



Climate Change

Position Statement

Climate change affects all life on Earth, but intact wilderness provides a natural defense in mitigating both the cause and effects of rising global temperatures. Wildlands absorb and sequester carbon from the atmosphere—particularly in high-biomass forests, riparian areas, oceans, and coastal wetlands. Intact wilderness areas also provide conditions for clean water, less severe floods, greater resistance to catastrophic wildfire, and greater biodiversity.

- 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.
- Keeping fossil fuels in the ground is critical to maintaining liveable global temperatures and preventing the Earth's climate 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.

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.

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.