

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sara Husby

2024 Birthdays & Anniversaries

When you think of the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and Broads' 35th anniversary, what comes to mind for you? The first thing I thought of was if I could somehow tie The Beatles "Birthday" song (it came out in 1968, so not the year I was hoping for) or the "Anniversary Song" from The Flintstone's (again, wrong year, 1961) into my article.

But alas...

Seriously though, I like to reflect on the 50th anniversary conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2014, and how that conference changed my life forever. Not only did I learn about Broads and become a sustaining donor on the spot (thanks to Rose Chilcoat!), that conference was the moment I truly understood the magnitude of the Wilderness Act and why it is so important.



The passing of the Wilderness Act was an exceptional milestone in the preservation of nature. It stands as a testament to America's commitment to safeguarding its untouched landscapes for the benefit of future generations.

But protecting wilderness in the 21st century has been a roller coaster ride. There have been high peaks, such as the passage of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which showed our nation's continued commitment to stewardship; or during the

Obama Administration, when millions of acres were added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

And there have been deep lows, such as when Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments were slashed to a small fraction of their original size and potentially left open to fossil fuel development (a decision that was, fortunately, later undone). Or the never-ending threats to the vast protected wild areas in Alaska from the oil and gas industry that seem to continue no matter who is in the White House.

But now we're trapped in a never-ending loop-the-loop, where a small group of anti-wilderness lawmakers have virtually halted any action under the Wilderness Act to protect public land—regardless of the consequences of inaction. We're trying to get back on track and recapture the momentum of our conservation legacy, but at the moment forward progress on the ride seems to have ground to a halt.

Broads' anniversary is directly tied to the Wilderness Act. In 1989, our founders came together on the 25th anniversary



(Continued page 8)

Mark Your Calendar!

April 19-28

WILD FOR WILDERNESS ONLINE AUCTION

As winter says goodbye and we open our arms to spring, the Wild for Wilderness Online Auction will heat up as we post donations to the auction site early in 2024.

We're looking for new and interesting experiences and adventures for this year's event. Do you have a unique VRBO or AirBnB to offer as an auction item? Contact our office at (970) 385-9577.

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Start planning now, we've got a big year ahead!

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Cows, salmon, orcas, and Mad Rabbit!

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Celebrating the Nat'l Wilderness Preservation System.

by Audrey Glendenning

The daily management of our public lands and natural resources is carried out by federal agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These federal agencies exist to implement laws set forth by Congress. Often, aspects of these laws are ambiguous, so federal agencies use their expertise to issue regulations that provide the details necessary to implement the law. For example, the Forest Service issues regulations on what must be included in a Forest Plan. The process of proposing, drafting, and finalizing these regulations is known as the federal rulemaking process.



All documents related to the rulemaking process are published in the Federal Register. The Federal Register is known as “the daily journal of the United States government.” It is the official publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices issued by federal agencies. By understanding the content and layout of the Federal Register, you are equipped to participate in the rapidly changing world of federal public lands and wildlife management.

The Federal Register is updated Monday through Friday at 6:00 AM Eastern Time. On any given day, any number of agency documents may be published in the Federal Register. As I write this piece, today’s issue contains 103 documents from 52 agencies! Given the overwhelming amount of information published in the Federal Register every day, it is necessary to use the website’s filter and search tools to find exactly what you are interested in. If you are reading a press release about an agency action, there will almost always be a link directly to the relevant entry in the Federal Register.



Once you find an entry you are interested in, the document is quite easy to navigate. A Federal Register entry starts by clearly noting in big bold letters:

- The agency that is acting
- The type of action
- A quick summary of the action
- Any important dates

Below that, you’ll find loads of background information, the proposed or final rule, and other information relevant to the agency action. If the action is a request for information, you may find key questions the agency wants input on.



Perhaps most importantly, the Federal Register instructs citizens on when and where to submit comments. The entry provides a docket number, a link to submit comments, and instruction on what to include in your comments.

I encourage you all to spend some time exploring the Federal Register. Are you interested in a particular endangered species, national forest, or wilderness area? Type it directly in the search bar to see a list of agency actions and documents related to your area of interest.



You might even find an active comment period to participate in! By creating a “My Federal Register” account, you can subscribe to the results of any search so you get new documents sent directly to your email address!

