



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's time to be a Great Old Broad



Shelley Silbert



Shelley at the 2013 White Mountains Broadwalk, AZ.



Looking at stream health at the 2015 Owyhee Broadwalk, OR.



On a hike at the 2017 Redwoods Broadwalk, CA

Dear defenders of wilderness and all things wild,

When I joined Great Old Broads as Executive Director nine years ago, former E.D. Ronni Egan told me, "I have full confidence that you'll take our work to a whole new level." Indeed, I couldn't be more honored that I've helped Broads reach exciting goals.

It has been the most gratifying work of my career, and I'm exceedingly satisfied to see what a strong organization we've become.

Big decisions don't come easily for me (some of you know that!). So, after much pondering and consideration, I've decided that it's the right time for me to step down and join the ranks of our many retired members who find the time and passion to protect wild places through stewardship and restoration, advocacy and grassroots lobbying, and as boot-wearing, clipboard-carrying watchdogs of wilderness.

I want to get into the wild, strapping on my backpack to explore as many wilderness areas as I can. And I dream of having more time for writing and other creative pursuits inspired by the wild. This is both exciting and gut-wrenching for me, as I love our work and am deeply committed to our organization.

I've set my retirement for June 2022, leaving time to complete a national search for an experienced, wildly devoted, and compassionate new executive director. Like Ronni, I have full confidence that our next leader will continue our impressive trajectory, bring her own style of fun and inspiration, and expand wild land protection in ways I can't even envision. The next executive director will have a solid foundation to build from, with stellar leadership from the Board, staff, and Broadbands.

It's my sincere hope that we will complete our Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign goal to raise \$3.1 million by June—and with your participation, you'll give the new executive director a strong financial footing.

It's has been a crazy pandemic ride these past couple of years, with the challenge of accelerating climate change and the loss of living species before our eyes. On top of that, there were four years of a White House which sought to divide rather than unite our country, with a life-crushing vendetta against our Earth and its diverse inhabitants.

(Continued page 10)

\$3.1 million

WOW!

\$2.5 million

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

Broads' Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign donations have grown from \$1.96 million, as reported in the fall newsletter, to \$2.5 million! We are SO CLOSE to reaching our \$3.1 million goal.

Thanks to your support, thus far, Broads has experienced significant growth over the last 3 years: we have expanded our impact, added staff, grown our membership, and secured funding for litigation and advocacy.

Please help ensure continued growth of our work to protect wild lands and waters! **Every gift counts, no matter the size.**

Use the enclosed envelope and give today to help us reach our campaign goal!

2022 Events: Back into the Wild!

This year we have a fantastic lineup of outdoor adventures for you. Each event is rooted in Broads' mission to inspire grassroots advocacy to protect our precious wild lands and waters. Join us and make a difference as we fight against climate change, work to protect biodiversity and preserve these lands for generations to come!

In 2022, we're going back to the basics—just good ol' fashioned connecting with nature. We've reserved group camping in gorgeous remote areas of state parks. Our rustic campsites will have pit toilets and potable water, but no electricity or showers.

As always, our events include hikes, outings, stewardship projects, presentations, and healthy, locally-catered meals. We'll grow our advocacy skills to influence public policy for these regions, rub shoulders with new and old friends, and best of all, have fun.

Events are open to current members only. If you're not a member or your membership has lapsed, join now so you don't miss the fun!

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 28, 2022



JUNE 22-26, 2022

PROTECT THE ARCTIC BROADWALK



Every day brings new evidence of climate change in Alaska—thawing permafrost, thinning and melting sea ice, increased wildfires, flooding, erosion, declining marine life, and food and water insecurity. Alaska is under grave threat, and you can be part of the movement to change the trajectory.

Join Broads, local partners, and experts to learn about Alaskan ecosystems and their role in

carbon sequestration and how protection is important to building resilience to climate change. We will address specific ways to engage as advocates to protect the Arctic from fossil fuel development and fight threats to the Tongass National Forest.

SO MUCH TO DO

Each day will be filled with activity and awe. Get ready for stewardship and ecological restoration projects, hikes, interpretive tours, group discussions, and evening presentations. All levels of participation are welcomed!

CAMP IN GLACIAL SPLENDOR

We'll station at Eklutna Lake Campground in Chugach State Park, near Anchorage. Our group campsite, is within walking distance of the lake and includes fire rings, picnic tables, potable water, and pit toilets. Car camping and some camper spots are available.

(Continued next page!)



Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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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.





REGISTRATION: \$485

Includes five days of camping, programming, excursions (unless otherwise noted), and all meals.

