

# Status Update and Trends of Texas Working Lands: 25-Year Anniversary

Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute



# Texas Land Trends

For over two decades, the *Texas Land Trends* program has informed the public about the status and trends of our state's working lands.

WORKING LANDS - PRIVATELY-OWNED  
FARMS, RANCHES, AND FORESTS

## Publications

[txlandtrends.org](http://txlandtrends.org)

A report series detailing the trends in TX working lands.

- 5 yr Statewide Assessments
- Specialty topics-
  - Landowner demographics
  - Regional land parcel trends
  - Conservation easements
  - Wildlife management
  - Landowner perspectives

## Data Explorer

[data.txlandtrends.org](http://data.txlandtrends.org)

A visualizer tool for the Texas Land Trends dataset.

- Create custom queries
- Compare areas of interest
- Export function for tables/ graphs/ maps

# Datasets

Identifying trends in  
Texas working lands  
through the  
integration of several  
key data sets

## Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

- Land use classifications
  - Acres by ISD
- Land values (market/production)

## USDA NASS Census of Agriculture

- Ownerships by size class
  - Number of acres and farms
- Landowner demographics

## US Census Bureau and TX Demographic Center

- Current population
- Projected population

## *Other specialty data sets*

- Land parcel
- Natural resources
- Conservation easements
- Military

## WORKING LANDS - PRIVATELY-OWNED FARMS, RANCHES, AND FORESTS

ECONOMIC  
GROWTH  
↓  
POPULATION  
GROWTH  
↓  
INCREASED DEMAND  
FOR RURAL LAND  
↓  
HIGH LAND VALUES  
↓  
INCENTIVES TO  
SUBDIVIDE OR SELL

