag River Water Monitoring Project.

GLAMPING ON THE SHORE

Options for lodging include limited cabin reservations for up to 34 (shared cabins or single cabins) and tent camping for up to 50. There's potable water, a bathhouse with warm showers, and flushing toilets. We have the luxury of an



inside space (in case of weather) for our evening festivities, where we'll enjoy presentations from experts in ocean ecology and climate change. All meals are included!

Tent camping: \$275

Shared cabins: \$315

No-share single cabins: \$350

55 spaces available

AUGUST 21–25, 2020

MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU: FOREST HEALTH & CLIMATE CHANGE

Camp Ramblewood, Sequim Bay State Park, Sequim, WA

FOCUS: Forest health, carbon sequestration, rivers and trees, a warming planet, habitat connectivity, and wildlife adaptation.

Head west with us to Ramblewood Retreat Center located on the Olympic Peninsula near Sequim Bay State Park. This rugged and natural-feeling camp sits under a canopy of cedar, fir, hemlock, and maple trees.

SPEAKING FOR THE TREES

We'll explore the beach, hike through old-growth forests, volunteer with partner organizations to steward the land, and deepen our understanding of the relationship between forest health and climate change. Our forests provide many benefits for our planet including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and climate regulation. Changes in our climate influence the functionality of forest ecosystems and play an essential role in forest health.

Our presentations will engage, inspire, and connect you to the northwest forest ecosystem and our responsibility to protect our forests, rivers, and wildlife corridors from the impacts of climate change.

AMAZING AMENITIES

There are bunk beds or twin beds available in cabins or three-sided shelters, however if you wish to sleep under the stars, camping is available as well. We will have restroom facilities with showers and a fire ring to gather around on cool evenings. A local caterer will provide all meals on this trip.

Registration: \$365

55 spaces available



by Lauren Berutich

I recently visited southern Utah for a locally-hosted meet and greet with members. As you know, Utah is the state of our birthplace, a red rock country beckoning wild nature lovers, and riddled with challenging and diverse perceptions of how America manages its public lands. We sat on a gorgeous patio watching the sun surrender to the evening, surrounded by walls of Navajo sandstone—a remnant of eons of time. That sandstone highlights the brief time we humans have spent on earth, yet we’ve had such a heavy impact! I found myself in awe of this intelligent, engaged group of women and men as they began to share their tales.

“I’m here because I need to feel the energy from this community to re-energize. We are up against an unexplainable fight to protect our wild lands. It’s been exhausting,” shares a member to the group, who nod in agreement. Another chimes in, “Transparency has been an issue for us. We take turns driving two hours to the county commissioner meetings to learn about public lands policy and management planning.” And another, “We were told they don’t have the funds or capacity to document these meetings. We take it upon ourselves to take the minutes and send them to the local paper to publish the notes, so they become public record.” The buzz continues and the group popcorns off one another with more testimonials

on how we arrived at today’s challenging and dismissive political environment.

I could feel the depth of their mourning. Each experience compounded the belief that changes cannot happen during this administration, increasing the worry that their efforts would be in vain. But, doing nothing is not an option. Activist and author Joanna Macy’s words echoed in my head, “Of all the dangers we face, from climate chaos to nuclear war, none is so great as the deadening of our response.”

As an organizer, I see effective organizing strategies come to life in communities across the country: people meet over coffee, host gatherings in their homes, brainstorm ideas, and plan events and campaigns. Advocacy work is hard and time consuming and stressful. We see attrition and loss of energy to stay involved. How do you move forward from this place of despair? Too often, one of the most important steps in the grassroots organizing cycle is left unpracticed: **Celebration.** We must celebrate and acknowledge our wins!



Acknowledging even the smallest win is a vital part of refueling the movement and health of the participants.

Our wild advocates had a lot to celebrate. Over 30 people showed up that evening! Public meetings are public again, thanks to their efforts. Decisions are now transparent! As we acknowledged wins, the group united. The conversation shifted to, “What do we do next?” We discussed new strategies with which to move forward. Energy filled the air, lifting the heavy weight of our world.

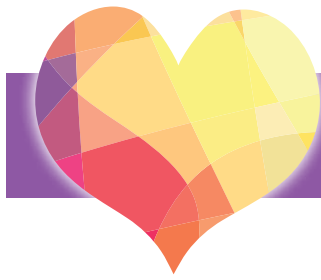
Macy reminds us we are a part of something big, a movement we can engage with that has meaning and value. “Active hope is waking up to the beauty of life on whose behalf we can act. We belong to this world.” And I can certainly celebrate that!

LET’S CELEBRATE

Call out your neighbors for doing great work, recognize someone at a meeting to celebrate their efforts, post a “we did it” message on social media. These efforts will not go unnoticed and wonderful results will surface. Celebrating wins:

- **Strengthens relationships within the community of doers:** Acknowledging accomplishments, however small, can have a huge impact on creating connection, deepening shared values, ownership, and appreciation within the group.
- **Encourages you to reflect:** Pause and carve out space to recognize the steps it took to achieve a goal. You’ll find unexpected actions to celebrate! Time reserved for reflection strengthens your efforts as you evaluate the wins, the challenges, and ways to improve your strategies.
- **Rejuvenates and re-energizes the team:** There is light in this work. When we see it, we rise up together. We remember WHY we’re willing to work so hard for a cause and SEE that even the most mundane steps can have a big impact. This inspires us to hit the ground running once again!





