

Climate advocate urges action as moral issue

90 percent of public lands are available to extraction industries

By Micki Carter

“The Earth is talking. She’s speaking louder and louder,” Shelley Silbert, executive director of Great Old Broads for the Wilderness, said in her Zoom talk to the Mid-Pen chapter on Saturday, Sept. 12. “But are we listening?”

Silbert, who was introduced by her mother-in-law, Mid-Pen member Elvira Monroe, urged us to “make public lands part of the solution to the climate crisis.”

“It’s our moral obligation to change our country and our world to address climate change.”

She noted that most people think that public lands are already protected but, in fact, 90 percent of public lands are open to development, thanks to a huge and highly effective lobby in Washington, D.C., that acts in the interest of the oil and gas extraction industry. Energy dominance is national policy today.

“There’s a whole variety of development taking place on our public lands, and those public lands are protected only when Congress acts to protect them.”

Those wilderness forests are a net emitter of carbon, she said. And public lands are our climate defense toolkit, storing carbon, cleaning water and the air, providing biodiversity for pollinators, connecting landscapes so species can migrate and offering storm and flood protection.

The forests, which Teddy Roosevelt called “the lungs of our land,” can store carbon in their roots and plant parts to mitigate the impact of the climate crisis through carbon sequestration or carbon sink. Or those same public lands can be a source of oil and natural gas.



Watch for Climate Change Pop Up

As a follow up to Shelley Silbert’s Talk on Climate Change, let’s discuss what we as a group can do to help our environment. Not only are we experiencing “Martian skies” and dangerous air warmed to record high temperatures and devastating fires, but a federal regulators commission reports of “climate havoc” for US financial markets. The high frequency and cost of the weather related

See Follow, Page 9



Despite the positive effects of wild lands, “public lands are still a net emitter of carbon” because of all the oil and gas extraction permitted on them.

So what can we do to protect our public lands? Silbert offered a four-pronged plan of attack: • Demand immediate mobilization of all the resources of the country as we did with post-World War II investing.

• Vote! Choose to support candidates who make climate change a priority.

See Sherry Booth’s article on Crucial Connection: Women and climate change on Page 7

• Enact policy change now. Silbert noted that the Forest Service is considering what sounds like a simple rule change at the moment, but in fact it would change its mission away from caring for the land above all else.

• Become watchdogs for our local public lands. Work for wilderness protection by supporting or becoming active in local environmental organizations. Silbert told us that the Great Old Broads chapter in San Leandro had spearheaded the successful effort to get the city to divest from fossil fuel
See Climate, Page 9

President's Message: What's in a name?

By Cathy Chowenhill
Co-president

A name like AAUW?

For years now, people have been proposing that AAUW let go of its educational requirement for membership. It keeps popping up on our ballot.

At first, I was very much against dropping the requirement that, to be a member, you have to have a higher education degree. How would we be any different from the National Organization for Women (NOW) if we had no educational requirement?

Then, I encountered a blog post by a young woman who had heard about



Cathy Chowenhill

AAUW and had gone on the website to see what AAUW was. She read about all the exciting projects we undertake and the support we have for women, including important legal advocacy work.

She was inspired and all ready to sign up. But then she read the educational requirements (at the time a bachelor's degree). At

first she was disappointed and wanted to cry, but then she got angry. How could this fabulous organization, working for equality for women, tell her she was not quite good enough to be one of them?

This post stuck with me for a long time. She had some great points, and it was emotional.

Still, what would we be? American Association of Women? I read other people's reactions, and many said they wanted to remain involved with a group of educated women.

I decided I really didn't need to decide because, even though it's on our ballot every two years, I couldn't imagine this basic tenet would ever change.

But then last month, I listened to a webinar by our CEO, Kim Churches. It was called Policy vs. Practice, and she laid out some pertinent points about our organization and the world of women from 1920s to now. In a nutshell, times have changed. I won't try to summarize her talk, but I would highly recommend that you go on the AAUW website or YouTube and listen to it. No matter how you feel about the issue of our beloved group's name and history, it's a forward-looking talk that will challenge you and give you much to think about. Let me know what you think!

If you don't have time to listen to the full

Who? What? When?

