

While You Were Masked

by Susan Kearns

You may have had a brief chuckle if you saw a cartoon of President Trump with a mask over his eyes as a comment on his response to the coronavirus. As the pandemic raced through the country, however, the mask was pulled over our eyes and cinched tight by an administration eager to slash environmental regulations.

As people hunkered down in their homes, or worse, dealt directly with the onslaught of the virus, the feds took full advantage by accelerating initiatives to nullify or rewrite regulations that protect public health and the environment.

EPA Leads the Parade

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seems to be working at odds with its name—putting forth a plethora of proposals that contribute to, rather than reduce, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

In April, the agency finalized a revision to the way costs and benefits of public health are calculated for Mercury and Air Toxic Standards. This revision increases the amount of mercury and 80 other dangerous pollutants spewed into the air by coal- and oil-fired power plants. It contradicts the agency's own findings in 2015 that the standards significantly reduced hazardous emissions—without increasing costs to industry.



The proposed and deceptively named *Scientific Transparency Rule* would restrict the use of scientific studies that have not been published. This limits the data allowed for consideration and opponents say it will skew the science to support deregulation.

The White House Office of Management and Budget is looking at implementing a similar rule to constrain the use of science in decision making.

COVID-19 inspired EPA to “temporarily” suspend oversight and enforcement. While industrial facilities are obliged to keep a record of non-compliance, they do not have to disclose that information to the

public—nor report it to the EPA! Eliminating supervision without mandating reporting to ensure accountability is reckless and irresponsible.

Furthermore, the EPA is making it more difficult for public engagement by reducing comment periods to 30 days, rather than 60 to 90 days.

There's a reason for the agency's push for deregulation—any rule finalized before June will be difficult to reverse through the Congressional Review Act—should Democrats win control of the Senate in the coming election. (The Trump administration used the 1996 Congressional Review Act 14 times to overrule regulations from the Obama administration. Prior to that, it had only been successfully invoked once.)

(Continued page 14)

STOP THE ROLLBACKS

Find an updated list of rollbacks at <https://bit.ly/ListRBs>



Enough is enough!

BROADBANDS IN ACTION

Members go virtual in their advocacy efforts.

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BROADER WILDERNESS

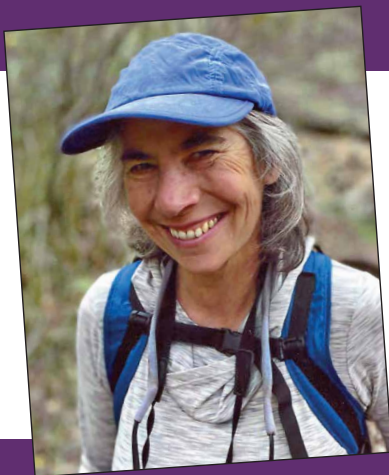
Critical bills are languishing. It's about time they started moving.

PAGE 8

CES DEBUTS ONLINE

The first Climate Education & Stewardship training inspires leaders.

PAGE 12



In a **BROAD** Sense

Mission Critical for Uncertain Times

It may be hard to remember what day it is in this brave new world we are living in, but none of us will forget this momentous, tumultuous year. Our hearts have sped up as our lives have slowed down. The new mantra in the era of COVID-19: Befriend uncertainty. I ponder, how can this 2020 pandemic help us gain 20/20 vision—the power to see our way through challenges and envision what the world might look like on the other side? Can we intensify our focus so the pandemic is both prelude and preparation for other crises we are already living, such as climate change and plummeting biodiversity? Can we as global citizens apply lessons learned to these challenges that are hurtling towards us like meteors?

Unfortunately, these crises are not distinct. They are one catastrophe created by all of us, the human species. What's the most critical thing we can do to stop this cluster from hitting full force? Believe it or not, it's the very mission of our organization: Protect wild places. Our mission could not be more relevant at any other point in history.

From our origins more than three decades ago,

Broads has worked to prevent fragmentation of wild lands by roads, fossil fuel extraction, water development, logging, and overgrazing. We've commented, testified, and rallied to protect public lands for native wildlife and plants, including predators and endangered species. We've sweated through restoration projects to build the land's health, and proposed policies for a livable climate.

Fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and climate change are among the biggest factors impacting natural systems and leading to dangerous "spillover," the jumping of disease from wildlife to humans. Nearly half the new diseases that spilled over since 1940 resulted from wildland destruction, leading

to increased density and the intermingling of wild and domestic animals—and humans—in new ways. The media has reported on wet markets and wildlife trade in Asia, but the killing of predators closer to home also leads to unnaturally inflated populations of prey species, which act as reservoirs and spreaders of disease.



"Here is a prediction: the decade ahead will be one of the most crucial breakdown or breakthrough moments in the history of our species. It is not a game of paper, rock or scissors."

— Terry Tempest Williams
from *Erosion*, 2019

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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
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EVENTS UPDATE

It's been a roller coaster ride in the Broads' event planning department over the past few months. But when the going gets tough, the Broads get going. Check out the latest line up and sign up today!

JUNE 23 • JULY 30

Climate Change & Coasts *Summer Webinar Series*



In lieu of the June 2020 Maine Broadwalk, we present two virtual events featuring experts on climate change and coastal ecosystems. Get a taste for what you'll learn at the upcoming Broadwalk rescheduled for June 2021 (see below right).

These 1-hour webinars are FREE to members and up to 100 people can attend each session. There's still time to register, so get your name on the list tout de suite.