Thanks a Million!

We love our members—and they show their love for Broads when they generously donate items we need (but don't have the budget for).

A heartfelt thanks to **Wendy Bryant** of **Sunflower Plant Services, LLC**, for all the beautiful plants she donated to us that keep our new space oxygenated.

We are grateful to **Laura and Kip Stransky** for the table and chairs they donated for our conference room. Now we don't have to drag chairs across the office for every meeting!

And finally, a big thank you to **Sue and Fred Gunckel**, who donated a big screen monitor to our conference room. It has been invaluable for training sessions and collaborative meetings!

Still needed: An iPad or tablet, a set of drinking glasses and dish ware (service for 8–12), and airline miles for travel.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!



Anniversary Special
NEW MEMBERS ONLY \$30

**Invite someone you know
to join the fight
for Mother Earth.**

WWW.GREATOLDBROADS.ORG/JOIN-US/

GETTING WILDER FOR WILDERNESS

It's not too early to start exercising your mouse-clicking finger in preparation for this year's Wild for Wilderness Online Auction, October 27–November 10.



This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and proceeds support our work to train and inspire our members to act as advocates for wild public lands and waters. **Your participation is a vote for preserving and protecting wilderness for future generations.**

To celebrate 30 years as an organization, and our 17th year holding the auction, we're taking a new, simpler approach.

FEWER ITEMS

We are limiting the number of articles offered. There were so many last year (over 500!) that many great items were overlooked.

FUN PACKAGES

We've created high-value packages where you'll find great combinations, such as the Utah Powder Package, which includes lift tickets to Deer Valley and a \$100 gift card for dinner at High West Distillery, just outside of Park City. Imagine a great day of skiing followed by a delightful dinner of "Western Mountain Cuisine."

LIMITED TIME OFFERS

Is the whole bidding war not your dealie-o? You know what you want, and you want it now? We're offering a "Buy it Now" option on a few of our items, so



you can cut to the chase and know it's yours with no muss, no fuss.

NOT INTO AUCTIONS?

Consider a donation instead to help support our work to build our grassroots voice across the nation! Each category has a banner at the top where you can make an "Everybody is a Winner" Gift Bid!

We think you're going to like what you see—in fact, check it out right now and start planning your bidding strategy at auction.greatoldbroads.org.



THE BROADER WILDERNESS

by Lauren Berutich
& Katya Spiecker

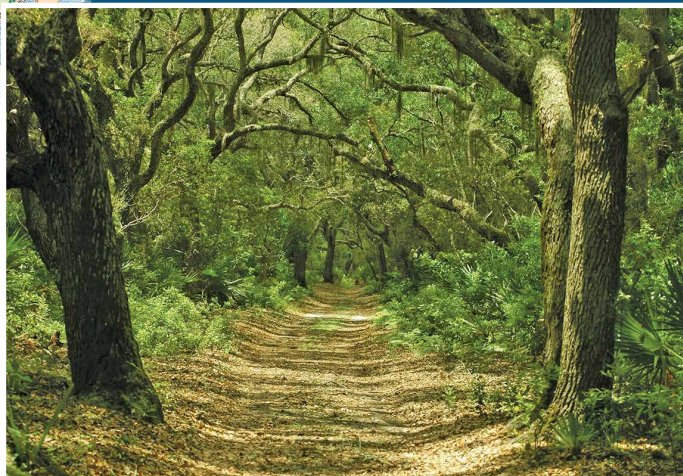
WALL BUILD STARTS IN AZ NAT'L MONUMENT

An alleged national emergency designated by our “build baby build” administration jump-started construction on two miles of border wall in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona in September. The monument is an International Biosphere Reserve and hosts a diverse community of plants and animals—and, it is the only place in the U.S. where organ pipe cactus grows abundantly. It is also rich in cultural artifacts including pottery, arrowheads, and beads.



This construction changes an already obnoxious 15-foot wall into a 30-foot concrete barrier built through what is hailed as one of the most spectacular desert ecosystems on the planet. It threatens the Monument's Quitobaquito Spring, home to the endangered Quitobaquito pupfish and Sonoyta mud turtle. The new wall will be equipped with large flood lights that would threaten migratory birds' ability to navigate, disrupt the natural darkness of the night sky, and interrupt nocturnal activity of wildlife.

Trump's obsessive campaign also includes construction of 63 miles of border wall in three wildlife refuges in southern Arizona, including the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Despite congressional refusal to appropriate funds for



this project, Trump's officials continue to stubbornly move forward with these projects.

This is a developing story, so keep abreast of the news and contact your members of Congress to express your concerns regarding the impact of the wall on animal migration and habitat fragmentation for endangered species.

