America’s Leading Landowners Add More Than 1 Million Acres to Their Portfolios

Brand-new edition of the Land Report 100 includes five new landowners, one returnee, and more than 2,000 additional square miles to the tally.

Cable industry pioneers John Malone and Ted Turner top our updated list of the nation’s largest landowners with 2.2 million acres and 2 million acres, respectively. California's Emmerson family is a close third with 1.956 million acres of timberland owned in California and Washington and held by Sierra Pacific Industries. Other leading landowners include the King Ranch Heirs, who rank tenth nationwide with more than 900,000 acres including the birthplace of American ranching, and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who ranks twenty-eighth. Bezos uses his 420,000-acre Texas ranch to launch and land reusable rockets associated with his Blue Origin spaceflight services company. Read the complete Land Report 100 sponsored by LandLeader HERE.
CALIFORNIA FARMLAND

STEWART AND LYNDA RESNICK JOIN LAND REPORT 100 AT Nº 80. Stewart Resnick has applied his Midas touch to enterprises as varied as janitorial services and burglar alarms. In addition, he has acquired and upgraded brands such as Teleflora and the Franklin Mint. In the process, he has turned them into cash cows. In the 1970s, the Los Angeleno bought 2,500 acres of oranges and lemons in Kern County east of Los Angeles that were being fire saled. This initial acquisition was followed by much larger tracts that companies such as Mobil and Prudential Life were eager to get off their books. Today, the couple’s $4 billion Wonderful Company produces scores of high-quality, healthy products such as Wonderful Halos Mandarins, Wonderful Pistachios, Wonderful Almonds, and POM Wonderful 100% Pomegranate Juice on their acreage, which is primarily in California (180,000 acres) with some minor Texas holdings (10,000 acres). Read more HERE.

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NEW MEXICO RANCHLAND
HADLEY FAMILY RANKS Nº 50 ON
LAND REPORT 100, THANKS TO
DIAMOND A RANCH. Formerly known as
the Gray Ranch, the 260,000-acre Diamond
A Ranch in Hidalgo County is a hidden gem tucked away in New
Mexico's boot heel along the Mexico border. In 1990, owner Pablo
Brenner offered The Nature Conservancy the opportunity to buy the
cattle operation for the astronomical price of $18 million. (Keep in
mind that Ted Turner’s $21 million purchase of the Flying D the year
before was considered absolute madness.) The organization jumped at
the opportunity to preserve its significant ecological features, which
include the Animas Mountains and the Playas Valley. Initially, there
was discussion of turning the ranch into a federal wildlife refuge.
Instead, The Nature Conservancy sold it to Drummond Hadley and
his family’s Animas Foundation under a conservation easement that
banned development but allowed traditional livestock ranching to
continue. Read more HERE.
ZANE AND TANYA KIEHNE DEBUT AT NO. 31 ON LAND REPORT 100. A fourth-generation rancher, Zane Kiehne was raised in New Mexico on a US Forest Service allotment with very little deeded land. He became a ranch broker and in 1994 acquired the Kyle Ranch in Loving County, Texas. A native Texan, Tanya Kiehne grew up in Pecos where she worked for the Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency until the family’s ranches required her full-time attention. Their Z&T Holdings includes ranches in seven Texas counties as well as seven counties in New Mexico. Z&T’s properties tend to be mountainous and are full of wildlife: elk, mule deer, whitetails, turkey, antelope, Barbary sheep, oryx, mountain lion, and bear. Some of Z&T’s New Mexico ranches also feature trout streams. Raising top-quality cattle and horses while improving rangeland conditions is a priority for the Kiehnes as is managing for wildlife. Read more HERE.