

Scanning the Horizon

by Susan Kearns

As we approach the elections, the collective hopes of Americans swell on both ends of the political spectrum. Some passionately support the path we are on and some are just as passionately opposed. Then, there are the disengaged or disillusioned, choosing to ignore actions taken by our country's leadership that will significantly impact their lives and our planet's future.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, we cannot endorse or disparage a candidate, but we can examine, criticize, and promote policies all day long—work we do every day at Broads' headquarters. If you examine the Republican and Democratic platforms, you'll see they are diametrically opposed. But they have a common thread—both deeply affect policies and legislation related to environmental protections, climate change, and America's public lands.

The Democratic platform aims to reverse

the Trump administration's damaging actions and reset our country on a course that adheres to science. Climate change is widely recognized as a serious threat to the existence of life on earth, along with the urgent need curb or halt activities that stoke the fires of this runaway train.

The Republican platform remains unchanged from 2016, dedicated to reversing protective legislation and taking the country back more than 50 years to when smog alerts occurred daily and rivers caught fire. The party vows to stay on its path to open public lands and the outer continental shelf to oil and gas drilling, convey certain federal lands to states, reject climate change, and

oppose any carbon tax.

Americans are polarized by political manipulation that would have voters believe that concern for our health and ecosystems is radical, elitist, and based on "shoddy science and scare tactics." The issues and policies Broads support are not partisan; our support is based on actions that serve the survival of the planet and its inhabitants. How is that radical or elitist? And the science is sound; that's why we're scared.

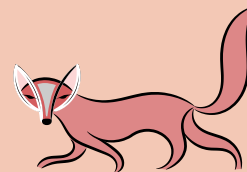
Three possible scenarios ahead of us—the country's leadership stays the same, changes completely, or we have a President and Cabinet at odds with the House and Senate. Whatever the outcome, our work is cut



*Smooth seas do not
make skillful sailors.*

— African proverb

TAKE ACTION



Get rid of Pendley!
There's a fox in the BLM
hen house (we love
nature's predators, but
not this one)!

Contact your Senators
to urge the *Protecting
America's Wilderness
Act* and *CORE Act*
are included in the
final Nat'l Defense
Authorization Act!

SEE PAGES 8-9

NOTABLE BROADS

Meet Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, a new member of Broads' Council of Advisors.

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ADVOCACY CORNER

Getting back to the basics and bird-dogging candidates.

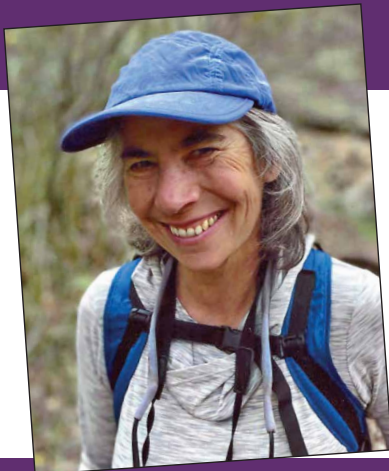
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BROADBANDS IN ACTION

Getting into the wild under the new normal.

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In a **BROAD** Sense

Wild Times Demand Wild Commitments

This summer, with the pandemic and fires raging and news of the day outraging, I've found myself working longer hours than ever. The intensity of Broads' work—especially in these politically savage times—makes it hard to disconnect. Too often, it feels like I live, breathe, and eat the news—and dream at night of a different world. I'm blessed to live in the San Juan Mountains, and in these days of canceled travel and events, I go as often as possible to the wilderness to replenish and explore. I come back, redoubled to defend it, joining the rallying cry of our entire organization.

Painfully, we've been forced in these years to wander a different wilderness than what we've been fighting for, a political wilderness born of cronyism and myopic greed that seeks to turn every life-giving thing into cash—and lots of it. Public good be damned (or dammed) if there's water to harness, trees to be logged, or fossil fuels to be extracted.

What, there are laws that check those actions? Get rid of the laws!

You'd think those in charge don't breathe the same air or drink the same water. Clearly they are not considering the next seven generations. They're not thinking of the

country's natural heritage, like the incomparable Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and its teeming wildlife, particularly the caribou whose survival is tied to that of the Gwich'in and other native peoples.

The Trump administration's intense focus on deregulation and the undoing of bedrock environmental protections like the National

Environmental Policy Act—passed in previous administrations with bi-partisan support—is at a scale and pace the likes of which we've never seen before. Even major oil industries have occasionally opposed the changes. For example, some companies urged keeping the methane regulations in place, presumably because they knew that methane leaks and venting might negate



*“In the midst of winter,
I found within me an
invincible summer.”*

— Albert Camus

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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.*

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From Bears Ears to Brunot to Broads

by Susan Kearns

Met Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, one of the newest members of Broads' Council of Advisors. Regina is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe of Towaoc, Colorado, former co-chair for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and a dedicated public lands advocate.

Regina first became involved with Broads when invited to speak at the 2016 Bears Ears Broadwalk. While in search of the remote camping spot, she happened to meet another lost Broad, Northern San Juan Broadband leader Robyn Cascade. They decided that they would camp out and enjoy the night together if they couldn't locate the campsite, but they eventually found it. The adventure sparked a friendship that continues today.

"It's never simple, never comfortable. If you don't feel uncomfortable, there's really no work being done."

Regina's involvement with the historic Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition started out as a fluke. As a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, she was asked to attend a meeting since the assigned council member could not attend. The group was just beginning to form an alliance of five sovereign tribal nations to protect the Bears Ears region. As the Coalition gained steam, the Tribe's Chairman encouraged Regina's involvement because she was raised with a traditional connection to the land.

