

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sara Husby

“B” is for Broads & Belonging

We all have a story. Each one of us is a complex book with different sections and chapters that are built upon each other. When did your chapter about Broads begin?

The beginning of my book's Broads chapter began when I became a sustaining member (see page 8) in 2014. I had discovered this great (*no pun intended, but one that never gets “old”*) organization at the national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. I loved the name and being

a part of a group of like-minded women. And I loved that I had women I could look up to, and had found a place where I felt I belonged.

Since then, I've embraced the concept that Broadness is a state of mind. That means 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!”

Thirty-five years ago, our founders saw that an important voice was missing from the environmental movement: the older woman—impassioned, experienced, and not afraid to speak out. Today, our members range from 25 to 95, and come in every flavor imaginable.

Did you know that Susan Tixier was only 47 when she founded the organization?

With that diversity comes the responsibility to ensure we are an organization that fosters a sense of belonging for everyone. We can talk and talk about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and work on personal and organizational growth—but if at the end of the day people feel like they can't belong to Broads because of their age or gender, it doesn't mean anything.

When I became Executive Director in 2022, the pointed (and sometimes mean-spirited) comments about my age started immediately:

“You'll need a gray wig if you want to run this organization.”

“You're too young to be a Great Old Broad.”

“Why would the Board of Directors hire you? This is an organization for older women.”

...and the ever-tiring *“How old **are** you?”*

Whether the comments were intended to be funny, inquisitive, or simply a conversation starter—they can hurt. Especially when you consider that many of our members have probably encountered age discrimination at some point in their own lives.

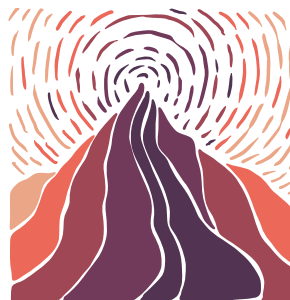
Ironically, I am at fault too. I've caught myself asking someone their age, and I've made a conscious effort to stop.

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“The wilderness holds answers to questions man has not yet learned how to ask.”

—Nancy Newhall,
Conservationist



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Can ACECs Save the Greater Sage-Grouse?

by Audrey Glendenning

The greater sage-grouse is one of the more remarkable bird species of the American West.

The largest grouse in North America, this largely ground-hugging bird is probably best known for the spectacular courtship displays of the males during the mating season. Large groups of males will gather together at mating areas—called “leks”—to attract females by strutting, fanning their spiky tails, and inflating their large yellow air sacs to pop, whistle, and babble.

If you’ve ever been fortunate enough to witness this courtship ritual in person, you aren’t likely to forget it.

But the greater sage-grouse is in deep trouble. Since 1965, greater sage-grouse populations have declined range-wide by 80%. The rate of decline is getting faster, with nearly 40% of that decline occurring in just the last 20 years. Studies indicate that this decline is associated with habitat loss and fragmentation.

The U.S. Geological Survey found that only 14% of greater sage-grouse habitat (known as the “Sagebrush Sea”) remains intact, and we are losing about 1.3 million acres of sagebrush habitat every year. This trend has led to massive population declines.

So if the greater sage-grouse is in such sharp decline, why isn’t it protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)? The answer, like with so many other instances of inaction, comes down to congressional politics and money.

In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) actually did find that the greater sage-grouse warranted protection under the ESA. But every year since 2014, Interior and Environment appropriations bills in Congress have included a rider that prevents the USFWS from considering greater sage-grouse for protection under the ESA. This is because the once-sprawling Sagebrush Sea that the greater sage-grouse (and many other species) rely on for survival is also often used for livestock grazing, oil and gas extraction, and mining—and (as always) money talks.

Until that frustrating congressional roadblock is finally overcome, the best solution to protect the greater sage-grouse, and the high desert landscapes

the species needs to survive, is through federal land management planning. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages the largest single share of greater sage-grouse habitat in the United States—nearly 67 million acres.

Therefore, the way BLM decides to manage this habitat directly impacts the fate of the greater sage-grouse.