Five partial or two full scholarships available—contact us to learn more.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/AlaskaBroads>



AUGUST 18–22

KEEP THE U.P. WILD BROADWALK

Wilderness designation is the highest form of protection for lands and waters. We'll partner with friends from the Keep the U.P. Wild Campaign to advocate for the wilderness designation of 42,000 acres of Michigan's treasured Upper Peninsula (U.P.).

The lands proposed for protection include the Ehlco area, Trap Hills, Norwich Plains, and Sturgeon River Gorge in the Ottawa National Forest. The first three areas combined would create more than 40,000 acres of nearly contiguous wilderness. A 2,000-acre addition to the existing Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness is also proposed.

ACTIVITIES GALORE

Join us to explore and learn about this remarkable region, participate in stewardship and restoration projects, hikes and interpretive tours, group discussions, and evening presentations—plus have fun on the water. There will be activities for every level of ability and interest.

SUPERIOR CAMPING

We'll stay at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, in the gorgeous northwestern part of the U.P. near Ontonagon, Michigan. The park is home to 35,000 acres of old-growth forest, roaring waterfalls, miles of rivers, streams, and hiking trails, and more.

Our group camps are within walking distance of the sandy beach of Union Bay on Lake Superior. There is plenty of room

for tent camping and limited spaces for campers or RVs. The campsites have pit toilets and potable water.

REGISTRATION: \$490

Includes five days of camping, all programming and excursions (unless otherwise noted), and all meals.

Four partial or two full scholarships are available—contact us to learn more.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/MichiganBroads>



MAY 8–13, 2022

D.C. LOBBYING BROADWORK

In a survey conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation, congressional staffers overwhelmingly agree that, "...direct constituent interactions have more influence on lawmakers' decisions than other advocacy strategies."

Get out your walkin' shoes for this action-packed adventure in the wild lands of our nation's capital. Learn the art of lobbying and share your passion for protecting the wild when you meet with decision-makers to advocate for important legislation.

You'll be immersed in civic action and build lifelong friendships—plus, we'll get to explore some of D.C.'s iconic museums, restaurants, and galleries.

This event is open to experienced and novice advocates alike—however, space is limited. We will interview applicants to ensure they have a passion for the issues and a desire to learn and practice the essential skills needed for effective lobbying.

CENTRALIZED LODGING

We've rented a large, 8-bedroom Victorian house just a few blocks from the Convention Center, within walking distance of the Metro, restaurants, and shops.

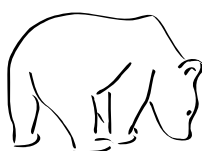
REGISTRATION: \$490

Includes five nights of lodging, breakfast and snacks, partial cost of final group dinner, and all training and workshop materials.

One scholarship available—contact us to learn more.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/DCBroads>

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...



Stay tuned! We're planning a Bears Ears Broadwork for the fall. Details are still being worked out, so check our website for updates!



by Lauren Berutich

The science community has consistently warned that, to avoid a climate catastrophe, we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stall global warming to no more than 1.4° Celsius. But carbon emissions surged in 2021—and are likely to rise again this year.

Broads' goals for 2022 prioritize actions for effective grassroots advocacy through education, stewardship, and engagement with public policy. We must act today. Broads will take actions under the America the Beautiful umbrella (aka 30x30, a campaign to protect 30% of US lands and waters by 2030) to build climate resilience while protecting our remaining wild places. We encourage all of our readers, members, and supporters to join us in our urgent fight.

As we all know, Broads show up! So let's get busy...

Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

There are roughly 640 million acres of federally managed land in the U.S. (28% of all U.S. lands), much of it located across the West. These federal lands are in high demand by states that want to lift restrictions on natural resource development, loosen mandates on land management practices, and diminish areas protected by the Roadless Rule.

Broads want to see federal lands protected and responsibly managed

Because of fossil fuel extraction, public lands are responsible for one quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S.

under federal jurisdiction. Therefore, we are prioritizing our efforts to defend key public laws, such as:

- **NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act).** We encourage the public to stay engaged in every step of the public process from urging environmental assessments and environmental impact statements to participating in public comment periods and speaking out at public hearings.
- **Roadless Area Conservation Rule.** This mandate protects 58.5 million acres of national forests in 39 states and territories, and ensures old-growth forests and intact ecosystems are preserved in areas such as southern Utah and the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA).** The ESA ensures wildlife and plants species are protected from extinction, taking into account climate change, biodiversity, and habitat. It is one of the strongest and most effective acts to be passed by Congress.

