Our Second Annual Comprehensive Study of America’s Largest Landowners

Each year, from coast to coast, millions of acres of land change hands. These transactions are the bricks and mortar that buttress our concept of private property. They are the lifeblood of the American way. And when they are done on a larger-than-life scale, a scale detailed in the following pages, they compel our attention and give us pause. This is precisely the reason why The Land Report 100 is not only our best-selling issue but the best-read article at LandReport.com.

—The Editors

Aubrey McClendon’s TI Valley Ranch
Pittsburg County, Oklahoma
Panorama by Gustav Schmiege
Rather than elaborating on the holdings of America’s largest landowner, we decided to let Ted Turner speak for himself. In this exclusive excerpt from his recently published memoir, Call Me Ted, he describes his love of land. A lot of land.

After buying the Bar None Ranch and spending increasing amounts of time in Montana, I fell even more in love with the area. When I enjoy something, I have a tendency to overdo it, and when I was told that a larger ranch was coming on the market, I was interested. Jane and I were still getting used to the scale of the Bar None when I told her that now I was going to look into a property that was many times larger. The Flying D Ranch is more than 119,000 acres, situated between the Gallatin and Madison Rivers. It’s a beautiful property with good trout streams and it had a lot of pasture that would be perfect for a large bison herd. Jane thought I was crazy but for $21 million (or about $200 an acre) it seemed like it would not only be a great place, but also a terrific investment. I bought it in 1989.

Like most large ranches, the Flying D contained a lot of signs of human impact, like power lines and poles and barbwire fences. One of the first things I wanted to do was get rid of all this junk and barbed wire. My goal was to restore the property to what it would have looked like 150 years earlier, before the white man came. It was a lot of work, but we removed just about every sign of human disturbance, save the dirt and gravel roads.
Part of my desire to own this land was to make sure that it was never developed. Conserving this property for future generations seemed like the right thing to do, especially with so much development happening in that part of the country. I worked out a conservation easement with the Nature Conservancy that guarantees to repopulate the property with bison, an animal that I'd been fascinated by for years. I purchased my first bison back in the 1970s—a bull and two cows—and kept them at Hope Plantation (where I also had been raising and breeding bears, cougars, and other animals that had been native to that area in earlier days). I knew that the bison population had once numbered in the tens of millions before dropping to below a thousand, and for the Flying D to look like it looked hundreds of years before, we needed a large herd.

During my early years of ranch ownership, my enthusiasm did lead me to make some mistakes. For example, the Flying D had hundreds of miles of barbed wire fencing and I had every bit of it removed, thinking this would allow the bison to roam free on about eighty thousand acres. I learned that when you do this, the animals tend to overgraze certain areas and undergraze others, and we had to bring back some limited fencing—not barbwire, I might add.

The Bar None and the Flying D gave me so much pleasure that I decided to buy as many large properties as I could reasonably afford. By the end of the 1990s, I had purchased two more ranches in Montana, three in Nebraska, one in Kansas, and one in South Dakota (they’re used primarily for bison ranching). Then between 1992 and 1996, I bought three large ranches in New Mexico. The biggest, Vermejo Park, is nearly 600,000 acres, and together these three ranches cover more than one million acres. They are also used for bison ranching, as well as hunting and fishing, and Vermejo sits on top of valuable natural gas that is being extracted by an energy company that has the rights. They do this work very carefully, extracting the gas while protecting the ranch’s beauty and wildlife.

I’ve also enjoyed working on the return and protection of threatened and endangered species. In addition to bison (of which we now have about 45,000 head), we’ve worked to reintroduce about twenty other species. These include gray wolves, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and black-footed ferrets. These were all challenging projects so I looked for the best people I could to help manage the properties. I hired Russ Miller in 1989 and he’s been with me ever since, doing a terrific job as general manager of the ranches. In 1997 I created the Turner Endangered Species Fund, recruiting Mike Phillips (who led the effort to bring back the gray wolf to Yellowstone) to run the organization, along with my son Beau, who studied wildlife management at Montana State University after graduating from The Citadel.

In Montana, I learned to love fly-fishing. It’s one of the few things I do that’s not only interesting and challenging but also relaxing. Unfortunately, it’s not a sport you can enjoy during a Montana winter (except on rare occasions), but I learned that there are rivers and areas in the Patagonia region of Argentina that are similar to Montana. Since South America is counterseasonal to the United States, I could fish there during the North American winter. In ’97, I purchased a nine-thousand-acre ranch in Patagonia named La Primavera, and in 2000, a 93,000-acre property named Collon Cura. I also bought a 24,000-acre ranch
and fishing lodge on the island of Tierra del Fuego. These three properties all feature great fly-fishing.

Subsequently, I acquired two more ranches on the Great Plains of Nebraska and one in Oklahoma, primarily for raising bison. Today, with over 2 million acres, I'm the largest individual landowner in the United States. We operate our ranches responsibly from an environmental viewpoint and also have an outfitting business that allows hunters and fishermen to use our properties on a limited basis. With revenues from bison sales, some controlled forestry, energy leases, and private hunting and fishing, the ranches turn a small profit.

Owning the properties has given me tremendous pleasure. My connection to nature goes back to my early childhood when I spent hours outdoors either alone or with Jimmy Brown. I'd fish, gig for frogs, or just observe the wildlife around me and these times helped me through a lot of loneliness and gave me great peace of mind. Being outdoors is my chance to unwind, clear my head, and think. The time I spend in nature refreshes and recharges me and reminds me how much raw beauty exists in the world—and how careful we should be to preserve it. The ranches are also great places for me to spend time with friends. On nearly every trip I make in the United States or Argentina, I invite friends and family. I've also hosted business colleagues and world leaders. (I'm proud to say that three Nobel Peace Prize winners have been among my houseguests—Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter, and former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan.) I also enjoy observing and interacting with nature and it's a special feeling to be part of the natural environment.

