I am excited that our organization interested you and you took the time to email!! Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national, grass roots organization, now 32 years old, that focuses on three main umbrella goals: 1) Keeping public lands in public hands

2) Making public lands part of the solution to climate change 3) Keeping the Wilderness Act intact and keeping wild lands wild.

We have both Broads and Bros, but the core of our organization is a dedicated cadre of women, many of us seniors, who choose to work both on issues within their area and on national issues of interest to them.  It is truly grassroots in that each Broadband, or chapter, chooses what it wants to work on.  The Alaska Soles, our local chapter (the only one in Alaska at present) was started by Kathy O’Reilly-Doyle and I last year just before the pandemic restrictions hit.  We had one meeting and then shut down. Kathy is a retired Fish and Wildlife employee who worked around the country but returned to Alaska to be Acting Director  (I probably have that title wrong) of subsistence before her retirement. She lives in Anchorage. I am a retired Cooperative utility manager/CEO and hunting guide (I just retired, mostly, from that last year) who lives in Palmer.

During this last year we have stayed very busy commenting on issues of resource extraction in Alaska, especially working against oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge and in NPR-A (the Willow project); against the Pebble Mine;  against construction of the Ambler Road, and in favor of keeping the Roadless Rule intact for the Tongass National Forest (we lost that fight, for now).  We just sent out our comments on the Central Yukon Draft Resource Management Plan. On a national level we commented on the revisions of the NEPA act. We have worked with other Alaska environmental groups on many of the issues.  However we are also avid hikers and try to fit that in almost every day, separately or together when we can. We have a couple of other women in our leadership team and some really stellar women who we hope to get together with again as soon as it is safe.  We hope to grow that in the near future we can grow into a strong group of advocates who enjoy each other's company, work towards the betterment of our public lands, and share some time enjoying being out on those lands.

The Broads strive to work with people in as non-combative a way as possible, wanting to open conversations and listen to others.  We hope to use a three fold approach of advocacy, stewardship and education in our efforts.  And always, we strive to keep our sense of humor and have some fun!  If you have any ideas for stewardship projects we’d love to hear them.  Besides the obvious trail work, other Broadbands have done work in areas like solitude monitoring, invasive species identification, and resource mapping.   Our Alaska chapter is Alaska Soles. The national headquarters is in  Durango, Colorado and the staff are passionate about the work.  They have offered so many great webinars this past year when we all had to be apart. If you are interested in learning more, I suggest you look at the website [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/). I’d also be happy to speak with you at any time!!  We are sure looking forward to when we can get our group together, to enjoy each other's company and work toward protecting the wild lands we all love.  We'd also love to share some hikes. We have a half dozen other women here in the Palmer area (as well asin Anchorage and Seward so far) who want to be part of it also, including Mary Ann Cockle, who owns Fireside Books, you may know her?

As you  know the last four years have been a nightmare when it comes to environmental regulations.  However we have a lot of  hope after seeing what President Biden has already accomplished!  Please feel free to give me a call anytime if you want to chat more about it.  Do I have your permission to add your email address to our mailing list?  We don't send out a lot of email, I promise, but just try to keep interested members informed of happenings here in Alaska. Also if you join the national chapter you will be put on their list for the newsletters and other information.  Great Old Broads also has a Facebook page which keeps very up to date about upcoming issues nationwide.

Thanks again for reaching out.  How did you learn of our group?  Please do call if you want to chat more, we love to talk about Broads and would love to learn more about you and your interests.  I list my phone number but Kathy will also be more than willing to speak with you at any time, let me know if you want her number.  I hope you are enjoying the long days and sunny weather, even if it is still winter temperatures at night!

Wildly excited to meet another Great Old Broad!

Loren J Karro

(she, her, hers)

Co-Leader, **Alaska Soles**

**Great Old Broads for Wilderness**

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"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself, but for one's community."       Ruth Bader Ginsburg

