



# Roads and Vehicular Use

## Position Statement

*Roads and associated infrastructure threaten biodiversity and healthy ecosystems—and their impacts are even greater in the face of climate change. Conversely, roadless areas maintain opportunities for animal migration, movement, reproduction, and security, as well as high quality terrestrial and aquatic habitats. They allow room for flora and fauna to adapt to disturbances. Responsible and proactive road management and minimization are critical in the face of climate change and loss of biodiversity.*

- Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads) opposes exemptions from the federal Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR), and advocates for the few remaining roadless and undeveloped areas to be protected to safeguard habitat connectivity, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and carbon sequestration.
- Public land managers should strictly enforce compliance with the RACR, the Wilderness Act, and all laws, regulations, and policies for travel management on public lands.
- Land management plans for USFS and BLM lands must not include new roads without NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) analysis. Road analyses should disclose impacts and provide solutions to minimize and mitigate any long-term cumulative effects on wildlife, watersheds, and climate.
- Closed roads and temporary roads should be physically barricaded and restored to their natural conditions. Any routes on public lands that are not specifically designated as open should be managed as closed, with appropriate compliance and law enforcement.
- All motorized and mechanized vehicles (e.g. off road vehicles, bicycles) on public lands must be restricted to motorized and mechanized routes to avoid or minimize damage to fragile ecosystems, cultural/historical sites, soils, riparian areas, wetlands and stream habitats.
- E-bikes are electric motorized bicycles, and because of the significance of how they influence the environment, wildlife and other users (equestrians, hikers, human-powered bicycles), they must be considered and managed as motorized vehicles.

**86,000**

**miles of roads on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.**



**380,000**

**miles of roads in U.S. national forests and grasslands. That's 8x more than the U.S. Interstate Highway System.**



**Only**

**2%**

**of the lands in the continental U.S. are roadless.**

*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.*