One of my favorite experiences involves a bird I befriended several years ago at my Snow Crest Ranch in Montana. It was a baby magpie that had fallen out of its nest and was lying on the ground. My house staff and I pulled together a box, some paper towels, and an eyedropper, and gave it food and water. The little magpie responded and we pulled him through. In the process we bonded, and I named him Harry. We bought a traveling cage for him and took him with us when we moved from one ranch to another. He learned to talk and would up providing great entertainment. We would let him out of the cage during the day and he'd follow me around. When I'm at a ranch I get a FedEx package from my office of the previous day's mail. With Harry, I'd sit on my couch reading my mail and once I was through, I'd crush the pages into a ball and throw them on the ground for Harry to play with. He charmed everyone (including Gorbachev—he sat next to his coffee cup one morning at breakfast and gave him a couple of light pecks on his famous forehead). Harry became a little too feisty and ran into trouble when he started dive-bombing people and we were concerned that he might put someone's eye out. We decided we had to take Harry to the Beartooth Nature Center in Red Lodge, Montana. He still lives there, and to this day, whenever I see magpies flying overhead, I think of my old pal Harry.

I'm proud of the work we've done to preserve and protect the properties and I've tried to do everything I can to make sure that they're maintained after I'm gone. With my passing the properties will be protected by conservation easements. In certain parts of the country, my rancher neighbors have grown suspicious of me and created theories about ulterior motives I might have, going so far as to speculate that I might be trying to tie up and control water rights for entire regions. None of this is true. As long as the conservation laws of the United States remain in place, the land will be protected from development in perpetuity (and we've taken similar measure with the Argentine properties).

I'm often reminded of Scarlett O'Hara's father in Gone With the Wind, who told her, "Why, land's the only thing in the world worth working for, worth fighting for, worth dying for, because it's the only thing that lasts." I've realize this to be true, and I'm proud to know that I've done what I can to make sure that my land is protected.

2  **Archie Aldis “Red” Emmerson**  
**1.722 million acres**

It all began with a man called Curly. Raleigh Humes “Curly” Emmerson was operating a sawmill in Newburg, Oregon, in the 1920s-and not very successfully-when he decided to pack it up and move to Northern California. But it wasn’t until the ’40s that things began to look up business-wise for Mr. Emmerson. With the help of a young man named Red (his son, Archie Aldis), Emmerson set the stage for what would become Sierra Pacific Industries, an enterprise that now owns and manages 1.722 million acres of forestland in California and Washington.

Thousands of acres of timberland belonging to Sierra Pacific Industries surround Lassen Peak. Under Red’s management, the company took off and today continues to flourish. Now the third generation of Emmersons has joined the family business, with Red’s two sons and daughter holding positions within the company. According to the SPI web site, the operation has grown from a two-man team to a business that employs 3,900 workers. It’s no secret that timberland acquisition has been one of Red’s main goals. One of his most memorable land grabs was the purchase of 522,000 acres from Santa Fe Southern Pacific Corp. in 1987. Over the next eight years, he bought an additional 400,000 acres and continued to amass land throughout the 1990s and 2000s, including the recent purchase of the 147,000-acre Hamilton Tree Farm in Washington State. Besides its timber sector, SPI also sells various wood products and produces doors and windows through its Sierra Pacific Windows division. And its newest venture: real estate.

3  **Brad Kelley**  
**1.7 million acres**

Last year we were correct in reporting that Kelley was one of the ten largest landowners in the U.S. The only problem was Kelley’s multi-state holdings rank him third on the Land Report 100, not seventh, a fact that was borne out by a subsequent article about The Land Report that ran in The Wall Street Journal. Kelley’s billion-dollar fortune stems from tobacco. In 2001 he sold his cigarette manufacturing company, Commonwealth Brands, maker of Bull Durham, USA Gold, and Malibu. He has subsequently acquired properties in numerous states, including an estimated 40,000 acres at a cost $58 million in DeSoto County, Florida. The man is no real estate developer, however.

His numerous acquisitions have all been in the name of wildlife conservation. Work crews have been busy constructing fences and establishing veterinary operations on his Florida properties to better care for the many rare species of rhinos, pygmy hippos, gazelles, antelopes, wildebeests, impalas, and wart hogs that Kelley’s employees have been painstakingly breeding and nurturing in the hopes of dispersing them to zoos across the country and around the world.

4  **Irving Family**  
**1.2 million acres**

From newspapers to gas stations, the Irving clan has its hands in a sprawling amount of business. And 1.2 million of the Canadian family’s more than 3 million acres are in the northeastern United States. J.D. Irving, Limited, the family’s forestry business, can trace its beginnings to a single sawmill that opened in 1882, but JDI’s business ventures now include everything from shipbuilding to home-improvement stores to frozen-potato products. And as if that weren’t enough, there’s also Irving Oil, the family’s other major business operation. Irving employs more than 7,000 workers, owns more than 800 retail locations, and runs Canada’s largest refinery. And the place is so expansive that employees ride bicycles to travel inside the refinery. Not bad for a company that started in a small garage in 1924.

Growth, growth, and more growth seems to be the business model that the Ivings have followed. Now run by brothers James, Arthur, and John, the Irving empire has become increasingly dominating, and the rather secretive family has been able to take vertical integration to a whole new level. With such diverse industries in their portfolios, the Irving companies (all privately owned) can use the services and products of other Irving companies, ensuring that profits stay within the family.

With more than a century in business, the Ivings have dealt with their share of controversy: environmental criticisms, accusations of political patronage, and media monopolization complaints, to name a few. But guilty or not, one thing is for sure: There’s no slowing these guys down.

5  **Singleton Family**  
**1 million-plus acres**

Henry Singleton was a man of science. Educated at MIT, he was especially interested in technology. And in 1960, he and a partner founded a company called Teledyne, a business dedicated to the young field of digital technology. The company made millions, and Singleton became a well-known business executive. Late in his life, however, he began investing in a field far removed from the world of semiconductors and microchips. His new passion: land.

