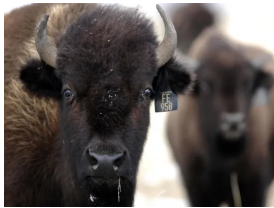


# Who owns Montana? Top 10 landowners

Kristen Inbody and David Murray, Great Falls Tribune

Published 11:11 a.m. MT June 21, 2016 | Updated 7:16 a.m. MT Jan. 2, 2018



Montana's largest landowners

## 1. Plum Creek Timber. 765,925 acres

Timberland scattered across northwestern Montana

(Photo: DEIRDRE EITEL, AP)

[Mariani, Carpenter among ex-Griz thriving in NFL](http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/sports/2016/11/24/mariani-carpenter-among-ex-griz-thriving-nfl/94406268/)

(<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/sports/2016/11/24/mariani-carpenter-among-ex-griz-thriving-nfl/94406268/>)

## 2. Farris and Dan Wilks. 358,837 acres

The Texans made their money in masonry, fracking. Own N Bar Ranch near Lewistown, properties in Meagher, Blaine, Garfield and Bighorn counties.

[Wilks hope for land exchange; will end public access](http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/opinion/guest-opinions/2016/03/21/wilkses-still-hope-land-exchange/82097230/)

(<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/opinion/guest-opinions/2016/03/21/wilkses-still-hope-land-exchange/82097230/>)

[BLM won't pursue land exchange with Wilks brothers](http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2016/01/26/blm-pursue-land-exchange-wilks-brothers/79362402/)

(<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2016/01/26/blm-pursue-land-exchange-wilks-brothers/79362402/>)

## 3. Galt family. 248,023 acres

Descended from Jack Galt, ranch manager who married Louise Rankin, who inherited Willington Rankin's lands.

71 Ranch near Martinsdale, ranches in Broadwater and Rosebud counties.

## 4. Stan Kroenke. 225,162 acres

Billionaire owner of Denver Nuggets (NBA), Colorado Avalanche (NHL), Los Angeles Rams (NFL) and husband of a Wal-Mart heiress.

Broken O Ranch of Augusta. Cedar Creek Ranch near Ennis and PV Ranch near Hysham.

[12 can't-miss Montana-made gift ideas](http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/money/2016/11/23/montana-made-gift-ideas/94342878/)

(<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/money/2016/11/23/montana-made-gift-ideas/94342878/>)

## 5. Robert Earl Holding. 213,462 acres.

2 free articles left. Only 99¢ per month.  
Fortune in Utah-based Sinclair Oil Corp., Sun Valley Resort in Idaho.

Sunlight Ranch east of Billings, additional properties near Wyola and in Carbon County.

## Support local journalism today

99¢ per month. Save 90%.

6. Coffee family. 212,633 acres.

([https://subscribe.greatfallsjournal.com/?source=CPCAMBARD&utm\\_campaign=2019EVERG&utm\\_content=freearticlesleft&utm\\_medium=ONSITE&utm\\_source=CPCAMBARD&or](https://subscribe.greatfallsjournal.com/?source=CPCAMBARD&utm_campaign=2019EVERG&utm_content=freearticlesleft&utm_medium=ONSITE&utm_source=CPCAMBARD&or))

Descendant of Virginia Newby, heiress to the founder of Stockman Bank of Montana.

Coffee family. 212,633 acres. Owns Montana's 10th largest ranch. Additional properties in Custer and Rosebud counties.

7. Great Northern Properties, 153,056 acres

Resource investment company.

Coal-bearing properties in southeast Montana in the Bull Mountains.

8. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. 151,840 acres

Trail Creek Land and Livestock outside Miles City, Winnecook Ranch near Harlowtown.

9. Ted Turner. 148,870 acres

Media mogul.

Flying D Ranch southwest of Bozeman, Snowcrest Ranch south of Dillon, Bar None Ranch north of Belgrade.

10. John Hillenbrand. 118,417 acres

Hillebrand Ranch in Garfield County east of Jordan.

Montana's total area – 93,155,800 acres

Total area owned by state and federal governments – 32,473,220 acres (34.9% - 12th most of any state in the U.S.)

Total area owned by federal government -27,276,820 acres (Mostly Forest Service and BLM land. 29.3% of state area – 10th most of any state in the U.S.)

Total area owned by state government - 5,196,400 acres (Mostly school trust lands. 5.6 % of state area – 16th most of any state in the U.S.)

Of the 60,682,580 acres of privately owned land in Montana, the state's 10 largest private landowners own 2,597,225 acres – 8.0 %. 2.8 % of Montana's total area.

This acreage (2.60 million) is 246,000 acres larger than the combined area of all the National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges in Montana (2.35 million) and only 86,000 acres less than the combined area of all tribal-owned lands in the state (2.68 million).

[How much do you know about Montana agriculture?](http://www.greatfallsjournal.com/story/news/local/2016/02/01/snapshot-life-stats-montana-ag/79660020/)

[\(http://www.greatfallsjournal.com/story/news/local/2016/02/01/snapshot-life-stats-montana-ag/79660020/\)](http://www.greatfallsjournal.com/story/news/local/2016/02/01/snapshot-life-stats-montana-ag/79660020/)

Read or Share this story: <http://gftrib.com/28MJQbw>