Learn more about the speakers and register at <https://bit.ly/ClimWebinars>



RESCHEDULED, NEW LOCATION!



SEPTEMBER 3-7 **Women's Watercolor Workshop on the Green River FUNdraiser**

...through Labyrinth Canyon, Utah

Holiday Rivers Expeditions will take you on a magical

trip to experience smooth red and orange walls encasing a tranquil, lush river corridor studded with sandbars and enchanting side canyons. There are no rapids on this trip, and that is exactly why it's so good. The scenery is the main attraction; the calm and quiet are the main event.

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.

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

\$1450 per person

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

OCTOBER 2-4

Pam Houston Mountain Retreat Writing Workshop FUNdraiser

High Camp Hut, Telluride, Colorado

There is still space available for this "Rocky Mountain High" trip, Broads style! Sharpen your writing skills with



celebrated author Pam Houston, who will coach you to tap into sensory details and bring richness to your writing.

Held at the world-renowned High Camp

Hut in the beautiful San Juan Mountains, this hideaway offers incredible mountain vistas and a wood-fired hot tub and sauna to enjoy at the end of your creative writing sessions.

\$1065 per person - single bed

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

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



RESCHEDULED FOR 2021

JUNE 3-7, 2021

Climate Change & Coasts: The MAINE Reason to Act Broadwalk



Blueberry Cove Summer Camp, St. George, Maine

Open for registration for next summer, join

us on the coast at Blueberry Cove, featuring a beautiful swimming beach, tidal flats, hiking, canoeing, and more. We'll explore coastal ecosystems and climate change with regional experts such as Oceanographer Deborah Bronk, Ph.D., and conservationist and right whale expert Mark Dittrick.

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

No-share single cabins: \$350

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



by Lauren Berutich

The *New York Times* posted alarming statistics on May 9, 2020. The headline read, “The Trump Administration Is Reversing Nearly 100 Environmental Rules.” This may be no surprise since we’ve endured three-plus years of environmental, social, and economic disasters imposed by the current administration. More than 60 environmental rule and regulation reversals have been finalized and an additional 34 rollbacks are still in progress.

What can we do? Thanks to varying levels of quarantine and stay-at-home orders, we are limited in the ability to safely go to the streets in protest, convene on the stairs of state and national capital buildings with signs in hand, or gather at public hearings or meetings to raise awareness for the health and safety of our planet and public lands.

But we are not without options. We can still flex those advocacy muscles and inspire people to stay educated, engaged, and connected to the issues.

ZOOM YOUR WAY TO ACTION!

Zoom, an online video conferencing tool, is a great way to connect family, friends, and community members alike. Using this platform, Broads recently trained more than three dozen volunteer leaders covering topics from women’s leadership and grassroots

development, to engaging communities through climate education and ecological restoration programs. We offered webinars open to members on NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), Streamflow Restoration, Effective Public Comment Writing, and Fire Ecology and Wildlife. Broadband chapters are fully embracing online advocacy, using Zoom as an important meeting and collaboration tool (see *Broadbands in Action*, page 6).

EXERCISE THOSE FINGERS!

Stay connected with your elected officials locally, statewide, and on a federal level. Despite COVID-19, they are still responsible for representing

there are several important bills that are languishing in the House and Senate? (See *Broader Wilderness*, page 8). Your voice is needed. Let your elected officials know the specific action you want them to take on issues, and thank those who are champions for public lands protection and ask them to commit to preserving the laws that protect them.

AVENUES FOR ADVOCACY!

Do you receive our action alerts? Are you on your local Broadband chapter’s email list? You can get into the nitty gritty details of a campaign—we have incredible resources. National office action alerts are sent out about once a month and cover timely issues you can act on by calling your representatives,

submitting comments, or showing up for public hearings. Alerts also provide talking points, background information and resources, and other tools for effective engagement all in one place.

Your local Broadband leader communications offer a variety of opportunities to engage on local issues! They can connect you to the tools

and information to help you be an informed advocate in your community.

So, friends, take a deep breath. This is a challenging time, but together, we can grow stronger and more resilient. We may be limited in our social interactions, but we are not limited in the work we can do to speak for and protect America’s wild public lands and waters.



their constituents and need to hear from you. Pick up the phone and call their office, send an email, and write letters to show you are paying attention and have issues you’d like addressed. Each personalized letter counts! Did you know

“In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.”

– Marianne Williamson



A Point of Reckoning?

by Suez Jacobson

As the COVID-19 virus spread, taking lives, and threatening to overwhelm our medical system, we bought toilet paper and flour. Things that we, in developed countries, equate with a basic human need—plus a want—home baked goodies as a balm for tragedy. This cruel virus has focused our energies, swamped our news, and distracted us from other plagues in our reality—species extinctions and climate change.

This is because these other plagues are insidious erosions rather than the terrorizing firestorms of illness and death. But a United Nations report dated May 2019, characterizes species decline as “dangerous,” “unprecedented,” and “accelerating,”—estimating that over one million species of plants and animals are currently in danger of extinction. And, the parts per million of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our air, over 414 ppm on April 28th, far exceeds the safe level determined by scientists of 350 ppm.

Extensions of human greed into Mother Earth’s abundance have brought us to this point, a point of reckoning. The coronavirus is said to have jumped

“...this is the time to implement a democracy of species rather than a tyranny of one.”

from bats to humans—zoonotic they call it—in a live animal market in Wuhan, China. People thirsty for animal protein exposed

themselves to the virus and then passed it on, at first without knowing. Not knowing until the deaths multiplied and our global economy, an economy that has long sought efficiency and profit at the expense of life, carried death around the world.