To accomplish this at the grassroots level, we will provide public educational opportunities on NEPA defense, public comments, and litigation. In addition, we will highlight the need to protect the ESA and strengthen laws regarding climate change. Nationally, we'll host a lobbying trip to Washington D.C. and an Alaska Broadwalk to highlight the importance of protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from further development and defending roadless rules in the Tongass National Forest.

Keep Wild Lands Wild & the Wilderness Act Intact

Clean air, water, and ecological resilience to climate change requires vast, healthy, intact ecosystems. This year, Broads will prioritize legislative

actions for wilderness and national monument designation, increased Wilderness Study Areas, and actions to protect the Wilderness Act from threats and loopholes.

A top priority is to engage Congress and the White House to promote multiple policy and legislative actions, including:

- **Protecting America's Wilderness Act.** This would protect over 1.3 million acres of public lands, wilderness designation, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.
- **Keep the U.P. Wild.** A proposed bill setting aside over 45,000 acres for Wilderness protection in Michigan.
- **Monument designation for the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument** in southern Nevada, and protection of already designated areas such as Bears Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.
- **Wildlife habitat and connectivity efforts** to protect biodiversity, critical habitat, and endangered and threatened species including the North Atlantic right whale, gray wolf, and sage-grouse.

Public Lands a Solution to Climate Change

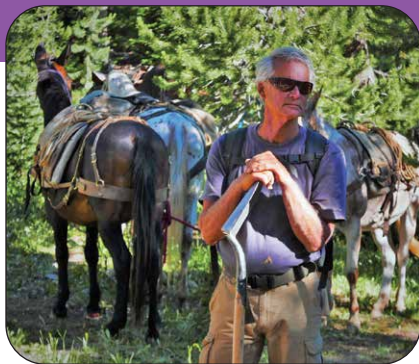
Because of fossil fuel extraction, public lands are responsible for one quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S.—emitting 4.5% more climate-destroying greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the lands and forests are able to absorb. Reducing carbon emissions on public lands and increasing their capacity for sequestration takes primacy in every single effort we make.

(Continued page 11)



Defending Wilderness....Forever!

The Wilderness Defense Fund Endowment



Clem Pope

In December 2021, Broads gained an unanticipated and welcomed boost as wilderness defenders. Through a generous \$100,000 gift, the Pope family established Broads'

first-ever endowment, the Wilderness Defense Fund. Its purpose is to increase our capacity to initiate legal actions, arbitration, or mediation to protect the integrity of Wilderness.

The family intends to build the endowment to \$1 million over ten years, and Broads will draw annual income to defend existing wilderness from these permanently invested funds.

"Our father was a forester and mom an avid birdwatcher, so we grew up outside. As a young woman, my sister Ann owned three bush planes, filed a land claim, and built a log cabin in a remote part of Alaska," shares Art Pope. As for his other siblings, he said, "Lyn worked at an Alaskan fishing lodge and became a permanent Alaskan resident. Gale works in range management for the Forest Service and is active in her local Backcountry Horseman chapter. I founded Northwest Youth Corps, an organization dedicated to getting youth and young adults into the backcountry. Our eldest brother Clem Pope served over 45 years as a wilderness ranger, animal packer, and Wilderness Program Manager in Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return areas, and taught us all to appreciate the importance

and fragility of Wilderness. Last fall, Clem's two daughters continued this passion, completing a 12-day cross-country hike across the Frank Church."

In an essay called *Being a Wilderness Purist*, Clem wrote, "I want Wilderness to exist within the poetic framework and vision of the Wilderness Act." Expressing his fear about the "incremental, and often short-sighted actions and decisions by managing agencies", Clem said that these seemingly small decisions compound into long-term degradation. He feared threats to designated wilderness from mountain bikes, use of helicopters, U.S. border exemptions, and chainsaw authorization.

In fact, Broads' lawsuit fighting chainsaws in Colorado wilderness areas sparked the family's interest in establishing the endowment.

This endowment will support our challenges to agency actions that fail to align with the vision and intent of the Wilderness Act. This spring, we'll organize webinars for Broadbands and members to strengthen knowledge as wilderness watchdogs. We'll learn where wilderness management tends to go awry, when to communicate concerns to the agency, and how to document violations. We'll also explore strategic use of litigation, arbitration, or mediation to stop illegalities when other methods are exhausted.

We extend our gratitude to the Pope family for helping us ensure that wilderness areas are protected from "an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization"—exactly as the authors of the Wilderness Act intended.

