

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sara Husby

Common Ground is Critical

I love that our members are WILD (Women in Loving Defense) for public land health, protection, and climate action. And, that we all approach the work we do with “Broadness” (humor, inclusiveness, creativity, resilience, and collaboration)!

At a time where our planet and public lands need champions and more protection than ever, we must be willing to have open communication with groups and individuals that we may

consider as “nontraditional stakeholders.” This not only helps us to see all perspectives, but it also opens doors to work together and find solutions on public lands issues.

And while at times it may be difficult to stay calm in a heated discussion or when we sit across the table from someone who may have different views on an array of topics, the bottom line is that if that person has a love for public lands and wild places, then we have common ground.

A great place to start is with the mindset that we all love our public lands, even though we may recreate and use them in different ways.

One such relationship that I am proud to have made and maintained is with a major player in the off-highway vehicle (OHV) community. Now I can only imagine how many of you are reading this right now with your mouth wide open. But let me tell you, when you’re sitting in a Starbucks with someone you may not consider to be a typical stakeholder and the conservation partner you are both meeting with went to the wrong location twice and doesn’t show up for 40 minutes, you really get to know that person on an entirely different level.

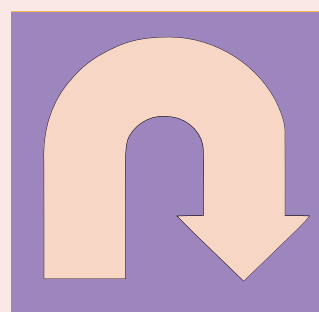
This person, even though he rides on the land, rather than hiking, loves our public lands too. He shared that he wants public lands protected so they can be enjoyed by his friends and family. And, he gets upset when folks go off designated trails, abuse sensitive areas, or don’t respect closed areas. Do any of those values sound familiar to you?

Despite today’s highly-polarized political climate, there are bills that are bipartisan. A great example is Senate Bill 2781, the *Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act*. This piece of legislation will make it easier for “good Samaritans”—including state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and other groups—to clean up and improve water quality in and around abandoned hardrock mines.

This bill was reintroduced by U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Jim Risch (R-ID) who came together on common ground.

“We have good Samaritans ready to clean up abandoned mines that are threatening our communities through the land, water, fish, and wildlife they rely on,” said Heinrich.

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Change of plans

This year, instead of holding the **Wild for Wilderness Online Auction**, we’re presenting an in-person silent and live auction at the Wilderness & Beyond Conference in October!

Learn more about the conference on Page 3.

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Broader Wilderness

A win or two and an ongoing battle to protect the Colorado River from catastrophe.

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Broadbands in Action

The new year is off to a busy start, and our Broadbands are kicking butt and taking names.

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Meet Julie & Emily

Our new Grassroots Regional Coordinators will knock your socks off!

by Audrey Glendenning

On Earth Day 2022, President Biden issued an “Executive Order to Strengthen America’s Forests, Boost Wildfire Resilience, and Combat Global Deforestation.” This Executive Order (EO) directed the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct the first-ever nationwide inventory of old-growth and mature forests. These inventories, which were released a year later on Earth Day 2023, show that the BLM and USFS manage approximately 32 million acres of old growth and 80 million acres of mature forests on federal lands—a total of 112 million acres.*

The EO also directed both agencies to “develop policies, with robust opportunity for public comment, to institutionalize climate-smart management and conservation strategies that address threats to mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands.” The USFS started this process in April 2023 when it announced an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for National Forest and Grassland Climate Resilience.

ANPRs exist to announce an upcoming rulemaking and are an invitation to the public to submit comments, ideas, and opinions. You may remember this was the subject of our July 2023 Action Alert—and many Broads members participated. In total, the USFS received 92,000 individual comments, including 30 petitions with 426,000 signatures, on the ANPR.

But rather than proceed with this rulemaking, the USFS pivoted to a different strategy. In December, the agency announced their intent to amend every national forest management plan—128 plans for 154 national forests—at the same



time to include a consistent direction to conserve and steward old-growth forests. This is an unprecedented process—never before has the USFS developed a nationwide amendment to guide new management direction on all national forests at once.

