

FROM BROADS STAFF

Turning the Winter of Discontent Into the Spring of Action

Even during the best of times, the nation's federal land management agencies—including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)—could be fairly described as perpetually understaffed and underfunded.

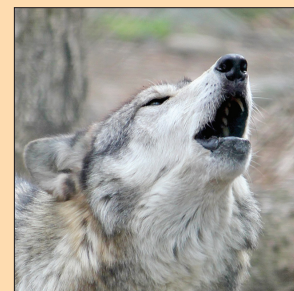
And, as you are undoubtedly aware, these are not the best of times. The current White House, particularly through the highly-dubious “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE) effort led by billionaire Elon Musk, has indiscriminately slashed thousands of jobs directly impacting the government’s ability to preserve and protect our public wild lands.

As of this writing (and by the time you read this, many more nightmarish decisions and pronouncements regarding public lands, conservation, and the environment will have been made), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees the USFS, has fired roughly 2,000 probationary non-firefighting employees. In addition, the U.S. Department of Interior has terminated approximately 2,300 employees, including some 800 BLM employees and over 1,000 NPS employees.

The White House has since backtracked on hiring seasonal employees, and the Merit Systems Protection Board has ordered the USDA to reinstate workers while an investigation is carried out. Nevertheless, this staggering loss of permanent full-time employees has left America’s national parks and monuments, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and more to deal with the looming specter of a busy summer tourist season with no means of proper management.

The impact of these catastrophic job losses is already being felt. For example, Colorado’s Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is now closed two days a week due to a lack of staff, and other national monuments either have done the same or will undoubtedly soon follow suit. In Yosemite National Park, one of the most-visited national parks in the nation, there are very real fears that the lack of adequate full-time NPS staffing will result in piles of trash and scattered litter, restrooms and facilities that won’t be cleaned, and general maintenance problems that will only get worse—to say nothing of the lack of protection for the parks’ wildlife, natural wonders, and guests.

For the BLM—which manages some 245 million acres of federal public land (an area roughly the size of Egypt) but historically-speaking has never been even remotely funded or staffed adequately for their mission—the impact of staffing cuts may not be as



“We, more than almost any other human generation, are shaping the future. Some of us are shaping it for the better, and the best cure for fear is action...It will give you power. The power of people held together by passionate conviction.”

—Rebecca Solnit

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by Julie Savage

Feeling angry or frightened by all the massive changes going on in federal public lands policy? You're not alone—but the best cure for these feelings is action!

Here is a list of 25 things you can do in 2025 to help make your voice heard...

1) Learn: Read books like John Leshy's *Our Common Ground: A History of America's Public Lands*. Study bedrock conservation laws like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as recent court rulings on public lands cases. Educate yourself about the history of a public lands issue, who was involved, and how they successfully designated public lands near you (e.g., a National Monument or Wilderness).

2) Identify:

Which native animal and plant species are near you? How can you advocate for their protection?

3) Question:

Consider where you are getting your information, especially on social media. Has it been vetted? Who is sharing it and why?

4) Respect: Who has ingrained connections and history with the land you've also come to love? Notably, respect and consult with the Native Americans who have ingrained connections and a deep and ancient history with the land.

5) Keep learning: Stay up to date on legislation, and get on congressional ([Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)) and state legislature trackers for important bills. Organize an event with your Broadband or local group about a public lands issue with a local expert. Read new and updated materials.

6) Spread the word: Share the knowledge you've gained with a friend, neighbor, or community group who might not know as much about a public lands issue as you do. Keep being visible at community events and sharing your public lands knowledge.

7) Think locally: Work for stronger state, county, and local laws to protect public lands. Advocate for stronger state regulations on oil and gas extraction, air quality, and clean water protection. Get to know your local, county, and state representatives, and speak out on local public land and conservation issues at public meetings.

