



## RFF Works:

- to support and develop innovative agriculture, forest, and land conservation initiatives;
- to strengthen and sustain rural communities, economies and green businesses;
- to promote renewable fuels and biomass energy.

**We initiate and promote private-sector conservation initiatives.**

**We develop solutions for conservation.**

**We support innovative, private sector led international projects in southern Africa, the North Atlantic, and the West Indies**

# RFF Leadership



Amos S. Eno

## President and Founder

Amos S. Eno, president and founder of Resources First Foundation, has been changing the environmental policy and philosophical landscape for over 40 years. He has challenged government, the corporate world and environmental leaders to think differently about environmental policy, conservation vs preservation, development and land use.



Alexandra Serra

## Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, Strategic Planning, Partnerships

Serra comes to RFF with over 15 years' experience in the Public Affairs arena, including media, politics, grassroots development, legislative initiatives and fundraising. She recently spent over six years at Walmart as Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for Northern New England. A native of New York City, Serra is a graduate of the University Maine School of Law and Smith College.



Willard Dyche

## Project Developer

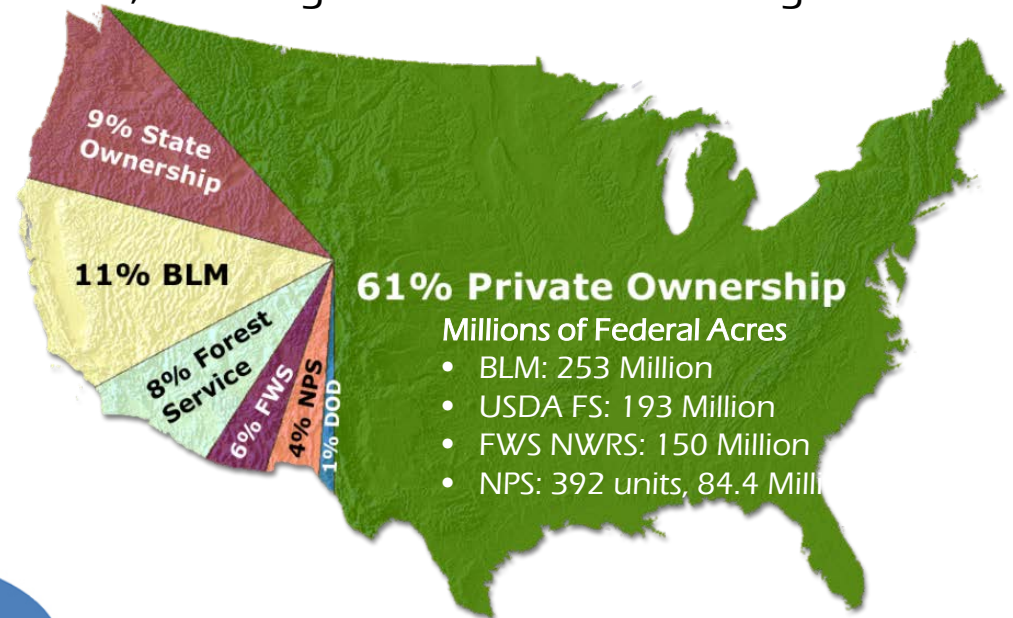
Willard has been the lead developer for the complete portfolio of RFF web sites. Working with RFF founder Amos Eno since 2001, Dyche is able to distill RFF's multifaceted objectives into a seemingly simple website landscape, highly conscious of user needs and mobility.



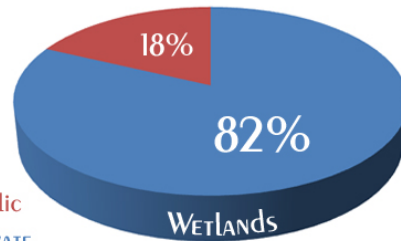
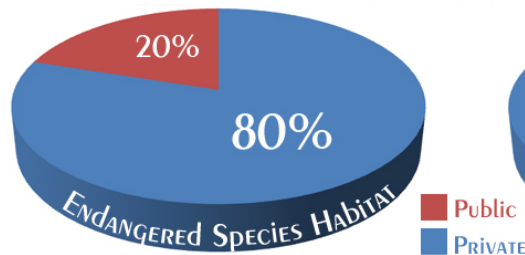
# Private Landowners Are the Future

**71% of U.S. land is in private ownership today**

- Over 10.4 million individuals, partnerships and corporations manage over 264 million acres of private forestland.
- Over 938 million acres are cropland, pastureland, and rangeland owned and managed by over 2.1 million farmers and ranchers.
- The care of 50% of our land is in the hands of **less than 2% of our citizens**, primarily ranchers, farmers, and forest owners.
- Individual landowners steward 76% of our wetlands and over 80% of our endangered species habitats.



Public land accounts for 29% of the land base in the lower 48 consuming a disproportionate amount of the conservation tax dollars (90%)



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# RFF Product Line

## Web-Based Resources for Conservation Action



### National Sites



#### Private Landowner Network

[www.PrivateLandownerNetwork.org](http://www.PrivateLandownerNetwork.org)



#### Conservation Tax Center

[www.ConservationTaxCenter.org](http://www.ConservationTaxCenter.org)



#### Cooperative Conservation America

[www.cooperativeconservationamerica.org](http://www.cooperativeconservationamerica.org)



### Specialty Sites



#### Conservation Habitat Management Portal

[www.conservationhabitat.org/](http://www.conservationhabitat.org/)



#### Keep Working Lands Working

[www.PrivateLandownerNetwork.org/plnblog](http://www.PrivateLandownerNetwork.org/plnblog)



#### US Dairy

Dairy Fleetsmart & Save Energy Tool  
<http://www.usdairy.com/sustainability>



#### USDA Energy Estimator Tools

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/energy/tools/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/energy/tools/)



### State Sites



#### Arkansas Conservation Center

[www.StateConservation.org/Arkansas](http://www.StateConservation.org/Arkansas)



#### California Conservation Center

[www.StateConservation.org/Arkansas](http://www.StateConservation.org/Arkansas)



#### Idaho Conservation Connection

[www.StateConservation.org/Idaho](http://www.StateConservation.org/Idaho)



#### Louisiana Conservation Connection

[www.StateConservation.org/Louisiana](http://www.StateConservation.org/Louisiana)



#### Maine Conservation Connection

[www.StateConservation.org/Maine](http://www.StateConservation.org/Maine)



#### Mississippi Conservation Center

[www.StateConservation.org/Mississippi](http://www.StateConservation.org/Mississippi)

### Coming Soon



#### Colorado Conservation Connection

[www.StateConservation.org/Colorado](http://www.StateConservation.org/Colorado)



#### Lone Star Conservation Connection

[www.StateConservation.org/Texas](http://www.StateConservation.org/Texas)



#### Virginia Conservation Connection

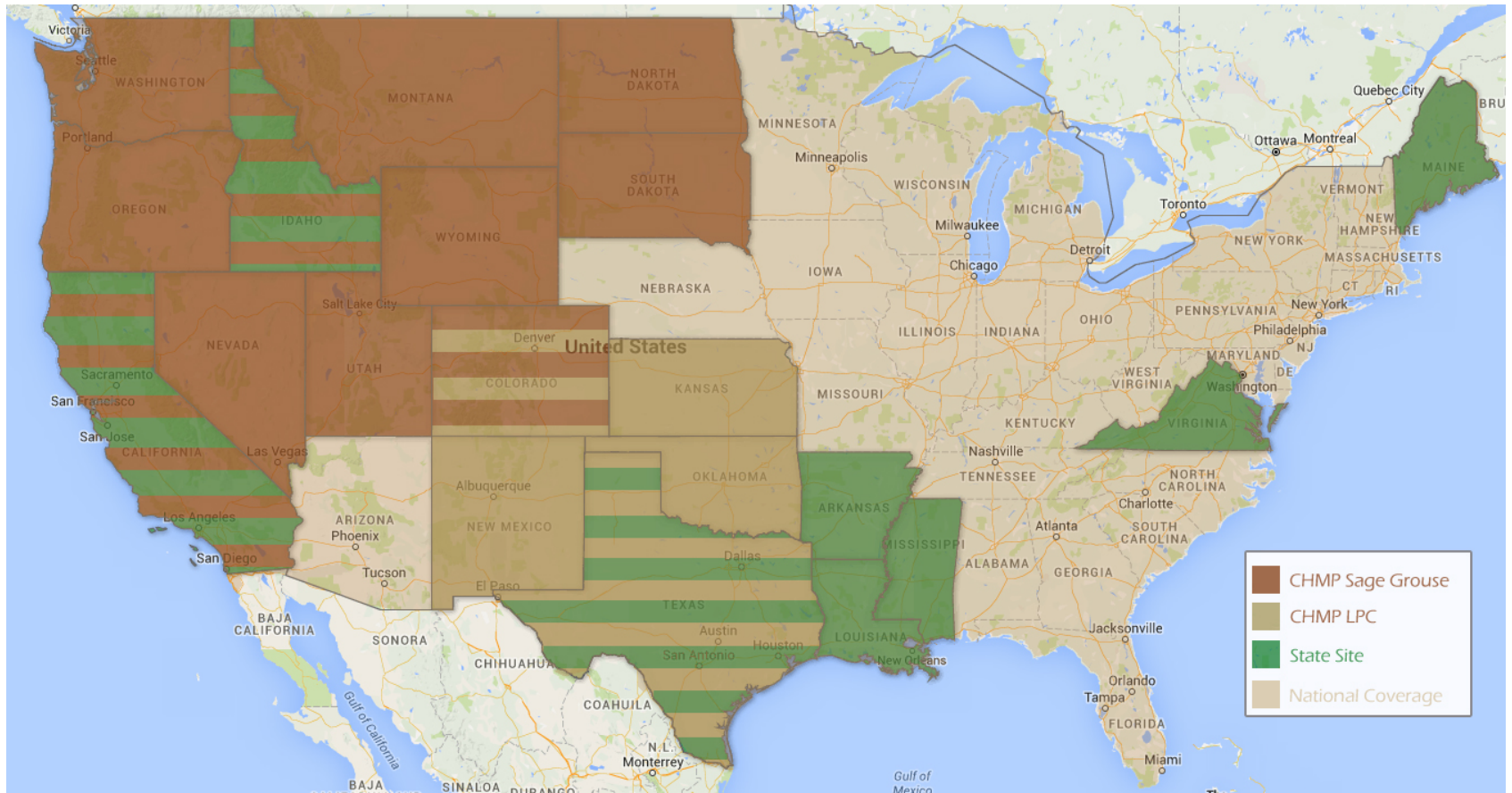
[www.StateConservation.org/Virginia](http://www.StateConservation.org/Virginia)



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION



# Web-based tools and resources



Resources First Foundation is an entrepreneurial 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2000. Since its beginning, RFF has built web-based tools and resources designed specifically for the multi-faceted needs of private landowners, land & energy conservation professionals and business to advance their goals and objectives.



