The Land Report
THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LANDOWNER

LARGEST USA LANDOWNERS

SALE OF THE CENTURY:
JOHN MALONE BUYS
NEW MEXICO’S
290,100-ACRE
BELL RANCH

PLUS: LABRADOR RETRIEVERS | BP OIL SPILL | LAND REPORT TOP TEN
No 1

Ted Turner
2+ million acres
VISIONARY

The nation’s largest landowner acquired one of Georgia’s finest quail plantations in 2010.

His 58,000+ is the world’s largest private herd. He recently offered to shelter 87 bison from Yellowstone National Park for five years as part of an experiment by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to establish a free-roaming herd free of brucellosis and other diseases that can spread to cattle. After the five years, the bison will be returned to the State of Montana, and Turner will keep apercentage of the herd’s offspring.

Innovative solutions to ensure the continuation of endangered species are but one facet of Turner’s stewardship philosophy. Another lies in clean, renewable energy. In January 2010, Turner Renewable Energy partnered with Southern Company to develop renewable energy resources on his properties as well as off. Their first project, New Mexico’s Cimarron Solar Facility, will be one of the nation’s largest photovoltaic plants, generating enough energy to supply 8,000 homes with electricity. Cimarron, which is scheduled to begin commercial operation in late 2010, is located next to Turner’s Vermejo Park Ranch, the largest privately owned ponderosa pine ecosystem in the nation.

The Cimarron plant is yet another example of how Turner backs his words with concrete action. He has been increasingly vocal about his belief that the United States should move toward more sustainable forms of energy, and he has gone as far as to lobby Congress on renewable energy and climate issues. It goes hand in hand with his desire to use his clout and his land to make the world a better place for his—and our—children and grandchildren.

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his year marks the fourth time The Land Report has presented the top 100 landowners in the country. And it also marks the fourth time that Ted Turner has topped our list. In 2010, Turner added to his chart-topping 2 million-plus acres by acquiring Nonami Plantation near Albany, Georgia. The acquisition is a notable one because Nonami ranks as the largest property for the entrepreneur, environmentalist, philanthropist, and media mogul in the state where he was raised.

Nonami Plantation adds 8,800 acres to the 15 ranches Turner owns in seven states, and it is considered one of the finest quail hunting venues in the Peach State. Turner purchased the plantation from a longtime business associate, Atlanta developer Tom Cousins, in a private transaction.

“Tom and I’ve been good friends for many years,” says Turner spokesman Phillip Evans. “From what I understand they made a gentleman’s agreement years ago. If Tom ever decided to sell, Ted would get first option to purchase the property. They both appreciate what a special piece of land it is.”

Much of the property is already under a conservation easement. “As with all of Turner’s land, Nonami will be managed in an environmentally and ecologically friendly manner,” Evans adds. Turner’s record as a landowner proves that he is nothing if not shrewd business acumen to guide his purchases, snapping up choice tracts with the natural resources needed to further his considerable conservation efforts.

Turner is known for his conservation of buffalo. In particular, dedicated to running his holdings in a way that promotes the environment and ecologically friendly manner, “Evans adds. “As with all of Turner’s land, Nonami will be managed in an environmentally and ecologically friendly manner, “Evans adds. Turner’s record as a landowner proves that he is nothing if not shrewd business acumen to guide his purchases, snapping up choice tracts with the natural resources needed to further his considerable conservation efforts.
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John Malone
1.2 million acres
MEDIA

The only major movement in this year’s top ten is Liberty Media CEO John Malone, whose purchase of the 290,000-acre Bell Ranch this August leapfrogged him from No. 7 to No. 5, ahead of King Ranch and the Singleton Family. Thanks to his conservation-minded land ownership, Malone has earned many friends (both two-legged and four-legged) over the years. In an interview on Bloomberg in July, Malone said that his friend Ted Turner was partly his inspiration. “It is sort of a lasting economic asset, and if you are conservatively minded and you like conservation, you sort of can do well by doing good,” he said. “I own a lot of land. In fact, Ted and I and our neighbors in New Mexico...”

Sale of the Century

Odds are you already know New Mexico’s Bell Ranch. At 453 square miles, it’s kind of hard to overlook. But to focus on size alone is to overlook a much richer story. The Bell has been featured in countless Westerns and dramatically depicted on millions of Stetson barrettes. If you’re old enough to remember when tobacco companies could advertise, the ranch’s mansions and pastures were the timeless backdrop in many a Marlboro print campaign. Few venues epitomize the American West like the gorgeous grasslands, stunning mesas, and rugged rimrock canyons surrounding the distinctive bell-shaped mountain a short ride north of the Canadian River.