In response we turned off engines. Skies are blue again; mountains appear in the distance; waters clear, and wild animals

reclaim habitat. Mother Earth takes a breath. The New York Times reported that global emissions will probably fall an unprecedented 8% this year, to the 2010 level. But the United Nations also tells us that emissions would have to decline 8% every year until 2030 to avoid the worst catastrophes of climate change.

Perhaps, as Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, suggests, this is the time to implement a “democracy of species, rather than a tyranny of one.” In a moment of human suffering, we can consider the “biological vulnerability” that threatened species endure their whole lives. For some, the message is lost. For example, as the sage grouse population continues to collapse, the Trump administration announced in February that sage grouse habitat will re-open for business—the oil and gas business, that is. This despite science that predicts this will probably result in the birds’ extinction. Such is the dirty business of oil extraction, the same business that pushes the CO₂ level beyond sustainable levels, bolstered by an administration that pushes an economic engine restart, death sentences disguised as profit.

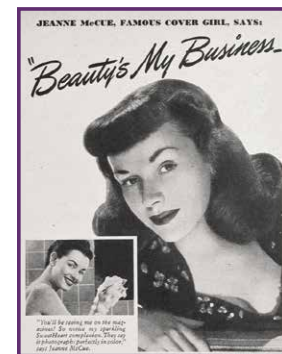
But it’s past time for us to plan for a different world, post COVID-19, if we are going to avoid the disasters of climate change and the devastating loss of all those with whom we share this planet. We need a new economy, a different way of being.

In the first quarter of 2020, the economy contracted by 4.8%, the greatest decline since the 2008 financial crisis. But second quarter predictions are far more dire—perhaps a 30% decline. In an economy where consumption accounts for almost 70% of GDP (investment for the future and government spending account for the small 30% piece of the pie that’s left), shutting down the consumer economy

has been devastating. Unimaginable job losses have crippled households. Approximately 30 million people applied for unemployment in six weeks. We need support for those without jobs—job creation and basic income. But we need to restructure our economy from the ground up to create what Kimmerer would call a *contentment* rather than a *consumption* economy.

“In a consumer society, contentment is a radical proposition. Recognizing abundance rather than scarcity undermines an economy that thrives by creating unmet desires. Gratitude cultivates an ethic of fullness, but the economy needs emptiness.”

Our current economy needs emptiness



that marketers falsely promise to fill. Ubiquitous ads bombard us, telling us products, hair care for example, will

fill our need for companionship, make us popular. But we can rebuild an economy based on gratitude, sharing, simplicity, enough.

Many years ago, I baked for a living. Lots of identical loaves without much thought. But recently, when I found a bag of bread flour on the grocery shelf, I felt deep gratitude. Maybe toilet paper and flour go a lot further toward contentment than we have ever given them credit for. We cannot emerge from this crisis with the idea that we will go back to business as usual. If we do, we will have squandered these tear-filled days, ignored the painful opportunity to teach ourselves to be ethical members of Mother Earth’s family, and given up the chance to slow species extinction and global warming.



BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

TRANSFORMING FOR THE TIMES

by Katya Spiecker and Sally Sharp

“Who says old Broads can’t learn new tricks?” toasted Broad-in-training Chandra LeGue as the Willamette Valley Broadband held their first ever web-based Zoom advocacy meeting this spring.



The Willamette Valley Broadbands’ online advocacy night where old Broads learned new tricks.

As Broadbands adapt activities to a trying and unpredictable time, their resilience and flexibility are inspiring. Broads don’t give up easily, pandemic or not, and we hope their perseverance inspires you, too.

BROADBAND ACCESS AND ADVOCACY

Loren Karro, co-leader of the Alaska Soles Broadband, says the pandemic has increased her resolve to participate in the public process. As the federal government rams through extraction projects on public lands, while refusing to extend comment deadlines during the pandemic, Loren said agencies are “forcing people from isolated native villages to try to attend meetings via Zoom.”



Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle (left) and Loren Karro (right), co-leaders of the Alaska Soles Broadband.

Many remote residents do not have high speed internet or the proper technology to participate and elders and people of different cultures may not be familiar or comfortable using an online format. Alaska is ranked last for broadband internet access among U.S. states. Loren sees the

need to stay vigilant and continuing to comment is crucial for those with the privilege of good technology—plus the time, means, and health. “Some of us are fortunate in that we can turn our attention to issues that will affect the health of our communities and our planet.”

The pandemic has made it more difficult and time consuming for Rio Grande Valley Broadband co-leaders Susan Ostlie and Linda Starr and Aldo’s Silver City Broadband co-leader Dianne Maughan to navigate through the mass of maps and spreadsheets to comment on the Gila National Forest Revision Plan.

New Mexico comes in 49th for broadband access. “It is much more difficult for people living in the boonies with limited internet access,” Susan said. Normally hard copies of the plan are at the Forest Service office and library. This time Susan and Linda had to do it all on the computer. They persevered and got their comments done just in the nick of time!

Dianne and her team took advantage of newfound technology as well. They met several times via Zoom to finalize their comments. “There’s plenty of advocacy work to do while we are at home,” Dianne says.

