

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a 501(c)3 organization.



# FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

To put it mildly, 2024 was a year to remember for Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Thanks to the continued support of our members, we can look back with pride at our many accomplishments over the past year, on how we have come together as an organization to face some very tough challenges, and on how this difficult but profoundly rewarding work will serve us well as we continue our fight for America's threatened wild places in 2025 and beyond.

Led by our Grassroots Leadership Program team, Broads' national staff worked tirelessly to support the outstanding efforts of our local Broadband chapters. Our national staff also advocated for wild public lands and waters through Action Alerts, informative and inspiring webinars, and unique national events, such as Broadwalks, designed to highlight specific landscapes. In addition, national staff worked with numerous partners and national coalitions to develop and implement effective conservation outreach and advocacy strategies for increased public land protections at the regional and federal level.

These persistent efforts by Broads' membership and staff (with the support of our awesome Board of Directors) led to a number of great victories for Mother Earth in 2024. This includes the creation or expansion of several national monuments, the setting aside of other landscapes from potential industrial development, the adoption of the Bureau of Land Management's landmark Public Lands Rule (which finally put conservation on an equal footing with industry and recreation in public land management decisions), and so much more.

In 2024, Broads celebrated our 35th anniversary as an organization, plus the 60th anniversary of the landmark Wilderness Act of 1964, with the Wilderness & Beyond Conference in Estes Park, Colorado. This special four-day event brought together an array of experts, public lands advocates, and Broads members from across the nation to reflect on what we have accomplished, share what we have learned, discuss the current issues facing our threatened public lands and waters, and look ahead to the future of wild public land conservation and protection.

Broads also faced internal challenges in 2024. Financial realities necessitated difficult organizational changes, including staff reductions and cost-saving measures. These changes were painful and not taken lightly—but they have also put us in a more sustainable position going forward, both nationally and at the local Broadband level. We expect to select a new and skilled executive director this summer.

In 2025, as we face unprecedented political challenges to both public lands conservation and America's bedrock environmental laws and regulations, we will—as always—continue to elevate Broads' unique voice in the greater conservation movement, and work to bring positive policy change and greater protection for America's public lands and waters for the benefit of future generations.