ISLANDERS FIGHT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Georgia's Cumberland Island National Seashore is home to more than 9,800 acres of designated wilderness that includes pristine maritime forests, undeveloped beaches and dunes, and wide tidal marshes.

There are 1,000 acres of private land within the bounds of the National Seashore and after more than 40 years of managing these lands to preserve their pristine ecological integrity, the landowners are pressing for rezoning to allow for the development of dozens of homes. Citizens and advocates are extremely worried about the impact this would have on the island as more cars, traffic, beach driving, and development impede on this unique and rich natural setting.

The Purpose Statement for the National Seashore states that: “Cumberland Island National Seashore maintains the primitive, undeveloped character of one of the largest and most ecologically diverse barrier islands on the Atlantic coast, while preserving scenic, scientific, and historical values and providing outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation and solitude.”



Support our love for wild, undeveloped landscapes and act today. Urge the Camden Country Board of Commissioners

(<http://bit.ly/CamCommList>) to oppose new development permits and maintain the zoning that currently exists. If you live in the area, attend the Board of Commissioners meeting



October 15 at 6 pm at the Government Services Complex.
Check out the calendar for details at <http://bit.ly/CamCal>.

OWYHEE PLAN AMENDMENT SPELLS TROUBLE

Nearly 5-million acres of public land in the Owyhee Canyonlands are up for planning proposal amendments. The Bureau of Land Management released its Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment this summer, accepting comments through the end of August. The amendment will create a blueprint for the management of beloved places such as Leslie Gulch, Three Forks and Birch Creek for the next 15–20 years. The national office submitted 126 pages of comments, written and researched by the Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broadband. However, we are not optimistic about the upcoming decision.

There are multiple concerns about the BLM's preferred alternative because of its utter disregard for 17 years of local

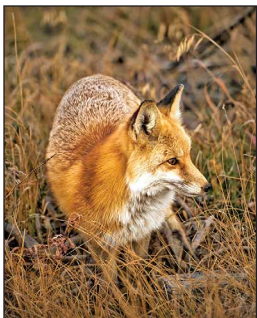


stakeholder input, and failure to include common sense tools for managing public lands (such as defending wilderness characteristics, considering habitat connectivity for migrating wildlife, and potential development). Bighorn sheep, elk, pronghorn, trout, and diverse plant life thrive in the Owyhee Canyonlands and depend on its protection for their survival.

Stay posted as we await the response from the BLM regarding the public comment period and next steps for the management plan. Chances are we will need to voice our opposition to protect this treasured desert!

ADVOCACY WINS!

COLORADO BROADS' WIN FOR WILDLIFE



Nine Colorado Broadbands teamed up this summer to ask Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) to take a more critical look at how state-funded trail building affects wildlife. Members attended meetings to express their viewpoint and sent a letter that scrutinized the process to award development grants for non-motorized trails.

It recommended that the agency expand risk assessment of proposed trails to consider the effects on habitat health, fragmentation, and connectivity. Thankfully, their insightful and astute suggestions had an impact! Upon reading and discussing the letter with Broads, CPW significantly improved their criteria, requiring applicants to provide more details and analysis on a proposed trail's wildlife and habitat impacts in their grant submissions. For a rec-heavy state like Colorado, that's a BIG win!

GRIZZLIES RE-LISTED

For the past two years, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has threatened to remove protections for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population under the Endangered Species Act and transfer



management to the states of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. We can finally celebrate after a federal judge in Montana told USFWS (again) that they failed to examine how removing protections for Yellowstone grizzlies would affect the species in other parts of the country. The judge ordered the agency to relist the bear, which it did. We're glad the judge forced USFWS to look at the bigger bear picture and relist this iconic species!

CA BROADS RIDE THE DIVESTMENT WAVE



Not only did the Middle California Broadband participate in a three-day climate march and help create a curriculum for personal divestment of fossil fuels, they also led a divestment initiative for the city of San Leandro.

California Broads convinced the city to divest their \$800,000 investment in fossil fuels (through Wells Fargo), commit to initiating a socially responsible investment policy, and persuaded the city's finance committee to recommend firing Wells Fargo as the city's bank. Emissions from oil and gas extraction on public lands represents 20% of all US greenhouse gases discharged. The fewer state and local governments that invest in dirty fossil fuel companies, the less dollars go toward supporting oil and gas development on our public lands. Local wins like this help us all realize that divestment is possible in cities across the country!



Broadbands *in ACTION!*

by Lisa Pool & Mike Kruse

Did you know that in addition to national events, there are regional Broadwalks entirely organized by our creative, hardworking Broadband leaders? Just like the national events, they incorporate stewardship, advocacy, education, and fun—in some of the most beautiful places! Here are some 2019 highlights...

HUBBARD BROOK EXPERIMENTAL FOREST CAMP OUT – NEW HAMPSHIRE

Heavy but intermittent downpours accompanied the Granite Broads on their first major outing together during three nights in August. Despite the rain, their spirits soared. The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (HBEF) in Thornton was a great place to grow their relationships with each other and learn how to advocate in partnership with science. Notably, HBEF researchers have gathered data on the forest's watershed for 50 years and are conducting significant studies on climate change impacts. They were among the first to identify acid rain impacts and their data supported legislation requiring the capping of coal-burning plants.