The announcement includes concepts such as:

- Conserving and stewarding existing and recruiting future old-growth forest conditions
- Monitoring old-growth forest conditions across planning areas of the National Forest System
- Strengthening the capacity of existing and future old-growth forests to adapt to the ongoing effects of climate change
- Incorporating Indigenous knowledge into planning, project design, and implementation to achieve forest management goals
- Fostering the long-term resilience of old-growth forest conditions and their contributions to ecological integrity across the National Forest System.

December’s announcement marked the beginning of the scoping process, in which the USFS solicited comments from the public on the information, studies, and environmental impacts that the agency should consider during the preparation of the amendment. Many of our members and Broadbands submitted scoping



555 Rivergate Lane, B1-110
Durango, CO 81301
970-385-9577
broads@greatoldbroads.org
www.greatoldbroads.org

STAFF

Sara Husby
Executive Director

Susan Kearns
Communications Director

Jason Vaughn
Communications Coordinator

Sally Sharp
Grassroots Regional Coordinator

Julie Savage
Grassroots Regional Coordinator

Emily Loubsky
Grassroots Regional Coordinator

Jolin Cordalis
Operations Manager

Jane Lindsey
Membership Program Coordinator

Audrey Glendenning
Grassroots Advocacy Manager

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engages and inspires activism
to preserve and protect wil-
derness and wild lands.**

Please credit Broads for
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* Mature and Old-Growth Report: <https://bit.ly/MOGRpt>

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Wilderness & Beyond Conference Plans Begin to Take Shape

Planning for our upcoming Wilderness & Beyond Conference (October 14–17 in Estes Park, CO) has begun! Committees are busily building their ideas into great workshop sessions and activities, which will align with Broads' pillars of Education, Advocacy, Stewardship—and of course, we can't forget Fun!

In addition to activities such as area hikes or birdwatching (we're close to Rocky Mountain National Park!), we're working on a couple of special fun paid options that may include photography or art workshops, backcountry cooking, and more. As plans solidify, we'll send out email updates to keep you abreast of session topics and activities and how to sign up for additional offerings.

We've reserved an entire 3-story building that will not only serve as our lodging, but also host the meeting rooms for conference sessions. Meals (all included) will be served in the nearby Aspen Dining Hall, and when we gather as a group, it will be in the Willome cabin—a large space that will also feature exhibits by Broadbands and partners.

The two main conference days (Tuesday, Wednesday) will offer participants a selection of morning conference sessions or activities and afternoon sessions and activities. Monday and Tuesday evenings will include speakers and special programs, and Wednesday night we'll kick up our heels, dress up in Wild Broads style (whatever that means to you!) and celebrate at the **Hiking Boots Ball!** After the evening events, we'll light the campfire to end the evening with new and old friends. This will be an event to remember and we look forward to sharing plans as they unfold!



Get On Board!

Have you ever considered applying your life experience, skills, and knowledge toward serving on Broads' Board of Directors? Our Board members provide guidance on strategic direction and assure the necessary resources—including funds, staff, and professional expertise—are available to accomplish Broads' mission.



The Basics

- Directors serve three-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- The Board meets quarterly by Zoom to focus on strategy, advocacy, budget, programs, activities, and fundraising.
- An annual retreat is held in the fall to review past actions, plan future directions, and approve the budget.
- Each member is expected to take an active role in the organization and assist with fundraising.

Interested? Learn more at <https://bit.ly/BroadOnBoard> or contact Board Co-Chair Micky Ryan at mickryan@aol.com or LD Delano at ldelano@withoutta.net

It Takes a Bevy of Broads—Wanna Help?

Many hands make light work—and at the Wilderness & Beyond Conference there will be many mini- to medium-sized tasks where we could use an hour or two of your time! These include:

- Organizing materials and greeting people at registration.
- Helping to direct participants to their lodging, meeting rooms, meal locations, activities, etc.
- Assisting with set-up of the silent auction.
- Being a session ambassador to assist speakers, as needed.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/WildVol> and let us know what level of activity and amount of time you'd like to commit (while still leaving time to enjoy the conference, of course). We'll thank you with a special gift!