DC Lobbying Broadwork Recap

It was wonderful to hold in-person events through the summer of 2021. But by fall, Covid once again dug in, and the DC Lobbying Broadwork had to punt to a virtual format.

And, as usual, Broads not only made the best of it, we doubled our impact, increasing participation to 23 volunteers in five teams. Over two and a half days, we held 53 online meetings with legislators and their staff.

While there's nothing like the excitement of being in the nation's

capital, walking the halls of Congress, and meeting in person with movers and shakers, event organizer and Associate Director Lauren Berutich said it was thrilling to see how participants—whether totally new or veterans to lobbying—grew their skills and confidence as grassroots advocates.

There were certainly challenges. The teams discussed legislation not yet reintroduced into the new Congress, such as the **Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act** and **SAVE Right Whales Act** (S 2453). But that didn't



deter Broads from making well-reasoned pleas for support, primarily focusing their efforts on senators.

Other legislation discussed included the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act (PAWS+), and repealing the Real ID Act, which has allowed unfettered environmental damage to occur in the name of border wall construction.

(Continued page 9)



BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

by Jason Vaughn

BOUNDARY WATERS MINING LEASES CANCELLED

In January, we celebrated a major victory when the Biden administration announced it cancelled two unlawfully reinstated leases that had been granted to mining company Twin Metals adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

More than one million acres of nearly pristine forests, lakes, and wetlands just northwest of Lake Superior, the BWCAW is also one of the most-visited wilderness areas in the nation, attracting over 150,000 visitors each year.

All of which makes the region's watershed a truly terrible place to put a toxic sulfide-ore copper mine. But that's very nearly what happened.

Fortunately, the Broads' National Office, partners at Save the Boundary Waters, and the Minnesota Wild Waters



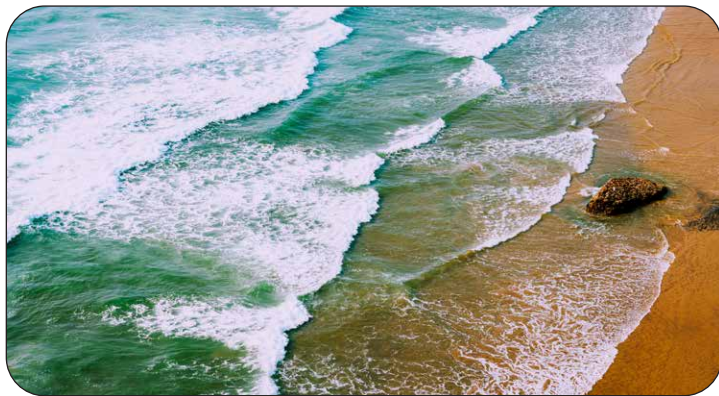
Broadband, have been fighting for the BWCAW for years. Some of that hard work paid off in October, when the Biden administration announced a two-year halt on new mining leases in Superior National Forest surrounding the BWCAW while they conduct an environmental review

on a proposed 20-year halt on all mineral extraction in the region.

In December, Broads hosted a successful webinar that highlighted the BWCAW and how participants could do their part by writing comments on the proposed 20-year mining ban. People across the country submitted more than 250,000 comments. And that made a difference as evidenced by this latest cancellation of the Twin Metals' mining leases.

The work isn't over, though. Because the area around the Wilderness has potentially lucrative mineral deposits, the threats will likely continue until the Boundary Waters is fully—and permanently—protected.

Last year, U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D, MN) introduced the Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act (H.R. 2794) that would safeguard the region from dangerous sulfide-ore mining. Broads will continue to



advocate for permanent protection through this legislation and fight threats to this incredible ecosystem.

For more information about protecting the BWCAW visit <https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/>

VICTORY SCORED AT JORDAN COVE

After years of struggle, Oregon's Rogue Valley and Cascade Volcanoes Broadbands, in partnership with other conservation and Tribal groups, emerged victorious after Canada-based Pembina Pipeline Corp., asked federal energy regulators to withdraw authorizations for the proposed Jordan Cove pipeline, effectively killing the project.

The proposed 229-mile pipeline would have run from the California border through the forests of the Coast Range to Coos Bay, Oregon, where fracked liquid natural gas (LNG)—over 1 billion cubic feet a day—was to be shipped for export to Asia. If completed, it would have been the single largest source of climate pollution in the state.

"It's a pretty amazing victory considering it was a 20-year fight," says Susie Schmidt, co-leader of the Rogue Valley Broads. "Such a broad range of people came together to fight it—environmentalists, ranchers, Tribal leaders. It was pretty cool!"

