

30 x 30 x Broads: A Natural Pathway

by Shelley Silbert

Since the founding of Great Old Broads in 1989 we've worked to protect America's wild lands and waters. It's simply part of our DNA. We're dancing with joy to see President Biden commit to a bold, far-sighted, and vital goal to slow the decline of nature and address the climate crisis. The recent *Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis* (EO) recognizes the outsized role of natural systems in sequestering greenhouse gases. This concept is not new to Broads. Our focus on climate activism started more than five years ago. That is also why in 2017 Broads set a Strategic Plan goal to make public lands and waters part of the climate solution.

Among other significant actions, the EO initiates the process to conserve 30% of the lands and waters of the United States by 2030 (shorthand, 30x30). This puts America on the path set by renowned biologist E.O. Wilson to protect half the Earth's surface in hopes of staving off the extinction crisis. To ensure the biodiversity needed, we must set aside a broad representation of habitats and connect wild landscapes that can be restored to increase resiliency. This will require close cooperation of federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, private landowners, conservation groups, and others.



"When we give nature space, she can bounce back spectacularly."

— National Geographic Explorer in Residence, Dr. Enric Sala

Rep. Deb Haaland (D-NM), who we hope to see confirmed as the first Native American Secretary of Interior, strongly supports 30x30 and introduced similar legislation in the House last year. With potential to achieve protection of traditional homelands and hunting grounds, 30x30 can succeed by honoring the sovereignty of tribal nations, while respecting the visions, priorities, expertise, and input of Indigenous peoples.

Saddle Up for Action...

Prepare to Give Input

The EO directs federal agencies to gather public input for 60 days on key issues, including identifying:

- Qualified lands
- Climate-smart agricultural, forestry, and fisheries practices
- Methods to increase climate resilience, such as coastal and inland wetland restoration, dam removal, and voluntary grazing permit buy-outs.
- Funding/financing capacities, e.g. soil health initiatives for carbon sequestration, "resilience bonds" and municipal green bonds, and new collaborations to mobilize systems for climate finance and investment.

(Continued page 14)

Mark Your Calendars!
APRIL 16-25



Gear, getaways,
adventures,
and so
much
more!

(see page 5)



HOO'D WANT TO MISS THIS?!

NEW!

Member discounts
for cool brands!

(see page 10)



2021 EVENTS!

Events are back and better than ever. Let's get into the WILD!

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BROADBANDS IN ACTION

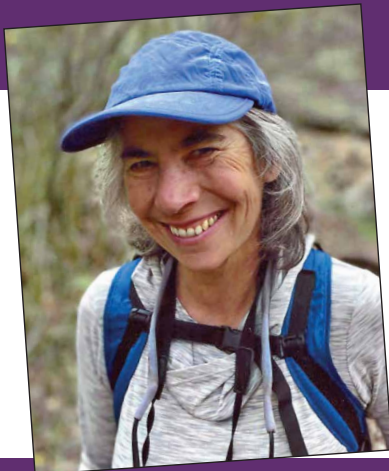
Zoom epiphanies and advocacy erupts for the Cascade Volcanoes.

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ADVOCACY CORNER

It's time to "Rise Up" for our wild public lands and waters.

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In a **BROAD** Sense



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

Please credit Broads
for reprinted articles.

Boldly Envisioning a Different Future

Last December, I visited the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge along New Mexico's Rio Grande. Its once wild river and rich marshes were home to the Piro Pueblo people and served as an area of winter feasting for migratory birds. Spanish conquest led to the demise of the pueblos and decline of the wetlands and bird habitat from damming and irrigation ditches. Today, thanks to protection as a wildlife refuge since 1939 and ongoing wetland management that mimics once natural flooding, birds alight at dusk and lift off at dawn in an exhilarant cacophony. One rose-orange sunset—with a bitter cold wind—treated us to a spectacle



Isabella Tree's *Wilding: Returning Nature to our Farm*. She chronicles her family's journey from a bankrupt 3,500-acre estate in England, to a domain with ecologically-focused goals and management that also boosted revenue. The recovery of wild and nearly extinct species proved nothing short of dramatic—and this in a country where less than 1% of lands are protected for nature, according to the author.

Compared to England, the U.S. has around 60% of its land in a relatively natural, restorable condition. Still, only 12% of these lands are formally protected, which tracks global averages of 14.9% protected across the Earth's land surface.

The new presidential administration has committed to leading the world on a sustainable climate pathway and sets a visionary goal to protect 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. Leading with the power of compassion, instead of the passion for power, the first weeks of this administration leave me intoxicated by optimism.

(Continued page 15)

"We may feel giddy at seeing the language of conservation come from the White House—simultaneously, it should be the signal to roll up our sleeves and work harder."

of thousands of snow geese, hundreds of sandhill cranes, fifty turkeys, two coyotes, and a javelina.

It's what can happen when dedicated individuals boldly envision a different future and take action.

Among the many inspiring books that got me through the last painful weeks of the former (hallelujah!) administration was



On the Road to Change

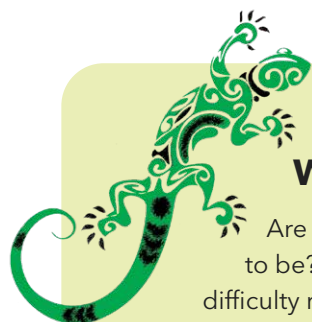
by Lisa Pool

Broads' journey continues, as it will always, to become a more equitable, inclusive, and diverse organization. In January, the staff, board, and Equity & Justice Committee members completed three training sessions with our consultant, Angell Perez, examining fundamentals of what oppression is and how it manifests, and antidotes to what Tema Okun coined as "White Supremacy Culture." We are creating a multi-year organizational plan to move us forward and ensure disparities do not exist in any aspect of our work. This will be challenging, however our staff and board are committed to this process and we will also rely on the support of our members!



