



# Great Old Broads for Wilderness



## POSITION STATEMENT

### Climate Change

*Climate change affects all life on Earth. Wilderness can provide unbroken habitat and wildlife corridors to give plant and animal species room to adapt to changing conditions. Wilderness provides conditions for clean water, less severe floods, and greater biodiversity. Intact wildlands sequester carbon, particularly in high-biomass forests, riparian areas, oceans, and coastal wetlands.*

Activities on public lands generate **4.5 times** more carbon per acre than those lands absorb each year.



The giant coastal redwood forests of California store

**7 times** as much carbon as the Amazon.



Coastal ecosystem soils, such as estuaries, store

**10 times** the carbon per acre than forests.

- Keeping fossil fuels in the ground is critical to global temperatures and preventing the Earth's vital signs from reaching a tipping point.
- Fossil fuel corporations must not be allowed to shift the costs of climate disruption to society while reaping profits from public lands.
- National forest planning rules must require conservation of forested areas with higher-than-average carbon biomasses.
- Commercial timber harvests and development should take place on public forests only when careful analysis of cumulative impacts demonstrates that carbon benefits exceed carbon costs over two to four decades.
- Natural water cycles on public lands must be rigorously protected to maintain ecosystem quality, quantity, integrity, and stability for the benefit of ecosystem and public health.
- Public land management planning must minimize the climate impacts of resource development, livestock grazing, roads and vehicular routes, and recreation. Wild public lands should be prioritized for carbon storage, mitigating climate change, biodiversity, and promoting resilient landscapes.

*The activities undertaken by Great Old Broads for Wilderness are guided by the overriding principle that the focus of attention must be on what is best for the land and water, for Mother Earth.*



555 Rivergate Lane, B1-110 • Durango, CO 81301  
970-385-9577 • [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org)