In the mid-1980s, Singleton started buying ranches in California and New Mexico, beginning with the historic San Cristobal Ranch outside Santa Fe. Within a 14-year period, he purchased 28 other ranches, which made Singleton Ranches the largest cattle operation in the Land of Enchantment.

The ranch that started it all, the culture-rich San Cristobal, was once home to Indian pueblos, but it’s now the base of Singleton Ranches’ horse division. This division of the ranch conglomerate has facilities for breeding and training and holds horse clinics every year that are open to the public.

Singleton died in 1999, but not before amassing more than a million acres of ranchland that remain in the Singleton family, putting the Singletons neck and neck with Ted Turner for the title of largest landowner in New Mexico.
6 **King Ranch Heirs**  
**851,642 acres**

This national landmark got its start in 1853 when Capt. Richard King purchased a 15,500-acre Mexican land grant known as the Rincon de Santa Gertrudis for $300. Paying less than two cents an acre for one of the rare well-watered tracts in the Desert of the Dead was typical of the shrewd riverboat captain, who ranked as the wealthiest man in Texas at the time of his death in 1885. His heirs showed similar acumen, expanding their holdings, paying down debts, and forging long-term relationships with companies such as Humble Oil. Worth noting: King Ranch produced the first registered American quarter horse, two breeds of cattle, and a Triple Crown winner, Assault.

7 **Pingree Heirs**  
**850,000 acres**

David Pingree was a forward-thinking man. In 1820, the Massachusetts shipping magnate began buying vast tracts of timberland in what was then the newest state in the Union—Maine. Pingree believed that the heyday of the New England shipping boom had come and gone, and was he ever right. In 2001, his 5th-, 6th-, and 7th-generation heirs showed similar foresight when they sold the largest conservation easement in U.S. history, a record-setting 762,192 acres. The family’s Seven Islands Land Co. continues to run timber operations on these holdings, which are certified as an American Tree Farm by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

8 **Reed Family**  
**770,000 acres**

More than a century ago in 1890, Sol Simpson planted the seeds for what became the Simpson Investment Company in the emerald forests of the Pacific Northwest. Today the land and the company shares are held entirely by Simpson’s descendants, the Reed family. Through the 20th century, the company steadily grew into its current holdings of more than three-quarters of a million acres, spread throughout Washington, California, and Oregon. In addition to the timberlands, the family owns a door company, a paper company, and a number of rendering and production facilities.

9 **Ford Family**  
**740,000 acres**

At the height of the Great Depression, Kenneth Ford pursued a dream with a single sawmill near Roseburg, Oregon. Ford created Roseburg Forest Products Co., one of the largest family-owned wood products manufacturers in the nation. He was also one of the first timber men to practice responsible forest management on his vast holdings, which stretch through Oregon and California. On his death, Ford, who founded the Ford Family Foundation in the 1950s, passed his legacy on to his son, Allyn, who oversees the family’s timber and wood products empire.

10 **Huber Family**  
**600,000 acres**

Started in 1883 by Joseph Maria Huber, the New Jersey-based J.M. Huber Corporation has grown from a small dry-colors business into a multinational, industrially diverse company. But even with all this growth, at least one thing hasn’t changed: The Huber family is still minding the store, and the corporation is one of the largest family-owned businesses in the country. The land holdings of Huber’s natural resources division include 600,000 acres across the country. The company has timberland in Maine, Oklahoma, and the Southeast, and its oil and gas properties can be found in Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Utah.

10 **Stan Kroenke**  
**600,000 acres**

After we debuted The Land Report 100 in 2007, the letters and emails began to arrive. How could we have overlooked Stan Kroenke? Sports fans recognize him as the co-owner of the St. Louis Rams and the owner of the Denver Nuggets, the Colorado Avalanche, and numerous other franchises. And wine lovers know him as one of the proprietors of Napa Valley’s Screaming Eagle Winery. Real estate professionals estimate that Kroenke owns an estimated 600,000 acres in Montana and Wyoming. Plus, he holds a 400,000-acre Crown lease in Canada.

Stan Kroenke ties for 10th place.
12 **Lykes Bros. Heirs**

*578,302 acres*

Founded more than a century ago by Howell Tyson Lykes and his seven sons, the family-owned company owns Lykes Ranch, one of the largest contiguous pieces of property in the Sunshine State and the home to some 20,000 cattle. It also owns the 02 Ranch in West Texas, a 239,981-acre spread in the Chihuahuan Desert not far from the Mexican border.

13 **Dolph Briscoe Jr.**

*560,000 acres*

A two-time Texas governor, Briscoe, 85, also served as the president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association where he spearheaded the cattle industry’s effort to eradicate screwworms. He declined to confirm published reports of the size of Briscoe Ranch, which was established by his father.

14 **W.T. Waggoner Estate**

*520,000 acres*

Texas boasts thousands of cattle operations, but none, not even King Ranch, can match the Waggoner’s brag: “the nation’s largest ranch under one fence.” Established in 1849 by Dan Waggoner, the contiguous parcel now encompasses more than 800 square miles. The massive cattle operations, horse-breeding program, and oil and gas production are managed by two Waggoner heirs, A.B. Wharton and Gene Willingham.

15 **D.M. O’Connor Heirs**

*500,000 acres*

The O’Connor family’s ties to cattle ranching in South Texas date back to the 1830s, when Thomas O’Connor arrived from Ireland. His son Dennis Martin joined the family business, and today, the descendants of D.M. O’Connor share ownership of an estimated 500,000 acres of ranchland in and around Victoria County.

16 **Robert Earl Holding**

*400,000 acres*

Salt Lake City resident Robert Earl Holding, 81, owner of Sinclair Oil, 2,600 filling stations, the Sun Valley ski resort, and a number of hotels and other resorts, reportedly owns 400,000 acres of ranchland in Wyoming and Montana. Holding ranked 77th on the 2008 Forbes 400 list with a fortune estimated at $4.6 billion.

