

Equine Land Conservation Resource

Annual Report 2013



From Our Board President

Dear Friend and Supporter:

Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the findings of the 2012 Census of Agriculture. This census, performed every five years, provides agriculture related information for every state. If you are unfamiliar with the Ag Census, I would encourage you to visit www.agcensus.usda.gov and learn about some of the many challenges facing us in the horse world.



Because the USDA census focuses on agriculture and agri-business, it does not reflect the total US horse population. Farms and ranches producing more than \$1,000 in agricultural products or sales are surveyed. In 2012, approximately 3 million farms and ranches were surveyed.

What the census showed was a discouraging trend in horse population. Since 2007, the number of farms and ranches with horses decreased by 14% (71,146), and their horse population decreased by 11% (407,479). The most common size of farms and ranches with horses was 10-49 acres; meaning that this decrease could account for almost 3.5 million acres of lost horse land.

While these statistics are sobering, they shed light on our important work. The fight rages on. Our mission, building awareness of the loss of lands available for horse-related activities and facilitating the protection and preservation of those lands is essential to every horse lover.

Many of us grew up on horseback. We grew up understanding the bond between horse and human, the love and the mutual respect that a relationship with an equine brings. Looking ahead, to how many future generations can we guarantee the same opportunities? Exposure to horses is already becoming something relegated to the suburbs and rural areas, as hotly contested urban lands are eaten up and boarding stables, competition venues and trails are closed to horses. Now, due to increased urban sprawl and unchecked development, we are seeing increased threats to the same facilities in suburban areas.

Our communities, our lifestyles and our sport are dependent on the continued access to land. I am looking forward to 2014, ELCR's fifteenth anniversary year, as a year when we increase both the awareness of and action on conserving land for horse activities. I am looking forward to increased technical service, more and deeper relationships with our Partners and expanding our online resources.

We are proud of our accomplishments, which you can read more about in the following pages, but we know that our work is far from over. We also know that our success is only possible with your support. I thank each of you for your contributions to ELCR's success. Your dedication is safeguarding our future – a world with horses and horse people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a series of smaller, connected loops and a horizontal line at the end.



Our Mission

The Equine Land Conservation Resource leads in the protection and conservation of lands for the horse and horse-related activities.

Our Vision

A future in which horse lands have been conserved so that America's equine heritage lives on and the emotional, physical and economic benefits of mankind's bond with the horse remain accessible to all.

Who We Are

According to the US Forest Service, every day, we lose 6,000 acres of open lands. These are the places that feed and shelter our horses. The places we need to compete, ride, drive and care for our horses. In addition to the lands lost to development, horsemen and women are competing for space with other recreational-user groups, as access to land becomes increasingly difficult.

If we continue to lose horse facilities and access to land for horse-related uses, we will lose the resources needed to care for our horses. **This issue affects the varied regions and disciplines in different ways. But loss of land is a genuine threat to all equine breeds, disciplines and geographic regions of the country.**

The good news is that working together we can protect and conserve our equine places and spaces! ELCR works with individuals and organizations to provide information, tools, templates and one-on-one counseling and technical assistance to help them keep lands open for horses in their communities.

Since land is saved locally, it is imperative that horse enthusiasts be made aware of the existing threats and understand how they can become actively engaged in protecting horse lands and trails in their own communities. ELCR supports these efforts by:

- Creating tools, templates and resources in our six core issue areas that can be used by those acting to save horse lands in their own communities
- Providing one-on-one customized technical assistance and counseling to horsemen and women on local land loss issues.
- Building a vibrant, engaged network of people who are willing and able to assist horsemen protect horse lands
- Providing no-cost access to our resources for everyone on our website
- Working with partner organizations to host informative webinars on important conservation related topics

Core Issues:

Planning for Horses in Your Communities

Conservation Tools for Horse Lands

Equine Access to Public Lands

Equine Access to Private Lands

Best Management Practices

Benefits of Horses in Our Communities

Our Online Tools, Resources and Information

At ELCR, we make it possible for interested horsemen and women, throughout the nation, to advocate for the lands that they love in their own communities. One way we do this is by providing up-to-date, easy to use tools and resources on our website, www.ELCR.org. In 2013, we launched a new, redesigned site and announced that all of our online information would now be available to everyone at no cost.