# So What?

For decades, conservation programs, organizations, and landowners have been heavily dependent on public financing and technical assistance, both federal and state.

At present both sources of public funding are in significant contraction.

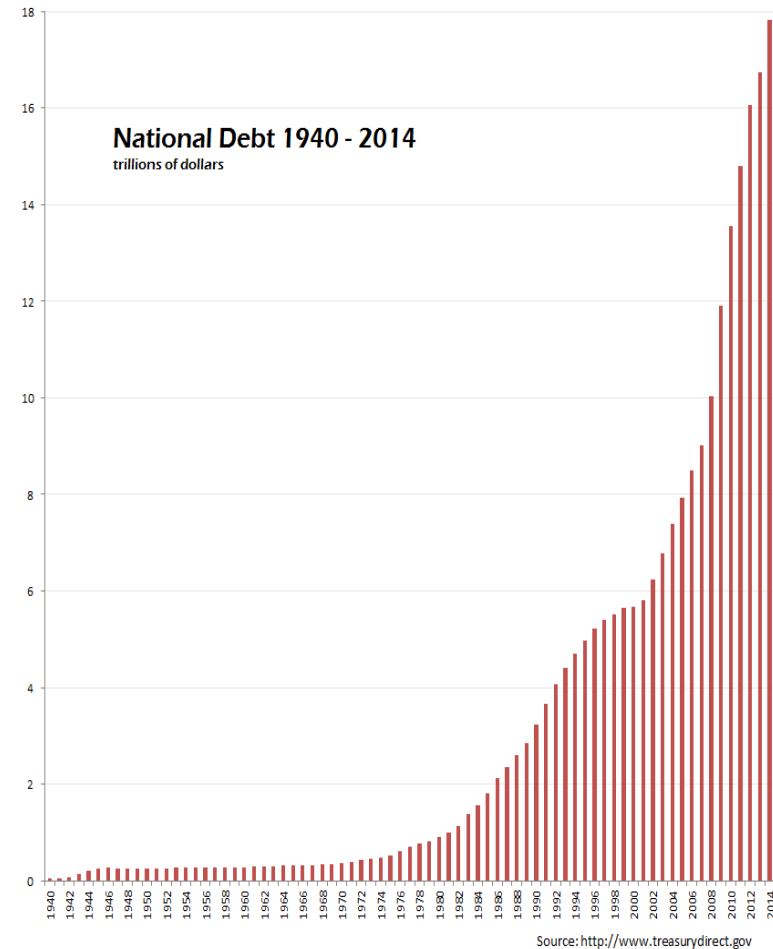
Given that doing more with less is now required of every agency and organization in America.

RFF is uniquely positioned to augment and enhance the information services historically provided by public agencies and now subject to budget cuts affecting private landowners.

"The customer-oriented company begins with the market and lets it guide every decision, every investment, every change". (Jan Carlzon stated in Moments of Truth 1987)

That is how RFF's products were conceived from day one, anticipating this climate of fiscal contraction.

RFF sees the current nationwide budget contractions as an opportunity to bring to market an updated, web savvy, and comprehensive suite of service providers to fill the gap in government services that could hit a small slice of the voting public, but a huge slice of rural America, 13.2 million private land owners.



# RFF Market Penetration

## Why RFF Sites Work

“A decentralized capitalist resource allocation system is the only system capable of satisfying the five philosophical ideals of **equity, efficiency, stability, freedom, and privacy.**” (1997, Leonid Hurwicz, Nobelist)

- **Equity** in the conservation marketplace - RFF's information is neutral and science based, it contains no environmental advocacy, so landowners have access to unbiased equitable information.
- **Efficient** delivery - RFF's web products are designed for clarity and ease of navigation, provide a variety of search options, and a rich database of relevant information.
- **Stable** information platform - RFF's content and data are current, with daily updates and maintenance of information, and we host a vast library of pertinent articles for landowners and professionals alike.
- **Freedom** of access - RFF's web products, content and tools are free and open to all comers, buyers and sellers, and they drive business to the businesses and service providers serving rural America.
- **Privacy** - RFF maintains a bubble of trust and privacy so users can access information in the privacy of their home or business.



# RFF Market Metrics

“When it comes to implementing a green revolution, the more boring the work, the more revolutionary the impact. If it isn’t boring it isn’t green” (*Hot, Flat and Crowded*, Thomas Friedman p. 268)

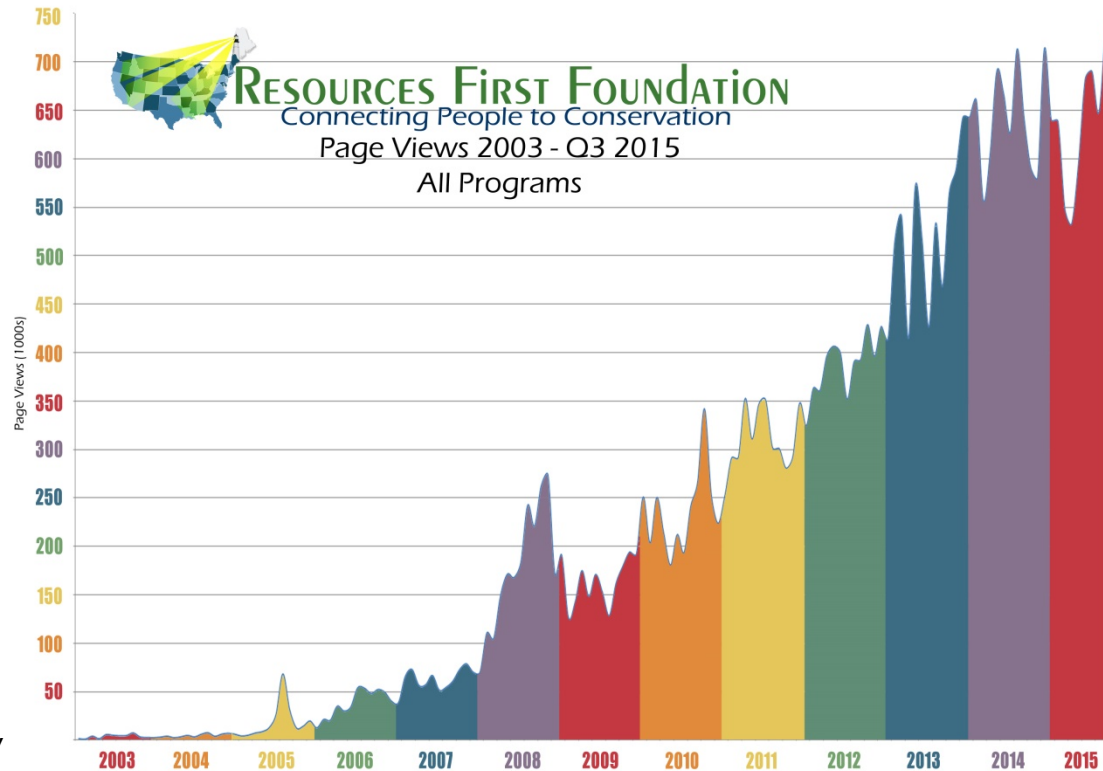
RFF work is “revolutionary” in that:

- it consists of research, data acquisition, and search engine optimization to continually add new listings, update existing listings, and promote the database that is the heart of its stewardship marketplace.
- it does not include environmental hype, proselytizing, or crisis prediction - just easy-to-access information at one’s finger tips in an online stewardship marketplace.

Friedman also quotes Clayton Christensen’s maxim of disruptive technologies: “new technologies replace existing ones because they are cheaper and more consumer-friendly”

(Friedman p. 249).

RFF’s system of research, content development, and quality control embodied in web portals and online tools is far cheaper to operate than the multiple huge and costly websites run by federal and state bureaucracies and self-promoting environmental advocacy groups.