17 **J.R. Simplot**

*355,746 acres*

Nothing seems more simple and humble than a potato. Almost hard to believe it’s the centerpiece of J.R. Simplot’s empire, which stretches across the West. Simplot blended a gambler’s intuition with a businessman’s judgment and common sense to build an agriculture and livestock operation that raises everything from beef cattle to corn and, of course, potatoes.

18 **East Family**

*350,000 acres*

Following the death of Richard King’s widow, a substantial number of heirs joined together to maintain the King Ranch legacy (see King Ranch Heirs). Alice Gertrudis Kleberg East, however, eventually cashed in her interests and received two ranches of her own: the San Antonio Viejo and the Santa Fe. They now belong to her descendants.
19  **Anne Marion**  
**345,000 acres**

Alas, the Four Sixes Ranch does not trace its founding to a winning poker hand. Ranch founder Samuel Burk Burnett purchased a herd of cattle with the 6666 brand and eventually registered the mark as his own in 1875. His great-granddaughter is the sole owner of the 345,000-acre cow-calf operation.

20  **Gerald Lyda**  
**320,035 acres**

This San Antonio general contractor built such landmarks as the Tower of the Americas and the Alamodome. He sold the Ladder Ranch in New Mexico to top-ranked Ted Turner. With the proceeds, he parceled together a new ranch in West Texas, which he dubbed La Escalera (“ladder” in Spanish).

21  **Collins Family**  
**305,313 acres**

The seed that became The Collins Companies was planted in Pennsylvania in 1855, and the family-owned, eco-friendly forest products business has been growing ever since. The company now owns just over 300,000 acres in California, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and has received multiple honors for its commitment to the environment.

22  **Fasken Family**  
**300,000 acres**

The Faskens were lucky enough to settle in West Texas before oil and gas were discovered in the Permian Basin. Their holdings now span Midland, Ector, Andrews, and Martin counties, and they own additional acreage in Culberson and Reeves counties, as well as in South Texas near Laredo.

23  **Jeff Bezos**  
**290,000 acres**

Amazon.com founder Bezos, 44, is a regular on the Forbes 400. His $8.7 billion fortune (Forbes’s 2008 estimate) enables him to fund a space flight company called Blue Origin. The company tested its first developmental vehicle in November 2006. The launch site? One of several West Texas ranches Bezos has acquired for takeoff and landing.

24  **Collier Family**  
**280,000 acres**

The Collier family has had a substantial presence in the Sunshine State since the early part of the 20th century, when Barron Gift Collier headed south from New York City and bought more than a million acres in southwest Florida. Today the family owns a reported 280,000 acres and runs operations that include cattle ranching, vegetable farming, and citrus production, among others.
25 **Babbitt Ranches**
**270,000 acres**

The Babbitt Ranches are a 120-year-old cow-calf and yearling operation where home on the range still includes a bedroll and chuck wagon. The ranchlands encompass 700,000 acres, 270,000 of which are deeded, and extend from the Grand Canyon to the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff.

26 **Jones Heirs**
**255,000 acres**

The Joneses are tight-lipped about their South Texas landholdings, but previous reports show the family owning more than 250,000 acres. The accumulation of land started more than a century ago with William Whitby Jones, and now continues with A.C. Jones IV.

27 **True Family**
**255,000 acres**

Established in 1957 with the purchase of Wyoming’s Double Four Ranch at the foot of Laramie Peak, the True family has since expanded its holdings to include seven ranches, two farms, and two feedlots. They run Angus, Black Baldy, Charolais, and Hereford cattle.

28 **The Bell Ranch**
**250,000 acres**

In 1824, the Mexican government granted former Spanish Army Captain Pablo Montoya more than 600,000 acres outside of present-day Tucumcari, New Mexico. In 1947, after a slew of colorful owners, the land was divided into six parcels. William Lane II eventually purchased the largest piece in 1970. The Bell Ranch, named for the bell-shaped butte on the property, is now owned by Bill Lane’s children, who have co-listed it with Mason & Morse Ranch Company and Orvis/Cushman & Wakefield for $100 million.

28 **Reynolds Family**
**250,000 acres**

The Long X brand dates back to 1868 when two brothers, George Thomas and William David Reynolds, formed a partnership that became the Reynolds Cattle Company. Family-owned ranches were operated in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, and North Dakota. Today, dozens of Reynolds heirs jointly and individually own ranchlands in Texas.

30 **Mike Smith**
**245,000 acres**

In recent years, Amarillo’s Mike Smith has purchased 245,000 acres in the Texas Panhandle. The land is used predominantly for grazing and other recreational purposes. “I’ve accumulated the land myself,” he says.

31 **D.K. Boyd**
**243,437 acres**

A Lubbock oilman, Boyd acquired the 137,372-acre Frying Pan Ranch in 1996 and the 106,065-acre LE Ranch in 1998. The two cattle ranches are among the most historic in the West Texas/Southeast New Mexico region and date back to the late 19th century.

32 **Langdale Family**
**240,000 acres**

Based in Valdosta, Georgia, the Langdale Company dates back to 1894. Founder John Wesley Langdale died in 1911 and left his property to his three sons, one of whom was Harley Langdale Sr. Harley acquired more and more land, most of which is used today for timber and other forest products.

33 **Koch Family**
**230,000 acres**

Dixie cups, Brawny paper towels, Stainmaster carpet—these are a few of the consumer products produced by Koch Industries, one of the world’s largest privately held companies. Among the family’s holdings are the Matador Cattle Company in Texas and another 92,000 acres in Montana, all of which are deeded. In addition, the company leases 10,000 acres in Kansas and another 100,000-plus acres in Montana.
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<th>Rank</th>
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<td>Tim Blixseth</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Roxana Hayne &amp; Joan Kelleher</td>
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<td>36</td>
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Tim Blixseth made his fortune in timber, but recently shifted focus to the luxury resort business. In the 1990s, he and his wife, Edra, developed the country’s only private golf and ski resort, the Yellowstone Club, on 13,400 acres in Big Sky, Montana. In November 2008, the posh retreat, whose membership roster includes Bill Gates and Dan Quayle, filed for bankruptcy. The timber tycoon also owns 180,000 acres of former Boise Cascade land in Idaho.