Regina grew up hearing stories from family members about Bears Ears, but this meeting prompted her to do more research. She spoke with elders and relatives in the community of White Mesa in Utah and found her ties to Bears



Ears were closer and deeper than she first realized. The elders were pleased she became one of the voices working to protect these sacred lands.

She looked to her grandmother and other elders for guidance and support throughout the development of the plan to achieve designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. When the Trump administration illegally reduced the monument, it upset many of the elders, including her grandmother Stella. One week after Trump slashed the monument boundaries, her grandmother passed away.

Regina's family ties to White Mesa keep her focused on the latest travesty—a proposal to bring radioactive waste from overseas to be stored at the White Mesa uranium mill facility. She worries about her grandchildren who live in the nearby community and the potential contamination of the region's precious water.

"Your view changes when you become a grandparent. You see outside yourself and worry about the challenges your grandchildren will face."

As an advocate, Regina makes sure her facts and experience are valid and true; she determines what is in her power to investigate and what she can truly work toward changing. "It's never simple, never comfortable. If you don't feel

uncomfortable, there's really no work being done."

In 2018, she was a keynote speaker at the Headwaters Conference at Western Colorado University in Gunnison. She had an epiphany when she joined a break out session and realized the room held a "bunch of old white guys" from state and federal land management agencies who were obviously biding their time until they could retire. She saw no concern for native people. No one wanted to make any effort to evolve or change to improve management practices. "I was troubled and thought, we need to educate the next generation of land managers."

She was offered a fellowship and went back to school to earn her Masters of Environmental Management at Western Colorado University. Her graduate project focuses on the Brunot Area—3.7 million acres of the San Juan Mountains region that the Utes relinquished under the 1874 Brunot Agreement. The Tribe surrendered the lands, but reserved its off-reservation hunting rights in the agreement. Regina plans to hold a multi-day event to build relationships and improve communications, educating about the region's history and sparking open discourse between the tribe and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to uncover common goals.

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by Lauren Berutich and Lisa Pool

We are rubbing our eyes in disbelief that the election is less than a month away. Is it too late to make an impact? Not one bit! Every single day counts as an action day. But where to start? Which issue takes priority? Who is our target audience? Where can collective efforts build the most power and momentum? With Trump's executive orders issued at hyper speed, it's hard to feel as if we have any power left against this political maneuvering. But we do!

Change-making is hard work. It takes time, people, persistence, practice, leadership, and a lot of heart. Although we are tasked to navigate through a mosaic of complex issues and current events, our map can be simple, straight to the point, and effective. We're approaching election day and have work to do. Let's get back to the basics.

LISTEN.

We have two ears and one mouth. People are desperately needing to be heard and their stories matter. What can we learn from one another's experiences and how can we use our narratives to build a coalition? It is time to sit (masked and social distanced) with a neighbor, a colleague, a coworker. Be present. Tell your story and hear theirs. Determine where there is overlap in your vision for the future. Then, make a plan of action and do one small thing that day, then the next, then the next.

BUILD.

Relationships are crucial to movement making. Start with the community around you, reach out to family members, and continue to expand your reach to businesses and partner organizations. Host a Zoom call or small backyard gathering to discuss an issue on the ballot, determine the decision makers you want to target, and come up


with a plan to address that issue with them. By the way, this work continues after the election as well!

SHOW UP.

Practice the power of being a constituent. Make phone calls and schedule meetings with your local and state elected officials. Remember the term "bird-dogging" from the 2020 Winter/Spring Broadsides? This is an opportune time to use that technique and hold your elected officials and

candidates for office accountable to their platforms. Make it public and visible. Ask them the tough questions and put pressure on them to champion climate actions and public land protections.

Lisa Pool, Grassroots Leadership Director, provides some excellent bird-dogging questions below to keep you on top of your game every step of the way.

Now, let's practice our motto: We've got this! Let's root back into the basics of our grassroots efforts and step by step, we will be the change we wish to see. 

BIRD-DOGGING QUESTIONS

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

For questions that dig deeper on climate or explore actions Broads have taken on issues visit <http://bit.ly/BDogQs>.

SIMPLE questions relating to Broads' key advocacy campaigns:

- Do you support new public lands protections and new wilderness designations?
- What do you see as the major threats to public lands? And how do you propose to address those threats?
- Do you support the original 2016 boundaries of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments?
- Will you support and defend the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

Climate & Public Lands



97% of scientists agree that present day climate change is human-caused. This is due to activities that cause carbon emissions (e.g. fossil fuel extraction and burning) or eliminate carbon storage (e.g. logging of intact forests).

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Bird-Dogging Questions (continued)

- Do you acknowledge climate change is real, human-caused, and has disrupted Earth's natural cycles?
- How can our nation's public lands be the solution to climate change?
- How do you plan to combat climate change if you are elected?

Find more climate change and public lands talking points at <http://bit.ly/ClimTP>.



Biodiversity

The earth is suffering a devastating mass extinction of flora and fauna caused by human activities. Meanwhile, we face a deadly global pandemic caused by the exploitation of wildlife in illegal trade and trafficking. Damaged ecosystems, shrinking habitat, and blocked wildlife corridors are decimating the planet's biodiversity and will only increase the likelihood of another pandemic.

- What are your plans to prevent the biodiversity crisis?
- How will you mitigate wildlife habitat destruction that could lead to the next dangerous pandemic?

From the Board of Directors

Broads Unveils New Council of Advisors

For years, our organization has relied on a select group of individuals with a unique set of skills, experience, and resources—the Great Old Broads' Advisory Board. Whenever the need arose, this group provided the expertise, financial support, and encouragement necessary to meet the challenges facing us in our efforts to protect public lands and the values we hold dear.

In the face of more severe attacks on public lands and increasingly complex political, social, and ecological issues, Broads has responded by growing in impact, geography, staffing, and budget. Today, our work requires greater strategy and scrutiny, and additional skill sets.


