



Biodiversity & Ecosystem Health Position Statement

Human activity is pushing the earth past critical ecosystem tipping points. All species have an inherent right to exist. Our earth is experiencing an extinction crisis, losing species at 1,000 to 10,000 times the natural rate. The primary threats to their survival are habitat loss, modification, and fragmentation. Nature is overutilized and abused.

Climate change is happening at a faster rate than plant and animal species can adapt. Habitats and migration corridors that have existed for thousands of years are disappearing, affecting the survival of species.

Chemical toxins, air pollution and waste contamination negatively impact ecosystems and species health. Adequate clean water, necessary to maintain and improve healthy ecosystems, is declining. Light and noise pollution disrupt biological systems and diminish wildlife habitat connectivity. Ecosystems, resilient to environmental changes and supporting diverse and viable populations of native species, are essential for our planet's health.

- Broads believes ecosystem health and the preservation and recovery of biodiversity should be the top priorities of public land management.
- Broads advocates for laws, regulations, and practices that protect and enhance ecosystem health.
- Broads resists any attempt to weaken The Endangered Species Act.
- Broads defends keystone species which are critical icons of the stability and diversity of ecological communities.
- Broads works to protect and rewild lands and waters, preserving and expanding habitats, promoting connectivity and diversity within and across ecosystems.
- Broads endorses the construction of wildlife crossings that facilitate safe movement.
- Broads advocates for the funding, acknowledgement, and use of best available science, including citizen science, to inform decisions governing public lands and waters and the species that depend on them.

One fundamental and overriding theme underlies all Broads position statements: our absolute, unwavering support for healthy ecosystems that protect life and foster native species diversity.

**The United Nations
estimates that one
million species
are currently
threatened with
extinction.**



**99% of species
listed under the
Endangered
Species Act have
been saved from
extinction.**

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.