The new website provides a library of resources divided into six core issues, including informational articles, sample documents, videos and links to other helpful resources.



Photo courtesy Monterey Horse Park

One of the most popular resource introduced this year is the ***Directory of Equine Activity and Recreational Use Statutes***. This in-depth resource provides Activity Statutes and Recreational Use Statutes for each state. The Directory serves as a single source to view and compare statutes by state. Because of legislative changes in different states, this site provides live links to the statutes themselves, by state, ensuring the information will remain up-to-date. The complete Directory can be found at www.ELCR.org/statestatutes.

Another new resource available is ***Best Management Practices (BMP's) Can Help Your Bottom Line***. This guide was developed with support from the Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation and will help horse facility managers and owners make ecologically responsible choices without damaging their business. The Guide is a series of articles that introduce the basics of BMP's that every horse facility manager needs to know. The articles are designed to serve as an introduction and include links to local resources for more specialized information. The complete Guide is available at www.ELCR.org/bestmanagementpractices.

We also added a **Report an Issue** feature that allows users to fill out a simple web form and let us know about issues near and dear to them. In addition to providing technical assistance where applicable, we are using this information to develop a better understanding of what issues are most problematic and where land is being lost. If you know of an issue in your area, please let us know at www.ELCR.org/conservation-resources/report-an-issue.

The new website is designed to be dynamic and ever-changing. We are hard at work, planning for enhancements in 2014.

Educational Programming

In January, 2013, ELCR partnered with Mary Ann Simonds and Wellington Equestrians to participate in an Equestrian Planning workshop held in Wellington, Florida. This workshop was designed to help the 45 attending local equestrians and business owners ensure a future for horses in their community by incorporating horse lands into community planning. Throughout the day, a variety of speakers addressed the issues that are vital to equestrian communities throughout the nation.



John Nicholson, Kentucky Horse Park Executive Director, addresses Wellington Forum.

In March, we were pleased to participate in an educational seminar in Weyers Cave, Virginia; held in conjunction with the Virginia Horse Council. Expert presenters spoke with the 83 people in attendance on land use planning, best management practices and conservation easements in the morning. We also offered afternoon break-out sessions on access to public and private lands and sustainable trails.



Participants in Virginia enjoy a day of land loss education.

In 2013, ELCR also hosted seven educational webinars and conference calls reaching a total of 246 participants. Topics included “Basics of Planning and Zoning for Horse Businesses and Farms,” “Best Management Practices for Horse Facilities” and an “Introduction for Horsemen to the Public Land Trust.” These calls and webinars allowed us the opportunity to partner with other organizations like Equestrian Professionals and the Trust for Public Land.

Whenever possible, video recordings of our forums and webinars are also made available on our website at www.ELCR.org, so that even those who could not participate live have the opportunity to experience these resources and our expert speakers and presenters.

ELCR Technical Assistance Program

In addition to the on-line educational resources, tools and templates, regional forums and webinars, ELCR also provides one-on-one counseling and technical assistance to horsemen regarding local land loss issues. ELCR is fast becoming the “go to” organization for advice and direction on these issues.

In response to these and other issues, ELCR has developed a stable of experts to help research and offer support in each individual situation. Our technical assistance program is designed to provide specific help to those fighting to save horse land in their own community.

While ELCR is always excited to help individuals and organizations advocate for their favorite land, there is an added benefit to our Technical Assistance Program. Providing assistance at the local level allows us to understand the specific issues being faced across the country and develop materials, informational resources and educational articles that address the most common issues.