In 2015, the federal government engaged in a multi-stakeholder planning process to develop a greater sage-grouse conservation strategy. This year, the BLM is revising that strategy by amending over 70 resource management plans across 10 Western states that contain greater sage-grouse habitat: California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The



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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 Osborn
Grassroots Regional Coordinator

Jane Lindsey
Membership Program Manager

Audrey Glendenning
Grassroots Advocacy Manager

Megan Smithyman
Executive & Development Assistant

Aspen Frick
Administrative Assistant

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**Great Old Broads
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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Wilderness & Beyond Conference Update!

Things are really starting to come together for the Wilderness & Beyond Conference. In May, the Steering Committee combed through many creative and interesting speaker proposals and selected those that would be included in the conference. We are excited, and we think you will be too! Here's a sampling of what we have lined up! To see the full program as it continues to unfold and learn more about the educational offerings, visit <https://bit.ly/2024WildConf>.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (More to Come!)

Mark Dubois

A world-renowned advocate for clean, free-flowing rivers and waterways, and co-founder of Friends of the River and the International Rivers Network, Mark reached national fame when he chained himself to a rock on the banks of California's Stanislaus River to prevent the flooding of the river and construction of the New Melones Dam.

John Leshy

A Professor of Law at the University of California–San Francisco, and a former Department of Interior official in the Carter and Clinton administrations, John also co-chaired the Obama administration's Interior Department transition team. John will discuss his latest book, *Our Common Ground: A History of America's Public Lands*.



CONFERENCE SESSIONS (Just a sample!)

Colorado's Fourteeners Alpine Ecology

Loretta McEllhiney, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Program Manager for Colorado's Fourteeners for 30

years, will discuss Colorado's 58 mountains over 14,000 feet in elevation, and the design of sustainable trails. This presentation will focus on the adaptations of alpine flora and fauna to survive in one of the harshest climates in North America. Loretta will also discuss behaviors that can help visitors have minimal impacts and help protect and preserve these mountains.

The Wilderness Act and the Visionary Work of Howard Zahniser

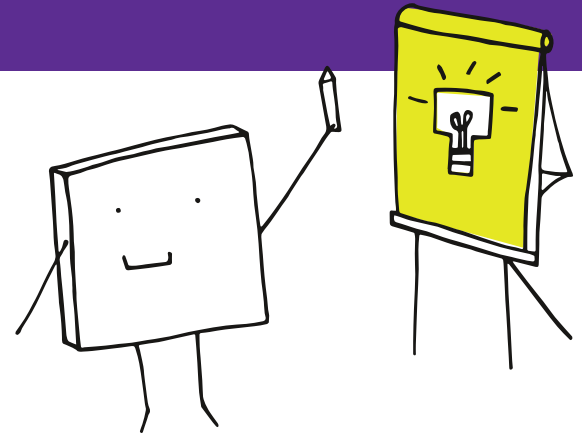
Ralph Swain, who served as the Regional Wilderness Program Manager for the Rocky Mountain Region of the USFS, will examine the Wilderness Act of 1964. He will draw upon the early work of the principal author of the Act, Howard Zahniser, and discuss the importance of the stewardship work done by wilderness volunteer groups (like Broads!)

Advocating for Wildlife Crossings in Your Community

Misty Boos, U.S. Conservation Manager for Wildlands Network, will focus on exploring the crucial role of habitat connectivity in safeguarding wildlife populations. This session will engage participants through interactive small-group discussions, empowering them to explore practical strategies for advocating for wildlife crossings and habitat corridors in their communities.

A Balancing Act: Wilderness Designation and Tribal Sovereignty

A panel discussion on the current controversy over whether, and to what degree, wilderness designation is at odds with decolonization or Indigenous values and sovereignty.



AIRPORT SHUTTLES

For those flying in, we've set up a shuttle at a reduced rate from Denver International Airport to the YMCA of the Rockies campus in Estes Park. Buses will depart from DIA at 10 am and 2 pm on Monday. There will be one or two shuttles returning to the airport on Thursday.



COME EARLY, STAY LONGER!

There is so much to see and do not only at the YMCA, but you'll also be a stone's throw from Rocky Mountain National Park and the charming town of Estes Park. Why not come early (and acclimate to the elevation) or stay another day? All you need to do is call YMCA of the Rockies at (888) 613-9622 and tell them that you will be there with the Great Old Broads Conference and would like to book the extra nights.