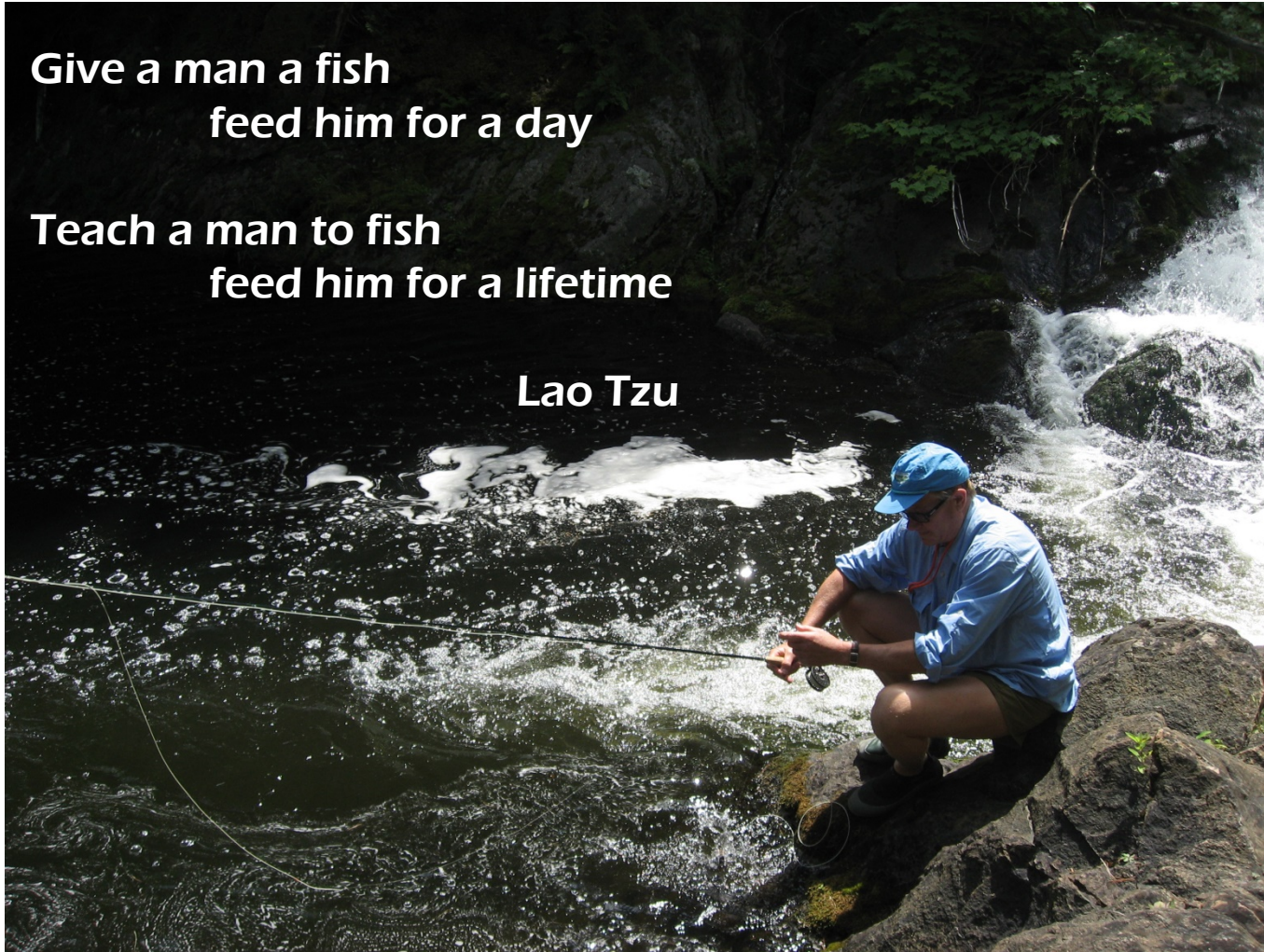


# RFF Philosophy

**Give a man a fish  
feed him for a day**

**Teach a man to fish  
feed him for a lifetime**

**Lao Tzu**



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION



# RFF Financial Investors



William Curran



NFWF

Louise H. and  
David S. Ingalls  
Foundation



Ohrstrom Foundation



U.S. Fish  
& Wildlife  
Service

Magalen  
O.  
Bryant



OAK  
FOUNDATION

Nikos Monoyios



Roy A. Hunt  
Foundation

George L.  
Ohrstrom, Jr.  
Foundation

The Tianaderrah  
Foundation

Paul Tudor Jones

Cotswold  
Foundation

Simplot



# RFF International

## Donor directed funding projects in the southern tier of Africa and beyond

Resources First Foundation acts in partnership with our international partners on successful philanthropic grant programs.



### **The Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project**

Collaborative conservation efforts between Wilderness Safaris, Wilderness Trust, Botswana's Department of Wildlife (DWNP) and the Botswana Government have



### **Children in the Wilderness**

The overall goal is to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development of rural children in Africa.



### **Simonga Village Projects**

Projects have included sponsorship of students and teachers to further their education, digging of wells for the village and construction of a police post in collaboration with neighboring lodges.



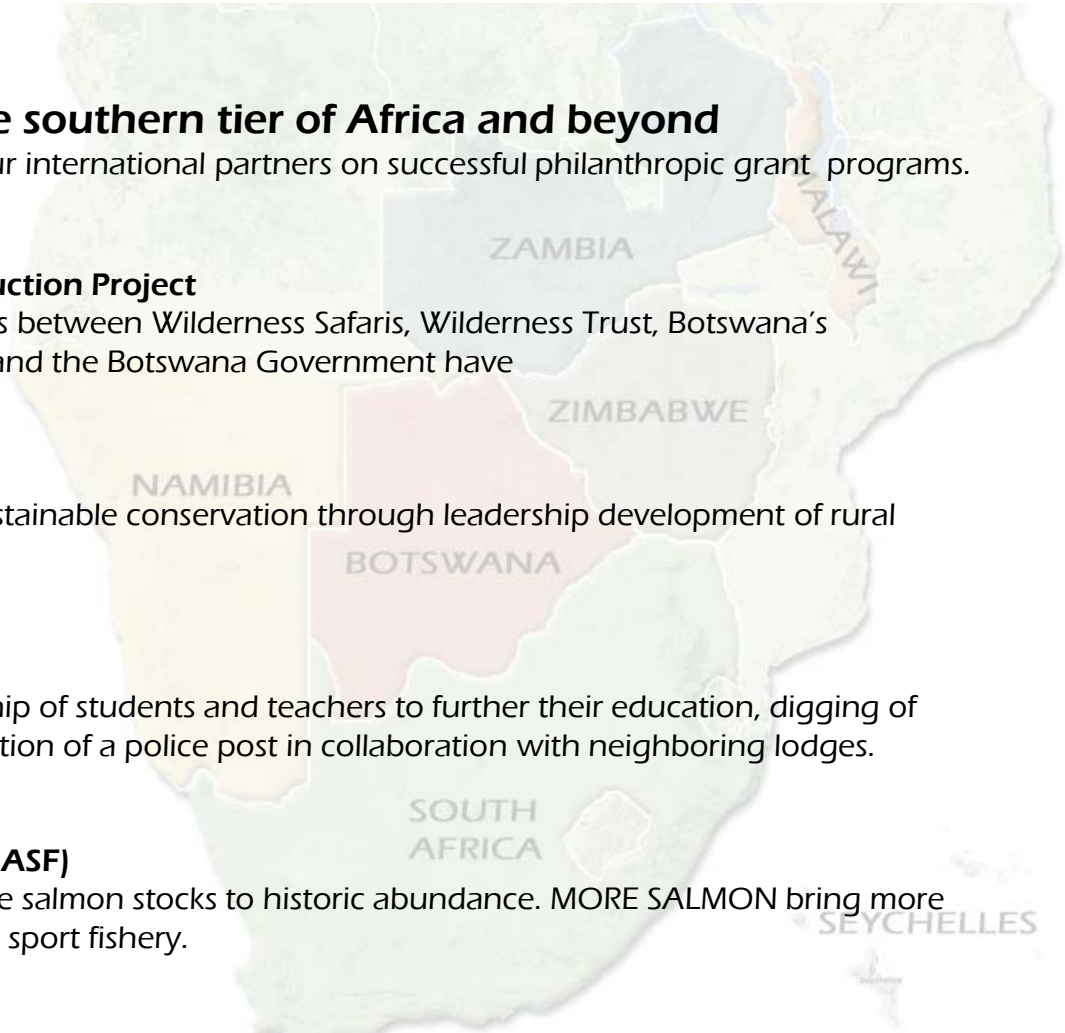
### **North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF)**

The NASF OBJECTIVE is to restore salmon stocks to historic abundance. MORE SALMON bring more diversity and ensures a profitable sport fishery.



### **Moonhole Friends Foundation**

RFF annually supports the Tom and Gladys Johnston Moonhole Conservation Trust and Moonhole Friends Foundation.



# Current Funding Priority

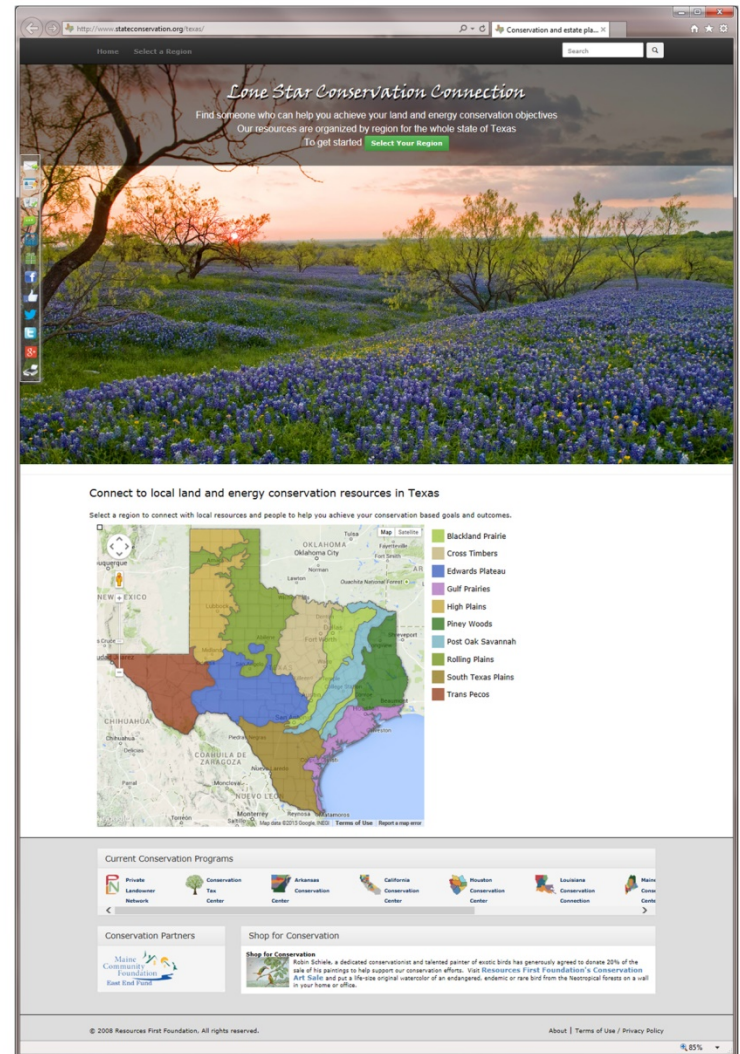
## The Lone Star Conservation Connection

Resources First Foundation seeks support to build a comprehensive website to provide Texas' farmers, ranchers, and forest owners a robust directory of actionable conservation information.

- Top RFF Funding priority
- Endorsed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director, Carter Smith
- 95 percent of Texas is privately owned
- Texas leads the nation in land area devoted to privately-owned working lands.
- Farms, ranches, and forest lands provide significant economic, environmental, and recreational benefits

“Anything we can do to streamline conservation-related information for our private landowner partners will be enormously helpful”

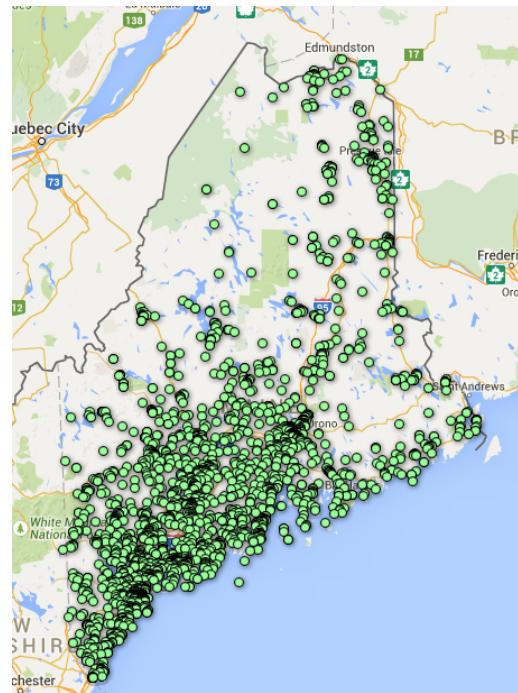
Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION



# Maine Conservation Connection

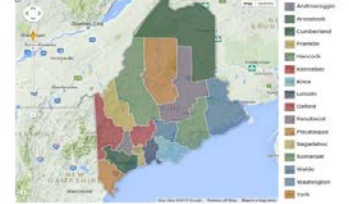


## Resources Serving Maine

Guides and Outfitters	771
Veterinarians - Small Animal	292
Foresters	211
Sustainable Ag / Community Supported Agriculture	208
CFL Disposal sites	203
Food Hubs and Farmers Markets	127
Land Trusts	99
Consultants - Land	83
Conservation Groups and Associations	76
Veterinarians - Large Animal	74
Native Species Nurseries	73
Alternative Energy	68
Certified Energy Auditors	66
Lawyers	61
Energy Saving / Green Products	58
Ecotourism	50
Education Programs	50
All Others	985

Connect to local land and energy conservation resources in Maine

Select a County to connect with local resources and people to help you achieve your conservation-based goals and outcomes.