Participants came away with new knowledge, practical skills, and creative strategies. Researchers guided them through the forest, teaching about climate impact studies on ice, algae, plants, and more. An air quality scientist trained them to use a mobile app to collect data on plant flowering times to record and examine the impacts of a changing climate. After learning the influence scientific data can—and should!—have on environmental policy, they set forth a new plan to engage their elected officials and candidates, urging them to dedicate more funding to research collaboratives like the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study, and use long-term scientific data to inform important policy decisions.



Granite Broads left their camp out with new information and inspiration to protect the public lands in their backyard.



MEXICAN GRAY WOLF REGIONAL BROADWALK – ARIZONA

In mid-May, 13 advocates, including three Arizona Broadband leaders, met for a weekend in Nutrioso—the heart of Mexican gray wolf country. Roz Switzer, leader of the Middle Gila Broadband and the Phoenix Lobos-Rising Packtivists, presented on the status of the Mexican gray wolf. This sparked great conversation on key ways Broads can work to protect these endangered wolves. These advocates plan to build more local support and submit substantive comments if the Trump Administration moves to delist the species.

The last day of the event ended on an inspirational high note. Four participants hiked high into the forest, inspecting the land for indications of wolves. Making their way through fallen trees, meadows, ponds, and mud, they found three promising signs: elk tracks and bones (the wolf's main prey) and wolf scat. They knew they were close. Then, while overlooking an expansive meadow, they spotted two wolves running along a stream! The Broads watched the canines for a quarter mile before they disappeared into the forest and reveled in the opportunity to view these elusive creatures in their natural habitat. This rare sighting inspired renewed dedication to their wolf protection advocacy.

LOST SIERRAS REGIONAL BROADWALK – CALIFORNIA

The Middle-California Broadband covered a variety of landscapes during their Broadwalk, which began with a dawn walk through Sierra Valley. They spotted Canadian geese, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, ducks, songbirds, and two bald eagles soaring in an area where these birds had been absent for decades. They ventured up to 8,000 feet to find snow and a crystal-clear view of

More next page ➡



Mt. Lassen, tackled a stewardship project at the Plumas Eureka State Park, and learned about Native American archaeological sites of the Washoe, Maidu, and Paiute tribes. They also hiked a region of the Sierra Nevada mountains where wolves have been spotted, and learned about wolf protection under the California Endangered Species Act.

For the advocacy component of the trip, the group made phone calls asking their members of Congress to support the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act (HR 2250), which proposes to expand existing



wilderness, create new wilderness areas, and designate hundreds of miles of Wild and Scenic rivers in northern California. They also wrote postcards supporting the Outdoors For All Act, which establishes funding to increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities in cities and towns.

JORDAN COVE REGIONAL BROADWALK - OREGON

In mid-August, Oregon and southwest Washington Broadband Leaders teamed up for an event focused on the Jordan Cove Energy Project, a proposal to



Carol Savonen and Cyndi Anderson take shovels in hand for a stewardship project.

build a liquefied natural gas export terminal within the International Port of Coos Bay, Oregon. If constructed, this project would be Oregon's largest polluter and would impact 32 endangered species, such as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and coho salmon. The terminal would be built on unstable soils and in a tsunami hazard zone, which would place it at high risk for leaks or explosions. Moreover, the pipeline to the terminal would require a 95' wide clear-cut that would not be reforested in order to keep



the pipeline free of falling trees. This 232-mile deforested swath would have detrimental effects on wildlife migration corridors and soil erosion. Those are just a few reasons to fight like hell against this proposal.

This Broadwalk created much-needed momentum in a critical time for the campaign. Through hiking and kayaking, participants experienced the cliffs and magnificent rock outcroppings of southern Oregon's coasts. They gave back to the land by removing highly invasive Scotch broom in the Oregon Dunes. This energized the 40 Broad activists to renew their resolve to halt the Jordan Cove proposal at every decision level, from the local city council to the State of Oregon to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The participants wrote letters that urged elected and appointed officials to reject the proposal and developed plans to get more people involved in continuing the effort when they returned home. They realized their power as a united group of passionate Broads, while connecting with each other and having a ton of fun, as always. 🌻



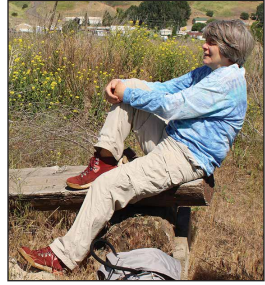
Lone Star Broads visited the Trinity River Audubon Center, where they weeded the butterfly garden and then treated themselves to a 2-hour educational hike around the property.



DON'T DAM SALMON BROADWALK



Paula piles slash that will be used to block social trails.



Doran takes a break from the heat.



We camped along the beautiful Snake River.



Linda and Lorena arrive, ready for a great Broadwalk.