Below is an overview of the types of issues that are the most common:

- New or changed ordinances that negatively affect horse owners and horse business owners by adding restrictions to existing and new horse operations.
- Combative neighbors, property owners or community members who are not comfortable with horses.
- Losing access to local trails on public land, such as parks, forest or fish and wildlife areas, where the land manager perceives a problem with horse use, user conflicts or damage to land, or where trails are not maintained or are poorly designed.
- Losing access to trails that run through private lands, where the landowner wants to shut down access due to privacy needs, liability issues or problems with horsemen.
- Taking measures to conserve an individual’s property or a piece of land that has come up for sale and is important to horse activities.
- Assistance finding financial support for land conservation projects.

Specific examples of technical assistance provided in the past year include:

- Helped a community protect nearly 140 miles of trails on private lands threatened by development and changing ownership of the properties;
- Advanced the development of nearly 1,000 acres of new horse parks, including competition venues, trail systems and recreational riding opportunities;
- Supported the protection of 250 miles of trails on public and private lands
- Helped dozens of small farm owners work through planning and zoning challenges to keep their horses on their property in urbanizing areas;
- Provided facts about manure and best management practices to help small farm owners in an urbanizing area win the right to keep their horses on their lands; and
- Helped a land trust include horses in a conservation easement, ensuring the protected facility will be home to horses for generations to come.



Photo courtesy Kentucky Horse Park

Working Together

ELCR Corporate, Conservation and Individual Members play a critical role in our mission to educate horsemen about the immediate need to conserve land for equine-related activity. These groups bring together conservation-minded individuals, organizations and corporations to spread the word about equine land loss.

In 2013, one of our most exciting partnership opportunities came from the Virginia Horse Council (VHC). In March, we worked together to host “No Time to Waste: Protect Your Equine Land & Trails,” an educational forum about land loss in combination with the VHC annual meeting. Expert presenters provided sessions in the morning as well as informative break-out sessions in the afternoon. This event was made possible by our sponsors USA Equestrian Trust and Bayer Animal Health.

This year we were also honored to be named an Official Charitable Beneficiary of the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. Through this program, Equestrian Events Inc, the official organizer of the RK3DE, makes a financial contribution and increases awareness of the land loss issue through advertising.

Corporate Conservation Champions

Active Interest Media
Bayer Animal Health
Breyer Animal Creations

Kentucky Performance Products

Corporate Conservation Leaders

Kerrits Performance Equestrian
Apparel

SmartPak Equine

Corporate Conservation Partners

Phelps Media Group

Business Members

Cornett and Associates

Equine Realty Services

Farms and Barns Real Estate

H. Burkert and Co.

Horsefly Creative

Horsecountry Campground

Masterson Equine Services, Inc.

Wallace Bridge

Conservation Leaders

American Quarter Horse Assn.

Equestrian Events, Inc.

Equus Foundation

Masters of Foxhounds Assn.

Mustang Heritage Foundation

North Salem Bridle Trails Assn.

Tread Lightly!

United States Equestrian Federation

United States Eventing Assn.

United States Hunter Jumper Assn.

Conservation Partners

Ashland Farm

American Assn. of Equine

Practitioners American

Competitive Trail Horse Assn.

American Driving Society

American Endurance Ride Conf.

American Morgan Horse Assn.

BCH, Lower Rio Grande Chapter

Bay State Trail Riders Assn.

Caledonia Conservancy

Cedar Ridge Farm Equestrian

Certified Horsemanship Assn.

Charlotte Steeplechase

Clifton Horse Society

Conservation Trust for Florida

Cowgirl Up Ladies Trail Riding Club

Crestwood Farm Bloodstock, LLC

Equestrian Partners in Conservation

Essex County Trail Association

The Event Derby

Foothills Equestrian Trails Assn.

Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen

Friesian Horse Assn. of North America

Great Lakes Distance Riding Assn.

Green Mountain Horse Assn.

Highland Equestrian Conservancy

Horsemen’s Council of Illinois

Kansas Horse Council

Kentucky Horse Council

Kentucky Thoroughbred Assn.

