

the WESTERN LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE advances policies and practices that sustain working lands, connected landscapes, and native species.



WESTERN LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE  
STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEST

[www.westernlandownersalliance.org](http://www.westernlandownersalliance.org)

- ✓ Promoting good policy foundations for flexible and practical best stewardship on working lands
- ✓ Influencing the implementation of policies via cooperatives with land management agencies and decision leaders
- ✓ Creating and advocating for a West-wide community of landowners, managers, and advisors committed to landscape scale conservation on working lands



COMMUNITY



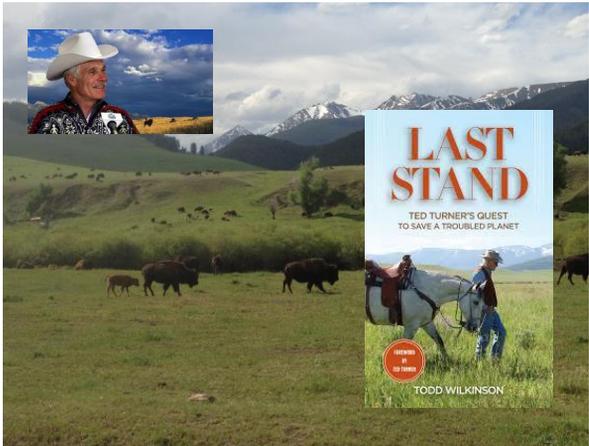
PRODUCTION



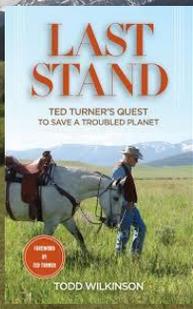
CONSERVATION



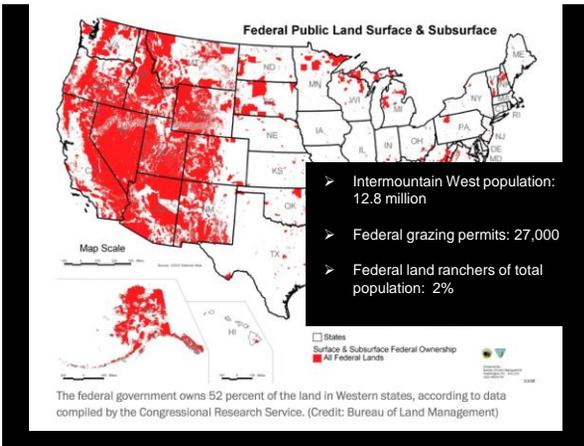
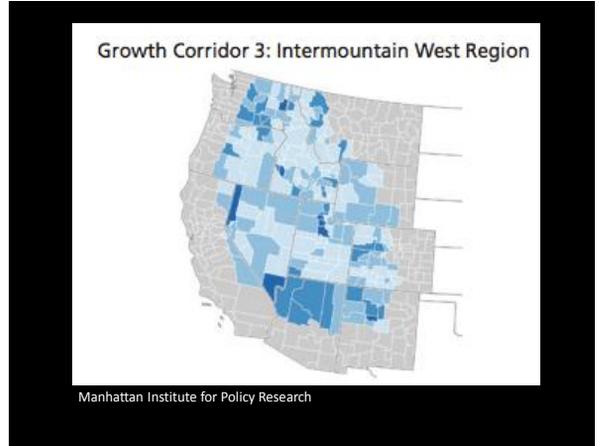
## What is the west...or rather, *who is the West?*





**LAST STAND**  
TED TURNER'S QUEST  
TO SAVE A TROUBLED PLANET  
TODD WILKINSON





"Now the Indians are dressing up like cowboys and the cowboys are putting leather and turquoise on...."

Johnny Lee, *Cherokee Fiddle*, 1982

Will the real cowboy please take his hat off?

"We Americans have always had itching feet. The movement of people from one place to another is one of the most important factors in our history.

"The pressing American need for elbowroom was so strong that by the time of the Revolution, in typical American communities in all regions of the country, at least four out of ten households packed up and left every ten years. We have always been a people in motion."

"*The Pioneer in the American West*" by John Mack Faragher

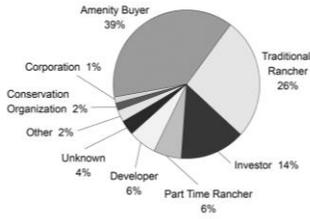
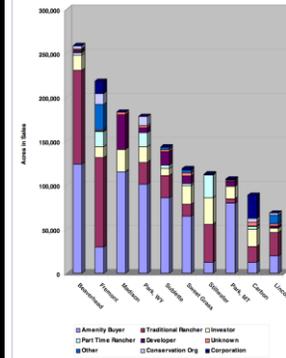


Figure 2. Percentage of ranch sales  $\geq 400$  acres to different buyer types, 10-county GYE study area, 1990–2001.

Ranchland Ownership Change in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 1990–2001  
 WILLIAM R. TRAVIS, HANNAH GOSNELL, JULIA H. HAGGERTY

Figure 11. Acres in Ranch Sales  $> 400$  Acres to Different Types  
 GYE Ranchlands Study Counties, 1990–2001

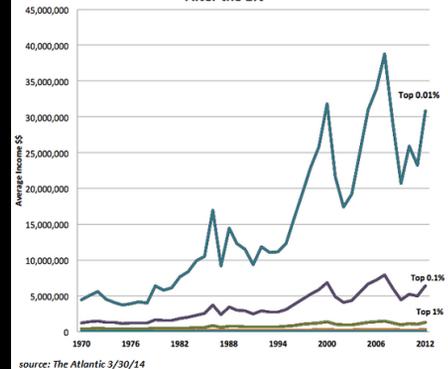


“Land remains a hot investment, and America’s wealthiest individuals are snapping up property at breakneck speed.