Our Equity and Justice committee, formed a year ago, conducted an online survey of Broadband Leaders to learn about their knowledge and engagement with diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice

issues, and to guide next steps. The committee developed a land acknowledgment statement for the national office. A land acknowledgment is a statement recognizing Indigenous peoples who originally inhabited the land where an event is taking place or where an organization currently calls home. We created a guide on the topic that will be rolled out to Broadbands. We continue to build relationships with organizations of color for advocacy campaigns and event partnerships, board and staff recruitment, and to support many important initiatives. 🦋



New Web Accessibility Tools

Are your eyes not what they used to be? Are you color blind, or have difficulty reading online text where the contrast is low? Check out the new accessibility tools on our website. Look for the blue circle icon with an image of a person inside, at the upper left-hand corner of any page on our site. Click on it to explore the various options. Some options may cause page elements to shift, but help compensate for common difficulties when viewing our website.

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



LEAVE A LITTLE BEHIND

Leaving a bequest to Great Old Broads for Wilderness creates a long-lasting gift to help protect our last WILD places on earth.

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

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

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

**For more information, contact
kaye@greatoldbroads.org
or call 970-385-9577**

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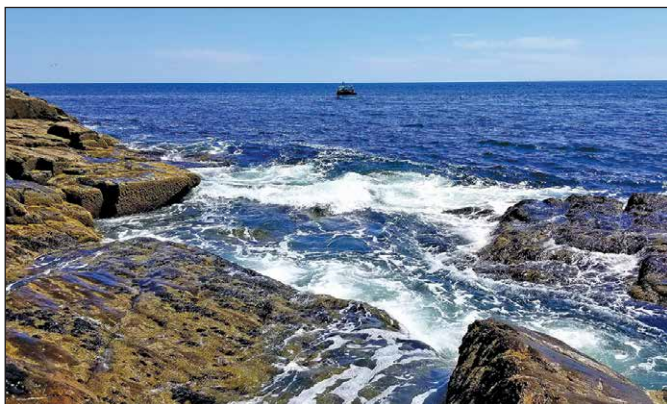


2021 EVENTS LET'S GET BACK INTO THE WILD—TOGETHER!

If you've been to a Broads' event, you know just how magical it can be. You make new friends for life, explore unknown lands, and get informed and fired up to protect our beautiful public lands and waters.

We've been hard at work revamping event plans that were scrapped last year due to Covid. Our optimism is high and we are hopeful conditions will permit us to gather this year. Rest assured that we approach these events with awareness and caution, and will abide by the latest CDC guidelines. We'll need to be fluid and flexible this year as protocols and plans are subject to change. Note: all event participants will be required to show proof of complete Covid vaccinations.

Limited full and partial scholarships are available and opportunities to donate towards the scholarship funds are an option at registration. Please contact lauren@greatoldbroads.org for more information.



AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

Climate Change & Coasts: The MAINE Reason to Act Broadwalk

*Hurricane Island Center for Science & Leadership
Rockland, Maine*

Experience the beauty of the northeast in an incredible setting at the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership located off the rugged coast of central Maine.

With our partners at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, we explore how the ocean, marine life, and coastal systems—such as estuaries, rivers, and salt marshes—are being impacted by a changing climate.

Lodging is rustic: plenty of tent camping, and for those that need a little more comfort, limited, shared yurt lodging is available (bring your own sleeping pad and bag). We will have the luxury of bathrooms with showers (yay!) and toilets. Tasty breakfasts and dinners will be provided by our hosts, and lunches will be on your own.

Look forward to guided hikes, stewardship projects, and

swimming, pier jumping, and more. Evening presentations feature experts on ocean ecology, the critical interrelationship of coastal ecosystems, and the important role these systems play in sequestering carbon and building climate resilience.

\$350 - Tent Camping

\$385 - Yurt Camping

For more information and to register:

<http://bit.ly/MaineBwalk>



AUGUST 19-23, 2021

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

John Wayne's Waterfront Resort, Sequim WA

Join us as we gather at a picturesque location between the majestic Olympic Mountains and the placid waters of Sequim Bay to explore the essential role of healthy forests in sequestering carbon, creating clean air and water, and more.

We'll have plenty of room to camp and limited cabin lodging (on the water!) is available on a first come, first served basis. Downright civilized, we'll have restroom facilities with showers and a fire ring to gather around on cool evenings. A local caterer will provide all meals on this trip—even lunches.

By day, participate in stewardship projects, explore beaches, hike through old-growth forests, kayak, and join guided tours. By night, participate in evening presentations that will inspire and ignite your desire to take action as an advocate.

\$365 - Camping

\$425 - Bed in Shared Cabins (limited to 13 max)

For more information and to register:

<http://bit.ly/WABwalk>

OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 5, 2021

D.C. Lobbying Broadwork

Set aside your hiking boots, don your Sunday best, and join us in Washington D.C. to lobby for legislation to protect our beloved wild public lands and waters.





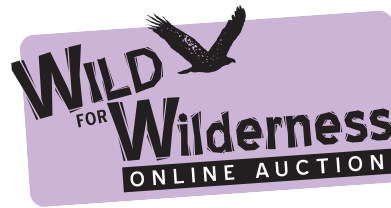
We'll share a lovely house conveniently located near the metro and a short walk from the National Mall. Breakfast and snacks are included, and for dinner, we can cook or explore the cornucopia of restaurants available to us.

We'll have a full day of training to discuss the details of priority issues and legislation, how to hold effective meetings with lawmakers, and practice through role play. The next two days we'll meet with elected officials, while also leaving time to explore the museums, galleries, and other sights to see in our nation's capital.

This Broadwork is open to all—no lobbying experience necessary—but we ask that you apply before your official registration is confirmed to ensure our final registrants are the best fit for this unique project.

\$400

For more information and to apply:
<http://bit.ly/2021DCWork>



Let's Get WILD!

The Wild for Wilderness Online Auction returns, springing into action and going live during Earth Week, April 16-25!

Proceeds from winning bids support our work to train and inspire members to advocate for wild public lands and waters. The auction, our biggest fundraiser of the year, offers something for everyone: fabulous vacation stays, hand-crafted jewelry, outdoor gear, amazing art, books, clothing, and much more!

