# Land Conservation Assistance Network 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Conservation for a Better America Our mission is to promote the protection of endangered species, farms, forests, wetlands, and other open spaces, by empowering landowners to make smart, sustainable decisions about their land.

### Welcome to the Land Conservation Assistance Network!

What an amazing journey for the Land Conservation Assistance Network (LandCAN). Over the past 18 years, thousands of individuals and businesses have visited our websites to find around 42,000 resources that help them make the best decisions about how to manage their land. In 2018, we continued to see a significant growth in the number of people we've been able to help. It's heartwarming to know that our small organization with a staff of five in Falmouth, Maine makes this possible. We are a hidden gem in the beautiful State of Maine.

We've received calls from landowners in the south who needed help following the devastation of hurricanes and tornadoes. People from California have used our resources following the aftermath of massive wildfires that destroyed their homes and livelihoods. LandCAN has helped landowners connect with businesses such as a woodland owner with a professional forester to create a sustainable forest management plan. These are a few examples of ways that LandCAN has assisted landowners in finding solutions.

### Some of you may not be aware that two years ago, we underwent a name change from Resources First Foundation to the Land Conservation Assistance

**Network.** Research showed that the new name better reflects the mission and purpose of our organization. The results of the change have been positive, and we've experienced significant growth in the utilization of our information, online statistics, and success stories. Check it out by visiting www.LandCAN.org.

As you'll see in this Annual Report, we believe that the power of our organization comes not from what we call ourselves, but from the passionate people—landowners and our donors—who live and breathe our mission every day. Thank you for helping us with our success.



## Message from our Executive Director, Amos S. Eno

Good News in 2018!

Back in 2008, I thought it was going to be the break-out year for the LandCAN when then US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary Mark Rey, now a LandCAN Board Member, awarded us a five-year contract to fund the growth of our online resources.

Unfortunately, Rey's successors canceled our USDA funding, and we went without USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) support for the next nine years. In January 2018, I met with acting NRCS Chief Leonard Jordan, and the first words out of his mouth were: "I need your help accessing rural America." He initiated a two-year \$500,000 funding commitment. New USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey has been strongly supportive of our work.

Over the Christmas holidays, I read Andrew Roberts' superb new biography of Winston Churchill who has always resided among my pantheon of heroes. The last nine years experienced by LandCAN reminds me of Churchill's nine years in the parliamentary wilderness wherein he excoriated appeasers and pleaded for Britain's re-arming in the face of Hitler's looming belligerence. In April 1933, speaking at the



Amos Eno and son Angus

Royal Society of St. George, Churchill stated: "The worst difficulties from which we suffer do not come from without. They come from within...from the mood of unwarrantable into which we have been cast by a powerful section of our own intellectuals." We faced similar challenges over the last few years, but thanks to a few loyal and stalwart donors, notably the George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation; Diana Davis Spencer Foundation; Maggie Bryant; Paul T. Jones; two anonymous donors; and many other generous individuals, we managed, like Churchill, to survive and emerge from the wilderness in 2018.

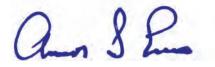
Thanks to acting US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Director Greg Sheehan, we also received support from the Interior Department. Even more importantly, in 2018, two Texas foundations stepped forward with funding to help us finish the Texas LandCAN—The Still Water Foundation, whose Executive Director Ellen Ray I met with in September, and the Hershey Foundation, where board member Andrew Sansom went to bat for us. We also did something on our website's home page I have wanted to do for a decade. We created a new collection of articles called Conservation Success Stories (see page 11) to tell the stories of landowners voluntarily initiating successful conservation endeavors across the country. This collection harks back to Leonard Jordan's pleas to access rural America and goes back to our founding fathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, who believed that agriculture and land ownership were the human vessels sustaining the heart of American success and enterprise. We will be expanding our portfolio of Conservation Success Stories in 2019; we have already posted anecdotes from all of the recipients of the Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, the projects of USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program, and NRCS' sage grouse successes in the West. In rural America, progress is made through what I call fence post conversations where Pat and Sharon O'Toole talk to their neighbors in Wyoming and Colorado, and where the Malpais Borderland Group promotes conservation to an expanding network of ranchers in southern Arizona and New Mexico.

