

## Tipping the Scales for Climate Action

by Shelley Silbert

**A**s a grassroots organization, we've long held that small groups of committed individuals can bring about change in society. In 2018, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania conducted a creative experiment to test their hypothesis on this idea. The experiment found that a committed minority was able to repeatedly bring about change in the views of the majority once it reached 25-30%—the tipping point of the overall group. If the percentage were smaller, the minority could not reach critical mass. This research on social tipping points is affirming for groups like Broads as we educate, engage, and act to protect wilderness, wild lands, and the climate they depend upon.

In November, Oxford Dictionaries named "climate emergency" the 2019 Word of the Year, reflecting its potential as a term of lasting cultural significance. According to a database of words used in written English, the term was employed 100 times more than in 2018, and 3 times as much as "health emergency." This shift in our lexicon reflects the groundswell of concern about the threat to the planet. Likewise, a

Yale study last fall found 70% of Americans called climate change "personally important" to them, an increase of nine points since 2018. But have we reached a tipping point for action?

Broads' grassroots work pinpoints public lands and waters as a solution to climate change. Every action taken to protect public lands is a step to protect our climate. And every action towards a low carbon, high vitality future is a step to protect public lands from the scourge of climate change.



Instead, the Trump administration leased 7.2 million acres of public lands for fossil fuel production as of July 2019 according to The Wilderness Society—and the leasing has continued apace. That's more onshore and offshore lands and waters leased for oil and gas than any administration before. And, they've attacked public lands and the environment in the dirtiest way possible, reversing or rolling back nearly 100

environmental rules and ignoring climate impacts with every means.

America's lands and waters could tell a better story. According to federal greenhouse gas inventories, soils, forests, and wetlands in our country currently capture 11% of U.S. emissions. With appropriate management, they could capture much more through

***"I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."***

— Greta Thunberg

(Continued page 14)

## NEPA ROLLBACKS



### COMMENT BY MARCH 10

**We must mobilize to protect our environment and public health.**

More information and talking points:  
<https://conta.cc/2NvzMFd>

## ADVOCACY CORNER

The fine art of "bird-dogging" in an election year.

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## THE POWER OF AWE

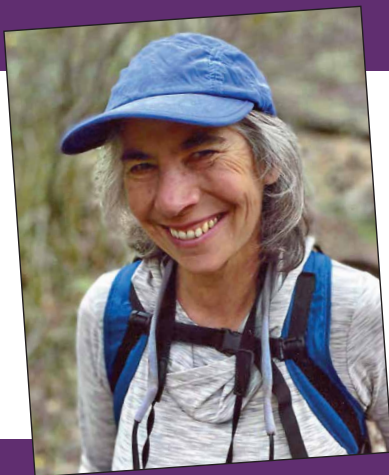
The awe we experience on our public lands leads us to action.

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## TALKING CLIMATE

How to tackle tough conversations about climate change.

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# In a **BROAD** Sense

## Climate Change: Psych Up, Act Out

If you are an observer of nature as I am, it's impossible to ignore what is amiss. For me, it's warm days in January or lack of snow in March, the dying Gambel oaks on the hillside by our home, the drying of the neighborhood stream, or unprecedented wildfires that rage through forests and towns.

Backpacking last summer in Colorado's San Juan Mountains with a dear friend, we delighted in rushing streams, lush riparian forests, and a surprise glimpse of a pine marten slinking by our camp. When we reached 9,500 feet, our excitement turned to palpable grief at the near total devastation of the forest. Exacerbated by record-breaking heat and drought, spruce beetles had killed large swaths of trees, just as they have over the last two decades in 40% of Colorado's spruce-fir forests. We could barely speak amidst this sea of brown trees, turning instead to glacier lilies blooming at the snowfield's edge and marmots scurrying about at dusk. It was not until we hiked to lower elevations, after a night of suffocating dreams, that we shared the depth of our mourning. We talked—longingly and powerfully—about what we love and what we, collectively, must do.

Studies show that climate anxiety and grief are on the rise. It is natural to feel resignation, fear, and hopelessness. It's important to share our shattered hearts with those we trust. Yet we can't let these feelings drain our power to work for change. Environmentalists are not "perennial prophets of doom." We simply

know that taking on the climate crisis is nowhere near as daunting as the prospect of failure.

University of Victoria psychologist Robert Gifford explains that we must learn to slay the dragons of climate inaction. These psychological barriers include:

- Believing we have no control
- Holding conflicting beliefs (my behavior won't matter; others must act first)
- Thinking climate change is a faraway problem
- Justifying the status quo and saying it can't change
- Allowing politicians who care about climate change to promote ineffective policies

As Broads, we are fighting these dragons by building community, knowledge, and opportunities. We train our members to recognize and mitigate the impacts of



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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.*

Please credit Broads for reprinted articles.





# 2020 EVENTS *You don't want to miss this!*

*In addition to our 2020 Broadwalks, we are offering two exciting FUNdraising adventures open to all experience levels. Stay tuned, Broadworks will be announced soon.*

## MAY 14–18

### **Women's Watercolor Workshop on the San Juan River FUNdraiser**

SAN JUAN RIVER, BLUFF, UTAH

**A Float with Heart:** On this truly unique trip with our partners at Holiday River Expeditions, you'll experience the beauty of southeast Utah as you travel by raft on the San Juan River. We've also lined up special guests to take this expedition to a new level.



Acclaimed artist Suze Woolf will teach you foundational watercolor methods that you'll have plenty of opportunity to practice as you capture artistic memories of this amazing adventure.

Well known activist, Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, former co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and a member of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, will share inspiring stories about the efforts to protect Bears Ears and its significance to the tribal communities.

Treat yourself to a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

**\$1450 per person**

**Learn more and register at <http://bit.ly/WSJfun>**

## OCTOBER 2–4

### **Pam Houston Mountain Retreat Writing Workshop FUNdraiser**



HIGH CAMP HUT,  
TELLURIDE, COLORADO

Join us for a "Rocky Mountain High" trip, Broad's style! Sharpen your writing skills as celebrated author Pam Houston coaches you to focus on the sensory details that give access to that elusive

interior landscape we tap into as writers.

