



Shelley Silbert



Everyday
I see or hear
something
that more or less
kills me
with delight,
that leaves me
like a needle
in the haystack
of light.
It was what I was
born
for –
to look, to listen,
to lose myself
inside this soft
world –
to instruct myself
over and over
in joy,
and acclamation.

– Mary Oliver

From the poem
“Mindful,”
Why I Wake Early,
Beacon Press, 2005



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Action is the Antidote

Through these long days of summer, I’ve walked in mountains and along rivers crooning at the delight of life unfurled in so many forms. This same enchantment drives me to observe the rhythms of nature from the deck of my home or from my office window. Like Mary Oliver, I lose myself inside this soft world. A hike in nature makes my heart sing and sway.

Yet far too frequently of late, I find myself plagued by the dark underbody of wonder, the constant reminder of nature’s force when we upset the balance. The wildfire smoke in the air is not just a nuisance or a health hazard, but an insistent message: we’re losing forests, rivers are drowning in silt and ash, and homes are devastated—human and animal alike. The hurricanes, flooding, rising seas, and drought—further evidence of an overheated world, its equilibrium askew.

Yet even as we feel grief and anguish, we must hold tight to beauty and hopefulness and never lose our drive to protect our beloved Earth. It behooves us to channel Joan Baez, who said in a 1983 *Rolling Stone* interview, “Action is the antidote to despair.”

In August, Olympic National Park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum made clear just how important we are as citizen activists when she spoke at our Broadwalk in Sequim, WA. Creachbaum carries a lot on her shoulders as the decision maker on 922,651 acres (95% designated as Wilderness!), including 3,000 miles of rivers and 73 miles of coast. As she spoke passionately about conservation champions like Rosalie Edge, she reminded us that it takes ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. Sarah looked squarely at our assembled group and stated, “The only thing that stands between me and a bad decision...is YOU.”

When we later hiked to the site of the former Glines Canyon Dam with Barb Maynes, retired Public Information Officer for the Olympic National Park, we witnessed how actions of individuals led to the successful Elwha River restoration. Among the largest dam removal projects ever, the removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams and restoration of the Elwha

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THE POWER OF SEASONED ADVOCATES!

Bill McKibben’s recent *New Yorker* column, “The Answer to Climate Change is Organizing,” rolls out a new effort to be sure “experienced Americans” are pulling their weight “in defense of environmental sanity and economic and racial fairness.” McKibben notes Great Old Broads among two organizations mobilizing older generations. It’s the utmost honor to receive recognition from such an environmental hero!

<https://bit.ly/NYMckK>



BROADWALK RECAPS!

It was so exciting to get back into the wild with everyone!

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Moo-ving and a shaking and lobbying for the wild.

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THE BROADER WILDERNESS

Greenwashing, oil & gas leases, and stagnant monument restoration.

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Broadwalk Recaps!

by Alyssa Rainbolt and Susan Kearns

MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU BROADWALK

Under a canopy of old-growth trees in August, 45 Broads from across the country reunited at last for the first Broadwalk since the pandemic began. We like to think the long wait made for a little extra Broads' magic at the May the Forest Be With You Broadwalk in Sequim, Washington.



A Broadwalker embraces an old-growth tree on the Olympic Peninsula.

We kicked off the event with four stewardship partners doing critical work on the Olympic Peninsula: North Olympic Land Trust, Olympic National Park, the Matt Albright Native Plant Nursery, and the North Olympic Salmon Coalition. From beach cleanups to trail maintenance to river restoration, we got our hands dirty and earned our first happy hour.

A stacked lineup of presentations, including Jamestown Sklallam Tribe's Director of Natural Resources Hansi Hals, Superintendent of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Carol Bernthal and Olympic National Park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum, solidified a sense of responsibility for protecting the land and water of the Olympic Peninsula.

Activities such as herb walks with local herbalists, guided tours of the Elwha River restoration post-dam removal, and sea kayaking on the Strait of Juan de Fuca connected Broads to their inspiring surroundings.

Armed with a powerful experience and an empowering advocacy training, Broads left the Broadwalk ready to fight

to see the *Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* (HR 999) passed in the Senate. The bill would designate 126,661 acres of Olympic National Forest as Wilderness and create 19 new Wild and Scenic Rivers.