Co-Presidents: Cathy Chowenhill (cathychowenhill@comcast.net) and Carole Farina (cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu)

Membership: Vicci Mueller (591-5444)

Distribution: Ellen Van Creveld (591-0814)

Electronic distribution: Cathy Chowenhill

Triad editor: Micki Carter (mickicatr@gmail.com)

Sunshine Lady: Marge Haruff is our Sunshine Lady. Please contact Marge at mharuff@aol.com or 592-9900 if you know anyone who would appreciate a card from Mid-Pen Branch.

Know of a prospective member? Please contact Vicci Mueller (viccim@aol.com).

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Triad Deadline for November will be Oct. 10. Please send articles in Word format to Micki Carter (mickicatr@gmail.com).

[webinar](#), scroll to about the 30-minute mark and start there. Or [here](#) and then scroll down to the "2020 Convening Series," Policy vs. Practice.

BackTalk

Have something you want to put before your Mid-Pen sisters to elicit ideas and opinions?

Have a bone to pick with the world at large or just your AAUW chapter.

Email your thoughts to the editor at mickicatr@gmail.com with BackTalk in the subject line.

Friendship

By Nancy Oliver

Although AAUW membership materials tout all the programs the organization provides to further the status of women, the one thing left out is the value of friendship. Yet, that is probably what most members treasure about their participation at the branch level.

During my more than 50 years of membership, I have been in three different branches. I admire the strong women I've come to know and truly treasure my AAUW friends. We laugh and cry with each other and offer caring words and hands when needed.

Working on various committees has al-

lowed me to meet people I might never have become acquainted with otherwise.

So if you're talking to a prospective member, remember to include friendship as another reason to join! Our friendships are indeed real treasures.

Laura Parmer-Lohan

By Phyllis Hesik

It was good to hear from our member Laura Parmer-Lohan in her Zoom conference conversation with us in August. She talked about the inspiration and encouragement she received from her mother growing up. She shared insights from her experience in the corporate world, to starting her own company, all while raising her son.

San Carlos is fortunate to have her on its City Council where she is currently serving as vice mayor.

Hiroshima

By Carole Farina

Linda Howard's reminiscence on a visit to Hiroshima brought out the human side of a place described mainly by death tolls and destroyed buildings.

Recently in the news was an account of how John Hersey broke the untold story of the devastating effects on the survivors in *Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-Up and the Reporter Who Revealed It to the World* by Lesley M. M. Blume.

Fund luncheons will take form of webinars

The 2020-21 Fund luncheons will be replaced by two webinars, which will be held on two dates, Oct. 10 and 24, at one location — your computer.

While we will miss the social gathering aspect of the luncheons, the webinars may afford the opportunity for those hampered by distance or other physical constraints to participate.

There will be different speakers at each event so you are welcome to attend one or both webinars.

Register for the Oct. 10 webinar at 1 p.m., register [here](#). For the Oct. 24 webinar at 1 p.m., register [here](#).

We know you will be missing the company of your Mid-Pen sisters, but keep in mind that you'll be saving \$40!

Something wonderful to celebrate!

By Caroline Miller

Hurrah, hurrah!

Good news — a victory for equal pay! AAUW Legal Advocacy Funds plaintiff Aileen Rizo's eight-year battle ended in July when the U. S. Supreme Court let a lower decision (that employers cannot use salary history as a reason for paying men more than women) stand.

AAUW stood by Aileen through it all and applauds that decision.

By participating in giving to AAUW, you will be standing shoulder-to-shoulder with your fellow AAUW members and supporters, all of us envisioning a day when women

will achieve full equity in the workplace, when schools offer all children the same opportunities to succeed, and when more women hold top roles in business, government, education and the nonprofit sector.

We are all in this together. And together, we can make a difference.

Please do not miss our Annual Funds Luncheons on Oct. 10 and 24. More information is available on this page of the Triad.

If you need help to direct your monies to efforts other Greatest Need or assistance on how to give, please contact Carolyn Miller, Ann Fleisman or Phyllis Hesik, members of the AAUW Fund, Mid-Peninsula Branch.

**WHEN WOMEN VOTE,
WE CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.**

I VOTED!

I VOTED!

I VOTED!

I VOTED!

IT'S MY VOTE
I WILL BE HEARD ♀♀♀♀
AAUW ACTION FUND

bit.ly/its-my-vote
[#itsmyvote](https://twitter.com/itsmyvote)

Some sections are meeting! Why not join them?