In November 2018, USDA's NRCS leadership asked LandCAN to build State LandCAN's for Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin starting in 2020, so we will be laying the groundwork for these site builds throughout 2019.

I am sad to announce the departure of Alex Beehler from our Board of Directors because on January 14, 2019, he became Assistant Secretary of Army for Installation, Energy, and Environment. His significant contribution to LandCAN will be sorely missed.

In the past two years, a half dozen of my closest conservation associates, mentors, and friends have passed. Two falls ago, Orri Vigfússon of Iceland's North Atlantic Salmon Fund passed away to cancer, and Russel Friedman, founder of Wilderness Safaris and the Wilderness Wildlife Trust had a heart attack while bicycling. The year before, we lost Don Carr, one of the country's best wildlife attorneys to cancer. Last summer, my first boss and former Assistant Secretary of Interior under Presidents Nixon and Ford, Nathaniel Reed, died while salmon fishing, his life's passion. In February 2019, we lost Terry Grosz, senior wildlife law enforcement agent of USFWS with whom I had worked to reduce grizzly bear mortality; and Tom Cade who spearheaded the recovery of peregrine falcons and many other endangered raptor species. Sadly, we also said goodbye to Steve Thompson, the ablest leader in the USFWS in the past 30 years. He passed away in 2018. I salute each of them.

In closing, thank you to our many loyal supporters who give of their time, advice, and financial contributions. We are proud of the work we've accomplished with your help, and we look forward to expanding our ability to connect landowners to the resources they need to be successful with their efforts—conservation for a better America.



# Meet Our New Board Member, Adam White

dam White grew up in eastern Iowa, awed by the beauty of the Mississippi River and the countryside-and awed too by the barges and trains that transported goods along the river, and by the dams that manage the river's might, and the farms that produce for the nation and for the world. All of this taught him the importance of being true stewards of America's great natural resources.

He came to Washington to practice energy and environmental law, issues that he now studies, teaches, and writes about as an academic. Each day he is reminded how hard it is to strike the right balances between conservation and utilization, law and liberty. But Adam feels that we have to strike those balances to "keep working lands working." He says, "I'm so proud to be part of an organization that helps private landowners be the best



Adam White with daughters Audrey and Emma

possible stewards of their lands. And with Amos, it's always a lot of fun, too."

Adam has been a financial supporter of LandCAN for eight years and joined the Board of Directors in 2016. He is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, and director of the Center for the Study of the Administrative State at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School, where he also teaches Administrative Law. He writes widely on the administrative state, the Supreme Court, the Constitution, and regulatory policy, with particular focus on energy policy and financial regulation.

He was recently appointed to the Administrative Conference of the United States; a federal advisory board focused on improving federal agencies' practices. He also serves on the leadership council of the American Bar Association's Administrative Law Section; on the executive committee of the Federalist Society's Administrative Law Practice Group.

Please join us in thanking Adam and the rest of our Board of Directors and Advisory Board for their many contributions of time and financial support!

# LandCAN Updates

### **CONSERVATION ON TAP**

In September, we held a community event at a local brewery in Portland, Maine where guests learned about the great work we do with our online resources for private landowners. We shared how the information we provide empowers landowners to make more responsible and sustainable decisions about their land. Thank you to our donors, guests and several Board members who made this event possible!

It's fitting that we hold these events at local breweries to showcase the connection between small businesses and farming. Beer is one of the oldest and most widely consumed alcoholic drinks in the world. It's brewed from cereal grains such as hops, malted barley, wheat, and maize (corn)—all of which are grown on farms throughout the United States.

Stay tuned for *Conservation on Tap* events coming late summer in 2019—one in Lewiston, Maine and another in Freeport, Maine. Let us know if you're interested in sponsoring and/or attending. We welcome everyone!

### **TEXAS LANDCAN**

The Texas Land Conservation Assistance Network is LandCAN's eighth state conservation network. Texas has the largest number of farms and ranches in the nation, with 248,800 farms and ranches covering 140 million acres. Texas LandCAN offers—free of charge—over 6,200 sources, solutions, programs, tools, and professional service providers to support landowners in Texas.