To that end, the Board has reconstituted the Advisory Board into a Council of Advisors, and asked former Board member, Carl Rountree, to chair the new Council. Carl has worked with the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and former members of the Advisory Board to devise the path forward. Today, our goal has been realized.

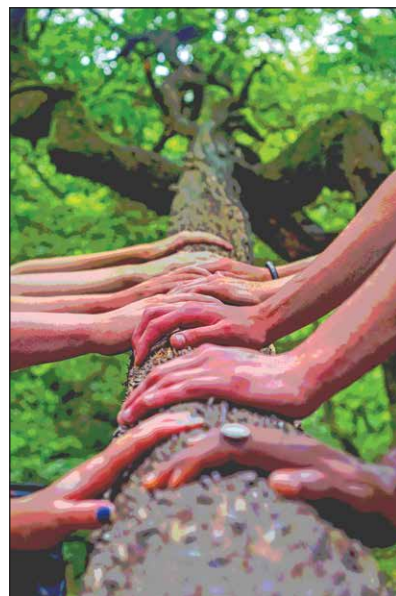
Many of our past Advisory Board members continue to serve to provide their help as necessary. Where additional skills and connections were needed, we added new members to help in development and fundraising, communications, and outreach to more diverse audiences. New members to date include:

- Bill Meadows, past President of The Wilderness Society.
- Craig Childs, renowned author of *Apocalyptic Planet*, *House of Rain*, and more.
- Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, former Co-Chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.
- Blake Spalding, chef/co-owner of Hell's Backbone Grill in Boulder, UT and defender of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.
- Rose Chilcoat, our very own former Associate Director and an avid wilderness protector with expertise in grazing impacts on public lands.

For a complete list of the new Council of Advisors, see page 2 of this newsletter.

Aside from providing advice on specific issues to the Broads' national office and Broadbands, the Council will also serve as a "kitchen cabinet," advising the Board of Directors on matters of national importance to the Broads.

The Council of Advisors will be a tremendous resource as we continue our efforts to protect public lands and their management. Our Advisors are up for the challenge, providing the knowledge and expertise we'll need for the trail ahead. 



BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

by Katya Spiecker and Sally Sharp



Members of the Greater Wasatch Broadband conduct socially-distanced stewardship.

NEW BUDDING & BOUNDLESS BROADBANDS

A few extra hearty Broads (all Broads are naturally hearty) are putting their best hiking boot forward to start new Broadbands despite the restrictions and challenges of COVID-19. As many Broads and Bros will tell you, grassroots movements build connections and relationships in communities. We find common stories and passions to protect beloved wild places and then take action. Doing this important work during a pandemic requires even more ingenuity, flexibility, and persistence than before, especially when new members can't easily connect in person.

New leaders have had great success, however, calling longtime Broads to encourage participation and hold safe physically-distanced “park parties” and hikes to build leadership teams and connect to their growing list of members. In appreciation for their tenacity and commitment, we'd like to give a hearty welcome and Yoohoo! call to the courageous grassroots leaders of the following new Broadbands: Missoula Broadband (MT), Wood River Broadband (ID), North Olympic Peninsula (WA), Methow Broads (WA), Middle Park Grand Broads (CO), and Colorado Springs (CO).

ZOOMING INTO ADVOCACY

How much of a difference can you really make when you're stuck at home in a pandemic? Turns out, a big difference. Just this year, our Broadbands have sent hundreds of emails, letters, and comments to decision makers (i.e., federal and state agency personnel, state legislatures, members of Congress, county commissioners) advocating on behalf of public lands, wild places, and wildlife.

Using online platforms, Broadbands invite speakers to present to them, explain talking points, and engage in conversation

(and camaraderie) to flesh out complicated issues and help beef-up their arguments. And for a lot of Broads, this kind of video advocacy is brand new. Granite Broadband co-leader Linda Graham in New Hampshire says, “How to find pertinent local legislation, access local legislators, as well as make federal comments are learning experiences for us all. We are grateful for the opportunity.”

Broadbands across the country continue to educate and motivate members and find effective ways to make their voices heard, one Zoom advocacy event at a time.

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The Teton Valley WHALES (Women's Hiking and Literary Epicurean Society) Broadband on the Idaho/Wyoming border were a busy bunch this past summer. Don't let their Broadband name fool you; these Broads aren't only about hiking, reading, and pursuing gourmet delights. They started off on a high note, clocking nearly 70 hours collecting 51 bags of plastic, beer cans, bottles, and other detritus for an Earth



The Teton Valley WHALES mask up and pick up enough trash to fill 51 garbage bags!

Day Cleanup. They just kept on rolling, then clearing 900 lbs. of brush from a mile of mountain biking trail. By boat and on foot, they also collected trash from six miles of the Teton River banks and bottom. To strengthen their stewardship muscles even further, the WHALES partnered with the Wyoming Wilderness Association (WWA) on a wilderness solitude monitoring training. They plan to implement monitoring in the Bridger-Teton and Jedediah Smith Wilderness areas with a WWA youth crew once the pandemic clears.

This spring and summer the southwest Colorado Broads sprang into action over permitted livestock grazing in the Dutch Creek allotment of Colorado's 416 fire (2018) burn area. From Freedom of Information Act requests to monitoring on day hikes and backpack trips, these Broads are focused. In





Southwest Colorado Broads clear trails with a 6-foot crosscut saw, which conveniently ensures proper social distancing.