Book Bunch

We meet by Zoom on the second Friday of the month (Oct. 9) at 12:30 p.m. Contact Cheri Sullivan to join (cheryl.sullivan@gmail.com or 217-840-6627). The October book is *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou. Please come with book suggestions for upcoming meetings.

Spanish Conversation

The Spanish Conversation Group will meet via zoom at 2:30, Monday, Sept. 21. For information about the October schedule, please contact Cristina Summerville, cristina@summerville.com.

French Conversation

Bonjour! We meet next at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13, on Zoom. If you'd like more information, please get in touch with Laverne Rabinowitz (Lrainbow24@yahoo.com). À bientôt!

Public Policy

The Oct. 27 Zoom meeting from 3-5 p.m. will review and discuss Mid-Pen's

2019-2020 submission to adopt climate change as a Public Policy Priority as well as the current Public Policy survey sent to all members in September. Time permitting Barbara Regello will also present her research on the cosmetic industry. A Zoom invitation from Yvonne will be sent to all members the day before the meeting.

Historic Preservation

Many parks and museums have virtual tours. Go online and search.

At the **San Mateo County Historical Museum**: On Saturday, Oct. 24. The Courthouse Docket will feature Dr. Laura Jones, who will present "From Stone Age to High Tech: The History of Stanford in the Redwood City Site," giving the history of land use of that area, which now has an outdoor history exhibit. The virtual online presentation is free; register [here](#).

At the **Los Altos History Museum**, "Rise Up!" will be an alfresco learning experience about the fight for women's suffrage, until the exhibit can be moved indoors for safe viewing (through Jan. 31, 2021.) Visit 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, or view at

losaltoshistory.org.

Women in Literature

This section is on hold until further notice.

Hiking

The group continues to meet on Thursday mornings. There's renewed interest in spending time together! Members of the group suggest walks, hikes, routes and the time and place to meet, and then someone leads and does the emails for that week. Stephanie Katz is the contact (stk4@lehigh.edu).

Looking for a little brain stimulation during pandemic?

By Carole Farina

Want something new for your brain? From university courses to life lessons, classes are only an internet connection away. Many institutions offer lessons in the form of massive open online courses, also known as MOOCs. From some schools they are free.

To see the offerings of multiple schools, try Class Central, a search engine for online courses. Or browse the Open Culture site with 1,500 courses from accredited universities.

The non-profit Khan Academy hosts lessons for K-12 as well as inventive computer courses. Apple's iTunes U hosts free audio and video lectures from schools world-wide. Coursera has free one-day classes through the end of 2020.

Consider museums and libraries; try The Museum Computer Network for a lengthy list. Don't forget science and environmental organizations; they offer virtual trips and updates on the wonders and conditions of our world.

Visit Cal Science Academy sponsored www.biographic.com.

For hands-on lessons, everything from changing oil to cooking comfort food can be found on videos posted to YouTube. There is no end to new experiences for you.

Make conscious decision to consider voting for black women this election

By Nancy Mahr,
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

This election gives all of us an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change.

The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted black Americans. We are seeing a call to address police brutality. In the face of these historic challenges, a record number of black women are running for Congress, determined to work for change.

The Center of Women and Politics reports that black women are nearly 8% of the U.S. population, but 4.3% of Congress – only 22 out of 435 Representatives and one out of 100 Senators.

They are under-represented in statewide executive's jobs and among mayors and city councils.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot for cities, school districts and water districts. There may be black women or women of other ethnicities on the ballot in your area.

You can support women of color who are running for office in your community, state and nation. Be aware.

Create an environment of inclusion. Make an effort to meet and talk with these candidates. Commend them for stepping up. Listen to their stories and their goals. Ensure they are included in election discussions and activities.

AAUW has a long tradition of advocating for positive societal change and political activism

Change is under way, and AAUW can be a part of that.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

MID-PENINSULA BRANCH (including South San Mateo County)

Invites you to learn about

The 2020 Ballot Propositions

Presented by the
League of Women Voters



Saturday, October 17, 2020

10:30 am

Virtual meeting via Zoom *

***To register for the meeting, contact aauw-mid-pen@earthlink.net**

Open to the Public

**For more information, call 592-5822, email aauw-mid-pen@earthlink.net,
or website mid-peninsula-ca.aauw**

Membership is open to those who have earned at least an A.A. degree or higher from an accredited institution.