"There were obstacles and distractions along the way, including Trump's rewriting of rules to expedite gas pipelines," said Jane Heisler, a former member of the Cascade Volcanoes leadership team. But Heisler says the broad range of concerned groups and citizens against the project made all the difference, praising Francis Eatherington of the Rogue Broads as an especially driving force.

"We couldn't be ignored!" says Heisler.

Micky Ryan, former co-leader of the Bitterbrush Broadband and a current Broads' board member, thinks this particular pipeline may be dead but the fight to protect Coos Bay and the region's forests and waterways is far from over.

"It seems to me that it's inevitable that there will be some



pressure to develop that bay to ship fossil fuels to Asia,” says Ryan.

“If the dragon comes back, I have no doubt that everyone will come together again to fight it,” says Schmidt.

WORKING TO PROTECT WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

The Willamette Valley Broads have put in some serious time and effort to make sure any plan the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) chooses will put nature first. In December, the Broadband submitted comprehensive comments on the draft environmental assessment (EA) for a proposed timber sale in Oregon’s Willamette National Forest.

According to the USFS, this would involve allowing commercial logging on about 7,800 acres.

Broadband members spent hundreds of hours doing ground surveys of the forest, checking claims made by the USFS in the EA, holding advocacy and stewardship events, and working with partner organizations to make sure the needs of the forest were met.



“Once the USFS draft environmental assessment came out, our members came together to write comments,” said Broadband leader Cyndi Anderson. “What an undertaking—and how fortunate our Broadband is to have had folks willing to tackle it.”

Now that the detailed public comments have been submitted, the waiting has begun.

“Given our solid relationship with USFS staff and the quality of our comments, I am hopeful that our recommendations will be followed,” says Anderson.

NOR'EASTER'S LET THE LETTERS FLY

It might seem incongruous in this high-tech age, but writing letters is still one of the best ways to call attention to an issue. And the Nor’easter Broads have turned it into an art form.

In 2021, the Nor’easter Broads wrote over 250 letters on conservation issues to elected and public officials in New England and across the country—and they’ve gotten results! As a collective of Broadband chapters from states in the

Northeast, the group conducts routine events to discuss ideas for letter-writing campaigns and submits at least one letter per participant at each event.

“There’s a lot of passion around the SAVE Right Whales Act, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the border wall, and local issues around water,” says Linda Graham, Nor’easter Broads leader in New Hampshire.

“We have written letters in support of local Tribal priorities and concerns,” adds Nancy Frost, Nor’easter Broads leader in Massachusetts.

“One recent example is the large solar array being constructed in Carver, Massachusetts, by clearcutting rare pine barrens on land with important cultural significance to the Herring Pond Wampanoag.”



Frost says Broads member Cheryl Marceau spotted that issue before any state legislators had any idea it was happening, and the letters received good responses from both of the local state representatives.

Graham says that Nor’easter Broads Maida Tilchen and Millie LaFontaine have been exceptional in organizing these vital and effective events. She says that they feel empowered by knowing how to effectively express an opinion that generates a response.

ARE YOU READY TO GET WILD?



APRIL 18-27

Our annual online auction is not only fun, it’s also a great way to support our work for our precious wild lands and waters.

You’ll find awesome items such as outdoor gear, adventures, gifts, books, jewelry, and more. And, if there’s nothing you need, you can simply donate towards a program, educational event, or fund general Broads’ activities.

If you have a vacation cabin, a special skill, or outdoor expertise you can share, please consider donating.

Check out the auction (so far) at:
<https://bit.ly/2022BroadsAuction>

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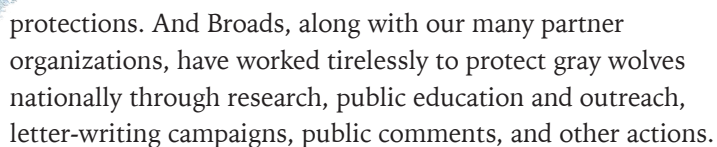
WOLVES HOWLING FOR HELP!

Even more horrifying, in early January the hunting season was only half over! The final death toll could be even more devastating.

Why is this happening? Unfortunately, when wolves wander beyond the confines of Yellowstone National Park, they are unprotected from hunters. In Montana, the state has eliminated quotas in hunting districts that border the park, and relaxed hunting regulations to allow hunters to use bait to lure wolves and let trappers use gruesome snares and leg-hold traps.