The Broader Wilderness



by Jason Vaughn

It's a new year and we have a win or two to look back on. You can be sure Broads will keep the pressure on to gain more wins in 2024!

Big Deal is a Big Win for Bighorns

In Colorado, an agreement reached last November will retire grazing permits on public lands high in the San Juan Range near Silverton. The deal between the Etchart family—which held the grazing permits—and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) will help safeguard bighorns and other sensitive species on more than 100,000 acres of fragile alpine tundra habitat.

Under the terms of the deal, the NWF purchased the permits from the Etchart family at a negotiated fair-market value. The organization will now work with federal agencies to retire those leases permanently.

The area, which had been grazed for more than a century, overlaps with the range of one of the most important

bighorn herds in the nation. This deal will help create a permanent separation between domestic sheep and the state's threatened bighorn sheep population. Keeping domestic sheep and bighorns separated is vitally important, as the domestic sheep often carry diseases for which bighorns have no immunity—and interaction between the two have sometimes led to massive die-offs in bighorn herds across the west.

Endangered Frogs Jump for Joy After Ruling in Federal Grazing Case

In Oregon last October, a federal appeals court ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) fell short of its obligations under the Endangered Species Act when issuing a Biological Opinion that allowed cattle grazing within critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog on Jack Creek in the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

The **Central Oregon Bitterbrush**

Broadband joined a broad coalition of conservation groups to advocate for this endangered amphibian. In addition to Broads, the coalition included Western Watersheds Project, Concerned Friends of the Winema, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, and Oregon Wild.

In its ruling, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the USFWS's analysis failed to "consider whether the small frog population could sustain grazing-related impacts on top of potential climate change effects." The Court also found that USFWS relied on vague and inadequate mitigation measures to address the serious threat that low water conditions pose to the species. This victory is important—and not only for the Oregon spotted frog—because it shows that the federal agencies need to start taking the impacts of climate change seriously when considering whether or not livestock grazing is allowed on a particular allotment of public land.



Cricket's Blog



Robyn Cascade, leadership team member of CO's Northern San Juan Broadband, spent hours monitoring bighorn sheep.



Happy Howls as Wolf Reintroduction Begins in Colorado

In 2020, Colorado voters said “Yes!” to a plan to reintroduce gray wolves to the state’s Western Slope by the end of 2023, nearly a century after wolves disappeared due to hunting and trapping across the region.

And in December, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials finally made that happen as the state agency released five wolves into the wild in an undisclosed location on state-owned public land in Grand County. The wolves—three males and two females from three different packs—were captured in Oregon and released in Colorado the very next day.

Wolves are a vital species because they help keep populations of natural prey like elk and deer in check. When there are too many deer and elk on a landscape without any natural predators, it can impact the ability of the plant species they eat to thrive—which then impacts the insects and animals that rely on those plants. This in turn, impacts species that rely on those insects and small animals to survive. As was shown in Yellowstone, the reintroduction of wolves can be the key to an overall healthier, more vital ecosystem.

The state plans on releasing 30 to 50 wolves on the Western Slope over the next three to four years, at undisclosed locations scattered across state-owned land in Eagle, Grand, and Summit counties.

“(We are) really focused on biodiversity and we are working to become the nation’s leader on biodiversity,” Dan Gibbs, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources told *The Colorado Sun*. “We are going to continue to work to bring back species that used to be native to Colorado. It’s fun to be part of history right now.”

USFS Pulls Plug on Uinta Basin Railway Plan, But Other Threats Loom

In January, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) withdrew a federal permit on a section of the proposed Uinta Basin Railway project, a proposed 88-mile rail route that would transport crude oil from oil fields in eastern Utah to the Union Pacific railroad. If completed, the project would allow millions of gallons of crude oil to be transported via rail, bringing with it the constant threat of derailment as it passes through several delicate ecosystems in the Rocky Mountains and along the Colorado River.