We are excited to present a new, clean, and modern look to the auction, with fewer items (to prevent overwhelming you) and a more user-friendly experience—making it more fun than ever.

We encourage you to register today and start browsing. New broadcast items will be added weekly until the auction goes live, so check back often! If you have an item you'd like to donate, or want to learn more, visit **www.greatoldbroads.org/auction**



If auctions aren't your thing, consider making a donation to help grow our grassroots voice across the nation.

Preview the auction at <http://bit.ly/2021w4w>

→ From the Board of Directors: We Want You—for our Board ←

by Micky Ryan, Board Co-Chair

When I was asked to become a board member, I didn't really know what to expect.

I jumped at the chance, because I felt grateful for what the Broads had added to my life. I joined in 2013, spending my first four years launching a Broadband with others in Portland, Oregon. Leadership had passed on to some great women, but I continued to take on projects and activities. Still, I wanted to do what I could for the organization.

I spent my first Board retreat in Moab, Utah, a place I had never been. It was smack in the middle of the Senate confirmation hearing for Kavanaugh as Supreme Court Justice. What a time to meet these new people, who proved to be a wonderful group with whom to share this difficult moment. We worked

hard for several days, and also enjoyed hiking, swimming, cooking, and talking together.

What can you bring to the board? Whatever you have spent your life doing brings experience, skills, and knowledge. Board members come from careers in federal agencies, non-profits, and businesses; they are teachers, medical workers, administrators, lawyers, and scientists.

My favorite part of serving on the Board has been getting to know new people from all over the country, even in a pandemic. I feel lucky in my 60s to make an entire new set of friends—what great people are drawn to Great Old Broads!

The Board meets in-person annually for

a two to three-day retreat. We missed being together this year, but of course we met via Zoom! We have three other meetings each year, now conducted via Zoom. We've felt extra responsibility with the pandemic to make sure the organization stays healthy and financially sound. Thanks to our great staff and volunteers, we've weathered the storm well to date.

Yes, the board requires work, but it is rewarding, entertaining and often fun, thanks to a talented group of Broads and Bros.

Bring your leadership, legal, policy, communications, fundraising, or other skills to our Board! Learn more at <http://bit.ly/BroadsBoard>



BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

by Katya Spiecker and Sally Sharp

BROADS LEARNING LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

There's been an interesting side effect with the pandemic, Broadband leaders have logged over 1,895 hours of trainings—most of these conducted virtually over Zoom. We *zoomed in* on three leaders to find out what they're learning and how it has impacted their work.



Linda Starr, Co-Leader of the Rio Grande Valley Broadband in New Mexico, has been involved with the New Mexico Green Amendment (NMGA)

for several years. This movement's goal is to pass a Joint Resolution to amend the state constitution's Bill of Rights to recognize and protect the rights of all people to a healthy environment, including the preservation of natural, cultural, and scenic qualities. When Linda invited author and founder of the national Green Amendment Movement, Maya van Rossum, to speak to the Broadband through a Zoom meeting, Linda's involvement shifted. The next week she was honored to be invited to join the steering committee to implement the NMGA campaign plan, strategies, and tactics.

Linda says that experiencing live speakers and hearing the excitement in their voices in virtual meetings is truly remarkable and energizes her far more than simply reading about issues. Because she can attend meetings without having to travel, it has also expanded her participation.

For Robyn Cascade, Co-Leader of Colorado's Northern San Juan Broadband, these learning opportunities through Zoom have been a gift. "So many webinars are available to me in which I could never have participated had they been in person. Most memorable are the important concepts I've learned from Indigenous people, such as the emphasis on reciprocity with the natural world; giving to nature and caring for the earth as an expression of thanks for the gifts we receive from nature—be they food, medicinal herbs, or basket-making materials. I have been reminded of the importance of true, authentic, and robust consultation between the U.S. government and land management agencies and tribal leadership. Too often this consultation is minimal and unsatisfactory from the tribes' perspective."

"Zoom wasn't part of my vocabulary as a retired old lady. And, the pandemic gives us the opportunity to learn because we are

all stuck at home!" said Loren Karro, Alaska Soles Broadband Co-Leader. She's found all this online activity has expanded her thinking about climate change. Loren is attending trainings from all over the world and learning about places that are very different from where she lives. Listening to new perspectives allows her to see the interrelationships between seemingly disparate issues. "It's not just the sea ice, it's also the rainforest disappearing, the loss of species, and the mosquitoes' changing metabolism—the climate emergency affects everything."

ARIZONA BROADBANDS JOIN FORCES

In his first day of office, President Biden cancelled the unwarranted national emergency at the southern border, and paused construction of the border wall. We are grateful for this swift action—and it is only a beginning. Four Arizona Broadbands and Broads' national office joined a coalition calling on the new Administration to immediately cancel all border wall contracts and use remaining funds to restore fragile ecosystems, mitigate damage, and take down the border wall.

Emily Matyas, Phoenix Broadband Co-Leader, explains, "I feel like we're all pulling together. We are working on what's pertinent to us here and across the country." The Arizona chapters came together in December to build a campaign plan, and their first event, *Wine, Whine, and Writing: Couch Activism for the Borderlands*, was a successful letter-to-the-editor (LTE) writing workshop with 50 participants. From this event at least seven



The border wall being built through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

LTEs were published across the country urging the administration to stop the wall and repair environmental destruction.

The 2,000-mile U.S./Mexico border passes through biologically rich and culturally diverse areas, including national parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, and sacred Indigenous lands on both side of the border—now scarred or destroyed by border wall construction.

The coalition has listed priority wall segments for removal, focusing immediately on those that stop wildlife movement and hamper water flows; and identified lighting infrastructure that impacts wildlife behavior, dark skies, and border communities.



Some key areas include California's Jacumba Wilderness and its endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument's rare and culturally-significant Quitobaquito Springs area; rugged passes in Arizona's Sky Islands that serve as the best remaining corridors for jaguars and other wildlife between the U.S. and Mexico; and areas in Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley rich with birds and federally endangered ocelots and jaguarundi.