You'll stay at the world-renowned High Camp Hut in the breathtaking San Juan Mountains. The intimate setting offers incredible mountain vistas from the deck and a wood-fired hot tub and sauna to enjoy at the end of your creative and inspiring days.

**\$1065 per person - single bed**

**\$1000 per person - shared queen (2 queens)**

**Find out more and register at <http://bit.ly/PHWrite>**

## BROADWALKS

*There is still room at both Broadwalks. We're arm-wrestling at Broad's headquarters over who gets to go on which trip.*

## JUNE 1–5

### **Climate Change & Coasts: The MAINE Reason to Act Broadwalk**

BLUEBERRY COVE SUMMER CAMP, ST. GEORGE, MAINE

If you've not visited Maine, or are itching to go back, here's your chance! We'll be on the coast, with a beautiful swimming beach, tidal flats, plus hiking, canoeing, and more.

Enjoy dynamic speakers such as:

- Oceanographer Deborah Bronk, Ph.D., presenting *Ocean Health and Climate Change—a Reason to Hope!*
- Conservationist and right whale expert Mark Dittick, discussing the current status and population decline of right whales, and efforts to reverse this trend.

**Tent camping: \$275 • Shared cabins: \$315**

**No-share single cabins: \$350**

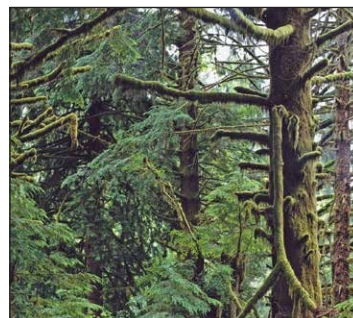
**More info: <http://bit.ly/MaineBwalk>**



## AUGUST 21–25

### **May the Forest Be with You Broadwalk: Forest Health & Climate Change**

CAMP RAMBLEWOOD, SEQUIM BAY STATE PARK,  
SEQUIM, WASHINGTON



Explore the shore, hike through old-growth forests, and work with partner organizations to steward the land. Experts will deepen our understanding of the relationship between forest health and climate change. Choose from bunk or twin beds in shared cabins or

three-sided shelters, or sleep under the stars.

**Registration: \$365**

**More info: <http://bit.ly/WABwalk>**



by Lauren Berutich

**D**oes this sound familiar? “The bill passed the House; however, it’s still waiting on the Senate. It’s an election year so we really won’t see any action coming out of Congress until next year.”

You, dedicated advocates, know how frustrating it is to urge timely action on public lands issues only to have to hurry up and wait. Election years can be especially slow going when we want to see urgent action from our elected officials and decision makers. Things can come to a halt while candidates are on a campaign trail somewhere. But, fear not, there are ways to activate and influence change in the political arena even during an election year. Your actions can have a ripple effect that could inform policy and public lands management for years to come. So, let’s get busy!

## SEEK OUT YOUR CANDIDATES

In a political context, *bird-dogging* refers to advocates who identify candidates or elected officials, seek them out, and press them to answer specific questions and provide their views on issues. Bird-dogging is a means to expose politicians’ take on an issue and remove them from hiding behind a comfortable curtain of vague rhetoric.

Investigate your politicians: learn about their platforms, how they’ve voted in the past, what issues they’ve taken a stand on, how strong of a stance they are willing to take, and whether they will go public with an issue. This information is gold and the more you know, the more effective your influence will be to drive them in the right direction.

Bird-dogging can happen in a number of places where we may encounter decision makers, such as coffee chats, open-houses, community events, or town halls. The American Friends Service Committee has a few wonderful strategies. Here are a few of my favorites:

✿ Make sure you are prepared and have your questions ready. Ask your questions early on in the engagement; try to be the first in line to ask questions. This is your opportunity to draw more attention to your issues and assure you are called on.

✿ If there’s an opportunity for a one-on-one moment, take it. It is a great way to get your message directly to the candidate and become a familiar face they’ll hear more from in the future.

✿ Work in teams to calm nerves and work off one another’s strengths. Know the candidate’s positions on the issues you care about and stick to those when inquiring about their views.

✿ Be ready to go public—the media may be present and you may have the opportunity to speak out, informing a larger audience about your hopes for your decision makers. Or, create your own publicity and use your phone’s apps to create a video to post on your social media accounts.

✿ Lastly don’t forget to practice Broads’ style of activism and get creative. Try street theatre or hold up a sign with a powerful message to attract and raise attention on key issues.

## SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

There is growing urgency for Americans to hold those in power accountable for their decisions and actions. In a democracy, concerned citizens practicing their grassroots power create a space where elected officials must be responsive to the people who put them in office. The town hall meeting is an incredibly effective and powerful way to accomplish exactly that. Do you have an issue that you care deeply about and want to make sure your thoughts are represented? Giving testimony at a



public gathering can be nerve-racking, but with a little practice you’ll learn how effectively speak for change. Here are a few tips to help along the way:

✿ Identify yourself and frame your speech: Share your name and precinct, but also what you are there for and what position on the issue you represent. Lastly, don’t forget to express the importance of the matter.

✿ Show your collective voice: Know your audience and present your view in a respectful way that shows you are one of many in the community who share this idea. There is power in numbers and displaying a unified voice can influence a lawmaker to come to your side.

✿ Tell your story: Make it personal. Share what this issue means to you personally. How does it affect your family and your neighbors?

✿ Support Your View: Concisely state the benefits of your position, who it helps, and why. Don’t forget to talk about the problems your solution addresses and what is gained. Lastly, refute false information with facts.

✿ Close the circle: Seal the deal by reiterating your ask and urge their consideration. Thank them for listening and respectfully take your seat.

Wading through the political chaos brought on in an election year does not mean our issues have to be put on pause—we can push for and influence change in an even deeper way. Get out there and meet your current and future decision makers today.





