



Increasing Scale and Effectiveness of Private Land Conservation
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Outline of talk



- Use Grasslands/Ranching as example
- Traditional Conservation Tools
- Need for Additional Tools
- Examples of New Applications and Tools
- Getting to Scale

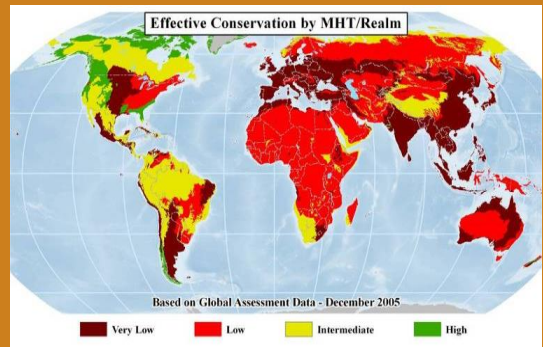


The Nature Conservancy's Mission

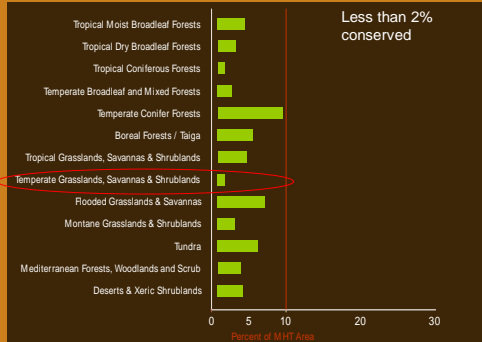
The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.



Reasons for The Nature Conservancy's Interest in Grasslands



Proportion of MHTs Area under effective conservation



The Plight of Grasslands Around the World

Major Threats:

- Conversion for agriculture and urbanization
- Oil and gas and mineral extraction
- Invasive Species
- Incompatible Grazing
- Fire Suppression
- Hydrological Alteration



Land Ownership Varies

Mongolia	< 1% Private
Patagonia	> 90% Private
Eastern U. S.	> 90% Private
Colorado	~ 57% Private

Therefore: Conservation Strategy Varies

Conservation Biology – Protected Areas

- National Parks
- US Forest Service and BLM Wilderness Areas
- National Wildlife Refuges
- State Natural Areas
- NGO Preserves



Rocky Mountain National Park

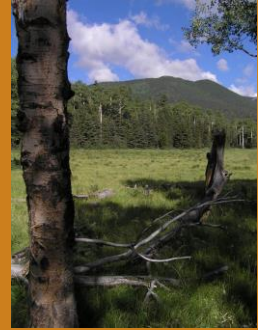
For many years TNC acquired lands

High Creek Fen

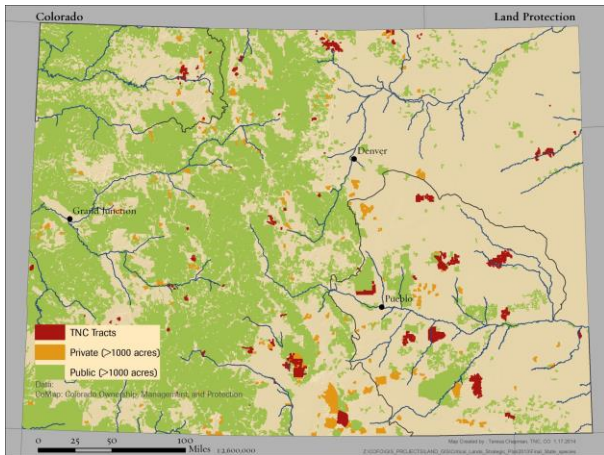


Conservation Easements

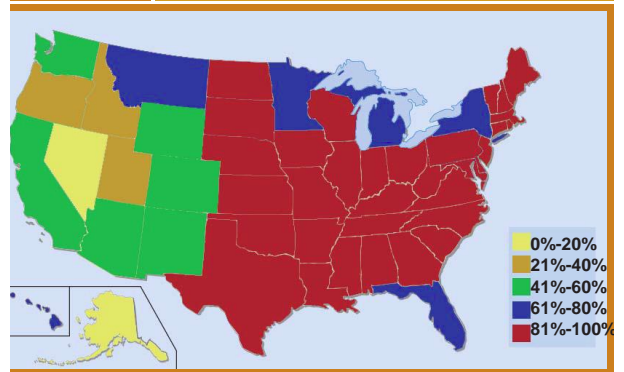
- Landowner retains ownership and most rights – donated or purchased
- Some restrictions to protect key conservation values – limiting common big threats to natural values
- 4-5 x more cost effective