In true Broadwalk fashion, there was plenty of laughter, silliness, choreographed song and dance by the Board, and no shortage of Broads' magic. Thanks to all who made the trek to the beautiful Olympic Peninsula for making our first Broadwalk back a huge success!

THE MAINE REASON TO ACT BROADWALK

More than 40 members took Hurricane Island by storm in August, experiencing a place locals call "the real Maine". We journeyed by boat from the mainland to a lush, green, rugged,

(Continued next page!)



Broadwalkers in Washington bundled up for evening speaker (name) who blah blah and talks about blah blah. Broadwalkers bundled up for evening speaker (name) who blah blah and talks about blah blah.



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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.



Broadwalk Recaps! (continued)

and rustic island that was once home to a granite quarrying operation.

Our hosts at the Hurricane Island Science Center offered up unique activities (beyond spectacular hikes and scenery) and fun stewardship projects. We sorted, counted, and measured “spats” (baby scallops), went lobstering, wrote quantum physics poetry, studied plankton through a microscope,



picked wildflowers, and jumped off docks. Nor’easter Broads leadership team member Theo Pratt was on hand to provide her expertise on water monitoring techniques, and we sorted an enormous amount of ocean

trash—buoys, rope, plastic bottles, and shoes—that had washed ashore.

We learned how climate change has caused ocean waters off Maine to warm at an alarming pace, forcing species to move north to cooler waters. This has significantly affected valued fishing waters and the fishing industry, ocean biodiversity, shipping routes, and the endangered North Atlantic right whale.

Bill Mook, a pioneer in the oyster farming industry, spoke to us about the importance of clean coastal waters to shellfish production. He recognized how the industry could be an important voice for change, so he organized shellfish farms



Broads sort “spats” on the Hurricane Island dock.

to join together with The Nature Conservancy to form the Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition.

David Abel shared his film, *Entangled*, which explores the danger presented by lobster lines that entangle and kill sea animals such as the right whale. There is intense friction between the lobstering industry and environmentalists—and the National Marine Fisheries strives to bring balance and solutions that serve both. The film shared current efforts to develop affordable floatation devices for lobster traps that would eliminate the millions of deadly trap lines off the Atlantic coast.

The advocacy portion of the event focused on the *SAVE Right Whales Act* (S 2453), which would fund programs and projects to prevent the extinction of the North Atlantic right whales. With only about 350 remaining, there’s very little time left to protect this iconic species from complete extermination.

You can help by contacting the Senate Commerce Science and Transportation (CST) and House Natural Resources and Budget (NRB) Committees and ask them to support the *SAVE Right Whales Act*.

Contact info—CST: <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/>
NRB: <https://naturalresources.house.gov/contact/contact-us>



THE BROADS' STORY PROJECT

Board member Suez Jacobson interviews Broads

and shares their amazing stories about memorable outdoor adventures that have inspired them or bring solace when times get tough (like Covid lockdown).

These stories are sure to bring a smile, a tear or two and are guaranteed to warm your heart.

Listen at <https://bit.ly/GOBStories>

2022 T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST



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

Send us your black-on-white design inspired by America’s public lands and waters.

The winning design will appear on the back of the 2022 Broads member t-shirts.

All who join or renew at the \$100 level or greater will receive a 2022 member t-shirt!

DEADLINE: Nov. 5, 2022

For more info, visit: <https://bit.ly/2022Btee>



BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

by Jason Vaughn

MOO-VING CATTLE OFF WILDERNESS

If you look at America's public land, you're likely to see more cows than wildlife. Livestock grazing occurs on more than 250,000,000 acres of public land managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. To put that figure in perspective, that represents an area roughly the size of Texas and New Mexico combined.

The cost of grazing on public lands is staggering—each year the federal government spends more than \$100 million in direct subsidies for livestock grazing on public lands. But ranchers only pay a pittance of \$1.35 a month to graze one cow and calf or 5 sheep or goats on federal public lands. The same cost to graze on private lands ranges from \$8 to \$23.

Improperly managed public-lands grazing is one of the most destructive uses for wild public lands imaginable. Grazing livestock can denude a landscape of native plant species while hastening the spread of invasive species and wrecking the habitat of native wildlife. But a major impact of grazing can be felt on wetlands and streams, where cattle herds can compress topsoil, muddy and warm streams, and cause serious erosion on river banks—leading to water quality issues for nature and communities downstream.