# Awe: A Little Word with a Big Impact

by Suez Jacobson

**W**e know what it is—heightened amazement that transcends easy description. We're awed—so small and yet so connected. It happens at the tops of mountains and the bottoms of canyons, when we see roaring waterfalls, dazzling stars, and bees boring into flowers, maybe even when we're simply sitting quietly in a forest. Nature is an easy awe, an obvious avenue into the place described in the formal definition: "a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder." But these words only start to untangle the complexity and the power of awe to make us think differently about Mother Earth and our role in her prosperity.

Research on awe and its effects is relatively new. Psychologists have historically focused on negative emotions, but they are now sorting out the power of positive emotions, particularly awe, through formal research. They describe awe as an experience of "vastness"—something inexplicably large or powerful—that calls for "accommodation"—an adjustment to the way we think about ourselves and our relationship to the larger community, to the natural world.

Research shows that awe leads us to reevaluate our world view, to "un-self," to feel less entitled and more connected, humbled. One study on the Berkeley campus highlights these stunning effects. Students were divided randomly into two groups. The first group looked for one minute at towering eucalyptus trees. The second group, also for one minute, looked at a tall building. After this brief exposure, the students who had observed the trees were more helpful to researchers who "accidentally" dropped their pens, picking up significantly more pens for the researcher. They also tested higher on ethical reasoning tests, choosing ethical over unethical actions in a lab setting. They chose

smaller circles to represent themselves vis-à-vis the world in drawings, and asked for lower compensation for participating in the experiment. These examples of prosocial behavior and humility are astounding given the short exposures. But similar results have been documented in other studies. Awe changes us. Long ago, Emerson put it so well when he wrote, "In the woods...all mean egotism vanishes."

This is important to our work as BROADS because the power of awe that we experience on our public lands leads us to act. We join in community to protect our public lands and unite to reduce the impacts of climate change on Mother Earth.

In an age of selfies and hyper-consumption, awe is a powerful catalyst for challenging the fundamentals of our economic and social systems. In our media-driven culture we are defined by consumption, often conspicuous consumption. But all this consumption—70% of the U.S. economy—is not the answer to our needs nor does it give us the happiness we seek. Though the standard of living has more than doubled since the 1950s, the percent of people who reported that they are "very happy" with their lives peaked in 1974. That's a tragedy, not just for the grim pursuit of an endless and frustrating material answer to happiness, but that this search for happiness through consumption is destroying the natural world. This is why awe matters. As we un-self we realize being connected to Mother Earth and to the community of living beings is the source of happiness and the route to saving wild places and the planet.

These ideas are central themes in the film **Wild Hope**, funded by Great Old BROADS for Wilderness. The film, using personal story, science, and passion in a unique mix, inspires viewers to protect



wild ecosystems against an unrelenting materialistic culture that's producing social malaise and an uninhabitable planet. Our economic system fails us, but the natural world and the awe it produces satisfies and motivates.

**Wild Hope** challenges the economic underpinnings driving climate change and awakens us to the possibility of a more meaningful life—a life defined not by consumption, but by compassion.

You can learn more about **Wild Hope** at the website [wildhopefilm.com](http://wildhopefilm.com) where you can also watch the trailer and the entire 35-minute film. If you would like to talk to me about introducing the film to your Broadband (or another group—the film has played at churches and libraries as well as film festivals and conferences) and hosting a discussion afterwards, send me an email at [suezjacobson@gmail.com](mailto:suezjacobson@gmail.com).

## Readings on awe:

- <https://psycnet.apa.org>
- <http://bit.ly/awenature>
- <http://bit.ly/awe-health>

*Suez Jacobson is the executive producer of **Wild Hope** and vice chair of the BROADS' Board of Directors. She aspired to be a ski bum, but eventually got a Ph.D. in economics and became a financial analyst and college professor. She is awed by wilderness and understands its power as a catalyst to think differently about our world.*

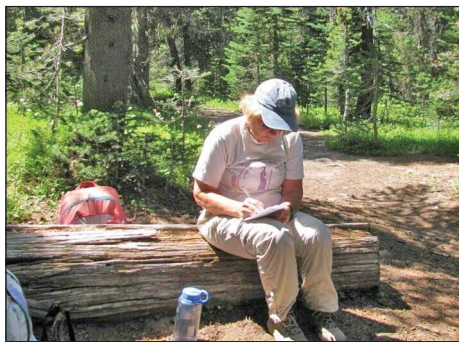


# BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

by Katya Spiecker

**B**roadbands across the country participate in a variety of activities (i.e., education, advocacy, etc.), but a favorite is collaborative stewardship projects. When work needs to get done, Broads jump in and roll up their sleeves. Check out these highlights from their impressive 2019 stewardship season...

## WATCHFUL EYES ON WILDERNESS



*Laurie Kerr taking notes while on a wilderness monitoring trip.*

The Wilderness Act of 1964 states that wilderness has “...outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.” The Act mandates that federal land agencies preserve

wilderness character—however, measuring it is largely dependent on volunteer power as agencies become more and more strapped and visitation to wilderness areas increases. To save the day, Broadbands lace up their boots and strap on their packs to observe and document visitor impacts and help federal agencies determine how well wilderness solitude is upheld.

Monitoring wilderness includes documenting trail damage and social trails, campsite trash, unwanted fire rings, number of people and domestic animals, as well as illegal activities, like mechanized/motorized recreation. Often, monitoring requires a few trips per month, translating into hundreds of volunteer hours—over 500 for Broadbands in 2019! At least four Broadbands, the Cascade Volcanoes and Bitterbrush (OR), Northern San Juan (CO), and Southwest Utah conducted wilderness monitoring along nearly 200 miles of trail in 11 different wilderness areas last year.