### Alternative Energy and Green Building Resources

Alternative and clean energy options & a full range of green and energy saving products and local professionals to install them.

**Find resources on:**  
 Best Management Practices  
 Green Building  
 Renewable - Alternative Energy

### Conservation Resources

Connect with local Land Trusts, Conservation Associations, Foresters, Consultants, and other experts who can help you.

**Find resources on:**  
 Conservation Easements  
 Conservation Markets

### Farm Resources

Find small farms & farmer's markets in your county, and discover the benefits of landscaping with native species.

**Find resources on:**  
 Beginning Farmer  
 Farm Best Management Practices  
 Farm Income Opportunities  
 Farm Resources  
 Organic Certification

### Federal and State Conservation Programs

Find grant and assistance programs, Extensions, and Resource Conservation Districts to help achieve your conservation goals.

**Find resources on:**  
 Federal Programs  
 State and Local Programs

### Forest Resources

Forest restoration, regeneration, adaptive management, and natural process information and resources for Maine forests.

**Find resources on:**  
 Carbon Sequestration  
 Fire Management  
 Forest Best Management Practices  
 Forestry Resources

### Invasive and Native Species Resources

Learn about invasive species which are a leading threat to biodiversity where the economic cost is as significant as the ecological cost.

**Find resources on:**  
 Best Management Practices  
 Invasive Species  
 Native Species

### Natural Heritage Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

Find resources for hunting, hunting leases, ecotourism, agritourism, and outdoor activities in Maine.

**Find resources on:**  
 Birding and Wildlife Viewing  
 Hunting and Sport Fishing  
 Nature-Based Tourism  
 Outdoor Recreation

### Tax and Estate Planning

Find professionals to help manage your real estate asset, and read informative tax and estate planning articles.

**Find resources on:**  
 501(c)(3) Exchanges  
 Conservation Easements  
 Succession Planning

### Wildlife Resources

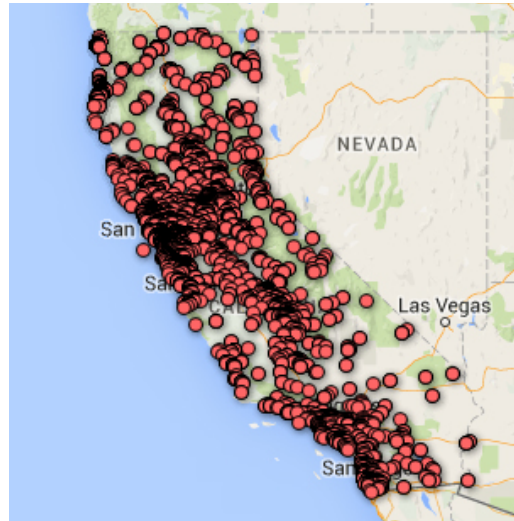
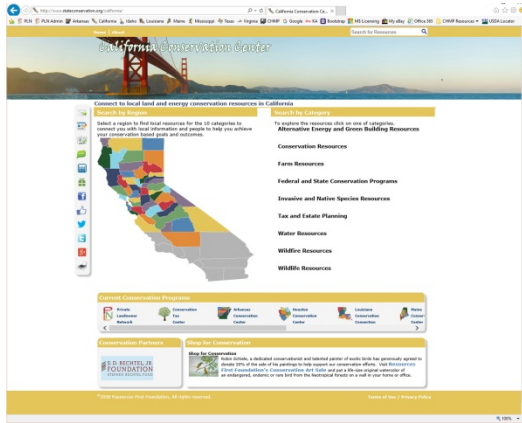
Access to the State Wildlife Action Plan, Wildlife Programs, Wildlife & Ecological Areas, and Wildlife Professionals.

**Find resources on:**  
 Wildlife and Habitat Management  
 Wildlife Best Management Practices  
 Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Launched: 2008  
 Ave. Monthly Visitors 2015: 1,340  
 Resources in Maine: 2,708  
 Resources serving Maine: 3,555  
 Articles Maine: 194



# California Conservation Center



Launched:	2009
Ave. Monthly Visitors 2015:	2,900
Resources in California:	4,111
Resources serving California:	4,984
Articles for California:	385

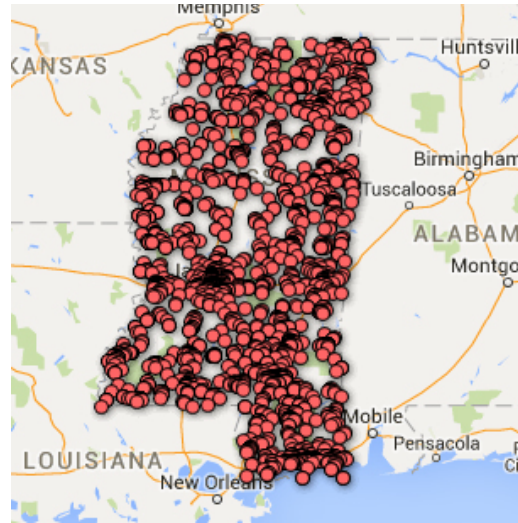
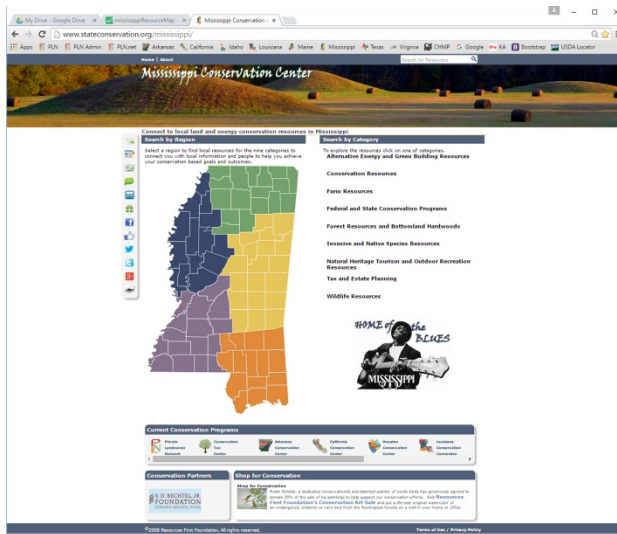
## Resources Serving California

Green Point Raters / Energy Auditors	389
Sustainable Ag / Community Supported Agriculture	290
Green Building Professionals	288
Ecotourism	252
State and Federal Land	207
Lawyers	197
Land Trusts	186
Small Farm Resources	145
Estate Planners	136
Organic Products and Services	135
Consultants - Land	129
Conservation Groups and Associations	122
Agritourism	104
Conservation Districts	101
Alternative Energy	94
Architects	94
Sage Grouse	88
Education Programs	80
Fire Safe Councils	75
Rural-Farmer, Rancher, and Fishery Cooperatives	72
Water Districts and Associations	70
All Others	1730





# Mississippi Conservation Center



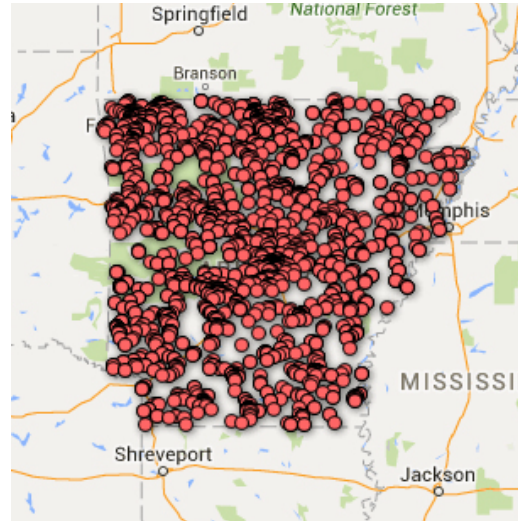
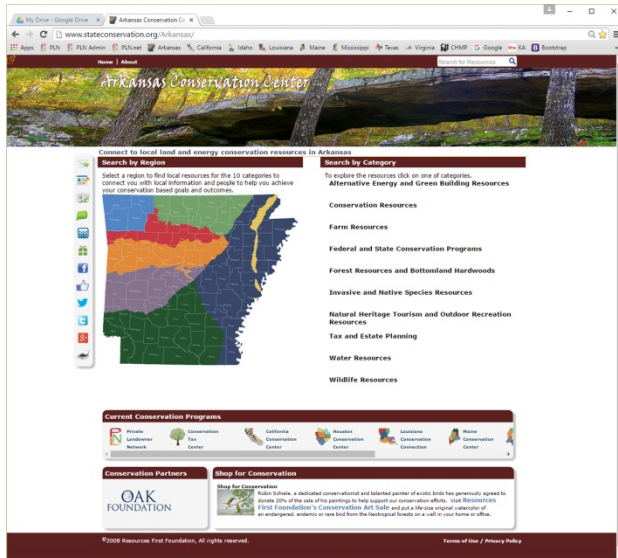
## Resources Serving Mississippi

Foresters	816
Ecotourism	298
Campgrounds	235
Guides and Outfitters	118
State and Federal Land	106
Consultants - Land	104
Agritourism	99
Sustainable Ag / Community Supported Agriculture	91
Conservation Groups and Associations	86
Cooperative Extension	85
Conservation Districts	84
Education Programs	64
Small Farm Resources	55
Financial Planners	54
Wildlife / Habitat Specialists	49
Woodlot and Timber Services	44
Farm Ranch And Forest Retailers	42
Estate Planners	40
Certified Appraisers	40
All Others	940

Launched: 2010  
 Ave. Monthly Visitors 2015: 2,760  
 Resources in Mississippi: 2,363  
 Resources serving Mississippi: 3,450  
 Articles for Mississippi: 369