PROTECTING THE PUMICE PLAIN

The Cascade Volcanoes Broadband has been working to protect the unique ecosystems on the Pumice Plain of Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in Washington.

On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens was the most disastrous volcanic eruption in U.S. history. It hurled pyroclastic flows of hot ash and mud to 155 mph, sent an eruption cloud 15 miles into the sky, and deposited ash over 11 states. Thus, the unique laboratory of the Pumice Plain was formed; a research area for decades that is now under threat by a proposed USFS road.

In 1981, one lupine wildflower showed that life could survive and return to the Pumice Plain. Inspired by the resilience of this small flower nearly 40 years ago, Susan Saul began her crusade for the protection of this amazing natural research site.

If there's anyone who could teach a natural history class on Mount St. Helens and the Pumice Plain, it's Susan Saul. As a Cascade Volcanoes Broadband member since 2013, and the broad credited with the chapter's name, Susan's love story with the ancient volcano started in the mid 1970s. Like so many who see the places they love threatened, her recreation activities abruptly shifted to grassroots advocacy. Alarmed by land management decisions "made with the bulldozer and chainsaw," Susan joined (and later led) the Mount St. Helens Protective Association to work on legislation to safeguard the area around the mountain.

After the 1980 eruption, the Association saw a landscape ripe for scientific research; it was an opportunity unique to that moment in history, and they worked hard to develop a monument proposal. In August of 1982, two years after the eruption and a roller coaster ride of threatened vetoes and riders, the 110,300-acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument was established by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. The law's legislative language solidified research as a priority purpose of the Monument. To date, the quality and quantity of the research conducted there is unparalleled in the world.




The eruption of Mt. St. Helens gave birth to the unique Pumice Plain.

Since the Monument's designation, several development proposals have threatened it, with Susan mounting a campaign to fight every one. When Susan saw, yet again, that the Forest Service wanted to build a road across the Pumice Plain, potentially destroying dozens of research sites, she

jumped into action, urging Broadband members to participate in the project's NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process.

Several members commented on the project's Environmental Assessment, attended a USFS objection meeting, and joined the coalition of scientists and groups opposing the project. Susan saw it as an opportunity for the Broadband to learn and speak up for this unique landscape. If the Forest Service issues a Decision Notice to go forward with the road project, Broads will carefully review the decision when it comes out and take appropriate action.

"My observation is that the more you get involved and participate in these agency processes, the less intimidating they are," says Susan.

Susan still has a baby food jar of ash she saved after the eruption to remind her when her life changed forever. The same ash still layers the Pumice Plain, fostering life's renewal, and you can bet that Susan and the Broads will continue to fight for its protection. 

The Broads' Story Project



In these past several months of Covid and crazy political turmoil, Board Member Suez Jacobson talked to individuals about the memories they turn to for solace—experiences from the past that have shaped them, remain part of them, and define what they value, and what gives them joy.

Suez is the executive producer of the film *Wild Hope* (wildhopefilm.com) and a writer who is awed by wilderness and its power as a catalyst to think differently about our world. Her memories of a trip to the Boundary Waters restored her connection to nature's resilience, and made her want to help share other members' stories of hope and resilience.

It's likely you know one or more of the Broads and Bros who have shared these stories—and there are still a few yet in production, so be sure to check back for more additions. Listen to these inspiring interviews on our website at www.greatoldbroads.org/the-broads-story-project





THE BROADER WILDERNESS

by Lauren Berutich

PLANS FOR ARCTIC DRILLING CHILLED

Former President Trump's encouragement of the decade-long attempt to drill for oil in the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) experienced a setback in late December. Only three bidders stepped up to nab 11 of the 22 parcels offered by the Bureau of Land Management in the lease sale, and half the parcels drew no bids at all. While this seems like good news at first glance, the 552,802 acres of leases sold is significant and brought in \$14.4 million dollars. Mind you, none of this income compensates for the potential damage to habitat that is home to migrating Porcupine caribou, polar bears, birds, and other wildlife, or the



Indigenous communities who depend on this intact ecosystem.

The new year brought hopeful news when President

Biden signed an executive order to put a temporary moratorium on all oil and gas lease sales. This action sent a strong message to the public that policies on development, fossil fuel extraction, and combating the climate crisis are at the top of the new president's priority list. But don't be fooled—we have a very long road ahead of us. Oil and gas companies still sit on 13.4 million acres of idle oil and gas leases. From 2014–2019, industries stockpiled 9,950 drilling leases (still unused), and before the 2020 election, there was a race to secure as many additional leases as possible.

The laws governing oil and gas lease processes are over 100 years old and extraction activities line the pockets of industry—not taxpayers. We face a climate crisis that calls for more than a short-term moratorium and century old laws.

Broads and other organizations sent a letter requesting the Interior Department also “pause the approval of new oil and gas drilling permit applications pending the completion of

required reviews and reforms of the Federal onshore oil and gas program.”

Write those letters, make those calls. Urge your Senators and Representatives to continue to protect ANWR and all public lands from further damage from fossil fuel extraction. We must shift towards a just transition for industry workers and a greener energy economy.

IT WAS A MONUMENTAL MOMENT!

In 2017, Trump signed an illegal proclamation to shrink Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (NM) by 85% and Grand Staircase-Escalante NM



by almost half. In 2020, Trump issued a proclamation that reopened Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine NM (NCSMNM) to commercial fishing, endangering marine life within its fragile ecosystem.

President Biden recently issued an executive order to evaluate the 2-million-acre reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NMs as well as the rule change allowing commercial fishing in NCSMNM.

There is overwhelming public support to restore the Utah monuments. Back in 2017, over two million comments were submitted to the Department of the Interior—98% of which supported keeping the monument designations intact. We wait expectantly for the evaluation, ready to advocate to see protections fully (and permanently) restored to all three monuments.

It is vital that we keep pressure on the new administration and the Department of Interior to return these monuments to their original designated and protected status.

UM, PARDON ME?!