Since the Trump administration made the fateful decision to de-list wolves in January 2021, several other states have eviscerated rules protecting the gray wolf. The result has been a bloodbath. In Wisconsin last year, hunters killed a staggering 218 wolves—out of an estimated population of only 1,100 in the state—in under 72 hours!

The obvious solution to this slaughter is for the federal government to immediately re-list the gray wolf to the endangered species list. In the aftermath of the Yellowstone wolf massacre, Boise Broads sent a letter with over a dozen other organizations calling on the National Park Service and the Interior Department to initiate immediate wolf



Despite this outpouring of urgent support for wolves, to say nothing of the mountains of published scientific evidence showing the benefits of wolves to entire ecosystems, the Biden administration has still not made any move to re-list wolves.

The gray wolf is running out of time. The administration must restore federal protections for this iconic species. ***For more information and how to contact federal officials visit:*** [***https://bit.ly/3Kayew3.***](https://bit.ly/3Kayew3)

Nearly 6.6 million acres of U.S. forests burned in 2021, charring landscapes across dozens of states and sending choking haze across most of the nation. Since 2017, over 40 million acres—an area roughly the area of Wisconsin—have gone up in smoke.

It's left us with many hard questions, but one of the biggest is what do we do with these millions of acres of burned forests?

The answer is startlingly easy: We must do nothing.

Many in the timber industry want to go into these areas to harvest the “salvageable” lumber—trees killed or damaged in a fire, but not necessarily destroyed. The oft-stated reason for this (beyond that wood is worth money) has been fire control. If there are fewer dead trees, then there can’t be a forest fire, right?

But in fact, post-fire logging could make future fire seasons even more destructive. Studies show that post-fire logging actually increases the available amount of easily-combustible fuel (sawdust, pine needles, twigs, branches, stumps, etc.) on the forest floor, leaving a burned area more vulnerable to further wildfires for years, if not decades.

This can make natural forest regrowth—already an increasingly difficult proposition due to climate change-driven weather variability—nearly impossible.

Removing dead trees from a burned area creates a number of self-perpetuating cycles that contribute to making the problem worse. Old-growth forests tend to be a mix of tree species—with varying strengths, weaknesses, and characteristics that make them vital to the overall health of the forest ecosystem.

If a post-fire forest is replanted, many of the trees tend to be of the same species—often chosen for their “harvestability”



...tree remnants still hold on to 90-95% of their stored carbon.

more than their suitability to the area's ecosystem. These monocultural forests are far less conducive to hosting a full range of wildlife and tend to be more susceptible to disease and insects. This leads to more dead trees, and a greater risk of destructive wildfires, followed by more replanting, and so on...

Additionally, the construction of logging roads and use of heavy machinery in recently-burned forests cause soil disruption and compaction, increased soil erosion, and major water quality issues in downstream communities and ecosystems. Studies have shown that the trucks and heavy machinery rumbling in to cut down salvageable timber kill nearly 75% of the native seedlings in a post-fire forest.

Post-fire logging also contributes climate change-inducing carbon emissions. Mature, old-growth forests are incredible carbon "sinks," trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in the trees, duff, soil, and underground roots. In even the most intense wildfires, tree remnants will still hold on to 90-95% of their stored carbon.

But that net carbon storage benefit is lost when those burned trees are logged. Added to that, the trucks, heavy machinery, and mills that harvest and process the wood all run on fossil fuels—releasing far more carbon dioxide than was stored by the trees.

As there are fewer and fewer trees to absorb that carbon dioxide, the atmosphere will continue to get warmer and—especially in the American West—drier, leading to more and more destructive wildfires in yet another nearly-endless cycle.

It's "nearly" endless because, eventually, we'll run out of forests to cut down—burned or otherwise.

Nature has developed countless ways to recover, and even thrive, in post-fire ecosystems. A burned-out forest provides habitat for myriad species of birds, mammals, and insects. Several tree and plant species require fire to stimulate germination. Despite our changing climate, nature can still recover from even severe wildfires.

All that's required of us is to get out of nature's way so it can get to work.

Contact the U.S. Forest Service to speak out against post-fire logging at: <https://bit.ly/USFSContact>

And there were successes—solid commitments of support were obtained, the teams created awareness, made connections, and the positive outcomes outweighed the negative.

One of the teams from Oregon (Francis Etherington, Bonnie Olin, and Cyndi Anderson) employed a tip from the pre-event training to secure a meeting with Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX): Use your connections.