The Bell Ranch is a place of lore and legend whose contemporary history dates back to an impossibly large land grant of some 656,000 acres by the Mexican government to Pablo Montoya in 1824. Only the hills know how long the Comanche, the Kiowa, and the Apache made camp along the banks of La Cinta Creek before the Spanish army officer petitioned Mexico City for his lands.

Almost two centuries have passed since Don Pablo took title to more than 1,000 square miles of what eventually became the New Mexico Territory. Its ideal setting—the ranch ranges in elevation from 4,200 to 5,600 feet above sea level—is more reminiscent of the African Serengeti than the Great Plains or the Llano Estacado. Top-notch cattlemen such as the pioneering trailblazer Charlie Goodnight have long marveled at the ranch’s plentiful waters, its protein-rich grasses, and the temperate climate. The lure of this remote cattle kingdom is so strong that the Bell has enticed five formidable men to commit themselves to shepherding the ranch since 1933: Albert Mitchell, George Ellis, Don Hofman, Rusty Tinnin, and Bert Ansell, the general manager, who had 41 years of experience on the Bell. Half a dozen bands with an average of 15 years service on the Bell worked with Ansell.

In 2006, the Lane family began its quest to find another steward for the Bell. Several leading brokers marketed the property, including Mason and Morse Ranch Company and Orvis Cushman & Wakefield. But the Great Recession took its toll. The original asking price of $110 million was lowered to $89 million and then to $83 million in 2010 (not including livestock).

After more than a century in operation, the Bell was carved into six tracts and parceled off after the end of the Second World War. But for William Lane II, its legacy would have ended with this dissolution. In 1970, the chairman and chief executive of General Binding Corporation purchased the 130,000-acre headquarters tract near the center of the Montoya Grant, and over the next six years he dedicated himself to rebuilding the great ranch. Ultimately, he acquired a total of 290,100 acres, an astounding 44 percent of the original grant. Lane and his family also put in place improvements that dramatically enhanced beef production. Seven large operating units are cordoned off by 342 miles of fence and connected by 530 miles of interior roads. Ninety miles of pipeline water 206 stock tanks and 117 wells and windmills. The end result is a world-class working cattle ranch that can support 5,000 animal units.

The one constant throughout this process was Patrick Bates of Bates Sanders Swan Land Company, who was brought on to consult for the Lane family in 2006. By 2010 he was the broker of record. In March, Ron Morris of Ranch Marketing Associates contacted him. Like Bates, Morris is a veteran ranch broker with an impressive CV. His client was none other than John Malone, Liberty Media’s CEO and one of the most respected stewards of the land in Rockies. A new chapter in the history of the Bell was about to begin. 

—Eric O’Keefe
The Reed family operates the privately held Simpson Investment Company, the holding company for Simpson Lumber Company, Simpson Tacoma Kraft Company, and Simpson Door Company. Wondering why the name on the company is Simpson instead of Reed? Sol Simpson started the company in 1890. Mark Reed worked his way up through the company’s ranks and married one of Sol’s daughters around the turn of the century. Et voilà. Today the company is one of the oldest, continuously operating forest products companies in the Pacific Northwest.

In 2004, more than 20 cowboys mounted on Singleton horses accepted the honor of New Mexico’s Best Remuda at the New Mexico State Fair Rodeo.

In 2000, King Ranch’s holdings include stagecoach and horse facilities. One of the company’s most notable features is the world-famous King Ranch Saddle Shop, a retail store, catalog, and Internet website specializing in high-end leather goods.

Pingree Heirs

For almost a decade since the heirs of 19th-century shipping magnate David Pingree placed more than three quarters of a million acres of Maine forestland under conservation easement—"not the kind just seen on cattle but the kind visible on Ford trucks.”

Today, King Ranch is committed to a wide-ranging number of endeavors, including the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management at Texas A&M Kingsville and the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, as well as programs for environmental stewardship and brush management. And don’t overlook the cattle that wear the Running W brand. The ranch that produced the Santa Gertrudis, aka first breed of cattle in the U.S., also developed a new composite breed of cattle, the Santa Cruz.

Ike’s farm holdings include citrus groves in Texas and Florida.

For more than 150 years, King Ranch has proven its leadership in cattle, but resting on their laurels is not a common attribute of Captain Richard King’s descendants. In the last century, King Ranch produced the first registered American Quarter Horse and a Triple Crown winner. More recently, it has leveraged its storied heritage into a nationally recognized brand—"the kind visible on Ford trucks.”

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Other operations include its majority-owned interest in the largest citrus producer in the U.S., Consolidated Citrus Limited Partnership, a 60,000-acre farming operation in South Texas; sugarcane and vegetables in Florida; one of the country’s largest pecan shelling operations; the largest turfgrass operation in the State of Texas; a John Deere dealership; and the world-famous King Ranch Saddle Shop, a retail store, catalog, and Internet website specializing in high-end leather goods.

