

Protecting Biodiversity & Climate

by Shelley Silbert

In May, the White House released its *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful* report (ATB), launching the first-ever national goal to safeguard the ecological integrity of the nation's lands and water. This preliminary report outlines a ten-year plan based on locally-led efforts to protect 30% of American lands and waters by 2030 (a rebranding of 30x30—see Winter/Spring 2021 *Broadsides*).

The document identifies three major threats:

- The disappearance of nature
- Climate change
- Inequitable access to the outdoors

It will take considerable public involvement to get the 30x30 show on the road; and while ATB is a good starting point, the specific steps to reach its aspirations have yet to be established. It's an ambitious plan—as it must be to combat the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Currently, the U.S. has 12% of lands protected for biodiversity, and would need an additional 440 million acres to reach the 30% goal by 2030. We have less than ten years to conserve 130% more lands than we've designated for protection since 1872, when Yellowstone became the world's first national park. That doesn't even include protecting the oceans. We have some serious work ahead of us!

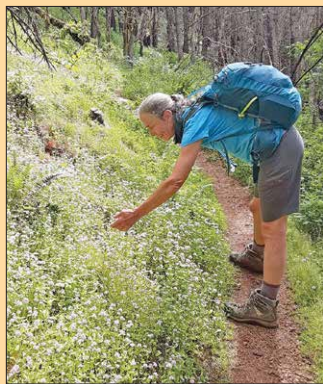
SCIENCE OR ACCESS?

As always, the devil's in the details. First, what will count as "protected"? With science as a key principle, the 30% goal should only include lands that adhere to the U.S. Geological Survey's Gap 1 and Gap 2 categories. These categories require 1) permanent protection from conversion of natural cover; and 2) a mandated management plan that prohibits extractive use. In other words, biodiversity protection should prevail as the key science-based management goal.

While we laud the early goals of ATB to provide more access to parks for nature-deprived and disenfranchised communities, not all such areas (e.g., urban parks, paved

recreational trails, concrete riverbanks) will protect biodiversity or mitigate climate. We want to see these areas protected, but it may not be appropriate to count them toward the 30% goal.

Even private land conservation easements may not be managed for ecosystem conservation. It all depends on how the easement is established, monitored, and regulated. For example, will the easement prevent sub-divisions, but still allow the land to be heavily grazed, logged, or mined?



"What a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself."

— Mollie Beatty
Director of the U.S.
Fish & Wildlife Service
(1993-1996)

(Continued page 12)

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A KINSHIP FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Meet HECHO,
an organization
that shares
common goals.

PAGE
5

BROADBANDS IN ACTION

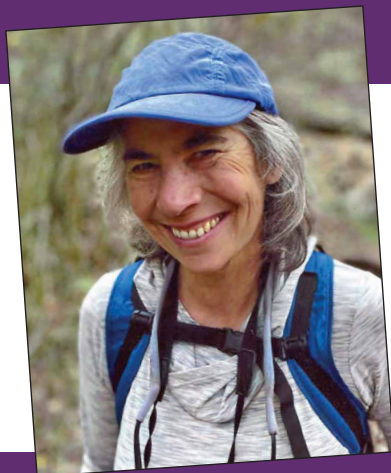
Broadbands host
a totem pole as it
journeys to D.C.

PAGE
6

ADVOCACY CORNER

It's up to us to
set an example and help
others learn how to leave
no trace!

PAGE
9



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In a BROAD Sense

The Pandemic We Are

While visiting my parents on Florida's Gulf Coast in May, I was elated to observe a nesting colony of eight hundred Black Skimmers. A most

charismatic shorebird, the skimmer sports a toucan-like black and red bill, with a long lower mandible to skim the water's surface for small fish (truly jaw-dropping!). Recently a house cat roused the skimmer colony, forcing the birds to a new

location. Fortunately, by June the colony had partially recovered and had 250–300 nests (or “scrapes”) and chicks were hatching. Not all skimmers are so fortunate—in 2020, a colony on a nearby beach did not return after pandemic partyers disturbed them; another in south Florida lost two-thirds of its chicks to rare bacterial infections, likely from human sewage.

The *America the Beautiful* report (see cover story) states that North America has three billion fewer birds than 50 years ago. Shockingly, 15 species of our so-called common birds make up over 2/3 of the total loss in native bird populations. From 1970 to

2019, dark-eyed juncos declined over 50% and red-winged blackbirds more than 60%. North American shorebirds fared no better, with reported declines of 37–70% since the 1970s.



“...there are no vaccines on the horizon to ensure our public lands remain healthy and strong well into the future.”

— Luis Benitez and Ann Baker Easley,
Colorado Sun opinion piece

abandoning nests holding 1,500 eggs!

FROM BIRDS TO BOONDOCKING

Human impact, you say? Upon returning west, I stumbled on a term new to me though likely familiar to any camper van owner: boondocking.* Driving along a once remote National Forest road I've traveled for years, I noticed that informal parking pads had sprung up where grass and shrubs had been, with a preponderance of tents, campers, and fire rings—all this in the midst of extreme drought. Need I mention trash and human waste? You likely know the pandemic-

What's the common denominator? Human impact, of course—coastal development, overharvest of critical food resources, human disturbance, and human-associated predators. For example, a drone crash in May on the California coast caused near-threatened Elegant Terns to flee,

(Continued page 15)



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

Please credit Broads
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EVENTS! LET'S GET BACK INTO THE WILD!

AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

Climate Change & Coasts: The MAINE Reason to Act Broadwalk

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

There are still a few open spots available for one of our most exciting Broadwalk events yet! We'll be on Maine's spectacular Atlantic Coast—with plenty of opportunities for swimming, hiking, canoeing, and so much more—while we learn about the impact of climate change on critically endangered coastal ecosystems.