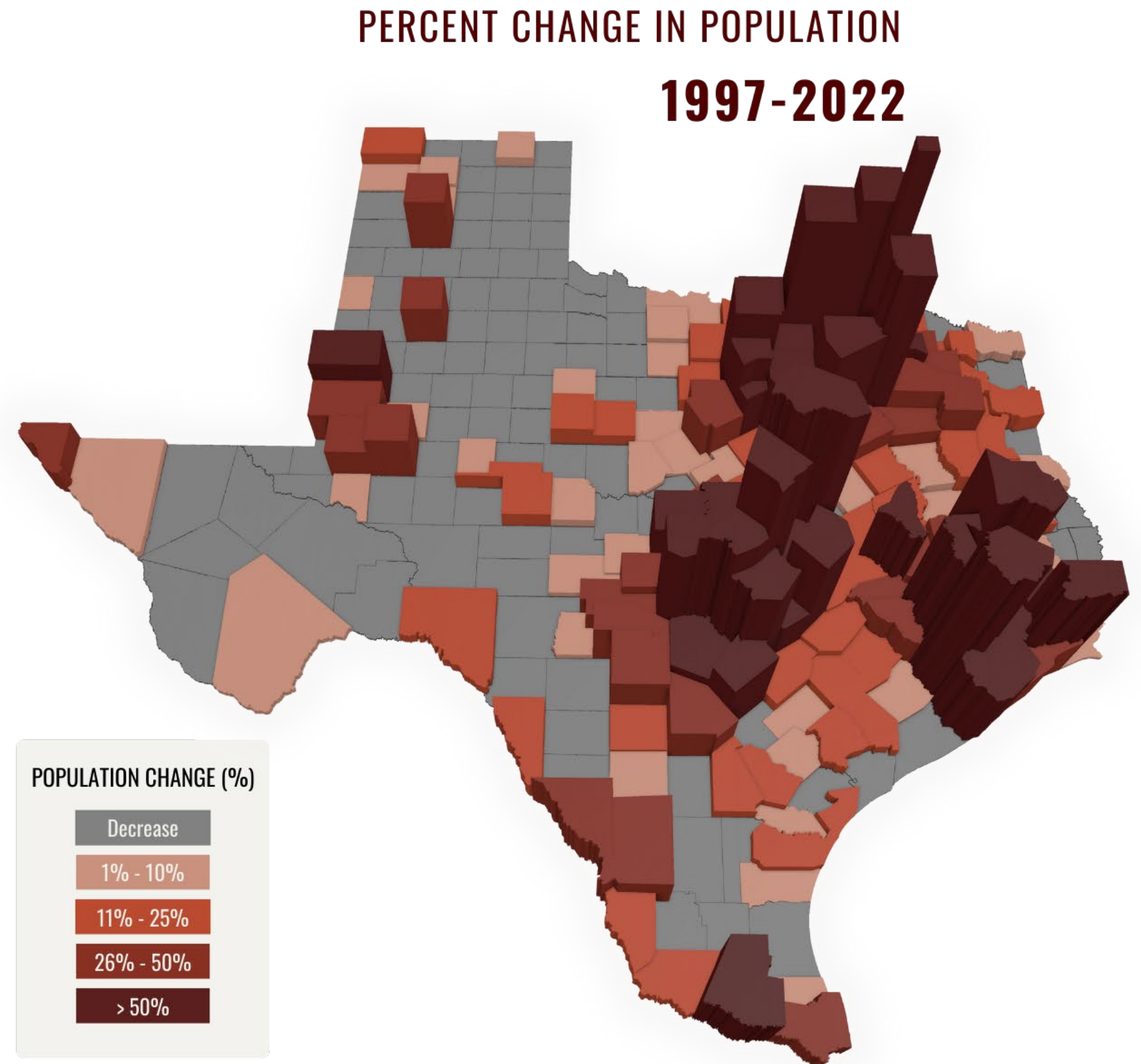
LAND FRAGMENTATION OR  
CONVERSION

# Land Trends Story



# Population Growth

- From 1997 to 2022, Texas grew from 19M to 30M residents
  - 55% increase
  - Over 1,000 new residents/day
- Texas contains 8 of the top 15 fastest growing cities (by % change) in the U.S.
  - Celina, TX
  - Fulshear, TX
  - Princeton, TX
  - Anna, TX
  - Georgetown, TX
  - Prosper, TX
  - Forney, TX
  - Kyle, TX