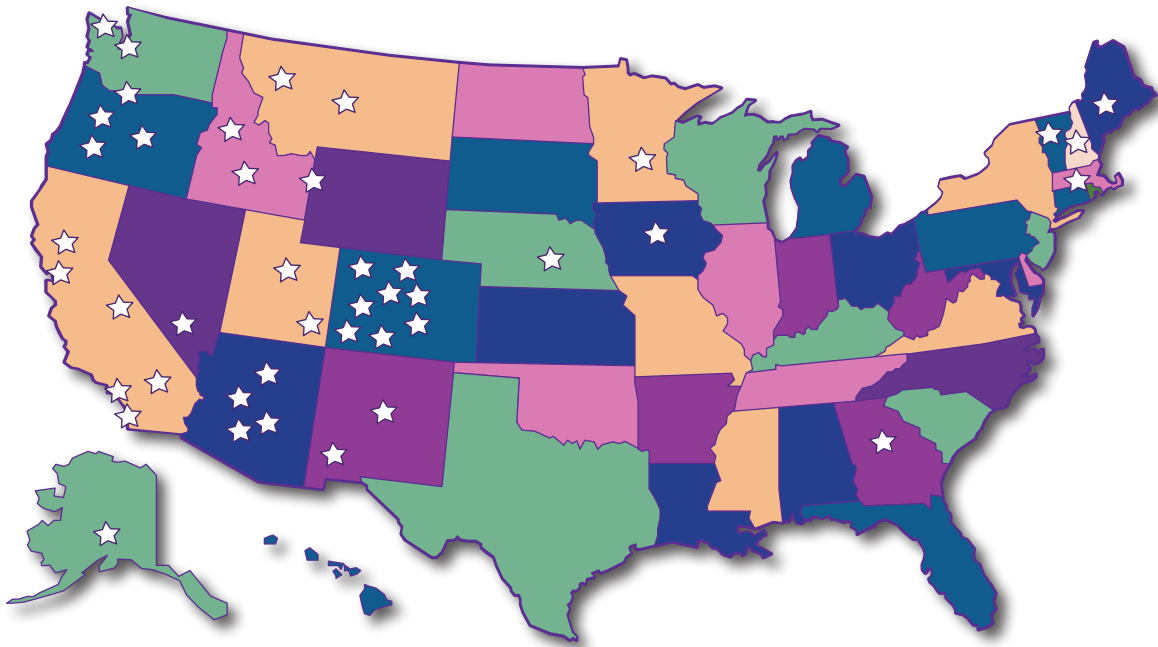
Wildly yours,



LD Delano  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

# 2024 BROADBANDS

41 Broadband grassroots chapters across 20 states!



## Alaska

- Alaska Soles

## Arizona

- Northern Arizona Wild
- Sonoran
- Tucson
- Yavapai-Prescott

## California

- Crest to Coast
- Eastern Sierra
- Inland Empire
- Redwood
- San Diego Wild Spaces
- Wild L.A.

## Colorado

- 4Corners
- Grand Junction
- Middle Park
- Northern Front Range
- Northern San Juan
- Northwest Colorado
- South San Juan
- Wild Watershed

## Georgia

- GRITS

## Idaho

- Northern Idaho
- Palouse

## Iowa

- Northeast Iowa Driftless

## Minnesota

- Minnesota Wild Waters

## Montana

- Zootown
- Northwest Montana

## National

- Mobile Broads

## Nebraska

- Nebraska

## Nevada

- Blue Diamond

## New England (MA, ME, NH, VT)

- Nor'easter

## New Mexico

- Aldo's Silver City
- Rio Grande Valley

## Oregon

- Cascade Volcanoes (OR-WA)
- Central Oregon Bitterbrush
- Rogue Valley
- Willamette Valley

## Utah

- Greater Wasatch
- Southwest Utah

## Washington

- Polly Dyer Seattle
- Salish Sea

## Wyoming

- Teton Valley WHALES

Our wildest thank you to all of our volunteer Broadband members, Broadband Leaders, and Broadband Leadership Team members across the nation. Your inspiring and tireless efforts for our nation's wild public lands and waters are the foundation which makes literally everything about Broads possible!

# NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Thanks to the commitment of our members to this often difficult (but profoundly rewarding) work, several of Broads' advocacy efforts saw wins or made substantial strides in 2024.**

**Here are just a few of the major highlights...**

## March

Broads members spent a week at Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in southwest Nevada for a Broadwalk event to celebrate the one year anniversary of its national monument designation. Over 40 participants spent four days in this remarkable desert monument amongst



Joshua trees, petroglyphs, and rocks of all sizes. In addition to fun and informative activities and hikes, the group spent almost 200 hours completing two stewardship projects: building a wildlife pond and cleaning up trash at a popular recreation site.

Avi Kwa Ame Broadwalk participants also drafted 34 letters of support for the Owyhee National Monument campaign and signed 37 postcards urging Oregon's U.S. Senators to support Owyhee protection efforts.

## May

President Joe Biden expanded Northern California's Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to include the Molok Luyuk area. The 13,696-acre Molok Luyuk (which means "Condor Ridge" in the Indigenous Patwin language) is a natural and cultural wonder, with nearly 500 native California plant species (including many threatened species). It's also an important wildlife corridor for tule elk, mountain lions, bears, and bald and golden eagles. In addition, the area is considered sacred to the Patwin and other Indigenous peoples, who have called the area home for more than 10,000 years.

Broads worked to generate local and national support for the expansion through several events, including a Broadwalk, and compiled the official book documenting the local, state, and national support for monument expansion.

In 2024, Broads helped play a role through our national coalition work—as well as at the Broadband level—in the eventual designation of Chuckwalla National Monument, located in the high desert near Joshua Tree National Park. Broads held an awareness-building regional Broadwalk in the area in 2023, and continued that work last year by presenting comments, and working to generate local support for the monument. These endeavors helped lead to President Biden giving the landscape national monument designation in January of 2025.

Elsewhere, Broads made great strides in the efforts to get places like Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands and Colorado's Dolores River Canyon designated as national monuments. Broads at both the national and Broadband level are working to see these landscapes protected by speaking out at hearings, holding informative webinars, meeting with agency and elected officials, writing letters to the editor and reaching out to local media, and working to garner support from local residents, ranchers, and business owners. In addition, Broads is compiling the official support book for the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument for presentation to federal officials in Washington, D.C.