The stress on these delicate ecosystems is compounded by climate change—as weather patterns change, water becomes scarcer, and the opportunities for ecosystems to recover become more uncertain.

And that's why Broads have led the fight for responsible grazing policies on public lands throughout the west. In southwestern Colorado, the South San Juan Broads are monitoring grazing in the Hermosa Creek watershed, which was severely burned in 2018 by the devastating 416 Fire. The blaze scorched over 52,000 acres in the San Juan National Forest and the Hermosa Creek Wilderness Area just north of Durango, destroying much of the forest and the vegetation, leaving it vulnerable to severe erosion. Now that post-fire

grazing has returned to the area, the threat to Hermosa Creek—a main tributary of the Animas River—is greater than ever.

The South San Juan Broads have undertaken a number of steps to protect Hermosa Creek and the public lands in the

area from damage from livestock grazing, including inspection hikes, site surveys, frequent meetings with federal officials, and numerous advocacy events to raise awareness of the importance of the watershed.

In southwest New Mexico, the Aldo's Silver City Broads have similarly been working to protect grasslands and riparian areas in the rugged Gila National Forest, which includes the Mogollon Mountains and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness

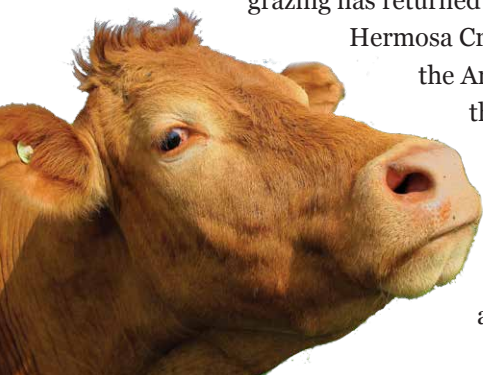


Silver City Broads monitoring grazing along Cienega Creek. Notice the moonscape-like lack of vegetation and the trampled soil in the foreground along the creek.

Area. The Silver City Broads have been focusing on grazing issues in their local area following a high-profile 2020 court case against the Gila National Forest over mismanagement of riparian areas, as well as numerous reports of feral cattle damaging the heart of the wilderness area.

Today, the Silver City Broads—working with Gila National Forest—perform routine monitoring of areas that are supposed to be off-limits to cattle, keeping an eye out not just for unauthorized grazing but for signs of illegal vehicle use and invasive species. And it's working: after Broads reported open gates and unauthorized cattle in the Gila Bird Area, the Forest Service fixed the gate and increased their own monitoring of the area.

Broadband leadership says that it's taken time, patience, and effort, but a mutual respect and partnership has grown between the Forest Service and themselves over the past year. They plan to continue their efforts to help the Forest Service regulate unauthorized grazing and to explore even more extraordinary riparian areas in the Gila Mountains.



BROADBANDS ELEVATE SILENCED VOICES

Across the nation, Broadbands have been working to raise the voices of communities who have often been excluded from the environmental movement—but who have also been among the first to feel the impact of environmental damage.

The Northern San Juan Broadband in Ridgeway, Colorado, takes a proactive approach to addressing this vital need for equity and justice in the environmental movement. According to Broadband Leader Robyn Cascade, they have been working with local groups like Hispanic Affairs Project on engaging their membership with the outdoors, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute tribes on the current Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forest (GMUG) plan revision.

Robyn says that building trust and rapport with these and other organizations and groups can be a slow process, especially as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has made in-person meetings and events difficult.

“The journey is slow during the pandemic as we realize in-person relationship building is preferable to email or phone,” notes Robyn. “But we are not discouraged.”

She says that it’s an important process, both for Broads and the conservation movement in general, to make sure the organization is welcoming and inclusive of diverse populations. It’s important that marginalized voices are not only at the table but also become decision-makers related to public lands policy and management, and that Broads’ work as conservationists includes equitable access to public lands and space for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) partners to lead.



Members of the Northern San Juan Broadband discuss the GMUG forest plan at the 2021 Ridgeway Riverfest.