# Population Growth

- 88% of population increase occurred in state's 25 highest population growth counties
- These counties account for 9% of land area and 75% of Texas residents
- At 22M, these counties contain more people than 48 individual states in the U.S.

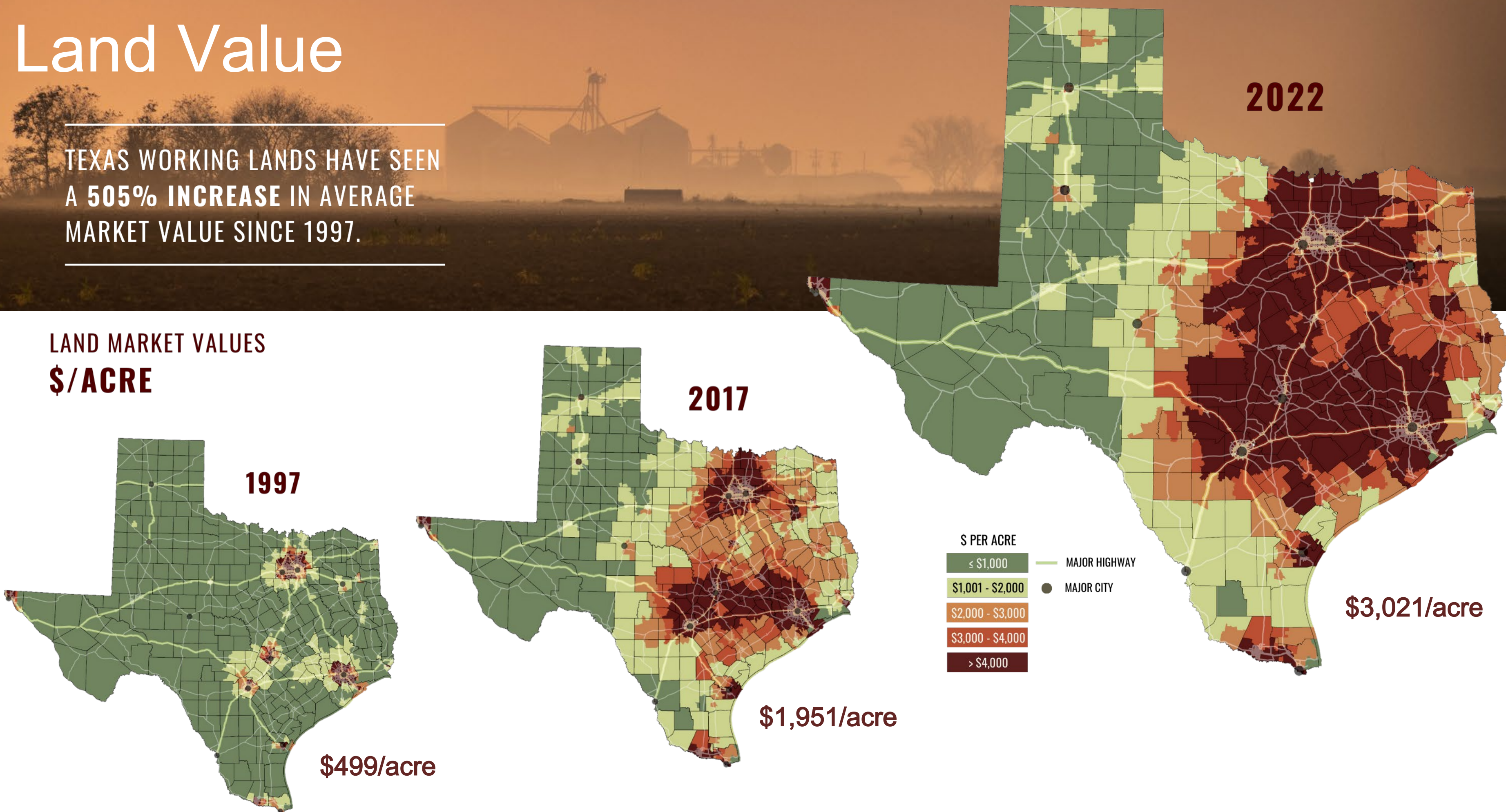


## TEXAS POPULATION

The combined population of the 25 highest growth counties in Texas (22M represented in maroon) is greater than the individual populations of every U.S. state with the exception of California.