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

No-share single cabins: \$350

Register at: <http://bit.ly/MaineBwalk>

All participants must be fully vaccinated.

NEW!

SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2021

Bears Ears National Monument Broadwork

Bears Ears National Monument, Blanding, Utah

Come celebrate National Public Lands Day with us in southeast Utah's Bears Ears National Monument. We will partner with the U.S. Forest Service for two days of stewardship work, including trail maintenance and fencing. There will be a day for hiking, as well as evening speakers who will share the breathtaking natural and human history of the greater Bears Ears landscape.

Registration fee: \$200

Register at <https://bit.ly/BEBroadwork>

All participants must be fully vaccinated.



Event Recap: Painting with a Purpose



Few places in the nation—or the world—lend themselves to the bold brilliance of watercolors quite like the desert southwest.

Generations of artists have come to the region to be inspired by the vast open spaces and harsh but beautiful landscape.

This spring, a group of women found their artistic inspiration amid the yellow, orange, and red sandstone canyons on a unique, once-in-a-lifetime float down Utah's San Juan River through a portion of the majestic but threatened Bears Ears landscape.

"A Float with Heart", led by acclaimed artist and art educator Suze Woolf (www.suzewoolf-fineart.com) and an all-women group of expert river guides from Holiday River Expeditions, gave the participants—some of whom had neither been on a raft trip nor tried their hand at watercolor painting before—a chance to try both in one of the most incredible classrooms nature has to offer.

The five-day trip offered participants the rare opportunity to see petroglyphs and pictographs left by Indigenous people over 1,000 years ago, along with the wide range of geologic and natural wonders. They then had the opportunity to express what they had seen on their way down the river in watercolor paintings, thanks to expert instruction from Woolf.

A portion of the funds raised by the trip went to Great Old Broads for Wilderness to help us in the fight to protect Bears Ears and other endangered lands across the nation.

"For me, this river trip ...was a soul-restoring reminder why we as Broads fight so hard to preserve public lands for future generations, and to help protect the cultural resources of the Native Americans who lived on these lands long before we as settlers arrived," said participant and Broads' Board treasurer Suez Jacobson.



BROADS LEGACY CIRCLE

Your Legacy, Mother Earth's Future.

In May, we launched the Broads Legacy Circle, a special giving society that includes forward-thinking Broads and Bros who have included Great Old Broads for Wilderness in their long-term estate planning. These gifts take many forms, including bequests, charitable trusts, or other beneficiary designations to sustain Broads well into the future.

This program provides information about how you can leave an important legacy to continue our work to defend the wild places you have loved in your lifetime.

Meet Legacy Circle member Mary Fleischmann. From Bend, Oregon, Mary has been an active Broad since 2016. She is a gardener, canner, and passionate water advocate who is also a co-leader of the Bitterbrush Broadband.



Mary enjoys being a taskmaster, taking minutes during Broadband meetings, assisting with the treasury

work, and organizing meals for events, which you would certainly expect from a foodie like Mary!

When Mary first attended a Broadwalk, she found herself amongst a family of kindred spirits—a sentiment many Broads have shared. She was drawn to the organization's mission, camaraderie, and meaningful work, all done while having lots of fun. She says that's what "pulls us all together." Laughter is a key ingredient for Mary. "These women have different

stories, but similar experiences, and all of them want to protect what is around us."

As for her estate plan, Mary said, "I was able to dial in what I was passionate about, and Broads is one of those passions. I wanted to pay-it-forward to allow Broads to continue to do awesome work for the wild," adding that it takes a village to effect change. "Staff to train and recruit new leaders, get chapters started, and our advocacy work is so important! We only have one planet and it's vital to protect Mother Earth."

Mary encourages all Broads to join the Legacy Circle.

"Absolutely every penny, every dollar helps the Broads. Don't feel like you have to give everything away. Just give what you are comfortable with. Don't get caught up in 'how much' you will have to give—anything helps!"

Many types of legacy gifts offer significant financial and tax benefits, often complementing an individual's overall estate planning. We recommend you check with your financial advisor to learn more.



SPECIAL MATCHING OPPORTUNITY!

Secure the future for Broads. Join the Legacy Circle before September 30, 2021 and one of our generous donors will give Broads \$100 for every new pledge (up to \$1,500). Contact us if you have any questions, or let us know if you have already included us in your estate plans by emailing kaye@greatoldbroads.org or calling us at (970) 385-9577.

Learn more at www.greatoldbroads.org/legacy

WELCOME!



We are pleased to announce that Jolin Cordalis has joined Broads' small but mighty staff as our new Administration Assistant.

Jolin moved to Durango 18 years ago for the many outdoor opportunities—especially kayaking, biking, backpacking, and rock-hounding.

"What a joy to join the Broads in protecting public lands and wild places" says Jolin. "These spaces are my church, where I go to nourish my soul and refill my cup. I look forward to joining the fight to protect these places as they have been protected for me."

WISH LIST

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

- Airline miles
- Travel scholarships for leaders to attend Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Trainings
- Funds to pay for carbon offsets

Send an email to Lisa@greatoldbroads.org, or drop a check in the mail.

THANK YOU!



A Kinship for Public Lands



by Susan Kearns

Founded in 2013, HECHO (Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors) works to amplify the voices of Hispanic and Latinx people of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. These states represent a significant population with deep roots in the Southwest—people whose input was missing from the conservation community. Hispanic people have accessed and cared for public lands in the region for generations as hunters, anglers, and livestock ranchers. They’ve camped, hiked, gathered plants, and sought solace on public lands.