“We have so much to learn about how to best to reach out to folks who are not currently represented in our organization, how to welcome and engage them in our work, and how to embrace their talents and passions to help lead our organization,” adds Robyn. “I think there is lots of room for us to learn to be vulnerable and uncomfortable, to

know this is a journey of life-long learning and engagement, self-reflection and addressing past and present harm, knowing how to apologize and repair harm, and continuing to move forward in spite of the discomfort.”

BROADS PRESS FOR ACTION

Our Broadbands have stepped up to advocate for America’s wilderness and public lands this year by lobbying the federal government to pass meaningful environmental and conservation legislation.



The Book Cliffs near Green River, Utah. One of the areas that would be protected by the America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act.

For example, the Southwest Utah Broadband and the Rio Grande Valley Broadband have been lobbying Congress to pass the *America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act*. This bill (HR 3780 and S 1535)—which is currently awaiting action in both the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee—would designate a sizable portion of federal land in Utah as Wilderness, permanently protecting it from mining and natural resource extraction.

The areas that would be set aside by this legislation include Great Basin, Grand Staircase-Escalante, Moab-La Sal Canyons, Henry Mountains, Glen Canyon, San Juan-Anasazi, Canyonlands Basin, San Rafael Swell, and Book Cliffs and Unita Basin.

Jane Stewart of the Southwest Utah Broads met with staffers from several members of Congress over the spring to push for support for this important bill, while Susan Ostlie from the Rio Grande Valley Broads spoke to staffers for Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), a co-sponsor of the bill in the Senate.

Broads also worked with the Endangered Species Coalition on August 19th for a day of lobbying as part of the Coalition’s “Stop Extinction Challenge.” The annual event is a day where people from around the nation meet with their representatives in Congress to advocate for threatened and endangered species.

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Di Allison and Janifer Larson, co-leaders of the Greater Wasatch Broads in Utah along with Laura Glismann of Nevada's Blue Diamond Broads joined representatives from the Endangered Species Coalition and the Western Wildlife Conservancy to talk to staffers for U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Sen. Catharine Cortez Masto (D-NV) to support the Extinction Prevention Act of 2021 (S 1728), which would create permanent funds to conserve critically-endangered plant, insect, and fish species across the United States and U.S.-controlled Pacific Islands.

Di says that it's important to do your homework before meeting with congressional staffers. She said they researched the background of Romney's staffer beforehand to get a sense of how to approach the meeting.

Supporting Advocacy & Litigation

by Kaye Berman

The Women for the Wild Fundraising Campaign is approaching a major milestone as we near the \$2 million mark of our \$3.1 million goal. Thanks to all who have donated so far!

Not only are we meeting immediate needs with these funds, we are also making progress on our campaign goals. For example, we recently completed an organizational plan to advance equity and justice that includes goals for every program, department, and activity. In November, 17 members will be trained to lobby and will meet with elected officials in Washington, D.C. to press for wilderness designation and increased public lands protections.

Giving to the campaign, through a one-time gift or a three-year pledge helps us achieve program, annual, and capital goals. One of our key program goals is to increase advocacy for wild lands. To meet that need, we established the Ginger Harmon Wild Land Advocacy Fund.

As a founder, early board member, and current active member who helped frame the personality of Broads, Ginger Harmon is dedicated to protecting wild Utah landscapes and beyond.

"Spending time in wild places and working for their preservation and protection has been basic to my entire life—second only to my family in importance," says Ginger.

She invented the concept of "wilderness tithing"—a commitment to give a portion of income and assets each year to the public lands we love. And so she has—as a long-time advocate and unfaltering supporter of many conservation organizations, including Broads.

"It's the first time I've ever done research on the actual staff person I'd be talking with," said Di. "It provides an opportunity to make a connection with this valuable person who ultimately will determine what they do or do not share with their boss from our lobby conversation."

"The idea that each critically endangered species be given its own budget and its own team for recovery is an idea that has been long needed," said Laura. "As a member of the Baby Boomer generation, who was present for the creation of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, it is a tremendous relief to see the new generations of eco-minded activists to take up the torch and continue the fight for the Earth's health." 🌱



Perhaps you are ready to step up to "wilderness tithing" to honor the legacy of an early founder and steadfast broad with a contribution to the Ginger Harmon Wild Land Advocacy Fund. Simply identify your contribution with the fund's name. And if you want to include a card or message for Ginger, we will pass it on to her with pleasure!