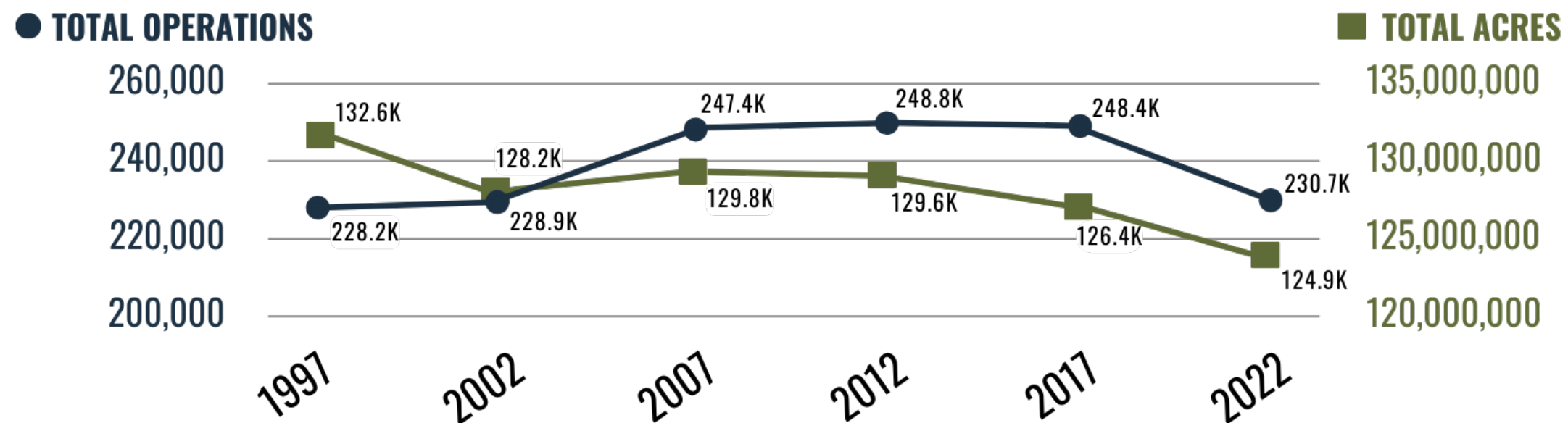
# Land Value

TEXAS WORKING LANDS HAVE SEEN  
A **505% INCREASE** IN AVERAGE  
MARKET VALUE SINCE 1997.



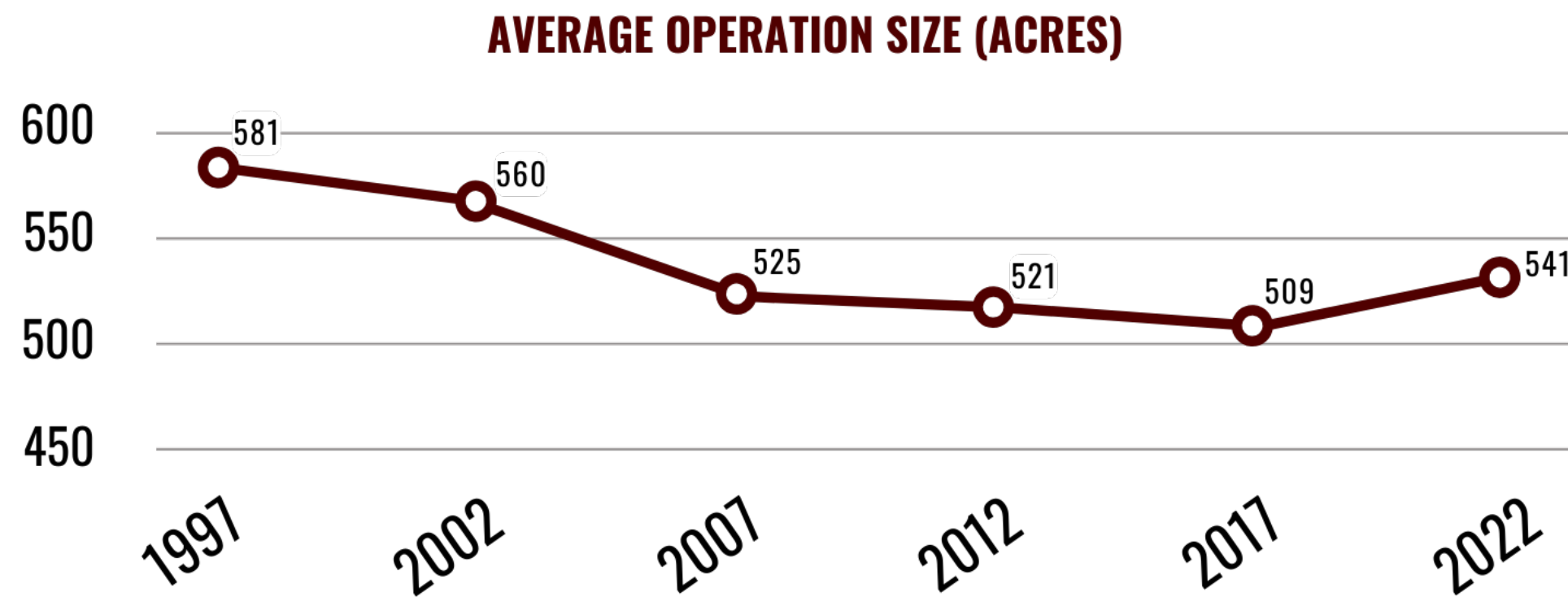
# Ownership Patterns

- Historically, total number of operations increases while number of acres decreases (1997 to 2017)
- Over the last 5 years, total number of operations decreased by over 17K and number of acres decreased by 1.5M (2017 to 2022)