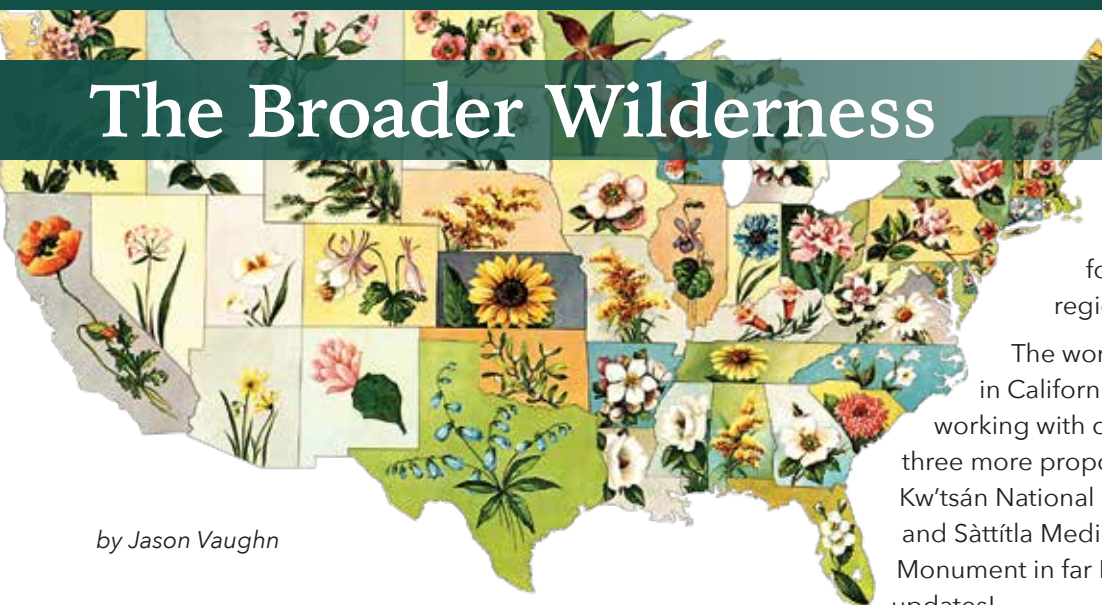
The YMCA will assign you a room in Longs Peak Lodge, where we are all staying, and will forward that information to the national office so we can add it to our room roster.

If you plan to arrive early, you'll check in at the YMCA's office. Then on Monday, October 14, when we are set up for conference registration and check in, you can pick up your registration materials (program, maps, goodies!).

October will be here before we know it, so if you haven't registered yet, be sure to do so soon!



The Broader Wilderness



by Jason Vaughn

CA Monuments Get Long Awaited Expansions

In May, President Joe Biden used his authority under the Antiquities Act to expand a pair of national monuments in California—Berryessa Snow Mountain and San Gabriel Mountains.

The expansions came after years of hard work led by area Tribal Nations and local coalitions—which includes Broadbands from across the state—and represents a vital step forward for the administration’s America the Beautiful Initiative (aka “30x30”) to protect 30 percent of America’s public lands and waters for conservation by 2030.

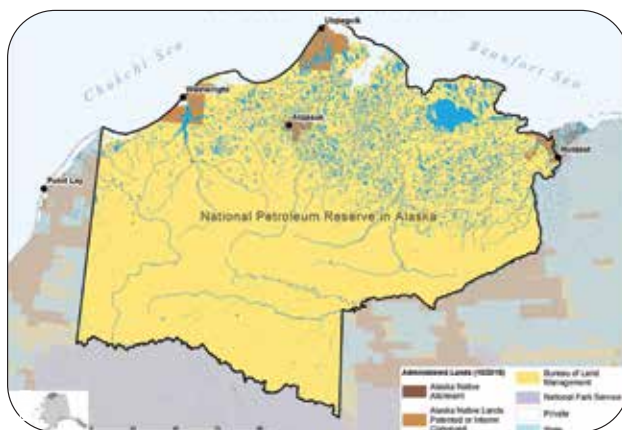
The 13,696-acre expansion of Northern California’s Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to include Molok Luyuk (“Condor Ridge” in the Patwin language) ensures the preservation of a vital ecosystem important to numerous threatened species of plants and wildlife, as well as the protection of cultural sites held sacred by Indigenous people across the region.