Gifts to the "Ginger Fund" help us:

- Hire an Advocacy Manager to develop and pursue advocacy campaigns, strategically prepare Broads for legal action, and collaborate with conservation partners.
- Expand training for members in effective lobbying techniques and offer travel scholarships to Washington, D.C. for advocates to speak to elected officials on behalf of public lands and waters.
- Cover the costs of litigation as a critical tool to achieve long-lasting public land protections, such as protecting old growth trees, roadless areas, monuments, natural quiet, and more.

If you are interested in learning more about the Campaign please call Kaye Berman at (303) 667-5433 or email kaye@greatoldbroads.org.



To donate, visit: <https://bit.ly/W4WFall21> or return your contribution in the envelope inserted in this newsletter.



by Lauren Berutich

The other day, I heard a knock on the front door of the Broads' office. I was pleased to see two smiling Broads stopping by to say hello as they passed through town. Yes! An opportunity to connect, elbow bump, and share wild, wide-eyed excitement for the work we share together as passionate advocates for public lands protections.

To my surprise, one of them asked, "Are we really making a difference? I mean, looking at the big picture, do our voices really matter?" This Broad is as active as they get. Writing letters, speaking at public events, volunteering

on the border—so you could imagine I was caught off guard by her honest questioning of the effectiveness of the work we do.

If you've ever been to one of my trainings, my reaction wouldn't surprise you too much. I immediately responded, "Of course you are making a difference! Every. Single. Day. Every action! Don't ever stop trying. You matter. We need you."

She became my teacher at that moment. I realized I could do a better job articulating our value as change makers and sharing success stories. For example, you may recall the controversial and sneaky decision made by the U.S. Forest Service in the fall of 2019 to approve chainsaw use on all trails in two southwestern Colorado Wilderness areas. This was in response to increased downed trees and obstructed trails due to beetle kill. However, this breach of policy is illegal and unnecessary, as shown by nearly 60 years of successful trail clearing in designated wilderness using crosscut saws.

The South San Juan Broadband started a wave of opposition through calls, emails, letters, and meetings. Ultimately, Broads and two other conservation groups sued the Forest Service to challenge the decision. Meanwhile, the Broadband trained crosscut saw volunteers and coordinated manual removal of downed trees. After we filed a preliminary injunction to keep chainsaws out of wilderness and uphold the integrity of the Wilderness Act, the regional forester rescinded his decision to allow chainsaws and committed to better communication with respect to trail maintenance in wilderness areas.

Another example...across the nation activists have taken to the streets to urge immediate action on the climate crisis—from calling for no new oil and gas lease sales to tightening and enforcing clean air and water regulations. Broads joined an estimated 6 million people in marches, toting signs and dressed in costumes—to be heard, and to be seen. President Biden listened, and on his first day in office, he signed a series of executive orders (EO) to prioritize climate change across all levels of government. While this was a good start, we have a lot of work ahead of us to ensure real change occurs. Although one EO paused new oil and gas leases on public lands, in August, a federal court decision required the BLM to resume lease sales. (The Department of Justice is appealing the decision and Broads has filed litigation to support the leasing pause.)

Why is democratic engagement more important today than ever before?

In January 2021, when President Biden was sworn into office, the political environment significantly shifted. Many expected this would be the golden opportunity to restore Trump-era rollbacks, pass aggressive legislation to deal with climate change, and address justice and equity through a social and environmental lens. Yet, realistically there is only a two-year window, and time is moving quickly.

Are you sitting down? A total of 469 seats in the U.S. Congress (34 Senate seats and all 435 House seats) are up for election on November 8, 2022. In the Senate, those 34 seats up for grabs consist of 14 held by Dems and 20 by Republicans.

(Continued page 11)



Photo: Carole McWilliams

*Every.
Single.
Day.
Every action!*



THE BROADER WILDERNESS

by Jason Vaughn

STUDY SHOWS POSSIBILITIES OF RENEWABLES, BUT BEWARE OF "GREENWASHING"

A new study from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) shows that the nation can get 40% of its electricity from solar power by 2035, which would go a long way toward the Biden administration's stated goal of net-zero emissions by the year 2050.