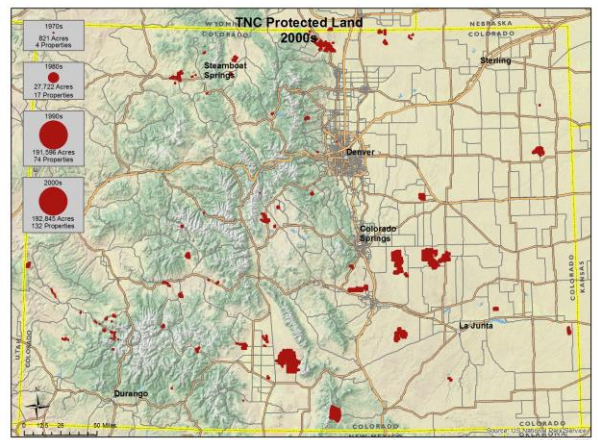
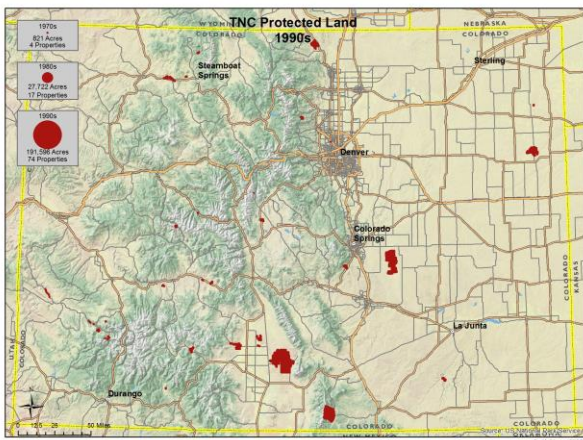
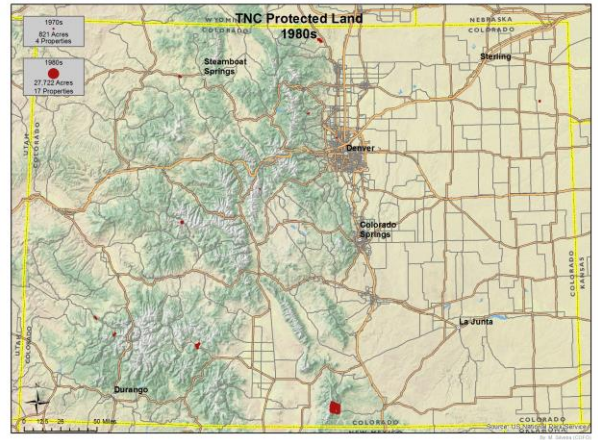
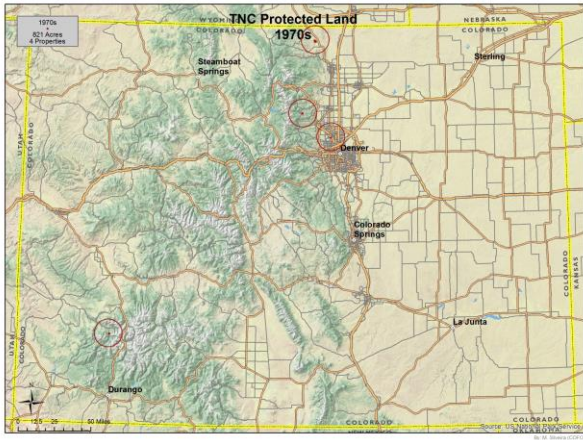


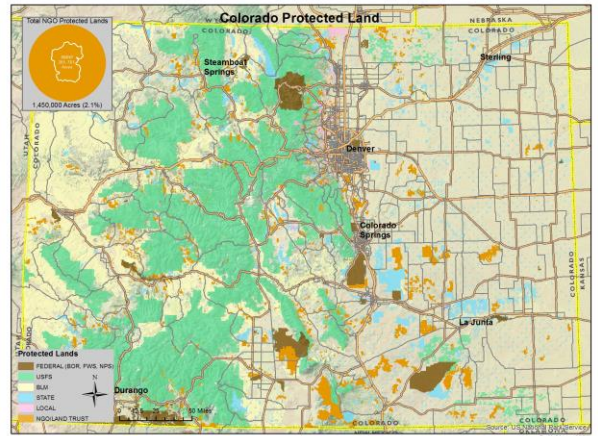
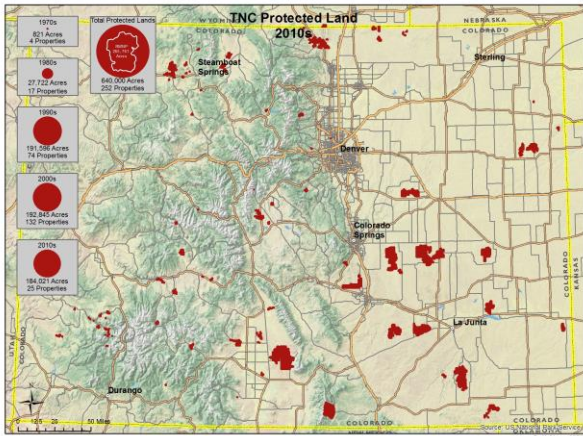
Bar NI Ranch



Private lands are critical to conservation success







Nature reserves (fee title), including government lands, are inadequate for achieving conservation success

For example:

- Colorado has 22 million acres in the Central Shortgrass Prairie
- 45 - 48% of that has been turned into farm ground and urban areas
- 11-12 million acres identified as important to conservation.
- About 3 million are in some conservation status.



