

# No Two Alike

## 130 ACCREDITED LAND TRUSTS REFLECT BREADTH OF THE MOVEMENT

**T**he land trust accreditation program celebrates its fifth birthday this year, and the community of accredited land trusts now tops the 100 mark—130 land trusts from across the country, with different missions and of all sizes, now display the accreditation seal.

Even among just the seven land trusts accredited at the end of 2010, the diversity in lands protected is notable, with projects ranging in size and character. In Florida, the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast works to protect the bays, beaches and barrier islands that make the Gulf Coast special. “We were able to protect a small but critical nesting habitat on a densely populated barrier island for the threatened Southeastern Snowy Plover, a state-listed species threatened by habitat decline,” says Founder and President Albert Joerger. “The Siesta Key Conservation Area is just over an acre but has already hosted two of an estimated 200 nesting pairs in Florida, and two chicks fledged last season.”

Across the country, California Range-land Trust helps many ranch families stay on the land by obtaining conservation easements on properties large and small. The largest is the 80,000-acre, historic Hearst Ranch located below the Hearst Castle on California’s Central Coast. Nita Vail, chief executive officer, says it is a place like no other. “You can hear crashing surf and the age-old sounds of cowboys

on horseback moving cattle. It harbors abundant wildlife corridors and rich habitat. Protecting this area from development secured 12 miles of scenic viewsheds visible from California’s legendary ‘Highway One,’ one of the state’s premier tourist destinations.”

Although every protected landscape is unique, what all accredited land trusts have in common is their proven commitment to meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent. And nearly all respondents to a recent survey reported that the accreditation program has made them even stronger.

“Accreditation has proven to be an invaluable experience for the Palmer Land Trust,” said Josh Tenneson, programs director of the Colorado group. “During the last three years, the organization has analyzed and filled policy and due diligence gaps in preparation for the final accreditation process—becoming stronger throughout the endeavor. Now that Palmer Land Trust is accredited, it will continue to strive to meet the top industry standards and practices.” 

### Snapshot of Accredited Land Trusts

Diversity at a Glance\*

CHARACTERISTIC	RANGE
Age	7 to 120 years old
Number of full-time staff	0 to 460
Total acres held under easement	25 to 778,386
Total acres held in fee	1 to 25,000
Total acres protected	42 to 778,386

### Power in Numbers\*

Conservation easements	9,274
Fee properties	1,873
Acres under easement	3,411,884
Acres in fee	254,723
Total acres protected	3,666,607
Combined operating budgets	\$281,300,135
Combined land protection experience	3,092 years
States represented	34

\*INFORMATION IS AS REPORTED AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION AND INCLUDES 130 LAND TRUSTS ACCREDITED AS OF FEB. 2011. SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF ACCREDITED LAND TRUSTS.