According to the DOE's Solar Futures Study, the steps the U.S. would need to take to achieve this 40% target include installing 30 gigawatts of solar capacity per year between now and 2025, and 60 gigawatts per year between 2025 and 2030. The study calls for improved tools for solar power including storage capability, microgrids, and better usage forecasting. A solar energy program this size would provide electricity to every American home and could provide up to 1.5 million new jobs.

But this plan needs federal investment and acreage—and lots of it—to work. Studies show that meeting the White House renewable energy goal would mean dedicating an area roughly twice the size of New Jersey exclusively for solar power generation. In August, the Department of Interior announced a new process to make it easier for renewable energy providers to access public lands for the construction of solar farms.

Meanwhile, the coal industry is pressing forward with the concept of "carbon capture", whereby carbon dioxide is captured from coal-fired electrical plants before it can escape into the atmosphere. The state of Wyoming, where coal is every bit as much of the culture as cowboys, has invested tens of

millions of dollars into this technology. Which sounds great in theory—it would allow for the continued use of coal, while still heading for zero emissions.

But in reality, it's another example of "greenwashing"—where the fossil fuel industry invests more time and energy into public relations that make them look like part of a climate solution than they do to develop actual climate solutions. According to the Energy Justice Network, most large-scale carbon capture facilities in Wyoming simply sell their captured CO₂ to be injected back into the ground as a way to increase the productivity of oil fields, which in turn creates even more CO₂, with most of it ending up in the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas.

Ultimately, the only good, safe place for fossil fuels is to keep them in the ground, forever buried and completely undisturbed.

Contact your congressional representative and the White House to let them know that you support real renewable energy development and not fossil fuel industry "greenwashing."

COURT ORDERS OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM TO RESUME

In a major setback in the fight against climate change, the Biden administration has announced that oil and gas leasing program will resume, with an auction on leases in the Gulf of Mexico set to start as soon as October.

In June, a federal judge ordered the Department of Interior to end its months-long pause in oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters.

The DOI had paused the leasing program in January pending a study on the impact to the environment and the value of the program to taxpayers—a process that the DOI says will continue despite the ruling. In August, 13 states filed a motion to force the DOI into action on the court order, prompting the



CONTACT INFORMATION

House of Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

White House: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/write-or-call/>

DOI action.

In accordance with the order, in addition to the off-shore leases, the Bureau of Land Management has already begun listing parcels of public land for potential sale, which will be followed by a public comment period with final sales set for December.

This is disastrous news for anyone who cares about climate change, clean air, clean water, wildlife, and the environment in general. We should be keeping fossil fuels in the ground, not making them more available for extraction.

Contact the BLM during the public comment period to let them know that you oppose any new oil and gas leases on public lands and waters. In addition, let your congressional delegation know that legislation is urgently needed to permanently halt oil and gas leases on our public lands.

STILL WAITING ON THE MONUMENTS

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland has recommended that three national monuments that were drastically impacted by the Trump administration—Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine—be fully restored to their previous size and protection status. But in the roughly nine months since taking office there hasn't been any movement by President Biden, despite his election promises to do so. We hope by the time this Broadside reaches your mailboxes, we will see full restoration!

Created in 2016 by President Barack Obama, Bears Ears National Monument originally covered over 1.3 million acres across southeast Utah, protecting an incredible high desert landscape and rich Indigenous cultural history from coal and natural gas exploitation. But the Trump administration removed over a million acres from the monument, leaving it exposed to potential oil and gas development. Nearby Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, also in Utah, was shrunk from over 1.8 million acres down to roughly 1 million acres. Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, located about 130 miles off of Cape Cod in the Atlantic Ocean and created to protect countless endangered fish and marine species, was opened up to commercial fishing by President Trump in 2020.

On his first day in office, President Biden signed an executive order directing the heads of all federal agencies to review every

policy adopted during the Trump administration that impacted public health, environmental protection, conservation of public lands and monuments, environmental justice, and climate change.

Accordingly, Sec. Haaland reviewed the policies and made recommendations to restore the monuments' previous boundaries and protections.

And yet nothing has changed—the monuments still cover only a fraction of their previous size, and the protections for endangered species are still missing. What's the hold up?