Similarly, Broads was founded to fill the gap where women, particularly older women, were missing from the male-dominated arena. There are many similarities between HECHO and Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Both organizations are devoted to protecting and conserving public lands for future generations. HECHO focuses on public lands in the Southwest and Broads had its start in the Southwest, defending Utah’s red rock country. These commonalities prompted us to take a deeper look at

HECHO’s philosophy and role in public lands conservation.

CONNECTION AND CONTINUATION

HECHO’s Executive Director, Camilla Simon,* expanded on key conceptual values of the organization: *querencia y herencia*. *Querencia* is a love for the land, a deeply held cultural value that connects the Hispanic community to a past, present, and future sense of belonging and purpose. They believe they bear responsibility to care for and protect the land to conserve land health and interconnected communities, and ensure the lands continue to yield clean air and water.

Herencia is the understanding of those who came before and those who came after, “Knowing your place in the outdoors, and knowing your ancestors—what they have done to protect the land for you and what you must do to conserve the land for the future,” explains Camilla.

“We get lost in distractions, get lost as to where we sit in the world...that we had the chance to be born and live on this earth. *Querencia y herencia* is to be grounded, connected, and have a more spiritual understanding of other people and our planet.”

GRASSROOTS VS. GRASSTOPS

While Broads is a grassroots-based advocacy organization, HECHO works at the *grasstops* level. They press for change by working directly with leaders in the Hispanic community, as well as

“When people ask me where my roots are, I look down at my feet, and I see the roots of my soul grasping the earth. They are here...in the Southwest...”

– Rudolfo Anaya

elected and appointed officials at the state and federal level.

Their advisory board provides significant hands-on support, meeting with staff monthly to provide counsel, develop strategies, and share community concerns. They also travel with staff to meet with elected officials in Washington, D.C.

HECHO’s approach is to carefully consider cultural uses and listen to all sides—particularly on polarized issues. Camilla shared how they strive to engage people who care about protecting the land—but may have been discouraged by polarization. Citing a personal example, she noted that she’s a vegetarian that supports hunting.

“It’s healthier and more sustainable than factory farming,” says Camilla. “There’s less waste, less impact on the land, and less pollution.”

Camilla spoke about public lands grazing, how generations of families have managed the activity to lessen the impact on the land so that grazing can continue sustainably. It’s a large part of what the organization works toward—recognizing the shades of gray on issues, not viewing everything as black and white. It’s trusting people who have used public lands for generations that they will take the responsibility to continue to keep the lands healthy for future generations.



Executive Director, Camilla Simon (foreground) with members of the HECHO advisory board.

(Continued page 14)



BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

by Katya Spiecker and Lisa Pool

CES STEWARDSHIP IN HIGH GEAR

Work continues in our Climate Education and Stewardship (CES) program after a successful rollout of presentations and projects by Broadbands at the start of the year. Everyone is excited to get out in the field together after so many months of being cooped up and interacting only on Zoom.

The Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broads organized three CES stewardship projects. Building on a project from last year, the chapter continued their road inventory work in the Ochoco National Forest. They used a phone app to photograph and document illegal routes and closed roads that were *still* being used by vehicles.

The Broadband began compiling this information to hold the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) accountable for monitoring and enforcing road closures and preventing the development of unauthorized routes. Vehicular use creates noise, pollution, and presents a wildlife mortality hazard. It alters water drainage, fragments habitat, and interrupts migration corridors. The ecological effects of a road extend up to 3,200 feet on either side, so it is vital to limit roads to only what is necessary.

Another project included restoration along the Middle Fork John Day River with the Middle Fork John Day Watershed Council and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Broads braved cool temperatures to plant cottonwoods along the icy river. Luckily there was plenty of campfire time with speakers from both organizations, as well as the Greater Hells Canyon Council. As usual, the partners were blown away by how much work these Broads accomplished, and want them to return in the fall for more restoration work along the Middle Fork.

The Bitterbrush Broads have a third project on the docket for this year—pulling invasive weeds to restore habitat along the North Fork Crooked River and its tributary, Deep Creek, in the Ochoco National Forest.



The Willamette Valley Broadband (OR) held a special campout event that included education and collaboration with staff from Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild, South Santiam Watershed Council, Friends of the Douglas-Fir National Monument, and the Sweet Home USFS Ranger District Interdisciplinary Team.

Participants learned field-checking to document conditions in proposed timber sale areas such as tree size and age, stream health, or sensitive species that might be affected by logging. By learning more about timber sales and how to monitor compliance, the event aimed to increase public involvement in larger land management processes, such as the Willamette National Forest Plan and the larger-scale Northwest Forest Plan.

This event brought together organizations and agencies—that occasionally find themselves on opposing sides—to build relationships, work together on common concerns, and discuss the important role forests play in ecosystems and sequestering carbon.

BROADS SUPPORT TOTEM POLE JOURNEY



In July, a beautiful 24-foot totem pole carved by the House of Tears Carvers of the Lummi Nation in northwest Washington made its final few stops on its way to Washington, D.C.

The Red Road to D.C., A Totem Pole Journey for the Protection of Sacred Places, was organized to bring awareness to the past and present injustices against Indigenous people and the need to protect sacred lands, waters, and wildlife threatened by dams, climate change, and extractive industries. The Totem Pole Journey will highlight the significance of Bears Ears National Monument, the Lower Snake River, Chaco Canyon, and other areas Broads have worked hard to protect.

Members and chapter leaders from Washington's North Olympic Peninsula and California's NorCal Broadbands were inspired by the call from the carvers of the Lummi Nation to stand united with them. Despite only a few weeks' notice, they





mobilized their networks and resources to support stops in their communities on the totem pole's Northwest and West Coast Tours. The Northern San Juan and South San Juan Broadbands of Colorado also hosted stops in Ridgway and Durango. Broads arranged city permits and AV equipment; wrote and distributed press releases; and reached out to supporters, local Indigenous communities, partners, and city officials. They arranged lodging, food, and other logistics to support the House of Tears Carvers and organizers leading the tour.