The fight for these (and many other) incredible landscapes across the nation will continue until they are permanently protected and preserved for future generations.







## August

Broads celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964 with the Eastern Sierra Broadwalk, which was held in and around the iconic Owens River Headwaters Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Mammoth Lakes, California. The 37 participants enjoyed three days of hiking, kayaking, and lots of sightseeing as they learned about the region's diverse natural and human history—including the recent successful campaign against a proposed mining operation at the Hot Creek Geological site.

In addition, participants also performed stewardship work by pulling out invasive plant species in the Mono Basin National Scenic Area, and wrote letters and postcards to elected officials to show support for the creation of a proposed designated wilderness area in the nearby Bodie Hills.

## October



Broads held the successful four-day Wilderness and Beyond Conference at the YMCA of the Rockies campus in Estes Park, CO, where 125 participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest goings-on in the greater

conservation movement. There were great keynote speakers like then-Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning, noted environmental

lawyer and Department of Interior General Counsel under the Clinton administration John Leshy, legendary river activist Mark Dubois, and so much more.

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.

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!





# BROADS IN ACTION!

In 2024, our 41 Broadbands chapters in 20 states across the country were tenacious champions for the nation's remaining wild places. It would take a very long book to report on everything these remarkable Broads do at the grassroots level each year, but here is just a brief sampling of this past year's local and regional Broadband highlights...

## Arizona

In Arizona, the **Tucson Broadband** helped lead the fight against a proposed copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains south of town. The Santa Ritas are a

"sky island" habitat that serves as a refuge for jaguars, bears, coatimundis, and many other threatened plants and animals. The mountains also serve as an important watershed in the arid Sonoran Desert.

But an international mining

company with a global history of alleged human rights violations and environmental destruction, wants to put a copper mine—complete with highly-toxic open leach pits and tailing piles—in the heart of this delicate ecosystem. The Tucson Broads are fighting back! In 2024, they spoke out at public hearings, published letters to the editor in the local newspaper, and joined with partner organizations to host hikes to raise awareness of the threats to this essential habitat.



"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," said Tucson Broadband Co-Leader Dre Hoerr. "This is a huge effort and has broader implications beyond the local fight."

In April, the Arizona Broadband Leaders Coalition (made up of the Tucson, **Yavapai-Prescott, Northern Arizona Wild**, and **Sonoran Broadbands**) hosted the successful Arizona Borderland Biodiversity Broadwalk at the Southwestern Research Station (SWRS) in Portal, Arizona. Through speakers, hikes and outdoor activities, participants were introduced to the incredible biodiversity of southeast Arizona—where the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, and several mountain ranges in both the U.S. and Mexico come together. Speakers highlighted Sky Island biodiversity, the reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves, cross-border beaver restoration efforts, wildlife tracking, bird conservation, and the impacts of the ecologically-destructive border wall.

## Colorado

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 reputation made the **Northern San Juan 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.

In 2024, the Broadband conducted field surveys on public lands in Ouray County. Broads' volunteers cataloged rare plant species on high-altitude tundra,

and accompanied a CNHP entomologist to survey pollinators and other insects along Owl Creek Pass Road. 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. In addition to the work of the Northern San Juan Broadband, the **Northern Front Range Broadband** also received training on the iNaturalist app, which will be used for CNHP biodiversity studies across the state. The CNHP hopes to partner with additional Colorado Broadbands in 2025 to catalog rare plants and insects in their neck of the woods.

"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," said Northern San Juan Broads Leadership Team member Peggy Lyons. "Having the added goal of finding rare plants makes hiking and other outdoor activities more meaningful and fun."

In the southwest corner of the state, the **4Corners Broadband** had a busy 2024 as they helped lead opposition to 20 proposed uranium exploration sites in the Slick Rock area—including two sites in the proposed Dolores River National Conservation Area. Broadband members collected hundreds of petition signatures, coordinated public comments with local conservation partners and offered comments at a local county commission hearing. In addition, they led on-site and virtual field trips to the area, and performed outreach to local ranchers, Ute Mountain Ute tribal members, and area schools.