July, they went on a camping trip with botanist Mary O'Brien where they learned to identify the impacts of grazing. In late August, they hiked and backpacked again in the same allotment. In groups of three and four, these volunteers used the GAIA cellphone app to take photos and compare them with the photos they had taken in July to document current conditions. Sadly, they witnessed impacts far beyond forest standards, including bare soils, overgrazed riparian areas, and grasses pulled up by their roots by cattle. The group compiled their observations and wrote a report for the US Forest Service requesting that cattle be removed immediately from the area due to unacceptable conditions and the ongoing extreme drought.


BROADBAND CROSS-POLLINATION

It is exciting and encouraging to see the collaboration between Broadbands over the past year. Before the pandemic, New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley Broadband co-leader Linda Starr attended the South San Juans Broadband meeting when she was visiting Durango, Colorado. Recently Linda attended the Aldo's Silver City Broadband (NM) leadership meeting via Zoom to learn more about how the other Land of Enchantment Broadband operates.



Di Allison, co-leader of the Greater Wasatch Broadband (UT) attended the Willamette Valley Broadband's (OR) virtual advocacy night to gather ideas to hold a similar event. It just so happens that the Willamette chapter is co-led by Di's sister, Cyndi

Anderson. Also attending, was former Wasatch co-leader Valoree Dowell, who now lives in Minnesota and has become active with the Wild Waters Broadband.

Despite social distancing, Broadbands are coming together virtually for inspiration and learning. So much incredible work, spread far and wide! Where have your "travels" taken you? 

Nevertheless, We Persist

Another newsletter and—not surprisingly—the pandemic and the climate crisis are still central to our lives. Both continue to wreak havoc on our emotional, physical, and economic worlds.

Degradation of wild lands, exacerbated by climate change, is a major factor leading dangerous diseases jumping from wildlife to humans. And the current pandemic underscores how much we rely on an intact natural world for physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Our work could not be more relevant at any other point in history, and YOU are critical to its success.

The current administration has sped up its assault on public lands and climate, seizing the opportunity while media and policy attentions are focused on the pandemic.

We're not slowing down one bit. *We continue our work to combat the rollbacks and backroom dealings of the current administration. Our work to protect wild lands is critical to the challenges we face as a country.*

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to impact our membership, donations, grants, and events.

If you are in a position to make a donation now, you will help us carry our commitment through these difficult times.

Use the return envelope inserted into this newsletter and remember, every gift—big or small—counts towards our Women for the Wild Campaign to secure our future. In whatever way you choose to support and get involved in our work, know that we, and all wild things, are forever grateful.

Visit our website to learn more about the campaign at <http://bit.ly/w4wcc>.





THE BROADER WILDERNESS

by Lauren Berutich

IT'S CRITICAL TO ACT!

Despite the importance of critical habitat designation to the survival of endangered species, and recent rulemaking finalized in August, its definition under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is under attack once again. The rule finalized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service narrowed the definition. Now another proposed rule further restricts what lands can be considered and protected as “habitat.”



The ESA states critical habitat “must include all areas deemed important to a species”, whether the species is currently present or not, and ensures that federal agencies contribute to the protection of the given species and its potential recovery.

A study by the Center for Biological Diversity found plants and animals with federally-protected critical habitat are more than twice as likely to move toward recovery than species without such designation.

The most recent rule revision would prevent land and water not currently identified as habitat from being set aside in the future. This precludes habitat needed due to climate change. For example, as temperatures rise, a species may need to shift to a higher elevation to survive, and that new habitat buffer would not be considered for protection.

Broads across the country have dedicated many hours advocating for the Endangered Species Act and habitat protections. The Habitat Connectivity Broadwalk (2018) educated participants about the need to protect habitat; Broads lobbied in Washington, D.C. for the *Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act* (HR2795/S1499); and recently we participated in a national call-in day with the Endangered Species Coalition as part of the #StopExtinction campaign.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Though the very short comment period has closed, we can still put pressure on our decision makers. Call and write your elected officials and ask they oppose the proposed rule and any changes to critical habitat definitions defined in the ESA. Limiting what counts as habitat will put more species at risk of extinction.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/ESACrit>

A NEVER PENDING BATTLE

After Broads and more than 300 organizations, tribes, and businesses repeatedly expressed opposition to William Perry Pendley’s nomination for Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Trump administration withdrew the nomination. However, the withdrawal was simply a maneuver by the administration to sidestep congressional action to allow Pendley to stay in place—in violation of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act. Pendley oversees BLM’s 10,000 employees and 245 million acres of public lands.

A former oil industry and property rights attorney, Pendley has been acting director for more than a year under a series of temporary orders from Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.

He is anti-public lands, seeks to limit public input, and advocates selling off public lands to the fossil fuel industry.

He ignores science and experts on critical issues such as climate change and has publicly railed against endangered species protections, claiming they limit private development on lands across the west. He has worked against



native treaty rights, fought to remove protections for sacred sites, and denied the inherent racism of federal policies that removed Indigenous people from their homelands. It is clear that Pendley is unfit for this position.

Let's press the Senate to demand that Pendley be fired. Make your calls today. Each action you take benefits wild public lands protections.



WILDERNESS OR BUST!

In July, the National Defense Authorization Act 2020 (NDAA) was passed in the House (HR6395) and the Senate (S4049). The House version included nine provisions that protect and expand wilderness, one of which is the *Protecting America's Wilderness Act* (HR2546), which would safeguard federal lands in Colorado, California, and Washington

as wilderness. It combines six previously separate bills—many of which Broads have championed—including the *Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests*, and *Colorado Wilderness Acts*.

Other House amendments: the *Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act*, and the *Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act* (HR1373/S3127), which would eliminate speculative and new mining claims in the Grand Canyon region. Collectively, these bills would establish nearly 1.5 million acres of new wilderness designations.

The Senate version DID NOT include any amendments to protect public lands. House and Senate representatives will gather in November after the election at the Conference Committee to negotiate and finalize full congressional approval and passage of the must-pass NDAA.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

We must convince the Senate to make sure these wild lands and waters are protected.