The 105,919-acre expansion of San Gabriel Mountains National Monument will not only help protect threatened wildlife habitat and cultural sites along the iconic Southern California mountain range, but will also protect an important source of water for the greater Los Angeles basin



and provide new opportunities for underserved communities in the region to experience nature.

The work to create new national monuments in California is far from over, though. Broads is working with coalition partners across the state on three more proposed monuments—Chuckwalla and Kw’tsán National Monuments in Southern California, and Sättítla Medicine Lake Highlands National Monument in far Northern California. Stay tuned for updates!



New Rule Protects Millions of Acres of Alaska from Development

In April, the Department of Interior announced its final Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska rule to protect roughly 13 million acres of Alaskan wilderness managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from oil, gas, and mineral extraction.

The newly-protected landscape lies within the North Slope’s National Petroleum Reserve—the largest unbroken stretch of public lands in the nation and a vital habitat for numerous species, including grizzly and polar bears, caribou, and countless migratory birds. In the same announcement, the BLM also released its final supplemental environmental analysis recommending against the construction of the Ambler Road project, which would have sliced across 210 miles of significant wildlife habitat and pristine waters across north-central Alaska.

Unfortunately, though, these moves do not affect the Biden Administration’s previous approval of the Willow oil and gas project on the ecologically-fragile North Slope, which is estimated to produce up to 600 million barrels of oil over the next 30 years.





Protect the Owyhee!

The labyrinthine Owyhee canyonlands of southeast Oregon represent one of the few truly wild landscapes left in the lower 48 states.

These canyonlands—the cultural, spiritual, and historic home of the Northern Paiute, Bannock, and Shoshone Tribes—are home to an array of high-desert adapted plants and animals, including the deeply threatened greater sage-grouse.

But despite featuring millions of acres of wilderness-quality landscape and hundreds of miles of rivers and streams, only five percent is permanently protected. This has left vast expanses of land—and the hundreds of native plant and animal species that call it home—vulnerable to looming threats of industrial development, livestock grazing, climate change, unmanaged recreation, and more.

The Owyhee canyonlands offer a rare opportunity to preserve and manage an expansive, intact natural wonder before it suffers irreparable damage and degradation.

In March, Broads launched a petition asking Oregon's U.S. Senate delegation to support the creation of the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument. And the response so far has been great, with more than 300 signatures to date. Your voice matters, and we thank you!

If you haven't yet signed to petition in support of the Owyhee Canyonlands, you can do so here:

<https://www.greatoldbroads.org/take-action/>

BLM Releases Final Public Lands Rule

In April, after a months-long rulemaking period in which Broads submitted comments, the BLM released its long-awaited final Public Lands Rule, which promises to place conservation, access to nature, wildlife, cultural lands protection, and climate change mitigation on equal footing with industrial development across the West.

This new rule should help restore some sense of balance to the agency, as for decades the protection and preservation of our public lands have been treated as secondary (at best) to activities like oil and natural gas extraction and production, mining, and livestock grazing.

The well-documented destructive impacts of these

(Continued page 11)

Happy Trails, Pete

by Sara Husby

The conservation movement lost a true hero this spring, as former Congressman Pete McCloskey passed away on May 8th at the age of 96.



Congressman McCloskey was the co-founder of Earth Day and co-author of The Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. McCloskey left a positive, timeless, and enduring impact on the environmental movement, giving us an important tool to protect threatened or endangered species and preserve ecosystems crucial to species survival.

A long-time Republican from Northern California, McCloskey was not afraid to stand up for what he believed was right, whether it aligned with party positions or not. He championed environmental laws and regulations that later

became the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, and spoke out in opposition of the Vietnam War.

As someone who had the privilege to know Pete and his wife Helen personally, his courage has inspired me my entire career and gives me strength when I am participating in difficult meetings.

Because of my time spent with him, and hearing stories of his time in Congress, I hold onto a belief that there is still hope for good environmental and land protection legislation. There was a time when protecting the environment was a bipartisan effort, and in my heart I know that it will be that way again.