Contact the White House today and demand that immediate action be taken to restore these monuments to their original size and purpose, and that the administration explore a path to providing permanent protection.

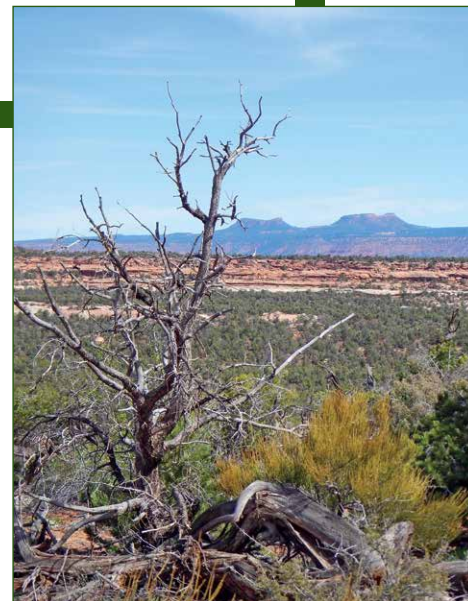
INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE NEEDS TO BE GREENER

Congress continues debate on a proposed \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill, and while there are some good aspects to the proposed legislation, it falls short in many others—especially as it relates to climate change.

On the plus side, the package passed by the House includes legislation that would direct federal agencies to develop a national wildlife corridor system on public land, as well as create a \$50 million per year wildlife movement grant program and a database of wildlife corridors. The corridors will be designed to minimize the collisions between cars and wildlife that, by some estimates, kills some 200 people and more than one million large animals each year.

“Simply providing wildlife the opportunity to move across lands and waters is one of the simplest and most effective ways to help preserve the many species in the U.S. at risk of

(Continued page 11)



River has taken decades of commitment from people who came to work each day and refused to give up. The determination of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe drove the effort, with the dogged resolve of scientists, conservationists, agency personnel, politicians, local residents, and more. The connection of the Tribe to their homeland cannot be overstated as they fought unstintingly for a resolution that would benefit future generations of all species.



Caption about this...the Elwha basin rewilding or something like that.

Before the two dams were completed in 1913 and 1927 to power a voracious timber industry, the Elwha flowed freely through massive forests. The river supported some of the densest salmon runs outside of Alaska, with ten types of anadromous fish—those that spend their adult lives at sea, migrating to freshwater to spawn. Appallingly, dam construction did not include fish passage (structural additions that allow fish to migrate past dams to complete their lifecycle) despite such technology being patented and approved a century before in 1837. The dams blocked fish from sixty miles of spawning habitat, and caused erosion and habitat degradation in the paltry five miles that still flowed unimpeded from the 108-foot Elwha dam to the Salish Sea.

It took years to achieve the signing of the *Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act of 1992* in Congress. It took decades more to accomplish removal of both dams by 2014. Once the dams came down, chinook and steelhead moved quickly up the river, and now show strong signs of recovery (other species, like Chum and Pink, will require continued recovery efforts). Amazingly, rainbow trout seem to have retained their genetic potential for anadromy after a century of being locked behind dams. Rainbow trout and steelhead are the same genetic species, but steelhead migrate to the sea and return to natal rivers to breed. The burst in steelhead numbers indicate that rainbow trout have adopted their former sea-going lifestyle! A major revegetation effort has filled the former lakebeds with native plants, and researchers from the Park and the Tribe steadily monitor progress. Coastal and estuary habitats have improved with the expansion of the river delta. Each bit of progress is a step towards a more resilient system in a time of increasing climate impacts.

The success of such a massive restoration effort inspires us to work towards the seemingly impossible—whether we focus on rivers, roads, grasslands, or a future free of fossil fuels. As a truly grassroots organization, this is our work: to start where we are, examine all possibilities, and go at it with unceasing commitment. Broads are monitoring river health in the Weskeag in Maine, the Verde in Arizona, and

the Uncompahgre in Colorado, and counting fish in the headwaters of the Mystic in Massachusetts. We're planting indigenous plants and pulling invasive bluegrass in Idaho's Palouse region; evaluating illegal roads to recommend closure in Oregon; fighting for the survival of salmon, steelhead, and orcas by advocating to remove four Lower Snake River dams in Washington. In California, we're lobbying for wilderness and for divestment of state retirement funds from fossil fuel industries. In Utah, we're looking for ways to work with ranchers who want to be good stewards for the land. In November, we'll lobby for wilderness and climate protection in D.C. And the list goes on!