In disbelief, Broads watched as lame duck President Trump tossed out pardons in his last days of power like rolls of paper towels in Puerto Rico. To our amazement and





The illegal protest ride through Recapture Canyon.

anger, Utah Representative Phil Lyman was pardoned after being tried and convicted in 2015 for planning and

leading an illegal ATV protest ride in Recapture Canyon near Blanding, Utah the year before. Lyman had already paid the full restitution (\$96,000) and spent 10 days in jail, so the issuance of a pardon at this point was just pandering.

Broads has a long history with Recapture Canyon. In 2006, Broads staff were among the first to report the illegal construction of an ATV trail through the canyon to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We documented cut and fill construction of a road bed, culvert installations, trees cut and limbed, and even a 20-foot bridge built over a drainage.

BLM did an archaeological assessment that documented more than 30 archaeological sites within the trail's tread. More than a year after Broads' first report, BLM finally enacted an emergency closure of the canyon to motorized use after pot-hunting was occurring in an Ancestral Puebloan great house. The closure was in effect until completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) considering issuance of a ROW (right of way) to San Juan County for the ATV trail.

Seven years later the BLM still had not completed the EA. This did not please Lyman, so he and Monte Wells hatched a plan for a protest rally, which became a gun-toting spectacle when they invited the Bundy bunch (a notorious family of grazing scofflaws later involved in the takeover of Idaho's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge) to join them. Lyman (a San Juan County Commissioner at the time) and his followers claimed the Recapture closure, and the unrelated 2009 arrests in Blanding of "pot hunters", was unnecessary government overreach and an attack on rural Utahns.

Interestingly, several Broads witnessed the closing arguments for Lyman's trial in Salt Lake City as they were in town for our Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training. One participant recalled that Lyman and the other defendants acted as though they were the victims—when they were the ones violating the law.

On April 10, 2017, Broads celebrated the BLM's issuance of their final decision on Recapture Canyon to keep the heart of the canyon closed to motorized use. Then, just one day later, San Juan County filed criminal charges against Broads' former Associate Director, Rose Chilcoat. Coincidence?

We think not. All four felony and misdemeanor charges were eventually dismissed as without merit, but you can see that the pardon of Phil Lyman hit close to home for Broads, and to the lands we hold dear.

ADVOCACY WINS!

Already in the first days of the Biden Administration, the new president has demonstrated support for conserving public lands, protecting wildlife, and combating climate change. Let's dive into a few victories since our last newsletter (before Biden stepped into office) where Broads played a key role.

PEBBLE MINE PERMIT DENIED

Bristol Bay, Alaska, is one of the most ecologically and economically important watersheds on Earth. The bay supports



the world's largest sockeye salmon run, a \$1.5 billion annual commercial fishery, and over 14,000 Alaskan jobs. If fully developed, Pebble Mine, a massive copper and

gold mine, would produce 10.2 billion tons of toxic mining waste at the headwaters of Bristol Bay, which would poison its waters, destroy the fishery, and devastate a way of life that has sustained the people of this region for countless generations. Even prominent Republicans expressed opposition to the mine proposal, including Donald Trump Jr. and Fox News host Tucker Carlson. It turns out both sides of the aisle like to fish!

In late November, we celebrated the Army Corps of Engineers decision to deny the mining permit! The mine developer, Pebble Limited Partnership, couldn't design a discharge plan that complied with the Clean Water Act guidelines. No surprise here—this mine is uniquely risky given its size in a wetland area, the type of minerals they planned to mine, and being so close to the two main rivers that pour into Bristol Bay.

Alaska Broadband Leaders Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle and Loren Karro and other Pacific Northwest Broads fought this project. The Alaska leaders researched and submitted substantive comments on the Pebble Mine EIS, sent comments to Senator Murkowski, and rallied in opposition in 2019. Last year, they wrote letters to their senators, and sent a sample letter to Broadband leaders to garner more letters in opposition. Loren also sent an extensive letter to the Biden transition team asking for permanent protection. Sure, Pebble Limited Partnership is appealing the decision to reject the permit for the project. But we can celebrate for now! What a massive relief!

(Continued page 10)



HOLDING THE AIR FORCE ACCOUNTABLE

Broads celebrated a victory in a two-year lawsuit against the U.S. Air Force, which attempted to pull a fast one when they released plans for a new Urban Warfare Training Program over Boise, Idaho and nearby wild lands. The Air Force tried to circumvent the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by simply issuing a “Finding of No Significant Impact.” Can you imagine “no significant impact” would ever be possible with F-15 military



jets flying day and night? The former leader of the Boise Broadband, Pam Conley, took a stand with Broads as the sole organizational plaintiff, teaming up with attorneys at Advocates for the West to fight for local residents and nearby public lands, including the Boise Foothills.

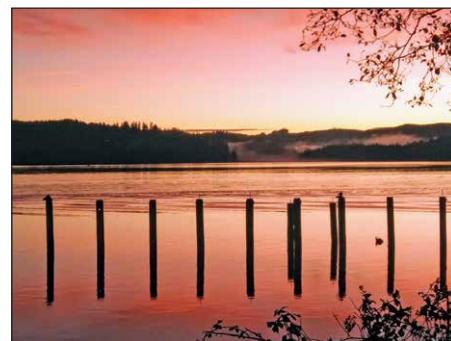
The judge ruled in our favor on literally every claim we presented. She even said the Air Force acted “arbitrarily and capriciously” in concluding their

new Urban Warfare Training Program wouldn’t have a significant impact on “people, birds, and wildlife.” Therefore, she ordered the Air Force to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project.

The Air Force filed an appeal, however in January to our surprise they voluntarily dismissed it. Should they decide to pursue the program in the future, it will need a new NEPA process and an EIS per the Judge’s order.

