# Land Conservation Assistance Network 2021 Annual Report



# Conservation for a Better America

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





# 2021 was the best year for LandCAN in fifteen years!

**X** Te experienced record user traffic; we completed a new network for the conservation of monarch butterflies covering eleven states; and we completed a new conservation network for Georgia, our tenth state LandCAN.

User traffic rose month-to-month throughout 2021. In August, we topped 40,000 users for the first time. We just got our numbers for January as I write and we topped 47,000 users the first month of 2022. We ended 2021 with 412,000 users, up 20% from 2020. We have enjoyed three successive years of significant traffic increases by LandCAN users.

On HabitatCAN, the new Monarch Conservation Network spans Midwestern states from Texas to Minnesota, east to Ohio and west to Nebraska. Each of the 11 states is designed for aggregating service providers down to the county level for all hosted services. We are grateful to our three monarch advisors for their thoughtful suggestions and help: Dr Anurag Agrawal of Cornell University, Pete Berthelsen of Conservation Blueprint, and Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch. The success of the Monarch Network spurred one of our donors, Tucker Andersen, to come forward and ask us to build a network for western state monarchs, whose population crashed two years ago. We started building the Western Monarch Network in late fall.

The Georgia LandCAN was the inspiration of my former National Fish and Wildlife Foundation board member, former Congressman Lindsay Thomas from Savannah, Georgia. Thomas introduced us to the Georgia Chamber of Commerce which was

board.

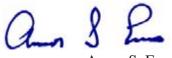
In previous annual letters, I have written about the passing of colleagues whom I miss dearly: Orri Vigfusson, Nat Reed, Terry Grosz, Russell Friedman, but this year we lost my closest and dearest supporter, Maggie Ohrstrom Bryant who passed away on June 28th, 2021, at age 92. Fortunately, Angus was with me when we had lunch with Maggie just five days before her passing.

seeking to revitalize Georgia's heavily forestry-dependent rural economy.

The year 2021 was a busy year helping Trammell Crow with EarthX, both his conferences and the launch of in-house EarthX TV productions. EarthX's first in-house production is American Forest Fires, which I helped produce and our plans include doing ranch conservation as the second EarthX film. I organized the Farm, Ranch and Forest sessions for the EarthX conference this coming 22/23 April with Ross Melinchuk who Trammell hired as his Director of Conservation. Ross serves on our LandCAN

I also wrote a chapter on the Endangered Species Act, for its 50th anniversary in 2023 - accessible on the Keep Working Lands Working blog.

> On behalf of the entire LandCAN team, Thank you for a great year!



Amos S. Eno **Executive Director** 2021 Annual Report - 3

# ANC Assistance GEORGIA

The Georgia LandCAN was developed with support from local stakeholders. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce requested LandCAN's assistance in their initiative to restore Georgia's rural economy in an environmentally sustainable manner, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has written a letter of support for the project: "We look forward to working with the LandCAN to create resources for Georgia landowners that are relevant, timely and help landowners overcome the obstacles that often slow implementation of endeavors to improve conservation on private lands."

This conservation network will facilitate private landowners in the State of Georgia to make connections with conservation professionals to properly steward their forestlands, and support and strengthen their rural economies in ways that promote conservation and recovery efforts for the northern bobwhite quail, as well as other bird, mammal and aquatic species.

We developed the Georgia LandCAN in close collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to highlight their Working Lands for Wildlife and Partners for Fish and Wildlife programs, respectively, including information on how landowners can seek assistance from these programs.

Developing the Georgia LandCAN was a priority for us because of the state's high proportion of private working lands. Approximately 80% of land in Georgia is privately owned, and 91% of forests in Georgia are privately owned and operated, making it uniquely suited to promoting conservation on private working lands.

The Georgia LandCAN provides thousands of pages of free educational materials on the LandCAN's conservation networks for Georgia, and developing a resource directory that connects landowners with onthe-ground programs and professionals who can help them turn their conservation objectives into reality.

LandCAN Georgia is in final development and testing. You can visit the Beta version now at:

# https://www.georgialandcan.org/









"Recognizing the critical role that private lands play in conservation, the Georgia LandCAN offers a spectacular resource to incorporate conservation into landowners' management goals. The Georgia LandCAN supports vital collaborations critical to connecting lands and waters. We cannot have successful recovery efforts of fish and wildlife species without private landowners playing a major role. We are proud to partner with Georgia LandCAN to further these efforts."