# Ownership Patterns

- Historically, average operation size decreased (1997-2017)
- In the last 5 years, average size increased from 509 acres to 541 acres per operation (2017-2022)





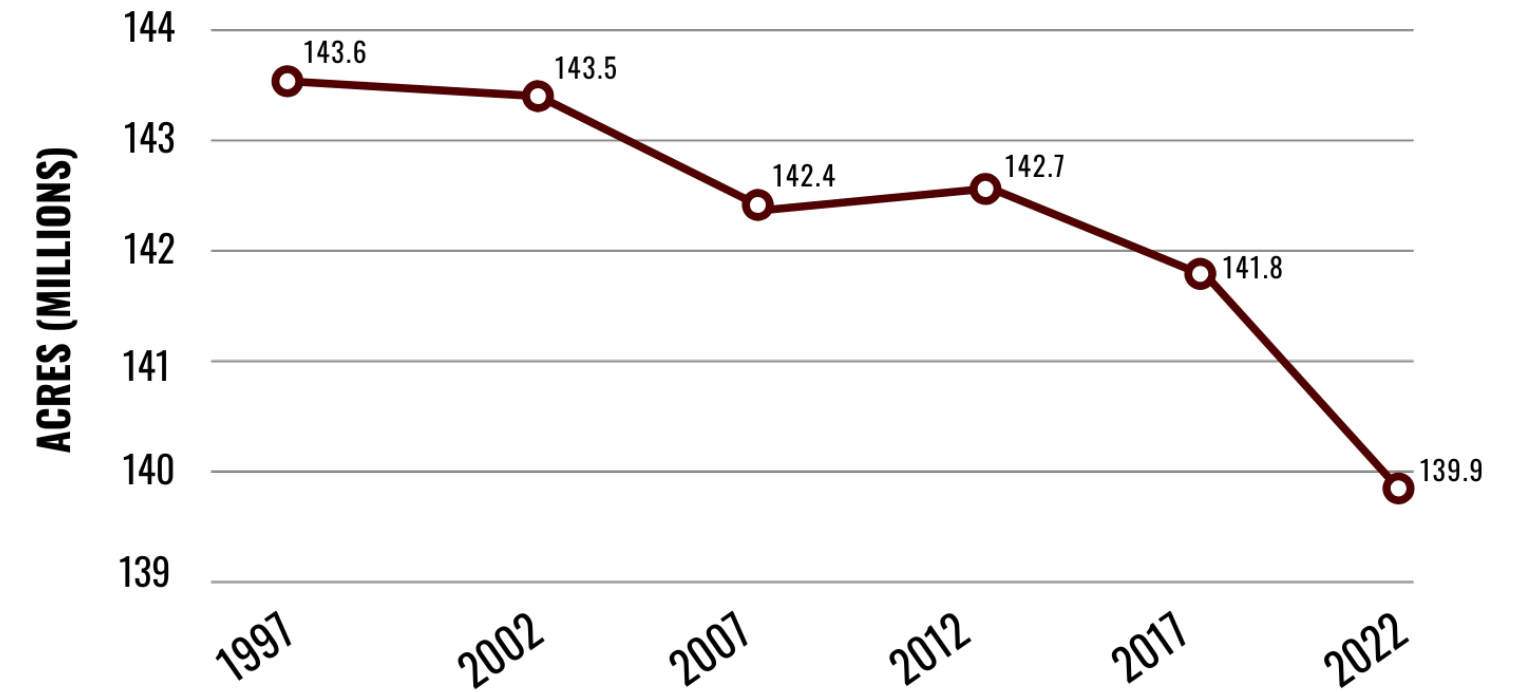
**WORKING LAND LOSS** —  
Statewide change in acres  
of total working lands by  
ISD from 1997 to 2022.