JORDAN COVE—BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Our four Oregon Broadbands have spent the last few years fighting the Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP) alongside a coalition of landowners, Indigenous tribes, and other environmental groups. This massive project proposed to build a liquefied natural gas export terminal within the International Port of Coos Bay, Oregon, and a 230-mile fracked gas pipeline from Coos Bay across southern Oregon. Broads chose to fight like hell against this terrible project for multiple reasons. To begin with, the JCEP would easily become Oregon’s largest polluter, impacting 32 endangered species, such as the Coho salmon, marbled murrelet, and northern spotted owl. Moreover, the terminal, set in a tsunami hazard zone, would be at high risk for leaks and explosions. And, due to all the necessary



clearcutting around the pipeline, wildlife migration corridors would be severely crippled.

This decade-long effort was getting a reputation as a “zombie project” because it just kept coming back after what were thought to be deadly blows. Twice in 2016, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) denied permits for the JCEP. However, after getting new legs under the fossil-fuel-friendly Trump Administration, the State of Oregon denied the water quality permit in May 2019 because the current plans weren’t deemed safe for wetlands, salmon, and whales. The parent company appealed to FERC, asking them to override the state’s decision. After a nail biting wait, in mid-January, FERC voted unanimously to uphold Oregon’s authority and therefore its decision. Now, if there is another attempt to revive the JCEP, the entire application process would have to start over again—though it seems they should recognize that Oregon doesn’t want this project!



MORE REASONS TO BE A BROAD—DISCOUNTS!

by Alyssa Rainbolt

Allow us to introduce to you TEN like-minded brands who care about protecting the earth and have extended a discount to our members (10 MORE reasons to be a Broad in 2021!):

Bee’s Wrap: reusable alternative to plastic wrap! 20% off

Elsewhere Candle Co: National Park inspired candles! 15% off

Coalatree: eco-minded goods! 15% off

Kula Cloth: Antimicrobial pee cloths for the backcountry! 10% off

luminAID: Solar, inflatable, packable lanterns! 15% off

Torrey House Press: nonprofit environmental publisher! 20% off

Majamas Earth: eco-friendly clothing! 15% off

Tru Earth: clean, green, simple laundry strips! 10% off

U-Konserve: products to support a zero-waste lifestyle! 25% off

White Lion Traditional Tea: Social justice focused tea! 20% off

To learn more at greatoldbroads.org/member-discounts

We hope these new benefits add a bit of sparkle to your Broads day.



by Lauren Berutich

Singer Andra Day wrote a powerful song encouraging us to shake off the cobwebs, address our fears and uncertainties, come together, and rise up. And it rings in my ears as I write. What a time it is in American history to raise our collective voices to protect wild places and fight climate change.

It has not been easy—for four years we’ve endured an avalanche of actions devastating to America’s lands and waters. There have been over 100 environmental rollbacks and threats to bedrock laws, policies, and protections, a border wall threatening biodiversity and wildlife, and injustices to communities across the globe. But change is in the air. Take a deep breath and come together because, “We gonna walk it out.”

There is promise and hope in the light of our country’s new leadership and administration. President Biden took initiatives to enact change from day one with several executive orders including a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on public lands, halting border wall construction, and rejoining the Paris Climate Accord. These are great steps in the right direction, however, as you know, our work is cyclic—it is never done. As effective change makers, we rely on grassroots strategies with a process that can and must be revisited and practiced over and over again. Let’s raise our voices for change, our hands to participate, our communities to engage, and our political clout for legislative actions.

MAKE CONNECTIONS!

Now is the time to get new phone numbers and email addresses of your state and federal lawmakers into your contacts list. Start connecting with your lawmakers to influence their decisions, thank them, and celebrate their efforts

and successes as they take action for public lands protections. Urge them to introduce and support important legislation. Share your disappointment and opposition to poor wildlands management decisions. Put our privilege and power of constituency to good use!

UNITE FOR CHANGE!

Democrats have control of both the House and Senate, which is promising for pro-environmental platforms. But it’s not a red/blue split with Broads, purple is our color! It is time to see a transition from political polarization on climate and public lands issues to a more unified bipartisan approach to basic human rights such as clean air and water, climate mitigation, habitat protections, and pristine wild lands for generations to come.

This won’t happen overnight, and it can’t happen without you. We need to learn how to work across political lines and build an integrated approach to the conservation. It can happen and it will take compassion, dedication, patience, and open ears. Let’s rise up together to be the change.

PARTICIPATE!

Broads’ federal legislative priorities cover over 5.1 million acres of wilderness designation and public lands protection. It is our privilege and responsibility to be a part of the democratic system and it’s important to participate. Democracy in



Carole McWilliams

this country may have been challenged recently, but it’s certainly not dead. It is time to ignite your right to be heard. Stand up for those who have no voice. Vote—with your dollars, your actions, and with your choice to stay engaged in local and national public lands issues you care about.



RISE UP

by Andra Day

*You’re broken down and tired
Of living life on a merry go round
And you can’t find the fighter*

*But I see it in you
so we gonna walk it out*

And move mountains

We gonna walk it out

And move mountains

And I’ll rise up

I’ll rise like the day

I’ll rise up

I’ll rise unafraid

I’ll rise up

*And I’ll do it
a thousand times again*

Climate & Coasts, Wetlands, Rivers, Forests

by Lauren Berutich

Just over a year ago, we launched the Climate Education and Stewardship (CES) program to expand our climate work and community understanding of the critical link between public land health and climate change. Our recent efforts have been on events in the Pacific Northwest and the following activities:

- Completion of the final educational module focused on Coasts & Climate and training Broadband Leaders on the new module.
- A film screening of *Beaver Believers* and panel discussion with filmmaker, Sarah Koenigsberg. We engaged more than 100 people on the importance of riparian and wetland ecosystems to climate resilience.

- The final two webinars in a four-part series *The Chehalis River: Watershed Health, Climate Resilience, and Ecosystem Restoration*.
- Two *Pull 'em and Plant 'em* projects following the Chehalis River webinars, where volunteers pulled invasive weeds and planted over 500 trees.

Northwest Broadbands are drafting project proposals for spring stewardship and educational outreach efforts, including a four-part online seminar series on Fire Ecology and Climate Change that begins in March. Additional tree planting is part of the stewardship and restoration projects beginning to take shape for late spring and early summer.