If you need help navigating the Federal Register or have questions about the rulemaking process, please feel free to reach out to me at

audrey@greatoldbroads.org.

Also, keep an eye out for a future webinar on this topic!

www.federalregister.gov



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for Wilderness is a
women-led national
grassroots organization that
engages and inspires activism
to preserve and protect
wilderness and wild lands.**

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2024 EVENTS



The new year will be here before you know it—and 2024 promises to be full of exciting opportunities to travel, learn, make new friends, and have lots of fun with Broads! So here's a sneak-peak of what's in store for next year. (We may add another Broadwalk, so watch your email for the announcement and when registration opens.)

AUGUST 19-23, 2024

Eastern Sierra Broadwalk

Near Mammoth Lakes, CA

Join the Eastern Sierra Broadband for a visit to an incomparable region of California, where the Sierra Nevada mountains meet the desert of the Owens Valley. Experience hardy forests, incredible volcanic formations, the tufas of Mono Lake, natural hot springs, and more. What a great place to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act!



We'll explore the Owens River Headwaters Wilderness, John Muir Wilderness, and the wilderness study areas in the Bodie Hills in the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests.

We'll camp at Obsidian Flat Group Campground, located near Mammoth Lakes, California, a secluded getaway with a peaceful forested setting and mountain views. Sitting at 7,800 feet in elevation, the campground has pit toilets—however we will need to bring

our own water. For those who prefer more amenities, there are lodging options in Mammoth.

We are lining up knowledgeable speakers to talk about the region's biodiversity, as well as mining threats and grazing impacts on this fragile and breathtaking landscape.



SEPT 16-19, 2024

Holiday Rivers FUNdraiser on the San Juan River

Illustrated Journaling with Peg Herring

This year's river rafting trip with our awesome partners at Holiday Rivers will take you on the lower section of the San Juan River in Utah. In its lower reaches, the San Juan rushes by the town of Mexican Hat, Utah, then curves around the deep canyon of Goosenecks State Park.

Teacher and author Peg Herring will lead journaling exercises, teach writing methods, and promote connections between you and the landscape.

Although the San Juan is one of the steepest, swiftest rivers in the United States, it has only a handful of rapids, making it a great option for first-time rafters.

Holiday Rivers will generously donate a portion of each registration to Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

Registration is Open!
<https://bit.ly/2024River>

OCT 14-17, 2024

Wilderness & Beyond Conference

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO

Join us as we celebrate our 35th anniversary with the 2024 Wilderness & Beyond Conference in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado.

There will be workshops, receptions, and so much more with like-minded wilderness advocates. You'll hear from conservation luminaries and grassroots organizing experts while also sharing ideas and brainstorming strategies to safeguard critical wild places, watersheds, and wildlife habitat and corridors. Come learn, connect, and grow your advocacy skills.

This conference is still in the early planning stages—we'll alert you as activities are scheduled. We wanted to get it on your calendar so you can plan to be there with us in the fall. For budget-conscious Broads, we are working on gathering sponsorships to provide scholarships to allow as many members to attend as possible. Watch for more information as this event develops!



BECOME A LEADER!

APRIL 15-19, 2024

Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Sessions

Santa Fe, NM

Is this the year you step up to a leadership role? Do you want to join a chapter's leadership team or are you a seasoned leader looking for a reboot? This year's focus is on strengthening chapters and bringing on new leadership for existing chapters. The Grassroots Leadership Team is currently accepting applications for this interactive, Broadtastic training.

For more information and to apply, go to <https://bit.ly/BroadsTrain> or contact our office.



THE BROADER WILDERNESS • • • • •



by Jason Vaughn

A Win for Old-Growth Forests

In the summer *Broadsides*, we discussed how and why Broads participates in or initiates lawsuits to protect our wild public lands and waters.

Now, we can talk about a couple of big victories!

In late August, a federal judge ruled that the U.S. Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the Endangered Species Act in 2021 when it dropped decades-old protections for nearly 7 million acres of mature and old-growth trees (known as the “Eastside Screens”) in six national forests across Oregon and Washington.