Public Policy offers ways to Get Out the Vote

By Yvonne Bergero

In researching ways that we can help Get Out the Vote, Public Policy has found opportunities at Represent.Us.com to go through training for texting and/or phoning voters to remind them to register to vote, request absentee ballots and vote Nov. 3.

This organization's volunteer dates change, so check in regularly for updates. Represent.Us also has petitions that you can easily add your name to.

Represent.Us is a coalition of non-partisan organizations such as NYU Law's Brennan Center for Justice, Unite America, the National Association of Non-Partisan Reformers, Public Citizen and Common Cause joined together to mount a multi-million-dollar campaign to support vote-by-mail, fair elections and anti-corruption laws nationwide.

Other ways to become involved:
AAUW [petition](#) to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4/S. 4263)

Represent.Us [petition](#) to support vote by mail legislation

Represent.Us [petition](#) to protect the elections by including election funding for states in the next stimulus bill. Petition supports no-excuse absentee voting and vote by mail options, expanding early voting, providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for poll workers, and purchasing and upgrading voting equipment.

Brennan Center [petition](#) to protect our elections and our democracy by allotting at least \$4 billion for elections in the next stimulus package that state and local officials can use to ensure our elections in 2020 are free, fair, safe, and secure.

California Common Cause [website](#) to check on your voter registration.

Water, our next crisis

Two videos explain the vital nature and critical status of groundwater and why it matters today:

[Groundwater Resource Hub](#) and [The Water Beneath our Feet](#).

State AAUW supports 7 ballot measures

From California AAUW

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee has reviewed the 12 propositions on the November ballot and is making recommendations on seven.

A **Support Recommendation** has been made for these seven that relate to our priorities and mission:

Prop 14 – Stem Cell Research (access to quality health care) Approves a bond for \$5.5 billion to support continued stem cell research

Prop 15 – Property Taxes (funding for education) Large commercial properties over \$3 million will be assessed at current market value.

Prop 16 – Affirmative Action (educational opportunity; social justice) Reinstates race, ethnicity and country of origin as considerations for school admittance and government employment.

Prop 17 – Voting for Parolees (expansion of voting rights) Allows people on parole to vote once their prison sentence has been completed

Prop 18 – Voting at 17 (encourages voting) Allows 17-yr olds to register and vote in primary if they will be 18 by the general election

Prop 21 – Rent Control (affordable housing) Authorizes local governments to place rent control measures on houses older than 15 years

Prop 25 – Cash Bail (social and economic justice) SB10 relies on risk assessment in determining if a suspect will be held in custody instead of cash bail; a "yes" vote keeps SB10

The committee takes **No Position** on the remaining five:

Prop 19 – Property Taxes

Prop 20 – Parole Restrictions

Prop 22 – Gig Workers

Prop 23 – Dialysis Clinics

Prop 24 – Consumer Privacy

More detailed information on each of these propositions, including who sponsored and who supports and opposes each, can be found on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website.



Crucial connection: Women/climate change

By Sherry Booth

Women and climate change are connected in myriad ways, from the physical, economic and agricultural to structural and theoretical. Historically, women have been in charge of food for families, with responsibilities to plant, nurture, harvest and sell or prepare food for the family.

Today in developing countries, women manage between 60 and 80 percent of agriculture, where they face multiple barriers of inequality. They often cannot own the land they farm, can't leave home to market their products without male permission and can't get loans to invest in better methods. When food is scarce, it is women who reduce the amount of food eaten — men and children first.

And climate change makes the work even more difficult, not just for women in developing countries but around the world.

Inequality is the common denominator in climate change effects, an inequality that stems from frameworks of thought that inform how societies function. We have failed in this country to do the hard work to mitigate climate change because the status quo doesn't want changes that it thinks threatens it.

Climate change is caused by human actions, and we see the effects in nature: rising temperatures, melting ice, super storms, droughts, famine, rising sea levels, floods, fires. And women and nature are closely intertwined, as both are subject to Western views of each: they are commodities, a "natural resource," to be consumed, both live under systemic oppressions.