Pete was a truth-speaker and a man of great words. In a past interview, he made a statement that is particularly relevant to Broads members:

"If you can do something at age 80 that positively affects our country, you should be proud of it. Otherwise there's no redeeming value in getting older."

Cheers to ALL the great things you accomplished Pete, you will be missed.



News from the Grassroots Leadership Team

Broadbands in Action!

Let's Retreat to Hubbard Brook

by Julie Savage

*"Oh, what a treasure the Hubbard Brook
Experimental Forest is!"*

– Chris O'Neill, Nor'easter Broadband Member

The Nor'easter Broadband and I recently stayed two nights at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in the White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire (<https://hubbardbrook.org>). In between bonding and planning future adventures, this retreat featured a hike with a forestry technician to several research sites and a stewardship project to beautify the garden plots around their Pleasant View Farm facility. It was a terrific opportunity to learn more about experimental forests and meet one-on-one with staff.

The USFS Research & Development Branch currently manages a network of 76 experimental forests, including Hubbard Brook, across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Many of these are more than 60 years old and provide an impressive collection of continuous research that should be considered pivotal in directing our forest management. Notably, Hubbard Brook was the first site to officially document acid rain in North America, which forged a path to several important amendments to the Clean Air Act. Today, scientists conduct studies in Hubbard Brook on the



impacts natural and human-caused disturbances have on the hydrology, chemical composition, and biodiversity of northern forest and stream ecosystems.

Despite the importance of such research, the number of experimental forests have decreased over the years—from 110 in 1988 to the 76 today—and there are concerns the

USFS will stop or limit the work being done in experimental forests like Bartlett (New Hampshire) and Massabesic (Maine).

The Nor'easter Broads and I encourage you to voice your support for experimental forests to David Lytle, USFS Deputy Chief of Research in the Washington Office, at david.lytle@usda.gov, and Angela Coleman, Associate Chief of the USFS, at angela.coleman2@usda.gov.

Protecting Arizona's Sky Island Habitat

by Sally Sharp

The Tucson Broadband is fighting against a proposed copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson. This "sky island" habitat is a refuge for jaguars, bears, coatimundis and many other threatened plants and animals, as well as being an important watershed in the

arid Sonoran Desert.

But Hudbay—a Canadian mining firm with a terrible history of alleged human rights violations and environmental destruction around the globe—has



purchased private land in the Santa Ritas near Coronado National Forest. The company's 20-year plan for the site calls for open leach pits and tailing piles. A toxic holding pond would be formed around year five of the plan, which will lead to dead wildlife, and pose a significant risk to the water supply for the Greater Tucson area. Four tailing piles, totaling over 19,000 feet in diameter and nearly half-a-mile tall will obliterate gorgeous canyons and eight miles of the Arizona Trail.

Arizona's mining laws and regulations are not environmentally favorable. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is hamstrung by industry-favorable laws and restrictions on enforcing quality standards.

So what are the Tucson Broads doing? A lot! They have joined with other organizations and appeared at two public hearings in February and March, where members were selected to speak at the public hearings and express their opposition. They also submitted two letters to the editor—



both of which have been published. In addition, several Tucson Broadband members attended an awareness hike organized by the Sierra Club, which included experts in mining risks and drew 50 attendees from various organizations.

"No one organization can do it all, so we have partnered with the lead group, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, our local county Supervisor, and others to strategize our next steps," says Tucson Broadband co-Leader Dre Hoerr. "This is a huge effort and has broader implications beyond the local fight."

The Tucson Broads are planning a number of upcoming actions in the fight against this mine. These include attending additional public hearings and starting a "Speakers Bureau" to raise awareness in the community.

Learning from Tribal Voices

by Emily Osborn and Debra Ellers

This is the story about one Broad's long-running environmental activism on the lower Snake River dams (LSRDs), one of Broads' national advocacy campaigns. This work has deepened to include collaborating with and supporting native people harmed by the dams.

Debra Ellers leads the North Olympic Peninsula Broadband (WA) and is also a member of Broads' LSRD Regional Advocacy Team. Debra has supported dam removal and restoration of the lower Snake River for over three decades—engaging in "kayaktivism" (the art of using kayaking for environmental advocacy), attending rallies, participating in task forces, letter-writing campaigns, and much more.

