



Northern San Juan Broadband (NSJBB) July/August E-blast

Hi Wild Broads and Bros—

Summer is rushing by and there are so many things we still want to do!

One of them is to remind you what Broads is all about: **In a nutshell, we want to conserve and protect public lands. We aim to accomplish this via 4 means: Advocacy, Education, Stewardship and FUN!**

Advocacy: Taking a stand for public land by calling and writing to our local, state and national leaders as a broadband or individually, and signing on to letters by other organizations on issues we support. For information on current issues, see bottom of this letter.

Education: We have frequent opportunities to learn about flora, fauna and current issues regarding our public lands. At our last meeting on July 14 we had a highly informative presentation about the status and future of wolves in Colorado, especially ways in which we can foster co-existence. Check your emails for the video and powerpoint links.

At our next regular meeting, on **Monday, August 11**, Peggy Lyon will take us on a short hike in Ridgway State Park to look at and learn about late blooming plants like sunflowers (aka NYCs or “D-amn Yellow Composites”. Meet at the parking lot at Pa-co-chu-puk at 1:00.

Stewardship: Broads are in the middle of our field season for Citizen Science and Stewardship Projects. Don't miss the opportunity to get out on the landscape and collect data, including wildlife sightings, grazing impacts, solitude monitoring and bad-ass botany surveys. You can accomplish citizen science as you hike, bike or paddle along for recreation in some cases or you can purposefully/deliberately plan your route to specifically look for your data and make observations. Training will be provided if you haven't already attended a training. Regardless which approach you choose, here are projects with which you can engage and the name and contact of the coordinator for that project:

Bighorn sheep monitoring: You can monitor from roadside or while along a trail. All physical abilities. We have optics for you to borrow. Use iNaturalist to report data. Stay tuned for an email about transport options for a group trip. In the meantime, contact Christiane christianefrischmuth64@gmail.com and Heather hscottedu@gmail.com

Solitude Monitoring in Wilderness: Choose from 4 trails in the Uncompahgre Wilderness (since Blue Lakes is closed this year) to count people over a four-hour period (minimum.) Vehicle to arrive at trailhead and ability to hike for 4 hours needed. Contact Carrie carrie.krickbaum@gmail.com

Raptor Monitoring at Ridgway State Park (RSP:) Be one of several citizen scientists who take turns monitoring raptors in the southern zone of RSP. We have optics you can borrow. All abilities. Contact Carrie carrie.krickbaum@gmail.com

Grazing monitoring: Anywhere on public lands where domestic livestock graze. All abilities. Use Cow Pie app (component of Survey 123 app) Contact Amanda cactusranchac@gmail.com

Rare Plant Geocaching: Like a geocache, we use historic data to locate rare plants that were last documented more than 20 years ago, and determine if the population has increased, diminished or disappeared. Some observation sites are easy to get to; others require stamina, so all abilities are welcome. This is part of a state-wide biological survey by Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP.colostate.edu) We use the iNaturalist app. (iNaturalist.org) Contact Peggy Peggy.lyon@colostate.edu

Riverwatch: Sample at the same location along a river/stream monthly, analyze sample and ship some samples to specialized lab. Contact Judith judithlopez1575@gmail.com

Monitor BLM Lands: Keep an eye out on BLM public lands for compliance, trash, etc. Those who have already signed up will also be receiving emails directly from Colorado Canyons Association/ BLM. For questions, contact Judith judithlopez1575@gmail.com

FUN We have fun whenever we get together for work or play. We also have special get-togethers like holiday parties and picnics. Our NSJBB also treasures inter-agency partnerships, such as San Juan Mountains Association and Rocky Mountain Wild. This month, Heather joined Backcountry Hunters and Anglers for

a day of public land reclamation fence removal at the Dan Noble State Wildlife Area with a view to Lone Cone outside Norwood. It was stunning scenery, and a very satisfying stewardship accomplishment (next time: before/ after photos!).



photo credit: Mary Menz. Rare plant *Draba graminea*

Upcoming events:

August 8, Ridgway State Park: Carrie Krickbaum and the Hispanic Affairs Project will host an event with children.

August 11, Ridgway State Park parking lot at Pa-co-chu-puk at 1:00: Plant Walk with Peggy Lyon

August 21, Carbondale: **Tracy Stone-Manning**, President of The Wilderness Society and former Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and **Nada Wolff Culver**, former Principal Deputy Director at the BLM host Wilderness Workshop on **Thursday, August 21**, for a timely and [in-person community conversation](#)* about the state of America's public lands.

October 4, White Mesa Community Center, Utah: Rally to prohibit uranium mining on Ute lands.

ADVOCACY LINKS AND INFORMATION

NEPA rule comments [due August 4 here](#). Separate comments for BLM & USFS - see national action alert. Holler if you can't find the resource and need info. There is also this [National Broadband Connect brainstorm session](#) on YouTube.

Rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule: [Get ready to comment](#) on your favorite Roadless Areas and why they matter to you (wildlife, watersheds, recreation, hunting & fishing, solitude, etc). We expect only a 10 day scoping comment period to follow a Notice of Intent that will likely be released in mid to late August. Since Colorado has its own 2012 Roadless Rule (as does Idaho,) there is still uncertainty whether this federal rescission will include Colorado. Nevertheless, be prepared to comment and perhaps you have favorite Roadless Areas in other states. We want to oppose the rescission nationally whether Colorado is impacted or not. Like Wilderness Areas, all Roadless Areas are important to all residents and visitors across the country. Here's a map of [Colorado's Roadless Areas](#)

Support the Roadless Area Conservation Act!

Ask Representative Jeff Hurd to vote FOR this bill [H.R.3930](#) when it's taken up in the Natural Resources Committee (He's a member.) You could even ask him to co-sponsor the bill! (He'd be the first Republican as of this writing.)

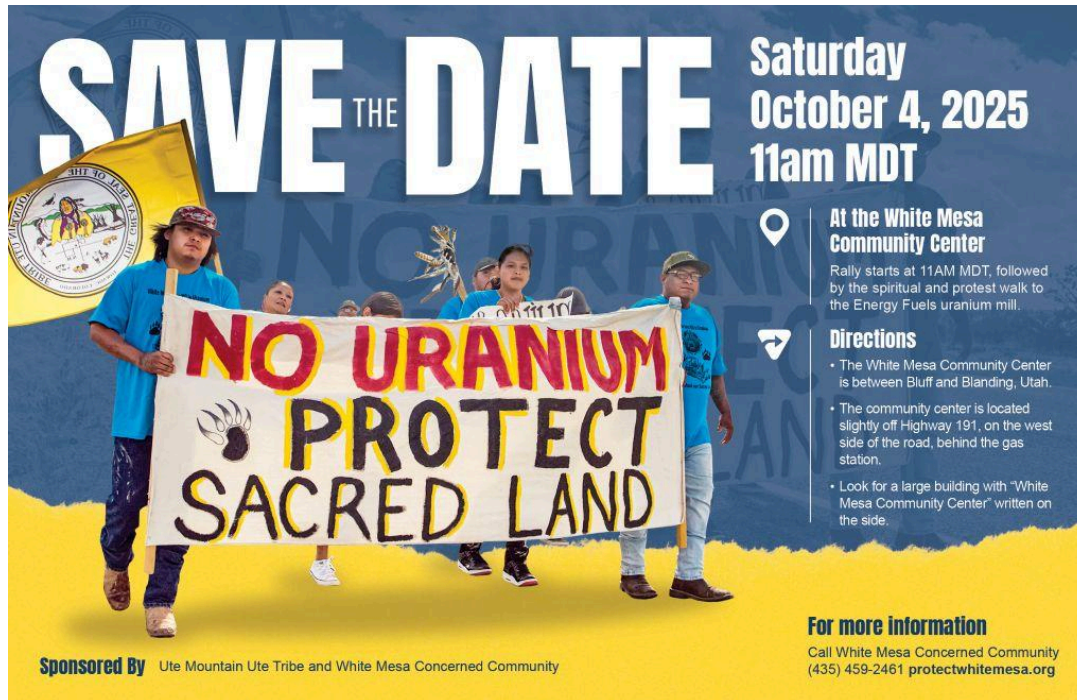
Call Senator Hickenlooper and thank him for cosponsoring [S.2042](#). Ask him to advocate for it when it's heard before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee (He sits on the committee.) and of course to vote for it if it comes to the Senate for a floor vote. (The vote is pretty obvious/guaranteed if a Congressperson is a co-sponsor, but never hurts to state your support for a YES vote.

Call Senator Bennet and ask him to co-sponsor [S.2042](#) and subsequently vote for it.

Colorado Upcoming Oil and Gas Lease Sales, [see here](#) and sign up with Rocky Mountain Wild's website to stay informed.

Consider signing on to support for conveying Crystal Reservoir and Full Moon Dam to return Crystal to the public asset it was, and appreciate that it will be safeguarded for public access to all the trailheads accessed by Full Moon Dam, as a gateway to Mount Hayden and the Sneffels Wilderness to the west and north. The finalized letters can be emailed to wyatt_bair@bennet.senate.gov and mmetteer@cityofouray.com.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is launching the development of a formal **Beaver Conservation and Management Strategy** and invites the public to provide input during a public scoping period open through August 31, 2025, at EngageCPW.org.



SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday
October 4, 2025
11am MDT**

At the White Mesa Community Center

Rally starts at 11AM MDT, followed by the spiritual and protest walk to the Energy Fuels uranium mill.

Directions

- The White Mesa Community Center is between Bluff and Blanding, Utah.
- The community center is located slightly off Highway 191, on the west side of the road, behind the gas station.
- Look for a large building with "White Mesa Community Center" written on the side.

Sponsored By Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and White Mesa Concerned Community

For more information
Call White Mesa Concerned Community
(435) 459-2461 protectwhitemesa.org