- Leopoldo Miranda-Castro, the Service's Regional Director for the South Atlantic-Gulf & Mississippi Basin Regions



# 2.02.1 NRCS Monarchs

As of the end of October, the Monarch Network is complete and we are dutifully working towards the completion of the Georgia LandCAN. This contract runs through the end of October, 2022. We are currently working with the NRCS and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce on edits and additions to the network. LandCAN will also continue to make code and content changes to the Monarch Network throughout 2022, as we continue to receive more feedback.

https://www.habitatcan.org/Monarch-Butterfly/



# **Monarchs Expansion:**

With the assistance of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and the generous support of Tucker Andersen LandCAN will be expanding the Monarch Network to include the West Coast population, in addition to the existing Midwest states. HabitatCAN's Monarch Network will soon include; AZ, CA, ID, OR, MT, NM, NV, UT and WA. With the addition of California; our Monarch Network will focus on the species only winter habitat in the continental United States.

eorgia Agriculture



# What LandCAN's Users Have To Say

Maya contacted Greg Powell, P.C. from the Colorado LandCAN with the following message:

"We entered into a Conservation Easement in 2020 with RIGHT (Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust) on our farm... Our accountant suggested we pursue conservation easement tax credits but we had never heard of them. Allen Law, the attorney for RIGHT, didn't suggest these when we began the process because they were at one time so difficult to decipher but apparently they are now managed by a different agency and are probably a good idea. We would like to consult with you on how to go about this."

# Maya's reply to if she obtained useful information on LandCAN

"Yes, we did and we are working on our goals. We have retained Greg Powell to answer our questions and guide us through complicated stuff. Yes, I did a web search for Greg Powell who was recommended to us by the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust. You were also recommended to us by them as we are baffled by Conservation Tax Credits. We created a Conservation Easement on our farm in 2020 with RIGHT. Absolutely."

# **Site Visitor Contact**

Donald contacted Mississippi Forest Stewardship Program from the Mississippi Land Conservation Assistance Network with the following message:

"I joined MFA today. How do I join the stewardship program?"

# Donald's feedback on help received via the Mississippi LandCAN

"Yes, Howard Strogbel contacted me and he was very helpful. My project is not complete yet as I still (need) my forestry agent to walk the property and write my 10-year management plan. Once we meet I will share my experience. This far everyone in the program I've spoken with has been helpful." I spoke to JJ McCool, with Wildlife Solutions, and he told me about the MFA and the Stewardship pro-

gram. I also spoke to Howard Stogner and he was very helpful.

Would you recommend us to a friend?

Sure wood!



# **Resource Contact**

Jeremy contacted the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Stone County from the Arkansas LandCAN with the following message:

"Good Morning, I have 40 acres in [Ozark-St. Francis] National Forest bordered by the forest on three sides. Are you all able include it in your control burn or do you have a list of contractors that I can hire to do it?"

Arkansas Forestry Commission, Stone County Feedback

"I did talk with [Jeremy] regarding his property. I'm glad he was able to contact me through your network. He was wanting a prescribed burn and that will take place next year if possible."

# Site Visitor Contact

Craig contacted Leon J. Manchin from the California LandCAN with the following message:

"Hi Leon, this is Craig. We corresponded back in February 2020 regarding reforesting our property in Mountain Ranch that My wife and I own with William. We are close to a settlement with PG&E over the fire damage to our property and would like to proceed with the reforestation plan you laid out last year. I would like to talk to you about proceeding with the plan. Thanks, Craig"

# **Craig's Feedback**

"Yes, Leon contacted usand is in the process of calculating the cost of our project."

Please briefly tell us about the outcome of your project.

We are in the beginning stages of our project.

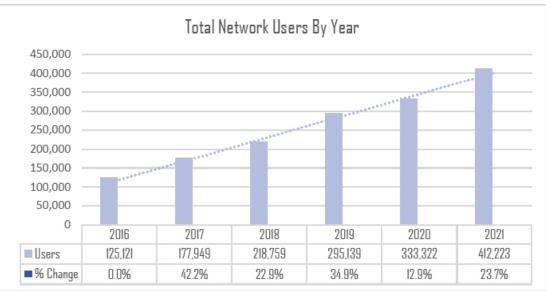
"A CalFire representative advised us of the opportunity to reforest our land that was burned in the Butte Fire in 2015. CLCA was recommended as being able to help with the reforestation project."