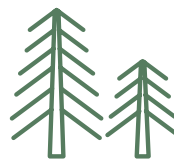
Laurie Kerr, Cascade Volcanoes Broadband co-leader, said her members encountered many challenges while monitoring including mosquito swarms, washed out roads to trailheads, several inches of snow and half a foot of standing water on trails. Despite all the hardships, Laurie says it’s still worth experiencing the reprieve from people and technology that wilderness solitude provides and an “emotional release from everyday stressors.” Intrepid Broads, like Laurie, do their part, braving Nature’s uncertainty to provide important data that help prevent overuse and abuse of our wilderness areas!



*Ed and Mary Handrick cut a tree with a crosscut saw to clear trails in Colorado wilderness.*

## TRAIL STEWARDSHIP SWEAT EQUITY

Many of us enjoy public lands via some form of recreation on designated trails that guide visitors safely through wild areas while keeping sensitive wildlife and plant habitat intact. But many don’t realize that trails require plenty of maintenance, usually from dedicated volunteers, to keep them in good shape. Whether clearing brush, picking up trash, or rebuilding paths—Broadbands are eager to tackle sometimes difficult projects! Closing off social trails and restoring damaged areas require tremendous physical effort, yet come with the reward of a deeper connection to the landscape.



Several Broadbands increasing their sweat equity through trail maintenance and restoration include the Rio Grande Valley (NM), Wasatch and Southwest Utah (UT), South San Juan, Northern San Juan, and Grand Junction (CO), Teton Valley WHALES (WY), and Willamette, Bitterbrush, and Cascade Volcanoes (OR and WA).

If you think clearing vegetation on a trail is tough, try clearing it along the banks of a waterway! For the past three years, the Minnesota Wild Waters Broadband has held an annual stewardship project in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) clearing canoe-trail entry points. This wilderness is mostly water, so you can imagine the complexity and effort involved in stewarding this unique sanctuary. Broadband leader Jan Bourdon says the BWCAW “provides a venue for our passion for preservation...meets our spiritual necessity...and provides a sanctuary for our chapter to regain serenity and equilibrium.”

## HARD WORK FOR HABITAT

While it’s common to hear a Broad say she speaks for wildlife, Broadband members also bend, dig, lift, pull (and often grunt!) for wildlife as well. This year, Broads planted more than 350 trees in southwest Washington’s parks and wildlife





by Lisa Pool

One of the most effective ways to let Members of Congress know our organization's views on issues is through a personal meeting—AKA lobbying. In November, seventeen Broads flew to Washington D.C. to do just that. Between us, we represented nine states, from coast to coast. We split up into four regional lobby teams and conducted 40 meetings in just two days! That alone is a huge win for Broads, because it is quite a challenge to schedule and conduct that many meetings.

We met with a wide range of legislators, from a staffer for the famously-conservative Utah Representative Rob Bishop, to environmental champion Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico. Each team lobbied on bills or issues that impact their

state or region. We also promoted national bills, including the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act (S.1499) and the PAW and FIN Conservation Act (H.R.4348).

The Rockies Lobby Team met with nearly the entire Colorado delegation to give thanks for recent votes on the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (H.R.823, the "CORE" Act), which is an important public lands protection



Left to right: Carolyn Rader, Lauren Berutich, Anne Heikkila, and Linda Graham in D.C.

bill. They also delivered 330 postcards to Senator Gardner from Colorado constituents urging him to support the bill. Meanwhile, the Pacific Northwest Lobby Team educated their delegation regarding removal of the four lower Snake River dams, which are directly linked to the near extinction of the Chinook salmon and therefore the Salish Seas' southern resident orcas.

Even though we were in D.C. during a time when Members of Congress were focused on the House impeachment hearings, we discovered it did not hinder the opportunity to educate and build power on Broads' issues. It often takes years of lobbying to see results, so going to D.C. well-rehearsed and ready to share real stories pushes our issues in the right direction.

As one attendee said, "Showing up knowledgeable and passionate demonstrates our grit to Members of Congress. The lobbying trip to our nation's capital was an excellent opportunity to move forward public lands issues, improve confidence and skills, build relationships, and ultimately have Broads viewed as a real player in conservation."

refuges, and maintained a monarch butterfly waystation in Texas and important pollinator habitat in Idaho. Colorado Broadbands restored fens and collected and dispersed seeds



for multiple public land restoration projects. In Idaho, Broads removed fencing that inhibited wildlife migrations and stabilized banks of the Teton River for cutthroat trout. One Broadband Leader, Roz Switzer of Arizona's Middle Gila Broadband, fed and

watered burrowing owls before their release. Broadbands also helped restore habitat by removing invasive plants species across the country from New Hampshire to Oregon.

Not only do these efforts improve habitat, they also strengthen relationships with partners and federal agencies, who appreciate Broads' hard work. Joanne Richter, Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broads co-leader, says, "With the Ochoco National Forest being our area of focus for educational hikes, restoration, and stewardship projects, it's great to know we have a solid relationship with Jill [U.S. Forest Service botanist] that's based on mutual respect."

## WATER IS LIFE

Turbidity—what the heck is that?! A term likely used by the six Broadbands sampling water quality in 2019. Turbidity (the degree of water clarity based on particulates) is just one measure of quality Broads are monitoring. They also record temperature, acidity, flow, depth, and more. This much-needed data on waterways helps state and federal agencies better determine changes over seasons—and years.



Jenny Cobb & Bro sampling water from the Verde River in AZ.

Better data also means more informed management decisions for stream and river habitat, restoration projects, and evaluating ecosystem health and the effects of climate change. The Maine, Northern San Juan (CO), Yavapai-Prescott (AZ), and Bitterbrush and Rogue (OR) Broadbands clocked more than 900 hours monitoring waterways. Our Broadband Leader

in Prescott, Arizona, Jenny Cobb spent a grand total of 170 hours sampling water quality this year!







# THE BROADER WILDERNESS

by Lauren Berutich & Lisa Pool

## DAM, WE'RE STILL WORKIN' ON THIS THING?!



In the Pacific Northwest wild salmon are on the brink of extinction, with consequences for an entire salmon-dependent ecosystem. To bring attention to this devastating decline, in June of 2019, Broads hosted the Don't Dam Salmon Broadwalk to explore the impact of

the Snake River's lower four dams on endangered fish species and the region's surrounding watershed. **These dams kill approximately 8 million juvenile salmon each year** and prevent adult salmon from reaching spawning grounds in the high mountain streams of Idaho.