### **VIRGINIA LANDCAN**

We will soon be launching the Virginia Land Conservation Assistance Network—our ninth state conservation network. Virginia is one of the country's leading producers of turkeys (#6 among the states). Soybeans provide about five percent of the State's total agricultural receipts. Other field crops are hay, cotton, wheat, peanuts, and barley. Like other State LandCANs, the Virginia site will bring a one-stop-shopping concept to landowners, simplifying their search for the information they need.

### **FUTURE LANDCANS**

We are excited to be asked by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to build out LandCANs for Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. North Dakota may be on tap, too! These sites will be built as future funding becomes available. Donate today so that we can begin the work on these conservation resources for landowners!



# Progress Since LandCAN's Founding

#### 2000 - Founding

Since its beginning in 2000, LandCAN (formerly Resources First Foundation), has built web-based tools and resources designed specifically for the multi-faceted needs of landowners, land conservation professionals, and businesses, to advance their conservation goals and objectives.

#### 2007 – Maine LandCAN

The Maine Land Conservation Assistance Network was LandCAN's first statespecific conservation network. Because the site is region specific, private landowners have access to local conservation resources.

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#### 2013 – HabitatCAN

The Habitat Conservation Assistance Network was created in response to efforts by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the lesser prairie chicken and greater sage grouse as endangered species.

#### 2018 – Contribution Agreement Signed

We were pleased to receive financial commitments from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

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be published later in

the year.

# LandCAN Partners In Giving

The Land Conservation Assistance Network genuinely appreciates the financial support received from the individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations listed in this Annual Report. Your donations serve as a testimony to your trust in and commitment to the vital work that we do for land conservation across the nation.

#### Humanitarian (\$50,000+)

Anonymous (1) USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation, Houston, TX Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, Bethesda, MD George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation, New York, NY Still Water Foundation, Inc., Austin, TX Legacy (\$20,000 - \$49,999) Anonymous (1) Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust, Charlestown, MA Paul and Sonia Jones, Greenwich, CT Donors Trust, Alexandria, VA The Hopewell Foundation, The Plains, VA George and Manci Ohrstrom, Berryville, VA Benefactor (\$5,000 - \$19,999) Mr. Peter Eno, Interlaken, NJ Mr. James W. Gorman, Jr., Freeport, ME Mr. Amos S. Eno, South Freeport, ME Mr. Amos P. Eno, Portland, ME Mr. Angus C. Eno, South Freeport, ME Ms. Cynthia Lummis, Cheyenne, WY Nikolaos Monoyios and Valerie Brackett, Short Hills, NJ Mr. John E. Phipps, Tallahassee, FL Mr. Robert E. Grady, Wilson, WY The French Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA Tianaderrah Foundation, Unadilla, NY Sponsor (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

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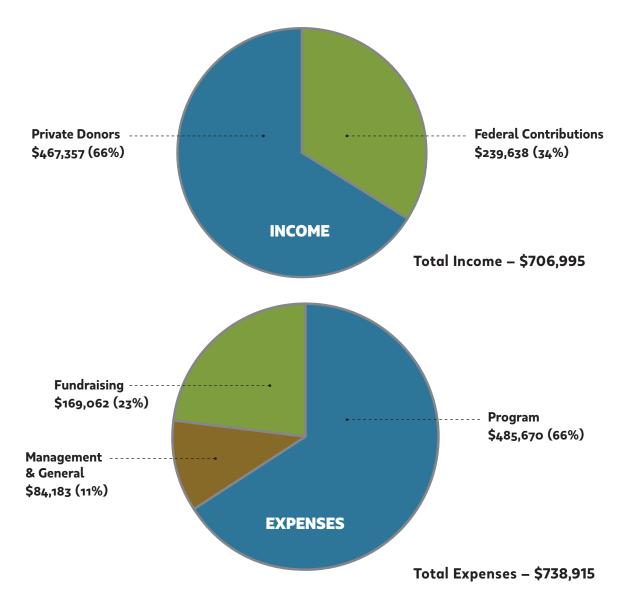
The staff at the Land Conservation Assistance Network have taken every effort to ensure the accuracy of the donor information provided in this report. Please let us know if you have a question about your information by emailing Kathy Becvar, Director of Development, at kbecvar@landcan.org.





# Financial Summary for the Year 2018

Long-term land conservation results require sustained investment. Our funders and donors recognize this, and their support enables us to provide the online resources to private landowners—helping them to address both ongoing conservation challenges and emerging, urgent issues. We are grateful for the trust our donors place in us, and it is our pledge to use the financial support they provide wisely, efficiently, and for the best possible results.