GROWING A BROADER REACH

When Oregon’s Governor banned large gatherings to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Cascade Volcanoes Broadband faced the cancellation of their educational event *Say No to Jordan Cove*. Felice Kelly, a member of the Broadband leadership team, jumped into action. She consulted a few tech savvy friends, who convinced her to transform the event into a webinar.

“They really helped me feel confident we could pull it off, and then, when I told my co-organizers, Jane Heisler and Micky Ryan, that we had a tech support team, they were enthusiastic about trying it.”

The webinar went swimmingly, with 63 participants—more than may have attended in person! Because the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s misguided approval of the liquefied natural gas pipeline and terminal came out the same day, it motivated an even stronger call to action.

“The Jordan Cove Energy Project is a major threat to the climate, human health, and several different ecosystems here in Oregon, and we don’t have time to waste in opposing it,” says Felice.

Check out the recording of the webinar and learn what you can do to help stop Jordan Cove: <https://bit.ly/JCoveWeb>





Roz Switzer presents a program on the Mexican gray wolf at the Borderlands Broadwalk (2019).

Roz Switzer, from the Middle Gila Broads in Arizona, knew she had to get the word out on the scoping period for the 10(j) management rule change

to advocate for the reclassification of the Mexican gray wolves as an “essential” experimental population. This important rule directs how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fulfills its obligation to manage the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf to a sustainable wild population. With the scoping period due to open any day, Roz planned to take her ideas on the road. She actively sought out invitations to speak in small venues across Arizona. Then the pandemic struck. Roz immediately switched gears, hopped on the phone with her conservation partners and proposed a webinar format. She contacted possible speakers, settled on the format and date, and they were good to go. Two days after she made the arrangements, the scoping period opened.

What were the take-aways after moving to virtual events?

- You can reach a larger, more diverse audience, including those who are geographically distant, have physical limitations, or difficulty attending a live event.
- It’s easier to recruit speakers, who can comfortably lounge at home while making presentations.

- Recording the event is easier and provides an enduring resource to galvanize further support.

RE-IMAGINING A RELAUNCH

Janifer Larson, Barb McConvill, and Di Allison, co-leaders of the Greater Wasatch Broadband in Utah, are not wasting any time. They are relaunching their Broadband in the midst of the pandemic. Since Barb and Jan attended our WALTs webinars, they are filled to the brim with ideas, including a virtual book club, socially-distanced stewardship projects,



The Greater Wasatch Broads on a winter hike in February before their community went into lockdown.

and three Peak to Trail Challenges. For each challenge, participants track their mileage and elevation gain on personal hiking trips. Then, with the hope that COVID-19 cases

decrease and guidelines become more relaxed, the groups will climb a local peak in October together. Hikers will take mountain top photos and send them to their legislators and thank them for the trails, while building critical relationships. Jan says the activity is really pulling people together as they track their individual hiking accomplishments.

Welcome!

We’d like to extend a warm welcome to our new **Membership & Events Manager, Alyssa Rainbolt!**

Alyssa has taken over for Ellie Stevenson, who decided to pursue a career in science. We wish Ellie the best in her new adventures!

Alyssa brings a passion for wild places and plenty of creative ideas to Broads. We know she’ll be a hit at the Broadwalks thanks to her extensive experience hiking and rock climbing throughout the west for NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), teaching environmental ethics, leadership, inclusion, and outdoor skills to a diverse student population.



Alyssa Rainbolt

She has a BS in Journalism from the University of Kansas and loves rock climbing, mountain biking, wildcrafting, or sunbathing on a slab of granite next to an alpine lake, with her dog Osa.

We’re taking our efforts to the next level with the hiring of **Kaye Berman** as **Development Director**. Kaye brings infectious enthusiasm and more than eight years of fundraising experience. She’s worked with Animals Asia Foundation, where she established a broad and diversified national fund development program, and served as Grants Manager and Mobile Pantry Coordinator for Food Bank of the Rockies. She holds a Master’s degree in Nonprofit Management from Regis University, in Denver, Colorado. She is impassioned about relationship-based fundraising and finding new opportunities to inspire others.



Kaye Berman

When she’s not working, you can find her cooking up a storm, walking her pup, Grit, hiking in the mountains, playing in the surf, or planning a trip to a foreign land.





THE BROADER WILDERNESS

A STICKY SENATE FLOOR—STAGNANT ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS



by Lauren Berutich
and Susan Kearns

Where is Congress during the pandemic? While the health and safety of Americans is a priority, it's time for our elected officials to get serious and advance important environmental legislation to protect public lands and waters, endangered species, and critical habitat. The health and resilience of our planet depends on this, and it will slow the rate of climate change brought on by human impact and greed.

Yet as of this writing, there are 295 introduced bills in Congress related to environmental protection. The majority of these important public lands protection bills sit at a standstill or are awaiting acknowledgment from elected officials to move forward.

Here are essential bills that need your voice to advance them in the legislative process.

HR2546 **PROTECTING AMERICA'S WILDERNESS ACT**

Introduced by Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO), Jared Huffman (D-CA), Derek Kilmer (D-WA) Judy Chu (D-CA), Salud Carbajal (D-CA) and Adam Schiff (D-CA).



HR2546 designates 1.37 million acres of federal lands in Colorado, California, and Washington as wilderness and protects more than 1,000 river miles under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. It combines six previously separate bills including the *Northwest California Wilderness*,

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“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

— Margaret J. Wheatley

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Recreation and Working Forests Act (a topic of our 2017 Redwoods Broadwalk). Broads has educated, testified, organized, and lobbied for these protections in state offices and Washington D.C., so we are pushing for progress.