Kroenke just became majority owner of NFL’s St. Louis Rams, which required him to turn over control to his son of the NBA’s Denver Nuggets and the NHL’s Colorado Avalanche. He still controls Major League Soccer’s Colorado Rapids, the National Lacrosse League’s Colorado Mammoth, and is the largest shareholder in the English Premier League’s Arsenal. None of this impacts Kroenke Ranches. Cedar Creek and PV Ranch are Montana cow-calf operations, and Q Creek Land & Livestock Company runs up to 12,000 yearlings on 550,000+ acres in Wyoming. It’s also an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Lodge.

In 2004, more than 20 cowboys mounted on Singleton horses accepted the honor of New Mexico’s Best Remuda at the New Mexico State Fair Rodeo.

Singleton Ranches support local youth livestock programs, established a rodeo scholarship at New Mexico State University, and hold several public horse clinics each year.

Since last year, the family has not added any deeded land to its holdings, but instead nearly doubled its leased property, from 95,000 acres to 180,000 acres in New Mexico. For the second year in a row, the Singleton Ranch rodeo team won the New Mexico Championship Ranch Rodeo. The family enjoys sharing its expertise and ranching heritage. Singleton Ranches support local youth livestock programs, established a rodeo scholarship at New Mexico State University, and hold several public horse clinics each year.

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Traditional ways combine with forward-thinking practices on the Llano Estacado Ranch.

11 Ford Family 625,000 acres

The Ford family’s Roseberg Forest Products has holdings in Oregon and California, where it has established itself as an industry leader with healthy forestry practices. In Oregon, the company voluntarily set aside over 5,000 acres near its state park for a research endeavor known as the Hinkele Creek Pondero Watershed study, which annually examines the effect of current forestry practices on fish populations. This year it was named a recipient of the Assiduous Excellence in Riparian Management and it earned a 2009 Environmental Award for its Hinkele Creek participation. Current President and CEO Alden Ford, son of founder Kemper, oversees the company’s efforts.

12 Lykes Bros. Heirs 615,000 acres DIVERSIFIED

Now a century-old family-owned company began as a cattle ranching operation and has since diversified to maximize its impressive land holdings. Today’s cattle operation, located just west of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, is one of the largest beef cattle ranches in the United States. The South Florida forestry division features 11,000 acres of cypress, making it the largest producer of cypress in Florida. The ranch’s 1,500 acres of citrus groves provide Lykes Bros. with a significant agricultural operation, which includes funding cancer research and the purchase of a new snow-covered mountain for this year’s Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida. Lykes Bros. has also made a major financial commitment to its state, as it purchased the city of West Palm Beach’s Water Hole Project in 2005, to Restore the region’s ecosystem. The family owns one of the most rugged ranges in the Llano Estacado, the O 2 in Far West Texas.

13 Huber Family 600,000 acres RANCHING, FORESTRY

The company founded by J.M. Huber has energy and timber holdings, as oil and gas divisions operate properties throughout the West and Southeast, and its timber unit has holdings in Maine, Oklahoma, and the Southeast. Today, the fourth generation of the family manages one of the largest family-owned companies in the United States. It has been acclaimed for its environmental commitments; even its own strict carbon-tears against such measures, including the Huber Environmental Performance Index. Fifteen years ago, the company partnered with The Nature Conservancy to create Adopt-A-Preserve.

14 Briscoe Family 560,000 acres RANCHING

Former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr., who passed away on June 27 [age 64], made a seamless transition from his political career to focus fully on his family and the land. Dolph Briscoe Sr. began the family’s landowning legacy with a few cattle acres across the state. Dolph Briscoe Jr. became a well-respected statesman who was a major influence in the state’s history. His heirs have capitalized on their holdings personally; he has no forest management plan. Why should he? He’s been trading timber since he was 15. The Georgia native bought his first 100 acres for $1 an acre in the early 1990s. He began growing sawlogs from his own company, but that local loggers thought he was crazy to “waste” good farmland that way. Within a few years, the price had quadrupled and the family sold out to a log buyers, diversifying the ranch’s holdings.

15 W.T. Waggoner Estate 526,000 acres RANCHING, FORESTRY, ENERGY & RANCHING

W.T. Waggoner Estate is still the largest ranch in Texas under one fence. The iconic empire traces its roots back to the 1870s, when Dan Waggoner began buying parcels as they were cleared for settlement. W.T. expanded his father’s ranching interests and established what is known today as the W.T. Waggoner Estate. The ranch’s cattle operation runs 14,000 mother cows. Horses are bred for working the cattle, and its known bloodline of the famous Poco Bueno, who was branded in a standing postimeter in a ton granite marker across from the ranch entrance. About 27,000 acres of wheat, oats, and milo are also grown.