Broads demonstrate their support to breach the lower four dams on the Snake River to restore the wild salmon population.



We gathered for happy hour and evening presentations at the center of the campground, which was lush and green and nicely shaded.

Broads and Bros journeyed to Lewiston, Oregon to learn about the plight of our wild salmon and orca. Experts told us there is not much time left: dams on the Snake River prevent all but a handful of salmon from reaching their breeding grounds high in the mountains of Idaho—and then the smolts must face the dams again as they strive to find their way back to the sea.

Breaching the lower four dams on the Snake River is the best hope for the survival of the wild salmon, and that of the Salish Sea's southern resident orcas, who rely on the species for food.

Poet Christine McDonald joined us one evening to read her poem about a dam breach. She learned about Broads at a Saturday market fair in Pullman, Washington where Broads were passing out information on the "Don't Dam Salmon" campaign. Christine told them about a poem she wrote last fall while traveling and hiking in northeastern Washington, and long story short, we invited her to share it at the Broadwalk.



A River Runs Free

In a narrow constriction of the valley floor a wall of rock and cement, over 80 feet high dissolved like dust and a river runs free.

From the top of the ridge above the Old Mill Pond the toy-like dump trucks, excavators and backhoes hold no comparison to the river's power, ease and grace.

The river awakens something within me.
Is this what the passion of freedom feels like?
To face the pillars of the past and blast through the walls of withholding and withdrawing until only dust remains.

The passion of a river freed has touched a nerve in my heart that sends a pulse to widen the chambers of love.
The belly softens and tears drop quietly to the earth.

The life force of the river and my life force unite as we meander across the raw landscape of this moment.

— Christine McDonald

Christine published her first book "My Two Mothers, A Collection of Poetry and Short Stories" in 2017. In addition to writing poetry, she works as an environmental consultant, and an animal communicator. You can learn more about Christine by going to her website at www.Animals-in-Spirit.com.





Study a Broad

Ronni Egan: Saddled Up for Wilderness

by Susan Kearns

Back when simply buying a tee shirt made you a bona fide Broad, Ronni Egan joined. You can bet she had no idea that she would one day lead the organization for 10 years as Executive Director.

It was only natural. Ronni spent a good part of her life exploring wilderness as a guide, outfitter, river runner, and just plain lover of wild places. She'd fallen in love with southern Utah, like so many early Broads and Bros. And, she valued the Broad's grassroots approach to protecting the red rock country and canyons she adored.

Ronni grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, near Lake Erie—which was dead at the time because of pollution. She was told she shouldn't go near the toxic body of water, prompting the thought, "What's wrong with this picture?" From an early age, her family taught her to love the outdoors. Her grandfather ran a fishing camp, and after Ronni's father died,

Ronni had a gift for writing strong letters to the editor and clearly articulating Broads' mission and values to others.

her mother (being a westerner at heart) moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico and started a dude ranch.

After receiving a degree from

Michigan State in Animal Husbandry and Art (a combination as unique as

Ronni herself), she returned to Santa Fe and spent the next 18 years working on her mother's ranch. She ran pack trips; her days filled with minding horses, wealthy tourists, and celebrities seeking solitude. She later led trips for Ken Sleight, renowned river runner and conservation advocate, friend of Edward Abbey, and owner of Pack Creek Ranch outside of Moab, Utah. (Fun fact: The second and third annual Broadband Leader Boot Camp trainings were held at Pack Creek Ranch.)

FROM BROAD TO BOARD

One day, when exploring a Utah canyon with Steve Allen (author, canyoneering expert, and former board member), he told her the Great Old Broads were having a board meeting in Durango, Colorado. He suggested she "come and meet these gals." She did. By the time the meeting was over, Ronni had joined the Board of Directors.

Not long after, in 2002, MB McAfee stepped down as Executive Director (ED). The Board launched a search to fill the position. Ronni, who had decided she was done working as a packer, agreed to serve part time as the "temporary" ED—a commitment that stretched to a decade. She'd never held a desk job in her life, but she brought her love for the wild, knowledge of wilderness, and passion for wild places. She did not choose an easy trail. While MB had begun to tighten up the organization, there was still much to be done. Ronni and Associate Director Rose Chilcoat, both part-time employees, worked many more hours than they were paid.

THE DYNAMIC DUO

"Rose was a miracle worker—she taught me everything. I was 'the face,' and together, we kept things rocking,"

said Ronni. The two made it work—quite well, in fact. They cinched down their saddles and set out to revamp Broadwalks, start the Healthy Lands Project, launch the first Broadbands, and develop the annual Broadband leader training (Boot Camp, now known as WALTs—Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Session). They grew their fundraising efforts to a national level with the annual Wild for Wilderness Online Auction; and, they saw the potential of that "internet thing" and social media to help spread the word about Broads.

"We were yin and yang, Mutt and Jeff—we complemented each other really well," agreed Rose.



Ronni and Ginger Harmon take a dip.