# Arkansas Conservation Center



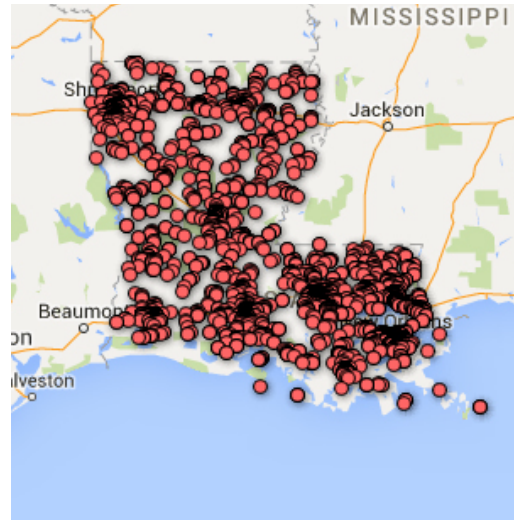
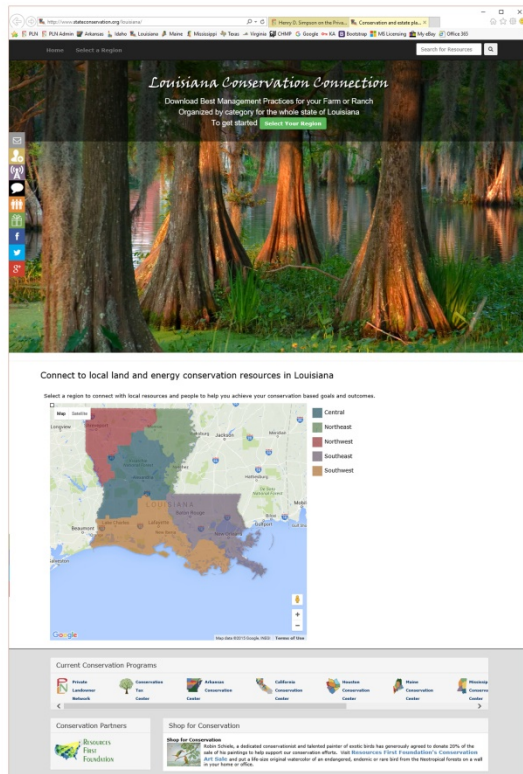
## Resources Serving Arkansas

Ecotourism	494
Campgrounds	312
Woodlot and Timber Services	244
Foresters	213
State and Federal Land	212
Agritourism	174
Guides and Outfitters	125
Conservation Groups and Associations	88
Cooperative Extension	86
Conservation Districts	77
Wildlife / Habitat Specialists	76
Lawyers	72
Consultants - Land	71
Food Hubs and Farmers Markets	61
Education Programs	59
Lodges	49
Small Farm Resources	48
Estate Planners	36
USDA - NRCS Programs	33
All Others	902

Launched: 2012  
 Ave. Monthly Visitors 2015: 3,112  
 Resources in Arkansas: 2,381  
 Resources serving Arkansas: 3,432  
 Articles for Arkansas: 357



# Louisiana Conservation Connection



## Resources Serving Louisiana

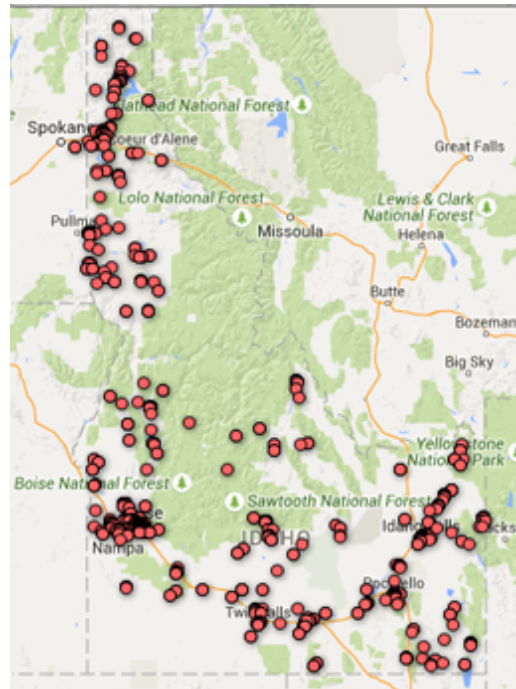
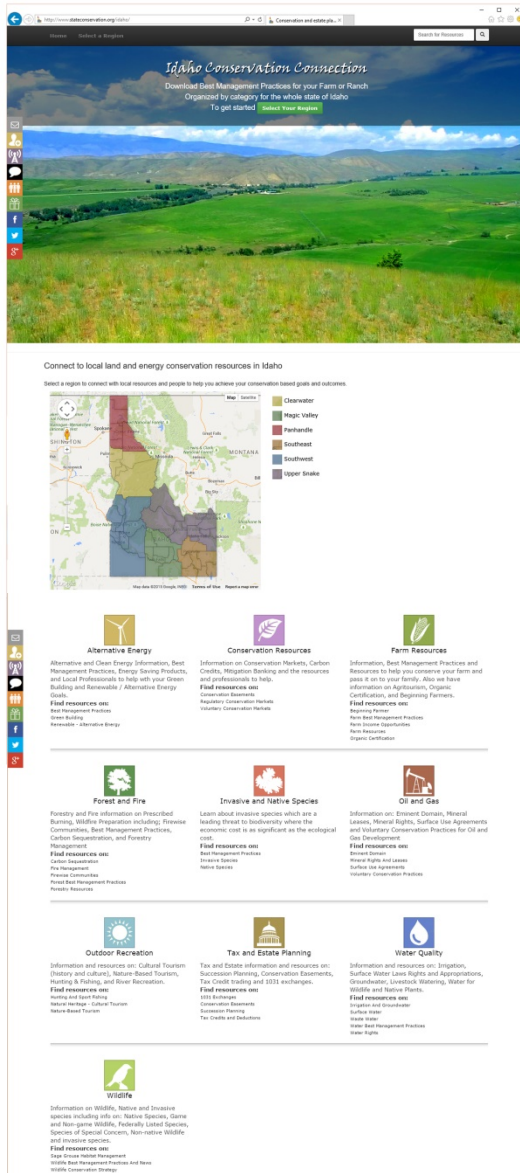
Veterinarians - Small Animal	1034
Foresters	274
Licensed Water Well Contractors	156
Green Building Professionals	148
Small Farm Resources	139
Ecotourism	131
Wildlife Control Operator	119
Consultants - Land	108
Lawyers	98
Conservation Groups and Associations	94
State and Federal Land	94
Education Programs	74
Biologists / Ecologists	66
Cooperative Extension	65
State Funding / Technical Resources	63
Estate Planning Lawyers	61
Wildlife / Habitat Specialists	59
Sustainable Ag / Community Supported Agriculture	58
CFL Disposal sites	55
Riparian and Wetlands Specialists	53
Arborists	52
Campgrounds	52
Tax Law Attorneys	51
Food Hubs and Farmers Markets	50
All Others	1370

Launched: 2014  
 Ave. Monthly Visitors 2015: 1,000  
 Resources in Louisiana: 3,551  
 Resources serving Louisiana: 4,524  
 Articles for Louisiana: 454





# Idaho Conservation Connection



Launched: 2015  
Resources in Idaho: 1,268  
Resources serving Idaho: 2,202  
Articles for Idaho: 464

## Resources Serving Idaho

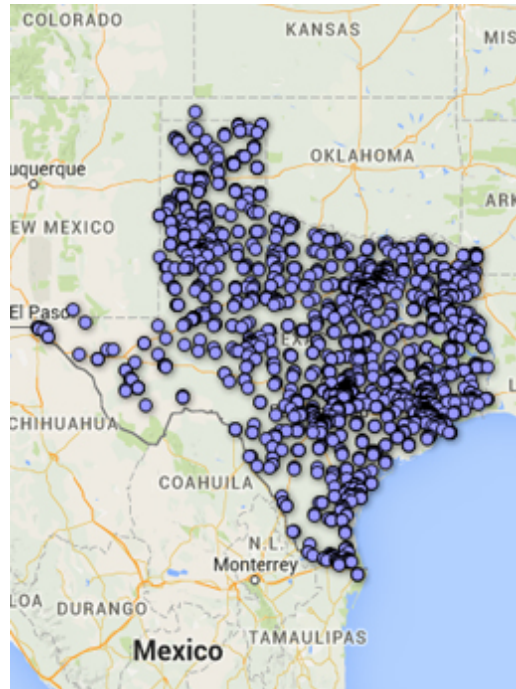
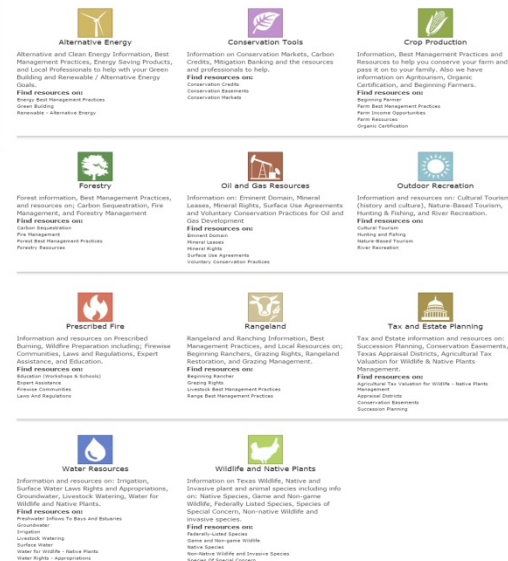
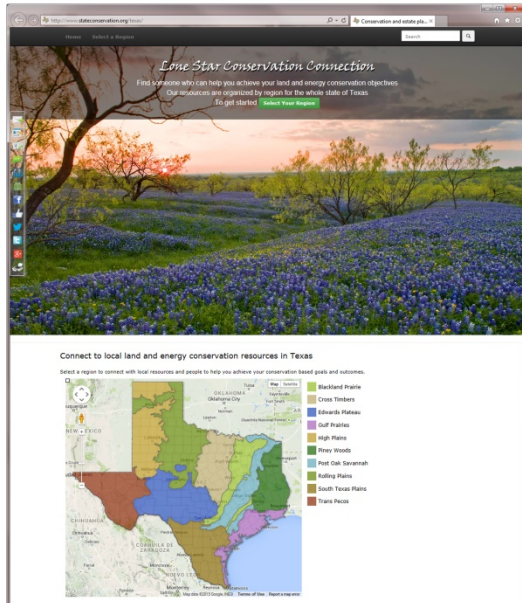
Conservation Groups and Associations	102
Education Programs	84
Foresters	76
Weed / Invasives Management Professionals	71
Consultants - Land	66
Lawyers	57
Conservation Districts	52
Cooperative Extension	49
Ecotourism	49
Financial Planners	47
Energy Saving / Green Products	46
State Funding / Technical Resources	40
Lesser Prairie Chicken	38
Grant Programs	37
Natural Resource Law Attorneys	36
All Others	1166