The permit in question would have allowed construction of a rail line through 12 miles of Ashley National Forest in Colorado. Last August, following a lawsuit by several communities worried about the risks of the project on the Colorado River, increased wildfire danger, and climate impacts, a federal court overruled the Surface Transportation Board’s (STB) approval of the rail project, and ordered a new environmental review. Then in December, the court denied a petition to rehear the case and halted the project. This decision led the USFS to withdraw its permit since its initial decision to allow the project to move forward relied on STB’s flawed initial environmental review.



The railway would have allowed approximately 4.6 billion gallons of waxy crude oil to be shipped each year. Any oil spill along this route along the headwaters of the Colorado River could not only threaten fish and wildlife, but also the water supplies for more than 40 million people across the West.

While this project has been halted, three facilities in Carbon County, Utah are looking for ways to expand their capacity to move more oil to the Gulf Coast through the I-70 corridor along the Colorado River. The Wildcat

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What's Happening at the Okefenokee?

by Julie Savage

The Okefenokee Swamp, straddling the Florida-Georgia state line, is distinguished by tea-colored blackwater, Spanish moss hanging from trees, and alligators basking in the sun. With a kayak or canoe, a visitor can traverse 120 miles of winding water trails and swamp skirted by prairies and forested uplands. These varied habitats of the Okefenokee are home to more than 600 species of plants, 40 species of mammals, 200 bird species, 110 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 34 species of fish.

What's more, the Okefenokee serves as the headwaters for the Suwanee and St. Marys Rivers, which means water from the Okefenokee flows through the 246-mile Suwanee River to the Gulf of Mexico on one side, and through the 130-mile St. Marys River, the border between Georgia and Florida, to the Atlantic Ocean on the other.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937, and currently encompasses about 402,000 acres, making it the largest refuge east of the Mississippi River. Of this area, 353,981 acres of the Okefenokee is designated as a National Wilderness Area.

It is further protected as an International Dark Sky Park, and as a designated Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

How do we continue to protect such a special place?

Thanks to their interest and connections, leaders of **Georgia's GRITS Broadband**, Anne Heikkila and Jean Millkey, are hoping to do just that. And help with that effort comes from new Grassroots Regional Coordinator,

Georgia-resident Julie Savage (that's me!). The Broadband seeks to protect the Okefenokee by supporting existing efforts to designate it as UNESCO World Heritage site, and prevent a nearby proposed titanium dioxide mine.

We are grateful for our partners who have been diligently working on these projects, including Kim Bednarek, Executive Director of Okefenokee Swamp Park & Okefenokee Adventures; Emily Floore, Executive Director of St. Marys Riverkeeper; and Christian Hunt, Senior Policy Analyst for Federal Lands at Defenders of Wildlife.

Want to learn more about the Okefenokee?

Please check out the "What's Happening at the Okefenokee?" webinar on Broads' YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/OkeWeb>. Presented in January, the recording features Kim Bednarek and Emily Floore, and was facilitated by our GRITS Broadband Leaders. Our southern contingent will continue to work on these projects and will keep you posted on their progress. So, for now, it's see you later, alligator!

Protecting Utah's Red Cliffs NCA

by Sally Sharp

Utah's 45,000-acre Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, located just outside St. George, UT was established by Congress in 2009 to permanently protect the natural resources of the area. This incredible landscape is a vital part of the ancestral homelands of the Southern Paiute and Pueblo communities and is filled with significant cultural resources.

Now, officials want to put a four-lane highway through this important landscape.



Southwest Utah Broadband members have been following this proposed project (the “Northern Corridor Highway”) for years. The plan to build the highway through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) was approved during the final days of the Trump administration in 2021 despite having been denied six times because it was found to be in violation of numerous environmental laws and was unsupported by Congress.



There are viable transportation alternatives that meet community needs without impacting the Red Cliffs NCA, which provides critical habitat for species such as the highly-threatened Mojave desert tortoise, Gila monster, Burrowing owl, and kit fox.

This project could also set a dangerous precedent. If the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approves this highway through an NCA, what's to stop them from allowing new roads through other protected areas?

“Our biggest concern has been for the threatened species that call this area home; running a highway through that habitat will be detrimental to those species via displacement, poor air quality, and most assuredly increased chances of fires—which could not only harm wildlife but also the food they depend on,” says Southwest Utah Broadband Leader Jane Stewart.