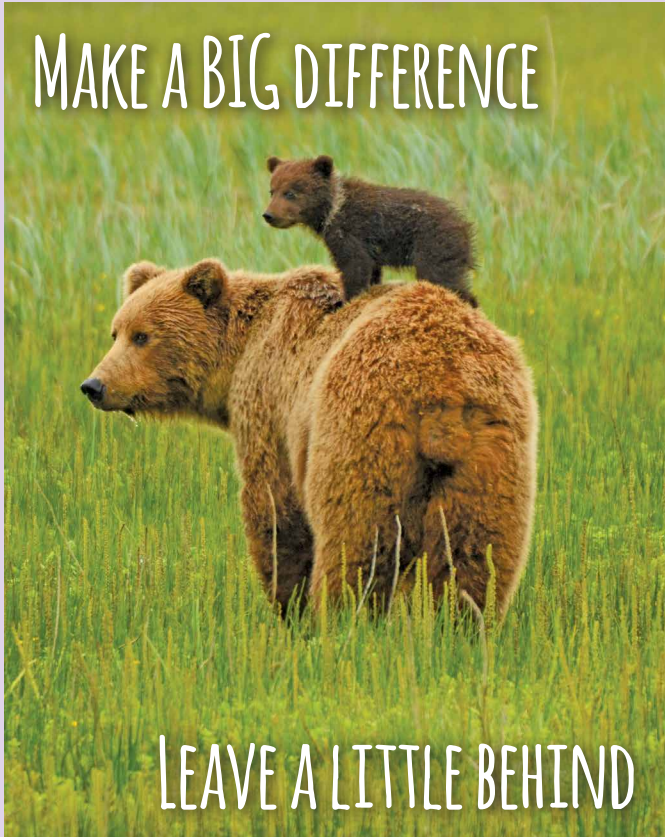
Ronni's background as a packer gave her "street cred." She is charismatic, with a contagious smile, and as Rose describes it, "a chameleon." She could put on cowboy boots, a pearl-button western shirt, and jeans, and belly-up to the table with good-old-boy ranchers and fit right in. On the flip side, when she put on her Santa Fe velvet and jewelry, she was adept at rubbing shoulders with high society and potential donors.

Her weapon of choice was the pen. Ronni had a gift for writing strong letters to the editor and clearly

(Continued page 12)



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our last WILD places on earth.**

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- Give _____ (describe the asset) to Great Old Broads for Wilderness as an in-kind gift of the asset itself, or in the form of cash after the asset has been sold by the trustee of my trust.

We encourage you to talk to your financial or legal advisor.

**For more information, contact
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(Study A Broad...continued from page 11)

articulating Broads' mission and values to others. "It was the key thing we needed in our leadership at that point in time," said Rose. "She knew how to rally people around protecting wilderness."

When Ronni looks back on her accomplishments, she is most proud of how they strategically used press coverage to get the message out about Broads and the plight of public lands—while also growing membership and keeping the organization afloat.

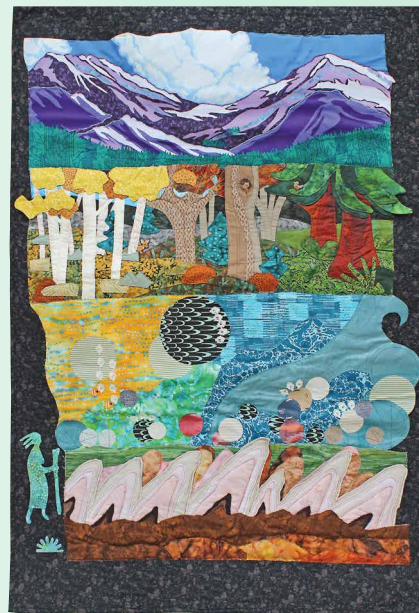
"I've never met a dull Broad," she said, "And over the years, I've met so many wonderful, remarkable people—and continue to do so."

Ronni is an active member of her community of Teasdale, in her beloved Utah, riding herd to bring about fair representation, accountability, and transparency to local government—something the rural counties of Utah are not especially known for.

Her advice for Broads? Never give up. And, have fun while you're doing it. Ronni also feels it is vital to support each other in this work, because no one can do it alone. Our strength is in our numbers.

"I think it's funny how a bunch of little old ladies can get under the skin of politicians and good 'ole boys...really rattle them—I don't know if that's a good thing or not. But they know they're being watched when Broads are around." 🌻

WIN THIS ART QUILT!



You still have time to buy raffle tickets for our special 30-year anniversary quilt, which celebrates the various landscapes Broads have worked to protect. The drawing will be held December 16, 2019. Get your tickets today and help support our work to train wild women advocates.