Roxana Hayne and Joan Kelleher own a large portion of Gage’s original ranch. In 1878, Alfred Gage left his native Vermont to make his fortune in the Lone Star State. Given the size of his estate at his death in 1928, an estimated 500,000 acres, he did exactly that. Hayne and Kelleher own the largest remaining portion of Gage’s original ranch.

If it’s in Maine and it’s a large landholding, it’s got to be timber. (That’s why they nicknamed it the Pine Tree State.) That’s definitely the case with family-owned Cassidy Timberlands, which owns 200,000-plus acres in various locales. Almost all is used primarily for timber harvesting.

Thomas Watson Sr. founded IBM. His son-in-law John Irwin II bought Arizona’s O RO Ranch. His grandson John Irwin III now heads the family-owned JJJ Corporation, which owns and operates the ranch, as well as other cattle operations.

More than a century after Howard Kohn founded what would become the T4 Cattle Co. in New Mexico, family members remain loyal to its cattle ranching heritage. Kohn’s daughter Yetta and her family, the Bidegains, now own the approximately 200,000-acre ranch. Her son Phillip manages the property.

When her father, Willard Garvey, passed away, Emily Bonavia inherited the Kansas family’s 200,000-acre cattle and farming operation outside Winnemucca, Nevada. Today, she runs the business with her sons under the name Nevada First Corporation.

Besides operating an oil and gas company and a real estate development business, the Killam family also owns several ranches totaling more than 200,000 acres in Texas, Oregon, and Mexico. One of these is the 125,000-acre Duval County Ranch in South Texas, which was purchased in 1994.

Beginning in 1920, Hal Bogle established himself in the ranching community by acquiring land in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, and Tennessee. When he died in 1973, he left almost 192,000 acres of ranchland in New Mexico to his son William Clarence and to William’s five children.

Any cowboy worth his salt will tell you that a gray horse with a black mane and black tail is a Pitchfork Gray. It’s one of the many emblematic aspects to this West Texas ranch, which has been owned by the same St. Louis family since its founding in 1883.

Southern Colorado’s Trinchera Ranch, acquired from the Forbes family in November 2007 (see page 49), forms the vast bulk of this hedge fund manager’s land holdings.

A self-made multimillionaire, Gabrych buys and sells his holdings in California and Nevada through a hard-charging broker by the name of Matt Kelpis. Kelpis would not confirm the total extent of the Gabrych portfolio, only the properties he presently has listed that Gabrych owns: a 100,000-acre parcel at Pyramid Lake and two listings near Winnemucca totaling 72,000 acres.
The Sky’s the Limit in Colorado

The Forbes family has sold the ranch. In the largest transaction involving The Land Report 100, the four sons and one daughter of Malcolm Forbes signed off on the sale of their 171,400-acre Trinchera Ranch in Southern Colorado to hedge fund manager Louis Bacon of Moore Capital for $175 million in November 2007. Bacon, who runs Moore Capital Management and was estimated to be worth $1.8 billion by Forbes, ranked No. 262 on the magazine’s list of the wealthiest Americans this year.

So what did Bacon get for $175 million? For starters, the largest remaining undeveloped tract within the historic Sangre de Cristo land grant, an enormous swath of snow-capped peaks, grassland valleys, and vast expanses of conifer forest. The original 1843 land grant encompassed more than 1 million acres and extended from northern New Mexico above Taos into Colorado’s San Luis Valley. The Sangre de Cristo was subsequently carved up, parceled off, and the subject of countless legal shenanigans.

More than a century later, Malcolm Forbes bought the Trinchera Ranch, which is located in Costilla County 160 miles southwest of Denver near Fort Garland. Forbes later acquired an adjacent parcel called the Blanca Ranch to create the present property.

What didn’t Bacon get for $175 million? For one thing, he doesn’t have the right to develop the 267-square-mile tract. Those rights were given away in 2004 when the Forbes family donated the largest conservation easement in the state’s history to Colorado Open Lands, a non-profit land trust. In return for this gift, the family received a substantial tax break.

According to The Pueblo Chieftain, Bacon has long been a proponent of groups that support conservation and set up the Moore Charitable Foundation in 1992 to aid their efforts. He himself has given conservation easements on two Long Island properties. I asked Dan Pike, the president of Colorado Open Lands, about Louis Bacon, and he said, “He’s probably as good a buyer as we could have hoped for.”

A closing note: Most published reports indicate that Malcolm Forbes paid $50 an acre to purchase the ranch in 1969. In 2007, his heirs sold it for more than $1,000 an acre. And that was after they had donated their record-setting conservation easement. As anyone familiar with easements knows, they limit land use and therefore lower land value. Yet the Forbes family was still able to sell the Trinchera Ranch for more than 20 times what Malcolm Forbes paid almost 40 years earlier.

—Eric O’Keefe

Hedge fund manager Louis Bacon (far left) acquired the Trinchera Ranch from the family of Malcolm Forbes (center) in November 2007. His acquisition of the 171,400-acre Colorado ranch vaulted him to 43rd place on the Land Report 100.
45 **Broadbent Family**

170,000 acres

The late Joseph Ray Broadbent, known as J.R. to his friends, got his start in the 1930s with his own lamb-feeding business in California’s Imperial Valley. Over the ensuing decades, he grew his stake. Now his sons operate Broadbent Brothers Sheep on a reported 170,000 acres in California and Wyoming.

45 **McCoy Family**

170,000 acres

Emmett McCoy transformed his father’s roofing business into McCoy’s Building Supply, a $550-million business with 84 stores. In their spare time, the McCoys run Angus cattle on family-owned ranches in the Davis Mountains of Texas. Ranch foreman Kaare Remme says, “It’s a cow-camp operation with the land divided into camps like in the old days.”

47 **John Hampton**

167,000 acres

For more than 50 years, three generations of the Hampton family have owned and operated Hampton Affiliates. The company operates five sawmills and manages 167,000 acres of timberland in Oregon and Washington.