This bill has passed in the House and is now awaiting action in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Contact your Senators and ask for their support on this legislation to meaningfully expand protected wilderness in our country.



HR2795/S1499 **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS CONSERVATION ACT**

Introduced by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and Representative Don Beyer (D-VA).

This bipartisan bill, introduced in 2019, establishes a National Wildlife Corridors System and designates funding toward a system of corridors to provide uninterrupted passage and habitat on federal, state, tribal, and private lands.

Habitat fragmentation due to development and industrial activities is extremely detrimental to maintaining biological diversity, healthy ecosystems, and distinct genetic populations of flora and fauna.



The Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act has been a priority campaign for Broads. It was the topic of a 2017 Broadwalk held in Colorado's South San Juan Wilderness where participants learned about the essential need for wildlife corridors. Broads have written letters, made calls, and held dozens of lobbying meetings in D.C. to support this bill.

The Senate Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife reviewed the bill, but it needs public backing to move it forward to a vote. Though it has widespread support in the conservation community, including luminaries such as Dr. Michael Soule, Dr. Reed Noss, and Dr. E.O. Wilson, there are only 13 cosponsors in the Senate to date.

Contact your Senators to bring their attention to this important legislation. Ask them to become a cosponsor and if they are a proponent, thank them.



HR4348 PROTECT AMERICA'S WILDLIFE AND FISH IN NEED OF CONSERVATION ACT (PAW AND FIN ACT)

Introduced in the House by Representatives Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Don Beyer (D-VA), and Debbie Dingell (D-MI); and, in the Senate by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM).

The PAW and FIN Act repeals rule changes made by the Trump administration that undermine the foundation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The administration's damaging revisions:

- Remove critical protections from threatened species and their habitat. **Previously, threatened species received the same considerations as endangered species.**
- Change criteria for when land management agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service— the lead agencies for implementing ESA! **This rule change bypasses authority and reduces oversight and evaluation of actions that could harm habitat and species survival.**

- Allow the use of economic assessments—rather than science and climate impacts—to determine whether a species should be protected under the ESA. **This places priority on industry profits over species survival.**

Keeping the ESA intact is a key advocacy campaign for Broads' national office and the subject of a 2018 Broadwalk held in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho. The ESA has effectively prevented extinction of 99% of the species under its protection since 1973. We have to overturn the administration's attempts to dismantle the ESA. So far, this bill has 127 cosponsors and has been introduced into the House.

Contact your members of Congress and urge them to bring this important legislation to a vote.

S3422 - GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

Introduced to the Senate by Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO).

Introduced in March, this bill has widespread support from both sides of the aisle and we're fans because it fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which finances conservation projects, recreational construction, and the preservation of national landmarks. S3422 also establishes the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address long-deferred maintenance projects on federal lands. 50% of the federal revenue from energy development on public lands and waters will provide the money to fund maintenance activities.



These bills are a powerful means to gain ground for conservation and protections for our wild lands and the creatures that inhabit them.

Please take the time to make your voice heard and contact your elected officials today.

Find contact information at <https://bit.ly/House-Sen>



WISH LIST

We wish you good health, peace of mind, and strong fingers to call and write on behalf of our wild lands and waters.

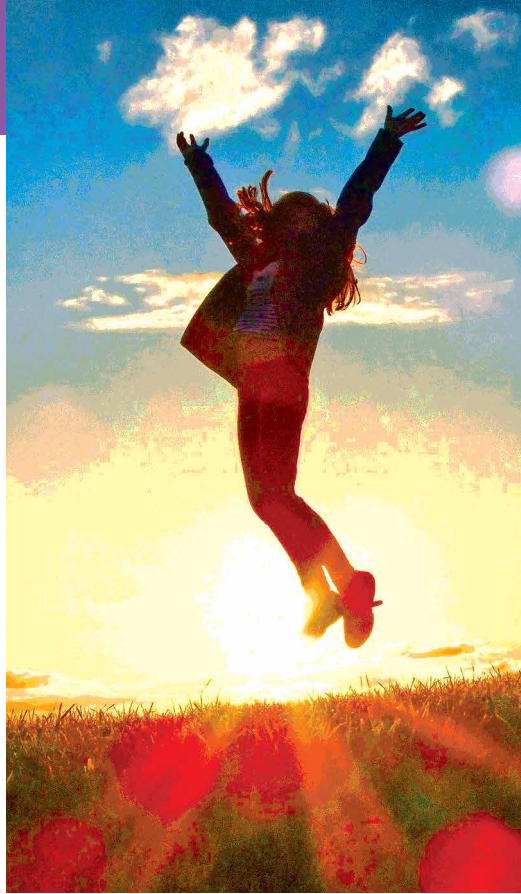


ADVOCACY WINS!

by Lisa Pool

KEEPING THE CLEAN WATER ACT INTACT

In April, the Supreme Court ruled to close what would have become a major loophole put forth by the Trump administration. For nearly 50 years, the Clean Water Act has been prohibiting polluters from discharging waste into oceans, rivers, and other navigable bodies of water without a permit. However, Hawaii's Maui County was pumping wastewater into groundwater via injection wells and arguing they didn't need a permit because they weren't polluting a navigable body of water. Thankfully, the Supreme Court pointed out, "We do not see how Congress could have intended to create such a large and obvious loophole in one of the key regulatory innovations of the Clean Water Act." In its decision, the court held that the Clean Water Act "require[s] a permit if the addition of the



states, conservative Utah Governor Gary Herbert voiced his opposition to leasing these two controversial parcels, and the BLM removed them. The fact that these parcels were even nominated is direct evidence of the Trump Administration's Energy Dominance agenda, but we find hope in that this public outcry didn't fall on deaf ears.

