



# Great Old Broads For Wilderness

*Get Into The Wild*

## *South San Juan Broadband Wilderness Newsletter*

July 19, 2021

### **Hello to our amazing Broadband members!**

Chara Ragland and Louise van Vonno have taken on the leadership of our Broadband so Anne Dal Vera can carry on with her future in Northern Colorado. We will miss her and she left us some pretty big shoes to fill but she is also leaving us with some fun and meaningful initiatives to carry on. Thank-you all who were able to come to our first in person gathering at the Lions Den to say farewell (but not good-bye) to Anne.



Thanks to all that participated in our survey. We did continue with a new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SSJBroads> so if you are on facebook make sure you “like” this page. It is the only page for the local Broadband that is updated.

We do plan on resuming in person meetings in September at the library but we do not have a firm date yet.

## What we have been up to:



**Thanks to Deborah Paulson** for her hard work and dedication to monitoring the cattle grazing activity in the Hermosa watershed. Our Broadband had 6 members hike in with our new Forest Service Rangers Sean Kelly & Kate Vassel on July 1. They are very knowledgeable and seem eager to keep our forest healthy in drought conditions. We all learned how they keep score on the grazing allotments to determine when cattle need to be removed. The full load of cattle had not yet arrived so we are going back in with them

to see what it looks like after the cattle have grazed. If you are interested we are attempting to organize something for July 28th. It will be a long day of hiking (not more than 10 miles) and an early morning but it is extremely interesting and a fun way to learn about forest health with cattle grazing allotments. (I am investigating the cost and feasibility of going in on horseback. If anyone has any experience with outfitters that might be interested in this please contact me.) Contact Louise van Vonno [usbroads@gmail.com](mailto:usbroads@gmail.com) for more information. Details are forthcoming.

We were so honored to have the [Red Road to DC](#) Totem pole journey come through Durango specifically to visit the Great Old Broads for Wilderness! It was a very inspirational evening.

Today Anne Dal Vera is up at the Salt Creek Trail with a group of cross-cut sawyers. There is still an opportunity for those that are certified



sawyers to join her at Cave Basin for either a day or 1 night back-pack **August 4/5th**. Broadband members have made several crosscut saw trips this summer up the Burnt Timber Trail and have cut out over 33 trees! To sign up, call or write [Anne](#) or call 970-317-5410

## **Take Action with Broadband Stewardship:**

- Spend time outdoors at trailheads, counting visitors!  
**Count the Weminuche** is a project to give accurate information to the Forest Service on visitation to the Weminuche Wilderness. Sign up for one or several 2-hour time slots to record the number of people entering the Wilderness at a select trailhead. Lake Eileen and Vallecito Creek are in May. June features Transfer Park (Burnt Timber trail) and Cave Basin. Crater Lake and Vallecito Creek are on the schedule for July. Please read the [Count the Weminuche Fact Sheet](#) to volunteer.
- **Grazing monitoring** – Tentatively scheduled for July 28th. Details to follow Contact Louise van Vonno. [ssjbroads@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbroads@gmail.com)
- **Give a Damn Beaver outing:** August 1, 2021. Meet at Silverton Visitors Center 9:30am or Rec Center parking lot at 8:15am. Bring Water, sunscreen, lunch, and shoes that can get wet. Restoring beavers' sacred role within the web of life - Before Europeans trapped beavers nearly to extinction, there were 60-400 million on the North American landscape. This translates to beaver families every quarter to a half a mile along waterways. Their sacred function within the web of life as water guardians hold a key to restoring balance for our waterways. Join Nichole Fox, a local beaver expert and founder of Give A Dam for an educational tour on these keystone species and the essential role they play in restoring water. Silverton is unique in that the beaver activity there represents what the earth looked like before beavers were trapped out by humans. Come and explore learning about how these special engineers may hold solutions to many of the environmental issues we face in the southwest!
- **Fen Restoration with MSI** and San Juan SOLES – Aug. 14 – Ophir Fen - for more information contact [Laurie Parkinson](#).

### **Dates to save:**

**Today!** - Please sign the [Broads release form](#) for in-person activities now! This is needed before going on an event. It is good for a year, and has updated CDC protocols for Covid 19

### ***You choose certain dates***

**- Count the Weminuche -** see the details in the main part of this newsletter for short hikes to count visitors and help the Forest Service. Read the [Count the Weminuche Fact Sheet](#) for all the details!

### **More dates to Save!**

**July 28th-**Monitor grazing activity in the Hermosa Watershed with Sean Kelly the Forest Service Ranger.

Contact Louise van Vonno for details.

[Ssjbroads@gmail.com](mailto:Ssjbroads@gmail.com)

**August 1st-** Beaver outing with Nicole Fox in Silverton. Rec center at 8:15 or Visitors center in Silverton at 9:30am. Contact Louise van Vonno for more details at [SSJBroads@gmail.com](mailto:SSJBroads@gmail.com)

### Wildlife:

- Bighorn Sheep monitoring on Endlich Mesa TBD
- Pika monitoring at select sites, some are accessible by vehicle, some involve hiking. For details, contact [Chara Ragland](#) TBD

### Education / Social:

- Tour of Ute Mountain Tribal Park archaeological sites - a small group tour to a less-visited puebloan site. Sept. 10. It will be a full day tour starting at 8:30 at the tour office and ending at 4p.m. Cost is \$49 and additional \$14 for using the Ute transportation. The trip will include 80 mile round trip on dirt road, so the transport is a good option. Please contact Mary Handrick at [edmaryhandrick@msn.com](mailto:edmaryhandrick@msn.com)

**If one or more of these events pique your interest, please email us at [ssjbroads@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbroads@gmail.com) for more information or to share your passion!**

**August 14** - Ofir Fen restoration with Mountain Studies and San Juan Soles! Fun planting sedges and learning how fens (a type of mountain wetland) purify drinking water and store carbon! Contact Laurie Parkinson for more details;

[danandlauriep@gmail.com](mailto:danandlauriep@gmail.com)

**September 10th**- Tour of Ute Mountain Tribal Park. cost is \$49.00. Sign up with Mary Handrick at [edmaryhandrick@msn.com](mailto:edmaryhandrick@msn.com)

**September 2-7: (not a Broadband Event)**

[BECOMING A NATURE BEING](#)

*A 5 day Shamanic Visioning Retreat*

WILDE Spirit Retreat is holding a shamanic visioning retreat here in Durango, CO on Labor Day Weekend Sept 2-7, 2021 led by Florence Gaia, RN, M.Ed.

**Stay tuned** as we finalize dates and details for upcoming activities!

