



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

2019 WINS

11 MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTED IN UTAH

Appeals court upholds settlement between Broads, partners, and the BLM over management plans. This crucial legal victory protects habitat, cultural heritage, and air quality, and took over a decade to win.

137 MILES NEW OHV TRAILS DEFEATED IN OREGON

A District Court judge decisively rejects a plan to add 137 miles of off-highway vehicle trails in eastern Oregon's Ochoco National Forest.

A WIN FOR WILDLIFE AND SCIENCE IN COLORADO

Broads met with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and made recommendations that resulted in a commitment to focus on wildlife and science with respect to trail planning grants.

240 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN BROADWALKS

...multi-day camp outs focused on education, advocacy, and stewardship.



SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY...

Three decades ago, our founders chose our very particular name—Great Old Broads for Wilderness—to reflect our love of laughing together even as we deal with serious issues. We use our wit and wisdom, strategy, tenacity, and persuasion to defend the wild places we love, keeping roadless areas intact and defending lands, water, and climate. We're not going away--and we won't take no for an answer!

This year was no exception.

OUR WORK

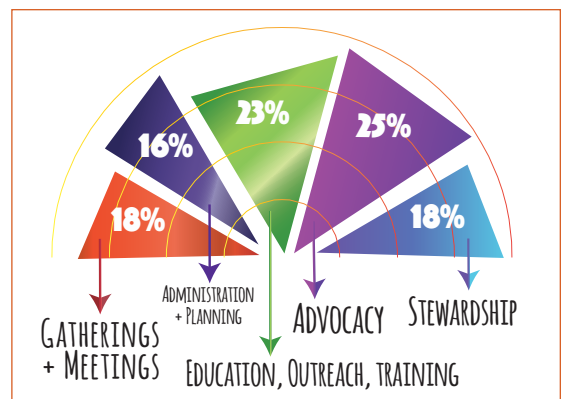
Serving as a voice for the wild is hard work. You have to be in it for the long haul—especially with current efforts to milk what's profitable from our public lands and waters. This year, we won a few, lost a few, and then rolled up our sleeves to take another run at it. Sometimes it takes years to recognize a solid win. But that doesn't stop us.

OUR PROGRAMS

Dedicated Broadband members, guided by volunteer leaders, took on a vast variety of activities. They hiked with a purpose to document what would be lost by proposed oil and gas leases, evaluated rivers and estuaries to track impacts of sea level rise, and monitored recreation impacts. Broads filed new lawsuits against:

- The US Air Force for bypassing NEPA in Idaho
- The US Forest Service to oppose the use of chainsaws in wilderness in Colorado, and to challenge grazing impacts on a threatened frog and its fen habitat in Oregon.

We educated communities on climate change and Mexican gray wolves; held film festivals and forum discussions; removed invasive plants and re-planted thousands of native species, and more.



BROADBAND ACTIVITIES

BROADBANDS

40,000
VOLUNTEER HOURS
+
7,000
ACTIVITY
PARTICIPANTS

70 WOMEN
TRAINED &
LEADING
BROADBANDS

NEW
ALASKA, TEXAS,
NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHAPTERS

550 MILES
HIKING WITH
A PURPOSE +
MONITORING

3,500
EMAILS + LETTERS
CALLS + MEETINGS
ADVOCACY ACTIONS



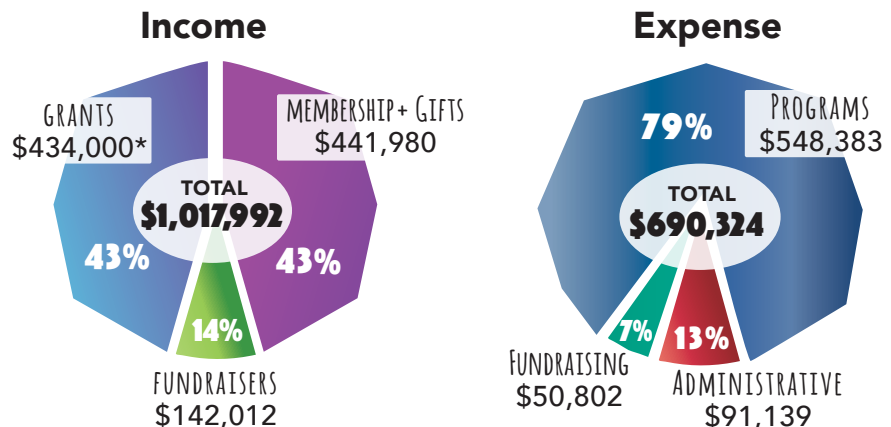
NATIONAL ACTIVITIES/CAMPAIGNS

In 2019, we filed comments, worked with partners on campaigns, urged action through email alerts, and sent 17 women to D.C. to lobby in support of key legislation. Advocacy activities were focused on:

- Protecting Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from mining
- Upholding the 2015 Methane Rule
- Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument reductions
- Lower Snake River dam breaching to restore wild salmon habitat
- Opposing the border wall and its impacts on public lands and wildlife
- Attacks on bedrock laws: NEPA, ESA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act
- Upholding the Alaska Roadless Rule and protecting Tongass National Forest
- The Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act
- The Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act
- The PAW & FIN Act (protecting the Endangered Species Act)
- The Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act
- The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE Act)

OUR FINANCES

We keep growing! Here's where our funding comes from and where it goes.