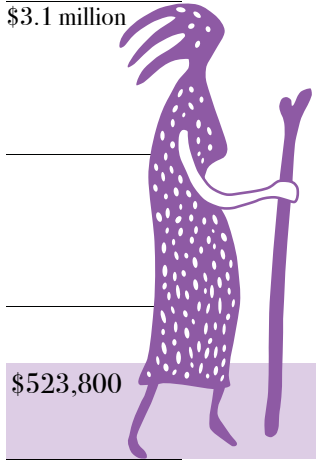
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Women for the Wild: Step up and Mother Nature

A COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

\$3.1 million



\$523,800

As Great Old Broads, we confront the urgent threats facing America's public lands, by empowering members to advocate for solutions through the camaraderie of purposeful, fun-loving, bolder and wiser women. We are visionary, committed, and impassioned—and we know we cannot wait for someone else to step up as our wild world is being destroyed before our very eyes.

In spite of thirty years of spunkiness, we have never taken the challenge to

embark on a rigorous campaign to sustain our organization's future. The time is ripe to take our long-term sustainability as seriously as we do our commitment to protect public lands—because the two go hand in hand. To that end, we have begun planning for our first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign to raise \$3.1 million over three years.

We are a growing organization, and this campaign is designed to “step it up”—to deepen our impact, increase our donor support and base, and become an even more powerful, national, grassroots, women-led organization. We are excited to leverage two important events that took place this year:

- An exciting one-time \$300,000 grant in July 2019 that initiates a new Climate Education and Stewardship Program;
- A generous bequest and several gifts from major donors that enabled us to put down roots and purchase our headquarters, where talented staff now comfortably work.

The campaign is *comprehensive* because it covers all aspects of our operations:

- **Programs**—wild land advocacy and litigation, grassroots activism and leadership development, climate education and stewardship, and programs to get us into the wild, like Broadwalks and Broadworks.
- **Capital**—ensuring a home for Broads in perpetuity, including maintenance and completing the purchase of our office building.
- **Annual Fund**—general support where most needed to invest and grow the talents and skills of our staff, expand a growing volunteer program, and keep overall operations afloat.

Please stay tuned as the campaign gets underway, and we encourage you to think about what Broads' work means to you, and how you might demonstrate your commitment through annual and sustaining gifts, special pledges and commitments, IRA or retirement fund contributions, and planned gifts through a will or trust.



Honoring a Great Old Broad: The Ginger Harmon Wild Land Advocacy Fund

With deep appreciation to a founder, early board leader, and indefatigable explorer who helped frame the work—and the personality—of Great Old Broads, we've launched a special fund within the comprehensive campaign, the Ginger Harmon Wild Land Advocacy Fund. The fund will ensure that wild land advocacy and litigation remain forever a pinnacle of our work.

As a broad who has stuck with us from our earliest days, few people personify the grit, commitment, and wilderness knowledge as Ginger Harmon. Canyonmeister in Utah, mountain climber and guide in the Himalayas, Ginger walked 1,500 miles across Europe and co-wrote a book about the experience. She hiked, skied, and kayaked countless miles in



the Sierras, Grand Canyon, Idaho, and Mexico. And she purposefully put her observations to work by writing endless letters to federal agencies about grazing, off-road vehicles, and other impacts to public lands. Ginger served as a standing declarant

for wilderness, including lawsuits to protect Grand Canyon wilderness and to block helicopters from landing in the Frank Church Wilderness so that Idaho Game & Fish could collar wolves.

Ginger invented the concept of “wilderness tithing”—a commitment to give a portion of income and assets each year to the public lands we love. And so she has—as a long-time advocate and unfaltering supporter of many conservation organizations, including Broads.

Perhaps Ginger introduced you to Broads, met you on an early hike, or continues to inspire you today. Or perhaps you are ready to step up to “wilderness tithing.” If so, and to honor the legacy of an early founder and steadfast broad today, please contribute to the Ginger Harmon Wild Land Advocacy Fund. Simply identify your contribution with the fund's name. And if you want to include a card or message for Ginger, we will be sure to pass it on to her with pleasure!

Congratulations to Ginger for her wild dedication!



revision this year by the BLM, 94% of lands that hold fish, wildlife, and other natural resources—not to mention important historical, cultural, and scenic values—would be removed from the plans. Previously, the BLM identified and maintained 15 million acres of roadless and undeveloped lands with primitive character in the areas these plans cover. Unfortunately, recent decisions under the current administration show the BLM ignoring its own work and



"Forest Service personnel cannot be expected to resist national and state pressures if they don't have our support to encourage them to follow the best available science..."

—Susan Ostlie

even though the BLM states an objective to plan mineral development outside of such areas. The Broadband arranged an overflight with Lighthawk pilots to take aerial photos, and submitted comments to defer parcel sales. All of this effort lays the groundwork for a potential legal protest.

Rio Grande Valley Broadband Leader Susan Ostlie is a stalwart and long-time participant in public lands planning, contributing to collaboratives across the Cibola, Carson, and Santa Fe National Forests in New Mexico. She considers herself "a voice for habitat and wildlife" and often represents Broads and the larger conservation community. Her involvement in forest planning creates strong and rewarding relationships that ease the organization of local Broadwalks, hikes, and monitoring activities, and help make Broads a well-known force throughout the state. Susan insists, "Participation by conservation groups is mandatory...Forest Service personnel cannot be expected to resist national and state pressures if they don't have our support to encourage them to follow the best available science...[which is what] most Forest Service personnel would prefer to do."

proposing protections for less than 4,000 of those acres, a mere 0.03%. This is indeed a frightening trend.