16 Holland Ware 500,000 acres TIMBER

Each year another century landowner is uncovered who should have appeared on our list in previous years. This year that honor belongs to Holland Ware, who is credited as the largest private individual landowner east of the Mississippi River. His 434,681 acres are primarily timberland. They stretch from Virginia to East Texas. A hands-on owner, Ware has since stopped regarding him as the “central figure” in his development efforts. Today the family-owned company runs a livestock division that operates 37 farms and 15 ranches with capacity for 30,000 head of cattle.

17 D.O.M. Conner Heirs 500,000 acres AGRIBUSINESS, ENERGY & RANCHING

This year, that honor belongs to the current generation of the Conner family. The ranch’s Smart Whiskey Doc was named a recipient of the 2010 AQHA Versatility Ranch World Champion.

18 Robert Earl Holding 400,000 acres RANCHING

Holding’s ranches in Wyoming and Montana are just the tip of the snow-covered mountain for this billionaire. He also owns Snowbasin Resort in Utah and Sun Valley Ski Resort in Idaho, where Hollywood royalty have eschewed since it opened in 1967. In addition, he owns six other luxury hotels and resorts across the country, including the Grand American Hotel (the only Five Diamond hotel in Salt Lake City). Lastly, he owns Simplot Oil Corporation, the iconic American energy company with an instantly recognizable green-and-white dinosaur logo.

19 Lyna Family 350,000 acres RANCHING

The family’s La Escalada Ranch sprawls across five Texas counties, making it one of the largest cattle ranches in the Lone Star State. Although the ranch is best known for its Black Angus herd, the Lydas are also establishing it as an operation with environmental and community support. The farm and ranch’s 1,000 acres of irrigated farm land. To

20 Simplot Family 345,000 acres AGRIBUSINESS

J.R. “Jack” Simplot turned a half-interest in a potato sorter into the Texas Panhandle. The fourth-generation heir of Barnum, Anne W. Marion runs the 345,000-acre 6666 Ranch today, along with 100,000 acres at Dixon Creek. The 6666 is acclaimed for its immense cow-calf operation and its Quarter Horse remuda (the ranch played a major role in the development of the American Quarter Horse Association). Most recently, the ranch Smart Whiskey Doc was named a recipient of the 2010 AQHA Versatility Ranch World Champion.

21 Fasken Family 300,000 acres RANCHING, TIMBER

The ranch is best known for its American Railw ay Explorer dinosaur logo. The ranch’s Holding announced plans for cross-country luxury train tours.

22 W .T. Waggoner Estate 350,000 acres RANCHING

The ranch’s cattle operation runs 14,000 mother cows. Horses are bred for working the cattle, and its known bloodline of the famous Poco Bueno, who was branded in a standing postimeter in a ton granite marker across from the ranch entrance. About 27,000 acres of wheat, oats, and milo are also grown.

23 Poco Bueno memorial at the Waggoner Ranch.

contracted with Universal Pictures to film a scene in which firefighters extinguish an oil blaze for John Wayne’s movie Hellfighters. Anschutz’s holdings include the 258,000-acre Baughman Farms in Kansas, the 149,491-acre Overland Trail Company & Ranch in Wyoming, and 35,000 acres in Colorado. Anschutz Corporation has investments in energy exploration and production, real estate, ranching and agriculture, telecommunications, newspapers, and Internet publishing. Anschutz Entertainment Group is the world’s largest owner and operator of sports and entertainment venues. Most recently, his American Railway Explorer underway in 2007. He founded it in 1915, and used the proceeds to expand his father’s ranching empire. His heirs have capitalized on their holdings, which were once purchased and converted renewable grasses to fuel.

Robert Earl Holding 400,000 acres

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Fasken Family 300,000 acres

The Texas town of Fasken never really took off as David Fasken had hoped it might. He founded it in 1916 next to the Midland and Northern Railway tracks, but he hoped it could transport his cattle. However, when oil was struck on Faskens’ Ranch Ranch, the railroad tracks were closed to goods trains, and the town was never established. Fasken Oil & Ranch Ltd. is headquartered in Midland, and its holdings spread across Far West Texas and South Texas.

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\n\n\n\nMore than 150 years ago, T.D. Collins began his timber operations in Pennsylvania and New Mexico. Today, the Collins Companies has been committed to sustainability (decades before going green was cool). Today, the fourth generation descendants are actively involved with the company. Terry Collins is the forester for the family’s Almane Ranch and president of The Collins Companies, and Truman Collins is president of the Collins Foundation.