48 **Sugg Family**

165,487 acres

Although published reports of the family’s West Texas cattle ranches detail holdings of close to 300,000 acres, a thorough examination of tax records confirmed only a portion of that total in and around San Angelo where the family settled in the early 1900s.

49 **H.L. Kokernot Heirs**

163,166 acres

Herbert Lee Kokernot Sr. established the 06 Ranch in West Texas in 1912. The brand he chose, the 06, had belonged to his grandfather David Kokernot, a scout for Sam Houston during the Texas Revolution. His descendants run Hereford cattle on much of the family’s vast mountainous holdings.

50 **Cogdell Family**

160,000 acres

When Billy Cogdell passed away a few years ago at the age of 70, his family’s Tule Ranch was divided among his four children. Today, the three brothers and one sister run a cattle company near Tulia, Texas. They also raise quarter horses. In 2006 they were honored by the American Quarter Horse Association with its Best Remuda award.

50 **Leo Drey**

160,000 acres

The St. Louis businessman and conservationist began collecting Missouri land in 1951. In 1954 his holdings grew considerably larger after a forester warned Drey that National Distillers was planning to clear cut thousands of acres of white oak in the Ozarks. Drey purchased those 90,000 acres and continues to buy land today.

50 **Eddy Family**

160,000 acres

Published reports indicate that the Eddy family’s Port Blakely Companies control 160,000 acres in Washington and Oregon, with additional property in New Zealand. The companies have been in the family since 1903 and include ventures in timber, forest products, and real estate.

53 **Fanjul Family**

155,000 acres

Forced out of Cuba by Fidel Castro, the Fanjuls relocated to South Florida, where they established themselves as one of the state’s largest landowners, as well as the nation’s leading producer of refined sugar, with brands such as Domino, C&H, and Florida Crystals. The largest biomass power plant in the U.S.? Yet another Fanjul business.
Hearst Family  
153,000 acres

In 1865, family patriarch George Hearst bought a 48,000-acre ranch on the California coast at San Simeon. Hearst's holdings eventually totaled 270,000 acres, which his son, William Randolph, crowned with the Hearst Castle. The Hearsts still own two ranches in California: the 73,000-acre Jack Ranch in Cholame, and 80,000 acres adjacent to the castle, which was given to the state in 1957.

Bass Family  
150,000 acres

In 1936, Texas oilman Sid Richardson purchased St. Joseph's Island. The retreat, totaling more than 33,000 acres just off the Texas coast, became the billionaire bachelor's favorite getaway and is now one of many parcels that his heirs, the Bass family of Fort Worth, own and operate in the Lone Star State.

Boswell Family  
150,000 acres

The J.G. Boswell Company was formed in the 1920s and now owns a reported 150,000 acres in California's Central Valley. The family-owned agribusiness is recognized as one of the world's largest cotton producers, and it is said to be the largest privately held farm in the United States.

William Henry Green Heirs  
150,000 acres

In 1886, Thomas Henry Green sent his son William west to look after a band of horses along Hubbard Creek. The young man arrived in Shackelford County with a $20 gold piece and an eye for good grassland. Over a century later, William's son Bob, 82, and other members of the Green family run cattle in six Texas counties as a partnership.

Scott Family  
150,000 acres

Homer Scott started the Padlock Ranch in 1943 with 300 cows on 3,000 acres. Today the family's holdings stretch from Hardin, Montana, to Sheridan, Wyoming. The ranch, which is headquartered at the foot of Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains, now raises and markets more than 12,000 calves a year.

Philip Anschutz  
149,493 acres

Notoriously secretive, the self-made billionaire tipped his hand about his substantial land holdings last year when he put his Wyoming ranch on the market. Situated along 22 miles of the North Platte River, the Overland Trail Cattle Company includes 312,170 acres; 149,493 are owned by Anschutz, and the rest is leased from the Bureau of Land Management.
60  Clayton Williams Jr.  
146,655 acres

The son of one of the first licensed geologists in Texas, Williams, 75, is based in Midland where he runs his own oil and gas company, Clayton Williams Energy, Inc. (CWEI). Claytie has several ranches in West Texas. He recently parted with one, which was purchased by Brad Kelley.

61  Mike Mechenbier  
142,000 acres

An Albuquerque businessman, Mechenbier owns 142,000 acres spread across several New Mexico counties, including farmland and four adjoining cattle ranches. And he wants the land to stay in the family as long as possible. A large portion of the acreage lies in a trust that prevents that land from being mortgaged.

62  Gerald J. Ford  
140,000 acres

This Dallas banker teamed up with Ronald Perelman to sell Golden State Bancorp to Citigroup for $5.8 billion in 2002. Ford also owns the historic Diamond A Ranch in New Mexico and Diamond A Racing in Kentucky, which produced Pleasantly Perfect, winner of the Breeder’s Cup Classic in 2003 and the Dubai World Cup in 2004.

62  Harrison Family  
140,000 acres

Published reports show the Harrison family owning 140,000 acres, including an expansive horse ranch just outside Houston. D.J. Harrison Sr. began breeding quarter horses in the 1930s, and the Harrison Quarter Horse Ranch is now managed by Rosemary Harrison, wife of Daniel III.

62  Thomas Lane  
140,000 acres

Thomas Lane began acquiring Montana land in 1954 with a 320-acre purchase. With the help of his four sons, Lane now runs seven livestock operations: Windsor Livestock, which is the home ranch; and Holland Ranch, Giles Ranch, Foster Ranch, Hodson Ranch, Gasper Ranch, and Palm Ranch.

62  Wells Family  
140,000 acres

Along with a reported 140,000 acres of ranchland in Nebraska, the Wells family also has other real estate ventures, including the historic Riverside Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. The family’s Las Olas Company has been investing in Florida real estate since the 1930s.