Debra's advocacy work on the LSRDs often brought

her to events with Palouse Tribe Elder Carrie Schuster and Carrie's son, Jesse Nightwalker, a hereditary chief. Through their interaction, Debra learned of their family's



horrifying forced removal in the 1950s from the canyon of the lower Snake River, where their ancestors had lived for thousands of years, when Carrie was a young girl.

Carrie described her upbringing along the then free-flowing Snake River as glorious, a "riparian paradise, full of

birds, beavers, and frogs." Now the multiple dams on the channel have turned the lower Snake into a series of lifeless, stagnant reservoirs.

Carrie spoke of how her grandparents and parents would observe traditional cultural ways, such as tending sacred sites, when they lived along the river. Then, during dam construction, the US Army Corps of Engineers disrespectfully allowed the unearthing of her ancestor's remains, ceremonially buried in a canoe, to be taken away for "anthropological research."

These injustices spurred Debra to call for restorative justice to the Palouse and other native people as part of her LSRD advocacy work. It also informed her views of how the lower Snake should be restored after dam-breaching.

Though Carrie has stepped back from frontline Snake River activism, her niece, Lone Ironhorse Jones, Executive Director of the non-profit organization Khimstonik/ Giving Voice, is taking the lead. Carrie's wisdom as a Palouse elder continues to guide Khimstonik's work, which is dedicated to decolonizing spaces by integrating ancestral voices, traditions, and community knowledge.

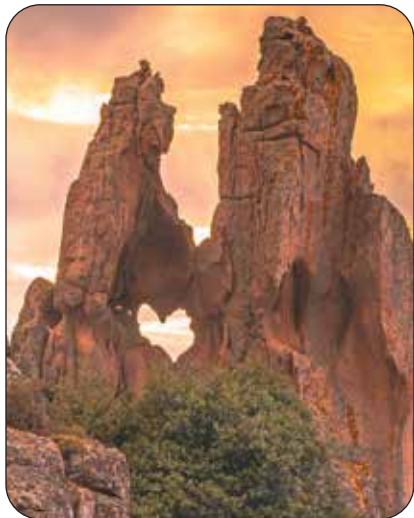
This spring, Khimstonik invited community supporters to two important cultural events: the first, a Palouse culture celebration at Sacajawea State Park in Pasco, WA, and the second, the Healing Canoe Journey along the lower Snake River.

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35ing and Thriving—Give Monthly & Sustain Our Shared Mission!

As Broads celebrates 35 years as an organization, it's satisfying to reflect on how we have grown to become a nationwide force for nature since our early scrappy days in Utah—and we owe that success to you, our dedicated members. Wild thanks!



Speaking of the old days, remember when you could get a cup of coffee for a buck? Back in 1989, when our founders were sitting around a kitchen table shaping their vision of Broads, coffee averaged about \$1.40 a cup. Today, even regular old coffee is at least twice that—or a lot more if it's a fancy macchiato.

How does that relate to our anniversary? For just over a dollar a day (less than a cup of coffee in 1989) or \$35 a month, you can celebrate by becoming a Wild Lands Protector. You'll make an impact by helping to fund strong and effective

Broads initiatives throughout the year—and, it's an easy “set it and forget it” way to give.

As a Wild Lands Protector, 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

Help us thrive for the next 35 years and get your monthly sustaining donation set up today at <https://bit.ly/SustainBroads>. We'll send you a surprise gift if you sign up between now and December 31.



Ask Me Anything

by Samantha Reynolds

I am not old...she said...I am rare.
I am the standing ovation
at the end of the play.
I am the retrospective
of my life as art.
I am the hours
connected like dots
into good sense.
I am the fullness
of existing.
You think I am waiting to die...
but I am waiting to be found.
I am a treasure.
I am a map.
And these wrinkles are
imprints of my journey.
Ask me anything.

2025 Member T-Shirt Design Contest: Calling All Young Artists



Art by Jennifer from Ms. Roe's Kindergarten class, Richmond, VA.

This year we're putting out a call for artwork created by future members of Broads. Reach out to your grandkids, neighbor's kids, great nieces or nephews, the neighborhood school—wherever you have connections—and tell them about this contest.

