2015 Land Trust Census Results

DECEMBER 1, 2016
Key Findings

56 MILLION
Total acres conserved by state, local and national land trusts as of year-end 2015—an increase of 9 million acres since 2010

72%
Percent of land owned by land trusts that allows public access

6,250,000
Number of visitors to land trust properties in 2015

77%
Percent of total acres owned and under easement held by an accredited land trust

/ 5x
Accredited land trusts added more staff capacity and protected five times as much land as eligible, non-accredited land trusts.

$588 MILLION
Dedicated funding for stewardship and legal defense

$2.18 BILLION
Amount in endowments and dedicated funding managed by state, local and national land trusts

Download the report at http://www.lta.org/census
### Gaining Ground

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Conserved by Land Trusts</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres owned</td>
<td>1,632,661</td>
<td>7,540,440</td>
<td>8,103,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres under easement</td>
<td>6,113,108</td>
<td>13,180,786</td>
<td>16,784,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres acquired and reconveyed</td>
<td>1,785,189</td>
<td>11,037,608</td>
<td>12,615,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres protected by other means*</td>
<td>2,034,922</td>
<td>14,463,881</td>
<td>17,767,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres protected not broken down by category</td>
<td>24,915,917</td>
<td>1,176,905</td>
<td>1,164,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total acres conserved</strong></td>
<td>36,481,797</td>
<td>47,399,620</td>
<td>56,434,181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Acres conserved by other means refers to land protected as a result of the activities of the land trust, but which the land trust did not directly acquire in fee or under easement. Common examples include negotiating or preparing for acquisition by other organizations or agencies, or deed restrictions.*
Gaining Ground

Land Conserved by State and Local Land Trusts, 1985–2015

- Total Acres Protected
- Acres Under Easement
- Acres Owned

Year


Acres Protected (in Millions)
Gaining Ground

Comparison of Acres Conserved by National vs State and Local Land Trusts

- Total acres conserved by national land trusts
- Total acres conserved by state and local land trusts
Bringing People to the Land Today

72%
Percent of land owned by land trusts that allows public access

6,250,000
Number of visitors to land trust properties in 2015

Courtesy of the accredited Bear Yuba Land Trust (CA)/Laura Petersen, photographer
A Community that Cares

- **8,184**
  - Full-Time and Part-Time Staff

- **15,779**
  - Board Members

- **207,646**
  - Other Active Volunteers

- **4.6 MILLION**
  - Members & Financial Supporters

Courtesy of New Haven Land Trust (CT)/Justin Elicker, photographer
Meeting the Highest Standards

77%
Percent of total acres owned and under easement held by an accredited land trust

/ 5x
Accredited land trusts added more staff capacity and protected five times as much land as eligible, non-accredited land trusts.

Courtesy of the accredited Land Trust for Louisiana/Robert Baumgartner, photographer
Meeting the Highest Standards

• 77 percent of total acres owned and under easement are held by an accredited land trust

Percentage of Land Protected by Accredited Land Trusts

- 77%
- 23%

Accreditation is awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. Each accredited land trust has demonstrated fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership, sound transactions and lasting stewardship of the lands they conserve.
Meeting the Highest Standards

• Accredited land trusts added more staff capacity and protected five times as much land as eligible, non-accredited land trusts.

Courtesy of the accredited Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy/Riley Hallett, photographer
Meeting the Highest Standards

• Accredited land trusts are five times more likely to monitor 100% of their easements at least once per year than are eligible, non-accredited land trusts.

Courtesy of the accredited Great Peninsula Conservancy (WA)/Joe Walsh, photographer
Meeting the Highest Standards

• Accredited land trusts are five times more likely to have baseline documentation reports on 100% of their easements than are eligible, non-accredited land trusts.

Courtesy of the accredited Willistown Conservation Trust (PA)/Blake Goll, photographer
Strengthening Our Resources

Designated Funding Managed by State, Local and National Land Trusts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and stewardship</td>
<td>$257,878,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal defense and enforcement</td>
<td>$38,739,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring, stewardship and legal defense (if combined)</td>
<td>$291,476,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land acquisition</td>
<td>$694,610,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating reserve</td>
<td>$438,928,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other dedicated funding</td>
<td>$455,336,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,176,970,658</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courtesy of the Carolina Climbers Coalition (NC)/Shannon Millsaps, photographer
Balancing Our Priorities

Land Trusts’ Top Three Conservation Priorities:

1. Important natural areas or wildlife habitats
2. Water quality, including wetlands
3. Working farms or ranchlands

Courtesy of the accredited North Salem Open Land Foundation (NY)/Patrick Cicalo, photographer
State Data Viewer  http://www.lta.org/census-map

NATIONAL LAND TRUST CENSUS

Every five years, the Land Trust Alliance conducts a national census to measure the collective impact land trusts have on their communities and in every region of the country. The results of the 2015 Census were released in November 2016 with data through December 31, 2015.

Hover over a state to see a summary snapshot.

Click on a state to view detailed Census results.

View results for entire U.S.

ENTIRE U.S. RESULTS

Select a state to view detailed Census results
About the Census

The 2015 National Land Trust Census was developed in cooperation with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and with the generous support of the U.S. Forest Service.