**WORKING LAND LOSS (ACRES)**



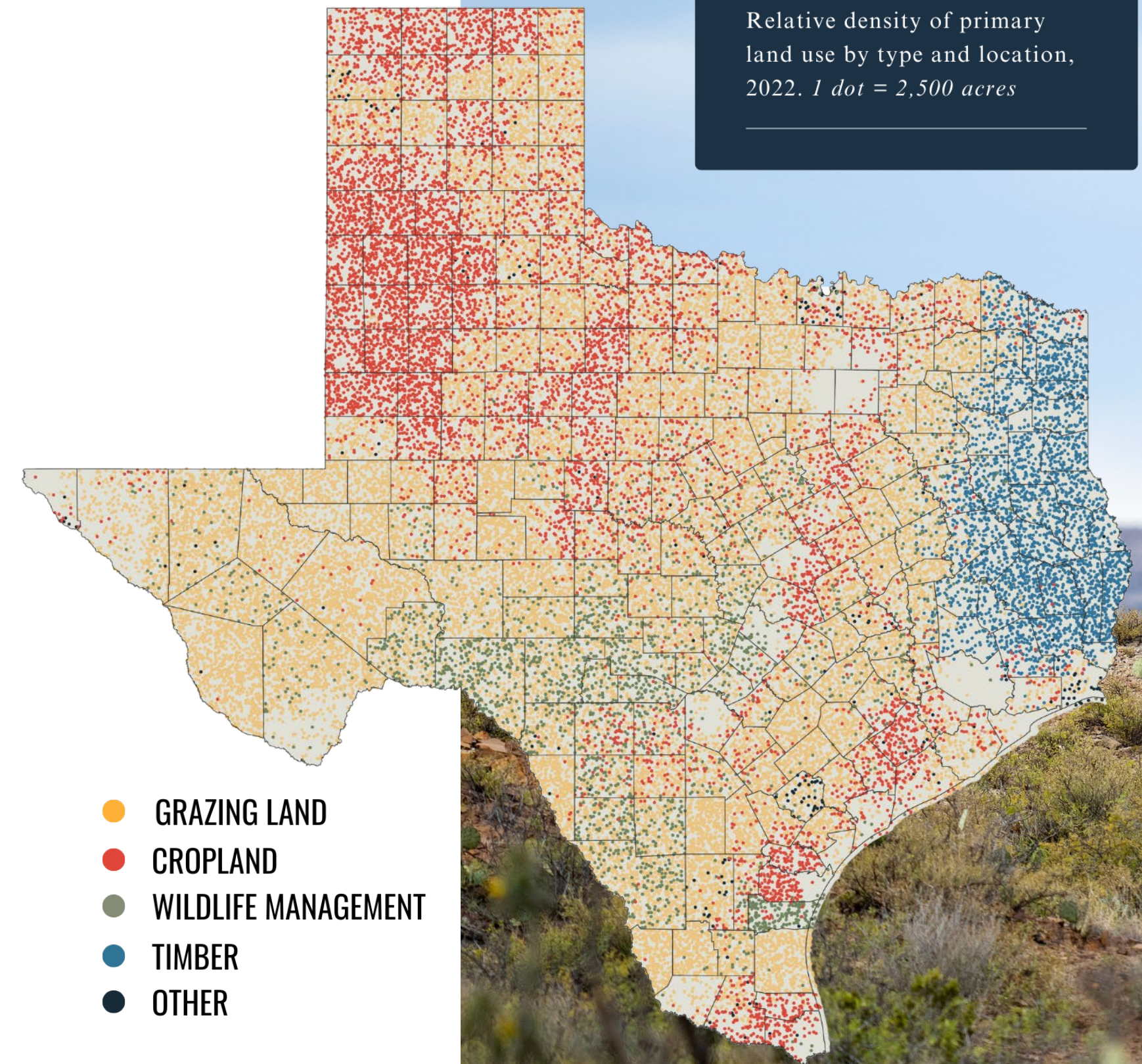
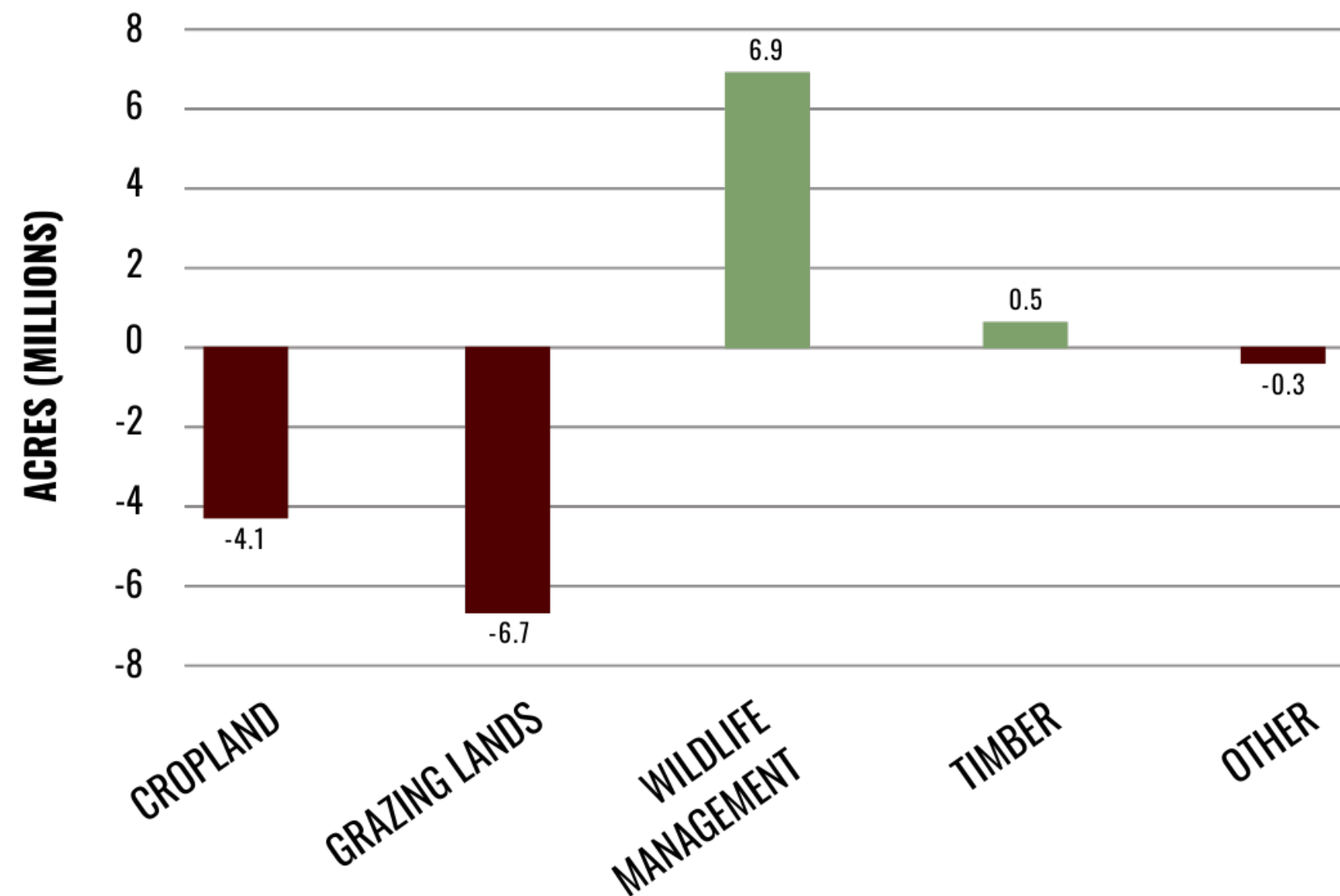
# Working Land Loss