8) Speak up: Call or write your congressional representatives' offices and explain your stance on a public lands issue (Sign up for the 5 Calls App: Spend 5

minutes. Make 5 calls. Make your voice heard.) Visit the local office of your Representative or Senator to meet in person about the public lands issue. Publicly speak out at a town hall or agency meeting, and organize others to join you.

9) Write: Write your own

comment on a public lands issue, or sign-on to partners' comment letters. Submit a Letter to the Editor or an Op-Ed to your local newspaper on the issue.

10) Represent: Wear your Broads gear and attend an organized lobby day at your state capitol where you can engage representatives about the need to support public lands. Little things like putting up a yard sign or bumper stickers promoting public lands helps too!

11) Create community: Host regular advocacy cafes in your neighborhood or local area—write letters, call officials, and drink coffee together.



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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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reprinted articles.

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2025 Events: Broadwalks and More!

We have an incredible lineup of events planned for 2025, and you're cordially invited!

This year we have a pair of great National Broadwalks (one on the East Coast, and one on the West), as well as an incredible float trip on Utah's San Juan River that will be sure to bring out your inner artist!



The Elwha River: Successes and Challenges for the Ecosystem Broadwalk

August 18-21

The mighty Elwha River rises from the snowcapped peaks of the Olympic Mountains in Washington State, flowing nearly 45 miles north through old growth forests and glacial valleys into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. On this Broadwalk, we will explore the current successes from recent dam removals in this key ecosystem, and what challenges remain for its future restoration and health.

Your hosts for this Broadwalk are the **Salish Sea** and **Polly Dyer (Seattle) Broadbands**, who are looking forward to sharing this magical part of the world, having fun, and taking action to save the Olympic Peninsula's iconic wildlife and wild places!

Cost: \$395



Oke to Ocean Broadwalk

November 10-14

The Georgia-Florida line is a stunning landscape of live oaks with hanging Spanish moss, diverse wildlife ranging from alligators to manatees to roseate spoonbills, and an array of aquatic ecosystems.

The fascinating cultural history include the Timucuan Native Americans, Spanish-British colonialism, Gullah Geechee communities, and powerful families like the Carnegies. It's truly a magical area to behold!

The **GRITS (GA)** and **Nor'easter (MA, NH, VT, & ME) Broadbands** will be hosting this Broad-tastic Broadwalk, where we will explore the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, the St. Marys River, and the Cumberland Island National Seashore.

Cost: Details Coming Soon!



A Float with HeART: San Juan River Upper Canyon Trip

May 15-18

Broads has partnered with Holiday River Expeditions to create an experience of a lifetime—a float with heART! Treat yourself to a women's watercolor workshop with artist Susan Kearns while you explore the amazing Utah landscape via the San Juan River.

Susan has won awards in juried shows, shown in several galleries, and painted more than a dozen public and privately commissioned murals. You'll learn new watercolor techniques and creative exercises to inspire you as you capture memories of this gorgeous canyon through your paintings.

Open to all levels of experience—even those new to watercolor painting.

Cost: \$1,495 per person (plus tip for river guides)

For more information about upcoming Broads events—including registration—check out our Events Calendar: <https://www.greatoldbroads.org/events-calendar/> or give us a call at (970) 385-9577!



The Broader Wilderness

by Jason M. Vaughn

It's been a rough start to 2025 for our nation's public lands and the federal agencies charged with their management, with a new (old) administration and a Congress that have both shown themselves to be openly hostile to even the most basic environmental and conservation laws and regulations.

That's why it's important to remember that there have also been some great victories in recent months as well—including new and expanded national monuments in California, a very welcome victory in the Supreme Court, and a particularly great conference!

Let's dig in...

Wilderness and Beyond Conference

In October, Broads held the successful four-day Wilderness and Beyond Conference at the YMCA of the Rockies campus in Estes Park, CO, where participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest goings-on in the greater conservation movement.

These informative and thought-provoking presentations ranged from land and forest management issues to abandoned mine clean-up, endangered species, wilderness designation, and Tribal stewardship and sovereignty.