Your Comments Count

Now, more than ever, the public needs to be involved, commenting on draft plans and protesting final plans that are unacceptable. In fact, those who do not submit comments on the draft plan are not eligible to protest at the final stage. So it is important to get involved at the start. And, even if comments are ignored by the agencies, they become part of the record, which establishes standing for future lawsuits.

As an example, the Northwest Colorado Broadband collected data on 13 of 33 parcels up for oil and gas lease sale in North Park.

The majority of these leases are in priority sage grouse habitat—

Amy Stuart, Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broads member and retired Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife biologist, has seen how getting involved in the planning process leads to a healthier environment. She has found that wins come in many ways, such as modified timber sales that save habitat, and instream water conservation that supports fish and aquatic life. Above all, Amy says getting agencies to responsibly manage public lands and to "conserve and protect what we have left for future generations" provides plenty of motivation for participation.

Let's be honest, many Broads may not live to see the outcomes of their efforts in these long-term plans, but by taking part in this critical public process—they are putting the future first. As advocates, we must stay united, with the courage to stand strong and the persistence to demand the American people, and thus, wildlife, plants, and treasured landscapes, have a voice. 🌿



Minnesota's Wild Waters Broadband Co-Leaders Jan Bourdon and Mo Monroe pose with their life-sized "Broad."

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Our grassroots reach and impact grew with the birth of Broadband chapters nearly a dozen years ago—a natural progression that arose from early tendencies to place intense focus on specific landscapes. Who could better advocate for protection than those who have “soothed their souls” on beloved public lands and waters, while hiking, kayaking, botanizing, and healing the land through stewardship projects?

WINS TO CELEBRATE

Our intimate acquaintance with specific lands continues today.

Broads join in protests and litigation, form coalitions, restore landscapes, and develop new methods to educate others about public lands and wilderness. Here are just a few of Broads’ achievements over the last five years:

- Protected 11 million acres in Utah by challenging six Bush-era BLM Resource Management Plans. This led to a settlement that required plan revisions to protect habitat, cultural sites, and air quality.
- Achieved a new focus on wildlife and science through meetings and recommendations that led to a revised approach to Colorado Parks and Wildlife trail planning grants.
- Stopped a 137-mile off-highway vehicle network in eastern Oregon’s Ochoco National Forest, providing extensive comments and winning a lawsuit to protect wildlife and streams.
- Planted 700 native willows along the Amargosa River in California and 7,000 plants along Oregon’s Crooked River; cleared acres of invasive Russian olive along Utah’s Escalante River, and countless other projects including milkweed planting, fence pulling, road restoration, and more.
- Educated more than 1,000 participants through multi-day broadwalks, in addition to public land summits, panels, discussion groups, and public forums from Maine to Washington.

BROADS’ MAGIC

We delight in our successes, but it’s the magic of Broads that keeps us coming back, again and again. How do you explain this irreverent combination of feisty advocacy, hard physical work, abundant laughter, love of learning, rich friendships, and shared commitment to all things wild?



Oregon’s Cascade Volcanoes Broadband Leadership Team took on a project this summer to help the San Juan Island Preservation Trust set up nesting boxes for Western Bluebirds.

At a regional Broadwalk in August on the Oregon coast, I daresay we all felt it. With waves crashing below our cliff-side camp and the constant bellow of a foghorn, we sipped wine under the stars and learned about the political wrangling—once again—raising the ugly prospect of a Jordan Cove Liquid Natural Gas facility. Proposed in a geologically active area with high tsunami risk, this gas export facility would destroy eelgrass habitat and a critical fishing industry. Pipelines would rip through forests and the facility would become the greatest

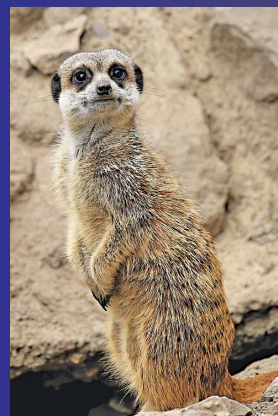
emitter of greenhouse gases in the state. In this place of beauty, we moved from laughter to indignation to action, each of us making a commitment to fight to the hilt in the company of our Broad sisters. We know what we love. But only together can we find the strength to fight for the places that soothe our souls and give life to our planet. It’s just that magic we need in the world today. After thirty years, that magic has only grown stronger in Great Old Broads. Yes, one hell of an organization. Keep on laughing and making a ruckus with us, and keep that passion flowing. 🌻

*“The secrets of a full life are
found in the words of the old
women in our wilderness tribe.”*

– Susan Tixier

HAVEN’T HEARD FROM US LATELY?

Do we have your current email address? We don’t want you to miss a thing! Just shoot us an email at broads@greatoldbroads.org and we’ll get you back on the list.





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Chara Ragland, co-leader
CO's South San Juan
Broadband, helps clean up
a trail with a Pulaski.



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