



2015-2016

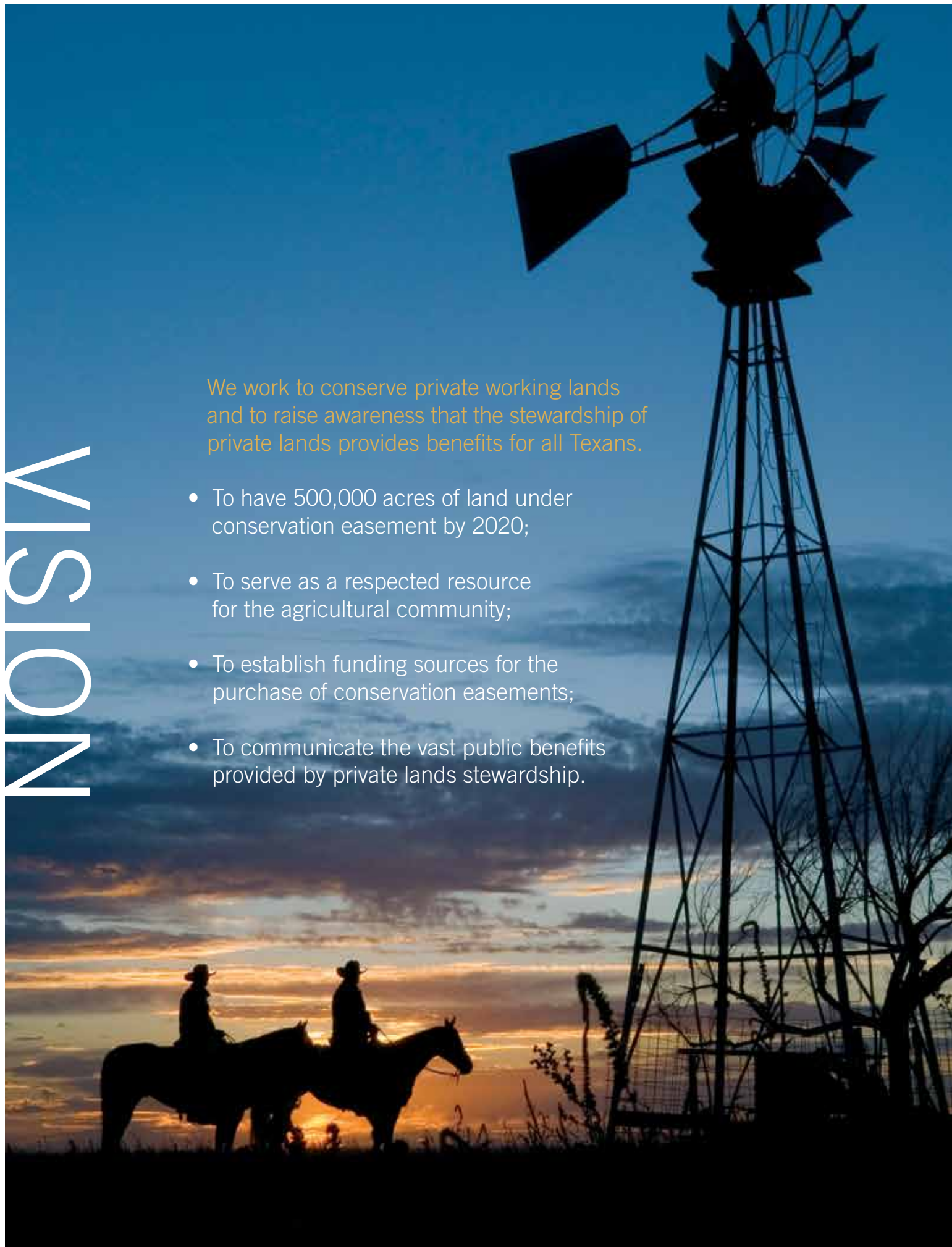
ANNUAL REPORT



VISION

We work to conserve private working lands and to raise awareness that the stewardship of private lands provides benefits for all Texans.

- To have 500,000 acres of land under conservation easement by 2020;
- To serve as a respected resource for the agricultural community;
- To establish funding sources for the purchase of conservation easements;
- To communicate the vast public benefits provided by private lands stewardship.



DEAR TALT SUPPORTER,

As of its March 31, 2016 fiscal year-end, the Texas Agricultural Land Trust had conserved almost 225,000 acres throughout Texas. We've partnered with landowners to conserve ranches, farms and hunting properties ranging from the Panhandle to the Davis Mountains to South Texas and the Gulf Coast. It is a remarkable achievement for such a short lifespan, and one that places TALT in the top tier of land trusts in Texas and nationwide.



Yet as one ponders the enclosed map of TALT's conservation successes, a question comes to mind: how to connect the dots? In other words, what is the collective impact of TALT's work?

Over the past year, we have endeavored to tell that story. You will see the results in the pages of this annual report. We've measured TALT's impact in terms of water resources, wildlife habitat, and agricultural productivity protected. We have quantified the market value of the land protected, and the cost to TALT in terms of total expenses to protect that land. The result is a compelling picture of how a small organization like TALT can have long-term impact on the Texas landscape.

