2010 NATIONAL LAND TRUST CENSUS REPORT

WEST VIRGINIA

New Report Shows Strong Growth in Land Conservation

A new report by the Land Trust Alliance shows that land conservation by nonprofit land trusts across the United States is thriving, with more than 10 million acres conserved from 2005 to 2010. Land trusts in West Virginia contributed to this success, reporting an increase of 44% in acres conserved over this period.

The Land Trust Alliance has reported on the status and successes of land trusts since its founding in 1982. The National Land Trust Census measures the pace and quality of the important conservation work of local, state and national land trusts in the United States.

West Virginia's Trends in Conservation: 2005–2010

- Land trusts in West Virginia have protected 31,696 acres—this represents a 44% increase in acres conserved since 2005. West Virginia ranks 40th in the nation in acres conserved, and 9th in the Southeast.
- There are now 8 land trusts operating in West Virginia, including 3 staffed groups and 1 all-volunteer group.
- West Virginia increased their full- and part-time staff and contractors 50% in 5 years, for a total of 6 paid positions in 2010.
- Land trusts in West Virginia drew upon the work of 41 active volunteers (an increase of 58% since 2005) and the contributions of 269 members and financial supporters.

Total Acres Conserved by States in the Southeast

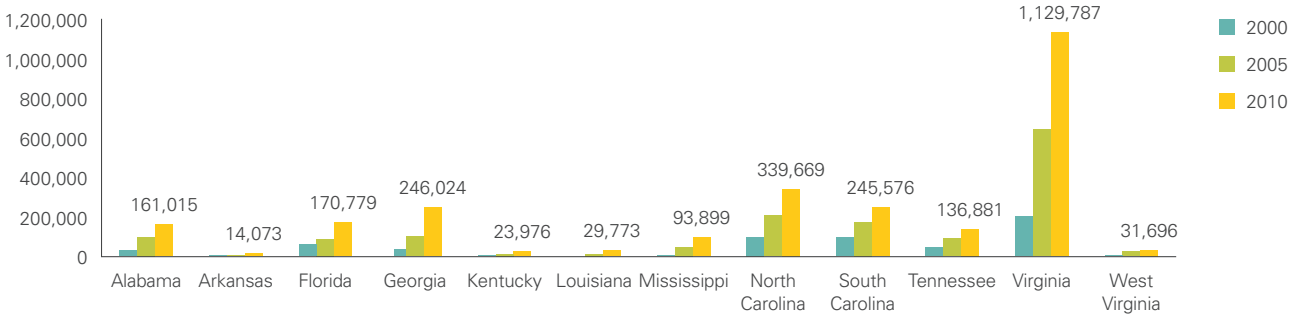


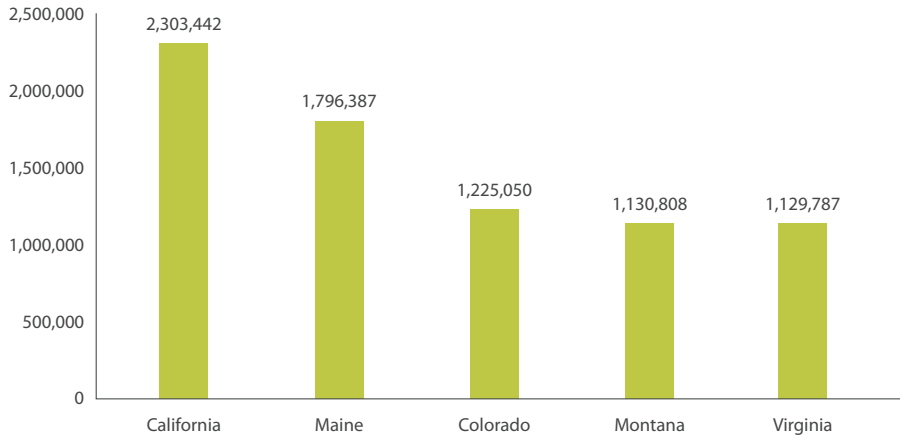
PHOTO CREDITS: L-R: Heron wading. iStockphoto.com/PhotoL; Fort Morgan Beach, AL. Photo courtesy of Weeks Bay Foundation, AL/Sarah Diard, photographer.

Land Trust Alliance
Together, conserving the places you love

National Trends in Conservation

- **Total acres conserved by state, local and national land trusts grew to 47 million** as of year-end 2010—an area over twice the size of all the national parks in the contiguous United States. This represents an increase of about 10 million acres since 2005 and 23 million acres since 2000.
- **The number of active land trust volunteers increased by 70%** since 2005, while the number of paid staff and contractors increased by 19%.
- From 2005 to 2010, state and local land trusts **almost tripled the amount of funding they have dedicated to monitoring, stewardship and legal defense**. They also almost tripled **their operating endowments**.
- State and local land trusts **budgets' doubled** and the number of paid staff and contractors increased by 19%.

Top 5 States for Acres Conserved as of 2010



For more information about the 2010 National Land Trust Census, including a state-by-state summary of acres protected, please visit http://www.lta.org/census or email census@lta.org.

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The mission of the Land Trust Alliance is to save the places people love by strengthening land conservation across America. Land trusts are nonprofit organizations that work with private land owners to voluntarily conserve forests, farms, parks, and other cherished places that enrich our lives. We focus our work on three strategic goals: accelerating the pace, improving the quality, and ensuring the permanence of conservation. By building highly effective and well-governed land trusts that protect lands with the highest values to their communities and ensure their protection in perpetuity, we can preserve healthy human and natural communities, clean air and water, beautiful vistas, recreation areas, and working lands.