62  Yturria Heirs  
140,000 acres

The Yturria name is indelibly entwined with the history of South Texas. Family patriarch Francisco Yturria opened the first private bank south of San Antonio and was a contemporary of Capt. Richard King (see No. 6 King Ranch heirs). According to a family spokesperson, multiple heirs have holdings in several South Texas counties.

67  Tom Siebel  
135,000 acres

A former Oracle executive, Siebel, 55, netted an estimated $500 million in 2005 when he sold his Siebel Systems to Larry Ellison, his old boss at Oracle. His cattle operation ships about 1.5 million pounds of beef off his two sprawling Montana ranches, the Dearborn near Wolf Creek and the N Bar near Grass Range.

68  Wilson-Hodge Ranches  
134,000 acres

Headquartered in Del Rio, Texas, this family-owned ranching company has three divisions spread out in three counties in Southwest Texas. In addition to traditional ranching operations, a wildlife management program has been implemented that has bolstered native populations of whitetail and mule deer, turkey, dove, and quail.

69  Russell Gordy  
132,927 acres

The oil patch has been good to this Houstonian, whose diverse interests range from oil and gas to methane and ranching. His Rock Creek Ranch in Southwest Texas tips the scales at almost 89,000 acres, and he paid around $1,000 an acre for his 44,000-acre Montana spread.

70  Isaac Ellwood Heirs  
130,000 acres

Joseph Glidden and Isaac Ellwood brought an end to the open range in the American West. The two entrepreneurs co-owned the original patent for barbed wire and profited handsomely. Ellwood’s descendants own and lease five ranches in West Texas totaling 260,000 acres. According to family spokesman John Welch, approximately half is deeded land.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>70</th>
<th>JA Ranch Heirs</th>
<th>130,000 acres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Situated in picturesque Palo Duro Canyon and occupying three Texas counties, the Ritchie family’s JA Ranch is the oldest privately owned cattle operation in the Texas Panhandle. An estimated 130,000 acres, the JA was founded in 1877 by John Adair and Cornelia Wadsworth Ritchie Adair with former Texas Ranger Charles Goodnight. A grandson, Montgomery Harrison Wadsworth “Montie” Ritchie, ran the ranch until 1993. It is now managed by his daughter and grandson. Unlike many Texas ranches, none of the JA’s income comes from oil and gas.</td>
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<tr>
<th>72</th>
<th>Les Davis Heirs</th>
<th>128,000 acres</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Tucked away at the foot of the Rockies in Cimarron, New Mexico, the 134-year-old CS Cattle Co. runs several enterprises, including hunting, outfitting, and taking in pasture cattle, on its 138,000 acres (10,000 of which are leased). Les Davis, who began working at the ranch in 1941, died in 2001 and left the CS to his wife, Linda, and their six children.</td>
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<tr>
<th>73</th>
<th>Booth Family</th>
<th>125,000 acres</th>
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<td>Booth Land and Livestock, owned by Mark and Gary Booth, expanded its Colorado ranch in 1985 with the purchase of property in southeast Wyoming. The ranch operates a year-round cow-calf operation, and its land is home to a variety of wildlife, including antelope, deer, elk, and waterfowl.</td>
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<tr>
<th>73</th>
<th>Brite Ranch Heirs</th>
<th>125,000 acres</th>
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<td>In 1885, Luke Brite trailed a small herd of cattle across several hundred miles of the Texas frontier until he arrived at the base of Capote Peak. For the next few years, Brite camped alone under the West Texas skies as he established this now-famous ranch, whose divisions are run by his descendants.</td>
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<tr>
<th>75</th>
<th>Robert A. Funk</th>
<th>124,744 acres</th>
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<td>Funk’s Express Ranches run one of the largest seed stock operations in the country. The ranches—Express Ranches in Yukon, Oklahoma; Express Atmore Ranch in Ute Park, New Mexico; and the Express UU Bar Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico—also develop, test, and export genetics, as well as conduct an artificial insemination and embryo transfer program.</td>
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<tr>
<th>76</th>
<th>Ellison Family</th>
<th>122,000 acres</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Ellison Ranching Company operates a number of ranches in Nevada, including the 38,000-acre 71 Ranch in Elko and the Spanish Ranch, which the family has owned for more than 75 years. The Ellisons had no comment on their ranches, but their holdings include at least 122,000 acres in Elko and Lander counties.</td>
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<tr>
<th>77</th>
<th>Drummond Family</th>
<th>119,649 acres</th>
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<td>Drummond Land &amp; Cattle Co. dates back to 1887, when three Drummond brothers first learned the Osage language in order to lease land from the tribe. Tim and Ladd Drummond now manage ranching and farming operations in Osage and Jefferson counties with more than 6,500 mother cows, 4,000 wild horses, and 12,000 yearlings.</td>
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<tr>
<th>78</th>
<th>A.W. Moursund</th>
<th>115,000 acres</th>
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<td>Following the sale of 35,000 acres in South Dakota, it is believed that Moursund and his family own 115,000 acres in Texas and Nebraska, including 56,000 acres in Sheridan and Cherry counties.</td>
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<tr>
<th>79</th>
<th>Scharbauer Family</th>
<th>113,532 acres</th>
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<td></td>
<td>The Scharbauer family’s affiliation with Texas cattle ranching dates back to the late 1880s. Today the Scharbauers own more than 100,000 acres in West Texas and the Panhandle. Family patriarch Clarence Scharbauer Jr. also owns 393-acre Valor Farm in Pilot Point, Texas, a renowned horse farm.</td>
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<tr>
<th>80</th>
<th>Richard and Victoria Evans</th>
<th>113,065 acres</th>
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<td>The couple owns the 109,065-acre Double V Ranch near Fort Sumner, New Mexico, which has been the site of two separate F-16 crashes. The Evances are presently marketing the Double V for $26,175,000. They also own 4,000 acres in the Texas Panhandle, as well as significant acreage in South America.</td>
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<tr>
<th>81</th>
<th>Linnebur Family</th>
<th>110,000 acres</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Although their property has been divided among various family members, the Linneburs are collectively one of</td>
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Colorado’s largest landowners. Brothers Gene and Lloyd each own substantial parcels, and the widow and four sons of a third brother, Emmett, are still active landowners.