27 Jeff Flowers 200,000 acres SPACE EXPLORE The Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos bought 200,000 acres of land in West Texas. He skied from boyhood summers on his grand father’s ranch and now plans to purchase large tracts of land in the area over seven years ago. Ranchers were a bit surprised to have their new neighbor. Flowers explained why: “He was building a spacecraft for his private sub-orbital space exploration venture, Blue Origin. Last year, the company was awarded $3.7 million in funding from NASA for development of future human spaceflight operations. Tests flights have launched successfully at Bezos’ West Virginia ranch, and there are plans to launch unmanned flights next year, with manned flights in 2012.

28 Collis Family 210,000 acres DIVERSIFIED The family’s Collis Enterprises encompasses a diverse agricultural division whose foundation reaches back to 1923, when patriarch Barron Girff Collins purchased a 200-acre grove of grapefruit on the edge of historic Big Cypress Swamp. Today, holdings include orange groves, cattle ranches, and vegetable farms throughout south west Florida. The Collis family have long been advocates of environmental stewardship, water conservation, and ecosystem management programs. Affiliates of the company family are currently involved in researching and producing salt- and drought-resistant turf grass.

29 Rabbit Ranch 270,000 acres RANCHING Brothers David and Billy Rabbit arrived in Arizona from Cincinnati in 1869 and purchased 1,200 head of cattle, the start of a ranching tradition that continues to this day. Fourth-generation descendant Bilby Collins oversees operations, which include the CO Bar, The Epona, and Rabbit Ranches, and that encompasses the Cocomino Plateau Natural Reserve Lands. In addition to an impressive cow-calf operation (it is among the few remaining large-scale ranches in the state to run straight Hereford), they own the historic 18,000-acre Pinyon Canyon, which is sold every July in the Hashknife Turf Grass.

30 James Heirs 250,000 acres RANCHING The family’s South Texas ranching heritage began in 1897 when William Whiteley Jones purchased 6,000 acres that were once part of a Spanish grant. Over four generations later, A.C. Jones IV owns and manages Jones Ranch LLC, whose holdings include the Alto Vista Ranch, Alto Colorado Ranch, and Borregos Ranch. Jones serves as the president of the board of directors of the Casare Altobello Wildlife Research Foundation and is a director for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, among other foundation and association activities.

31 True Family 250,000 acres RANCHING H.A. True Jr. started the family fortune with an oil-drilling company in Wyoming. In the 50 years since then, the True Companies have expanded to include multiple firms, most of which are in the petroleum industry. True Ranches began in 1975 when H. True and his son, Jean, purchased a small ranch in Four Corners near Laramie Peak. Today, the family’s ranching division includes seven Smith is chair of the board of directors. “We have worked diligently on a private level to help people understand their rights, and to support our neighbors,” he says. He has permission to harvest timber on lands that are in good condition, and that are underlain with impermeable soils that allow water to be protected, restoration, right of way, and easement structuring, which have become benchmarks for many oil and gas companies. “If we don’t stand and protect our property rights, the encroachment of government will impact our ability to protect, benefit from, and enjoy our land.”

33 Mike Smith 249,000 acres FARMLAND In the Texas Panhandle, the views can stretch for miles on end in every direction, and chances are pretty good that much of the land is tucked away at Muleshoe Smith by the once-weekly Texas Tejas, a full-service and options trading firm, has gradually expanded to include timberland. The family has been building a private residential community that is open to cattle and recreational pursuits.

34 D.K. Boyd 243,437 acres ENERGY “We run a fully stocked cattle operation,” notes D.K. Boyd of his Frying Pan Ranch, which consists of 6,000 acres north of Las Vegas, Nevada and his New Mexico and LE his Le Ranche in New Mexico, “but we don’t just raise ranch.” In addition to dealing in other types of real estate around the country, the Mitchell-based rancher has dedicated himself to aiding other landowners. “We have worked diligently on a private level to help people understand their rights, and to support our neighbors,” he says. He has permission to harvest timber on lands that are in good condition, and that are underlain with impermeable soils that allow water to be protected, restoration, right of way, and easement structuring, which have become benchmarks for many oil and gas companies. “If we don’t stand and protect our property rights, the encroachment of government will impact our ability to protect, benefit from, and enjoy our land.”

35 Scott Family 220,000 acres RANCHING & FARMING Homer and Mildred settled established Padlock Ranch on 3,000 acres in 1943. Today, the family’s ranch sprawls across 500,000 acres (230,000 deeded) in Wyoming and Montana. The Padlock is a working cattle ranch with working ranching vacations, men are allowed to act as ranch hands, gathering and moving cattle. “We go that on their abilities,” Padlock Ranch Controller Steve Sowards says very simply. The ranch also offers wing shooting, and its farmland produces hay, corn, and barley.