Example: Ecoregional Planning Identified Where Conservation Needed



Areas		Acres	Total Acres
Total matrix			10,033,768
Protected matrix	Public	1,830,625	3,528,846
	Private	1,698,220	
Non-protected matrix			6,504,922

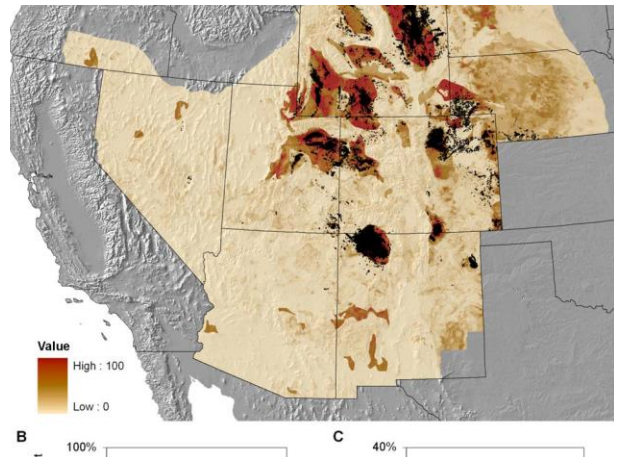
Important but inadequate:
Strongly limits key threats to biodiversity – conversion of habitat

Permanent

Attached to Deed

Challenges for Livestock Producers

- Economic forecast is challenging – decline of 19% in jobs to 2030
- % farm/ranch income from on-farm in decline.
- Global beef market more in control.
- Desertification still occurring or restoration incomplete.
- Climate trends are generally unstable.
- Value of land rising (above ag return levels).
- Optimum ranch size is changing – ownership not.



Enhancements -- primarily easements and incentives

- Maintains compatible land uses.
- Colorado has tax credits and tax relief
- Advances in effectiveness of easements through management plans
- Strengthening surface rights decisions



Easements are not enough!

- Unwilling landowners
- Still inadequate \$\$
- Inadequate human resources
- Not the right tool for some conservation values
- Not enough time

New tools needed – some tested

Need to develop policies and practices that conserve:

- Effectively conserve most conservation values
- Support the production of quality food
- Improve the social desire to continue ranching/production
- Three examples:
 - Africa
 - Argentina
 - Colorado

Africa: Conservation By Design



- LEWA
- Northern Conservancy Trust – Changes in Tenure:
 - From Communal lands to trust managed lands
 - Planning required to maintain communal values

What do we need to develop a sustainable grazing program?

- Market incentive from a corporate partner
- On the ground working network for grassland/ag standards and replication
- Planning and measures for conservation outcomes as they apply to sustainable grazing



Sustainable production, quality product,



Results

- Goal of 15 million acres – 3 million enrolled
- Commitment to achieve conservation outcomes
- Premium paid directly to ranchers
- Training, monitoring, and assistance provided to managers
- Managed lands healing like never before
- Ownership doesn't change; management by owner; conservation outcomes demonstrated.



Winship Complex

- Acquisition and resell – can act more quickly
- More affordable to rancher
- Splitting a ranch to get more conservation
- 44k – 65k ac

- Ranch management planning + Conservation Planning
- Holistic Planning
 - Conservation
 - Agriculture/Ranching/Livestock
 - Financial Success
- Savory Institute Pilot – Demonstrating success



Fox Ranch

Sustainable Grazing for Nature and People

Maximizing Resilience:

- > Soil
- > Vegetation
- > Water
- > Wildlife



Reducing the extreme responses

- Protection is a key tool – continue.
- Public Lands and NGO holdings are not enough
- Traditional tools need revision and adaptation
- Financial Incentives
- Use the Market Forces
- Incorporate Conservation Goals
- Incorporating the needs of people
- New partnerships and alliances
- More efficient transactions
- Incorporating flexibility for an uncertain future





We Need Private Lands

America's success in achieving many of its environmental goals depends upon the willingness of private landowners to protect, restore, and conserve the forests, grasslands, croplands, and wetlands that they own. Though land-use regulation has an important role to play, it is insufficient and incapable of accomplishing all that needs to be accomplished on private lands
– M. Bean et al. 1996