

2014
SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT



Perman Family ▲

2014 Leopold Conservation Award® recipients – South Dakota

Photo: USDA NRCS South Dakota and The Perman Family

www.sandcounty.net

A message from the Chairman

For nearly 50 years, Sand County Foundation has advanced the voluntary efforts of private landowners who are improving the quality of their land through ethical and scientifically sound management practices. These farmers, ranchers and foresters hold the key to making critically important environmental improvements in this nation. Their dedication to natural resources conservation will ensure future generations have access to clean and abundant water, healthy soil to support our growing food demands, and habitat for wildlife.

Thanks to your support and partnership, Sand County Foundation made great strides in 2014. We grew our family of Leopold Conservation Award recipients whose outstanding stewardship inspires other landowners. We advanced our water quality work in Wisconsin's Milwaukee River and in Texas' Chambers Creek watershed. And we launched a new initiative focused on making America's endangered species policies more effective.

As the nation's leading voice for private landowner-led conservation, we thank you for your commitment to voluntary conservation on productive, working lands.

Sincerely,



Reed Coleman
Chairman

“The average citizen, especially the landowner, has an obligation to manage his land in the interest of the community, as well as in his own interest.”

**Aldo Leopold
*Conservation In
Whole or In Part?***



Improving Essential Water Resources

Agricultural Incentives

Our Agricultural Incentives program addresses one of America's most serious environmental problems: pollution of surface waters, particularly by runoff of nitrogen and phosphorous from agricultural lands. In 2014, we enrolled farmers in the Pay-for-Performance project in the Milwaukee River, and hosted two farm tours for potential funders and stakeholders. The program also committed funds for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project in Madison's Yahara Lakes watershed and the Middle Cedar River watershed in Iowa. The RCPP will contribute funds for watershed management planning in project areas to help guide project activities.

Water As A Crop®

Sand County Foundation's Water As A Crop® program empowers landowners with knowledge and resources to improve the conservation of water where it falls on the land, and to produce clean water as a valuable crop. The program facilitates dialogue between landowners, local partners, and prospective water conservation funders in water stressed areas. This year, we provided financial support to partners in the Chambers Creek basin south of Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas and sponsored workshops and outreach efforts with local partners. The program also partnered with Texas A&M to monitor rainfall, runoff, and soil moisture retention on small catchments under differing rangeland vegetation and livestock management conditions.

Inspiring Voluntary Conservation on Working Lands

Leopold Conservation Award®

The Leopold Conservation Award® (LCA) program celebrates extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation by honoring outstanding land stewards and through public education efforts and events like our national LCA symposia. To date, more than 70 families have been recognized for their exceptional contributions to voluntary land conservation. In 2014, the \$10,000 award was presented in nine states and is poised for growth in the coming years. The program also convened a group of award recipients, program partners and sponsors on Capitol Hill to participate in a message training session. They subsequently met with policy makers and the press to discuss the critical importance of voluntary conservation on private, working lands.

Mission:Wildlife

Sand County Foundation, in partnership with Dr. Timothy Male, launched Mission:Wildlife in 2014. This new initiative will develop and deploy innovative ideas designed to make America's endangered species policy more effective at restoring declining species, more affordably, and with less disruption to communities and businesses. The initiative has so far produced a number of policy papers and published opinion pieces on ways to recover declining species. Dr. Male began a detail as Deputy Associate Director for Wildlife at the Whitehouse Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in December where he continues, as a Foundation employee, to press for improvements in the administration of the Endangered Species Act. The Foundation also undertook a west-wide outreach project to cultivate better public understanding about the significant contributions of private ranchers to protect and enhance Greater sage grouse habitats.



Sand County Foundation, Inc.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, 31 DECEMBER 2014

Assets

ASSETS	2014
Cash	2,898,299
Unconditional promises to give	83,000
Grants receivable	155,997
Prepaid expenses	12,397
Long-term investments	4,655,824
Property & Equipment - Net	66,841
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,472,358

Liabilities & Net Assets

LIABILITIES	2014
Accounts payable	40,914
Grants payable	67,968
Other liabilities	101,299
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$211,775
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted net assets	4,758,142
Temporarily restricted net assets	3,502,441
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$8,260,583
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$8,472,358

Board of Directors

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Corporate Executive

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Attorney

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Cambria, Calif.
Author, Columnist, Policy Scholar



Sand County Foundation's mission is to advance the use of ethical and scientifically sound land management practices and partnerships for the benefit of people and the ecological landscape. Sand County Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity supported entirely by tax-deductible contributions from corporations, government agencies, foundations, and individuals who want to help us further our mission.