Would you recommend us to a friend?

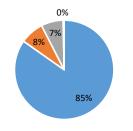
Yes



Network Traffic Analysis



### User Destination



earth

Visit Resource page

view article

C ince August 2021, we have been averaging over 40,000 users a month **D** on our networks. By August 2022 we hope to be averaging 50,000 users a month; and surpass 500,000 users annually by the end of the year.

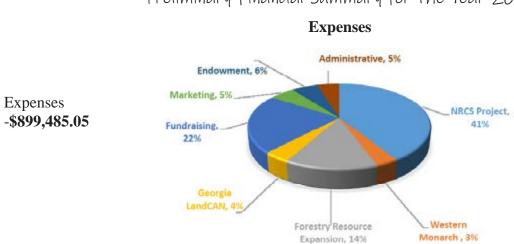
LandCAN is looking into data analytics to create a better understanding of the top visited resources on LandCAN - as well as ways to streamline our services and efficiently direct users to their intended destination.

We believe this will help with network usability and accessibility, while providing LandCAN with more accurate marketing material for both our visit Resource website consumers and donors. For now, we intend to do this in-house in

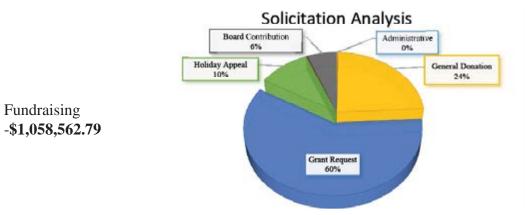
order to keep operating costs to a minimum. Our supporters should expect to see a detailed data analysis in our forthcoming summer report.

If user growth continues at the same pace as years prior, our 2022 goal of 500,000 annual users will be within reach.

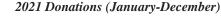


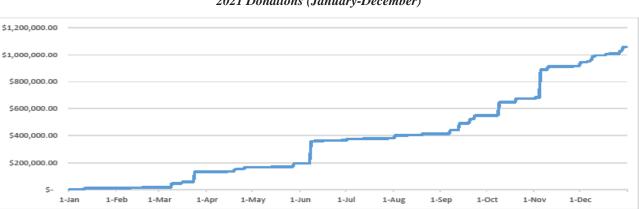


Between our best fundraising year and a continued focus on cutting operational costs, we have set ourselves up for success in 2022 despite the expiration of our federal contracts.



2021 was the best fundraising year LandCAN has had in at least 6 years. Nearly 40% came through our federal NRCS contract (with matches bringing it to 60%). Although LandCAN was not granted additional federal funding in the 2022 fiscal year, we still have approximateky \$200,000.00 remaining on the contract.





LandCAN will be hard pressed to reach 2021 funding levels in 2022 - without federal funding - however we are optimistic. With the continued continued support of our private donors and foundations; as well as our reduced costs, we are well poised for 2022.

# Preliminary Financial Summary for the Year 2021

# LandCAN Partners in Giving

The Land Conservation Assistance Network would not exist today without the steadfast financial commitments of hundreds of donors who place their trust in us and who believe in the work we do. We are forever grateful to everyone who contributed to LandCAN in the past years!

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 sending an email to Angus Eno, Director of Development — anguseno@landcan.org or call (207) 847.8509

# >\$25,000

Trammell S. Crow Tucker Andersen Gordon Russell Mr. & Mrs. Paul T. Jones. II Edward Warner Earthx

# \$10,000-\$25,000

George L. Ohrstrom John E. Phipps Peter Eno Gerry Ohrstrom Timothy A. Ingraham David Brown Brian & Natasha Scrivani Valerie Brackett & Nikos Monoyios

# \$2,500-\$9,999

Amos S. Eno James W. Gorman, Jr. Diandra Douglas Carol Warren Jessica L. Mailman Michael R. Crane Malcolm Steve Forbes