In each instance, it starts with a fervent connection to our home, the land, and the water. To know a place is to taste its essence, a flavor that lingers. To call a landscape home is to plant a seed of longing. The love of place is the fierce love of a mother. We take action as antidote, protecting life with grief, knowledge, hope, and strategy. Truly, we are ordinary people, doing extraordinary things. 🌀

DIG DEEPER:

Elwha: A River Reborn, by Lynda Mapes, 2013

Olympic Battleground: Creating and Defending Olympic National Park, 2nd Edition, by Carsten Lien, 2000

Mountain in the Clouds: A Search for Wild Salmon, by Bruce Brown, 1995

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



Basic human needs and rights to a climate-resilient future should not be a political issue. Clean water, air, and healthy lands—are a must to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Yet how do we build that space of commons? How can we effect change on issues near and dear to Broads' hearts?

DON'T GIVE UP!

It is essential to keep strong momentum strong for equitable and sustainable environmental policies that mitigate climate change, recognize indigenous rights, and include co-management of public lands. The House and Senate need to hear your urgent cry for support.

MOVE PRIORITY LEGISLATION FORWARD!

1.9 million acres of land are on the table for protections and wilderness designation in the *Protecting America's Wilderness Act* (HR 803), which passed in the House. Reach out to your Senators and ask for their support for this legislation.

Many proposed bills address funding for wildlife, threatened and endangered species, climate action, resource extraction, forest management, and wilderness, such as:

- Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act (HR 4995, S 2705)
- Restore America's Wildlife Act 2021 (HR 2773, S 2372)
- Climate Justice Act 2021 (HR 2394)

- Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act (HR 2794)

KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Research your congressional representatives' voting history. Email, call, and write letters to urge their support on legislation such as that listed above.

MAKE YOUR POSITION PUBLIC!

Letters to the Editor and social media posts go a long way toward influencing decision making and how seriously our elected officials take their constituency. Thank leaders publicly when they take action in the right direction on your issues and urge those who take a different direction to reevaluate and do better. Get in touch with me for templates for emails, calls, and letters, or for support.

PAY ATTENTION!

November 2022 will be here before we know it. Follow issues closely; stay current on the latest status of bills at **govtrack.us** or **congress.gov**, Congressional votes, public comment periods, hearings, and other opportunities to engage. Participate in every step of the process. Working across party lines is critical.

Don't fear change, be the change. The time to act is now. Are you making a difference? YES. You may not see the change, but you are making it happen every time you participate. Keep up the great work. Your voice matters! 🍀

extinction due to habitat loss and fragmentation,” said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA).

The package also includes legislation that would permanently protect about one million acres around the Grand Canyon from further harm from uranium mining. The practice is currently under a temporary ban, but mining interests still hold over 600 mining claims around the iconic canyon.

But the bipartisan infrastructure package currently being debated in the Senate comes up short with funding for the Department of Interior to address essential climate change mitigation and resiliency programs. For example, the infrastructure bill doesn't provide short-term, emergency funding for drought response, nor does it provide funds for long-term drought resilience programs. It also fails to provide significant

resources for wildfire management, mitigation, and restoration programs for public lands.

In addition, the legislation lacks protection for public lands and coastal areas from oil and gas drilling, nor does it provide any funding for cleaning up abandoned hard rock mines. There is also no funding for project reviews required by the National

Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and other critical environmental and conservation laws.

These and other funding measures are urgently needed to respond to the challenges of climate change.

Contact your senators and representatives and urge them to provide funding for climate change adaptation and response measures.





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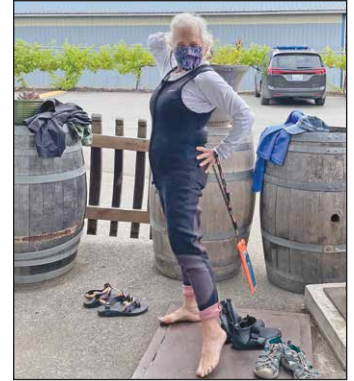
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*Masked Maya models a wetsuit
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