



Energy/Mineral Exploration & Extraction

Position Statement

Energy and mineral exploration and extraction has many harmful impacts in addition to releasing carbon and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. The construction of pipelines, roads and utility corridors, and the use and transport of toxic materials negatively affect water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and the natural quiet of the lands.

- Designated wilderness, Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, roadless areas, and lands with pristine character, wilderness qualities, and critical wildlife habitat and corridors must be protected from the impacts of energy and mining activities.*
- Energy and mining activities should not be allowed in future designations of protected lands.
- Great Old Broads advocates for reducing the demand for fossil fuels through conservation and sustainable alternative energy sources. We support just transition to secure workers' rights and livelihoods.
- Renewable energy reduces fossil fuel dependence, decreases air and water pollution, and mitigates the threat of climate change. However, since all large-scale energy sources have impacts, permitting decisions on federal public lands should avoid or minimize impacts to plant and wildlife habitat, wilderness-quality lands, cultural resources, and other unique values.

** We recognize in some cases, designation language specifically allows such activities.*

25%
of U.S. fossil fuels are
extracted from public lands.



40%
of the coal mined in the U.S.
comes from public lands.



25%
of the greenhouse gases
emitted by the U.S. come
from fossil fuel extraction
on public lands.

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.