- 139M acres of total working lands
- Over 3.7M acres lost over last 25 years
- Over 1.8M acres lost in last 5 years

# Land Use

- Grazing lands – 72% of total working lands
  - Loss of 6.7M acres from 1997-2022
- Cropland – 17% of total working lands
  - Loss of 4.1M acres from 1997-2022

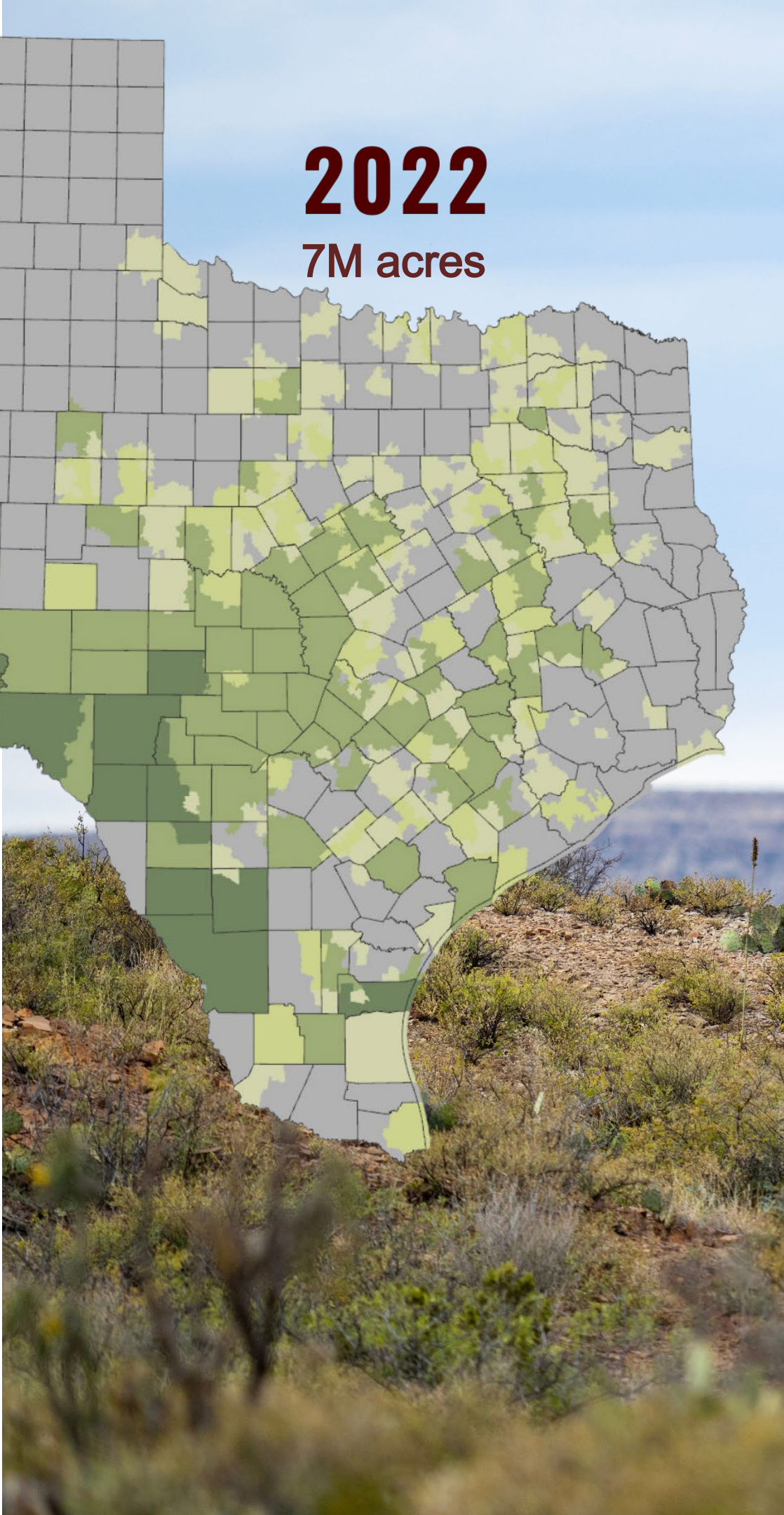
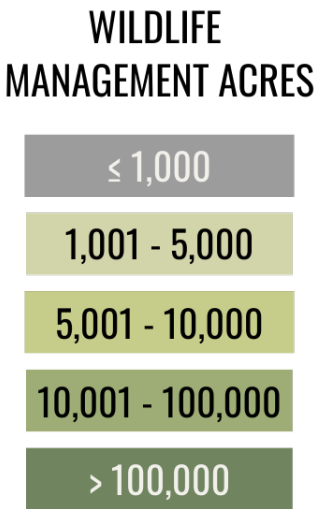