"Roger and I are both from Fort Worth and our families were close when we were growing up. Roger and my brother played baseball together and Roger's father was an important mentor to my brother. My brother and Roger continue to stay in close touch," said Cyndi, co-leader for the Willamette Broadband.

She filled out the meeting request form and soon received a response from Williams' aide. After sharing more information about the family connection, she received a call back directly from the Congressman and the meeting was set.

However, Williams' voting record, per the League of Conservation Voters, is a dismal 2% pro-conservation. So, they knew a discussion about the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act might not be well received.

Williams was "warm, witty and cordial" with the team. They talked about the Act and in turn, he shared how his wife and daughter operate an animal rescue operation on their ranch, and, as a car dealership owner, he is well aware of the issue of highway collisions involving wildlife. Then he proceeded to offer advice, saying the name of the Act should include the word "safety." He explained that if you make it about safety for humans and wildlife, Republicans would be much more likely to support the legislation.

"The big takeaway here for me—and all of us, I think—was this: identify the common ground," said Cyndi. She added that no matter how diverse our political views, there is always common ground to be found.

The team left feeling they probably learned more from the Congressman than he learned from them. However, now he knows about Great Old Broads for Wilderness—and if the Wildlife Corridors and Safety Act is ever up for a vote in the House, his LCV scorecard will likely improve a little.

See Events (page 2) for this year's D.C. Broadwork. Hopes are high that we'll journey to the capital for an in-person event in 2022!





Shelley and Blake Spalding at BROADS' 30th Anniversary Celebration in Boulder, Utah.

In spite of it all, I can proudly say that BROADS' work has grown increasingly creative and exciting. With deep gratitude to our hardworking staff, unfaltering Broadband

leaders, and bold Board members, we have reached a pinnacle as an organization—and there are many more summits ahead.

In January, we established our first endowment in the history of Great Old BROADS, with the specific purpose to sustain and expand our defense of existing wilderness areas to ensure that land management agencies stay true to the tenets of the Wilderness Act (see page 5).

We've won accolades as part of national coalitions and campaigns to protect land, water, wildlife, and climate. We've received recognition for our work through unanticipated grants—including a climate action award—and a shout-out in *The New Yorker Magazine* from author and environmentalist Bill McKibben.

We have a strong and growing force of Broadband chapters across the country, and more registrations for the spring Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Sessions (WALTS) than we've ever seen this early—with future Broadband leaders hailing from new states such as Nebraska, Alabama, and New Jersey.

We are integrating equity and justice into every part of our work through active partnerships with organizations underrepresented in the conservation community. An engaged committee meets monthly to carry out the BROADS' Equity and Justice Plan, and we're growing representation of racially-diverse leadership among the board and broadband leaders.

Our paid membership and monthly sustaining supporters continues to grow, as have our followers on social media. We now have nearly 13,000 followers on Facebook!

I could write for days about the moving and powerful experiences I've had over these last nine years with BROADS, but there will be time for that later. For now, there is much to do as the stress on wild habitat and the impacts of climate change grow more severe each day.

It's time for me, and all of us, to get back to work.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas or questions you have. And most importantly, I'm counting on you to continue to make Great Old BROADS the most fun, most hell-raising, and most impactful organization it can be. 🌀

2022 Member T-Shirt

We had many fabulous entries for the second annual member T-shirt design contest. This year's tee features a beautiful drawing of southwest Colorado's Weminuche Wilderness by artist/member Katelyn Kammer. To get your own limited-edition, collectible T-shirt, join or renew at the \$100 level or higher!

MEET THE ARTIST, KATELYN KAMMER

Why public lands?

As an artist and trail runner, much of my inspiration comes from time spent outside—it's where I feel endless spark, abundant joy, and creative energy. Along with working as an outdoor educator for several years I have



come to understand the importance of public lands and keeping those spaces wild and free for everyone.

What meaning does the landscape in your design hold for you personally?

I moved from the Pacific Northwest to southwest Colorado a few months ago and found myself in the mountains almost every single day—particularly the Weminuche Wilderness—running trails, painting landscapes, backpacking around basins, and summiting peaks. Two peaks that struck me strongly were Pigeon and Turret. Fascinated by their grandeur, ridges, and contrast, I was inspired to start sketching and painting the Weminuche Wilderness.

Why did you choose to support Great Old BROADS?

As a former outdoor educator working with non-profit organizations I found great joy when I learned about the work done by the Great Old BROADS for Wilderness. Supporting the mission to protect and advocate for wilderness and wild spaces is something I endlessly support and believe in. 🌀

KEEP IT "E" AND SAVE A TREE!

