

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Position Statement – Climate Change

Climate change affects all life on Earth and puts at risk many of the values for which wilderness areas are designated. At the same time, the unbroken habitat and wildlife corridors provided by wilderness give plant and animal species a fighting chance to adapt to changing conditions. Wild lands also sequester carbon in high biomass forests, grasslands, oceans, and other ecosystems. Additionally, benefits provided by wilderness, such as water supply, flood mitigation, and biodiversity conservation will become increasingly essential in the future.

- Broads supports keeping fossil fuels in the ground. It is our only chance to keep global temperatures and the Earth's vital signs from reaching a tipping point. Fossil fuel corporations must not be allowed to shift costs of climate disruption to society while reaping profits from public lands.
- Commercial timber harvests and development should take place on public forests only when an analysis demonstrates that carbon benefits exceed carbon costs over a two to four decade period. National Forest planning rules should require conservation of forested areas with a higher than average carbon biomass.
- Public land management plans must consider and minimize the climate impacts of livestock grazing, roads and vehicular routes, recreation, and other activities. Wild public lands should be prioritized for maximizing carbon storage, biodiversity, and ecological function.
- Natural water cycles on public lands must be rigorously protected to maintain quality, quantity, and ecosystem function. The federal government must protect and maintain water resources in trust for all citizens and for the benefit of ecosystem health and stability.
- Broads supports a bi-partisan call to action to minimize climate change impacts, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and enhance national and global security.