The Trump-era rule change had opened up previously protected trees 21 inches DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) and larger in diameter in the Eastside Screens to harvesting, and created forest guidelines that called for an emphasis on protecting species based on their fire resistance. This rule change, which was made without public or Tribal

involvement in the decision-making process, put millions of acres of mature and old-growth forests at risk of being harvested despite the mountains of scientific evidence showing the importance of the forests.

Broads (led by the **Oregon Bitterbrush Broadband**) joined with Greater Hells Canyon Council, Oregon Wild, Central Oregon LandWatch, WildEarth Guardians



and the Sierra Club as plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

The lawsuit asserted that the government’s environmental assessment didn’t adequately address scientific uncertainty surrounding the effectiveness of thinning, especially large trees, for reducing fire risk.

Mature and old-growth forests are key in the fight against climate change. They pull and store massive amounts of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere through photosynthesis, sequestering it safely over the course of hundreds and thousands of years. These forests collect, cool, and release groundwater into streams and rivers, and provide habitat for countless threatened plant and animal species, and stabilize soil to prevent erosion. They are also sites of great historic and cultural importance to many Indigenous people.

Mature and old-growth forests are also, unfortunately, a drastically dwindling resource. The U.S. has lost approximately 95% of its original old-growth forests since the 1600’s.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hallman agreed, writing, “The highly uncertain effects of this project, when considered in light of its massive scope and setting, raise substantial questions about whether this project will have a significant effect on the environment.”

The fight for our mature and old-growth forest across the nation continues. But, at least for now, the Eastside Screens are safe again.

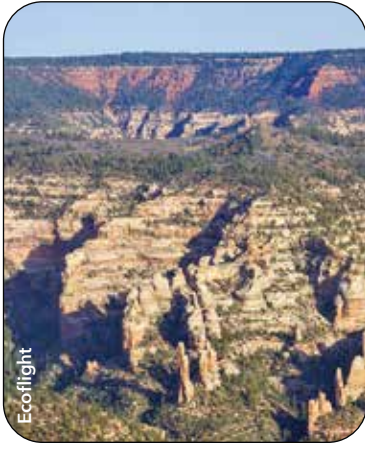
Utah Lawsuit Challenging Monument Restoration Tossed

August was a good month in court for Broads!

On August 11, a Utah federal judge threw out a pair of lawsuits led by the state of Utah that aimed to undo President Biden’s restoration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, and claimed the Antiquities Act itself was unlawful.

Broads, along with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Grand Canyon Trust, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, the Western Watersheds Project, and WildEarth Guardians intervened in the defense of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments and the Antiquities Act. The Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe also filed a separate intervention in





defense of the monuments in this case.

The state of Utah attempted to argue that the White House overstepped its authority to restore the monuments, which had been decreased by over 2 million acres by the Trump administration in 2017. President Bill Clinton designated Grand Staircase a national

monument in 1996, and President Barack Obama designated Bears Ears in 2016.

But Broads and our partners fought back, noting that over a century of court rulings made it clear that the President had the authority under the Antiquities Act to protect cultural, scientific, and ecological resources on public lands.

And U.S. District Judge David Nuffer agreed, writing in his decision, “President Biden’s judgment in drafting and issuing the Proclamations as he sees fit is not an action reviewable by a district court.”

Unfortunately, the fight to protect these landscapes—and the Antiquities Act itself—is not over, as the State of Utah has decided to appeal the decision. We’ll keep you informed on this continuing court fight.

New Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni-Grand Canyon National Monument

In early August (it was a busy month!), President Joe Biden designated nearly 1 million acres of the greater Grand Canyon landscape under the Antiquities Act as Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni-Grand Canyon National Monument, giving permanent protection to over 3,000 sites that are sacred to a several Tribal Nations across the Southwest, along with a number of important wildlife habitats ranging from sagebrush to savanna.

The name of the monument is a combination of the terms *Baaj nwaavjo* (BAAHJ – NUH-WAAHV-JOH), which means “where Indigenous peoples roam” in the Havasupai language,



and *i’tah kukveni* (EE-TAH – KOOK-VENNY), which means “our ancestral footprints” in the Hopi language.

Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni-Grand Canyon National Monument is made up of three distinct areas (totaling 917,618 acres) to the south, northeast, and northwest of the existing Grand Canyon National Park. The vast landscape includes deep canyons, mesas, creeks, grasslands, and forests that provide a refuge for a number of iconic Southwestern wildlife species—including bighorn sheep, mule deer, bison, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, owls, and many species of migratory songbirds.

The designation also permanently protects this landscape from mining and other destructive activities which have long-threatened the area.

According to the White House, the presidential proclamation directs the Interior Department and Department of Agriculture to engage with Tribes to ensure that “the management of the monument occurs in collaboration with Tribes and reflects the Indigenous Knowledge and special expertise Tribes have amassed over countless generations.”

At least a dozen Tribal Nations in the region, including the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Navajo Nation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes can trace their history to this region.

The proclamation also establishes the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon Commission to advance the objective of co-stewardship of the monument.

The monument is the fifth designated by the Biden administration so far.

Save the Sequoias from the “Save Our Sequoias Act”

Just as you can’t judge a book by its cover, you really shouldn’t judge a congressional bill by its name.

Case in point: the “Save Our Sequoias Act.” It sounds great—after all, of course we want to save sequoia trees. But perhaps a better name for this bill would be the “Fire Up the Chainsaws Act.”

The bill (HR 2989) was introduced by former House Speaker U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), and purports to save California’s threatened giant sequoia trees from wildfires by fast-tracking “emergency” efforts like forest thinning before conducting environmental impact studies as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The bill would similarly weaken the Endangered Species Act

(Continued page 10)



BROADBANDS IN ACTION!

by Jason Vaughn

Broadbands Tackle Mismanaged Livestock Grazing



In many ways, livestock grazing on public lands is the issue that first launched Great Old Broads for Wilderness, as our founders were activists for grazing reform in southern Utah before the organization even came into being.

And over 35 years later, grazing remains one of the hardest single issues to tackle in the U.S. conservation movement. There's no way to sugarcoat it—livestock grazing on

public lands is a destructive act. Livestock grazing can disrupt entire ecosystems, compact soils and hasten erosion, introduce invasive plant species, and wreck water quality—robbing entire ecosystems of habitat and clean water supplies already stressed by climate change-induced warming and drying.

Longtime Broad (and Board member) Mary O'Brien has been working on grazing-related public lands issues since 1985—and she says that in a lot of ways, the problem is only getting worse. She says there are simply too many grazing animals being fed off of a shrinking resource—and that the problem is only being exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

"Here and there, we're getting some areas that will be free of livestock," says O'Brien, noting the retirement of some grazing permits in Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. "But where lands are grazed—which is a large majority of the public land in the West—it's not getting better."

The problem, O'Brien explains, is largely political. She says management agencies are worried about actual violence in some places, recalling the notorious incidents over the past decade with the Bundy family on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Nevada and Oregon.

Another issue facing federal agencies is simply a lack of resources. Roughly 57% of the land managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the BLM is open for grazing livestock. That equals a staggering 250 million acres of land—an area larger than the nation of Egypt.

"Budgets have gone down over the years," says O'Brien.

"This means fewer people on the land to do monitoring and enforcement work."

But one of the biggest hurdles, O'Brien says, is "institutional inertia."

"The agencies just keep doing things the way they've been done for 100 years," says O'Brien. "Broadbands that work on grazing issues are up against a very stuck political system that has very little to do with ecological issues, or water issues, or climate change issues. We're up against a big, big problem."

That's why over the last year, she and a number of Broadband leaders across the west who routinely work on grazing issues have gathered to meet every other month to provide each other with updates, ideas, resources, and moral support.

"There are 10 Broadbands currently in the Grazing Network," says O'Brien. "There were just four or five when we started. When a Broadband hears about a grazing issue in their region, they know there's a 'self-help' network they can connect to for assistance."

Plus, O'Brien says, the Pacific Northwest Broadbands are routinely connecting with each other through their BRAT (Broads Regional Advocacy Team) on grazing issues in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

And there have been some wins. O'Brien says that the **Aldo's Silver City Broadband** in southwest New Mexico has been doing an excellent job doing monitoring work on public lands in their area, making sure fences are maintained and cattle are kept out of delicate riparian areas. She also noted the **South San Juan (CO) Broadband** has been doing an excellent job with grazing monitoring and reporting.