Ideally, these bills would receive hearings in the Senate—giving them a much better chance to be considered as NDAA amendments during negotiations. However, we need your collective voices in every step of this process, hearing or no hearing. **Call and write your senators now and urge them to support these bills as an amendment to the NDAA.**



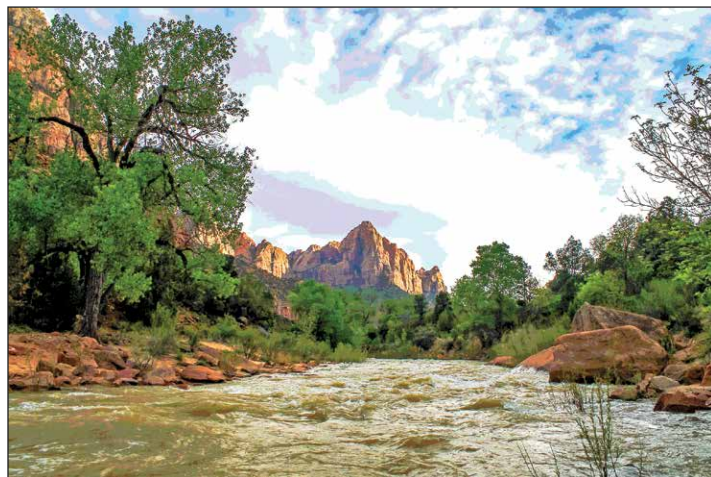
ADVOCACY WINS!

by Lisa Pool

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

Pop your champagne bottles! In early August, President Trump—can you believe it?—signed the *Great American Outdoors Act* into law, which has been called a once-in-a-generation victory for conservation. After a decade of all-hands-on-deck advocacy and grassroots organizing efforts from hundreds of environmental organizations (including Broads), businesses, elected officials, and many other entities, the Act includes full, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund uses revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling to support the conservation of public lands and waterways (think state and local parks, recreation projects, and national parks). It had been severely shorted every year as Congress diverted the money elsewhere. Now it will be fully funded at \$900 million per year!

The legislation also addresses the nearly \$12 billion backlog of repairs in national parks, from roads and bridges to visitor centers, by dedicating \$1.3 billion per year for five years



to deferred maintenance projects in national park units. It dedicates another \$3 billion to the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Education infrastructure projects to address necessary repairs. It's a definitive victory when there's strong support across the aisle, and we had that with this bill—over half of Senate Republicans voted for it.

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT DUCKS ATTACK

The century-old *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (MBTA) is America's most important bird protection law. It makes it illegal to wound, kill, or capture migratory birds, their eggs, or

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nests—or attempt to do so—without a permit.

This law has saved several bird species from extinction, including the Sandhill Crane and the Snowy Egret. For the last 50 years or so, the federal government has interpreted this law

to prohibit “incidental take,” which refers to the unintended killing of birds, which prompted many industries to adopt bird-safe technologies and practices.

Unfortunately, early in the Trump administration, a new legal opinion directed the US Fish and Wildlife Service—in charge of implementing the MBTA—to no longer enforce incidental take. The National Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, several other conservation groups, and eight states challenged this interpretation. In August, a New York federal judge invalidated the opinion as inconsistent with the plain language of the MBTA. This is a major ruling as the administration continues its attempt to approve harmful projects and formalize this illegal interpretation through a rulemaking process.

We’re hoping the new rule the Trump administration writes won’t stand a chance in court to take flight.

MORE ENERGY LEASES DEFERRED IN UTAH

In our last *Broadsides*, we celebrated when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) pulled two oil and gas lease sale parcels in the Sand Flats Recreation Area above Moab, Utah. However at the next quarterly sale, the BLM amazingly offered 87,000 acres located near Arches, Canyonlands, and Capitol Reef National Parks and other important conservation areas in southeast Utah’s redrock country.

In the rush to lease these wild, beautiful lands, the BLM neglected to consult with Native American tribes about impacts this development would have on the many culturally significant resources and treasures within and near these parcels. Of course, there was even more public outcry this



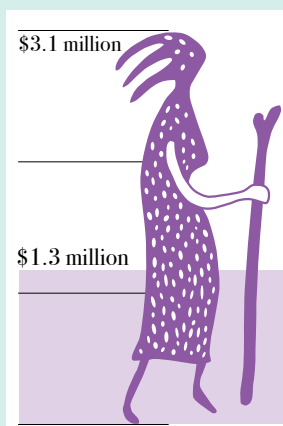
time from the conservation community, businesses, and elected officials. Broadband Leaders and members all over the country took action by

commenting and making phone calls. In August, the BLM announced it would defer all 87,000 acres. Utah’s redrock country is safe for now. 🌀

BOOSTING BROADNESS!

Women for the Wild Campaign Update

The *Women for the Wild* Comprehensive Campaign is well under way, having raised \$1.3 million toward our \$3.1 million goal.



The campaign will enable Broads to step up and expand our work to a new level of effectiveness and impact.

Over the next few months we will host virtual events to introduce you to the campaign components. These events bring us together in a time when

we can’t physically gather at a Broadwalk or other event. Be on the lookout for email invitations to join us, and let us know if you’d like to participate and have not received an invitation.

Contact Kaye Berman (kaye@greatoldbroads.org) if you would like to learn more, explore how to donate, or wish to participate in one of our upcoming events. More about the campaign at <http://bit.ly/w4wcc>.

View campaign videos at <http://bit.ly/GOplaylist>.



WHAT? NO AUCTION?