The energy company operating the dams, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), continues to lose income. In fact, in the next two years, BPA will borrow \$1.6 billion of taxpayer's money just to maintain the aging dams that are no longer needed to provide power.

More than \$16 billion has been invested in dam improvements and habitat restoration, yet the fish continue to decline at alarming rates. Scientists state that breaching the lower Snake River dams is the best and most expedient solution to ensure the species' recovery. It's a dam shame there is any hesitation to take urgent action on this issue. We need to save wild salmon and restore these invaluable watersheds. Here is your opportunity to speak out...

### March 4 the Dams – March 1–22

Join this 23-day march from Portland to the Ice Harbor Lock and Dam to put pressure on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and Washington Governor Inslee to breach the lower Snake River dams this year. Two peaceful demonstrations will be held at the beginning and at the end of the event. **More at: [marchforthedams.com](http://marchforthedams.com).**



### Comment!

A new Environmental Impact Statement was released in February by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposing various alternatives to mitigate salmon decline. One alternative (our favorite) specifically calls for the breaching of the Snake's four lower dams. The 45-day public comment period closes at the end of March. **Let's flood the Army Corps with our comments in support of breaching at <http://bit.ly/DamComment>.**

### Call and Write!

Bonneville Power Administration and Governor Jay Inslee need to hear from the public and know we're paying attention. Find the link for phone numbers and addresses at **[marchforthedams.com](http://marchforthedams.com)** (scroll down for links).

## A WIN FOR SALMON!

Warm water in large shallow reservoirs and a warming climate is another threat to the survival of wild salmon. In 2015, record-high temperatures in the Columbia and Snake Rivers caused the death of 250,000 adult sockeye salmon. This prompted a lawsuit by Advocates for the West on behalf of several environmental organizations. On December 20, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to write a comprehensive plan to deal with increased water temperatures. This win sets a precedent for river management practices.

## NEPA ROLLBACKS—PUT ON THE BRAKES!

In January, the Trump administration announced a plan to “reform and update” the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Falsely framed as “streamlining,” this rollback would exclude consideration of long-term impacts related to climate change, reduce the type of actions subject to environmental review, establish time limits for environmental assessments (regardless of project complexity or controversy), and severely limit public input.

The proposal to modify NEPA is now open for comment and we





must mobilize to protect our environment and public health. Please comment by March 10. For more information about where to comment and links to talking points: <https://conta.cc/2NvzMFd>

## **BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION —IN A WILDLIFE REFUGE & NAT'L MONUMENT?!**

Last fall the Trump administration threatened to erect up to 500 miles of new border wall by the end of 2020 in Arizona and New Mexico. Currently, twenty miles of 30-ft-high barrier is under construction on the edge of the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Arizona. And this is despite multiple lawsuits challenging Trump's declaration of a national emergency to divert billions of dollars to build the wall from funds allocated to the Defense Department for military construction projects.

Threats to the ecosystem are plentiful and devastating. Construction requires the use of tens of thousands of gallons of groundwater, which will reduce spring flow and groundwater levels, and threaten crucial habitats for several species of fish. For some species, this is the only existing habitat in the U.S. Additionally, the government has suspended 28 federal environmental laws that require scientific, environmental, and cost analysis before projects like this get the go-ahead.



As we were going to press, Customs and Border Protection bulldozed a large portion of desert near Quitobaquito Springs in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument—a site sacred to the Tohono O'odham Nation.

What can we do? Litigation is under way, but wall construction continues in the meantime. We urge you to

march, rally, and get vocal—call and write your elected officials in Washington, D.C. to protest this travesty.

## **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND REAUTHORIZED**

While the U.S. House and Senate weren't able to agree on many bills in 2019, the biggest environmental accomplishment was the passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (S.47), which, among other protections, permanently reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This is a \$900 million fund, from offshore oil and gas royalties, that is used to protect national parks and forests, wildlife habitat, local recreation projects, and more.



Reauthorizing LWCF and its funding structure was big, but we also have to ensure the full \$900 million is put into that fund. Because it hasn't been fully funded for several years now, there is a \$30 billion backlog of conservation needs.

In November, the conservative Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted to fully and permanently fund the LWCF (S.1081). Building on this momentum, a bipartisan budget agreement passed in December provides more funds than the LWCF has been allotted in 17 years, though it is nowhere near the full \$900 million needed. It takes a large nationwide coalition and much on-the-ground organizing to achieve this win. Broads join conservation groups all over the country in celebrating these victories for our public lands and waters. Broads, along with a chorus of LWCF supporters, will continue to push for full, dedicated funding that cannot be raided by the annual appropriations process.



## ***Travel Plans? The Cost of Carbon...***

Getting into the wild has its own carbon cost. Check out this cool calculator and find the value to offset your next trip's carbon footprint: <https://protectourwinters.org/cost-of-carbon>



# NAVIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATIONS

by Rachel Green, Climate Education & Stewardship Program Manager

We've all had conversations about climate change go south. Discussions we intended to be persuasive and eye-opening can become downright argumentative, while others can leave us feeling hopeless. We have the power to reinvent and redirect these discussions by focusing on connection and collective action. Here are some tools to help us get there.

## Be mindful of your audience

How well do you know this person, their interests, and values? Are they disengaged, apathetic, or overwhelmed? Consider just how different each of these discussions might look and explore tools for each.

## Ground conversations in shared values

The value of responsibility can help build bridges. Consider this phrase: "We have a responsibility to protect and preserve the habitats and ecosystems we depend on from the impacts we have created." Substitute a particular habitat or place you know they love to make it more personal, e.g. forests and rivers.

## Navigate denial with consensus

Researchers found the phrase "97% of climate scientists have concluded that human-caused global warming is happening" is particularly effective.