Stops on the tour included a ceremony where the totem artists spoke about the symbolism behind each carving on the pole, and discussed the need for collective action to protect and provide access to Indigenous sacred sites, waters, and lands.

The ceremonies deeply moved many who attended, fostering an upwelling of grassroots support for local Indigenous people who shared their histories. Through these activities, the totem pole “gathers and carries the spirit of the lands it visits and the power and prayers of communities along the way” of its journey.

The totem pole will be presented to President Biden and will be displayed at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Overall, nearly 1000 people attended the Broads-hosted events on the tour. Broads were honored to be a part of the sacred outpouring of prayers, to unite and empower those fighting to protect sacred places. Everyone involved expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to support the Lummi carvers on their journey.

Broads participated in additional stops at Bears Ears National Monument (UT), Chaco Culture National Historical Park (NM), and other stops along the way.

Learn more at <http://redroadtcdc.org>

MIDDLE PARK LAND SWAP

In mid-January, the Middle Park Colorado Broadband first learned about a proposed land exchange between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and a private developer that would impact Rollins Pass. Their primary concern: the USFS did not seem to be following proper protocols, and was potentially violating the public trust by neglecting to notify the public early in the process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Instead, the agency started the process by simply having the private developer contact certain people who would write letters of support.

Rollins Pass, roughly five miles east of Winter Park, Colorado along the Continental Divide at an elevation of 11,676 feet, is important historically, ecologically, and recreationally.

A beautiful meadow stretches across a high alpine valley surrounded by thick evergreen forests. Adjacent to the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas, there are remains



of 10,000-year-old Indigenous hunting blinds. The pass is the site of a standard-gauge railroad constructed and operated in the early 1900s—the highest route ever built in the United States. Today, it's a National Historic District, giving recreationists access to hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

The Middle Park Broads identified several detrimental impacts to the land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources, including habitat fragmentation and negative effects on populations of sensitive species. So, the Broads jumped into action before the official NEPA process even began. They contacted the local USFS office, reached out to other stakeholders such as the *Grand County Historical Association*, and then crafted a detailed letter expressing their concerns.

(Continued page 8)



Not long after the USFS received the letter, the land exchange proposal was dropped completely! Great job, Middle Park Broads, for being a watchdog for these important public lands and speaking out to stop sloppy decision-making processes.

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS LOBBYING

Our two California Broadbands—SoCal Broads and NorCal Broads—did an incredible amount of lobbying in the spring. As the new Congress was just getting rolling, the two Broadbands decided to build as much momentum as possible for four wilderness bills in California: the *Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act*; *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*; *San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills, and Rivers Protection Act*; and *Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act*.

Together these bills would protect 630,728 acres of public land as wilderness and 684 miles of streams as wild and scenic rivers. All four bills are widely supported in California, so the Broads amped up their lobbying efforts and communicated the importance of these wilderness bills to their members of Congress.

In early March, the Broads teamed up with the California Wilderness Coalition and several other environmental organizations for lobby meetings with California's congressional delegation. In early April, the two

Broadbands then held their own lobby meeting with U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA). Six members from their chapters joined the meeting, including four members who lobbied for the very first time!

In addition to the wilderness bills, they discussed other public lands issues including:

- Increasing funding for USFS and Bureau of Land Management to better restore and maintain public lands and recreation facilities.
- Building wildfire resilience while prioritizing the integrity of NEPA and other bedrock environmental laws.
- Stopping construction of the border wall to save biodiversity.
- *Transit to Trails Act* (S1461)
- *Outdoors for All Act*
- California's 30x30 initiative

On the eve of their first lobby meeting, the House passed the *Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act* (HR803), which included all four wilderness bills. Then, thanks to the momentum created through lobbying efforts and grassroots campaigning, Senator Alex Padilla introduced *The PUBLIC Lands Act*, which includes three of the four California wilderness bills.

Kudos to the California Broads!

Women for the Wild Campaign Update

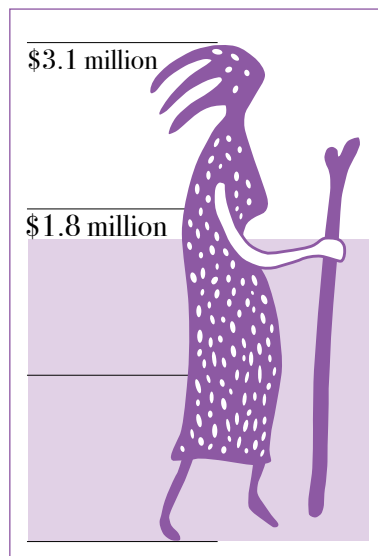
We need your wild heart!

When Broads kicked off the Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign at our 30th Anniversary Celebration in Sept 2019, we were certain we could meet our \$3.1 million dollar goal by the end of 2021. But, 2020 didn't pan out quite the way we had hoped and Broads, like everyone, had to change our trajectory to keep moving forward.

We connected with key supporters through Zoom and phone calls—but we missed being with you in person. We look forward to meeting for walks, hikes, coffee and lunch dates, afternoon teas—and at Broadwalk events, too!

To date we have received over \$1.85 million in donations from more than 1250 donors.

We have had gifts from \$3 to \$300,000 with more than 600 donations made by people who have never given to Broads before! We've also had 44 people give us gifts of \$1000 or more for the first time.