36 Koch Family 230,000 acres RANCHING “Ranching has officially been part of the Koch organization for nearly 70 years,” says Randy Laist, president of the Koch family company that operates 400,400 acres (238,000 deeded) in Kansas, Montana, and Texas. “Unquestionably, our ranching roots reach back to 1891, when newspaper publisher Harry Koch settled in Quanah, Texas.” Hay edible wrote about cattle drives and ruthless and lamented the end of the open range. The family’s South Texas ranching division includes 2010 Lone Star Land steward by True and his wife, Jean, purchased 1,200 head of cattle, the start of a ranching tradition that continues to this day. Fourth-generation descendant Bilby Collins oversees operations, which include the CO Bar, The Epona, and Rabbit Ranches, and that encompasses the Cocomino Plateau Natural Reserve Lands. In addition to an impressive cow-calf operation (it is among the few remaining large-scale ranches in the state to run straight Hereford), they own the historic 18,000-acre Pinyon Canyon, which is sold every July in the Hashknife Turf Grass.

37 Rosamond Hayne & Ivan Kellfier 217,070 acres RANCHING Sisters Hayne and Kellfier are grandchildren of Alfred S. Gage, who built a legendary ranch in Far West Texas that once totaled 500,000 acres. Today they own the largest portion of the A.S. Gage Ranch and are partners in San Antonio-based Paipano Cattle Co.

38 Cassidy Heirs 212,985 acres TIMBER The family has a history of ranching in Texas, Kansas, and Texas. “Unquestionably, our ranching roots reach back to 1891, when newspaper publisher Harry Koch settled in Quanah, Texas.” Hay wrote about cattle drives and ruthless and lamented the end of the open range. The family’s South Texas ranching division includes 2010 Lone Star Land steward by True and his wife, Jean, purchased 1,200 head of cattle, the start of a ranching tradition that continues to this day. Fourth-generation descendant Bilby Collins oversees operations, which include the CO Bar, The Epona, and Rabbit Ranches, and that encompasses the Cocomino Plateau Natural Reserve Lands. In addition to an impressive cow-calf operation (it is among the few remaining large-scale ranches in the state to run straight Hereford), they own the historic 18,000-acre Pinyon Canyon, which is sold every July in the Hashknife Turf Grass.

39 Irwin Heirs 210,000 acres RANCHING John Irwin III now manages the family’s historic C.R. Ranch outside Prescott, Arizona, a sprawling, rocky spreadsheet that was originally part of a Spanish land grant. The family’s cattle operation has expanded to another 60,000 acres, often that was originally part of a Spanish land grant. The family is also reported to own a ranching family patriarch O.W. Killam was an Oklahoma state senator who sought his fortune in South Texas. He found it, and then some, when he became the first wildcatter to strike oil southwest of San Antonio. He purchased the Orilla Ranch, which is now known as the Killam Laredo Ranch. The family has increased its holdings by adding the Cedar County Ranch. Both ranches boast world-class whitetail hunting.

40 Louis Moore Bacon 200,000 acres CONSERVATION A successful hedge fund manager, this dedicated conservationist increased his land portfolio earlier this year when he acquired the historic Hoodoo Ranch located between Foolenshield National Park and Cody, Wyoming.

42 Killiam Family 200,000 acres RANCHING & FARMING Killiam patriarch O.W. Killam was an Oklahoma state senator who sought his fortune in South Texas. He found it, and then some, when he became the first wildcatter to strike oil southwest of San Antonio. He purchased the Orilla Ranch, which is now known as the Killam Laredo Ranch. The family has increased its holdings by adding the Cedar County Ranch. Both ranches boast world-class whitetail hunting.

43 Eugene Gubrych 200,000 acres FARMING & RANCHING Gubrych is an astute self-made millionaire who uses his substantial collection of farms and ranch land and a steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship, water conservation, and ecosystem management programs. Affiliates of the company family are currently involved in researching and producing salt- and drought-resistant turf grass.

44 Bogle Family 190,000 acres RANCHING & FARMING & FARMING & FARMING Bogle Ltd. was formed by Hal Bogle’s brothers after he passed away in 1973. In the decades since, the family has operated this impressive collection of farms and ranches in New Mexico. Crops raised on 5,000 acres in the Pecos Valley include alfalfa, hay, corn, and wheat, which is used to pasture yearlings. The ranching division runs its cattle on the B. Turke Ranch, and 4,800-brood cow operation. The Boggles also continue Hal’s tradition of breeding fine Quarter Horses, with two broodmare lines of up to 25 mares each.