# Conservation Success

e are all connected to the land, wildlife, and waters of our country. These natural places help fuel our economy, sustain our communities and contribute to the health and well-being of our families. LandCAN recently added a new collection to our website, Conservation Success Stories. Here, we highlight landowners, land managers, recreational guides and individuals who have gone out of their way to protect pieces of land, wildlife habitats, or endangered species. These modern-day stewards are working with nature to make a home for people and wildlife. Read on to find out how one ranching family makes a difference.

### FROM PIONEER ENTERPRISE TO CONSERVATION RANCH

The Ladder Ranch is a working sheep, cattle and hay ranch along the Colorado-Wyoming border, northwest of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and east of Savery, Wyoming. The operation has evolved from a survival mode pioneer enterprise to a significant production and conservation ranch.

Established in 1881 by A.W. and Anna Louise Salisbury near the confluence of the Little Snake River and Battle Creek, Ladder Ranch has been home to six generations, raising cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, and children.

The O'Toole and Lally families are the stewards of the Ladder Ranch. Family members are taught to keep one eye on the livestock and one eye on the landscape. One does not do well without the responsible management of the other. This is the resource ethic that family members try to pass down through the generations.



Pat and Sharon O'Toole say, "It is our goal to care for our land, livestock and the people who are part of this landscape. It is also our goal to teach future generations how to extend such care. We achieve this in an economically viable manner, which is key to all of the above."

The O'Tooles run the cattle and sheep operation with son Eamon, daughter Meghan, and their spouses. Daughter Bridget and her husband help with marketing. The family also raises Quarter horses, Border collies, and livestock guardian dogs, and operates a ranch recreation business. Six grandchildren, ages six to fourteen, also make Ladder Ranch their home.

They also work to protect and enhance habitat for greater sage grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The ranch is home to a Wyoming Audubon Important Bird Area and provides critical winter range to deer and elk. Numerous species of wildlife, from bats to bees, also find healthy habitat on private and public lands managed by the Ladder Ranch family.

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# How Does the Land Conservation Assistance Network Affect You?

I f you're a private landowner, our national network offers a wealth of information to help you manage your land and make sustainable decisions. Our resources empower you to protect the land and its wildlife and grow crops and products that generate income while providing people across the nation with your product.

But what if you don't own a farm, forest, or ranch? Below is a sample list of the impact that private landowners have on you and your family:

Got milk? Dairy farms across the nation produce the milk that you pour onto your cereal for breakfast. And the ingredients in the cereal you enjoy came from local wheat farms.

Do you have a favorite wine that was bottled at a local vineyard? Think also about the craft breweries across the US that make their concoction from barley, hops, and wheat.

■ Oranges from the groves in California and Florida are shipped across the nation for all to enjoy.

■ Have you enjoyed syrup that's drawn from maple trees in the north? When you purchase your maple syrup, you may also pick up a box of whole grain pancake mix to enjoy.

The meat products you purchase from your



local grocery store or meat market are a result of the compassionate care of farmers and ranchers who provide beef, chicken, pork, and turkey that we enjoy at family dinners.

■ We all enjoy seeing the monarch butterfly in our gardens. Landowners are taking steps to protect wildlife like the monarch that we enjoy.

The Land Conservation Assistance Network plays a vital role in what you eat, what you do for outdoor activities, and what happens to your environment. Private landowners can take advantage of our FREE one-stop-shop resources, making it easier for them to access the information they need to manage their lands so that you can reap the benefits of their hard work. Remember to thank a farmer, forester or rancher for their stewardship of our natural resources!

# LAN CONSERVATION Assistance

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Development & Grants Amos P. Eno

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California CaliforniaLandCAN.org

Colorado ColoradoLandCAN.org Idaho IdahoLandCAN.org

**Louisiana** LouisianaLandCAN.org

Maine MaineLandCAN.org

Mississippi MississippiLandCAN.org

Texas TexasLandCAN.org Virginia (coming soon!) VirginiaLandCAN.org

Visit our Habitat Conservation Assistance Network where private landowners manage candidate, threatened, and endangered species habitat on their land. HabitatCAN.org

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