82 David Murdock  
108,740 acres

This high school dropout has a penchant for taking large landholding companies private. In 2000, he acquired the venerable Hawaiian firm of Castle & Cooke, a move that made him sole owner of 98 percent of the island of Lanai. Two years later, Murdock paid $1.43 billion for the portion of Dole Food he didn’t already own.

83 Stan Harper  
106,500 acres

The owner of Lenders & Members Service Group, Harper lives just south of Fort Worth, where he also owns 6,500 acres. But his true passion is northern New Mexico, where he owns a 100,000-acre parcel that most recently belonged to Brad Kelley. This ranch is located in Mora County near the tiny town of Wagon Mound.

84 Desiree Moore  
105,000 acres

Bill Moore co-founded Kelly-Moore Paint Co. in 1946. He began his pursuit of land with the purchase of Montana’s Hamilton Ranch in 1988. Several years and 46 transactions later, he had assembled a 135,000-acre tract (105,000 deeded), which he dubbed Broken O Ranch. Upon his death in 2004, his widow inherited the ranch.

84 Reese Family  
105,000 acres

The Rockin’ 7 Ranch is a Wyoming cattle operation that dates back four generations in the Reese family. Cloaked in cedar and located 130 miles north of Cheyenne, the Rockin’ 7 also welcomes hunters on the prowl for elk, mule deer, whitetail, antelope, turkey, and upland birds.

86 Robinson Family  
103,000 acres

Members of the Robinson family, descendants of Elizabeth Sinclair, control more than 100,000 acres in Hawaii, including the 46,000-acre island of Niiahu, which is known as the Forbidden Island because of the family’s closed-door policy on unapproved visitors. Today, however, because of financial stresses, the Robinsons have become more accepting of tourist dollars.

87 Milliken Family  
101,000 acres

The family-owned Baskahegan Company, founded in 1920 and headed by Roger Milliken Jr., holds 101,000 acres of forestland located mainly in the northern part of Maine’s Washington County. In 2004, the Forest Stewardship Council certified Baskahegan’s property, and Milliken himself serves on the board of The Nature Conservancy in Maine.

88 Danny, Doug, and Larry Adams  
100,000 acres

Based out of Atlanta, the Adams brothers operate one of the most extensive real estate companies in the nation. They literally own hundreds of pieces of property. Some are cattle ranches. Others are for hunting and fishing.

88 Beggs Family  
100,000 acres

You’ll find no helicopters at a roundup on the Beggs Ranches. It may take a little longer, but the Fort Worth family prefers to operate their three West Texas ranches the old-fashioned way: “I’m just trying to follow in my dad’s footsteps,” Ed Beggs II told an interviewer in 2005.

88 Powell Heirs  
100,000 acres

Jimmy Powell, head of Powell Ranches, runs his family’s sheep and cattle operation on an estimated 100,000 acres in several Texas counties as well as Cherry County, Nebraska. In 2005, the Rice University graduate was recognized for his longtime leadership in Texas agriculture.

88 Walter Umphrey  
100,000 acres

When the tobacco industry settled with the state of Texas, the five attorneys who negotiated the $17.3-billion deal split a staggering $3.3-billion fee. This Beaumont attorney took his share and indulged his penchant for South Texas ranches, which he buys and sells at a fast clip.

88 Dennis Washington  
100,000 acres

From rail transportation to aviation technology, construction and mining to heavy equipment sales, this aggressive entrepreneur has
been a player in a wide variety of business sectors. It should come as little surprise that his real estate interests also include owning a reported 100,000 acres in the Northwest.

**Yates Family**  
100,000 acres

The secretive family whose fortune is estimated at $300 million by *The New York Times* is best known for varied oil-and-gas interests based out of Artesia, New Mexico. The Yateses reportedly own approximately 100,000 acres of ranchland in several New Mexico counties.

**Aubrey McClendon**  
98,106 acres

The Chesapeake Energy (CHK) CEO and chairman makes his debut on The Land Report 100 after closing on the 18,506-acre TI Valley Ranch just south of McAlester in his native Oklahoma. Located in Pittsburg County, the trophy property is approximately 50 percent timber (shortleaf pine) and 50 percent native grass.

**Butler Heirs**  
97,389 acres

The Butler family’s Fort Union Ranch is a working cow-calf and yearling operation that spans more than 97,000 acres and surrounds the Fort Union National Monument in New Mexico. The historic monument, which sits on 720 acres donated by the Butlers, receives 13,000 to 14,000 visitors per year.

**Eshleman Family**  
96,000 acres

The family's Eshleman-Vogt Ranch is located in Jim Hogg County. This South Texas property is used primarily for cattle ranching, although hunting leases are proving to be a valuable source of income as well.

**Dunn Family**  
92,000 acres

The Dunn family’s Maine timber holdings have been divvied up among several dozen heirs.

**Joe Finley Jr.**  
89,000 acres

Finley’s Callaghan Ranch is a hunting and cattle operation that once consisted of more than 200,000 acres in South Texas. Today guests on the Callaghan can hunt a wide variety of wildlife, including hogs, whitetail deer, bobcats, and mountain lions.

**Millard Morris**  
89,000 acres

Morris acquired the Tongue River Ranch in 1997. Originally a division of the famed Swenson Ranch, it is located in four West Texas counties. One of the many traditions Morris has preserved is the ranch rodeo team, which took top honors at the Fort Worth Stock Show Ranch Rodeo in 2003, 2004, and 2005.

**Allen Cook**  
76,356 acres

The Cook family runs a successful cattle operation on its 91,000-acre Wyoming ranch, of which 76,356 acres are deeded. The ranch’s true renown is its Mesozoic marine fossils and mid-Jurassic period remnants. Allen Cook recently donated 4,700 acres to the University of Pittsburgh for its geology, archaeology, and paleontology programs.