Feel like something is missing from the fall lineup? We’ve decided to skip the Wild for Wilderness Online Auction this year. Because of Coronavirus, trips and travel adventures have been canceled or postponed, and many businesses are struggling. Even though it is our largest fundraiser, due to these unusual circumstances, we felt we shouldn’t hold the event this year. Stay tuned to see what we come up with for 2021!



Broadening Equity and Justice

by Lisa Pool

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is committed to building a more diverse, inclusive, and just conservation community.

In order to achieve our mission to protect and preserve wilderness and wild lands, we must broaden our reach. We must break down barriers and find ways to lift up the voices of indigenous communities, communities of color, and other disenfranchised people. People of all ages, colors, backgrounds, and beliefs depend on our country's wild lands, and can speak loudly for their defense.

Over the past 31 years, we are proud of our work to bring women's leadership and elder's voices to public lands activism. Still, we remain starkly aware of the conservation movement's complicated history of racial and gender oppression.




How can we come together to tackle climate change and the collapse of biodiversity when so many people spend their daily energy confronting systemic racism and environmental injustice? We know our broad community will be stronger when each of us are lifted up in true equality.

Broads will continue to use our organizational voice to champion *Black Lives Matter* and other racial and environmental justice efforts. We've

built partnerships with impacted communities on public lands planning and management. But we can do better.

Board members and staff have a strong commitment to advance this work. We recognize the need for organizational changes.

In March, we convened an Equity and Justice Committee, composed of staff, board members, and Broadband Leaders. We hired a consultant with decades of experience, Angell Perez, to lead our staff and board through a goal setting and prioritization process this fall.

We know the conservation movement will be stronger and public lands better protected when all communities are fully represented. Your ideas and involvement are welcomed. 

From Bears Ears to...continued from page 3)



As Broadbands look to expand their work with native tribes on public land protections, Regina sees her role on Broads' Council of Advisors as an opportunity to help build those relationships and guide us on best practices to reach out to tribes.

As a former elected leader, Regina cautions against walking into a tribal office or leadership council declaring you have "the solution." Don't show up expecting to save the day. Instead, do your research on history of the tribe, the challenges they have faced over time. Understand the full picture of broken treaties, bad policy, and physical confrontations they have experienced. Why are they on a reservation instead of historical

homelands—and how are those historical lands treated or protected? Do they have access to those lands? Understand tribal sovereignty and the relationship the tribe has with the state where they reside.

Take your time and build a lasting relationship. Too often, Regina says, people come into a tribal community and "drop in and drop out." They say they want to help, but come and go so quickly that it has created a basic distrust in the commitment level of those outside the tribe.

"Why allow yourself to get close if someone is just going to disappear? If you want to help, take an interest in what is important to the tribe. Become like a family member, a sister, brother, aunt. Demonstrate

you are committed to the tribe beyond a short-term whim to 'save the little Indian.' We see a different horizon."

With Regina's guidance, perhaps we can expand our perception and understanding, and begin to see, or at least understand that horizon as we build alliances with sovereign tribal governments and organizations.

In closing, Regina emphasizes the importance of being true to who you are. The passion and love and words from her elders taught her this—and guided her through the challenges of the past years under the current administration.

"And, don't be afraid to love," she adds.



A Win-Win-Win for the Wild!

by Kaye Berman

As a charitable-minded owner of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you might wonder “How can I best support my favorite causes with these funds?” We hope that Broads is one of your favorite charities, and these tax-smart tips are useful to maximize your giving.

You are likely aware that at age 70 1/2 you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA. However, the CARES Act waived RMDs for 2020 as part of the COVID-19 pandemic relief. Regardless, the RMD is a terrific way to make a significant gift directly from your IRA to Broads while avoiding taxable income.



The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), also known as an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift, is a distribution paid directly from an IRA to an eligible organization. In most cases, QCDs lower one's taxable income (as opposed to increasing deductions), becoming one of the most tax-efficient ways for those of a certain age to make gifts.

A QCD transferred directly to Broads will reduce your adjusted gross income and can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year. You might also appreciate the fact that a QCD could simplify your tax returns and allow you to enjoy the benefits of giving.

Transfers must be made directly to Broads and can total up to \$100,000 per year. Since Broads is a qualifying 501(c)(3) organization, it is eligible to receive your tax-deductible contribution. The transfer must be completed by the IRA trustee or custodian directly to Broads, and the amount of your QCD is omitted

from your adjusted gross income. Correspondingly, the charitable gift made by the QCD is not allowed as an itemized deduction. Your standard deduction is not impacted by the QCD's exclusion from income.

California Broad Linda Chipping, says about her QCD giving, “Two years ago, I sent a donation to Great Old Broads for Wilderness. It came from an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution. I chose Great Old Broads for the distribution because

they are a kick-ass voice for America's wild public lands. Utilizing the IRA QCD for the donation provided for me the power to give, what would have been a taxable income amount, directly to something I

really believe in. After reading about the advantages of using a QCD, it just seemed there was no reason not to do it.”

Baby boomers are America's largest and most affluent generation, and collectively hold more than \$9 trillion in their retirement accounts. More than 10,000 more boomers become eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution every single day. Are you one? With an average gift size of \$9,200, QCDs could be the best way you can support Broads.

Retirement asset gifts are a powerful option to invest in Broads' work for wild public lands, especially now.

If you are considering a donation from your IRA, it is recommended that you discuss the potential benefits of a QCD with your financial/tax advisor. Don't forget to ask about how state income taxes are impacted.

Questions on ways to give?

Send an email to kaye@greatoldbroads.org.



Heartfelt Thanks!

We'd like to express our grateful appreciation to Michele Lorenz, who left a generous bequest to Broads. Michele was an exceptional Broad whose nursing career took her from Micronesia as a field nurse to a position as RN Manager/Administrator in Puget Sound, Washington.