Elements of the program will also be incorporated into the *May the Forest be With You* and *The Maine Reason to Act* Broadwalks, where we will explore the impacts of climate change on our oceans and coastal ecosystems (see *2021 Events*, page 4).

We look forward to growing the program beyond the northwest, and there is budding interest from northeast and southwest Broadbands to present climate modules in their regions.

By this fall, we will kick up the advocacy component of the program and tackle land management policy, legislation, and more. For more information on the CES program, contact lauren@greatoldbroads.org.



Giving is Good for You!



by Kaye Berman

Did you know that giving to Great Old Broads is good for your health? You have probably experienced the happy feeling that comes with making charitable donations, but according to research, it may also improve physical health and longevity because it helps decrease stress.

Millions of people give to charities on a regular basis to not only support causes they believe in, but also for the positive effect it has on their lives. Many give as a way to introduce or encourage their families to give, and most say their reasons are personal and not about the tax benefits.

Rynda Clark said she was first attracted to Broads because of her passion and love for wild places. She knew through her participation, future generations would have the same opportunity to experience nature as she does. And the fact that Broads supports women's leadership skills is especially important to her. Rynda finds it personally rewarding to practice her leadership skills while serving as Co-Chair on Broads' Board of Directors.

Whether you're on the giving or receiving end of a gift, that gift can elicit feelings of gratitude. Research has found that gratitude is integral to happiness, health, and social bonds.

When I asked board member Anne Heikkila how her generous spirit makes her feel, she simply said, "Grateful." She added that contributing time and funds to the various organizations she supports makes her feel she is "raising voices for those who can't."

Anne has confidence in how well her donations are used by Broads. The more involved she becomes, the more she gives, knowing it will help us achieve success with our goals. She loves to celebrate our wins and feels she is making a difference.

Protecting the environment is one of our greatest challenges and responsibilities. Whatever you are most passionate about—climate change, protecting habitat, or saving places you love—you know we are hard at work making your dollars stretch for these causes and that we are committed to maintaining a livable and sustainable planet.

When you volunteer your time and talents, participate in our wonderful events, or donate financially to Great Old Broads for Wilderness, we are honored that we have earned your trust and commitment and understand that transparency and dependability are essential to your continued support.

If your gifts to Broads are as meaningful to you as they are to us, please let us know why you donate. Send your replies to kaye@greatoldbroads.org. Your dedication and generosity mean the world to us!



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Women for the Wild

More Than Halfway There!

We are over 50% towards our goal of \$3.1 million! To date we have raised \$1,662,836 to sustain our unique organization's fight for wild lands and waters.

Our four goals drive us to become the best version of ourselves as we:

- Train and mobilize more grassroots advocates
- Recruit and train a professional staff
- Build a diverse, equitable, and financially sustainable organization
- Educate and advocate on the link between public lands protection and reversing the impacts of climate change

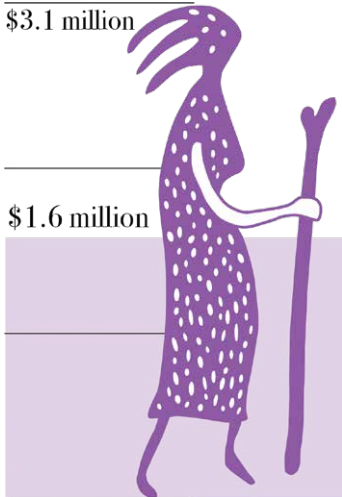
We want to introduce more people to our work. For now, that means virtual events, though we can't wait to hold in-person house parties once it's safe to gather again. When you get together with folks as passionate about wild and public

lands as we are, it's pretty irresistible!

How can you help? By helping us expand our network and get more people involved who would love our work.

If you are interested in hosting a virtual event or an in-person house party, let's start planning! We'll handle invitations, logistics (virtual or in-person), and the program. We can help you develop a guest list,

\$3.1 million



\$1.6 million

including members and others interested in our mission who are in your area. Contact Kaye Berman (kaye@greatoldbroads.org) for more information or to get a date on the calendar.



EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!

Want to support our work? 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.

To make a donation online, visit <http://bit.ly/WSB2021>

2021 Member T-Shirt Debuts



Upgrade your membership to the \$100 level or higher (or better yet, become a sustaining member!) and you'll receive a FREE 2021 Member T-Shirt.

Meet the Artist, Anna Riling

Many of you submitted beautiful art work to the 2021 Member T-shirt Art Contest, and after much deliberation, we selected this beautiful piece, "Nankoweap View" by member Anna Riling. Hear the story behind the art, in Anna's words:

What does the landscape you drew mean to you?

I have never been more thirsty, hot, cold, happy, humbled, or awed than in the [Grand] Canyon. Thoughts of it—the roar of the river, the smell of wet sand, the play of light on the walls—bring me calm and peace. If it is possible to be in love with a landscape, then that's how I would describe what that place means to me.

Why public lands?

Can you imagine if a place like the Grand Canyon wasn't protected public land? Look at what developers tried to do at the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers, just a few miles downstream of the "Nankoweap View". They wanted to put in a tram from the rim to the bottom, complete with restaurants, a visitor center, and a wastewater treatment plant. I want my kids to experience the wildness of an untouched landscape; to hear them say about my dear Grand Canyon, "That's beautiful, Mama." I want them to know that the value of a wild place is not in what you can take from it, but the wildness itself. With our policy and advocacy, we can choose how we treat that resource—or as a commodity to be plundered for short term gain, or as a legacy for our children to experience, preserved and protected.



What can you do? Begin preparing comments to support 30x30 now, including specific recommendations for protecting lands and waters in your community and region. What is uniquely important and in what areas are you already working to protect that could be included? What local groups can contribute knowledge and experience? What management practices should be included?

Broaden (yup!) Citizen Campaigns

In western states, polling consistently shows that residents support conservation and want public lands protected. A December 2020 survey* of anglers and hunters in Arizona and Montana found that a majority (70% in AZ and 60% in MT) believe in conserving more land, water, and wildlife. Only 6% think too much has been conserved.