Open to young artists, we're looking for black-on-white designs inspired by America's public lands and waters. The winning artist will receive \$100 and their design will grace the back of the

2025 limited edition Broads' member t-shirts.

DEADLINE: Nov. 15, 2024

For more info and how to submit designs, visit:

<https://bit.ly/MemberTeeContest>

All new and existing members who contribute at the \$100 level or greater will receive a 2025 member t-shirt to boldly declare their commitment to the wild!



Debra reached out to invite other Broads to support and learn from the Palouse people and their history.

In April, eight Broads representing three Broadbands from Oregon and Washington visited Sacajawea State Park to participate in the Palouse *Xlothma Nomyanawita* ("Everyone Welcome") event. This day celebrated their rich cultural past and looked toward the future when they could return to their home waters and lands. There were cultural demonstrations, drumming, dancing, and chanting, along with powerful speeches from elders, followed by a remarkable salmon and other first foods meal. Broads were honored to be invited and included.

In May, Khimstonik's 2nd Annual Healing Canoe Journey on the Snake River took place. Several Broads built snack packs and donated essentials including tents,

sleeping bags, mugs, and cutlery. Two Broads joined the journey, which included paddling a traditional canoe, and witnessing Palouse traditions such as planting and tending native plants in sacred locations.

What Debra has learned from the Palouse and other tribal people about what conditions were like before the dams were built—ecologically and culturally—has enriched her understanding of what restoration of the lower Snake River would achieve. Restoring the lands and waters to conditions ideally similar to what they were when the original peoples lived there—along with returning this ecosystem to tribal management and stewardship—must be a key component of lower Snake River dam removal.



Memories from the Avi Kwa Ame Broadwalk



Our newest staff members have also been barraged with questions and comments—some quite hurtful—about their age. Broads is fortunate to have their amazing depth of knowledge, experience, enthusiasm, and the great ideas they have brought to the organization. They are our future, and they are passionately committed to Broads' mission.

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, let's not only celebrate our past but also create a future where everyone feels they belong.

Think back to the start of the Broads chapter in your book. What inspired you to join this organization and work with others to protect public lands? I think you might find that is the common thread that binds all of us together—our love for wilderness and wild lands.

Embrace our growing diversity. That is our strength as an organization. And as we become more diverse, we become stronger.

P.S. Broadsides was brought to you today by the letter "B" and by the number "35". Broadsides is a production of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. (I was of the generation raised on Sesame Street!)



BOLO (Be On the Lookout)

The USFS is set to release its draft Forest Service Amendment to protect mature and old-growth forests this summer, which would open a 90-day public commenting period. Watch for email updates on this important rulemaking, and information on how you can get involved!



agency's stated goal is to implement management strategies that "avoid, minimize, or, if necessary, compensate for uses and other threats that reduce the amount

and quality of greater sage-grouse habitat."

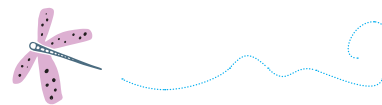
One of the strategies the BLM is considering is designating Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). ACEC designations are an important BLM tool to protect and manage places with rare, important, or fragile plant or wildlife habitat, or cultural or scenic values in resource management plans. Once an area is designated as an ACEC, the BLM is required to manage it to protect and enhance those values.

However, in the agency's new draft of its greater sage-grouse conservation strategy, only two of the six alternatives make use of ACECs at all—and none of the alternatives include the wide-ranging Sagebrush Sea Reserve ACEC Network proposed by a coalition of conservation organizations that includes Broads.

In May, Broads hosted a webinar about this effort with Vera Smith, Senior Federal Lands Policy Analyst at Defenders of Wildlife, to help educate people about the greater sage-grouse, and how to write comments in support of the use of ACEC's in its protection. Broads members submitted 127 individual public comments before the deadline closed. In addition, the Broads national office submitted feedback to the BLM on behalf of all of our members asking for strong habitat protections for greater sage-grouse.

Barring congressional action, this BLM resource management plan may be the best hope for the greater sage-grouse's long-term survival. We will keep you updated as this rulemaking goes forward.

What are YOU Doing to Celebrate Wilderness 60?