Nature can't vote; it cannot lobby for its health, much as women for centuries couldn't own property, vote, receive education and control their bodies or any money they might have. Humans have most definitely "used" nature: extraction of fossil



fuels, depletion of forests and prairies, air and water pollution. The framework underpinning our mistreatment of the natural world refuses to acknowledge that we live on a planet with finite resources, and that the thin veil of atmosphere that guarantees human and non-human survival is now so laden with CO2 that we may not be able to recover.

In the West, this framework is white, male, and capitalism driven, a white patriarchy. This framework places profit above almost everything else except power; it places white males above the rest of us.

Many women have worked hard for equality and a better world, but inequalities in access to education, to capital, to positions in government make it hard to legislate the changes needed to combat climate change.

The feelings of frustration and helplessness when faced with the magnitude of climate change are understandable.

So, what might women do, ordinary women like me? The short list: first, we must VOTE. Vote for candidates who value

both women and nature, who understand that climate change is the biggest issue we face today.

Second, use our money (which now we have access to and can control) to support those candidates and, in our investments, divest from companies that harm the environment (and women and children and people of color). Impact investing, sometimes called sustainable investing, chooses companies that take ecological, social and business ethics seriously and use capital to achieve measurable environmental or social benefits while also making a profit.

We can't give up. But we can vote. We can write our representatives in Congress and Sacramento. We can invest wisely for the world. Support the Green New Deal. Speak out for ourselves, our families, all the families.

The planet will continue whatever we do; the question is whether or not it will be a place habitable for living things, human and non-human.

Healdsburg AAUW launches Forum; we can join them

Hello fellow AAUW members:

My name is Mary Fitzgerald. I am the publicity liaison and VP for the Healdsburg branch. We hope that you are surviving, and perhaps even thriving, during this topsy-turvy year.

I want to share an opportunity for you and your branch members to enjoy some enriching programs from the safety of your own homes.

For the past several years our branch has hosted in-person, six-week lecture series, aptly named Forum. It is one of our primary fund-raising activities. The topics cover a range of interests and are presented by respected lecturers and other professionals.

As you can imagine, we aren't able to offer the programs in person this year. However, a group of talented members have transitioned the classes to a Zoom format. This means that people can enjoy these programs from anywhere. Won't you join us?

Each class is offered on six consecutive Tuesdays and Thursdays (different topics for each day) from 10 a.m. to noon. You can participate in one or both classes each session.

The attached flyer describes the programs beginning Oct. 6 and 8, and the enrollment process and cost. Our members, spouses and the community-at-large have enjoyed these programs and always look forward to the next sessions. We hope that you and your members will join us.

If you have questions or other thoughts, please let me know. Thank you for your attention!

STATESMEN AND ROGUES: THE FOUNDING FATHERS FROM WASHINGTON TO MADISON

Tuesdays 10–11:45 am, October 6–November 10

In this course we meet the key members of the revolutionary generation and assess their influence on the tumultuous events of 1776. Our country's founders were not demigods, but rather a very human mix of bold military commanders, political philosophers, and gifted orators. With all the flaws and shortcomings of ordinary mortals, they were confronted with nearly insurmountable challenges. Be prepared to gain new insights into the life and times of these historic figures. This is one of our instructor's most popular and acclaimed courses.

Mick Chantler has taught over fifty OLLI (Osher Life Long Learning Institute) courses in the San Francisco bay area. He holds an MA in history and has been a student and instructor of early American studies for over forty years. His fields of study include early American history, the history of the South, the Civil War Era, and baseball history. He teaches OLLI courses at U.C Berkeley, Sonoma State University, Dominican University and Santa Clara University. He is a member of the Lincoln Forum and organized the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration for the city of Sonoma in 2009. In 2010 he coordinated the American History Series at the Sonoma Valley Library.



DEEP HITCHCOCK: SYMBOL AND PSYCHOLOGY IN SHOT AND SCENE

Thursdays 10–11:45 am, October 8 – November 12

Take a deep dive into Alfred Hitchcock's cinematic genius as we unpack his artistic mastery and the fundamentals of his symbolic storytelling style. Our focus will be a fun and astute analysis of key repeating Hitchcock motifs, meaningful camera shots, and pivotal scenes. We'll delve into each film's mythic themes and archetypal elements, considering how they reflect Hitch's own moral and psychological development. Exploring each film chronologically will underscore how film art reflects cultural history. Focusing on one of his most fertile periods – 1935 to 1951 – will highlight the expressionist brilliance of Hitchcock in shimmering black and white. Includes *The 39 Steps*; *The Lady Vanishes*; *Foreign Correspondent*; *Shadow of a Doubt*; *Notorious*; *Strangers on a Train*. Thought provoking film clips and illustrative camera shots will be presented. For a richer experience, we highly recommend watching the complete versions of these widely available films before class.