An Aldo's Silver City Broad monitoring a priority section of the Tularosa River enclosure near Luna, NM.

“It’s really important for the USFS and BLM to know that Broads are out there watching what’s happening,” says O’Brien.

For O’Brien, the work of the Broadbands has been a real boost in morale.

“I’m thrilled that Broadbands are taking this issue on, and helping each other. It makes me happy,” says O’Brien. “We live near all these areas that are being damaged by livestock. It’s great that we’re facing that issue and working on it. It’s important ecologically, it’s important aesthetically, it’s important for water, and it’s a climate change issue.”

“And Broads isn’t afraid to address it.”

For more information about Broads’ position on grazing, check out <https://bit.ly/PLgraze>.



Kayakers on Green Lake in Seattle hoist a banner to save salmon and orca whales by breaching the lower Snake River dams.

Seattle Broads Hit the Water to Raise Awareness of Dams and Salmon

This summer, the Polly Dyer Seattle Broadband (WA) co-sponsored the Green Lake Flotilla event to raise public awareness of the need to breach the lower Snake River dams to save highly-threatened salmon and the orcas that rely on them for survival. The Broads, with their partners at the Endangered Species Coalition, raised banners on the lake, and provided educational materials about the dams and salmon to the public.

CO Broads Stand Up Against Mad Rabbit Project

In September, the Northwest Colorado Broadband and their partners successfully lobbied the Routt County Board of Commissioners to ask the U.S. Forest Service to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement on a proposed recreational expansion project called Mad Rabbit in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest near Steamboat Springs.

The 127,000 acre project, the planning of which started in 2018, includes some 49 miles of new trails, disturbing over 3,000 acres of otherwise pristine landscape in the area of Rabbit Ears Pass along U.S. 40. The project has undergone a less-thorough Environmental Assessment, that left many questions about the impact to the local landscape unanswered.

“We would be remiss if we did not share our growing concern about the cumulative impacts of increased recreation on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests in areas adjacent to, or within, Routt County,” wrote the Board of Commissioners in the letter.

We’ll keep you updated on the project.

Broadband Leaders Rendezvous

In September, Broadband leaders gathered for a National Rendezvous at the Ancient Echoes at Kelly Place Center in McElmo Canyon near Cortez, CO. Leaders had the opportunity to get to know each other, share resources, offer encouragement, and get inspired.

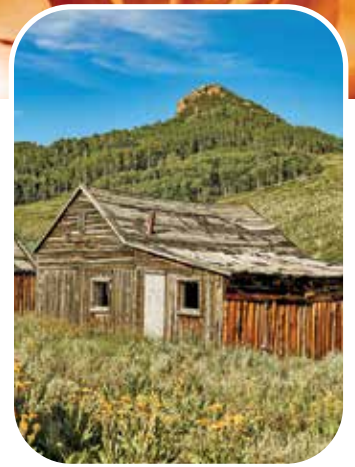
The three-day retreat included a presentation from Board Co-Chair LD Delano on Broads’ new 2023–26 Strategic Plan. In addition, there were informative symposiums led by Board member Mary O’Brien and Broads’ new Grassroots Advocacy Manager Audrey Glendenning covering the many ins and outs of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act).

Participants had an opportunity to hike and learn more about the local archaeology at nearby Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. And of course, everyone enjoyed great food, camaraderie, and lots of fun!

A Broads thanks to everyone who made it out this year!



Broads chilling after a hard day of Rendezvous training.



**“Why ‘Broads’
rather than
women?
Because, she
who laughs
lasts.”**

— Susan Tixier
Founder

of the Wilderness Act to establish Great Old Broads for Wilderness based on the idea that, as older women, we bring valuable life experience, skills, and commitment to the effort to protect wild lands.

However, though our founding was based on bringing the elder woman’s voice to the conservation movement, from the beginning we’ve held fast to the concept that

Broadness is a state of mind. No matter how you identify, or whether you are young or old, if you share our love for wilderness and a passion to protect wild places, then you’re a “Broad!”

As we look to 2024, we need to think about “Wilderness & Beyond” (the name of our upcoming conference, see page 3!). While wilderness designation is the ultimate protection, there are many more tools in the conservation toolbox that we must use to protect our special wild places—especially if we want to meet the goals of the 30x30/America the Beautiful Initiative to protect 30% of U.S. lands by 2030.