Montana had a recent victory that included not just two, but 287 parcels covering 145,063 acres. Some parcels



pollutants through groundwater is the functional equivalent of a direct discharge from the point source into navigable waters." If this decision had gone the other way, it would have been disastrous for our rivers, lakes, and oceans, and worse, polluting industries wouldn't be held accountable! Marvelously, two conservative-leaning justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh, joined the Supreme Court's four Democratic appointees in their 6–3 ruling.

STOPPING BLM OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES

At the beginning of the year, the BLM had the nerve to schedule two parcels for the June oil and gas lease sale within the Sand Flats Recreation Area above Moab, Utah. Not only are these parcels next to the world-famous Slickrock Bike Trail, but also the aquifer that provides drinking water for most of Grand County's population. After extensive public outcry, including from local elected officials as well as several



were adjacent to or near the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, the Beartooth Mountains, and along the Tongue River Valley. These areas contain fragile watersheds due to the impact of climate change on water volume in the region (thereby affecting ecosystems, agriculture, and local communities' drinking water supply). Back in December 2017 and March 2018, the BLM nominated this huge swath of land for lease as part of the rush for an oil and gas boom in Montana. However, in that rush and due to pressure from the Trump Administration, the BLM neglected to take into account fracking impacts on water quality and quantity and the changing climate. U.S. District Judge Brian Morris scathingly



wrote, “The Court does not fault BLM for providing a faulty analysis of cumulative impacts or impacts to groundwater, it largely faults BLM for failing to provide ANY analysis.”



COURT VICTORY FOR QUIET PARKS

Sounds of nature are one of the top enjoyments of National Park visitors. However, increased helicopter and airplane overflights within National Park boundaries, which serve a disproportionately small number of park visitors, disrupt the majority of visitors’ on-the-ground experience. In response to this, the National Park Air Tour Management Act of 2000 required the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) and the National Park Service (NPS) to collaboratively write and establish Air Tour Management Plans (ATMP) for 25 national parks. Yet only two were completed by the 2002 deadline.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness has been involved with the Quiet! Glacier Coalition from the start. This group is working to restore the natural soundscape and wildness of Glacier National Park through establishing a fair ATMP. Glacier National Park and 22 other too-noisy national parks fell victim to an incredibly frustrating 19-year bureaucratic stalemate by the FAA and NPS. This infuriating inaction was ended on May 1 when Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and Hawaii Island Coalition Malama Pono won their court case when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit ruled to end the interagency turf war. The court mandated that the remaining 23 national parks must complete their Air Tour Management Plans within 120 days.

HIGH FIVE TO GOVERNOR INSLEE!

In order to save Southern Resident orcas and Chinook salmon from extinction, Broads has worked tirelessly to educate and advocate towards the removal of the four lower Snake River dams in Washington state. In early May, the Washington Department of Ecology, supported by Governor Inslee took a historic step to exercise its authority to require eight federal dams on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake rivers to meet safe temperature limits to help ensure endangered salmon survival. The Governor’s actions resulted in the Environmental Protection Agency finally recognizing and adding heat pollution mediation to their plan, further evidence dam removal is necessary to restore salmon and orcas. This win means we’re one step closer to saving these species!

Broads’ Rapid Response Team

by Rynda Clark, Board Co-Chair

Broads created the COVID-19 Rapid Response Team (RRT) in the first weeks of the pandemic to develop strategies, inform decision-making, and provide resources needed to confidently face our current challenges. The team meets weekly and includes our Executive Director, several Board members, with additional staff and experts as needed.

During these uncertain times, most of the discussions at our RRT meetings begin with questions. For example:

How can we best communicate with members during quarantine? We have increased the frequency of phone calls, letters, and relevant emails. Staff and Broadband leaders have become experts at hosting online, interactive events, sometimes attracting larger audiences than similar in-person programs (pre-COVID).

Can we keep our staff and Broadband members safe? Yes. Staff are working productively at home, many planned events have been rescheduled on Zoom, and safety guidelines have been developed for live events.

Do the Broads qualify for the federal stimulus package and can we get support for payroll? Yes and Yes. The thorough preparation and timeliness of our application resulted in approval of a Payroll Protection Program Loan within days.

Can the Broads weather a downturn we are already seeing in income/grants? Fortunately, the Board and staff have budgeted a 3-month reserve for challenging times, which we’ve raised through our Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign. The reserve account and the stimulus funding allow our organization to be strategic, responsive, and sensitive in future planning decisions. We remain confident and committed to inspiring activism for wild places. (We are Broads!)

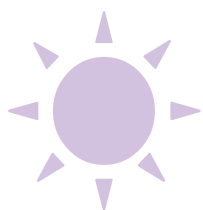
Can we find “green linings” or opportunities as we move forward? Absolutely YES! Our Broads’ spirit is expressed daily by our staff, Board, and members. It is more important NOW to care for our wild places, wildlife, each other, and ourselves. We are confident the organization will continue to support our public lands, while developing new and unique ways to educate the public and our members, steward our wild places, and advocate for the protection and restoration of our planet.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the RRT, please email Shelley@greatoldbroads.org. We thank all of you for your continued passion and support.