King County Executive Horse Council

Land Trust Alliance

Margaux Farms

Maryland Horse Breeders Association

Maryland Horse Council

Masterson Equestrian Trust Fnd.

Michigan Horse Council

Monterey Horse Park

Muttontown Horsemen’s Assn.

Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen’s Assn.

National Cutting Horse Assn.

Nevada All-State Trail Riders

New York Thoroughbred Breeders

Newtown Bridle Lands Assn.

North Ada County Foothills Assn.

North American Trail Ride Conference

North Carolina Horse Council

Oregon Equestrian Trails

Palos Hills Horsemen’s Assn.

Parker Trail Riders

Pathfinder Farm

Pennsylvania Equine Council

Pinto Horse Association of America

Piscataquog Area Trailways

Riding Club of Barrington Hills

Santa Fe Horse Coalition

Shawnee Trail Conservancy

Somerset Co. Horse and Pony Assn.

South Carolina Horsemen’s Council

Southern Eighths Farm

Southern Trailriders Assn.

Tryon Hounds

Twin Oaks Valley Equestrian Assn.

United States Dressage Federation

United States Polo Association

United States Pony Clubs

Vermont Trail Trotters

Virginia Horse Council

Virginia Thoroughbred Assn.

Wayne DuPage Hunt

Financial Statements

ELCR Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current Assets	2013	2012
Cash	\$57,433	\$199,158
Other Receivables	2,899	4,036
Promises to Give	974	14,979
Prepaid Insurance	876	390
Total Current Assets	62,182	218,563

Property & Equipment	2013	2012
Total Property & Equipment	8,667	8,491

Total Assets	2013	2012
Total Assets	\$70,849	\$227,054

Liabilities & Fund Balance

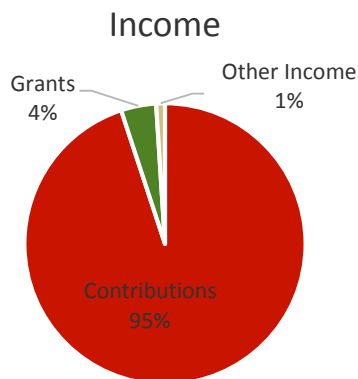
Current Liabilities	2013	2012
Accounts Payable	\$1,051	\$8,208
Accrued Liabilities	5,261	8,267
Deferred Revenue	-	14,979
Total Current Liabilities	6,312	31,454

Fund Balance	2013	2012
Unrestricted	64,537	115,555
Temporarily Restricted	-	80,045
Total Fund Balance	64,537	195,600

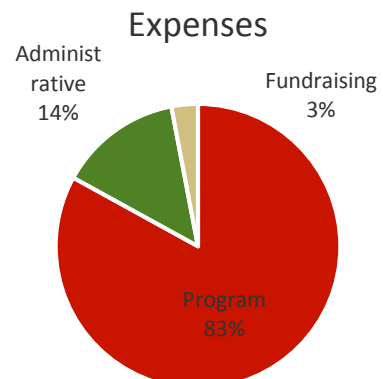
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	2013	2012
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$70,849	\$227,054

ELCR's Ratio of Spending

Income	2013
Contributions	\$305,790
Grants	20,000
Other Income	662
Total Income	327,034



Expenses	2013
Program Expenses	\$381,326
Administrative	62,004
Fundraising	14,766
Total Expenses	458,096



Our Leadership

Board of Directors

Officers:

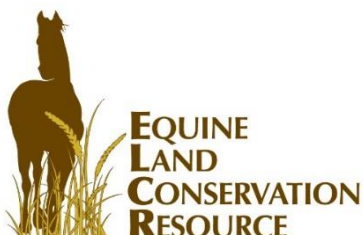
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Advisory Council

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Laurel Florio, J.D. Attorney <i>Georgia</i>			



ELCR advances the conservation of land for horse-related activity.

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