“The 100 biggest private landowners in the U.S. added 700,000 acres to their holdings in the past year, according to CNBC’s Robert Frank. That means they now control more than 30 million acres, or 2% of America’s land mass.”

*Business Insider*, October 2013

Income Inequality Achieves Escape Velocity  
 After the 1%



source: *The Atlantic* 3/30/14

### White House to Begin \$10 Billion Rural Investment Fund,

Alexandra Stevenson, *New York Times*, July 24, 2014

“Since the 2008 financial crisis, large pools of pension money have flowed directly into farmland and agricultural investments...

“So strong is the demand from some corners of the financial world that agricultural conferences once attended mostly by farmers and others in related fields are now crowded with institutional investors, venture capitalists and hedge fund managers.”

### Montana, the Last Best Place: Maintaining wildlife and private lands in the Big Hole

A SURVEY OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS



Cornell University  
Department of Natural Resources  
Human Dimensions Research Unit

#### Findings

55% Hold a bachelors or advanced educational degree

86% feel positively about wildlife

57% support development restrictions to benefit wildlife

50% are lifetime rural residents

59% are part-time or absentee owners

22% manage their land primarily for profitability

Blackfoot Community Conservation TBLA

Blackfoot Challenge

Malpai Borderlands Group

Chama Peak Land Alliance - RESPONSIBLE LAND STEWARDSHIP

Quivira Coalition

Western Landowners Alliance

Center for Collaborative Conservation

## Wyoming

*A survey of Wyoming voters regarding conservation demonstrates a strong conservation ethic and support for continuing to fund conservation and maintain protections.*

Like their fellow Westerners, Wyoming voters overwhelmingly identify as conservationists (73%) – a label that bridges partisan lines, as well as many other factors in the state.



Wyoming voters prioritize conservation goals throughout the survey, in regard to energy, regulation, and public lands. Among the select findings from the survey:

**On Jobs:**

- 80% say that we can protect land and water and have a strong economy at the same time.
- 97% agree that "Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of Wyoming's economy" – the highest of any of the six states. Virtually all – 99% – say they are essential to the "the quality of life" in Wyoming.
- When asked whether environmental regulations have a positive or negative impact on jobs in their state, Wyoming voters are more likely to say they have a positive impact (67%) rather than a negative impact (33%).

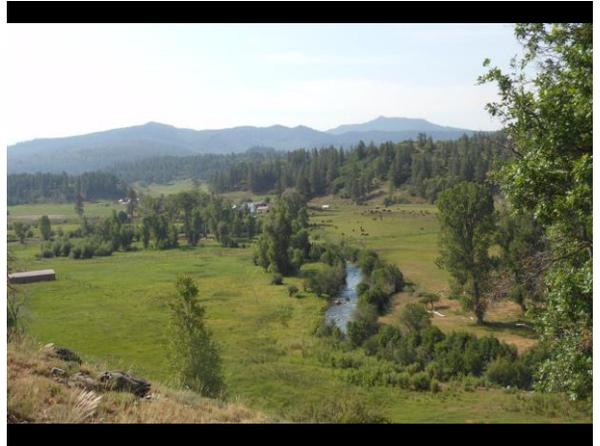
Sub-group	Identify as Conservationist
Rural residents	76%
Tea Party Supporter	76%
Obamacare Opponent	88%
Democrat	70%
Republican	69%
Democrat	79%
Republican	73%
Angler	74%
Not Sportsman	67%

**THE COLORADO COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR  
Conservation in the West Poll

## Blackfoot Challenge

- 73,000 – Acres transferred to new conservation owners
- 285,000 – Acres now under conservation easement
- 1 million – Dollars to conserve wetlands and upland habitat
- 167 – Trumpeter swans released
- ~40 – Trumpeter swans returned
- 5,000 – Acres of agricultural land enhanced





**THE INSTITUTE** The High Tonesima Institute is planned as a center of science and ideas—a forum for shared dialogue where research happens, problems can be resolved, and policies are incubated.

— STREAM ECOLOGY	— SAGE GROUSE HABITAT STUDIES	— ASPEN RESTORATION PROJECT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoring and enhancing ecosystems and resources critical to landscape scale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting cultural and well-connected landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modeling resilient, sustainable and ethical resource management practices and uses</li> </ul>



### Wildlife Protection & Reintroduction

The rugged landscape, consisting of mountains and valleys running north/south along the US-Mexico border provides rich habitat for many native and migratory species. Cuenca los Ojos (CLO) has worked with the federal and state governments of Mexico (CONANP and CEDES) to secure permanent protection of these lands and the animals found there. The first step was to protect a vast region of open space. The second step is to manage the montane forests, valleys, canyons, wetlands and riparian zones for the benefit of plant and animal species. CLO uses science-based methods of restoring the land and water resources these species need to survive. The third step is to work with partners to establish a vast interconnected network of protected lands to facilitate the movement of wildlife.

**Cuenca Los Ojos**

**Restoration Achievements To Date**

- 5 acres of Penstemon planted (for the benefit of hummingbirds)



### Landowners of the West

- ✓ Radical Center
- ✓ Collaborative Conservation
- ✓ Sustainable Working Lands
- ✓ Wildlife
- ✗ Politics and Policies of the Range War
- ✗ Polarized Extremes



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Lesli Allison, Executive Director

[WWW.WESTERNLANDOWNERSALLIANCE.ORG](http://WWW.WESTERNLANDOWNERSALLIANCE.ORG)