People of color are three times more likely to lack nearby access to parks and public green space, and experience disproportionate impacts from environmental pollution and resource extraction. Protected areas yield clean air and water, improved mental and physical health, and strengthened economies.

What can you do? Work with Indigenous, Latinx, Black, and other communities of color, who tend to be strong conservation proponents. Incorporate key messaging that leads to stronger support among hunters and anglers: 1) protected lands will be open to hunting and fishing; 2) local communities will have input; and, 3) restoration will be a focus. Engage your community in specific land protection efforts and restoration projects.

Protect Oceans and Coasts

The oceans and coastal ecosystems are powerhouses of carbon sequestration, and contribute considerably toward mitigating the impacts of climate change. Marine Protected Areas, particularly closer to heavily populated coastal communities, are a critical tool to protect the abundance and diversity of marine life. While the U.S. has successful laws and provisions in place to manage fisheries, they focus on commercial species and not the complexity of coastal and marine habitat. Marine National Monuments and Marine Protected Areas in the Florida Keys, the mid-Atlantic, and the Pacific have demonstrated economic benefit and build climate resilience. It is vital to advocate for the inclusion of these ecosystems in 30x30 protections.

* New Bridge Strategy group, December 2020 memo



What can you do? Let your Senators and Representatives hear your support for protection for coasts and ocean, particularly for Marine Protected Areas. Industry pressure can be strong; conservation voices must be stronger.

More WSAs on BLM Lands

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages more land than any other agency, yet only 10% of its 248 million acres are protected through Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, etc. The BLM is required to manage WSAs, specially-designated roadless lands, to protect wilderness characteristics (in

practice, we know such management is not always the case). Importantly, WSAs are off limits to fossil fuel leasing. WSAs can ultimately become designated as wilderness, the highest level of land protection, through Congressional legislation.

Many WSAs were established under Section 202 of the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act. However, an out-of-court settlement agreement in 2003, driven by Interior Secretary Gale Norton, denied the BLM authority to designate new WSAs under Section 202, leaving millions of acres of lands at risk of damage from human activities. An important pathway for 30x30 land protection: Restore BLM's legal authority to designate WSAs under Section 202.

What can you do? Tell the Secretary of the Interior that you want BLM to designate unprotected lands with wilderness characteristics as 202 WSAs. Get involved in BLM planning processes to ensure that activities harmful to climate and biodiversity do not become part of a long-term Resource Management Plan.

Elevate wildlife corridors (not literally!)

Protected lands are lifelines for wildlife corridors, and protected areas need linkages to succeed. Much work has been done in this area, and 30x30 presents a means to implement science-based recommendations.

What can you do? Agencies lack sufficient funding to conduct baseline inventories of critical habitat areas. Grassroots groups can provide needed assistance to map and ground-truth, contribute expertise of local areas, and update wildland network designs.

Broads' work is a natural pathway to 30x30. The most important thing is to get involved!



We've earned the right to celebrate the immediate and uplifting actions of the Biden Administration, but we mustn't lose sight of the need for strong public backing so these early efforts become the enduring laws, policies, and practice of this country. Broads' grassroots advocacy, elevating voices for public land protection across the country, must ring from the mountaintops, across the deserts and plains, through the forests, from the vastness of the oceans, and from



coast to coast. We may feel giddy at seeing the language of conservation come from the White House—simultaneously, it should be the signal to roll up our sleeves and work harder. After all, we have a much better chance to pass wilderness bills, stronger climate legislation, and policies that protect land, water, wildlife, and people.

We need to get it right this time; because we face climate and biodiversity emergencies on top of a global pandemic. There is no time to lose. Annie Leonard, Greenpeace Executive Director, relates that she received a call from a colleague within the Obama Administration some six months into his first term. “Where is the environmental movement?” she was asked. Her colleague warned that the administration could not keep putting its neck on the line unless their efforts had strong and visible public support. Instead, environmental groups seemed to be riding on the glory of an ally in the White House.

That's not a mistake we can afford. The climate and conservation movement have grown stronger and more united—and increasingly determined after a battering from the Trump administration. In these toughest of times, recovery means transforming to a regenerative, renewable, and just economy.

In recent decades, ecologists have begun to recognize something known by Indigenous communities since time immemorial: in the face of physically stressful conditions, ecological communities rely on cooperative strategies to survive. The work of ecologists like Ragan Callaway and Suzanne Simard have drawn increasing attention to complex,

sympiotic, and mutually beneficial relationships. In forests, the complex underground fungal and plant networks are fondly known as the “wood-wide web.” This broader view contradicts years of thinking that competition drives natural processes. I daresay it's an approach to which women relate. Janine Benyus, biologist and biomimicry expert, points out that the current crises demand a shift to view organisms (including humans) as sharers and nurturers, rather than consumers and competitors. It's what botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer calls “restorative reciprocity,” a powerful medicine for a suffering world.

Let's apply this revised ecological principle to address climate, biodiversity, systemic racism, infrastructure, and the pandemic all at once. We could provide green jobs in black and brown communities. Forming a Civilian Climate Corps, as in Biden's executive order on climate, puts thousands of unemployed young people to work restoring wetlands, forests, oceans, roads, and farmlands. It would shift skilled workers from the oil and gas industry to plug abandoned wells, fix methane-leaking pipelines, and install wind turbines and solar plants in brownfields, farms, cities, and highway corridors. A regenerative economy would rebuild old infrastructure and make it climate resilient.

The world needs our direct, vocal, and intelligent involvement. It's time to stand as conservationists, in the most holistic sense of the word, and get it done. 🌀



All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson, 2020.

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures, by Merlin Sheldrake, 2020.

Wilding: Returning Nature to Our Farm, by Isabella Tree, 2019





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South San Juan Broadband Leader Anne Dal Vera (left) and Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk (Council of Advisors) with one of 20 care packages put together for Ute Mountain Ute tribal members isolated by Covid-19.



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Do it online at www.greatoldbroads.org/join-us

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

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