# Wildlife Management

**1997**  
94K acres

**2017**  
5.7M acres

**2022**  
7M acres



# Renewable Energy

- Texas leads in the nation in domestically produced energy
- Texas leads in wind energy production and is a top producer of solar energy

2014

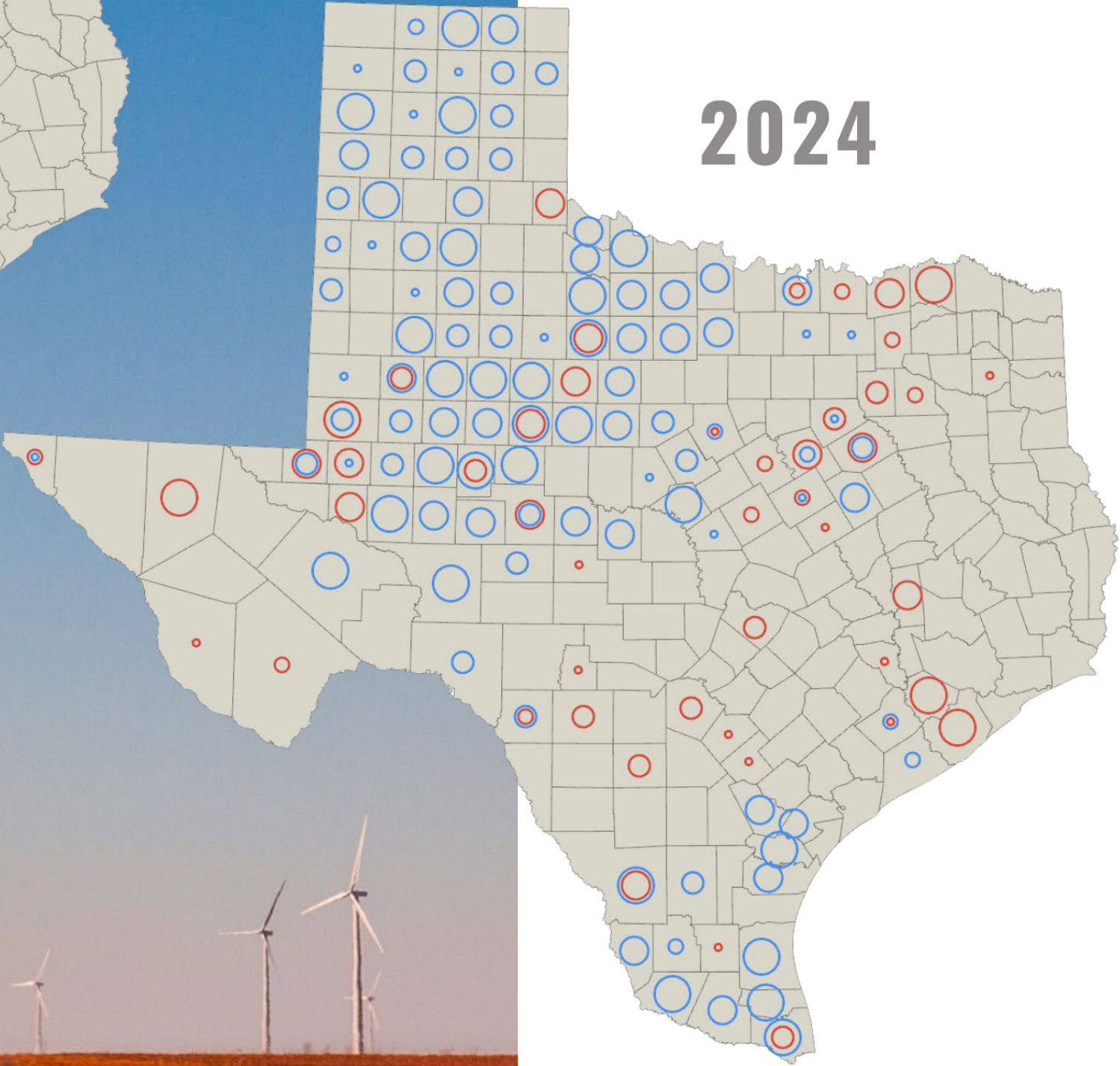
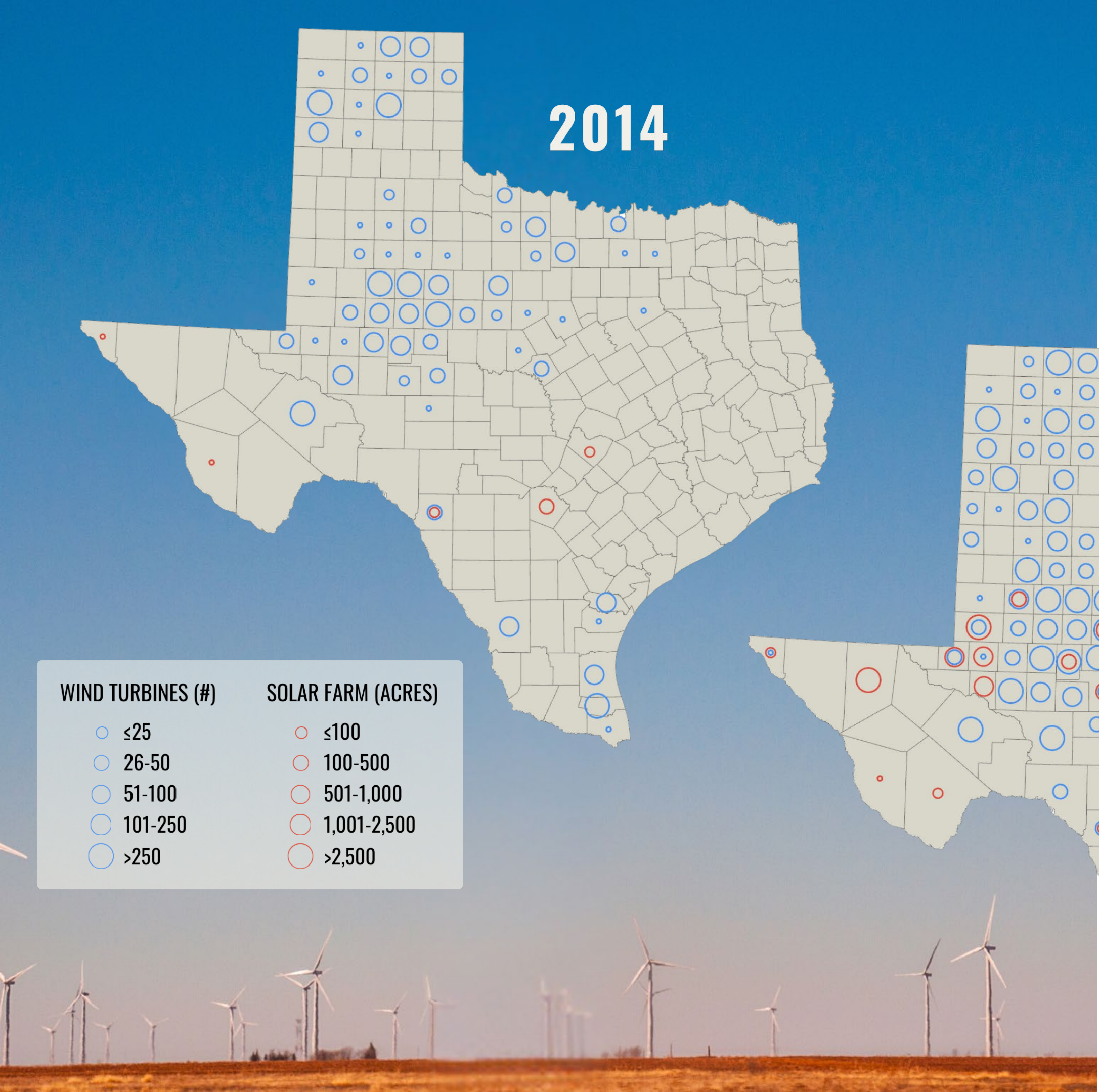
2024

WIND TURBINES (#)

- ≤25
- 26-50
- 51-100
- 101-250
- >250

SOLAR FARM (ACRES)

- ≤100
- 100-500
- 501-1,000
- 1,001-2,500
- >2,500





*Thank you for celebrating 25 years  
of Texas Land Trends with us.*

SCAN BELOW TO EXPLORE TEXAS  
LAND TRENDS PUBLICATIONS  
AND THE DATA EXPLORER TOOL  
OR VISIT **TXLANDTRENDS.ORG**



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