In addition, there were great speakers like then-BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning, environmental lawyer John Leshy, legendary river activist Mark Dubois, and so much more. Mostly, though, it was a lot of fun—with old friendships renewed and new friendships made!

"The sessions were not only informative but also provided valuable insights that, while set in different landscapes, are highly applicable to our work," said one conference presenter. "Thank you again for this opportunity to expand my understanding of wilderness stewardship and connect with such a vibrant community of professionals."



We thank everyone—presenters and participants—for making this wild event one to remember.

California Celebrates New and Expanded National Monuments

Before leaving office in January, President Joe Biden designated two new national monuments in California. The newly-designated Sattitla Highlands and the Chuckwalla National Monuments, both of which hold deep cultural significance to Tribal Nations and Indigenous People, are areas teeming with biodiversity in desert, grassland, and forest landscapes, and boast unique geological features.

These new national monuments have been a focus for Broads for the past two years, as our national office and our California Broadbands worked closely with our coalition partners to mobilize local and national support, actively participate in public meetings, and engage federal officials and members of Congress to gain support for monument designation.





S  t  tla Highlands National Monument (USFS)

At 624,000 acres, Chuckwalla National Monument in Southern California preserves the cultural heritage sites of five Indigenous tribes, supports a critical desert ecosystem, and provides recreation opportunities for historically underrepresented communities. It also represents the latest link in an unbroken corridor of protected high-desert landscapes stretching from southern Utah through southern Nevada, western Arizona, and Southern California.

Northern California's 225,000-acre S  t  tla Highlands National Monument preserves and protects the ancestral homeland of the Pit River Tribe—and one of the most important sources of clean, cool groundwater for people and wildlife in the region—from potential development.

In addition, after years of efforts spearheaded by Tribal groups, local citizens, and groups like Broads, President Biden in 2024 expanded two other California national monuments—Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in 2024. The expansion of Berryessa Snow Mountain to include the Molok Luyuk area ensures the preservation and protection of important Indigenous cultural sites, as well as numerous threatened and endangered plant species.

The expansion of San Gabriel Mountains protects cultural sites and numerous plant and animal species as well, but also protects an important (and rare) source of groundwater for the nearby greater Los Angeles Basin.

Elsewhere, Broads and our coalition partners made great strides in the efforts to get places like Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands and Colorado's Dolores River Canyon designated as national monuments. The fight for these (and other) incredible landscapes across the nation will continue until they are permanently protected and preserved for future generations.

Supreme Court Rejects Utah Lands Case

In January, Broads, along with our many partner organizations, breathed a sigh of relief when the U.S.

Supreme Court refused to hear the State of Utah's lawsuit to force the federal government to cede some 18.5 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands to the state.

Utah's lawsuit has major implications for public land management across the nation, as a decision in the state's favor could have immediately opened tens of millions of acres of public land across the West to the highest bidder—especially to massive and highly-destructive new mining and oil and gas developments.

This case may not be entirely over, though, as state officials say that they may refile the case again in Federal Court. We'll keep you updated.

U.S. House Makes it Easier to Sell Off Our Nation's Public Lands

Meanwhile, as the Utah case played out at the Supreme Court, the U.S. House of Representatives in early January passed a new rules package for the 119th Congress that included language allowing lawmakers to more easily sell off federal public lands.

Under these new rules, the Congressional Budget Office will, going forward, consider public lands as having no monetary value. That frees lawmakers from having to account for lost revenues generated by those federal lands when they introduce potential legislation to give those lands to states or other entities (such as mining, oil and gas, and timber companies).

In short, Congress has put a big "For Sale" sign on our federal public lands—including lands now managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM, and more.

We'll keep you updated as Congress begins to take action on any potential public lands disposal. In the interim, this is the time to organize, meet with legislators, write op-eds, and rally to show your community's commitment to keeping public lands in public hands!