Her true passion was RV travel which enabled her to explore her love of skiing, kayaking, rock climbing and hiking. She was a volunteer for the US Forest Service and a lifelong learner, studying anthropology, geology, Native American culture, and Buddhism.



GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!

That membership you gave me fits perfectly!



Bring a friend on board to protect Mother Earth.

Give us a call to set up a gift membership for your favorite Broad or Bro.

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CES Program Update

by Rachel Green



In November 2019, Broads launched the Climate Education and Stewardship (CES) Program, a grant-funded endeavor that has expanded the depth and scale of our climate work.

Since then, we have created a toolkit of educational resources and stewardship project planning aids tailored to Northwest ecosystems and communities. A major highlight of the CES program thus far was a lively three-day training hosted over Zoom in May, attended by more than 20 regional Broadband leaders (See Summer *Broadsides*).

The CES program breaks down the critical relationship between climate change and public lands into ecosystem-based modules: Climate & Public Lands 101, Forests & Climate, Rivers & Climate, and Coasts & Climate. Each includes a PowerPoint presentation and script, hands-on activities, discussion topics, and talking points to bring these connections to life.

Early in the curriculum development, we established the Program Advisory Team (PAT) to bring diverse perspectives and expertise. The PAT includes career educators, passionate community organizers, and regional experts in climate change economics and watershed science. Antonia Daly, a PAT member who also serves on our Board of Directors, brings her background as a retired environmental science educator to the team. When describing her involvement, Antonia said:

“This is a wonderful, exciting experience to apply climate knowledge to public lands and to prepare modules that will educate and motivate an audience. The project seeks to relate the effects of climate change on the vast areas of public lands, and the benefits of preserving them as intact ecosystems that store carbon to capacity, mitigate temperature, and produce clean air.

Rachel is a bit of Broads’ magic in her capacity to organize and articulate the material.”

Our most recent module, Rivers & Climate, explores themes of watershed health: riparian ecosystems, rising water temperatures and worsening flood events, declining salmon populations, frontline communities, and nature-based climate solutions.

As we shape these resources, we have adapted our approach to accommodate the pandemic. We incorporated a stewardship project that allows for social distancing and remote participation. The project trains Broadband leaders to use a cellphone app to track invasive plants and report sightings to public land managers. This data can prompt actions to improve the land’s climate resilience. Monitoring and data collection, so vital to sustaining healthy public lands, are often underfunded. Our work fills a critical knowledge gap while creatively and safely sustaining public engagement.

What’s next? In October, we release the final module, Coasts & Climate. This

section explores sea level rise, ocean acidification, and nature-based coastal climate resilience.

Did you know that coastal ecosystems, such as estuaries, can sequester ten times more carbon per acre than even the most carbon-dense forests?

It’s all about soils! Because estuaries can develop over 3 meters of deep soils with very low oxygen levels, they store massive amounts of carbon for long periods with little decomposition or loss to the atmosphere.

The incredible carbon stores in coastal ecosystems are referred to as “blue carbon.” However, if an estuary is drained or diked, these natural carbon stores are released to the atmosphere. Meanwhile, other benefits such as flood mitigation, water filtration, and vital wildlife refugia are also lost. By sharing these critical benefits of intact ecosystems as nature-based climate solutions, we are ensuring that public lands are a central part of the climate conversation. 🌀



2021 T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Here’s your chance to show off your Broadtastic artistic skills!

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES NOVEMBER 1

Winner receives a free t-shirt and a certificate for 50% off a Broadwalk or Broadwork event!

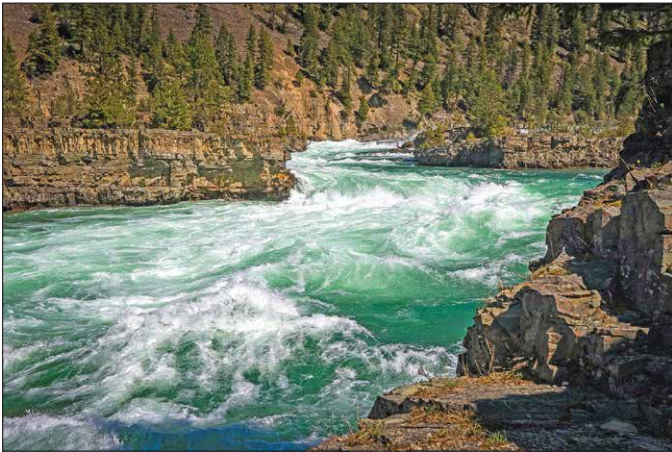
Create a black-on-white design inspired by our nation’s public lands and wilderness. The winning design will appear on the back of our NEW 2021 member t-shirts.

All current members joining or renewing at the \$100 level or greater will receive the 2021 member t-shirt beginning in January.

For more info, visit:
<http://bit.ly/2021BTee>



out for us. Here are just a few of the priorities where we will concentrate our efforts.



Keep Foundations in Place

Attacks to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (See *Broader Wilderness*, pg 8), Wilderness Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act—largely put in place by Republican administrations—are relentless. These long-standing laws have successfully protected, restored, and given the public a say on projects that impact urban and wild communities. We will remain vigilant in our work to keep these laws intact by every means—including litigation.

For example, in July the Trump administration finalized a rule change that is a one-two punch to NEPA. It exempts many government-approved and funded projects from NEPA review and gives more polluting projects the green light without public scrutiny. It also changes the definition of “effects,” eliminating those considered “cumulative” or “indirect.” This disregards the amassed impacts of byproducts (such as greenhouse gases) resulting from projects.

Should Democrats win a congressional majority, the Congressional Review Act (CRA) will be a critical tool to combat damage such as this. The CRA allows 60 legislative days to reverse final rules put in place by federal agencies near the end of the previous administration (of which the Trump administration took full advantage). The process requires only a simple majority vote in Congress, and can’t be legally challenged in the courts. Any final rules put in place from July 2020 forward could be reversed.

