

**Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Polly Dyer Seattle Broadband Meeting**

12:00 PM, October 24, 2024

Location: Janka Hobb's house in Kirkland, WA.

Penelope called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

Members present were Susan Bocek, Kate Bradley, David Cook, Joetta Fort, Raelene Gold, Cathy Gorrell, Pam Hawes, Kathy Johnson, Janka Hobbs, Susan Kostick, Genia Moncada, Barb Muirhead, Penelope Peterson, Barbara Phelan, Margaret Rands, Wendy Roedell, and Janna Treisman.

1. Announcements and a “Thank you!”

Penelope opened the meeting with thanks to Wendy for serving as secretary and writing the minutes of our meetings for 6 years. Wendy was presented with gifts and given a hearty round of applause and much gratitude.

Penelope reminded the group to sign and write the postcards urging President Biden to use his power to breach the dams on the lower Snake River, while he's still in office.

The group discussed a possible visit to the Bellevue Botanical Garden in December. Penelope said she would send more information and a query for dates and interest.

2. Report on the Broads' National Conference (Barbara Phalen and Penelope)

Barbara Phalen and Penelope both attended the "Wilderness and Beyond" Broads' Conference on Oct 14-17 in Estes Park, Colorado. Barbara reported that, despite the challenges of being at high altitude, it was the best program in her experience. She particularly highlighted a panel by the Northern San Juan Broadband, "How to get out of your comfort zone comfortably" about finding common interests with individuals and groups who hadn't previously worked together. She praised the film festival at the conference and passed around a list of short films. Barbara also mentioned a session on marketing strategies to improve Wilderness education and a session on treaty issues with Indigenous people. Penelope agreed it was a good conference. She was on the planning committee. Penelope suggested that we invite these two Conference speakers to speak with our Broadband at our winter meetings on Zoom: Ione Jones, an enrolled member of Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakama Nation, and Jazaari Taylor, Policy Advocate for Latino Outdoors. The group thought that was a good idea.

3. Ongoing advocacy issues (Genia)

a. Process of amending **the Northwest Forest Plan**: Genia reported that the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) has been delayed until about November 8, 2024, moving the 90-day comment period to extend over "the holidays." The Forest Broads Regional Advocacy Team (Forest BRAT) will provide notes for comments on the EIS,

and we are encouraged to comment and make our voices heard, whenever the comment period is opened.

b. Update from the **Sound Defense Alliance on the Growlers**: Genia reported that the Sound Defense Alliance on the Growlers has a new collaboration with Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. There was an op ed in the Seattle Times about the impact of the noise of the Blue Angels, and the Blue Angels fly the same plane as those we know as Growlers. There will be listening sessions online in December where anyone can relate their personal experience with Growler noise including anything from permanent anxiety, to deafness, to giving up walks in Deception Pass State Park because of the noise. Genia will send us how and when to access and participate in the listening sessions.

c. Update from Carlos Anderson on **Deer Lagoon Preserve**: Genia reported that Carlos's plan for the county commissioner is almost done. Genia will send an email about the Deer Lagoon Preserve.

d. Update on the **Chehalis River Basin Alliance**: This group is fighting the proposal to build a dam on the flood plain in the Chehalis River Basin. Genia will attend their meeting via Zoom on Oct. 28, 2024 and follow up with the group.

4. **Legacy Forests** update and future actions: Genia urged everyone to sign up for the Center for Responsible Forestry newsletter (www.C4RF.org). There is much to protect. On October 2 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approved 5 timber sales. On November 5 they will approve up to 10 more sales, including stands in Clark County (southwest Washington) and in the Elwha watershed.

Genia asked for volunteers to participate in surveying (measuring) trees in Legacy Forests. This group will be led by Peggy. The following people expressed interest:

- Susan Bocek
- Kate Bradley
- David Cook
- Joetta Fort
- Pam Hawes
- Kathy Johnson
- Janka Hobbs
- Susan Kostick
- Barb Muirhead
- Barbara Phelan
- Margaret Rands
- Janna Treisman.

5. Update on **overcrowding challenges facing Alpine Lakes and the Enchantments**: Janna reported that she represents us on the Alpine Lakes Collaborative (ALC) Zoom meetings, which occur for hours at a time several times a

month. Thank you, Janna. Janna reported that efforts to protect the overused area in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest would require limiting day use through permits and timed entry. Camping is already limited by a lottery for permits, but in recent years, more people are hiking the whole trail in one-day and trail running. Furthermore, many who set out to do so are entirely unprepared for the ruggedness, the altitude, and the weather. The members of the ALC have many points of view and priorities, Janna reports, and she identified some of the most like-minded to us as retired United States Forest Service employees (no longer federal employees, freer to express their personal opinions), Alpine Lakes Protection (ALPS), Conservation Northwest, and Wilderness Watch. Janna is meeting with these folks, and they hope to be able to get the Wenatchee River Ranger District to try out a permitting process for Alpine Lakes in summer, 2025.

6. Penelope adjourned the meeting at 2:25. Several members stayed to hike in nearby Bridle Trails State Park.

Please keep in mind these upcoming events:

Thursday, November 7th at 7 pm via Zoom—Polly Dyer Seattle Broads' Book Club. We will be discussing, *Downriver: Into the Future of Water in the West*, by Heather Hansman.

Thursday, November 21st at noon at Penelope's house—Gratitude potluck to usher in the holiday season.

Thursday, January 24, 2025, at 7 pm via Zoom. Broadband meeting and speaker TBA.

Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7 pm via Zoom, Broadband meeting and speaker TBA.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kostick