“WOW! I am very impressed with the site ... I think you hit the mark on this”

Curtis F. Elke, Idaho NRCS State Conservationist



# Texas Conservation Connection



## Resources Serving Texas

Cooperative Extension	264
Conservation Districts	222
Small Farm Resources	188
Consultants - Land	148
Fire Services / Prescribed Burning	147
Foresters	138
Lesser Prairie Chicken	128
Rural-Farmer, Rancher, and Fishery Cooperatives	128
Wildlife / Habitat Specialists	126
Conservation Groups and Associations	125
Education Programs	108
State Funding / Technical Resources	76
Alternative Energy	72
Water Districts and Associations	69
Biologists / Ecologists	64
Arborists	61
Estate Planners	56
Lawyers	54
All Others	1332

Launched:

TBD

Resources in Texas:

2,458

Resources serving Texas:

3,506

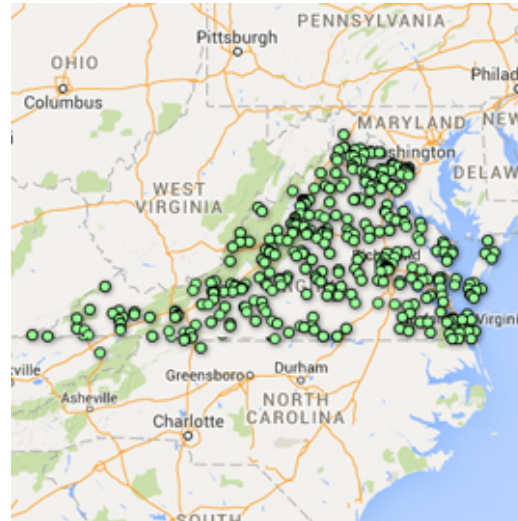
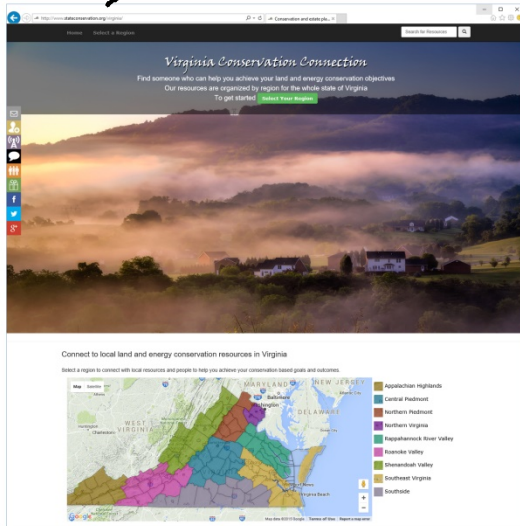
Articles for Texas:

443





# Virginia Conservation Connection



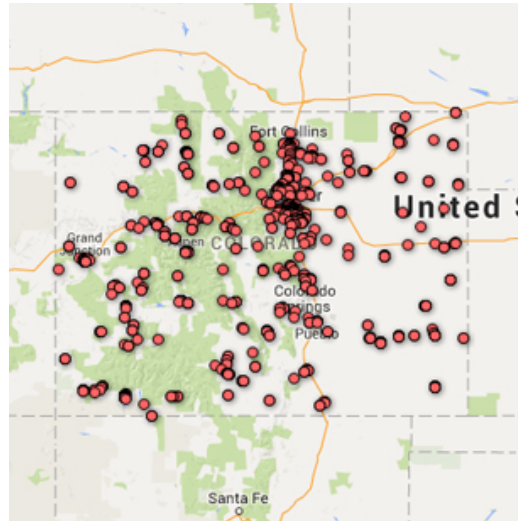
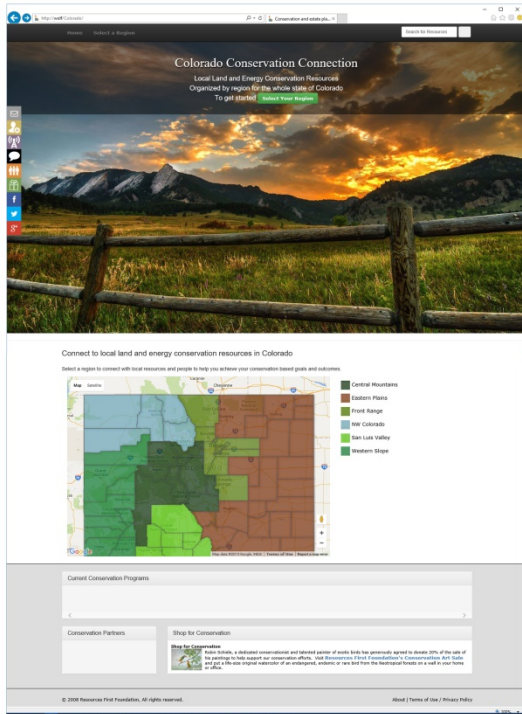
## Resources Serving Virginia

Cooperative Extension	139
Ecotourism	131
Education Programs	116
State and Federal Land	116
Conservation Groups and Associations	111
Foresters	88
Sustainable Ag / Community Supported Agriculture	78
Consultants - Land	66
Campgrounds	64
Woodlot and Timber Services	56
Agritourism	51
Conservation Districts	49
Small Farm Resources	49
Estate Planning Lawyers	43
Wildlife / Habitat Specialists	41
State Funding / Technical Resources	39
All Others	994

Launched: TBD  
 Resources in Virginia: 1,363  
 Resources serving Virginia: 2,231  
 Articles for Virginia: 279



# Colorado Conservation Connection



## Resources Serving Colorado

Lawyers	107
Consultants - Land	85
Conservation Groups and Associations	77
Conservation Districts	75
Certified Appraisers	59
Education Programs	58
Natural Resource Law Attorneys	58
Cooperative Extension	56
Water Rights Lawyers	51
Alternative Energy	50
Land Trusts	48
Ecotourism	47
Biologists / Ecologists	45
USDA - NRCS Programs	42
USDA - FSA Programs	39
All Others	989

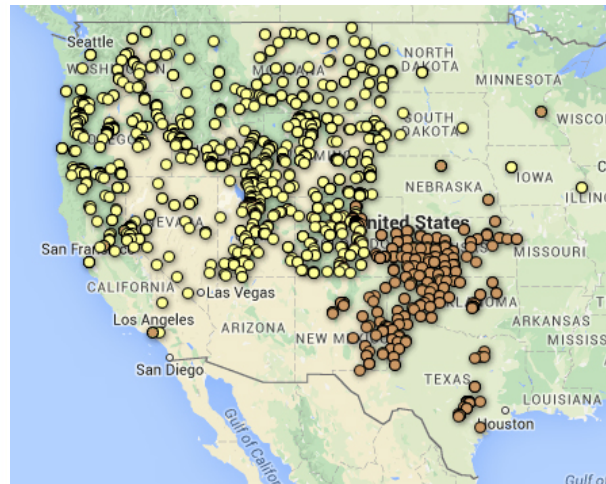
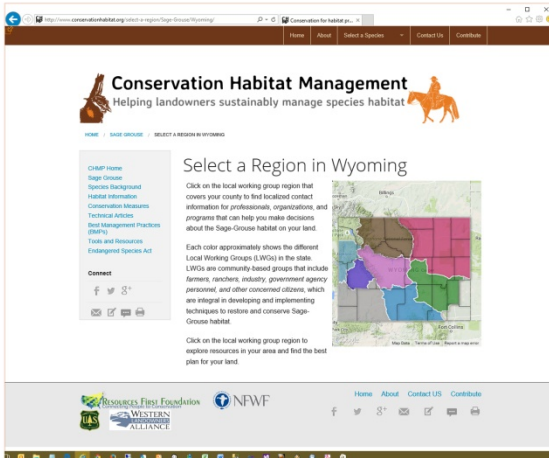
Launched: TBD  
 Resources in Colorado: 1,249  
 Resources serving Colorado: 2,161  
 Articles for Colorado: 269

“you guys have an amazing vision that we would definitely like to be a part of!”

Linsey Thaden, Colorado State Forest Service Nursery



# Conservation Habitat Management



- Sage Grouse Resources
- Lesser Prairie Chicken Resources

## CHMP Resources

Conservation Districts	379
Cooperative Extension	304
Federal And State Agency	
Landowner Specialists	114
Biologists / Ecologists	75
Foresters	67
Local Working Groups	55
Land Trusts	52
Water Districts and Associations	51
Natural Resource Law Attorneys	51
Fire Services / Prescribed Burning	47
Lawyers	43
Resource Conservation and Development Councils	42
Weed / Invasives Management Professionals	38
Government Agencies	35
Wildlife / Habitat Specialists	33
USDA - NRCS Programs	33
All Others	573