We are extending the Women for the Wild Campaign into 2022, and continuing to throw our full selves into the fight for the wild, by training and supporting women as leaders in public lands advocacy and stewardship. Broads will never lose sight of what we know to be true—that all life is inextricably linked and wholly dependent upon the natural world. Our leadership and involvement is essential!

Your contributions to the Campaign ensure that Broads' work will continue to grow. We are grateful for your commitment to America's wild public lands and waters. If you are interested in learning more about what we have achieved thus far, future goals,

and how you can help, please contact Kaye Berman at kaye@greatoldbroads.org.

To donate online visit <https://bit.ly/WildCCDonate>



by Lauren Berutich

I am absolutely blessed to live in a mountain town located right in the heart of it all—rivers, peaks, and the nearby desert. Just outside my door, I can enjoy miles of red dirt trail running, a mellow walk with my dog, or a hike to a pristine alpine lake. Getting outside fills me to the brim with pure joy, tranquility, peace, and a sense of grounding. I know many of you have also found solace and value in getting outdoors during the past year.

If you noticed that the trails were more crowded and campgrounds more full last year, it was not your imagination. Data shows Americans flocked to outdoor recreation in record numbers amid COVID restrictions. Colorado Parks and Wildlife reported a 30% increase in visitation from 2019 through

November 2020. U.S. Forest Service officials estimated a 50% increase in usage on lands they manage in Colorado, and the trends are similar in other states. This is great news for the tourism economy, local businesses, and individuals' health—but this craving for the outdoors comes with great consequences.

We are loving our trails and wild places to death. More users means more erosion (on and off trails), trash, and disturbance of wildlife, plants, and unique habitats. We must be better stewards to protect the places where we love to play. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, offers a guide of the best practices for minimal impact called *The 7 principles of Leave No Trace*.

Here are a few of the key guidelines to keep in mind and share with others. See: <https://lnt.org/why/7-principles>

STAY ON THE TRAIL!

Follow marked trails and camp in designated sites or areas to reduce your impact on the land.

Feeling the itch to make your own path? Think again! Social trails scar the landscape, harm native species, and compact or disturb soil (including living cryptobiotic soil).



Keep your group size and camp small to minimize impact.

When dispersed camping, choose a spot that has already been used where you'll have the least impact. Camp at least 200 feet away from lakes or streams.

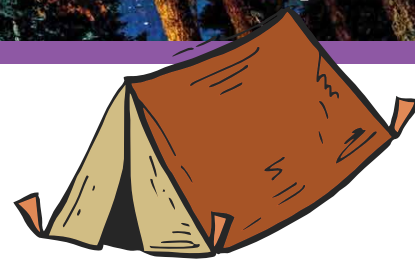
BE WASTE WISE!

Overuse of wild places means more trash, food scraps, and even abandoned gear! Pack it all out and leave the area cleaner than you found it.

It is important to deal with human waste according to area regulations. This is incredibly vital to avoid pollution of water sources, spread of disease, and to maximize the rate of decomposition. For example, in some areas it is recommended that you urinate in flowing rivers. In a forest setting, the best choice may be where the ground is covered by pine needles or gravel. Some areas require that you pack out



solid waste and used toilet paper. Do your research on the regulations before you go!



RESPECT THE WILD!

Learn about the biodiversity of your surroundings and the wildlife you may encounter. Avoid loud noises and quick or abrupt movements, which are stressful to wildlife and could trigger a defensive response. Observe and enjoy animals from a distance. Don't block access to water sources when you camp.

LOVE IT AND LEAVE IT!

Avoid moving dirt, harming vegetation, or adding fire rings. Never carve into trees and rocks, and educate others about these harmful and inappropriate actions. Finally, please be respectful of the history and culture of those that inhabited the lands before us. Cultural artifacts are protected by the *Archaeological Resources Protection Act* and it is absolutely illegal to remove or disturb any artifacts found on public lands.

It's up to us to ensure that as more people visit wild public lands, we do everything we can to minimize our impact and train the next generation of users to do the same.

Work with your local Broadband chapter or look for opportunities to get involved with monitoring and stewardship projects. Contact land management agencies to report unauthorized campsites or routes. Advocate for responsible management of areas where recreational activities could damage habitat or harm wetlands, streams, or cultural resources.

Together, we can increase our outdoor enjoyment and reduce our impact on the land.





THE BROADER WILDERNESS

by Lauren Berutich

ARCTIC REFUGE —PERMANENT PROTECTION OR BUST

President Joe Biden issued an executive order on the first day of his presidency that put a 60-day moratorium on all new oil and gas lease sales on federal lands. Additional orders have come from the Department of the Interior (DOI) to curtail oil and gas activities until the administration reviews environmental and financial impacts of leasing practices. This has slowed extractive activities across the country that were given free rein by the Trump administration. (The administration has been sued by an alliance of industry groups and by several states for this leasing pause, and Broads has legally intervened in support of the administration.)

On June 1, the DOI suspended all activities related to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) pending a full analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to determine environmental impact. Under a Secretarial Order, the DOI will “determine whether the leases should be reaffirmed, voided, or subject to additional mitigation measures.” Although this is a step in the right direction, protection of this important and rich wildlife refuge is NOT permanent.

The battle over the refuge continues as environmentalists, Indigenous and tribal communities, and the extractive industry debate whether to protect this pristine landscape or profit from it. Simultaneously, lawmakers face pressure from

factions with deep pockets lobbying to move forward with drilling.

You can make a difference. *The Arctic Refuge Protection Act of 2021 (S282)*, a bipartisan bill with over 30 co-sponsors, would protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness under the National Wilderness Preservation System. It will also safeguard the subsistence rights of Indigenous peoples, including the Gwich'in Tribe. However, this bill protects just a portion of the refuge.