Climate Education & Stewardship Training Debuts

by Rachel Green



In the beginning of May, more than 20 Broadband Leaders and leadership team members from the Northwest convened over Zoom with national office staff for the first-ever Climate Education and Stewardship (CES) Program Training. With a pen in one hand and coffee in the other, leaders seamlessly adapted to this online training experience, which we had intended to hold in person before the coronavirus struck.

The CES Program is a grant-funded program formed in November 2019. In this program's first year, Northwest Broadbands will teach the public about the connections between public lands and climate change while empowering communities to build climate resilience through stewardship and ecological restoration projects. These Broadband-led education and stewardship events will invite diverse audiences to explore and become inspired by the connections between climate change and public lands.

Our goal for the May training: equip Northwest Broadband leaders with the resources and confidence to lead future CES events. We convened over three half-day sessions. Day one began with a discussion of best practices for presentations and group facilitation techniques, and then moved into "Public Lands & Climate 101" tools, including key talking points, a customizable PowerPoint, and an educational activity. On day two, we took a deep dive into "Forests and Climate Change." We unveiled three experiential, place-based activities that explore ecosystems, wildfire, climate impacts, and public land-management decisions. On the last day, we presented tools and guidelines to help Broadband leaders navigate the event and stewardship planning process while fostering lively peer-to-peer learning among our leaders, many of whom come from teaching, research, or scientific careers. Throughout the training, our leaders shared invaluable knowledge with one another related to planning, leadership, and community outreach.

"I have attended other Climate Change action presentations with other organizations, but this presentation was the most researched, well organized, well documented, and best by far! I am very impressed!" said one participant in the post-training survey.

The Northwest leaders now have a suite of customizable educational materials and planning resources—and most importantly—a shared passion and excitement to put these tools to use. CES event planning through August 2021 is now full steam

ahead. We eagerly look forward to the collaborative and creative programs our Broads envision, both online and in-person, when the time comes to gather safely once again. As each Broadband cultivates a unique approach that complements their group's skill sets and passions, we will support the development of diverse projects, ranging from educational hikes to tree-planting workshops or socially-distanced invasive species removal.

Although participants missed shared meals and quality time together at the Northwest Regional Rendezvous, we

received overwhelmingly positive feedback from leaders about how well the training worked in an online format. Many found the training far more engaging and interactive than they had imagined. We are so grateful for our leaders' adaptability, focus, and can-do attitude that made this training such a success.

Stay tuned as we develop the next two modules focused on climate change as it relates to Northwest river and coastal ecosystems! Much like the existing "Climate & Public Lands 101" and "Forests & Climate Change" modules, these units will include a PowerPoint presentation and customizable script, talking points, and interactive activities. With each of our modules, we seek to bring the topic of climate change and public lands to life through a dynamic, interactive, and place-based approach.





Giving Through an Inherited IRA

by Micky Ryan

Leave a little behind.

one deceased spouse, and two brothers I love.

Somehow, revising my will just kept falling to the bottom of the list. Yet I wanted to make sure I left something to the Broads, an organization that I love and that has done so much for me, public lands, and the earth. Creating the bequest turned out to be much simpler than I thought.

I decided to leave the Broads an inherited IRA that my mother left me when she died three years ago. It was very easy, because I had an online account and could change the beneficiaries online without needing to call or write anyone. I have a few tips but it may be even easier for you.

I was able to choose whatever percentage of the inherited IRA I wished to give to Broads (in my case, 100%), and could have chosen to leave the remaining percentage to other beneficiaries. You can change this percentage at any time, too.

One piece of information I needed was the physical address for the Broads' office, so be sure you have that handy when

you start the process: 555 Rivergate Lane, Unit B-110, Durango, Colorado 81301.

The form provided by my financial institution would not allow me to enter the entire name of the organization (too many characters, cutting off the second "s" in Wilderness). So, I called the company and talked to a staff person who "made a note of it" to be sure they had the complete and correct name. While that may not happen to you, it points out the importance of informing your will executor and family about the bequest.

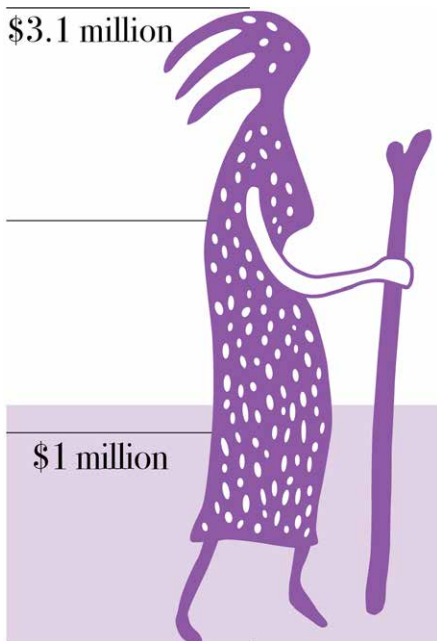
I recommend one of two books to assist you in preparing your family for your wishes. They are simple workbooks that are REALLY helpful to those left behind. I know this from personal experience. They are, *I'm Dead, Now What?: Important Information about my Belongings, Business Affairs, and Wishes* and *Putting Things in Order: A Journal to Organize Your Life for the Next Generation*. Both are available online.

Lastly, my financial institution sent me written confirmation by U.S. mail of the change in beneficiaries. I put a copy with my financial papers and sent a copy to the Broads' office. It was so easy!

Feel free to email me at mickyryan@aol.com if you have questions.