Stewart received an urgent email from a trusted conservation partner requesting support, and she sprang into action. She activated Broadband members by notifying them about an informational meeting and a BLM Open House that week, and encouraged them to submit comments to the agency in support of a new review. She also asked the national office to put out a nationwide Action Alert (the second on this topic) regarding the precedent-setting issue, which generated more comments in opposition of the project.

In November, the project was placed on hold after a lawsuit settlement where the BLM agreed to revisit their analysis of the project's environmental impact. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Notice of Availability is to be released in April 2024, kicking off a 45-day public comment period. We will alert our membership to this opportunity to comment with the hope of putting an end to this proposed highway once and for all.

PNW Broads “BRATS” Fight to Breach Snake River Dams

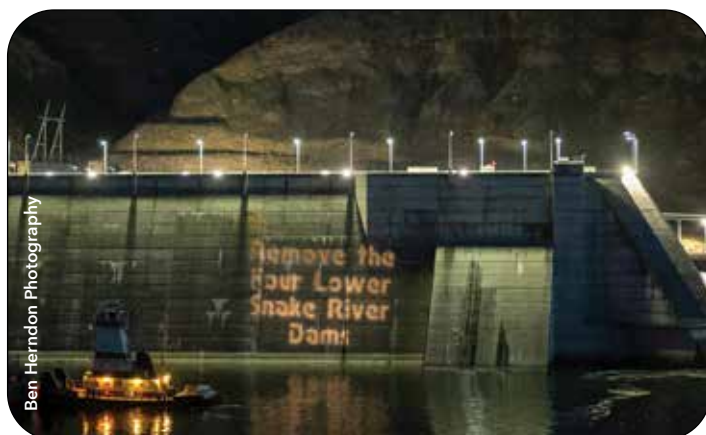
by Emily Loubsky

In the Pacific Northwest, Broadbands have put their heads together and created what we affectionately call BRATS (Broads Regional Advocacy Teams) to tackle regional issues such as grazing and old-growth forests head-on.

One such BRAT, the **Lower Snake River Dam (LSRD) BRAT**, is laser-focused on removing a series of four dams on the lower Snake River. These four dams, built in the '60s and '70s, disrupted the river's natural flow, which took a toll on salmon populations—an important part of the food chain, especially for orca whales. A century ago, a young Chinook salmon could zip through the winding 325-mile stretch from the Idaho Panhandle to the Pacific Ocean in less than five days. Today, scientists say it takes as long as a month. That's a significant decline. The dams' reservoirs create an approximately 150-mile-long slack water pool where most of the salmon smolts die or are eaten long before making it to the ocean.

Conservation groups first sued the federal government over two decades ago to breach the dams and save the fish, arguing that the ongoing operation of the dams violates not only the Endangered Species Act, but also

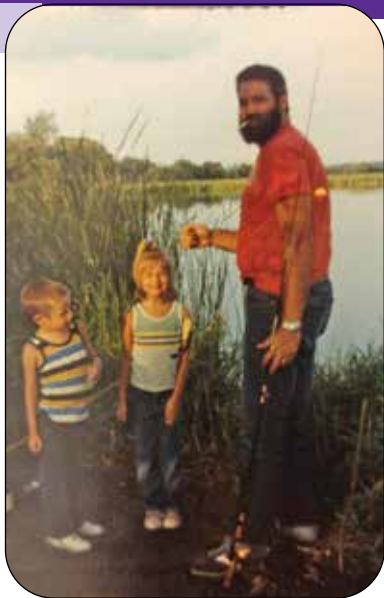
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"For far too long, we have prevented common sense environmental improvements from taking place at long-abandoned hardrock mines because we place significant liability risk on the good faith actors who want to clean them up," said Risch.

This piece of legislation truly has bipartisan support with an additional seven Democrats, nine Republicans, and one independent on board. Both sides see the value in finding a way to clean up abandoned mines—a potentially toxic menace which can hurt both local communities and natural ecosystems alike.