Consider the follow up, if 97% of doctors told you your leg was broken, would you continue limping around with business as usual?

## Navigate apathy with examples

To some, climate change is in the distant future or a distant land. Offer these folks specific and local examples of climate impacts. Think about this person's values, interests, and community, and present economic, health, safety, or environmental examples that draw them towards a sense of responsibility and action.

## Navigate despair with shared experiences

How did it feel when you looked across a rejuvenated riverbank after a long, sweaty day of invasive species removal? How did it feel when you stood up to deliver your first public comment? Sharing these stories, however small they may seem, may just be the inspiration your friend or neighbor needs to grab that shovel or pen. For a deeper look at effective language and climate change framing, check out these groups:

**Yale Program for Climate Change Communication**  
<https://climatecommunication.yale.edu>

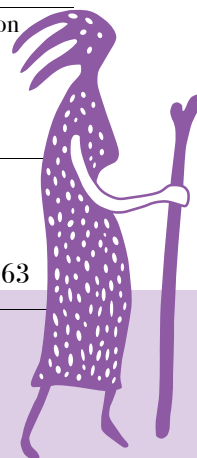
**National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation**  
<https://climateinterpreter.org>

**Climate Stories Project**  
<https://www.climatestoriesproject.org>

## STEPPING UP!

\$3.1 million

\$1,108,063



Thanks to generous donors and a significant grant, we have raised 1.1 million dollars for our **Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign**.

This campaign will fund our future, deepen our impact, and help us become an even more powerful grassroots, women-led organization.

Interested in learning more about how to give? Contact Shelley@greatoldbroads.org.

## WISH LIST

Want to help our national organization with travel funds to accomplish our mission? You can contribute:

- Airline Miles
- Travel scholarships for leaders to attend Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training (\$150 each)
- Funds to pay for carbon offsets

Contact Lisa@greatoldbroads.org, or send a check in the mail.  
**Thank you!**





# MEMBERSHIP: IT'S A WIN-WIN

by Ellie Stevenson

Lately, we've been reflecting on what membership means to Broads. Back in the early days of the organization, we couldn't keep a good record of our members—because they only had to buy a t-shirt to join—but thank goodness we had them to spread the word and help us grow!

As we've expanded, we've continually looked for ways to build connections with you, our members, and make membership meaningful—whether through this newsletter, action alerts, national events, or the activities of an ever-growing number of Broadbands across the country. Through these connections, we hope you see your commitment is meaningful to us as an organization.

When you “member up,” you support our wild land protection in so many ways. You are our eyes and ears on the ground. You bring attention to new issues and deepen our understanding of current ones with your experience, knowledge, and savvy. Your passion for defending wild lands feeds our passion. It's a constant reminder that though there is always more work to do, we are never alone in our efforts.

Your dues also support our day-to-day operations, plus trainings and webinars for our Broadband leaders, communications, and more.

If you live near one of our dedicated and tenacious local chapters, your membership supports their work as well. The national office provides each Broadband with a “soft credit” account to fund their activities, based on the number of current members in the area. Additionally, your dues help fund efforts to identify and train new Broadband leaders and mentor existing ones.

*“What helps us face the mess we're in is the knowledge that each of us has something significant to offer, a contribution to make. In rising to the challenge of playing our best role, we discover something precious that both enriches our lives and adds to the healing of our world.”*

— Joanna Macy



*Wild Broads celebrate in their birthday suits at the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota.*

Even if you don't have a local Broadband, your membership helps spread Broads' mission in your community as your involvement may inspire others to become advocates for wild places.

Your membership in a long-standing, national conservation organization not only amplifies your impact as an advocate for wilderness and public lands, it also enhances our reputation and integrity as a grassroots organization, demonstrates our national reach, and forces our opponents to take notice.

So, Great Old Broads and Bros, we couldn't be more sincere when we say THANK YOU for your membership—and the wisdom, camaraderie, humor, and energy that comes with it.

Join or renew your membership today at **greatoldbroads.org/join-us**. Your contribution is a vote for America's public lands and waters. 🌿

## READY TO STEP IT UP? BECOME A BROADBAND LEADER



Join us for a FREE five-day advocacy training and elevate your voice for our wild public lands.

### 2020 WILDERNESS ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP TRAINING SESSIONS

**April 20–April 24, 2020**

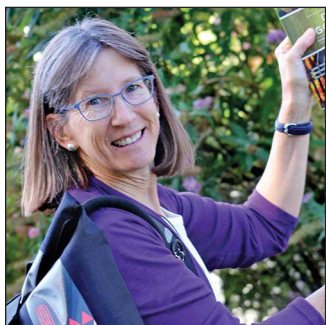
**Kensington, New Hampshire**

Apply today at <http://bit.ly/BroadsTrain>



# Hellos and Goodbyes with Broads' Stellar Staff

In December we said farewell to long-time Membership Maven **Joyce Thomsen**, who up and retired on us. However, she is not hanging up her

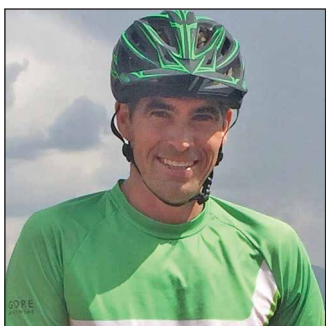


JOYCE THOMSEN

boots, as she plans to spend more time getting out in the wild and finding new trails to explore with her husband Carl. We wish her a fun and fulfilling retirement!

We welcome a new Bro to the gang, **Jeff Connors**, who will take on the role of Operations and Finance Manager. Jeff has an

extensive background in accounting and information technology. He will manage our money (we already LOVE his new reports) and keep this ship afloat. He has a BA in Environmental Policy with a Minor in Economics from Gettysburg College. Jeff is excited to bring his expertise



JEFF CONNORS

from many years working with engineering and consulting companies to our mission to protect and preserve public lands and wilderness.

Another new face is **Rachel Green**, our Climate Education & Stewardship (CES) Program Manager.