\$3.1 million



\$1 million

Every Dollar Counts!

The momentum continues with the **Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign** to raise funds to secure our future and deepen our impact at a time when women's leadership is paramount in the fight for a livable planet. We've raised more than \$1 million so far toward the \$3.1 million goal.

No matter the amount—\$25, \$10, or even \$5—every dollar you give helps expand our work to:

- Train and mobilize grassroots advocates across the country
- Recruit and retain an inspired, professional staff
- Build a diverse and equitable organization
- Improve the health of our public lands and waters and achieve more legislative and administrative wins

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/W4WildCC>



Oil, Gas, and Mining Free-for-All

Lease sales for hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands and waters have escalated—and at bargain basement prices in Utah, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming. Opening up drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge continues to be a priority for the administration.

Management plan revisions that favor extraction over conservation fuel some of this activity. The two million acres of public lands illegally removed from Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments are now under a new Trump-influenced land-use plans that prioritize oil and gas development and grazing. In Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, federal land-use plans have been revised to focus on those same priorities. The Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan, finalized in April, could open up 95% of the public lands in Colorado's North Fork Valley—critical wildlife habitat—to oil and gas development.

In a bid to boost uranium production, the White House has its sights set on resurrecting mining (tax-subsidized, of course) near Grand Canyon National Park and Bears Ears National Monument. Meanwhile, the fight to prevent copper-sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota has erupted into another lawsuit after the BLM and USFS fast tracked the renewal of mineral leases, ignoring evidence that mine runoff will pollute 1.1 million acres of connected waterways.




At the state level, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority took advantage of the pandemic to decide unanimously—completely ignoring significant public opposition—that an emergency allocation of \$35 million was needed to build a road to the Ambler Mining District that would cross the Gates of the Arctic National Park.

Litigation and Legislation

Conservation organizations, coalitions, and states have filed hundreds of lawsuits as the administration moves forward ignoring public outcry. Early signs show this is an effective strategy—in a majority of cases, court rulings have blocked environmental rollbacks initiated by the Trump administration.


In May, House and Senate representatives introduced the ReWIND Act (Resources for Workforce Investments, not Drilling Act) to prohibit bailouts for the fossil fuel industry using CARES Act funds. It puts a moratorium on new fossil fuel lease sales, extends comment periods that were under way, and suspends new rulemakings in response to the COVID-19 crisis until the national emergency is over. It also quashes the backroom dealings where fossil fuel companies have lobbied to sidestep paying cash royalties through an “in-kind” program.

Though it may sound discouraging, we must not back down or stop submitting comments on these rollbacks. It is vitally important that we exercise our right to participate in public lands planning processes. Public involvement and filing comments influences decision making and creates an important record for litigation. It also creates a history of public dissent with decisions made. While we may not see immediate results, we will always work to achieve full public participation, and unmask the injustices of these fly-by-night actions that damage our environment and health. Stick with us as we work to roll back the rollbacks!



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In early May, the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES) put blame for the pandemic squarely on human greed, and recommended three crucial steps for countries to take: 1) strengthen environmental regulations and incentivize restoration of natural systems through stimulus packages; 2) recognize the complex interconnections between the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment as the basis for policy decisions; and 3) ensure adequate support for health care systems in the most at risk countries. The panel argued, “This is not simple altruism—it is vital investment in the interests of all to prevent future global outbreaks.”

Wilderness and wild lands harbor the remaining biological diversity on our planet, and we now understand that we must protect at least 30% of what is left if we have any hope of decelerating these crises. In terms of climate mitigation,



wildlands reign when it comes to carbon capture and storage—and not just tropical rainforests. Perhaps you’ll be surprised to learn that America’s Pacific Northwest temperate rainforests, if left intact, store twice as much carbon per acre than the Amazon, while northern California’s giant coastal redwood forests store seven times more. This makes them among the best carbon sinks on the planet.

Broads has joined the *30x30 Campaign to Save Nature*—a new movement that ambitiously calls for the protection of 30% of land and oceans by 2030 in order to address the dual crises of climate and extinction. Such protection would also serve to lessen the risk of future pandemics. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) has introduced Senate Resolution 372 to establish a national goal to protect America’s land and waters, and Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM) introduced a companion bill in the House, HR835. These fit with the transformative change called for in the IPBES report. No doubt, it’s a big hairy audacious goal.

“Wilderness offers us a template to an enlightened citizenship...To care about wilderness is to grieve over what we have lost. To care about wilderness is to fall back in love with the world and lament how lost we are, and how lonely we have become... It is time to return to our senses and recognize that the bedrock of our sanity lies in every square inch of wilderness that remains.”

– Terry Tempest Williams, *Erosion*, 2019

These are historic times we’ve been living in, precisely the time for historic action. We need radical collaboration the likes of which we’ve never seen before. It feels unfathomable right now, with the years-long crisis of leadership that’s led to the current mess we are in. But we can never lose sight of what we know to be true—that people are inextricably linked and wholly dependent upon nature. That building resilience into our natural systems is vital to building human resilience. And that something as ambitious as the 30x30 Campaign can only be accomplished if we commit to it now, with 20/20 vision. It starts with leadership, just the type of leadership and grassroots advocacy that Broads builds. It grows through education and action at every level of society. It expands through your direct involvement and your support through Broads’ *Women for the Wild Campaign* (see page 13). We can do the impossible, but only when we create more equitable, restorative, and resilient systems together. Let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work.



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