

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

- ✓ Promoting good policy foundations for flexible and practical best stewardship on working lands
- ✓ Influencing the implementation of policies via cooperation 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

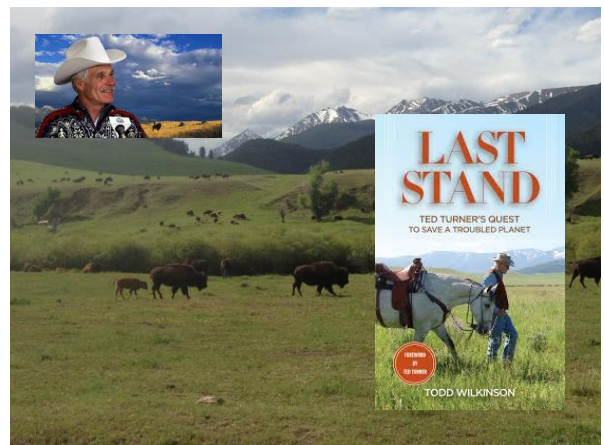
PRODUCTION

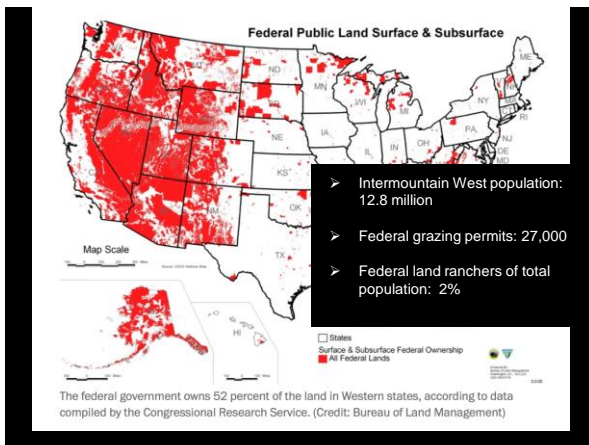
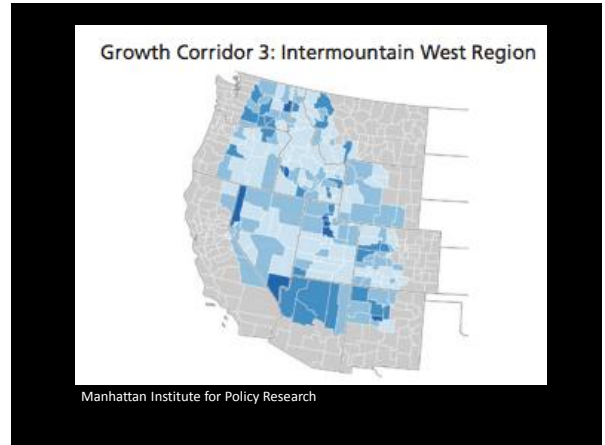
CONSERVATION

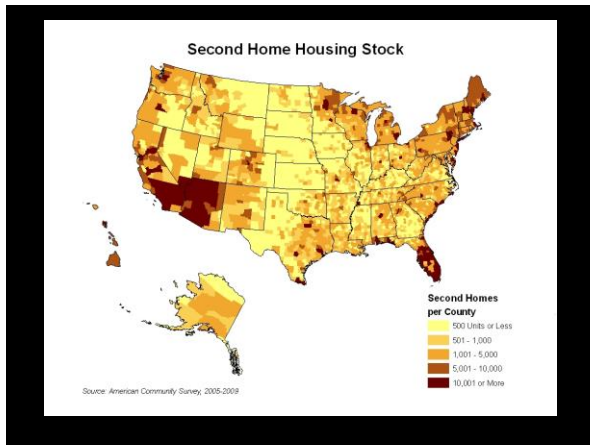
The Great Movement



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







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

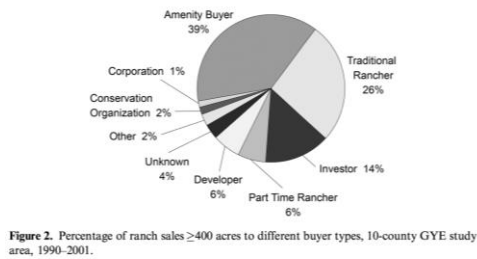
Johnny Lee, *Cherokee Fiddle*, 1982

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.

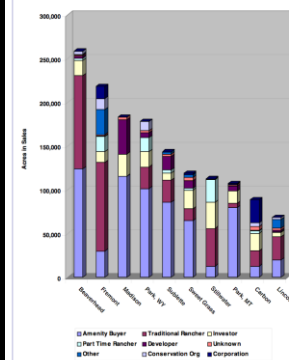
"The pressing American need for elbowroom was so strong that by the time of the Revolution, in typical American communities in all regions of the country, at least four out of ten households packed up and left every ten years. We have always been a people in motion."

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



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

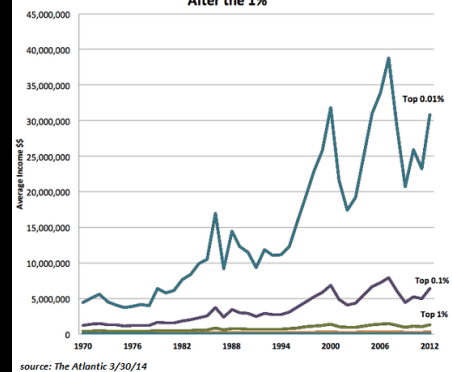


“Land remains a hot investment, and America’s wealthiest individuals are snapping up property at breakneck speed.

“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%



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



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.



Sub-group	Identify as Conservationist
Rural resident	76%
Tea Party supporter	76%
Obamacare/Health Care supporter	88%
GOP	70%
Independent	69%
Democrat	75%
Hunter	75%
Angler	74%
Not Sportsman	67%

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 50 states. Virtually all – 99% – say they are essential to 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%).

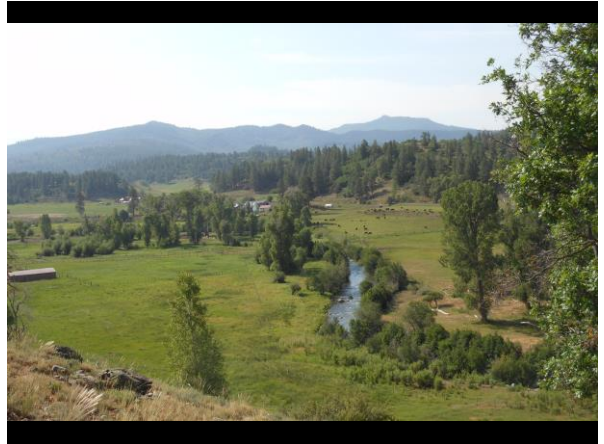
THE COLORADO COLLEGE
DIVISION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Conservation in the West Poll

BCP CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

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 Lonesome 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.

 <p>STREAM ECOLOGY</p> <p>Restoring and conserving ecosystems and resources at the landscape scale</p>	 <p>SAGE GROUSE HABITAT STUDIES</p> <p>Protecting a diverse and well-connected landscape</p>	 <p>ASPEN RESTORATION PROJECT</p> <p>Modeling shared, sustainable and ethical resource management practices and uses</p>
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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.

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

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