## Georgia

In Georgia, the aptly-titled **GRITS (Great Old Broads Residing in the South) Broadband**, which started in 2023, worked on protecting the ecologically-fragile Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge region from proposed mining operations. The largest National Wildlife Refuge in the eastern U.S., the Okefenokee is one of the world's largest intact freshwater ecosystems and is home to countless plant and wildlife species. But the area is also threatened by a proposed titanium and zirconium mining operation on the border of the refuge, which could wreak havoc on the very water the Okefenokee needs to survive.

On the national level, Broads sent out an Action Alert in March of 2024 asking people to write to Georgia officials in opposition to the proposed mine, while the GRITS and partner organizations have led the fight against this ill-conceived mining project at the state and local level. The GRITS and **Nor'easter Broadbands** have joined forces for a planned Broadwalk event in the fall of 2025 to raise awareness of the Okefenokee landscape and the proposed mining activities that threaten its future.

## 2024 BROADBAND ACTIVITIES

**3,693**  
VOLUNTEERS &  
PARTICIPANTS

**31,300**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEER  
HOURS  
AWESOME!

**8,277**  
HOURS  
EDUCATION &  
OUTREACH  
IN LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES

**5,684**  
HOURS  
STEWARDSHIP  
MONITORING  
WILDLIFE, SOLITUDE,  
TRAIL USAGE,  
GRAZING IMPACTS,  
TIMBER SALES,  
& WATER QUALITY  
+  
TRAIL MAINTENANCE  
&  
INVASIVE PLANT  
REMOVAL





## New Mexico

For the past five years, **Aldo's Silver City Broadband** grazing monitoring team (in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service) has monitored riparian areas for unauthorized livestock in targeted protected corridors within New Mexico's Gila National Forest. Volunteers from the Broadband conducted 33 surveys and hiked 115 miles in 2024. Unmanaged (or mismanaged) livestock grazing can destroy native plant species and disrupt ecosystems vital for wildlife survival, compact soils making plant regrowth difficult, and damage or destroy the springs and streams that make life possible in this arid landscape. This ongoing effort by the Aldo's Silver City Broads has markedly boosted the amount of monitoring for trespassing livestock in exclosures within the forest, providing USFS staff with timely information to provide follow-up. This has resulted in improvements in the fencing that keeps livestock out of delicate riparian areas.

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

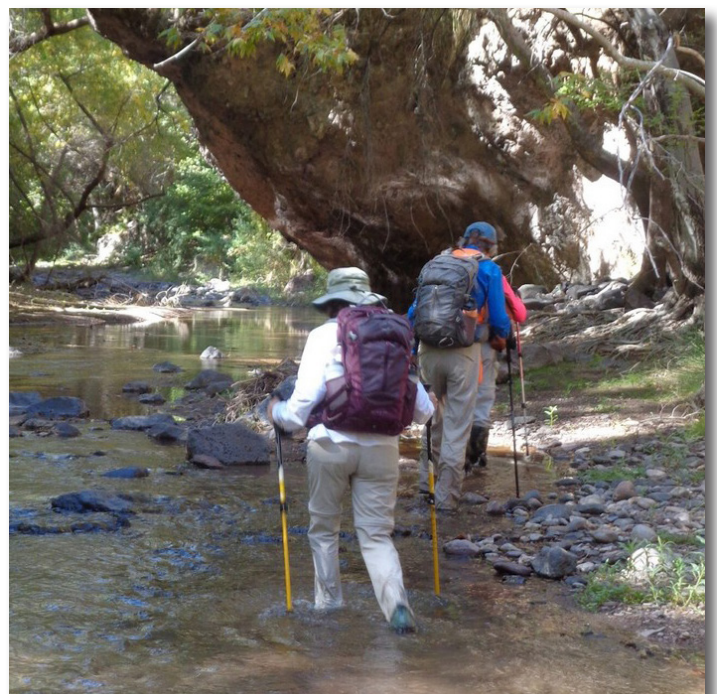
In the fall of 2024, the Aldo's Silver City and **Rio Grande Valley Broadbands** celebrated the Gila Wilderness Centennial Broadwalk, which gave participants an opportunity to contemplate the 100th birthday of the Gila Wilderness. This incredible event, held near the Gila River not far from Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, successfully combined education, advocacy, stewardship, and fun. The event included special presenters who spoke on watershed projects

## New England

The **Nor'easter Broadband**—made up of Broads from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts—held a two-day retreat at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, located within the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. In between planning future events and stewardship activities, the Nor'easter Broads learned more about the nation's experimental forests program. The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest is especially notable as it was the first site to officially document acid rain in North America. Today, scientists conduct studies on the impacts natural and human-caused disturbances have on the hydrology, chemical composition, and biodiversity of northern forest and stream ecosystems. But several units of the USFS experimental forest system now face closure—threatening the vital scientific research that could inform forest management decisions across the nation.

