A Monthly Report for The American Landowner wsletter

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My Fellow Americans:

The New Year is upon us, and it's begun with a bang. I can confirm that I've already gotten a heads up on some major deals ready to close. Plus, there are some shakeups going on out in the market that we will be monitoring in the months ahead.

At headquarters, *The Land Report* editorial team is in the throes of researching the 2014 Deals of the Year as well as the Best Brokerages and the Top Auction Houses in 2013. There is a surplus of good material to work with, thanks in large part to the banner year that just closed.

From a scheduling standpoint, we will be featuring the Deals of the Year in the spring issue and then covering the Best Brokerages and Top Auction Houses in the summer issue. Come harvest time this fall, we will revisit our popular Land to Table theme as we savor tasty morsels produced by landowners coast to coast. And we will conclude the year on a high note by unveiling the 2014 Land Report 100 presented by Fay Ranches.

All the Best,

Eric O'Keefe, Editor & Broker

P.S. I invite you to subscribe to *The Land Report HERE*.

LAND REPORT TOP TEN

America's Leading Investment **OUALITY RURAL LAND LISTINGS**

- 1. Homer's Pond \$118 million
- 2. Y.O. Ranch \$85 million
- 3. Broken O Ranch \$81 million
- 4. Crazy French Ranch \$79 million
- 4. Rancho Dos Pueblos \$79 million
- 6. Four Peaks Ranch \$75 million
- 7. Walton Ranch \$68.7 million
- 8. IX Ranch \$64.5 million
- 9. Rana Creek Ranch \$59.95 million
- 10. Big Creek Ranch \$59.9 million



UNITED STATES

COMMISSION RULING BAFFLES TIMBER

INDUSTRY. A coalition of six U.S. plywood companies has until mid-February to decide whether to keep up the legal fight to have federal regulators step in and put a stop to what the coalition calls unfair Chinese "dumping" on the domestic plywood market. The Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood filed its petition with the U.S. International Trade Commission last year, but the ITC voted to stay out of the squabble. U.S. regulators define dumping as a foreign company selling a product in the states at "less than its fair value." The ITC ruled that domestic plywood suppliers are seeing enough growth in demand to offset any threat from Chinese imports. The commission did agree the production of the plywood is subsidized by the Chinese government and sold at "less than fair value," but the ITC refused to step in. Read more **HERE**.



DROUGHT

Water Policy

COLORADO RIVER WATERS TO BE

RATIONED? To help the drought-stricken Colorado River basin, federal authorities plan to reduce water flow into Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir, from Lake Powell 180 miles upstream. That means some tough decisions will

be made concerning the millions who rely on Mead for municipal water supplies, farm irrigation, and growth in demand. Decades-old rules govern water use between seven upper and lower basin states. Those rules don't factor in the current drought, even though water conservation efforts have helped save millions of gallons and kept the supply flowing. But the federal Bureau of Reclamation says there is a 50-50 chance that by 2015, Lake Mead's water will be rationed to states downstream for the first time. Read more HERE.



WEST

LISTING

California Ranchland

HISTORIC CALIFORNIA RANCH SPREADS OUT ON 12,000 ACRES IN LASSEN COUNTY. Dixie Valley Ranch is tucked in the northeast corner of the state and surrounded by national forests and state parks. Its 12,000 acres are an ideal combination

of cattle ranch and recreational property. Todd Renfrew of California Outdoor Properties has the \$16.9 million listing and says the ranch is



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well-irrigated with legacy water rights that produce plenty of hay for feed and to sell. Plentiful elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, quail, turkey, and dove generate additional income. Read more about Dixie Valley and see photos HERE.



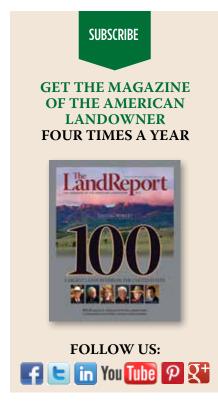
SOUTHWEST

SALE

Public Land

PRIVATE INVESTORS ACQUIRE 11,400 ACRES OF ARIZONA PUBLIC LAND. Real estate investment firm Pinal Land Holdings announced it has closed on 11,400 acres of public land west of Phoenix. The 88 parcels are within the city limits of Mesa, in Coolidge

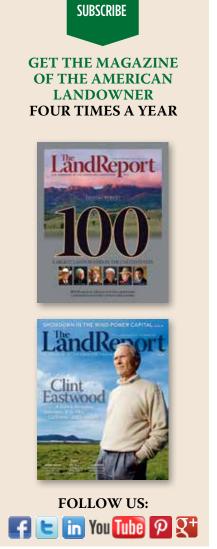
and Pinal counties, and are primarily agricultural tracts. Mesa leaders bought the land in the 1980s for a water farm but never broke ground on the project. The latest three-phase sale agreement could net Mesa up to \$135 million, which city leaders hope will fuel development projects such as higher education initiatives and a new training complex for the Chicago Cubs. No details have emerged on what Pinal plans to do with its new holding. The investment company was formed solely for the purpose of this acquisition. Read more HERE.





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CONFERENCE

Maine Timberland

21,000 ACRES OF TIMBERLAND OFFERED NEAR CANADIAN BORDER. This

Washington County property borders the East Machias River not far from the international border in country Mainers call "downeast." It's a region known for vast forests, pristine lakes,

and proximity to the Atlantic. Fountains Land has listed these 21,948 acres \$12.87 million and describes them "a substantial timber base and established internal road network, enhanced by miles of accessible high quality frontage on several lakes." For buyers that means plenty of hunting and recreational opportunities to go along with millions worth of spruce, fir, white pine, red maple, and cedar holdings. In addition, on-site sand and gravel deposits give owners savings on material costs for building and road upkeep. Read more HERE.



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