* Grants figure includes \$300,000 for Climate Education & Stewardship Program for 2020.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Climate Education and Stewardship Program

A new grant has opened the door for us to expand our educational program on the connection between healthy public lands and climate change. We hired a climate program manager who will focus on the northwest in the first year of the program, and we'll raise future funds for the program through our **Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign**. Stay tuned as this exciting work develops!

BROADS IN ACTION



PUSHING BACK AGAINST OIL & GAS

When **Barbara Vasquez** retired to the wild and remote North Park area of Colorado in 2005, she was ready to embark on her “next” career—to protect the region’s water and wildlife habitat. She joined the BLM’s regional Resource Advisory Council, helping to develop the 2015 Sage Grouse Management Plan. Too often, Barbara was the lone voice for habitat and wildlife.

She watched oil and gas development accelerate from a few old wells to hell-bent extraction at a feverish pace. After the 2016 election, the BLM stopped adhering to their own management plan and auctioned off oil and gas leases like crazy—even parcels designated as priority habitat for the greater sage grouse.

As co-leader of the Northwest Colorado Broadband, Barbara led five members in gathering data on BLM lands proposed for leasing. They walked for miles to record photos, GPS coordinates, and observations about critical parcels. They filed detailed comments and protests, asking the BLM to defer parcels where development would impact wildlife.

“I’m quite convinced that if I don’t do this, no one else will. I’m one of the few in my community willing to spend the time and energy. If I stepped away, there would be a lot less push back. I’ll do this as long as I can.”

However, the agency ignored the comments and put up all 33 parcels (21,000 acres!) for auction. Today, there is virtually no unleased surface remaining in the southwest portion of North Park. Another 19,000 acres come up for auction in March 2020. The Broadband continues the fight.



THE MAINE REASON

Theo Pratt moved from Colorado to Maine three years ago. Upon arrival, she discovered there was no Broadband chapter in her new home. A few months later, she read about Broads’ Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Session (WALTS). It was a perfect opportunity to learn something new. She had no idea that WALTS was going to change her life.

“When I learned at WALTS that I was going to be expected to start a chapter, recruit members, plan events, etc., I felt overwhelmed. But as the week went on and we were given tools to use, I began to feel more confident. The greatest boost came from the high-energy trainers and the almost-instant bonding of the women who had come from all over the nation,” Theo shared.

Once back home, she realized most of her fellow Mainers were not joiners or advocates. They weren’t interested in national issues—they wanted to focus on matters directly affecting their community. Theo found collaborating with other conservation organizations was the key to finding like-minded women who grew interested in joining Broads.

The growing Broadband found their niche—the impact of sea level rise due to climate change on the region’s coastal ecosystems. They began a water-monitoring project on the Weskeag River. Theo’s work and passion for this threat inspired the organization of a 2020 National Broadwalk.

“By bringing a Broadwalk to Maine, we can show the rest of the nation what is at stake here and why it matters to everyone.”



HOWLING FOR HABITAT

Roz Switzer, leader of Arizona’s Middle Gila Broadband, is passionate about wolves. Her interest grew as she visited and observed re-introduced wolf packs in Yellowstone’s Lamar Valley over the years.

Today, her focus is on the Mexican gray wolf. She is a devoted advocate, tabling at events, and making presentations to children and adults on the importance of allowing the wolf to reclaim its native habitat. She finds a majority of people support the recovery of wolves along with other endangered species.

“The Mexican gray wolf, as with all species, has an inherent right to exist. If we do not speak up and fight for the protection of endangered species and healthy habitats, who will?”

Protecting public lands and ensuring habitat connectivity is key to her work. Wolves must be allowed to disperse in search of mates, new habitat, and food sources. With only two existing populations of Mexican gray wolves—one in Arizona/New Mexico and the other in Mexico—Roz opposes the border wall currently under construction, because it will limit the exchange of genetic material and increase susceptibility to inbreeding and disease among wolves and other species.

Roz believes the court-mandated revision of the 2015 Mexican Gray Wolf Management Rule is our last best opportunity to ensure that Mexican gray wolves survive and thrive. The US Fish and Wildlife Service must revise the Rule by May 2021, as it violates the Endangered Species Act. You can bet Roz and other southwest members will actively comment in the upcoming scoping period—and beyond.