The Nor'easters, long known as champion letter-writers among our many Broadbands, stepped up to speak out for these important forest laboratories, and are planning a similar retreat to Hubbard Brook in 2025.

You can learn more about the Nor'easter Broads and Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest on a recent podcast here: <https://spoti.fi/4IPoWZ7>







in the Gila Wilderness, as well as topics such as the survival of the Mexican gray wolf, and the looming issue of expanded U.S. Air Force training flights in the airspace over the wilderness area. The event included a stewardship project, where participants removed over 400 invasive and non-native plants from a visitors area inside Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

## Pacific Northwest

In 2024, Broadbands across the Pacific Northwest continued their long-standing work as a **Broadband Regional Advocacy Team** to push for the removal

of dams on the lower Snake River in Oregon—a vitally important first step in restoring the rapidly declining salmon population in the Pacific Northwest.



In April, eight Broads representing three Broadbands from Oregon and Washington were invited to participate in the Palouse Nation's *Xlothma Nomyanawita* ("Everyone Welcome") event. This day celebrated the Palouse's 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 Tribal elders, followed by a remarkable salmon meal. The Broads were honored to be invited to this event, which taught them important information about conditions before the dams were built—both ecologically and culturally—and offered a better understanding of what the restoration of the lower Snake River (including the return of this important ecosystem to Tribal management and stewardship) would achieve.

Elsewhere across the Pacific Northwest, the **Cascade Volcanoes (OR-WA)** and **Willamette Valley (OR)** Broadbands performed important solitude monitoring in several designated wilderness areas thanks to grants from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

## Utah

In 2024, the **Greater Wasatch Broadband** worked to raise awareness and advocate for the Great Salt Lake. Due to water diversions and other activities, the lake is shrinking and in serious danger of drying up entirely. This would lead to a catastrophic loss of important wildlife habitat, and cause a potential environmental disaster of massive proportions as hazardous alkali dust from the dry lakebed gets carried by the wind into many local communities—including Salt Lake City.

The Greater Wasatch Broads participated in a Lobby Day at the Utah State Legislature, where they met with state elected officials to push for legislation that would bring more water into the lake. In addition, the Broadband held a spring field trip to visit the Spiral Jetty, an earthwork sculpture in the lake created in 1970. They also had a table at the Ogden Nature Center Earth Day Celebration, where they had Great Salt Lake-themed activities and educational materials for kids and adults.



# ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

## 2024 WALTs

In April, 12 volunteers stepped up to become new grassroots leaders at our annual week-long WALTs (Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training Sessions) near Santa Fe, New Mexico. The focus of the 2024 WALTs was Broadband sustainability—that is, training



new leaders to take over from retiring leaders in existing Broadbands. These invaluable training sessions gave new leaders everything they needed to succeed, with emphasis on the grassroots organizing cycle, Broadband

Leader resources, equity and justice, and public lands management advocacy. Each participant walked away with 27 hours of training for a total of 318 training hours! Your membership contributions make this training available for free to all new Broadband leaders.

## Action Alerts and More!

Engaging the public to take action for our nation’s wild public lands and waters is one of our most important activities at the national level. And in 2024, Broads sent out 14 Action Alerts, Advocacy Updates, and other advocacy-related informational emails to our email list of over 9,000 members, supporters, and partners.

Our Action Alert emails helped generate thousands of public comments and petition signatures through our Voter Voice platform, which enables us to selectively target elected officials and federal agencies. Our Action Alert topics in 2024 included the successful California national monuments campaign, the Bureau of Land Management’s Public Lands Rule, protections for greater sage grouse, and more.