As we work on legislation or public lands



Sara (center) with her brother, Cole (left) and their father, John.

issues, we should never dismiss a party or elected official because we assume they won't see eye to eye with our beliefs. It's important to come to any discussion with an open mind to uncover the common values you share. As my dad always said, "if you don't ask, you don't know, and the worst thing someone can tell you is 'no'."

As Broads, we take on the responsibility of protecting and advocating for the wild places we love. Acting with integrity and openness in all our dealings is what makes us stand apart, and it contributes toward a sense of belonging for all who want to be involved in the conservation of public lands.

(Advocacy Corner—Continued from Page 2)

comments with information specific to the national forests most important to them. Broads' national office hosted a webinar to educate our members about the amendment, and also submitted a scoping comment on behalf of the entire organization. The scoping period concluded on February 2, 2024.

The proposed action and draft environmental impact statement is expected to be released in May, which will be accompanied by a 90-day comment period. Upon this release, Broads will work diligently to review the proposal and work with our members to develop comments. The USFS plans to release the final amendment and

environmental impact statement in January 2025.

Broads' participation in this process will be incredibly valuable. Threats to forest health and what the USFS considers to be old-growth vary greatly from region to region. Our members are experts on their local national forests, and the USFS needs this local expertise and insight in order to create meaningful guidelines for managing the unique types of old-growth forests in this country. And the national office is ready with support as we engage in this process.

If you have any questions or need support with this activity, let me know at audrey@greatoldbroads.org!



New Member T-Shirt Debuts!

In case you haven't heard, this year's 2024 Member T-Shirt is available! Designed by Broad artist Jess Dudley, our collectible, limited-edition tee shows the world your commitment to protecting wild lands. Made with 100% recycled material, it is a soft heather blue with Jess' stunning

design in Broads' purple on the back. The front has the Broads' logo and "Member 2024".

When your 2024 contributions to Broads reach the \$100 level or higher, we will recognize your support by sending you this complimentary member tee.

Here's what Jess has to say about her artwork entitled "EcoBalance".

"Watching nature's intricate systems work together in harmony is always something that makes me feel grounded. I've spent much of my life exploring our beautiful forests, deserts, and coast lines. From where I grew up, in Maine to California, where I reside now. I'm grateful that people of all ages, abilities and income levels have access to public lands and can enjoy their beauty."

Get yours today! Join at <https://bit.ly/BeBroad>





treaties dating back to the mid-19th century that ensure the Tribal right to harvest fish.

Fast forward to the recent unveiling of a whopping \$1 billion plan over the next decade by the U.S. government to restore salmon populations in the Columbia River basin. The Biden administration plan earmarked \$300 million for salmon habitat restoration and another \$200 million for hatchery upgrades. The plan outlines how research studies should analyze alternatives to replace the hydropower, transportation (highly subsidized barging), and other activities associated with the dams, to prepare for breaching down the road.

The LSRD BRAT aren't exactly high-fiving Biden's plan and timeline. They point out that waiting another ten years for environmental analysis and research into alternatives will push salmon populations to the brink. The Broads say, "Why wait?"

The team has kicked into high gear, going all out for dam breaching, which entails just removing the earthen portion of the dams, not the entire infrastructure. Picture this profusion of activity: emails, letters, and postcards hitting the desks of federal officials and politicians, and movie

nights featuring the documentary "Damned to Extinction." Broads are on the streets, joining protests, organizing and attending events, tuning in for webinars, and making comments at public meetings with elected officials.

These activities add up to more than 1,000 volunteer hours, all to call for the breach of the dams.

The LSRD BRAT is a shining example of Broad's grassroots, comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship and the restoration of our wild places.

If you're feeling the call to advocate for the breaching of the lower Snake River dams, get in touch with me, Grassroots Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest at **emily@greatoldbroads.org**. It's not just a cause; it's a calling, and we'd love to have you on board!



Sally Sharp (snow angel and Grassroots Regional Coordinator) demonstrates novel advocacy techniques while Alaska Soles Broadband Leader Loren Karro fills her in on Alaskan issues.