45 Hunt Family 190,000 acres RANCHING The same family of Hunt Oil fame owns several sizable properties in New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and Texas through its Hoodoo Land & Cattle Company. The Hunt family’s long-term strategy is to hold those large tracts of open space for future real estate development or mineral exploration. In the meantime, its five farms and ranches host cattle and horses and produce vegetables, citrus, grapes, and sugar.
The farming division; Scott helps manage the cattle operation.

What’s not to love about the family’s Pitchfork Land & Cattle Company’s home ranch outside Café City, Texas? It’s a working cattle ranch that runs primarily Black and Baldy. Its legendary remuda boasts the ranch’s signature Pitchfork Greys. It’s open for hunting whitetail deer, wild turkey, and varmints. And thanks to its location in the Trans-Pecos, it’s a haven for visitors at a recent Limousin Production Sale included singer Mickey Gilley, Cincinnati Bengals safety Roy Williams, and former Miss America Jennifer Berry.

Broadbent Family 170,000 acres RANCHING

San Angelo’s Sugg family operates cattle ranches in West Texas, and one of their fields in Irion County is dotted with oil and gas wells. In one of the most interesting methods of green ranching we’ve come across, Suzanne Sugg uses naturally shed deer horns from the family’s 7D Ranch as accents on her handmade totes.

Bob Funk 163,763 acres RANCHING

Funk’s holdings total 177,106 acres. 13,000 are leased land. His Express Ranches HQ is headquartered in Yakima, Washington, where the water tower proclaims it hometown of Garth Brooks. But Funk’s heralded Angelita and Limousine have made the ranch famous in its own right. The Express is one of the largest seedstock operations in the US, and its focus at a recent Limousin Production Sale included singer Mickey Gilley, Cincinnati Bengals safety Roy Williams, and former Miss America Jennifer Berry.

Cogley Family 160,000 acres RANCHING

D.M. Cogley founded Tule Ranch 50 years ago, and today his four children run its cattle and Quarter Horse operations. “Daddy always said land was a good investment because the Good Lord probably wouldn’t make any more of it,” says daughter Penny Cogley Carpenter. “We have every intention of taking care of the land that takes care of us so we can pass it on.”

Clayton and Modesta Williams cherish their time spent with family and friends on their ranches.
Emmy Gavey Boswell
150,000 acres
RANCHING & TIMBER
Emmy Gavey Boswell took the reigns of the family's privately held

William Henry Green Heirs
150,000 acres
RANCHING
The first herd that William Henry Green bought in the 1870s were branded with a J, so he adopted it as his own symbol. Today, the cattle on this 100,000-acre range now carry the J brand. The Green family's sons are among the largest cotton producers in the country.

Tom Seibel
135,000 acres
AGRIBUSINESS
If Seibel's name sounds familiar, that's because he founded Siebel Systems (which he sold five years ago to Oracle). He now chairs First Virtual Group, which operates Siebel Systems and other e-commerce businesses.

Isaac Ellwood Heirs
130,000 acres
RANCHING
The Rodenstock Spade Ranch was one of the first to be fenced in Texas, which is only fitting since its founder, Isaac Ellwood, invented barbed wire. Today, in addition to the Rodenstock, there are five more operations in different regions of the Lone Star State. Isaac's six great-grandchildren are on the board of directors for Spade Ranches, as the six ranches are known collectively.

JA Ranch Heirs
130,000 acres
RANCHING
At one time, the JA Ranch in the Texas Panhandle spanned a million acres on both sides of Palo Duro Canyon. Today, the oldest ranch in the Panhandle is run by Camilla "Nina" Wadsworth Ritchie, the fourth generation descendant of John Adair, who started the ranch in 1876 with Charles Goodnight. In addition to traditional cattle ranching, the JA runs produces ranch horses. There are also a hunting program for deer, aoudad, feral hog, quail, turkey, and dove.

Booth Family
125,000 acres
RANCHING
Brothers Gary and Mark Booth run their family's Boothland and Livestock Ranch, a calf-cow operation near Laramie, Wyoming. Working with Ranch Manager Nick Speiser, they have improved their range not only for their own livestock but also for the wild game that call it home, such as elk, pronghorn, and mule deer. The group has implemented water improvements and modified fences to facilitate wildlife movement. The ranch has been lauded by the state's Game and Fish Department for providing public access by enrolling over 4,500 acres in four hunter management areas.