Want stop receiving a hard copy of the newsletter and just get your BROADS news by email? Let us know at broads@greatoldbroads.org.



This year, we will expand our Climate Education, Stewardship and Advocacy (CESA) Program to Broadband leaders across the country—and engage more concerned citizens in the movement.

CESA priorities are to:

- Protect old-growth forests in high carbon sequestering areas, such as the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.
- Advance “Keep It in the Ground” campaigns, urging President Biden to keep his promise to stop the sale of any new oil and gas leases on public lands.

- Fight oil, gas, coal, and mineral extraction on public lands, and permanently protect areas such as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Promote a just transition to renewable energy.
- Advocate for valuable public policies and legislation that curb, rather than contribute to climate change.

Are you inspired to act? Please take action on our monthly alerts, join one of our engaging events this year, or donate to the Ginger Harmon Wild Land Advocacy Fund. We need your support and collective voices today!

Meet the Board



Anna Lee Vargas

The new year begins with new faces and a new slate of officers on our Board of Directors. This collection of catalysts, thinkers, and doers are charged with a plethora of duties, including overseeing the development of a new five-year strategic plan.

Co-Chairs **Anne Heikkila** (GA) and **Micky Ryan** (OR) bring a love for outdoor stewardship and advocacy, and both served as Broadband leaders prior to joining the Board. Anne worked in the cochlear implant industry and now serves on the Board for Georgia Forest Watch. Micky lends the legal perspective as an attorney who represented low-income tenants with housing issues during her career.

LD Delano (AZ) first encountered Broads on the 2021 San Juan River fundraiser and jumped in with both feet, taking on the role Vice Chair. She has an enthusiasm for protecting the wild along with creative business, leadership, and development skills. She has served on several boards while running her own architectural firm, specializing in healthcare facility design.

Pip Coe (NC) brings years of fundraising expertise to her role as Board Secretary. Most recently, she held the position of Alumni and Development Director for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Her dedication to give back to public lands and share her million-dollar advice has been invaluable throughout our Women for the Wild Comprehensive Campaign.

Suez Jacobson (CO), a retired economist, university professor, and filmmaker, holds the purse strings as Treasurer. Retiring in 2018 from Regis College in Denver, her courses were a blend of economics, finance, and global environmental issues. Suez’s

film, *Wild Hope*, examines how a connection to nature has the power to rewire our brains and prompt us to protect a world that needs our care.

Mary O’Brien (UT), our “grazing guru” and NEPA expert, has worked for toxics reform, environmental law, and public lands conservation organizations for 40 years. Most recently, she served as Utah Public Lands Director for Grand Canyon Trust.

Anna Lee Vargas (CO) is a natural-born advocate who is passionate about protecting the land, water, and people of the San Luis Valley. She worked with youth at Conejos Clean Water, as a Prevention Specialist for the San Luis Valley Community Mental Health Center, and a Parent Partner for the Monte Vista Migrant Headstart.

Laura Hodge (MT) has a diverse background that includes place-based tourism and community development. She recently led stakeholders through five years of non-stop lobbying to see 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest designated as wilderness through the Tennessee Wilderness Act. She is also an accomplished nature and adventure photographer.

Our most recent Board addition, **Corina Lopez** (CA), is keenly interested in the intersection of environmental justice and social justice, especially as it relates to public policy. Corina is the first person from the Latinx community to be elected as a Councilmember for the City of San Leandro. She brings strong academic, professional, and practical experience in finance to our Board.

And finally, many thanks to those who have tirelessly served on our Board over the years—we couldn’t do our important work without your guidance and support. 🌀



Laura Hodge



LD Delano



Corina Lopez





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APRIL 18-27

*Gear, getaways,
adventures and more*

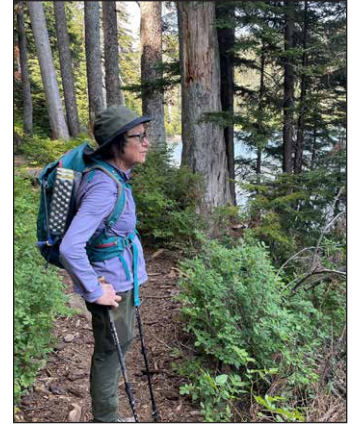
**HELP FUND OUR WORK
TO PROTECT THE WILD!**



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*Linda Buckley monitors (and enjoys)
forest solitude in Oregon.*

Support Broads!

Contribute to Broads and help protect wilderness and wild public lands and waters for all living creatures. With your gift, you receive a one-year membership and plenty of great benefits.

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