



# Wilderness Protection

## Position Statement

*Wilderness is the highest level of protection for public lands. These lands are designated by Congressional action under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Wilderness lands reduce the impacts of climate change, therefore increasing the acreage of designated wilderness is critical to the survival of all life on Earth.*

- We acknowledge that America's wilderness and public lands were once homelands to Indigenous people, often taken through force or coercion. Tribal people hold significant knowledge of these complex ecosystems that may benefit long-term practices to protect them. Collaboration with tribal peoples and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge is valued and will contribute to the sustainability of the land.
- New wilderness legislation must be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the *1964 Wilderness Act*.
- All public lands with wilderness qualities should gain protection based solely on those qualities.
- Protection of designated Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas should never be reduced as the result of quid pro quo trades that result in privatization, development, or other activities that compromise protection and/or degrade public lands.
- Wilderness legislation or proposals must not compromise or reduce the existing protections for Wilderness Study Areas, Roadless Areas, National Park units, Wildlife Refuges or other protected lands. These lands are important for fish and wildlife habitat, air and water quality, cultural heritage, and as refuges of peace and quiet.

**5%**

**of the entire U.S. is  
protected as wilderness.  
Alaska contains just over  
half of America's  
wilderness.**



**Only**

**2.7%**

**of the contiguous U.S. is  
protected as wilderness.**



**Historically, wilderness  
has been a bipartisan issue.  
Broads will continue to work  
towards bipartisan support.**

*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.*