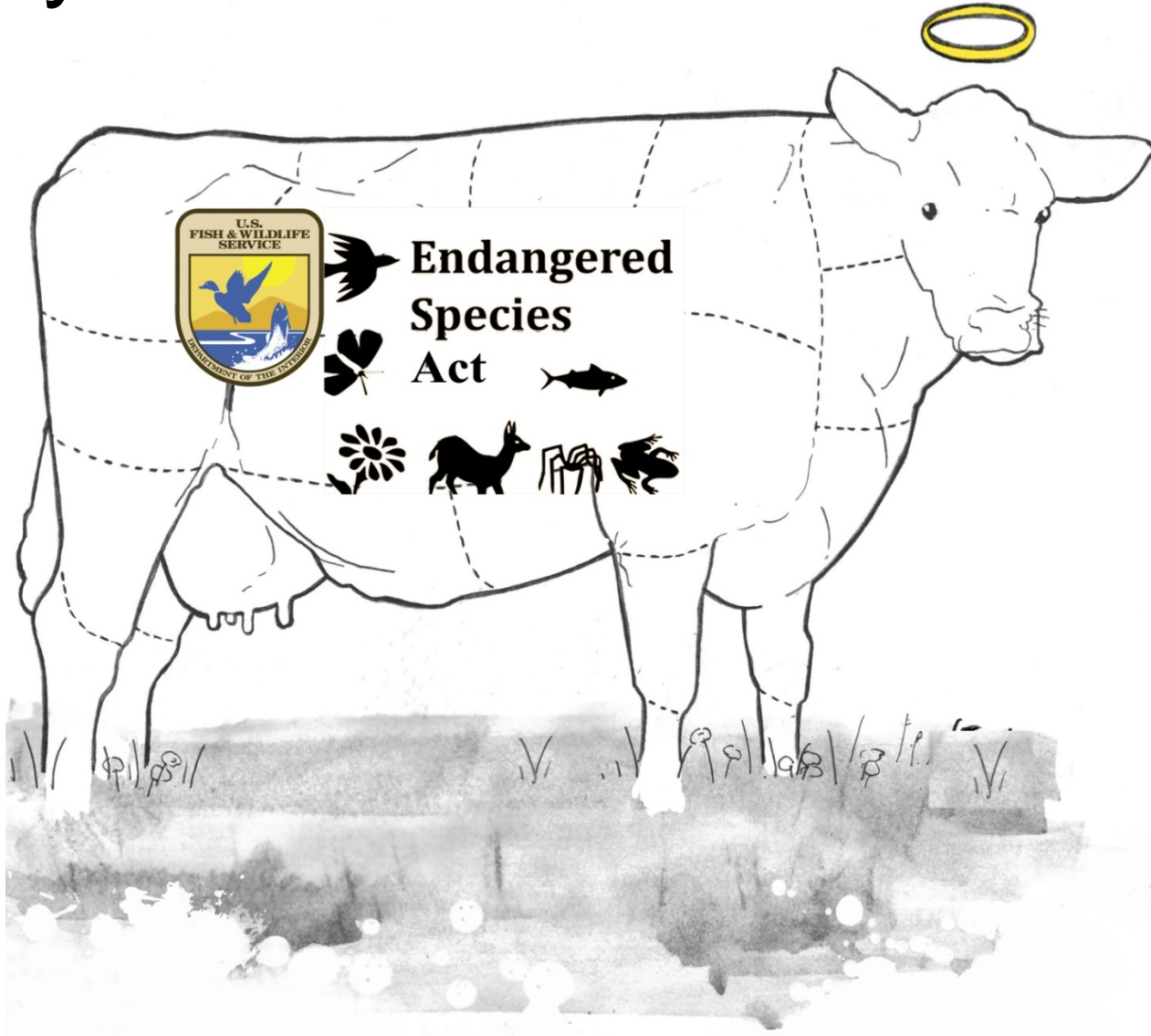
Launched:  
Ave. Monthly Visitors:  
Lesser Prairie Chicken  
Sage Grouse  
Articles for CHMP:

2014  
925  
452  
1,540  
496





# My Second Environmental Sacred Cow



# The WAFWA Recovery Effort Has Raised \$47.5 Million for LPC



Case 7:14-cv-00050-RAJ Document 93 Filed 09/01/15 Page 1 of 29

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION

PERMIAN BASIN PETROLEUM §  
ASSOCIATION, CHAVES COUNTY, §  
NEW MEXICO, ROOSEVELT §  
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, EDDY §  
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, and LEA §  
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, §  
Plaintiffs, §  
v. §  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, §  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, §  
SALLY JEWEL, and DANIEL M. ASHE, §  
Defendants. §

MO-14-CV-50

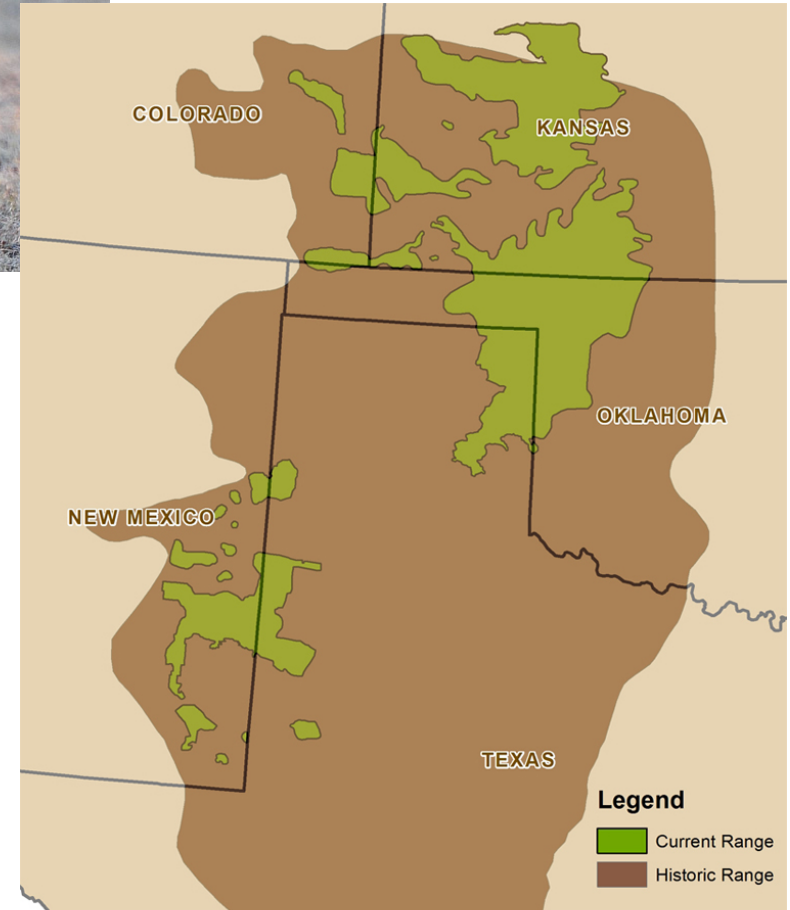
FILED  
SEP - 1 2015  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

## ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT & ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

On April 10, 2014, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a final rule in which FWS listed the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) as a threatened species. LPC Final Rule, 79 Fed. Reg. 19,974 (Apr. 10, 2014). Plaintiffs filed suit on June 9, 2014, challenging this listing decision. (Doc. 1). Plaintiffs argue FWS did not follow its own rules or provide a rational basis for the listing decision. (Doc. 1 at 48-51). Plaintiffs ask the Court to hold its listing decision as unlawful and set it aside. (*Id.*). Plaintiffs and Defendants each filed competing Motions for Summary Judgment on May 7, 2015. (Doc. 66, 67). Both parties filed Responses (Doc. 74, 75) and Replies (Doc. 82, 83).

Plaintiffs' three overarching claims before the Court are:

- (1) Whether FWS followed their own rule for evaluating conservation efforts (Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE)), which requires a two-part (15 criteria) analysis.
- (2) Whether FWS cited/explained a rational decision to list the LPC as a threatened species based on the best scientific evidence available.
- (3) Whether FWS responded to significant and highly relevant comments raised by Plaintiffs.



Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat (USDA)



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# Sage grouse does not need protection



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### Interior secretary hopes sage grouse won't need federal protection

By Timothy Carra - 03/10/13 10:31 AM EDT



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said she hopes her staff will decide that the greater sage grouse does not need protection as an endangered species.

Jewell said Tuesday that she is keeping an "arm's-length" distance from the listing decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which is under her purview and being held to a Sept. 30 court deadline to decide whether to protect the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act.

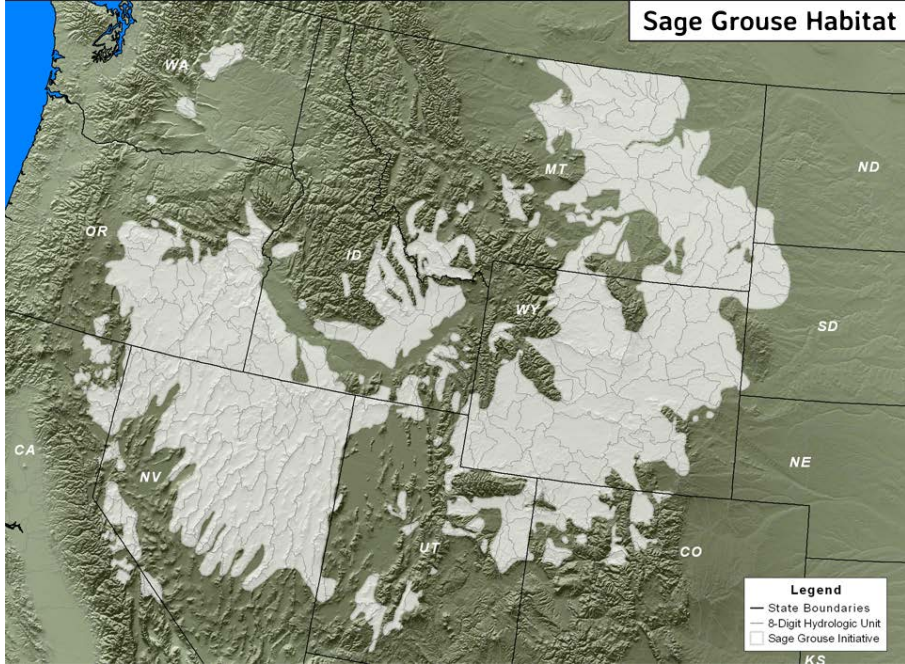
"I remain optimistic that the not-warranted listing is possible," Jewell said at a breakfast event hosted by The Christian Science Monitor.

The chicken-sized bird's potential addition to the endangered species list has quickly become one of the most controversial decisions within Jewell's diverse department and a lightning rod for debates over the purpose of the Endangered Species Act.



1,129 ranches across 11 Western states are conserving 4.4 million acres of land. Habitat fragmentation has been reduced by establishing more than 451,000 acres of conservation easements.

Privately-owned grazing lands underpin 40% of sage grouse range and constitute some of the most productive habitats available.



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said she hopes her staff will decide that the greater sage grouse does not need protection as an endangered species. "I remain optimistic that the not-warranted listing is possible," Jewell said.

"The efforts on the part of states, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, private landowners, nonprofit organizations, developers, energy companies, grazers, ranchers [and] cattlemen has been incredible,"

NRCS is committing \$211 million to this partnership through 2018



# Sage grouse avoids endangered listing



Sally Jewell

@SecretaryJewell

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Proud to announce [#SageGrouse](#) doesn't need protection of Endangered Species Act. Here's why it's a [#WildlifeWin](#) -SJ



Sally Jewell



## Greater sage grouse does not require endangered species act protection

Thanks to the largest land conservation effort in US history, the greater sage grouse does not need protection under the Endangered Species Act. Here's why it's a huge [#WildlifeWin](#)

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced the finding that a listing is “not warranted” Tuesday morning in a [video](#).

“Because of an unprecedented effort by dozens of partners across 11 western states, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the greater sage grouse does not require protection under the Endangered Species Act,” she said.