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News from the Grassroots Leadership Team

Broadbands in Action!

by Julie Savage and Sally Sharp

Northern San Juan Broads Catalog Rare Colorado Plants and Wildlife

Broads has a well-known reputation for going out into the far reaches of America's wild places—and not being afraid to get their hands dirty. That well-earned reputation made the **Northern San Juan (CO) Broadband** the ideal choice to partner with the Colorado Natural Heritage Project (CNHP) to catalog rare plant species and wildlife high in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado.

Led by Northern San Juan Broads Leadership Team member Peggy Lyons, who also happens to be a retired CNHP biologist, the Broadband conducted field surveys on public lands in Ouray County. Broads' volunteers cataloged rare plant species at the top at Engineer Mountain, after a several hour jeep ride to this high tundra terrain. They also accompanied a CNHP entomologist to survey for pollinators of rare large-flowered hollyhock (*Iliamna grandiflora*) and other insects along Owl Creek Pass Road in Ouray County. In addition, they surveyed five sites where rare/sensitive plants were recorded 25 years ago.

The Northern San Juan Broads and the CNHP then held two community meetings to report their findings.

With such a successful 2024 under the Broadbands' belt, the future of this new partnership looks great! The CNHP hopes to



partner with additional Broadbands across Colorado this year to catalog rare plants and insects in their neck of the woods. And over the next three years, even more opportunities for collaboration are expected to arise in other areas of the state, further strengthening the preservation of Colorado's unique natural environment.

"I am so happy that we've brought together two of my favorite organizations who share a love of our public lands and the plants and animals who live there," says Peggy. "Having the added goal of finding rare plants makes hiking and other outdoor activities more meaningful and fun."

Pacific Northwest Broadbands Taking on Dams

Elwha River: A Decade After Dam Removal – A decade after the removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams, the Elwha River again flows freely through nearly 45 miles of ancient, old-growth forests and glacial valleys in Olympic National Park into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The removal of these two dams began the restoration process of the altered ecosystem, and has aided in the return of native anadromous

(sea-run) fish species.

With this remarkable landscape as a backdrop, the **Salish Sea** and **Polly Dyer (Seattle) Broadbands** are hosting a National



Broadwalk next August 18-21 in Olympic National Park (see page 3) to explore the current successes from the dam removals in this key ecosystem, and what challenges remain for its future health.

Celebrating Dam Removals on the Klamath River – As we reflect on the successful removal of the Elwha River dams a decade later, we're also celebrating the removal of the Copco No. 1 (California), Copco No. 2 (California), JC Boyle (Oregon), and Iron Gate (California) dams from the Klamath River Basin last October. The Klamath River flows 263 miles from its headwaters in Oregon through the Cascade Mountain Range to the Pacific Ocean south of Crescent City, California. We can thank several Native American tribes, including the Yurok and Karuk, for driving the largest dam removal project in U.S. history to date. Like the Elwha, the aim of dam removal on the Klamath River is to restore salmon, trout, and other



important and threatened species, and renew those resources to the Native Americans who rely on it.

A group of our Pacific Northwest Broadbands are tentatively planning a 2026 Klamath Broadwalk to highlight the immediate impacts of dam removal. We'll keep you posted!

Lower Snake River: Advocating for Dam Removal – We celebrate the breaching of some dams like those on the Elwha and Klamath Rivers, but there is still much work to do on dams in the Pacific Northwest.

Since launching in 2018, Broads' **Lower Snake River Dam (LSRD) Broadband Regional Advocacy Team (BRAT)**—which is comprised of members from the regional Broadbands—has advocated for the breaching of four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams on the Snake River in eastern Washington to help the passage of endangered wild salmon species on their journey to the ocean. These are federally-owned dams which are heavily subsidized by our tax dollars.

The dams are also a major reason why both wild salmon and Southern Resident Orcas (which rely on the salmon for survival) are on the endangered species list. But despite this designation, their numbers are still declining—and they are running out of time. The breaching of these dams is one of the most important things we can do to support these species before it's too late.

In 2025, we will continue our work with regional Tribal members to heal the lower Snake River, and engage in education, direct action, letter-writing campaigns, and other ways to support breaching these dams as soon as possible.