Her grant-funded work this

year will educate communities on the critical connection between public lands and climate resilience. In future years, we plan to raise funds for the program through the Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign. Rachel



RACHEL GREEN

Tucson, we restructured the Grassroots Leadership Program to create two Grassroots Regional Coordinators to work with Broadbands in a regional model common to grassroots organizing.

We're pleased to introduce **Sally Sharp**, who will work with Broadbands in the four corners states (AZ, UT, CO, NM) and Texas, while **Katya Spiecker** will work with the remaining



SALLY SHARP

Broadbands spread from coast-to-coast. Sally brings 20+ years of experience as an elementary school teacher. She is not new to advocacy—she recently coordinated the energy justice campaign *Bring Power Home 2020* in Pueblo, Colorado, managed an issue-based campaign with the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, and worked on Conservation Colorado's *Protégéte Voter Registration Drive*. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from California State University, Northridge, with a minor in Spanish. As with all our staff, she has a great passion for the outdoors and is committed to keeping our wild public lands whole and untarnished. 🌿

## WANTED: PASSIONATE BROADS FOR OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

We are seeking wildly passionate Broads to serve on our Board of Directors, a close-knit, productive, motivated, and fun-loving team committed to wilderness and wild lands.

### DOERS AND DOOR OPENERS

Directors are responsible for organizational governance, policy development, and assuring the necessary resources—such as funds, staffing, and professional expertise—are available to accomplish Broads' mission.

Currently, we are looking for skills in leadership and management, fundraising, strategic governance, financial management; and those with backgrounds in legal services,



environmental sciences, grassroots advocacy/activism, and wilderness and public land management. We especially seek those willing to serve as officers on the board, after gaining experience.

We welcome talented individuals from all parts of the country. We are an inclusive organization and encourage applications from candidates

from diverse cultural, racial, ethnic, gender and gender expression, sexual orientation, and age groups.

For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/BRespo> or contact our Co-chairs, Rynda Clark, [ryndaclark@gmail.com](mailto:ryndaclark@gmail.com), or Micky Ryan, [mickyryan@aol.com](mailto:mickyryan@aol.com).





# MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



# LEAVE A LITTLE BEHIND

***Leaving a bequest to  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
creates a long-lasting gift that will  
be held in perpetuity to help protect  
our last WILD places on earth.***

A bequest is the one of the simplest ways to make an enduring impact, and the language can be as simple as adding a provision in your will or estate to:

- Give the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Great Old Broads for Wilderness.
- Give the remainder of my estate to Great Old Broads for Wilderness.
- Give \_\_\_\_\_ % of my residual estate to Great Old Broads for Wilderness.
- 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  
shelley@greatoldbroads.org  
or call 970-385-9577**

*Broads is a 501(c)(3) organization • EIN 87-0479828*

## Climate Education & Stewardship Program Launches

*by Rachel Green, Climate Education & Stewardship  
Program Manager*

Great Old Broads for Wilderness received an exciting grant in 2019 allowing us to substantially expand our work in an area that demands greater attention. Thus, the Climate Education & Stewardship Program (CES) emerged! This program offers a truly incredible opportunity to fill a critical knowledge gap in our communities: public lands' vital role in combating climate change.

### HEALTHY LANDS & WATERS ARE KEY

While there is no silver bullet solution to climate change, thriving ecosystems surpass our most sophisticated technologies. Our cherished old-growth forests capture incredible volumes of carbon, healthy riparian corridors shelter our waterways against rising temperatures, and coastal wetlands armor our communities against worsening floods and storms. Yet, our public lands and waters and the benefits they offer are under constant threat, and are often sidelined in climate discussions. Our work to highlight these benefits is critical to securing a livable climate.

### SPREADING THE WORD

We are currently developing a toolkit that builds on our Broadbands' existing efforts. Our curriculum gathers the latest science and communication strategies to reframe climate change as a local, actionable challenge. Broads in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California will field-test this toolkit. They'll choose from hands-on activities, discussions, and compelling presentations to inspire curiosity, connection, and a sense of hope.

Beyond educational resources, the CES program funds climate-oriented stewardship projects, ranging from ecological restoration work, such as tree-planting, to species monitoring using cellphone applications. As many Broads know from personal experience, lending our minds and muscles to nature's health and healing can inspire community care and cohesion, especially in these deeply challenging times. CES stewardship projects will provide a way to reach out to diverse communities and engage an expanded network. Our leaders are already brainstorming new partnerships and exciting stewardship opportunities.

### STAY TUNED

The curriculum will debut at a day-long training in May with our Pacific Northwest Broadband leaders. This year's Broadwalks in Maine and Washington will bring climate connections to life as we learn from experts and explore these connections first-hand. Watch for future program updates, resources, and trainings as our program grows throughout 2020!



activities such as forest and grassland protection, reforestation and fire management, sustainable grazing practices, and restoration of tidal wetlands, salt marshes, and sea grass.

In December 2019, Rep. Raúl Grijalva introduced the American Public Lands and Waters Climate Solution Act, H.R.5435, a plan to bring federal public lands to net-zero emissions by 2040. The bill sets a carbon budget limit that decreases over time, develops a plan to increase carbon storage in federally-managed ecosystems, and includes technological solutions and renewable energy projects. Public land emissions, by 2025, would drop by 35%, compared to 2014 numbers. The bill currently has 11 sponsors.

Broads' work makes public lands part of the solution through advocacy and stewardship to increase carbon mitigation and resilience. In the last year alone, we've:

- Acted to preserve the Roadless Rule to prevent logging and road construction in the world's largest remaining coastal temperate forest, the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska.
- Lobbied and educated to protect the 82,000 acres of Elliott State Forest, half of it old-growth, which remains one of the largest uncut forests in Oregon's Coast Range.
- Fought mining proposals in several important landscapes, including the Boundary Waters (Minnesota), Bristol Bay (Alaska), and Oak Flat (Arizona), through comments, protests, and education.
- Worked to conserve and restore rivers, strategized, advocated, and lobbied for breaching the lower Snake River dams (including meeting with Oregon's Governor Kate Brown)
- Restored fish habitat in Idaho and Oregon, and built support for designation of hundreds of miles of new Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) and management plans for a hundred miles of existing WSRs in California.