Co-Leader Liz McCane of the Teton Valley WHALES Broadband (ID/WY) tells us they will partner with the local USFS Wilderness Supervisor at an information table at the farmer's market, where they will have maps of regional Wilderness Areas and host children's activities. They are also running a "60 for 60" hiking promotion. Those who hike 60 miles to celebrate the anniversary by the end of August will be entered in a special drawing for a prize!

The multi-talented Chandra LeGue, Co-Leader of the Willamette Valley Broadband (OR), says Wilderness 60 will

be the theme for their annual potluck in October. The event will feature a short presentation about the Wilderness Act and the places that have been protected in Oregon (and around the country). Potluckers will share their favorite wilderness areas and wilderness experiences. We hear this is THE event of the season and it always generates a great turnout. Sounds like fun!

What are your plans? We want to know! Share them with Jason@greatoldbroads.org.



activities are now being exacerbated by climate change, as already-stressed native plant and wildlife species across the West struggle to adapt to increasingly warmer and drier conditions.

But the ink was barely dry on the new rule when pro-extraction industry representatives in the U.S. House introduced—and then got passed by a 212-202 vote—the WEST (Western Economic Security Today) Act of 2024 (H.R. 3997), which would require the BLM to not only withdraw the new Public Lands Rule but would also prevent the agency from ever implementing any similar rules again.

Passage of the WEST Act in the Senate as a stand-alone piece of legislation this year is highly unlikely, but it could reappear later this year as part of an omnibus spending bill. Broads is closely monitoring this terribly misguided legislation, and we'll keep you informed as events change.



Wolves Targeted in Howlingly Bad Legislation

Unfortunately, the WEST Act is not the only awful anti-conservation bill currently making its way through Congress.

In late April, the ironically named Trust the Science Act (H.R. 764), sponsored by Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO), was passed by the U.S. House by a narrow 209-205 vote.

This bill would force the U.S. Department of Interior to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list. This would be bad enough on its own, but the bill would also make the removal of the gray wolf ineligible for judicial review—meaning there would be no recourse to block the move through the courts.

The well-documented research showing the importance of wolves to healthy and thriving ecosystems is the science the “Trust the Science Act” doesn’t even pretend to trust.



Like the WEST Act, the Trust the Science Act has little (if any) chance of passing into law as stand-alone legislation. But just like that other bad bill, there is always a chance it could appear later as part of a larger spending package.

Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon NM Faces Familiar Lawsuit

Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, located in northern Arizona adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park, was created by President Biden under the Antiquities Act in 2023.

This important new 900,000-acre monument permanently protects thousands of cultural and sacred sites tied to many Tribes in the Southwest—along with a wide variety of ecological features—from uranium mining and other destructive activities.

But in February, the Arizona legislature—joined by Mohave County and the towns of Fredonia and Colorado City—filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the presidential declaration in yet another misguided attack on the Antiquities Act.

A rancher has also filed a separate but similar lawsuit over the new monument. These lawsuits follow a similar recent lawsuit involving the Antiquities Act, in which Utah and others challenged President Biden's restoration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.

Both the Bears Ears and Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon lawsuits target monuments that were set aside to protect and honor Indigenous cultural sites, along with important archaeological and ecological features, and were filed despite strong Tribal support for the designations. A federal court in Utah dismissed the Bears Ears case last year, and it is now on appeal (see the Fall 2023 issue of *Broadsides* for more on that lawsuit).

Great Old Broads for Wilderness has joined with several other conservation organizations in filing a motion to intervene in defense of Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

“Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni was lawfully created to honor Indigenous cultural sites—along with important archaeological and ecological features—and protect them from uranium mining and other threats,” said Broads Executive Director Sara Husby. “Great Old Broads for Wilderness is proud to work in support of the Tribal and Indigenous community in defense of both Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni and the Antiquities Act as a whole.”

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is set to release its draft Forest Service Amendment to protect mature and old-growth forests this summer, which would open a 90-day public commenting period. Watch for email updates on this important rulemaking, and information on how you can get involved!





Great Old Broads for Wilderness
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Grassroots Regional Coordinator Julie Savage reads "The Great Kapok Tree" to Ms. Roe's Kindergarten class in Richmond, VA.



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