We'll keep you updated as this important work continues.



Broadbands Stepping Up for Public Lands

Many of our Broadbands have been conducting ongoing stewardship and monitoring to support the management of their local to nationally protected public lands.

Here are just a few of the many examples:

Bighorn Sheep Monitoring – As part of the Mountain Studies Institute's Bighorn Sheep Monitoring Project and



assistance from a Circle of Dreams Foundation grant, members of the **Northern San Juan Broadband** (CO) have hiked and backpacked across parts of the Uncompahgre and Mount Sneffels Wilderness

Areas to survey for bighorn sheep, distribute educational cards, and talk to members of the public about the project.

Grazing Monitoring – For the past five years, **Aldo's Silver City Broadband** (NM) grazing monitoring team (in partnership with the USFS) has monitored riparian areas for unauthorized livestock in targeted protected corridors within the Gila National Forest.

This ongoing effort has markedly boosted the amount of monitoring for trespassing livestock in enclosures within the forest, providing USFS staff with timely information to provide follow-up. Their stewardship has also resulted in improvements in enclosure fencing, where damaged areas were allowing cattle access into delicate riparian areas.

"We discover inspiring landscapes new to us while engaging in strategic stewardship," said Broadband Leader Marcia Stout.

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Make an Impact as a Wild Lands Protector!



You'll help provide the fiscal foundation that allows Broads to build strong and effective programs to protect our last wild places on earth.

When you commit to a monthly donation of \$10 or more, you'll join hundreds of like-minded wildland

enthusiasts.

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.

For more information on becoming a Wild Lands Protector, go to www.greatoldbroads.org/give-to-join/, or give us a call at (970) 385-9577 today!

Other Ways to Give

There are many ways you can give to Broads—and we are grateful for gifts of any size. Have you considered a gift of stock? Or a gift through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?

If you're 70.5 or over and have a traditional IRA, you can make a direct donation to Great Old Broads for Wilderness from your account.

Here's what you need to know:

- **You can save on taxes:** Funds withdrawn from your IRA usually count toward your annual income, which increases your overall tax burden. IRA gifts are generally the exception, since they are not recognized as income.
- **You can fulfill your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for this year:** If you are 72 or older, you must withdraw a certain amount from your IRA each year. A donation to Great Old Broads for Wilderness enables you to compassionately fulfill your RMD.
- **Now is the perfect time to make this gift:** Make your gift today to ensure that it will count towards your 2025 taxes.



As we head into spring, what action will you take to protect the wild places you love?

Have you considered sustaining our work for the wild through a bequest in your will or trust? It's truly the ultimate gift to leave a legacy that will sustain our mission to train, inspire, and support advocates to defend the public lands you have loved and worked to protect over your lifetime.

There are many ways to give. If you would like to learn more, visit www.greatoldbroads.org/legacy or give us a call at (970) 385-9577.

Please consult your personal tax and financial advisors to determine the giving option best-suited for you.

Broads Membership Will Fit You to a Tee!



T-shirt art by 10-year-old Evelyn C.

Give \$100 or more and you'll receive a limited-edition, collectible 2025 member t-shirt designed by 10-year-old Broads fan Evelyn C., who—in true Broads fashion—enjoys hiking, climbing boulders, getting dirty, and exploring nature!

This members-only t-shirt is made from soft, recycled materials and is available in a full range of sizes from XS to 3XL.

For more information and to become a member, go to www.greatoldbroads.org/give-to-join/, or give us a call at (970) 385-9577 today!



Spring Seeking – The **Sonoran (AZ) Broadband** formed a partnership with Sky Island Alliance (SIA) to map springs to use the Spring Seeker app across public land sites located near Tempe, Arizona. The Sonoran Broads map springs to help tell the story of the springs' health, as well as the health of the surrounding vegetation. The SIA then tracks this data to assess the condition of water sources for wildlife, and identify priorities for future stewardship projects.

