

# The LandReport

A Monthly Report for  
The American Landowner



# Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2012 • LANDREPORT.COM



## Dear American Landowner:

Now that Election Day is behind us, one thing is for sure: a mad dash to the end of the year! With the Bush tax cuts set to expire, almost every aspect of the transactions that lie at the very heart of land and land investments are on the table: capital gains, estate taxes, and countless other considerations.

Our holiday issue has gone to press and will soon be in mailboxes and on newsstands coast to coast, but while the elections are still on your mind I want to give you a heads up about this spring. Four years ago, Political Editor Joe Guinto did a masterful roundup of what to expect from the new Obama administration, including key cabinet officers such as Ken Salazar, Tom Vilsack, and Stephen Chu. In addition, he profiled House and Senate leadership with particular attention to key committee chairs. We all know the impact all of the above had on federal policy and our land. I invite you to pay special attention next year.



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 QUALITY RURAL LAND LISTINGS

- 1. Broken O Ranch (Montana):**  
\$132.5 million - **SOLD!**
- 2. Walton Ranch:**  
\$100 million
- 3. Broken O Ranch (Texas):**  
\$81 million
- 4. Rancho Dos Pueblos:**  
\$79 million
- 5. Dillingham Ranch:**  
\$65 million
- 5. Sagg Pond Estate:**  
\$65 million
- 7. Big Creek Ranch:**  
\$59.9 million
- 8. Rosenthal – The Malibu Estate:**  
\$59.5 million - **NEW**
- 9. Rockpile Ranch:**  
\$54.5 million
- 10. Swain's Neck:**  
\$49 million - **REDUCED \$10M**

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**AGRICULTURAL WATER WHITE PAPER.** Early this year, the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management convened a group of concerned landowners to discuss a single topic: water. The intent of the meeting was to identify issues facing the agricultural industry relating to water and water policy. Deliberations quickly turned to strategies needed to prioritize adequate water supplies for all users. It was agreed that agricultural leaders must join with other water stewards to address water supply and management strategies. The goal of this paper is to guide policy discussions and help our nation. Our nation needs agriculture and agriculture needs water. Download the white paper [HERE](#).



WEST

PINE BEETLE

## Timberland

### INFESTATION DECIMATES FORESTS.

A deadly infestation of pine beetles is killing trees and limiting available saw timber. The USFS estimates that that the beetle, which thrives in the Rocky Mountain West, has destroyed between 40 million and 45 million acres of timber, or about

12 percent of the forested land west of the Mississippi. The infestation first manifested itself in Colorado and has since spread to Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Read more [HERE](#).



MIDWEST

AG ECONOMICS

## Farmland

### HIGHER FARM PROFITS STOKE INCOME GAP.

Booming land values and higher incomes in the Midwest have widened the income gap. Over the last four years, farm earnings throughout the U.S. increased at eight times the rate of nonfarm wages. Census Bureau data indicates less-populated

areas now dominate the ranks of counties where income inequality widened the most in recent years. In Iowa, for instance, demand for grain has tripled land values and earned farmers record profits this year. Fewer good-paying industrial jobs are also to blame for the income gap, which puts new social strains on places with deep egalitarian roots. Read more [HERE](#).

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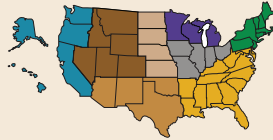
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## RECREATION



UNITED STATES

**HUNTING AND FISHING NUMBERS END DECADES-LONG DECLINE.** The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation indicates that the number of hunters increased by 9 percent nationwide from the previous survey in 2006. Angler numbers grew by 11 percent. All told, more than one-third of all Americans participated in wildlife-related recreation in 2011, an increase of 2.6 million participants. Their \$145 billion in expenditures represents 1 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) and includes licenses, tags, gear, travel costs, land leases, and land ownership. Read more [HERE](#).

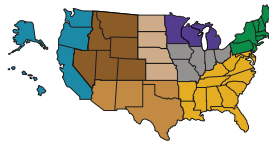


NORTHEAST

## RECREATION

### Duck Hunting

**TOO EARLY TO GAUGE SANDY'S IMPACT ON WATERFOWL.** Duck hunters have been praying for rain to fill drought-stricken marshes and improve habitat. Notwithstanding the damaging affects of the Superstorm Sandy, rain torrents could replenish wetlands in the Northeast and improve hunting conditions. On the flip side, "Sandy could scatter the relatively low number of ducks that we do have in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania right now," said Duck's Unlimited Biologist Sarah Fleming. Read the full story [HERE](#).



UNITED STATES

## CONGRESS

### Lame Duck Session

**U.S. FARM BILL ... TO BE CONTINUED.** Every five years, Congress typically reworks and re-ups the farm bill. Then again the 112th Congress was anything but typical, and as the House and Senate reconvene the lone priority would be avoiding the fiscal cliff, not passing a farm bill. The current farm bill, which was passed in 2008, funds an array of programs, from food stamps to farm subsidies to conservation programs. Fortunately, many won't need to be renewed until the planting season begins next spring. Read more [HERE](#).

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