Ask your elected officials to support this bill and support all future efforts to permanently protect the entire refuge. More at <https://bit.ly/ArcticProt>



SOAKING UP CARBON!

The Tongass National Forest is the nation's largest. Sprawling over 17-million acres and covering most of southeast Alaska, it surrounds the famous Inside Passage and offers unique opportunities to see eagles, bears, spawning salmon, and the beauty of Alaska. It is also one of the last remaining temperate rainforests in the world.

The Tongass serves as a massive carbon sink, and is quite possibly one of the greatest tools the planet has in combating global warming and the climate crisis. It is a source of clean water, provides critical salmon habitat, and is an important resource for the sustenance of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Nations. Additionally, visitation to the region bolsters the local tourism-related industry by up to a billion dollars a year.

While the Forest Service's website boasts of an ecosystem rich in biodiversity and of great ecological significance, even the agency is blocked from being the bottom line in deciding the future of the forest's protections.



In late fall of 2020, in what's known as his "midnight rule," President Trump reversed 20-year-old *Roadless Area Conservation Rule* protections to open up 9.3 million acres of the Tongass—more than half of this last great ecosystem—to logging and other forms of development. This included old-growth forest stands of red and yellow cedar, Sitka spruce, and Western hemlock.

In June, as part of its regulatory review process, the Biden administration announced that it would "repeal or replace"

the previous administration's actions, reinstate the roadless rule, and restore protections to the Tongass. While this is great news, history reminds us that the forest referred to as the "lungs of North America" is not guaranteed to breathe freely until permanent protections are in place.

Contact the DOI to show your support for the administration's efforts and advocate for permanent protection of the irreplaceable Tongass National Forest. <https://www.doi.gov/contact-us>

ADVOCACY WINS!

by Lisa Pool

AIR FORCE FLYOVERS FALL FLAT



Last year, Aldo's Silver City (NM) Broadband members wrote substantive comments to the U.S. Air Force on draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for F-16 training over the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas, Gila National

Forest, and surrounding rural communities.

The draft EIS proposed 10,000 overflights (some just 100 feet off the ground—as well as sonic booms, polluting chaff dumps, 15,000 flares simulating combat, and more! This completely disregarded the world's first designated wilderness area, the Gila Wilderness—a highly regarded backpackers' destination thanks to its varied landscapes and ecosystems, from mesas and mountains to deep canyons and sheer cliffs.

The Broadband also signed onto comments crafted by a large coalition of southwest New Mexico environmental groups. In January, the Air Force listened to this public concern, released their final EIS, and dropped their proposal to use that airspace.

PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR BWCA

We are celebrating the introduction of the *Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act* (HR2794) by U.S. Representative Betty McCollum of Minnesota. There are already 40 co-sponsors on the bill, and the list is growing. This bill would go beyond a 20-year moratorium—which is all the current administration would be able to do—and permanently ban sulfide-ore copper mining in the BWCA watershed.

Ever since we held our 2014 Broadwalk at the Boundary

Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) Wilderness in Minnesota, Broads' members across the country have advocated to stop the Twin Metals mine, a sulfide-ore copper mine that would operate on the edge of a lake that feeds directly into the Boundary Waters' watershed.

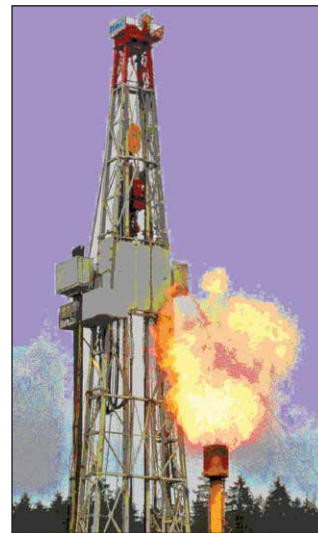
If your House rep is not yet a co-sponsor, ask them to get on board with this vital legislation. <https://bit.ly/HR2794>



METHANE RULES RESTORED!

Great news! The House and Senate voted—and President Biden signed legislation—to repeal a Trump-era rule that loosened restrictions (put into place by the Obama administration) on methane leaking, venting, and flaring. This is a tremendous win for the health of public lands and our planet. The subject of several Broads' email action alerts, members have spoken out on this issue for years.

Climate-warming carbon dioxide and methane levels reached record highs last year. Methane has more than 80 times the heat-trapping potential of carbon dioxide in the first 20 years after it escapes into the atmosphere. Curtailing methane leaks will also save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars each year by capturing gas, instead of wasting it.



BIODIVERSE LANDSCAPES ARE WORKING LANDS!

Unquestionably, private landowners play a key role in protecting biodiversity and climate. Conservation groups like Broads have long supported stewardship incentives and voluntary conservation measures, such as voluntary grazing retirements. Yet alarm bells start to ring for us when reading some statements in the report, such as (emphasis added), “This commitment includes a **clear recognition that maintaining ranching in the West—on both public lands and private lands—**



...a fearmongering campaign claims 30x30 has parallels to Stalin’s policies in the Ukraine that led to starvation of millions, swearing it will lead to private property seizures and the ruin of agriculture.

is essential to maintaining the health of wildlife, the prosperity of local economies, and an important and proud way of life.”

It seems the long-held power of the livestock industry has flexed its muscle again! With its heavy emphasis on “working lands”, the report ignores the drastic effects of historic and current grazing practices on biodiversity in the West. What’s truly missing is a mandate—with teeth—to ensure that grazing proceeds only with well-monitored practices that protect plant and wildlife habitat and make adjustment for lands stricken by drought and climate change. Ecologically-healthy lands are working lands—and they work for all living creatures!

SOVEREIGNTY & INVOLVEMENT

A focus on tribal sovereignty and priorities is a key component of the report, which we hope will gain much deserved attention under Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. The ATB report recognizes these lands are the former homelands of Indigenous people, who deserve an outsized role in protecting them.