The 30×30 initiative is not just about numbers—it is a powerful call to action that requires a collective effort to address the urgent climate and biodiversity crises. While conserving ecologically intact lands and waters is essential, we must also focus on:

- Restoring degraded lands.
- Adopting sustainable agricultural and fishing practices.
- Respecting Indigenous stewardship of natural resources.
- Prioritizing the conservation of areas that hold historical, cultural, and ecological significance.
- Advocating for improved management of existing protected areas.
- Ensuring that everyone has equal access to nature.

These measures are vital in combating the threats to biodiversity and nature, and we should not underestimate their importance. This comprehensive approach can truly make a difference, and I know we are up to the challenge!

Thirty-five years young!

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary year, we want to hear what wilderness and wild places have meant to you. Send your reflections, memories, favorite photos, or writings to jason@greatoldbroads.org or mail to 555 Rivergate Lane, B1-110, Durango, CO 81301. Please send by April 1 so we share submissions at our Wilderness & Beyond Conference in October.



Mardy Murie (left) and Alice Zahniser (right) stand before President Lyndon B. Johnson at the signing of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Both women were there representing their husbands, Olaus Murie and Howard Zahniser, who did not live to see the act become law.

Wilderness 60!

On September 3, 2024, wilderness lovers across the country will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act—and all year long there will be events and activities to honor this milestone!

The 1964 Wilderness Act took nine years, 65 rewrites, 18 public hearings, and two trips through the Senate before Congress overwhelmingly passed the legislation—with only one dissenting vote (remarkable, considering today’s polarized climate!) Here’s a fun fact, one of our very own retired Broadband leaders was a law student at the time and worked on several of those 65 drafts!

Originally drafted by former Wilderness Society Executive Director Howard Zahniser, the Wilderness Act sought to, “assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition...”

The legislation established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), and initially 9.1 million acres of wild lands were set aside, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (MN), Bob Marshall Wilderness (MT), Ansel Adams Wilderness (CA), and several others. (By the way, the Gila Wilderness (NM) predates the 1964 Wilderness Act. It was designated in 1924, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year!)

Every President since Lyndon B. Johnson has added wilderness acres. President Jimmy Carter added the most acres, doubling the size of the NWPS when he signed the

(Continued next page)



Wilderness 60! (continued)

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act into law in 1980.

Today, there are 806 Wilderness areas totaling 111.8 million acres. The most recent wilderness designations in December, 2022 include Nevada's Clan Alpine Mountains (128,362 acres), Desatoya Mountains (40,303 acres), and Cain Mountain (14,050 acres), designated through the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act.

Wilderness designation is the ultimate protection, safeguarding wild lands from development, oil and gas exploration, mining, road construction, motorized or mechanized use, and commercial logging—all of which degrade land health.

The significance of wilderness persists, as it plays a crucial role in supporting wildlife habitat and sanctuary

for endangered species. Wild lands filter and purify the air, safeguard watersheds, and supply communities with pristine drinking water. Undisturbed lands provide resilience against the effects of climate change. Wilderness also offers exceptional opportunities for recreation, and gives us tranquil places where we can retreat from the chaos of the contemporary world.

The core of Broads' work is to keep the Wilderness Act intact and prevent activities and legislation that attempt to violate or weaken it. We must be vigilant, as the attacks are unrelenting and increasing. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Act, let's recommit ourselves to the protection of this law that is critical to the health of our communities and our planet.

Learn more about wilderness by visiting wilderness.net.

How Will You Celebrate Wilderness 60?

The national office will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with our Wilderness & Beyond Conference in October (see Events, pg. 3) and several Broadband chapters are in the early stages of planning

informative and fun events. This anniversary is a perfect opportunity to educate your community about the Wilderness Act and the ultimate protection wilderness designation provides.

Do you have something in the works or know of a local event we can share on the Broads' website and in our next newsletter? **Send your event information to comms@greatoldbroads.org.**

Just getting started? Reach out to other conservation organizations in your community to brainstorm and partner on activities.

Here are some ideas to get you rolling...

Wilderness Walks

Plan a hike in a wilderness area and talk about the advocates who helped bring about its protection.