Loadout, Price River Terminal, and Savage Energy Terminal are seeking state air quality permits that will allow them to increase the amount of oil loaded onto trains from 110,500 to 260,000 barrels per day—or roughly 75% of the oil that the proposed Uinta Basin Railway would have carried.

This has raised alarm bells for many people—including Colorado legislators who have penned a letter to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Tracy Stone-Manning in opposition to this proposed expansion, stating, "The project would enable the shipment of up to an additional one billion gallons of waxy crude oil per year from Utah's Uinta Basin through Colorado on an average



of one two-mile-long train every day. Given this project's potential dangers, we urge BLM to conduct a full and robust environmental impact statement (EIS) that considers all the risks posed to Colorado, rather than a cursory environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed expansion."

U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse (CO-2) and Sen. Michael Bennett of Colorado also wrote to the BLM director

urging that the agency prepare an EIS.

Colorado Broads are actively opposing this latest threat. We'll keep you updated on this as it develops.



Welcome Our New Broads!

Please give a warm welcome to the newest members of our Grassroots Leadership team, Julie Savage and Emily Loubsky, who have teamed up with Grassroots Regional Coordinator Sally Sharp to provide training, inspiration, and support to our Broadband leaders across the country. It took a while to find just the right Broads—but we feel it was worth the wait, and we think you'll agree!

Julie lives in Kingsland, Georgia and works with members in California, Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, the Northeast U.S., and our new Mobile Broadband. Emily hails from Salida, Colorado, and has Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming Broadbands on her plate.

Sally, now located in Pueblo, Colorado, supports Broads in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah.

While you can read their bios on our website, we thought it might be fun to dig a little deeper so you can get to know these two.

Where is your favorite wild place?

Emily: My favorite wild place is deep within the Royal Gorge, just outside of my hometown of Cañon City, Colorado. The Royal Gorge is home to the most commercially rafted section of river in the United States—the Arkansas River—and features one of the tallest suspension bridges in the world. The Gorge has tested my courage, provided loads of excitement, humbled me, fostered friendships, and served as a constant source of inspiration, awe, and wonder. Many life lessons have been learned over the years within the Royal Gorge.

Julie: Not so wild, but my favorite outdoor space is Maymont. Anyone who grew up in Richmond, Virginia knows this free-to-the-public,

100-acre park's gardens, wildlife rehab exhibits, and children's farm. I visit nearly every time I go back home. I often reflect how much my childhood trips to Maymont impacted my desire to pursue conservation as a career.

What public lands issue fires you up?

Emily: The public lands concern that particularly engages me is the impact of recreationists on these spaces, particularly regarding improper waste disposal in natural environments. Initially, I believed that involvement in outdoor activities was a crucial first step in fostering a connection with the land and, consequently, a motivation to safeguard it. However, I've come to realize that simply enjoying nature doesn't always translate into a responsible stewardship mindset. With technological advancements and increased accessibility to wild areas, the environmental impact of recreational activities has grown. Ideally, I hope people prioritize learning and adhering to leave-no-trace principles as a prerequisite for enjoying our natural spaces.

Julie: After working for the National Park Service at Mesa Verde National Park (CO) and Cumberland Island National Seashore (GA), I would say limited outreach and education around our public lands fires me up. I get upset when I hear about things like a local kid who has grown up on the coast and has never been on a boat, much less the ferry to Cumberland Island. Or, the many times it was difficult, yet important, to explain to a new visitor the different fees and schedules associated with our numerous public lands designations. For individuals who haven't been



Julie Savage



Emily Loubsky

introduced to public lands, it can all be very overwhelming.

If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why?

Emily: I would love to have dinner with Greta Thunberg, the famous climate change activist. Her unwavering dedication to the cause, against all odds, is inspiring, courageous, and extremely admirable. So much could be learned from such a strong force of a woman.

Julie: I've been fortunate to know three of my four grandparents into my late 20s-early 30s. However, my paternal grandfather, Grampie, passed away when I was five. I'd like the opportunity to have dinner with him so I could get to know him myself. The privilege of knowing older family members puts many family dynamics into perspective or shared understanding.

Tell us something about you that's not in your bio.