Crosby Family
125,000 acres
TIMBER
Crosby Land and Resources was brought to our attention this year. We were remiss in overlooking the largest family-owned, non-industrial private timbered company in Louisiana. "We do not own or operate any converting facilities," says H. Crosby III, modestly. "We just one big tree farm with a focus on maintaining a healthy and sustainable forest for the benefit of current and future generations of family owners." The privately held company has been operating for over a century in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Drummond Family
115,649 acres
TIMBER
Things were a bit different when Frederick Drummond settled the family's ranch in the 1880s. His wife didn't write an award-winning blog similar to the one penned by Zoe Drummond (check it out at www.thepioneerwoman.com), which has inspired a movie with Reese Witherspoon cast as Ree. No word on who might play her husband, Ladd, or her brother-in-law Tim, who run the ranch.

Brite Ranch Heirs
125,000 acres
RANCHING
James (Jim) White III runs the Brite Ranch in the Capote Mountains of West Texas. The Bar Cosa live-bred Herefords may be the oldest in the U.S., and the family continues the tradition of ranch founder Luke Brite's practice of line breeding. The only thing that's changed since the ranch was founded in 1805 is the limited hunting the family allows through Capote Mountain Outfitters, run by James White IV, a fifth-generation member of the family.

Les DAVIS Heirs
110,000 acres
RANCHING
The Daves are one of the most ecologically diverse properties in the West, with more than 6,000 contiguous acres on both sides of the Pecos River.

In Texas, where everything seems larger than life, the Bass is one of the state’s biggest. Patriarch Sid Williams Richardson’s four great-grandchildren (Ll, B, Rich, and Lee) are all on the Forbes 400, and the family’s holdings encompass almost the entire state. All eyes will be on one particular property this coming January: ESPN chose the Bass-developed Sundance Square in Fort Worth as its production headquarters for Super Bowl XLV at Cowboys Stadium.

Bass Family
83,000 acres
DIVERSIFIED
Super Bowl X LV at Cowboys Stadium as its production headquarters for Sundance Square in Fort Worth.

The LandReport...
David Murdock 117,490 acres FARMING
Murdock’s privately held Castle & Cooke owns 98 percent of Hawaii’s island of Lana. His Dole Food Company owns another 26,000 acres on Oahu. Only about 2,700 acres of his Oahu land are used to form plantations, however, with a significant portion leased out for use as pasture or in forest reserves. Nineteen 3,000 acres of farmland and orchards in California round out his holdings.

Mournson Family 185,000 acres FARMING
“Tis all working ranchland,” says Will Stribling Mournson, son of the late A.W. Mournson, a nationally recognized lawyer and statesman. The family’s holdings include property in Oklahoma, Texas, South Dakota, and Nebraska. The Mournsons run Black Angus cross-bred to Charolais.

Scharbauer Family 160,000 acres MINING
The Scharbauers made a fortune cross-bred to Charolais. South Dakota, and Nebraska. It’s all working ranchland,” says Clarence Scharbauer Jr.’s Valor

Stan Harper 41,420 acres RANCHING
In addition to his land and cattle operations, Harper, who hails from New Mexico, has a Texas-based auto industry consultancy business. His registered Angus ranch is in Vegas, Texas, while his registered Hereford program is based out of Wagon Mound, New Mexico. Harper also raises bison and Quarter Horses. Over the years he has purchased smaller tracts that join his property and now owns 100,000 acres in New Mexico alone, including the Mass Ranch near the historic ghost town of Maes.

Lipe Family 103,000 acres FARMING/FORESTING
In 2010, Chesapeake Energy’s chairman and CEO decided to sell his 271 Ranch in the heart of whitetail country outside Antlers, Oklahoma. Located 490 miles from Chesapeake’s Oklahoma City headquarters in Choctaw County, the income-producing cattle ranch was the property he visited least frequently.

Eshelman-Vogt Family 96,000 acres RANCHING
Rising from humble beginnings, Montana-based industrial and entrepreneur Washington is today one of the Forbes 400. He built a successful heavy construction business that diversified into mining, transportation, heavy equipment, environmental remediation, aviation, and real estate development. He and his wife, Phyllis, are also major philanthropists.

Yates Family 100,000 acres ENERGY & RANCHING
Patrick and Martin Yates Jr. discovered the first commercial oil well in New Mexico, and his sons continued his wildcatting legacy. Yates Petroleum Corporation, with headquarters in Artesia, is one of the largest producers of oil and natural gas in the state. The Yates family’s holdings range across New Mexico, including the Ojo Fella Ranch.

Powell Heirs 100,000 acres RANCHING
The Fort Union Ranch has been in the Butler family for over 100 years. This New Mexico spread surrounds the Fort Union National Monument, which stands on land donated by the family in 1954. Built to protect the Santa Fe Trail, it was the largest fort in the Southwest and played a part in much history, including the Confederate defeat at Glorieta Pass.

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