10 - Land Conservation Assistance Network

# \$1,000-\$2,499

Michael P Wood Felton Jenkins, III Amos P. Eno Shaw Sprague Mark Rey Ross W. Melinchuk Russ Krauss Kenneth Rerlin Thomas Nicholas Trkla

## \$500-\$999

Angus C. Eno Linda Borgman Willard Dyche Alex Beehler Philip W. Grone Bruce F. Buchanan Lowell E. Bair Stuart Taylor

# \$250-\$499

Elizabeth Crewson Paris Andrew Shipley Thomas L. Danie Roger Kelley Marshall Acu

\$1-\$250

Walter Winans Terry R. Fankhauser Lawrence Morris Kari Cutting Michael Hays Samuel Martin Reese Hudson Howard L. Burris, Jr. Chandler Van Voorhis Elisabeth Gaines **Richard Murrison** Alexander Wheeler David Gravelle Stephen Schley Gary Chassells Karen Guzak K. Gregg Elliott David Johns

Anonymous Diana Davis Spencer Foundation George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation Andrew Sabin Family Foundation The French Foundation The Tim and Karen Hixon Foundation Ruda Foundation Charles Stewart Mott Foundation US Fish and Wildlife Service

# **Grants And Foundation Support**

Phineas W. Sprague Memorial Foundation The Jane and William Curran Foundation, Inc.

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - MONARCHS



# Meet Two of our Board Members

Chandler Van Voorhis - Co-Founder and Managing Partner, ACRE Investment



Andler Van Voorhis is widely acknowledged as a leading expert in conservation and ecological markets. He has given a recent TEDx Talk, guest lectured at Princeton & Yale, and authored several publications on the emergence of natural capital.

Prior to co-founding C2I, Chandler was co-host of GreenWave Radio, a nationally syndicated radio talk show on the environment and business. In 2002, he was awarded, along with Mr. Crane, the nation's most distinguished private conserva

tion award, the ChevronTexaco Conservation Award.

Chandler is former President of the Alliance for Environmental Education, an international non-profit that played a key role in getting environmental education in K-8 over the last 30 years. Currently, he serves on the advisory boards of IETA Natural Climate Solutions and RenewWest. He is also a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

"My parents instilled in me a simple truth - the two greatest joys in life are the tilling of the land and the cultivation of character. One anchors us, and the other elevates us. For centuries, we have understood the tilling of the land, but we have only faintly grasped how the cultivating of character deepens the soil of the mind and spirit."

# **Russ Krauss -** CEO, American Mass Timber



**D** uss Krauss is the founder and CEO of American Mass Timber, a Maine startup **N** developing off-site constructed housing, and an advisor at russkrauss.com, where he analyzes markets and consults to private equity and corporate investors. Russ recently spent 13 years in executive leadership roles building Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) into the country's largest ecological restoration company, delivering compensatory mitigation solutions, restoring wetlands, streams and endangered species habitats and planting 14 million restorative trees. He has published and presented about the business of environmental mitigation and

environmental challenges facing project developers.

For 25 years prior, Russ worked in technical and business development roles at global technology companies BMC Software, Sun Microsystems, Cray Research, and Digital Equipment Corp and as interim executive with startup and early-stage firms.

Russ served the ecological restoration industry as a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Mitigation Banking Association from 2011 through 2015. On the Board of LandCAN, Russ continues support and development of private landowner initiatives and conservation of ecological habitats including wetlands, grasslands, prairies, and forests.

Russ earned a BA Geology from Boston University and an Executive MBA from the University of Houston. Russ and his wife Michelle reside in Owls Head, Maine.

# Board of Directors & Advisory Board

### **Board of Directors**

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David Brown Oak Hill Venture Partners

Ethan Lane National Cattlemen's Beef Association

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Howard Burris Arlington, VA

James W. Gorman, Jr. L.L. Bean, Inc.