Wilderness Solitude Monitoring – Both the **Cascade Volcanoes (OR-WA)** and **Willamette Valley (OR) Broadbands** were individually awarded National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance grants to support

Broadband stewardship projects over the past two years. And in that time, volunteers from the Cascade Volcanoes Broads dedicated 852 hours to conducting wilderness solitude monitoring within Washington's Indian Heaven Wilderness, while volunteers from the Willamette Valley Broads dedicated 551 hours to conducting recreation site and wilderness solitude monitoring within the Middle Santiam and Diamond Peak Wildernesses of Oregon.

Thank you and great job to all of our awesome Broadbands from coast-to-coast!



Memories from the Wilderness and Beyond Conference...



immediately obvious as in a busy national park. However, these job cuts now mean even fewer employees to keep meaningful tabs on activities such as livestock grazing and leasing, oil and mineral extraction, recreation, and more. Over time, this lack of oversight will lead to the degradation and destruction of important wildlife habitats and natural water resources and the loss of threatened and endangered plant and animal species, important cultural and historic sites, and the landscape's ability to adapt to (and mitigate the effects of) climate change—as well as the loss of income for the many local communities that rely on tourism and outdoor recreation on public lands for their survival.

Why is This Happening?

According to the *2025 Conservation in the West* poll by Colorado College, an overwhelming majority of Americans across the western states (where the majority of federal public lands are located) support the preservation and protection of public lands. In fact, in the 14-year history of the poll, this was the first year that prioritizing conservation over maximizing energy production received majority support even among Republicans and Independents, in addition to Democrats. Across all respondents, 78% desired greater emphasis on conserving wildlife migration routes, creating highway crossings, and protecting wildlife by limiting development.



Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum suggests cashing in on public lands.

So why, with all this widespread bipartisan support for public lands, are they under such massive attack through staffing cuts and other executive orders? The answer is, naturally, money—and a genuinely staggering amount of it.

In his Senate confirmation hearing, newly-installed Interior Secretary Doug Burgum speculated that the cash value of America's public lands could be at least *\$200 trillion*, and he then claimed that it was the federal government's responsibility to use those assets to "get a return for the American people."

The term "American people" in this instance is code for "big industry." In actuality, Burgum and the White House want to open up tens of millions of acres of currently protected public lands (including some currently-designated national monuments) and coastal waters as a gift to the oil and gas, mining, and timber industries.

In addition, there are efforts underway to roll back, sidestep, or even just outright ignore the bedrock conservation and environmental laws—such as the Clean

Air and Clean Water acts, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)—intended to help keep such destructive industries in check. And in Congress, there are a number of proposed bills that, among other things, would allow for the quick sell-off of federal public lands to states and industries, as well as legislation that would essentially gut the Antiquities Act of 1906, taking away the president's authority to designate public lands as national monuments.

What Can We as Broads Do About It?

Things may look bleak, but remember that fighting back is in Broads' very DNA! From our beginning in 1989, we haven't backed down from a challenge when it comes to the protection and preservation of our wild public lands and waters—no matter who sits in the White House or what party controls Congress. And Broads won't sit idly by this time, either.

In this issue of *Broadsides*, we've compiled a list of 25 things you can do right now to fight for our public lands (see page 2). At the local level, our Broadbands are fighting back (see page 6) by organizing and attending rallies, participating in public meetings and events, performing countless hours of fieldwork such as monitoring livestock grazing and doing water quality checks, writing letters and submitting technical comments on proposed public land management plans and rule changes, and so much more.

And Broads remains committed at the national level to working with our partner organizations and coalitions to use any means—up to and including litigation—to safeguard public lands for future generations.

In the meantime, there is one small (but meaningful) thing all of us can and should do—especially over the upcoming summer travel months...

Support Your Local Land Management Staff!

Broads—especially our Broadbands—often work closely with local and regional federal land management staff on landscape-specific issues such as management plans, monitoring and survey work, landscape remediation, and stewardship projects. Sometimes we are in agreement with a particular agency plan or proposal, and sometimes we disagree and push back against it.

