

THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE Highlights of 2015

Thanks to you and your generous support, 2015 was the Land Trust Alliance's most successful year yet. With a momentous victory on Capitol Hill, the Alliance has become a big player—despite its small size—in securing the vital resources necessary to make land conservation a success across the U.S.

We are eager to share the highlights of the last year, accomplishments that would not have been possible without your personal and financial support. Together, we empowered land trusts across the country and helped them to be able to conserve more land—forever.



Building Public Support

Last December, President Obama signed into law a permanent, enhanced tax incentive for the donation of conservation easements. This one new provision of law could alone result in an additional 300,000 acres of land conserved every year, land that can be used for farming and ranching; hunting and fishing; pristine watersheds, wildlife habitat and essential recreational areas for generations of Americans to come. A collaborative effort among many organizations, the Alliance led the way—with your support.

In addition to the tax incentive, we also worked on the long-term reauthorization of the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the use of the Farm Bill for land conservation.

The federal government is a critical source of conservation funding and the Alliance has helped steward federal, state and local tax policy to encourage donations of funds, land and conservation easements.

The Alliance also works to help more than 1,100 land trusts build strong relationships with their public officials. The Alliance's Ambassador Program has nearly 200 participants. Ambassadors take center stage during Advocacy Days, a spring event that provides land trust leaders with hands-on training in Washington, D.C., as well as time with their key legislators to brief them about the most important issues of the land trust community.



Providing Tools for Success

The Alliance provides land trusts with the tools they need to grow in strength and impact. Our online Learning Center, conservation and risk management curriculum, 100+ webinars and 300+ workshops served 5,000 people in 2015. And our staff—assisted by new “circuit riders” and seasoned experts—mentored, assessed and delivered direct financial assistance totaling more than \$2 million to land trusts across the nation.

By the end of 2015, 317 land trusts were accredited. These organizations represent 75 percent of the land conserved by land trusts across the country.

We are committed to continuing this work in 2016 and to expanding our transformative Leadership Training and Land Trust Excellence Programs to serve more land trusts, their staffs and their board members across the country.

Delivering on the Promise of Perpetuity

Through the Alliance’s Conservation Defense Initiative, land trusts are better prepared than ever to overcome threats endangering protected land. TerraFirma, the charitable risk pool launched by the Alliance and owned by land trusts, insured over 24,000 properties and 7 million acres in 2015. That means that 89 percent of the land conserved by land trusts is now safely insured by TerraFirma or held by organizations capable of self-insuring.

Last year, we created a Community Conservation Strategic Plan, which lays out the six program elements for introducing, implementing and championing community conservation throughout the nation. Community engagement is an integral part of making conservation permanent and over the next two years the Land Trust Alliance will work with our member land trusts to make conserved lands relevant to future generations and diverse socioeconomic communities.

LOOKING FORWARD

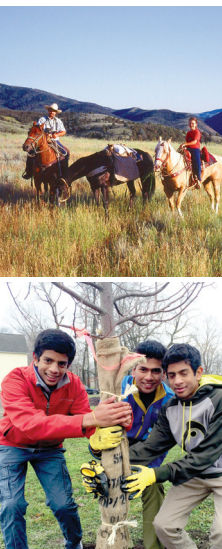
The Land Trust Alliance started 2016 with a new president, **Andrew Bowman**. As the Alliance begins a great new chapter, we hope to tap into the expertise and creativity of our supporters and more than 1,100 member land trusts. The land trust community does best when we work together

toward a greater goal. With Andrew leading the Alliance, and the nation’s land trusts as partners, we will increase the rate, rigor, resilience and relevancy of land conservation this coming year.

Thank You!

We are especially grateful for the Guardians of the Land—our \$1,000+ leadership giving society. Your generous support truly made these accomplishments possible!

If you are not already a Guardian but would like to learn more about becoming one, please call (202) 638-4725 or email guardians@lta.org.



FRONT Top: Mountainous terrain and the blue sky, © thinkstock.com/Serg Velusceac, photographer | Middle Left: Farmer Diane Jones of Cottage Greens Farms shows off her bounty. The farm is part of the Salt Lake County Urban Farming program. Photo courtesy of the Salt Lake Tribune. | Middle Center: A farmer in the Lower Arkansas River Valley speaks to community members about Palmer Land Trust-led efforts to protect land and water in the region. Photo courtesy of accredited Palmer Land Trust (CO). | Middle Right: Hands circle, © istock.com/Saner G, photographer. | Bottom: Below: A walking tour of the geology of Wallowa Lake. Photo courtesy of accredited Wallowa Land Trust (OR)/David Jensen, photographer. **BACK** Top Left: Selman Ranch. Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy/Joan Degiorgio, photographer. | Bottom Left: Volunteers plant trees on vacant lots through Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities Institute. Photo courtesy of Western Reserve Land Conservancy (OH)/Paul Atkinson, photographer. | Right: Dagnon Ranch—Similkameen River looking south at the old town of Nighthawk with Chopaka Mountain peeking through the clouds. Photos courtesy of Okanogan Land Trust (WA)/Justin Haug, photographer.