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Ross Melinchuk EarthX

Russ Krauss American Mass Timber

Shaw Sprague National Trust for Historic Preservation

Terry R. Fankhauser Colorado Cattlemen's Association

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Jac Arbour J.M. Arbour Wealth

James Cummins Wildlife Mississippi

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Morgan Beckwith Austin, TX

Patrick Shea Patrick Shea, PC

ltah	Richard Seline AccelerateH20
	<i>Rick Knight</i> Warner College of Natural Resources
er	Robert R, Williams, C.F., R.P.F. Pine Creek Forestry
LC	<i>Scott J. Cameron</i> Alexandia, VA
	Sharon S. O'Toole Ladder Ranch
	<i>Stewart Fefer</i> U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Retired
	<i>Teri Murrison</i> Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts
	<i>Tom Cassidy</i> Washington, DC
	<i>Tom Daniels</i> University of Pennsylvania
	<i>Vinh Lang</i> Pine Creek Forestry

# LandCAN Updates

We continue to save money with our new office location, overlooking the Royal River (picture on the right)

➢ LandCAN discontinued our use of both Donor Perfect and Mailchimp to reduce operating costs.

>>> The annual report is being designed in-house to further cut operational costs.

Willard and Angus took advantage of downtime this winter to upgrade and replace our server, which runs all of our networks. (Should increase speed and reliability.)

LandCAN operated as the foundation for the "Our Eden Association" - who have been working to preserve land on the shores of Kezar Lake in Lovell, Maine.

> Completed our tenth state conservation network, the Georgia LandCAN.

We are upgrading our data analytics capabilities - to generate greater insight on our impact, as well as provide our donors with a better picture.

We have redesigned the lesser prairie chicken site on HabitatCAN to emphasize USDA-NRCS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programs.

We are targeting, depending on funding commitments, new state conservation network builds for Iowa and North Dakota.

Amos S. Eno wrote a chapter on the Endangered Species Act, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023. The chapter is posted on LandCAN's Keep Working Lands Working blog and HabitatCAN.

In October, 2021, we began discussions with the Farm Journal, the premiere publication for U.S. agriculture. Farm Journal's Chief Strategist Office, shares office in our building in Yarmouth, Maine. A priority for 2022 will be to try to implement a partnership with Farm Journal on sustainable and regenerative agriculture.



14 - Land Genservation Assistance Network

Photo: Amos Jr. Enc Iím Gorhman LandCAN's conservation ethic is driven by the works of the founding fathers of American conservation such as Aldo Leopold, who wrote in his The River of the Mother of God essays, "[T]he geography of conservation is such that most of the best land will always be held privately for agricultural production. The bulk of the responsibility for conservation thus necessarily devolves upon the private custodian, especially the farmer."

These values shape what LandCAN does well - educating private landowners by providing resources and information about the importance of land conservation and stewardship.

**Passion for Conservation** - Conservation is what we are about. We provide the entire spectrum of conservation assistance programs to landowners nationwide - federal, state, non-profit, and for-profit.

**E***mpowering People* - We help private landowners preserve land that is at the heart of their family history. Land is both real and symbolic of the continuity of family.

**I**nformation You Trust - We are Committed to providing quality resources, tools, and other information that landowners can trust to accomplish their conservation goals and outcomes.

**D***riven to Innovate* - From its beginning, LandCAN was the first to harness the power of the internet to connect people for the conservation of land. We encourage fresh ideas and new ways of doing things by building collaboration opportunities that translate into tangible and measurable on-the-ground actions.

**Purpose-led Performance** - Our national conservation efforts are driven by a commitment to do what is right. We promote and facilitate the revival of conservation as a core American value, specifically through aiding the sustainable use of natural resources on private lands - farming, ranching, and forestry - to benefit the environment and rural economies.

Donate to LandCAN today by clicking on the Sage Grouse:

Photo: Royal River - Yarmouth, Maine





106 Lafayette Street, Suite 3G Yarmouth, Maine 04096 207.847.0589 LandCAN.org Info@LandCAN.org

### LandCAN Team:

Executive Director Amos S Eno

Director of Operations Jessica Adkins-Mailman

Director of Technology Willard Dyche

Program & Grants Amos P Eno

Director of Development Angus Eno

Consultant **Greg Elliott** 



Photo: Dead River - Township, Maine

Check out our state networks for private landowners!

Arkansas ArkansasLandCAN.org

California CaliforniaLandCAN.org

Colorado ColoradoLandCAN.org

Georgia GeorgiaLAndCAN.org

*Idaho IdahoLandCAN.org* 

*Louisiana LouisianaLandCAN.org* 

Maine MaineLandCAN.org

Mississippi MississippiLandCAN.org

> Texas TexasLandCAN.org

Virginia VirginiaLandCAN.org