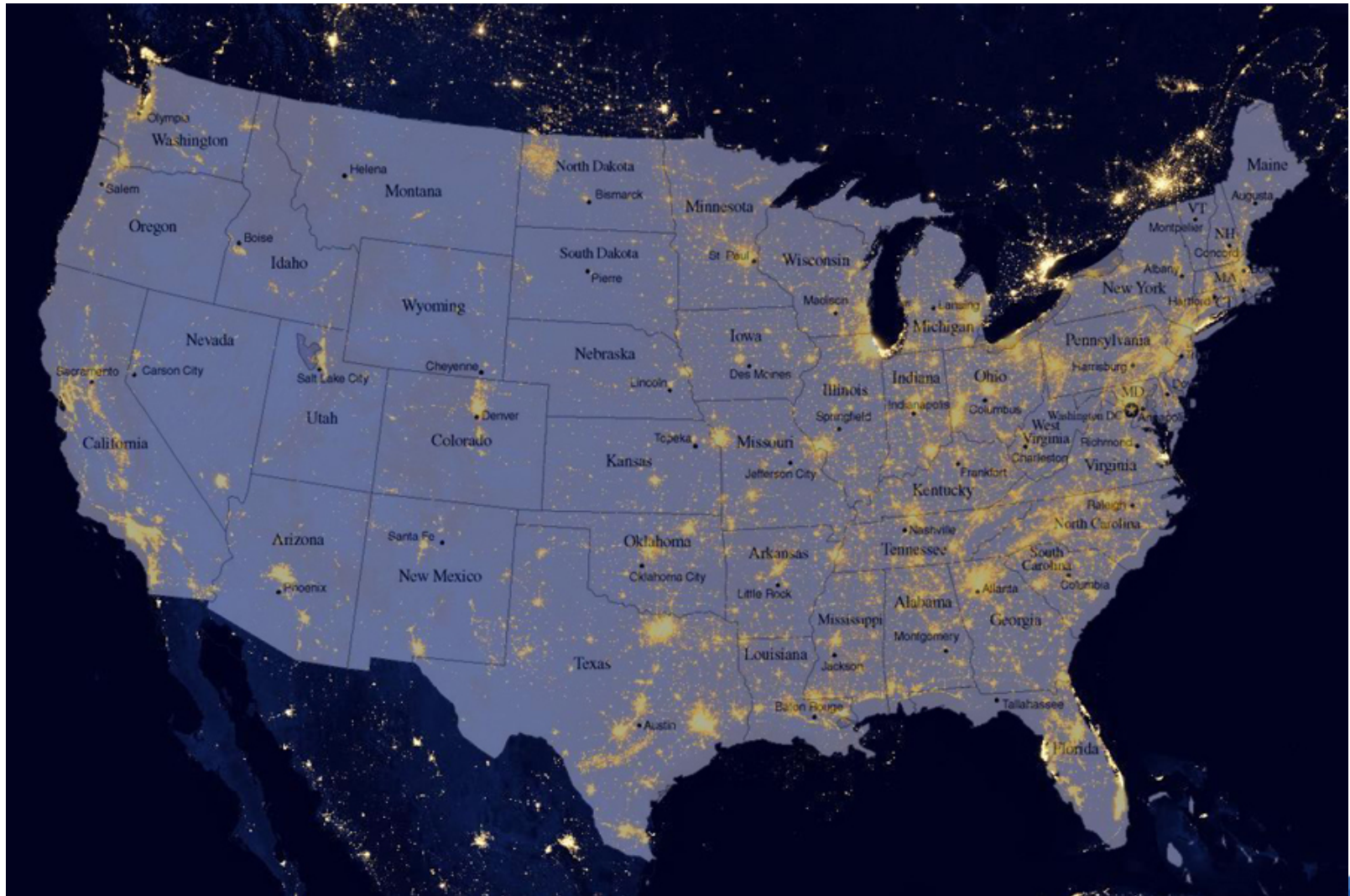
The decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service was not unexpected, however, as the federal government, states and private landowners have put great efforts into conserving the species in the hopes that it would not need the draconian protections that the Endangered Species Act affords.



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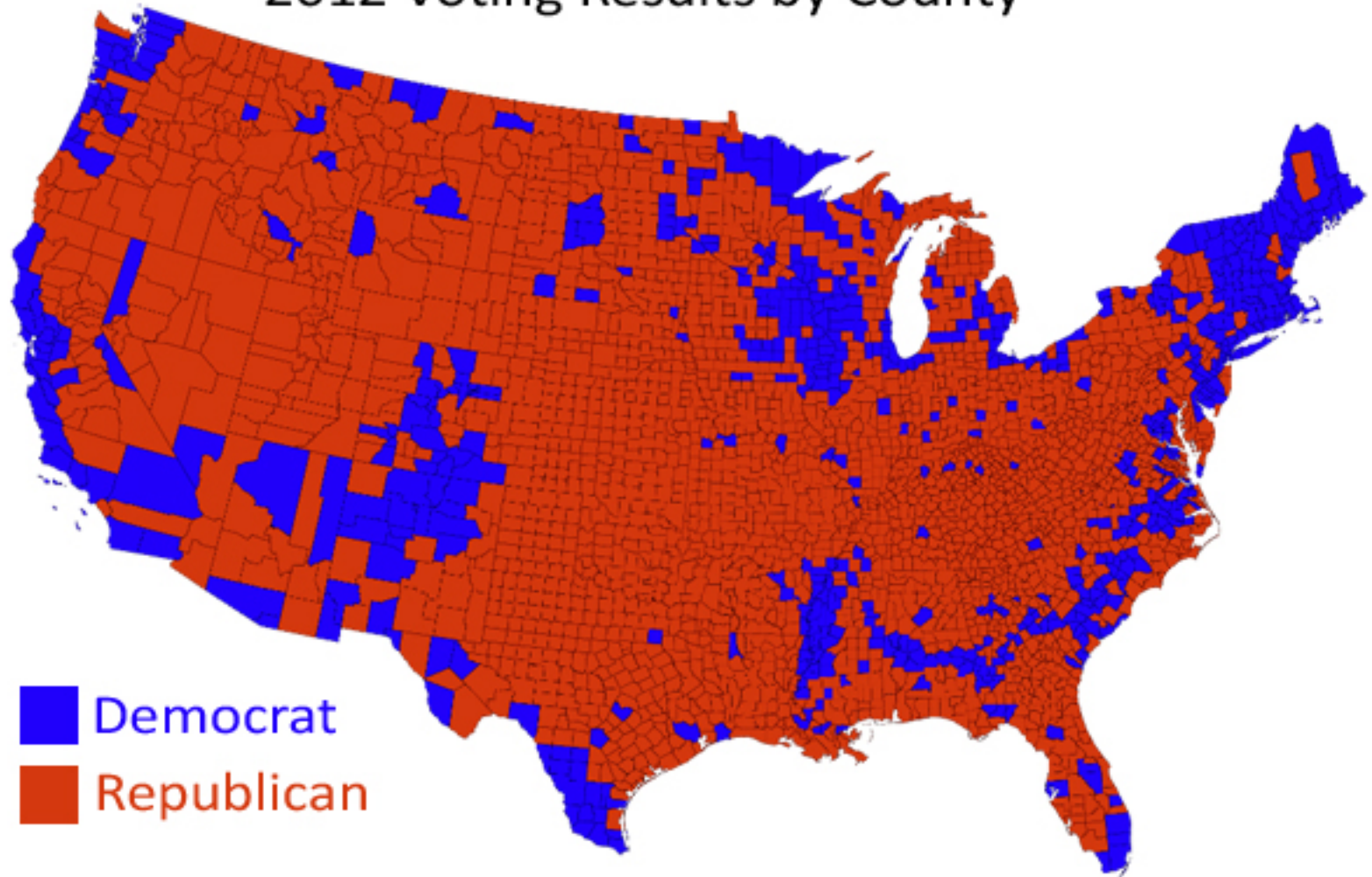
# Two or Three Large Metropolitan Areas Dominate Each Western State





# The Rural West Does Not Have the Votes to Control its Destiny

2012 Voting Results by County



Democrat  
Republican



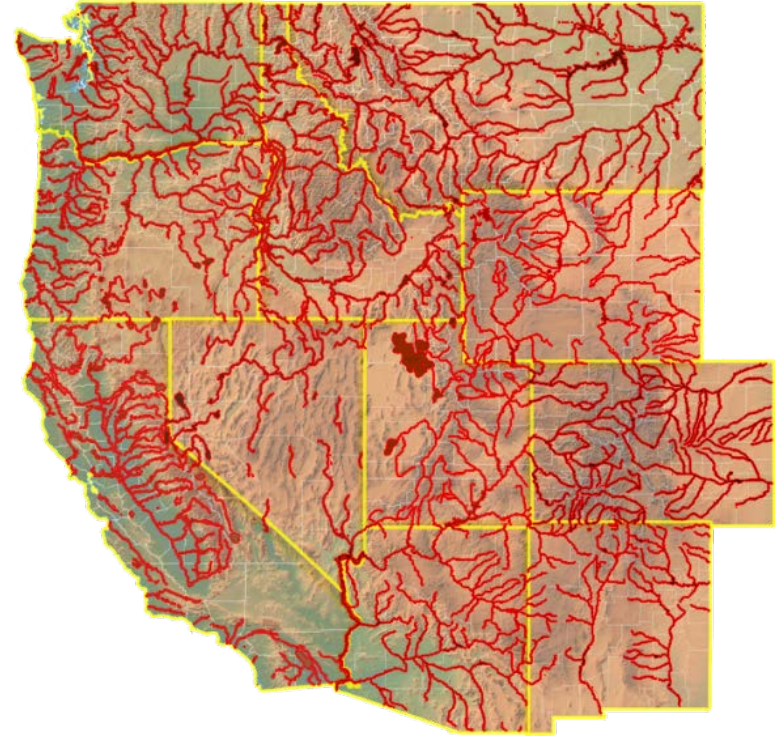
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# Where are the Resources?

Private lands in the western US are 5x more important because they control most of the water.

They supply the western urban areas with:

- Food from agriculture
- The roots of biodiversity
- Fire control
- Clean air and water
- Recreation
- Transportation & energy corridors
- Other ecosystem services



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# We Need Rural Leadership

Utilize existing land grant universities and shift locales every two years to maximize competitive creation of curriculum, with real world exposure to on site and in the field operations and problem areas.

- Initiate the program with CALF (operational since 1970)
- California is ground zero for water, ESA, petroleum and metropolitan expansion issues.
- Year 3 - shift to Colorado State University
- CSU is in process of implementing a private land node
- There after - shift to different land grant universities in states on a two year rotational basis.





# Contact RFF



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