Library/Museum Displays

Work with your local library, historical society, or community center to put together a display that informs people about the protected lands in your region and the value they bring to keeping us and our earth healthy.

Get Creative

Hold an art show, photography, or poetry contest inspired by wilderness.

Inform

Present a webinar or community event to educate your community about public lands protections and how wilderness designation works. Show a movie or hold a panel discussion about wilderness.

Hike-a-thon

Challenge your friends, family, and fellow Broads and Bros to commit to hiking 60 miles in 2024.

Handouts

Make a fun fact sheet to share at events about wilderness. Highlight your local wilderness areas.

Get Into the Wild

Plan a campout, hold an outdoor or backpacking cooking competition.



Restore & Repair

Work with your local land management agency to put on a stewardship project just for kids and their families.

Write Letters & Emails

Write a letter to the editor of your local paper celebrating (and educating) your community about wilderness. Write or email your Congressional representatives about the importance of preserving wild lands and ask them to support wilderness designations and other protections.

We can't wait to see what our members come up with to celebrate the wild and look forward to hearing about your plans.



(ESA) by waiving the studies that ensure projects won't drive species toward extinction. The National Historic Preservation Act would also be weakened by the bill.

In reality, nothing about this bill would be beneficial to sequoia trees or the ecosystems that they anchor. Forest thinning, controlled burns, and other measures are certainly appropriate to help prevent massively-destructive wildfires (when done with careful consideration), but you can't "save" a forest by bypassing the very laws that have kept it safe from destruction. This legislation could very well be used by the lumber industry to expedite logging operations in otherwise protected areas under the guise of wildfire mitigation.

The environmental impact studies and other mechanisms provided by NEPA are absolutely vital to protect our public lands, air, and water—and any move to weaken NEPA or our nation's other bedrock environmental laws by bypassing these tools and removing any requirement for public input is simply unacceptable. Although the "Save Our Sequoias Act" would only apply to forests in California, it represents a precedent-setting attack on NEPA as part of

an overall extraction industry agenda to weaken our bedrock environmental laws—if not eliminate them altogether.

Over 80 environmental and conservation organizations—including Broads—have signed a letter to lawmakers opposing HR 2989. But

disturbingly, this bill currently has bipartisan support in the House, with 30 Republican and 25 Democratic co-sponsors.

We'll keep you informed on the fight against this terribly misnamed legislation. In the meantime, please reach out to your Congressional delegation today and ask them to say "NO" to HR 2989!



A warm welcome to Audrey Glendenning, our new Grassroots Advocacy Manager. Audrey will be working with the national office and Broadbands on enhancing our advocacy efforts through training, staying up to date on key legislation, writing comments, reviewing sign-ons, and more!

A Maryland native now based in Missoula, Montana, Audrey holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of Maryland, and a Master's degree in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana. In her free time, Audrey enjoys riding her bike around town, trying new beers, and exploring public lands.

We posed a few questions to help you get to know Audrey better...

Meet Audrey Glendenning

What public lands issue really gets you fired up and why?

National monument designation is a very exciting and unique tool to protect landscapes! The legal mechanism for creating a national monument is so different from every other type of land designation. As a policy nerd, that's what gets me fired up!

Where is your favorite wild place to camp or hike?

I'm happy anywhere in northwest Montana! It is impossible to pick a favorite place because I love exploring new spots.

If you were stranded on a desert island, what book would you want to have with you?

I'd bring my newly appointed favorite book: "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver. It is a beautiful story with a lot of heart. Maybe a smarter decision would be some sort of edible plant identification book... but I still pick "Demon Copperhead".

What are three things you believe are important to being an effective advocate?

1. Listening skills. Advocacy requires lots of networking and conversations. If you

are an active and effective listener, you are more likely to create new relationships that may come in handy in the future. Also, by listening to the thoughts and opinions of your opposition, you are better equipped to form your own position.

2. Understanding the system you have to operate in. American democracy is complex and convoluted. It is easy to get frustrated when progress feels far out of reach and change comes so slowly. By understanding "the system"—like the forest planning process or how legislation moves through Congress—you can figure out where your voice is most powerful.

3. Caring deeply about what you advocate for. We are lucky to be advocates for something so special. Use that passion to fuel your work!