## Webinars

Thanks to your generous support in 2024, Broads’ educational outreach included eight Zoom-based webinars that attracted nearly 1,000 participants across the nation. These highly informative and very well-received webinars featured presentations from scientists, national and regional public lands and wilderness advocates, and expert local Broadband members. Webinar topics included livestock grazing permits, the danger of mining operations near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Indigenous co-management plans at Bears Ears National Monument, the protection of old-growth forests, and for the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument, among others.





# BROADS LEGACY CIRCLE

**The Broads Legacy Circle is our special giving society of forward-thinking individuals who have chosen to sustain our work to protect wilderness and wild lands through their will. An environmental stewardship legacy gift represents the most charitable contribution you can make.**

For Broads Legacy Circle member and annual supporter Darlene Chirman of Portland, Oregon, Broads' stewardship activities are what first drew her to the organization.

"I had heard about Broads and some of their stewardship work, which really appealed to me," says Darlene, a retired habitat restoration biologist and Broads member since 2019. She is also part of the **Cascade Volcanoes Broadband Leadership Team**. "So (when the opportunity came up) I went to a meeting, signed up for some things, and attended my first stewardship event on the Hood River with a group of other Broads."

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic and resulting shutdown put a temporary halt on most in-person events not long after Darlene's first stewardship event. But Broads' advocacy work continued as strong as ever, and Darlene's ecological research background gave her the experience to write in-depth technical comment letters on state and federal public land policies for her Broadband.

Darlene's next step into a Broadband leadership role came when she asked if she could sign her name to these letters on behalf of the Broadband. "The Broadband leaders said 'Sure, if you join our Leadership Team,'" says Darlene with a laugh.

"The main thing I do now is take what I call 'deep-dives' into advocacy issues. I investigate and research things like environmental impact reports, which can be several hundred pages long," says Darlene. "Most recently I worked with the **Pacific Northwest Forests BRAT (Broadband Regional Advocacy Team)** in writing a comment letter for proposed amendments to the U.S. Forest Service's Northwest Forest Plan"

For Darlene, Broads is more than just research and writing technical comments. She says that she supports



*Broads Legacy Circle and Cascade Volcanoes Broadband Leadership Team member Darlene Chirman.*

Broads because she enjoys both making an impact for public lands and the like-minded camaraderie of being in a Broadband.

"I like the mix of things about Broads," says Darlene, who enjoys going on Broadwalks, hiking, biking, and kayaking events with her Broadband. "It's about friendships and group efforts, and having fun doing important stuff along the way."

**We give our wildest and deepest thanks to Darlene and all of our Legacy Circle members for their unwavering trust and support of Broads' mission, both today and for the future. Leaving a portion of your estate to Great Old Broads in your will is an easy, straightforward process—be sure and consult your financial advisor to learn more about the financial benefits and tax advantages that can come with this type of gift.**

For more information about becoming a Broads Legacy Circle member, check out our website at <https://www.greatoldbroads.org/give-to-join/> or call us at (970) 385-9577.



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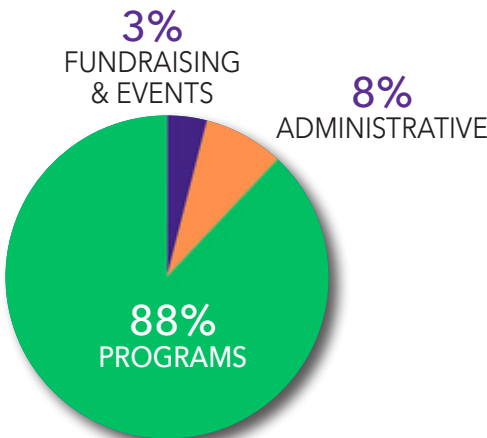
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2024 FUNDS & FINANCE

INCOME: \$844,329



EXPENSES: \$1,124,079



ABOUT BROADS

Our Mission:

Great Old Broads for Wilderness ("Broads") is a women-led national grassroots organization that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands.

Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of Americans who want to protect their public lands and wilderness for this and future generations. We bring knowledge, leadership, and humor to the wilderness preservation movement. And, we're educating communities about the critical connection between healthy public lands and climate change mitigation.

For more information about Broads, go to our website at <https://www.greatoldbroads.org>.



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