Fighting Industrialization

The Republican platform sees public lands as expendable, to be exploited for commerce. Their resolve to expand energy and mineral extraction and grazing on public lands is clearly spelled out. Climate change is not considered a serious global concern.

Broads is expanding our climate education and public land restoration programs and is doubling down on advocacy to protect forests, coasts, and wetlands—all carbon sequestration powerhouses. We continue to speak out against public lands lease sales. Broads support policies to:

- Ban new oil and gas permitting on public lands and waters.
- Modify royalties to account for climate cost; reinstitute methane regulations.
- Fight logging of carbon-storing forests; establish programs to enhance reforestation.


Wilderness, Monuments, and Keeping it Wild

Wilderness designation is a constant priority, along with establishing and protecting wildlife corridors. We joined the *30X30 Campaign to Save Nature*—which calls for the protection of 30% of lands and oceans by 2030. Broads will bring visibility and momentum to this important campaign.

The GOP platform wants to amend the Antiquities Act and give Congress and states the right to approve designation of national monuments and national parks. Their opposition to the Act played out in the illegal reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. As a plaintiff in litigation to restore these monuments, we will also work to prevent further reduction or degradation of other monuments—and we will not back down.

Strategies for an Uncertain Future

Broads will step up our grassroots presence with increased lobbying through meetings with elected officials, call-ins, letters to the editor, and education on how to effectively use laws such as NEPA to ensure the public voice is heard. We will continue to build relationships to reestablish bipartisan support for the wild.

Broads will be nimble and flexible, no matter the outcome. Together, we will be at the ready to put boots on the ground, gear up as advocates, and be the voice for the voiceless. 

WARM WORDS

“I can give the elevator speech for the Broads because your mission is so clear, the advocacy, the protection of public lands, monitoring use of lands...being so far away, and not being able to travel, it’s a privilege to support your organization and the wonderful work you do.”

—Lynne Taylor, Chicago, IL





their promotion of natural gas as a so-called clean fuel. And major investors* have stepped down under pressure from climate activists, refusing to finance drilling in ANWR. After all, with the price of oil stunningly low and demand sagging due to pandemic shifts, leases in the Arctic and elsewhere won't exactly fly off the shelves.

The choice is now upon us. This endless year culminates in the most important election ever for the future of our essential natural world. At all levels of government—federal, state, local—critical choices will be made that spell life or death for public lands, wildlife, and climate. Every vote counts (or so we hope) and we must do everything possible to ensure that each person casts their ballot. I know many of you are giving of your time and energy to ensure just that.

There are signs that the pandemic, agonizing as it is, has sparked increased commitment to public lands. In a poll released this summer by the Center for Western Priorities, one third of voters in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Nevada said that “public lands issues are more important to them now than prior to the pandemic.” 59% of most-likely voters opposed loosening environmental protections because of Covid, while only 18% throw their support behind deregulation. These results were consistent across Democrats, Republicans, and Independent voters. Additionally, 81% stated that public land concerns are important in deciding their presidential vote.

In a separate study, Stanford social psychologist Dr. Jon Krosnick found a dramatic increase in those Americans for whom climate change has become so personally significant that they work as climate advocates, donors, and voters. This group, termed an *issue public* for climate, grew from 13% in 2015 to 25% in 2020. This lags only behind the issue public for abortion (31%), with gun control at 17% and capital punishment at 14%. Krosnick notes, “I would never have predicted this 25%,” and surmised that it may be in reaction to the administration’s attacks on climate science and policy.

*JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs.

My blood boils when I read of the latest onslaughts on the environment, the disproportionate impacts on people of color, and the words of toxic and divisive politicians, such as Brazil’s President Bolsonaro who, while the world’s largest tropical wetlands burn at an unprecedented rate, called conservation organizations a “cancer” he has not managed to “kill off.”

But the real source of my passion, my most productive passion, is the wilderness to which I turn in this time of crisis. In the wild, I find joy and wonderment in the cycles of the seasons and the phases of the moon. In wildness, inspiration abounds: a falcon screams from the canyon wall, a pair of chickadees nest in a contorted branch of a pine tree, and a young bull elk wanders cautiously into an aspen-ringed meadow where I’m camped. A carpet of lupine glows in the morning sun. Waterfalls pound and braid through sandstone and basalt, at last finding milky blue rest in a quiescent pool. Red, white, and blue flies across the hillside in gilia, buckbrush, and delphinium. This is the fuel that keeps me going.

I am enthusiastically part of a growing *issue public*. Our work is to continue that growth, and expand the knowledge and skills behind it. Whether you are driven by anger or wonder, or a healthy dose of each, your commitment is vital. This is the time to redouble our efforts, get out the vote for the environment and equity, and replenish the fuel that fires us up. We each must find our invincible summer. The world has never needed us so much! 🌀



We need you now, too. Broads’ Women for the Wild Campaign supports the focus and effectiveness of our organization as we confront the political, ecological, and climate challenges before us. Your involvement strengthens the work of Broads. Please consider a gift or pledge, using the envelope enclosed in this newsletter. And share the love—tell your friends about us, too!





Great Old Broads for Wilderness
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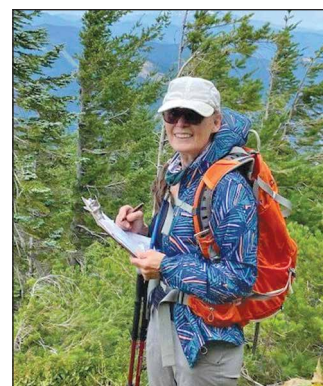
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