Terry Ebinger, MS, practiced as a licensed psychotherapist and depth psychological educator before becoming a creative film scholar. Her film classes are an exciting blend of film art, cultural history, archetypal psychology, and the symbolic language of cinema. She teaches at several Bay area Lifelong Learning Institutes, Santa Rosa Junior College, Cinema & Psyche, and the Movie of the Moon Club. www.cinemaandpsyche.com



Registration begins 9/1/2020. Classes will be presented on-line via Zoom, a web conferencing site. For more information, go to healdsburg-ca.aauw.net.

Enrollment Fee: \$95 for each six-week course. Fees are nonrefundable (see back side for enrollment form)

Presented by Healdsburg American Association of University Women (AAUW). Proceeds support local educational programs and scholarships for women and girls.

Recognizing implicit or unconscious bias in all of us

By Elaine Johnson, Director, diversity@aauw-ca.org

Are you biased? Not me!

Each of us has experiences that have an effect on our attitudes. We might not even recognize them ourselves. Yet, we each take actions that have a negative effect on some others around us.

AAUW has recently had webinars both at the national and state levels that bring to our attention the need for recognizing our own intrinsic biases.

Once we increase our awareness, we can be open to making change and having an effect on making change within our branch and our AAUW.

Recognizing implicit bias helps us move into an appreciation for others and increases our ability to be more diverse and inclusive in our AAUW membership.

All the AAUW California state committees are contributing to an understanding of diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

Climate advocate urges action as moral issue

Continued from Page One

investments.

She added that Great Old Broads for Wilderness send out action alerts on specific issues. Go to their [website](#) and sign up to receive those alerts.

During the Q&A, Silbert explained carbon offsets, which are fees that companies collect (notably airlines) and pass on to organizations that plant trees or restore wetlands or put up solar panels. "I do recommend that you use carbon offsets when you fly."

Asked about a bipartisan climate effort, Silbert noted that "most of the key clean air and water act provisions went into place during the Nixon administration. The Wilderness Act was bipartisan, but now we're seeing such a political division when we should be fighting tooth and nail for all the environmental issues."

Most of all, she urged, get involved! "Our greatest challenges are our greatest opportunities!"