What is your favorite kind of beer?

Sour beers are my favorite! I had an incredible huckleberry sour this summer from Draughtworks in Missoula...I think about it all the time.

Don't miss Audrey's article about the Federal Register—a valuable tool for advocates. Connect with Audrey by email at audrey@greatoldbroads.org.



Welcome a-Board (of Directors, that is)

We'd like to introduce three new faces on our Board of Directors!

But first we want to acknowledge and thank Mary O'Brien, who will reach her maximum length of service (per our bylaws) at the end of the year. Mary has been a valuable source of knowledge, inspiration, and guidance. And we're happy to say that she will still be involved as she heads up our Advocacy & Science Committee and participates with the Litigation Committee and Grazing Coalition (see Broader Wilderness, pg 4).

And now, welcome to...



Carol Foster

Carol has spent decades camping and hiking in her native Colorado and many other parts of the U.S. and the world. She is a fourth-generation Coloradoan who lives in Estes Park and is passionate about preserving and protecting public lands.

Carol is a (mostly) retired CPA with 40 years of experience in public accounting, serving a wide variety of businesses and non-profit organizations. Appropriately, she has stepped up to take on the critical role of Board Treasurer. Thanks, Carol!



Kristy Weber

Kristy's interest in environmental issues began as a child camping in the national parks every summer. She has led backpacking, whitewater canoeing, and biking trips in New Hampshire, Maine, and Nova Scotia, and has been on multiple wilderness adventures in

the Minnesota Boundary Waters and Alaska. She currently lives in Haverstown, PA. Kristy is a fierce advocate for women and has dedicated much of her career as an orthopedic surgeon to women's empowerment. Kristy is jumping into the Board with both feet as Vice Chair. We are grateful to Kristy for her leap into leadership!



Lynn Aldrich

Lynn has been a Broads member for many years and brings her love of the outdoors to the Board of Directors. She is a retired physics professor with a love of hiking, backpacking, and orienteering and lives in an Earthship near Taos, New Mexico.

Lynn brings decades of experience in the nonprofit world, having served on the boards of land trusts, orienteering organizations, a local Habitat for Humanity, and a sustainable building organization. She has a degree in accounting and has helped boards understand organizational finances—to our great benefit! Thanks, Lynn for bringing additional financial expertise to the board.

AGELESS ADVOCATES!

We want YOU to nominate members who represent the ideals of Great Old Broads and have contributed significantly to protecting our country's wilderness and wild lands. Send us details on conservation heroes who have made a difference for wild places. We will honor them at our Wilderness & Beyond Conference in October.

Submit the person's name, place of residence, lands they worked to protect, and why the nominee should be recognized as a 2024 Ageless Advocate by May 1 to membership@greatoldbroads.org.

Our New Strategic Plan!

In September we released our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan. It's a 3-year plan instead of a 5-year since the conservation landscape can change overnight—and we must be nimble and ready to re-think our strategies should anti-conservation forces take center stage in our country (again). The plan will be reviewed quarterly and will be updated as needed to remain relevant to our work.

Mega-thanks to the Board of Directors and Strategic Planning Committee who worked diligently to craft a solid plan. The Committee included Executive Director Sara Husby, a selection of Broadband leaders, members of our Board, Council of Advisors, and the Equity & Justice Committee. In addition, the first draft went out to all Broadband leaders for feedback. The final plan was reviewed and finalized by Sara and the program directors on staff (Kaye Berman, Susan Kearns, and Lisa Pool). Gratitude goes out to all the participants for their wisdom, insight, and guidance. Together we have created a practical, yet aspirational road map grounded in our mission and values. See the new plan at <https://bit.ly/23-26SPlan>.

We are inspired and excited about what's ahead for Broads. And yes, our goals and strategies are ambitious!

Help us grow our capacity to train advocates to protect our wild places with a donation.

You can donate online at: <https://bit.ly/SP23-26>, scan the QR code, or give our office a call at (970) 385-9577.





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**How
Will You
Celebrate
Wilderness
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~SEE PAGE 9~



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*Teton WHALES (ID) members, Robin Janes
and Janna Rankin kick back after a day on
the Colorado River with Holiday Rivers.*



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