BACKLASH: THE USUAL SUSPECTS

A Texas-based private property rights group, American Stewards of Liberty (ASL)—that aims to remove endangered species from federal protection—inflamed and organized opposition to

30x30 even before the ATB report was published. Some 24 county commissions across nine states—particularly Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, voted in anti-30x30 resolutions concocted by the anti-federal government organization. The ASL’s fearmongering campaign claims 30x30 has parallels to Stalin’s policies in the Ukraine that led to starvation of millions, swearing it will lead to private property seizures and the ruin of agriculture. According to the Center for Media and Democracy, the group is partly funded by the coal magnate Koch family.

Meanwhile, Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (R-CO), who disturbingly represents the district in which all of Broads’ staff members live, has introduced multiple amendments to the House Rules Committee to weaken public lands protections. One such amendment would nullify the executive order authorizing the 30x30 program, while another would prohibit temporary suspension of grazing permits and allow motorized vehicles in wilderness or potential wilderness for various livestock management objectives.

A MAJOR FOCUS

The mission of Broads is to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. We strive to conserve the lands and waters that protect the diversity of life on Earth at the local and national level on a daily basis. With an ambitious goal elevated to an urgent priority through White House policy and the demands of the crisis at hand, it is time to get in gear.

With our direct and focused engagement, the U.S. can be a model for biodiversity and climate protection—America the Beautiful, from sea to shining sea.

HAVEN'T HEARD FROM US LATELY?

Do we have your current email address? We don't want you to miss a thing! Just shoot us an email at broads@greatoldbroads.org and we'll get you back on the list.



Act Now to Make 30x30 Truly Beautiful!

Let's work to make sure that America the Beautiful succeeds and meets 30x30 objectives. We encourage our Broadbands, members, and supporters to:

Combat misinformation

The 30x30 concept is well-loved by Americans.

A 2019 Center for American Progress poll found 86% of U.S. voters in favor, while a 2021 Colorado College poll shows 77% of voters in western states support a national 30x30 goal. Over 50 federally recognized tribes have stated support for the goal, and more than 450 state and local leaders from 43 states signed an open letter in support.

30x30 relies on science.

There's broad scientific agreement on what must be conserved to protect the loss of nature. This includes analysis from over 15,000 scientific publications. Human existence depends on nature, and it's up to people to reverse the degradation of ecosystem function.

There will be no "land grab."

Private land conservation will be voluntary. Conservation incentive programs have proven extremely popular with landowners, and programs often cannot keep up with the application demand. Designation of federal protected areas will not lock up public lands. In fact, increasing equitable access is a key part of the plan. 30x30 is designed for flexibility and significant local involvement in every community, county, and state.

Be a voice for nature

Educate yourselves, your community, and your legislators on the essential role healthy ecosystems play in reducing carbon emissions and promoting community well-being. The Biden

administration has acknowledged the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crisis. Our job is to provide the backing legislators need to put these ideas fully into action.

Don't be silent; be active, informed, and outspoken!

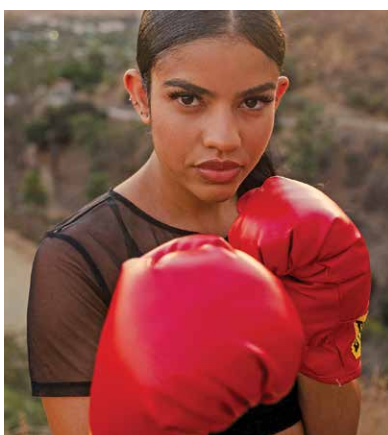
Refine the count to 30%

The ATB report section *Measuring Progress for Nature and People* encourages feedback, particularly on 1) recognizing the "co-benefits of working lands or areas managed for multiple use" and 2) the "quality and durability of conservation outcomes." So-called "working landscapes" must truly work for biodiversity and climate mitigation. The economic value of intact forests, grasslands, wetlands, and oceans far exceeds that of ranching or farming when you consider the value of water and air quality improvement, storm and flood protection, and carbon sequestration.

Contact Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor at the White House (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>), to recommend that lands counted toward the 30x30 goal fit the USGS Gap 1 and Gap 2 Protected Areas definitions (see cover story, Science or Access) and that "working landscapes" are landscapes that truly work for biodiversity and climate.

Resources

- USGS Gap 1 & Gap 2 explained: <https://bit.ly/Gap1-2>
- 30x30 Facts vs. Fiction: <https://bit.ly/30x30FF>



"Broads is a national organization with a local feel. As a small organization, it consistently punches above its weight."

— Tim D. Peterson
Cultural Landscapes Director, Grand Canyon Trust
and Member, Broads' Council of Advisors



COMBINING OUR EFFORTS

We share many common campaigns with HECHO, such as protecting the Grand Canyon from uranium mining, expanding wildlife corridors, and advocating for the *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful* plan (see cover story).

Another shared topic is the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). HECHO dedicated a lot of advocacy time toward gaining authorization and full funding for the program. Their efforts continue as they work toward reform related to the distribution of LWCF funds. There is a disproportionate impact on poorer communities and tribes that struggle to come up with the required 50% match when requesting LWCF funding for projects.

Looking deeper at how policy plays out and affects a community as a whole is important to bringing equity and justice to conservation efforts. And, placing emphasis on listening to all sides of an issue is often a way to find common ground and shared values.

Learn more about HECHO at their website (www.hechoonline.org) and help support their campaigns by subscribing to their newsletter, signing up for action alerts, and joining or donating. Let's multiply our conservation voice and work together for our mutual goals to protect our wild public lands.