Texas, however, is a big state with a big challenge: we are losing our rural lands faster than any other state in the nation. It is a race against the clock, which is why TALT engages in advocacy efforts that help us accelerate the pace of working lands conservation. 2015 saw two legislative successes, one at the federal level with the permanence of tax deductions for donated conservation easements and one at the state level with a first-time appropriation for the Texas Farm & Ranch Lands Conservation Program.

Beyond our land transactions and advocacy work, we recognize that land conservation must be relevant to all Texans whether they live in the city, the suburbs or in the wide, open spaces of rural Texas. Almost 30% of TALT's budget goes to outreach—both to provide information on the conservation easement as a voluntary tool to conserve working farms and ranches, and to raise awareness among urban audiences that the conservation of rural lands provide public benefits that we all enjoy.

None of this work would be possible without your support. Because of you, TALT is making a difference. Your investment in our efforts will pay dividends for all Texans—today and forever. Thank you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Blair". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'i'.

Blair C. Fitzsimons
Chief Executive Officer



ACCELERATING THE PACE OF WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION!

Congress makes permanent generous tax benefits for donated conservation easements on working farms and ranches.

Texas Legislature appropriates \$2M for the purchase of conservation easements on privately-owned working lands.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES!

TALT's legislative efforts resulted in important successes that lay the groundwork for accelerated land conservation in Texas for years to come!

TEXAS FUNDS \$2M FOR CONSERVATION

The 2015 Texas legislative session included two big wins for Texas land conservation! With support from Speaker Joe Straus, Representative Charlie Geren, Senator Louis Kolkhorst and Senator Charles Perry, the legislature made a first-time appropriation of \$2M to the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program (TFRLCP) and moved the program to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). TPWD is well-suited to ensure that the program meets its purpose, which is to conserve Texas' farms and ranches that provide our state's critical natural resources. TALT worked closely with our partner organizations—the statewide agricultural and landowner groups—as well as with the Texas Land Trust Council and other conservation organizations to achieve this success.

CONGRESS MAKES TAX BENEFITS PERMANENT

In December 2015, Congress finally made permanent generous tax benefits for donated conservation easements. This will enable modest-income donors to receive greater benefit for donating a conservation easement, thus enabling more landowners to protect, conserve and pass on their family lands with a conservation easement. TALT worked closely with the Land Trust Alliance, which led the effort, as well as with the Texas Land Trust Council, and land trusts from around the country.

2015-2016

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TALT FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Contributions:	
Foundation Grants	771,324
Individuals and Corporations	\$ 573,501
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Total Contributions	1,344,825
Fees for Service and Events	49,889
Other	3,074
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TOTAL	\$ 1,397,788

EXPENSES

Programs	\$ 468,888
General and Administrative	175,612
Fundraising	116,463
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TOTAL	\$ 760,963

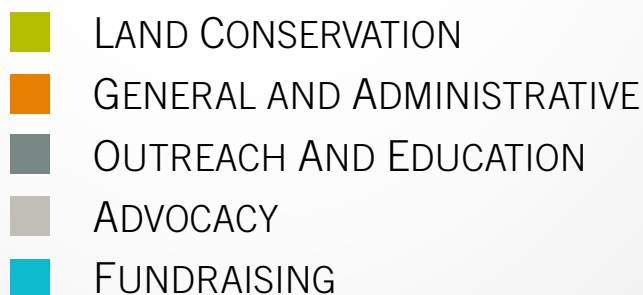
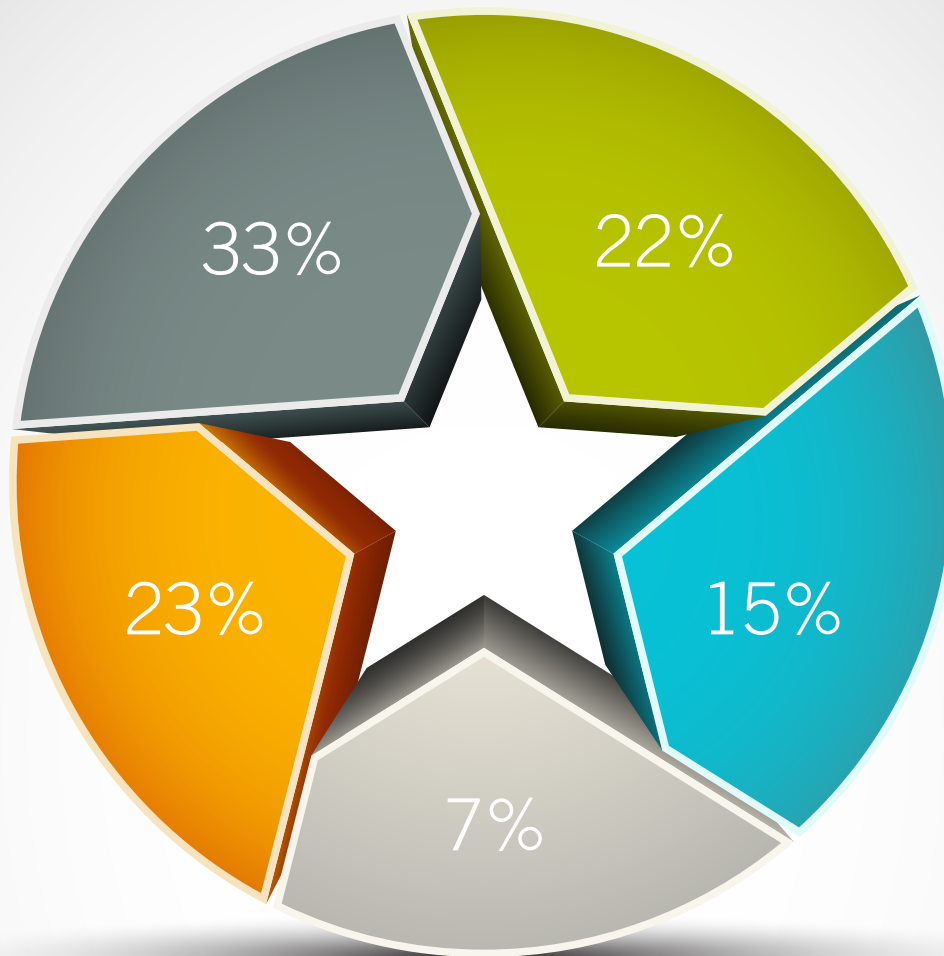
ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,247,908
Pledges Receivable	2,428,041
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TOTAL	\$ 3,675,949

