

# The LandReport Newsletter

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A Monthly Report for the American Landowner

July 2020



**FIELD**  
*notes*



REUTERS

In conjunction with his three brothers, Ed Bass of Fort Worth ranks No. 37 on the 2019 Land Report 100. Recently, his international landholdings were diminished by the sale of two cattle stations down under for more than A\$30 million. Mining magnate Andrew Forrest prevailed over 13 other bidders seeking to acquire Jubilee Downs and Quanbun Downs, which encompass more than 500,000 acres some 250 miles east of Broome in Western Australia. Bass had owned the two stations for 40 years in a partnership with the Anderson family, who managed the ranches.

Native title holders Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation, which represented the indigenous Yi-Martuwarra Ngurrara people, submitted a bid with

assistance from the US-based Nature Conservancy as well as Kimberley Agricultural and Pastoral Company. The A\$25 million offer fell short by more than \$5 million to the winning bid of Tattarang, the Forrest family's private investment group. Read more [HERE](#).

National and regional news stories follow.

**ERIC O'KEEFE**  
[editor@landreport.com](mailto:editor@landreport.com)

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CONGRESS



NATIONAL

### CONGRESS PASSES GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT.

The bipartisan effort represents the largest investment in public lands in more than a half century. The legislation would fund in its entirety a conservation program known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has languished since its creation in the 1960s. The measure secures mandatory funding of the program to the tune of \$900 million annually. Supporters emphasize that the program does not use taxpayer dollars. Instead, revenues come from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Opponents include Senator Ted Cruz, who cautioned against “putting government spending on autopilot while reducing the amount of land available for private ownership.” The bill heads to President Trump, who has tweeted support for it. Read more [HERE](#).



NORTHEAST

ACQUISITION

### MAINE TIMBERLAND

#### THE CONSERVATION FUND ACQUIRES CHADBOURNE TREE FARMS.

In purchasing the 15,408 acres in Western Maine, the nonprofit intends to protect the historic forestland from both development and fragmentation while also honoring the land’s history. The prized timberland dates to 1634 when England’s King Charles I sent William Chadbourne across the Atlantic on a mission to establish what is widely recognized as the New World’s first sawmill. The Chadbourne family assembled the acreage and worked the land for more than 150 years. “This forestland and its exceptional white pine timber resources reflect decades of long-term stewardship administered by my father as well as generations of the Chadbourne family,” said 11th generation family member Bob Chadbourne. The Conservation Fund intends to sustainably manage the forestland, the fourth largest privately owned forest in the Sebago Lake watershed, which provides key watershed protection to Portland and surrounding areas. Read more [HERE](#).

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NATIONAL

JUDICIARY

## PLANT-BASED FOODS

### BURGER KING WINS DISMISSAL OF VEGAN LAWSUIT.

 US District Judge Raag Singhal tossed out a lawsuit that accused the fast-food giant of deception when it came to the preparation of its "Impossible Whopper."

A group of seven plaintiffs initiated the class action back in November. They alleged that Burger King hoodwinked customers into thinking its plant-based patties were cooked on separate grills, those specifically not used in the preparation of beef and chicken menu items. The suit stated that the wheat-and-potato-protein patties (produced by Impossible Foods) could become tainted with meat when cooked on the restaurants' broilers. "Burger King promised a non-meat patty and delivered," Singhal wrote in his decision. He also noted the plaintiffs lacked evidence of their claims. Burger King has repeatedly denied any deception in advertising, adding that it never described the burgers as vegan or vegetarian. Burger King refers to the "Impossible Whopper" as plant-based. Read more [HERE](#).

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- Ranching Supplies - cattle guards etc.
- Recreational Real Estate
- Soil and Water Testing Labs
- Tax Deferral Strategies
- Waterfront & Estate Properties
- Golf



NATIONAL

**CARBON CREDITS**

**CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICES**

**BAYER LAUNCHES CARBON**

**INITIATIVE.** The agricultural powerhouse announced plans to reward farmers in the US and Brazil for generating carbon credits as a result of adopting climate-friendly practices

that include no-till farming and cover crops. The company's stated objective? To reduce the carbon footprint and curb greenhouse gas emissions. According to *Successful Farming*, Bayer's trailblazing Carbon Initiative represents years of work validating a science-based approach and methodology supporting environmental stewardship. The Bayer Carbon Initiative seeks to incentivize growers dedicated to positive environmental change with the expressed goal of slashing field greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent over the next decade. Healthy soil remains key to sequestering carbon. To that end, Bayer intends to reward farmers who do everything from reducing fossil fuel usage to embracing nitrogen use. The 2020-21 program is expected to reach some 1,200 farmers in Brazil and the US. The company hopes to export the program to other countries. Read more [HERE](#).

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- Recreational Real Estate
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- Tax Deferral Strategies
- Waterford & Estate Properties



SOUTH

**HABITAT RESTORATION**

**CUMBERLAND PLATEAU**

**NFWF ANNOUNCES \$1.3 MILLION IN GRANTS IN ALABAMA, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY, AND TENNESSEE.** The

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grants target the restoration, enhancement,

and protection of shortleaf pine, oak, and riparian forests. “More than two-thirds of the forests across the Cumberland Plateau are owned by families and individuals, making them crucial players in helping ensure healthy shortleaf habitat for wildlife,” says Tom Martin, president and CEO of the American Forest Foundation. “While these forest owners care about their land, they often face barriers when it comes to taking action to improve it,” Martin adds. “AFF is proud to support projects in this region that are helping family landowners get the assistance they need to make a positive impact on the land.” Birds like the northern bobwhite, prairie warbler, and Bachman’s sparrow, along with reptiles such as the flattened musk turtle, should directly benefit from the improvements. Read more [HERE](#).

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SOUTH



## TIMBERLAND MANAGEMENT

### AMERICAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

### ACQUIRES VIRGINIA FORESTRY

**CONSULTING FIRM.** In July, AFM acquired South Rivers Forestry Consultants, a family-owned regional business focused on long-term

timber management for private landowners and commercial clients. The deal enhances AFM's foothold in both Virginia and North Carolina. From 50 regional offices throughout the US, AFM currently oversees more than 6.5 million acres of land. "SRF and AFM foresters are well acquainted, having developed long-term 'friendships through forestry' as a result of working together on countless industry-related projects," says Jess Crawford, who founded South Rivers Forestry Consultants in 2006 alongside his wife, Valerie. North Carolina-based AFM provides an array of services ranging from forestry and environmental consulting to timber management and sales, wildlife/habitat management, and farmland management. Tom Margo, who boasts more than three decades of experience in both forestry and land, took the helm as the company's president in May. Read more [HERE](#).

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