Follow

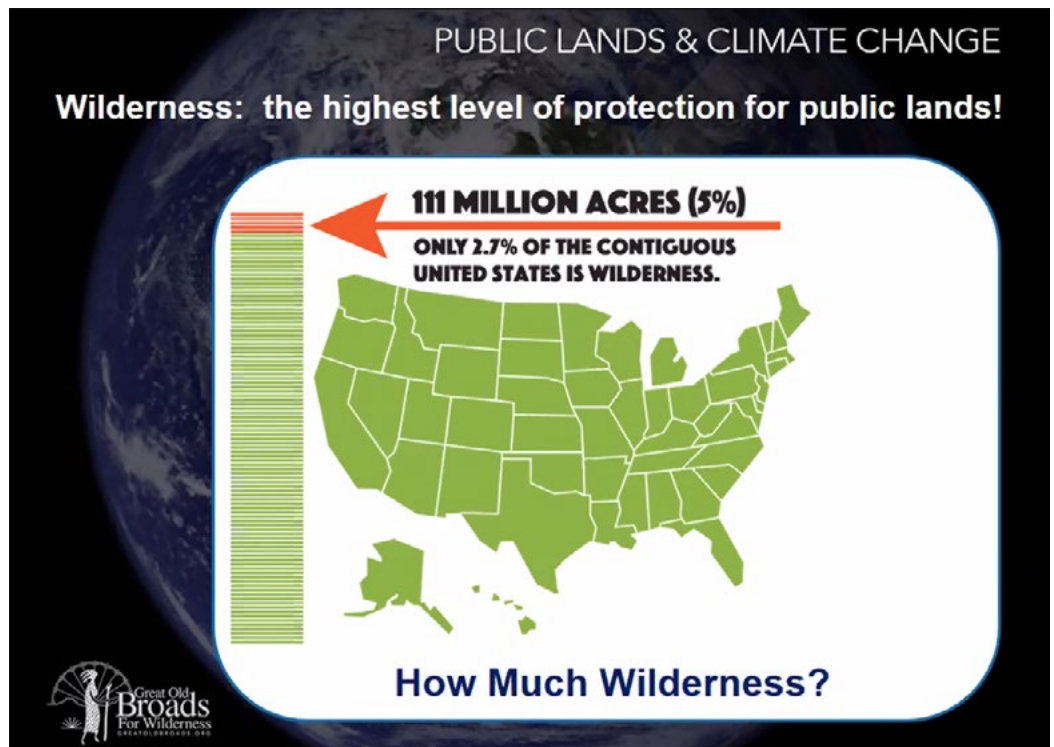
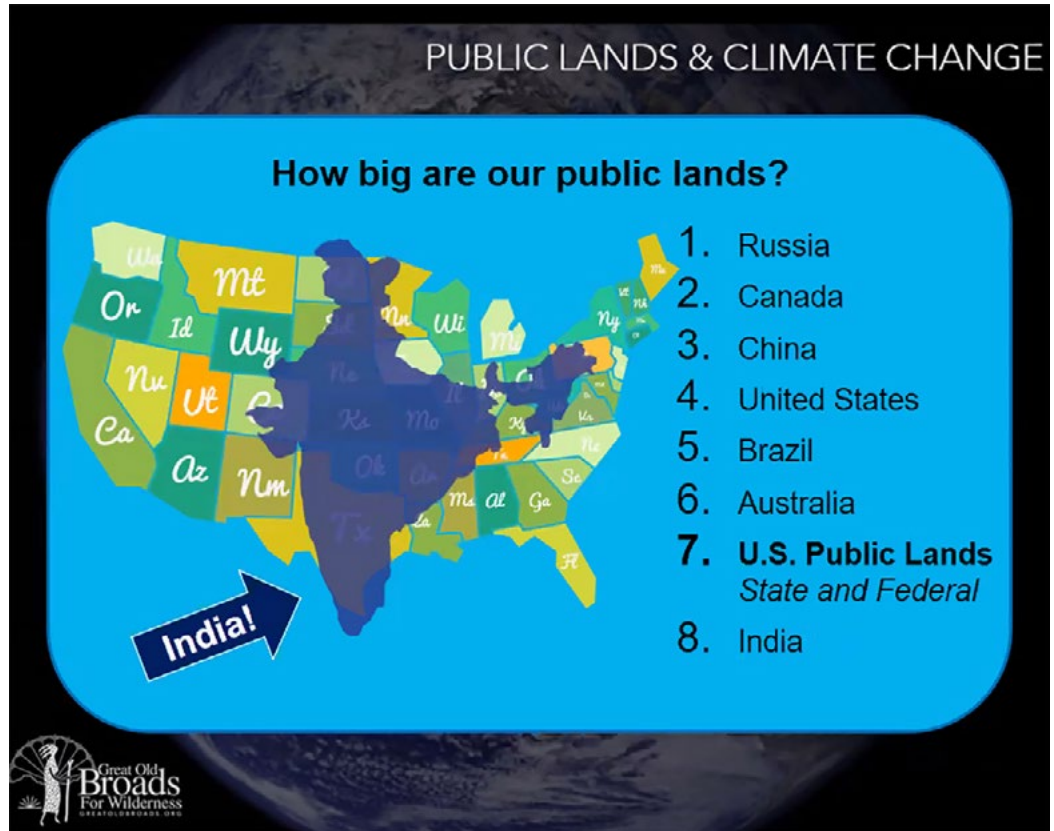
Continued from Page One
 disasters causes unsustainable shocks to the financial system.

Above all the cost to the individual of degradation of our environment must be reversed. Please be part of the effort.

Join us to discuss how we can help. Watch for a notice in your email.

To help plan the meeting or to email your ideas, you can contact me at cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu.

Carole Farina
 Co-President



Learn more about Great Old Broads for Wilderness at their [website](#).

Mid-Peninsula-CA.AAUW.net • AAUW-Mid-Pen@Earthlink.net