Emily: My brother, Blake, is 15 months older than me. He has always been my best friend, partner in crime, and role model. My dad would dress me in my brother's hand-me-downs and people would mistake us for twins; I loved it. Cheers to siblings!

Julie: I'm the office co-worker who will eat all the chocolate, especially dark chocolate. So much so I had a candy bowl and sign in my office at Mesa Verde that said, "Pop In, Say Hi, Grab Candy." I ate a bunch of it too.



Are you a Wild Lands Protector?

by Jane Lindsey

Sustaining donors are a reassuring constant, creating a fiscal foundation for Broads that funds strong and effective ongoing programs. That's why we're excited to announce a new program for our monthly sustaining members—**Wild Lands Protectors!**

We wanted to highlight two such Wild Lands Protectors who are committed to advocating against damaging policies, igniting public conversations about the value of our wild places, and inspiring countless individuals to take action: **Di Alison**, former Board member and current co-leader of Utah's Greater Wasatch Broadband, and her sister **Cyndi Anderson**, co-leader of Oregon's Willamette Valley Broadband.

"As our outreach and Broadbands grew and I completed my two terms on the Board, I recognized the need for stability in funding sources," says Di, who has been a sustaining member for a decade. "Whether it's \$10 a month or \$100 dollars a month, that 'sustainer' donation helps to provide a known source of income stability for the organization. It's a painless withdrawal from my bank account each month and certainly does not preclude me from making an additional donation over time for specific needs...or reducing the amount if my personal situation warrants it."

Cyndi has been making monthly gifts for seven years. She says that becoming a sustaining member was a great way to give without having to think about renewing every year.

"Also being involved in the Broads has given me so much," says Cyndi. "What better way to give back?"

We asked these two dedicated public lands protectors what issues they are most focused on for 2024.

"There are so many environmental issues that concern me as an individual, a herd of elephants worth," says Di. "The Greater Wasatch Broadband is focused on one elephant in 2024—the health of the Great Salt Lake. We're facing threats of inland ports (yes, plural), a potential dam on the Bear River, lack of a comprehensive state water conservation plan, the reality of climate change with continuance of a 10-year drought in our desert state, and the health, ecological, and economic implications of a shrinking lake provide a full plate of elephant. Wish us luck!"

For Cyndi, the answer was mature and old-growth forests because that's the landscape that surrounds her Willamette Valley home.

"We've got to protect what's left of our healthy forests on public lands to sequester carbon, provide clean drinking water, and provide habitat for all that live there," says Cyndi. "There's nothing more life-giving than the biodiversity of a healthy forest. Have you experienced the temperate rainforest in the Coast Range of Oregon?"

"There are so many other issues too that I care about and I'm so lucky to have an 11-member leadership team and an active Broadband to address a multitude of them," Cyndi adds. "We have leadership team representation on all three BRATS (Broads Regional Advocacy Team). And, we had a leadership team member arrested a few years ago at a sit-in at the state capitol to protest the Jordan Cove liquified natural gas pipeline and terminus (it worked, the project was scrapped). We all want to protect this incredible place we inhabit."



We are grateful for our members' passion and commitment to protect and restore our wild places—and these two powerhouse Broads exemplify that spirit.

We are asking you to join the more than 200 of our members who, like Di and Cyndi, have chosen to be monthly sustaining donors. You'll be part of a special group with benefits that include:

- Yearly giving statements
- Access to the first release of Broads' annual report and strategic plan updates
- Invitations to special national webinars
- Plus all our general membership benefits

Wild Lands Protector monthly gifts start at just \$10, but if you give \$29.16 per month you can celebrate our 35th anniversary with a \$350 annual contribution!

But Wait, There's More!

There are just a few days left in our February promotion. Share your love for public lands by becoming a Wild Lands Protector—or increase your existing monthly giving—and we'll give you a two-fer: a 2024 limited-edition member tee and a new 2024 logo tee!

New sustaining members can learn more and sign up online at: **greatoldbroads.org/feb-special**

If you are a sustaining member and want to increase your giving amount, please give us a call at (970) 385-9577.





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*Aldo's Silver City Broads (NM) at
their rendezvous steering committee
meeting and hike.*



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