But we also always recognize that the vast majority of local federal land management staffers are there because they believe in public service and have a genuine love and affinity for public lands—and (like Broads) want to see those lands managed responsibly. Their hours are long, their work can be physically and mentally demanding, the chances for recognition are slim, and their pay is pretty low—nobody goes to work for a federal land management agency to get rich and famous. And through no doing of

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their own, those staffers now have a front-row seat to the direct and immediate impacts of the DOGE layoffs/firings, budget cuts, and other executive orders and policies. They are deeply (and rightfully) concerned not only for the future of their own jobs, but for the future of the places they work so hard every day to protect.

So this year, as you travel to see a national park or national monument, or maybe go camping in a national forest or on BLM land, please take a moment to say “Thank you” to a ranger. Shake their hand. Better yet, organize a rally to show your support for their critical work, invite public officials to speak, and bring in the media.

Above all, let them know that their efforts are appreciated, and that they are not standing alone. Because in difficult times like these, we must stand together. The fate of the wild places we all love and cherish may depend on it.



(Advocacy Corner...Continued from Page 2)

12) Partner up: Create relationships with your congressional representatives staffers. Get to know your local agency staff (from municipal parks to federal agencies) and journalists who cover public lands issues. Attend fellow organizations’ meetings or presentations on issues you care about. Join a coalition—a group of organizations working together on an issue.

13) Engage: Work to identify who should be at the table and currently isn’t. How can we support their work and/or engage them in ours?

14) Reach over the aisle: Meet with someone who is opposed to public lands protection and find out why they are opposed. Look for ways to find common ground.

15) Steward: Volunteer for or organize stewardship projects (trash pick-up, invasive plant removal, resource monitoring, etc.) that support your public lands.

16) Serve: Run for office! Or apply to serve on a local government commission or committee with relevance to nearby public lands.

17) Express thanks: Say “thank you”—both individually and publicly—to local and congressional representatives and public lands agency staff when they support an initiative or tackle an issue you care about.

18) Give: Donate money to groups that support public lands in proportion to what public lands do for you.

19) Think positive: Share positive developments, wins, and enthusiasm for our public lands with your fellow Broads or your community.

20) Explore: Remember to take the time to enjoy and explore your wild public lands. Let their beauty remind you why you fight!

21) Pass the torch: Engage with young people, and share why these lands are important. Offer a nature walk at your nearest public land. Our work only matters if it continues after we’re gone!

22) Be an active member of your local Broadband: Or, take it a step further and become a Broadband co-leader or join the leadership team.

23) Don’t have a Broadband in your local area? Join fellow Broads members on one of our events like a National or Regional Broadwalk. Or become a Broadband Leader and start a chapter in your area.

24) Make your Broadband visible: Engage your community by tabling at an event with Broads materials, walking in parades as a group, creating posters for an upcoming protest or rally, or hosting an open event on an issue. Invite the media!

25) Reflect: What’s going well? What could be improved? Adjust and repeat.



(The Broader Wilderness...Continued from Page 5)

Poll Shows Most Western Voters Want More, Not Less, Protections for Public Land

The legal efforts by the State of Utah and the move by Congress to dispose of federal public lands quickly is frankly bizarre, given that more voters than ever—especially across the Western states—support the protection and preservation of public lands.

According to the *2025 Conservation in the West* poll by Colorado College of voters across eight mountain states, 72% of voters want their Congressional delegation to protect and conserve public lands for clean water and air, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. The poll also showed that a clear majority of voters across every state in the West did not support giving states control of federal lands. In addition, an incredible 88% of respondents said that they support keeping national monument designations in place.

Most telling, though, is that this support for protecting and preserving federal public lands (as well as bedrock environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and others) is truly bipartisan, stretching across party lines and wildly different political identities.

The important message here is to make your voice heard! Tell your Congressional delegation to keep their hands off our public lands—or risk the wrath of their constituents in next year’s midterm election!





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