



Wilderness Protection

Position Statement

Wilderness is the highest level of protection for public lands in the United States. Wilderness areas are designated by Congress in accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act. Wilderness designations are to be managed to preserve and protect diverse ecosystems important for fish and wildlife habitat, air and water quality, cultural heritage, recreation and as refuges of solitude, peace and quiet.

- Wilderness areas are deeply connected to the past, present, and future of Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations. We acknowledge that America's Wilderness and public lands are homelands to Indigenous Peoples, and were often taken through force or coercion. Indigenous Peoples hold significant knowledge of and experience within these complex ecosystems. Tribal collaboration is essential to identify practices to preserve and protect Wilderness.
- New Wilderness legislation must be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act.
- Federal Wilderness Management must preserve and protect these areas and reflect the values of humility and restraint.
- All federal public lands with Wilderness qualities should gain Wilderness protection as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- Non-federal public lands with Wilderness qualities should be protected.
- Broads strongly supports the retirement of livestock grazing allotments in designated Wilderness.
- Protection of designated Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas should never be compromised as the result of *quid pro quo* trades that lead to activities, such as development and privatization, that reduce or degrade public lands.
- Wilderness legislation or proposals, including designation of public land as Wilderness areas, must not compromise or reduce existing protections but should enhance protections for Wilderness Study Areas, Roadless Areas, National Park units, National Monuments, Wildlife Refuges, National Conservation Areas or other public lands.

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.