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$ 39,356
Unrestricted Net Assets	189,085
Unrestricted - Board Designated:	
Stewardship	607,125
Easement Defense	75,000
Operating Reserve	368,541
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,495,478
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	901,364
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$ 3,675,949

PROGRAM AND OPERATING EXPENSES



TALT strives to maintain a sustainable organization that will meet its perpetual obligations. To provide for future operational expenses, TALT created the Texas Agricultural Land Trust Foundation (TALTF) to house permanently restricted endowment funds. Future investment income from these funds will provide for TALT's ongoing operational expenses. These financial highlights includes activity from both TALT and TALTF.

A copy of TALT's audited consolidated financial statements are available upon request.

As of March 31, 2016, TALT held conservation easements from 16 landowners comprising 224,094 acres.



IMPACT

TALT'S 16 CONSERVATION EASEMENTS HAVE PROTECTED:



• Mule deer habitat	191,715 acres
• Pronghorn deer habitat	146,956 acres
• White-tailed deer habitat	37,700 acres
• Wild Turkey habitat	60,123 acres
• Texas quail (all species) habitat	229,145 acres
• Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat	5,258 acres
• Rivers	49 miles
• Creeks	89 miles
• Streams	822 miles
• Watersheds	227,893 acres
• Wetlands	6,031 acres
• Rangeland	222,856 acres
• Cropland	805 acres





\$188 MILLION

MARKET VALUE OF LAND PROTECTED



224,094 ACRES
CONSERVED



COST: TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES TO DATE,
2007 TO PRESENT: \$4,000,000

ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, & OUTREACH

CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORKSHOPS in Alpine, Corpus Christi and Uvalde. These workshops were designed to inform rural landowners, attorneys as well as municipal leaders on the advantages of the conservation easement as a voluntary tool to conserve privately-owned working lands.

CONSERVATION FINANCE NETWORK SUMMIT: An ongoing collaboration with the Institute for Renewable Natural Resources and other land trusts and conservation organizations to develop innovative sources for conservation easements.

TALT STAFF PRESENTATIONS included the Society for Rangeland Management, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Master Naturalists, Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas State University.

LAUNCHED “NO LAND NO WATER” CAMPAIGN to garner support for funding for the Texas Farms & Ranch Land Conservation Program.



TALT SUPPORTERS

April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

We wish to thank the following donors, without whose support TALT could not meet its mission of conserving Texas' heritage of agricultural land and natural resources.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

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The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation
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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law
Section of the State Bar of Texas

Please accept our sincere apologies for any unintentional mistakes or names that have been omitted.
We have listed only donations that were received by 3/31/16.

WHAT WE DO MATTERS



“ Texas is losing agricultural land faster than any other state in the nation. The size of Texas disguises the urgency of the problem because it seems like we’ve got a lot of land. But if this trend continues, we could wake up one day and see that it has gone too far. What will we do then? ”

Jim Bill Anderson
Anderson Ranch



“ Open space land nourishes the soul. Unfortunately, I’m afraid people won’t realize how land sustains them, until it’s gone. Imagine getting in your car, driving for 200 miles and seeing nothing but houses and strip malls. We would all die of sadness. ”

Ruthie Russell
Sycamore Canyon Ranch



“ We believe that agriculture is an important part of the conservation equation. We all depend on healthy lands and waters, even those people who live in the cities and don’t experience nature as directly as those who live in rural areas. We have to be vigilant about the health our ecosystems. ”

Robert Potts
Alamito Springs Ranch/Dixon Water Foundation