## 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](mailto:broads@greatoldbroads.org) and we'll get you back on the list.



- Joined forces of seven Broadbands in Colorado to increase habitat resilience through dozens of meetings with wildlife managers and commissioners, trails committee members, and partner groups, and submitted comments leading to changes in trail grants and strategies to focus on wildlife protection.
- Advocated and educated about wildlife, such as Mexican grey wolf restoration in Arizona and New Mexico; and, supported trails-planning in relation to wolf and grizzly bear management in Wyoming and Idaho.
- Defended public lands from fossil fuel development, fought the Jordan Cove Energy Project and pipelines, educated on climate change and public lands.
- Litigated on restoring national monuments in Utah now destined for energy production.

And there's more to come in 2020 as we continue our work across the country. Get involved to help us reach the tipping point for grassroots action.

*On a related note...you might find the groundbreaking Project Drawdown study ([drawdown.org](http://drawdown.org)) of interest. Just as Broads emphasizes women's leadership in conservation, Project Drawdown determined that educating girls and providing options for family planning are among the top ten most powerful solutions to address climate change worldwide. Support the global sisterhood!*

## BROADS GET IN THE MOO-OD FOR MONITORING, AGAIN



Broads who trained in data collection last year in Grand Canyon Trust's *Where Cows Don't Graze* workshops will put their skills to work once again. This May, they'll go to five locations across the Colorado Plateau in a one-day Blitz to document areas officially closed to livestock grazing, for comparison to grazed areas.







*Luminary Broads and Bros at the 30th anniversary celebration held in September 2019 (left to right): Linda Salazar, Joe Breddan, Ginger Harmon, Steve Allen, and Libby Ingalls.*

climate change on public lands. We work for public lands management that avoids climate-worsening activities like logging, wetland destruction, livestock grazing, and fossil fuel extraction. We value these approaches:

- Create a community of shared conviction. We are social animals. If others take action that we know and care about, we will want to jump in—hence the power of Broadbands! It's personal, urgent, and enjoyable.
- Motivate through opportunities to do good, not by shaming others for what they are not doing. The climate crisis is an opportunity to help wildlife and places we love, not to mention our human communities. Stewardship and restoration are great starting places. With knowledge and confidence, advocacy follows naturally.
- Uncertainty kills impetus. We may not know the best thing to do, but we know enough to take meaningful action, in every possible way.
- Let action be the driver. Action is the antidote to fear and anxiety, which tend to shut us down. People move into action when they believe their actions benefit the overall good.
- Seek intrinsic motivation, linked to values. If you know someone cares about national security, show them how alternative fuels reduce America's dependency on other countries, making us safer. If they love national parks, show how climate mitigation reduces the risk their favorite park will be devastated.
- The divisions are socio-political, not scientific. When bombarded with graphs, data, and logical arguments, our minds shut down. Focus instead on what people love—the river where they fish, the place they take their kids hiking, the protection of favorite hunting areas, or sustaining their favorite foods (avocados, bananas, chocolate, coffee).

- We've got the power! Citizens can shift what we buy and how we invest, voting with our dollars. We can change how we engage politically, voting with our voices and at the ballot box.

A team of Stanford scientists, led by psychologist Lee Ross, note that social norms encourage action. If you insulate your home, install solar panels, and plant a productive garden, it inspires others. Inviting friends to a grassroots lobby day, a protest, or a tree-planting opportunity makes them much more likely to go.

In every case, acting on climate is most fulfilling when backed by the power of Broads. We've got tools and guidance for you, and a shoulder to cry on when you need it. With our Broad community, you are never alone. 🌿

## WHAT MOTIVATES ACTION?

Why aren't more people jumping into action to cut greenhouse gas emissions? One answer lies in our *Homo sapiens* brain, evolved over tens of thousands of years to fixate on immediate needs. Harvard psychologist Dan Gilbert says the brain responds to four basic threats:

### INTENTIONAL

We respond like blitzkrieg to those trying to kill us. Climate change is not a person coming at us with a club. Therefore, we don't attack it with the fervor (or boundless budgets) reserved for perceived enemies.

### IMMORAL

Our brains battle what appears indecent or unjust. Framing climate change in moral terms wakes up our minds, which is why Greta Thunberg's pinpointing of the immorality of climate inaction has reverberated around the globe.

### IMMINENT

The threat of climate change may be hard to perceive. Note that those who experience the harshest impacts sound the alarm most loudly (e.g. those on low-lying islands, in areas of drought and wildfire, or where livelihoods like farming or fishing are threatened).

### INSTANTANEOUS

When sea levels rise an inch a year, our brains become habituated and learn to adapt. We are short on long-term imagination.





Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
P.O. Box 2924  
Durango, CO 81302

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Susie Schmidt, co-leader of Oregon's Rogue Broads protests a proposed liquid natural gas pipeline and facility.



## Join or Renew Today!

Do it online at [www.greatoldbroads.org/join-us](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/join-us)

You do not have to be female or old to join—but you must be bold for wilderness. Please join us on the adventure. Wilderness needs your help!

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Broad \$35                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Outrageous Broad \$100+   | <input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me about making a bequest to Broads, an IRA distribution or other giving options. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rockin' Broad \$50+                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Spirit Broad \$_____ (you choose the amount)                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamic Duo \$60 (members of same household) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEW!</b> Auto-Renewal (Save time + money—credit card renewal only) |   |
|   |  |   |

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### Give a One-Year Gift Membership to a Broad-Minded Friend!

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

Enclose additional dues for this membership. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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PAYMENT TYPE: ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card: Visa MC AmEx Discover (circle one) Total Enclosed/To Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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- ☐ Please do not share my information with like-minded organizations. ☐ Save paper and postage, no receipt is necessary.

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