** We met Camilla when Broads' Executive Director Shelley Silbert asked her to serve on a webinar panel about women's leadership. Camilla had previously met one of Broads' founders, Ginger Harmon, who had befriended Camilla's grandmother at their retirement community.*

Hispanic, Latino/Latina, or Latinx?

Hispanic refers to those with ancestry from Spain and Latin American Spanish-speaking countries, while **Latino** refers to people from Latin American countries that were formerly colonized by Spain or Portugal.

Latinx - In recent years, the term Latinx has gained popularity. Latinx is the gender-neutral or non-binary term for Latino/Latina. However, a Pew Research Center survey showed only 3% of Latinos use the term, and it is relatively unknown to the population it's meant to describe.

Are you Latino/Latina, and what term do you prefer?

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!

Want to support our work? Remember every gift—big or small—counts toward our Women for the Wild Campaign. 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>



Back by popular demand!

SEPTEMBER SUSTAINER SPECIAL



In honor of **National Public Lands Day** on September 25, we are proud to team up once again with Elsewhere Candle Company for a sweet-smelling offer that's too good to pass up.

From September 1-30, all **NEW** sustaining members (minimum of \$5/month) will receive a code for your choice of a **FREE** national park-inspired candle from Boulder, Colorado-based Elsewhere Candle Company.

You can enjoy your national park candle knowing your sustaining membership will help Broads fight for America's public lands for years to come.



exacerbated scene, and the fact that many new adventurers haven't a clue about their impact—or the regulations.

A new U.S. Forest Service report shows an 18% increase in visits to national forests and grasslands in 2020 compared to 2019, with the largest surge a whopping 25% at recreation sites and wilderness. It's enough to make a public land lover shudder, while hoping against hope that a portion of these campers will become advocates for land and water protection.

SATELLITES UP, BOONDOCKING ON

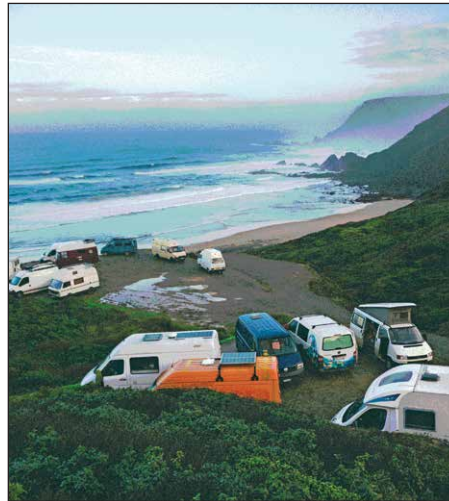
Camping on Arizona's San Pedro River, I peered through the tent mesh and... what?? My pre-dawn mind couldn't make sense of a baffling line of bright stars moving across the sky, seven in a row, then five, and a pause, then another string of moving, glowing pearls. Was this a new border surveillance tool? UFOs?

Nope, just Elon Musk's dream of universal internet. SpaceX began launching satellite constellations in 2019, with 1,800 now in orbit and permits applied for 30,000 more. As a comparison, only 11,670 have launched since the first Sputnik satellite in 1957, with 70% remaining active.

Soon you can be your own modem cowboy, from the comfort of your Sprinter van! Such connectivity might increase safety, reach underserved populations, and even make monitoring remote lands easier. But what of the impact to the night sky, our solitude, and self-reliance? What will this mean

for wilderness, which once was free of human technology, let alone the effect on dark skies, astronomy research, and space debris? What of our wild spirit?

No doubt about it, the changes I've witnessed in my lifetime have



strengthened my resolve as an Old Broad. Since I was ten, we've lost one in four birds in North America. People are crawling the landscape in every form of conveyance. Triple the number of satellites will soon be launched than are now in the sky. The loss, the grief, the hope, the wonder, and the commitment all meld within me. Like alloy steel, it makes me more resistant, tough, and durable to continue the fight.

Gather that strength and use it, Great Old Broads!

* *Boondocks* derives from a Tagalog term for mountain, brought back by military veterans returning from the Philippines. Converted to a verb today, it means camping without electric, water, or sewer hook-ups, aka dispersed camping. 🌀

WHAT'S A WILDERNESS LOVER TO DO?

Human impact is endless and expanding. This is the pandemic we are. Sometimes it's hard to stay motivated, but Broads don't throw in the towel. We make good work of it—supporting designation of protected lands; restoring habitat; reducing impact through monitoring, advocacy, and litigation; and advocating for adaptive management and policy change when faced with previously unknown impacts and technologies.

Here are a few ways to address long existing and newfangled crises:

- **Save our shorebirds and seas.** Get involved in coastal restoration, education, and monitoring projects. Advocate for improved coastal planning, better beach management, and reduced disturbance. Support legislation to protect oceans, like the *Ocean-based Climate Solutions Act* and *Blue Carbon Protection Act*.
- **Advocate for agency funding.** Forest Service staffing has been slashed by half since 1992, while public use has skyrocketed. Tell your legislators to increase federal agency budgets to address climate change and biodiversity, while increasing recreation management and enforcement of laws.
- **Educate new visitors about public lands.** Support agency outreach. One positive trend: The Forest Service report shows that among new campers, there's a growing number of people of color. Work for equitable access and build partnerships with organizations led by people of color. Polls show that people of color have a high propensity to support public land protection.
- **Get involved in land management planning,** and let agencies know you're paying attention. The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Volunteer to help with signage, visitor counts, and other needed assistance. Speak up for proper use of public lands, support science-based approaches, and point out when the agency's own rules are not being followed.

"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction."

—Rachel Carson





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Linda from the Southwest Utah Broadband
cleans up graffiti on public lands (!!!)



Join or Renew Today!

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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