



University of Alaska

Land Grant Status

Senate Joint Resolution 8

Senate Education Committee

February 15, 2021

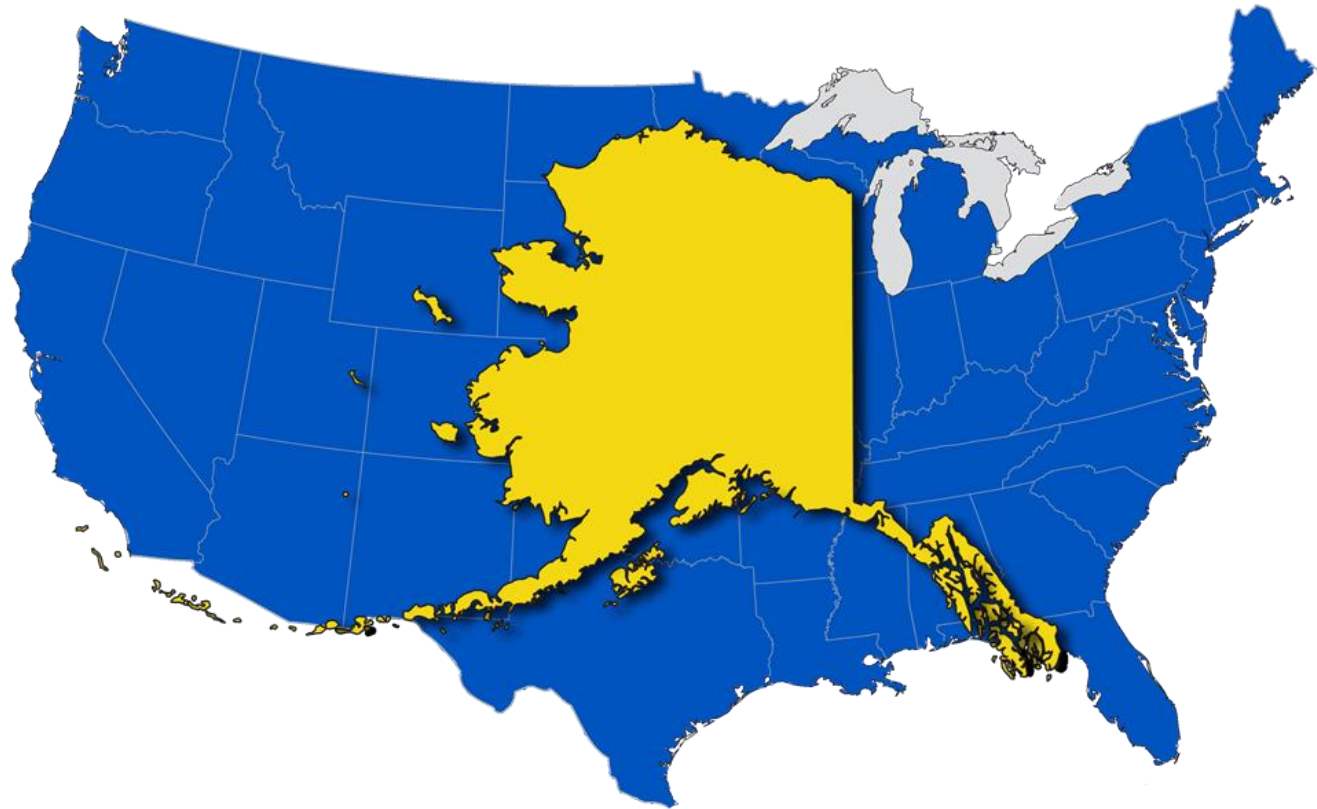


Agenda

- UA Land Grant History
- Framework for Solution
- Federal Legislation
- UA Land Holdings
- UA Land Revenues

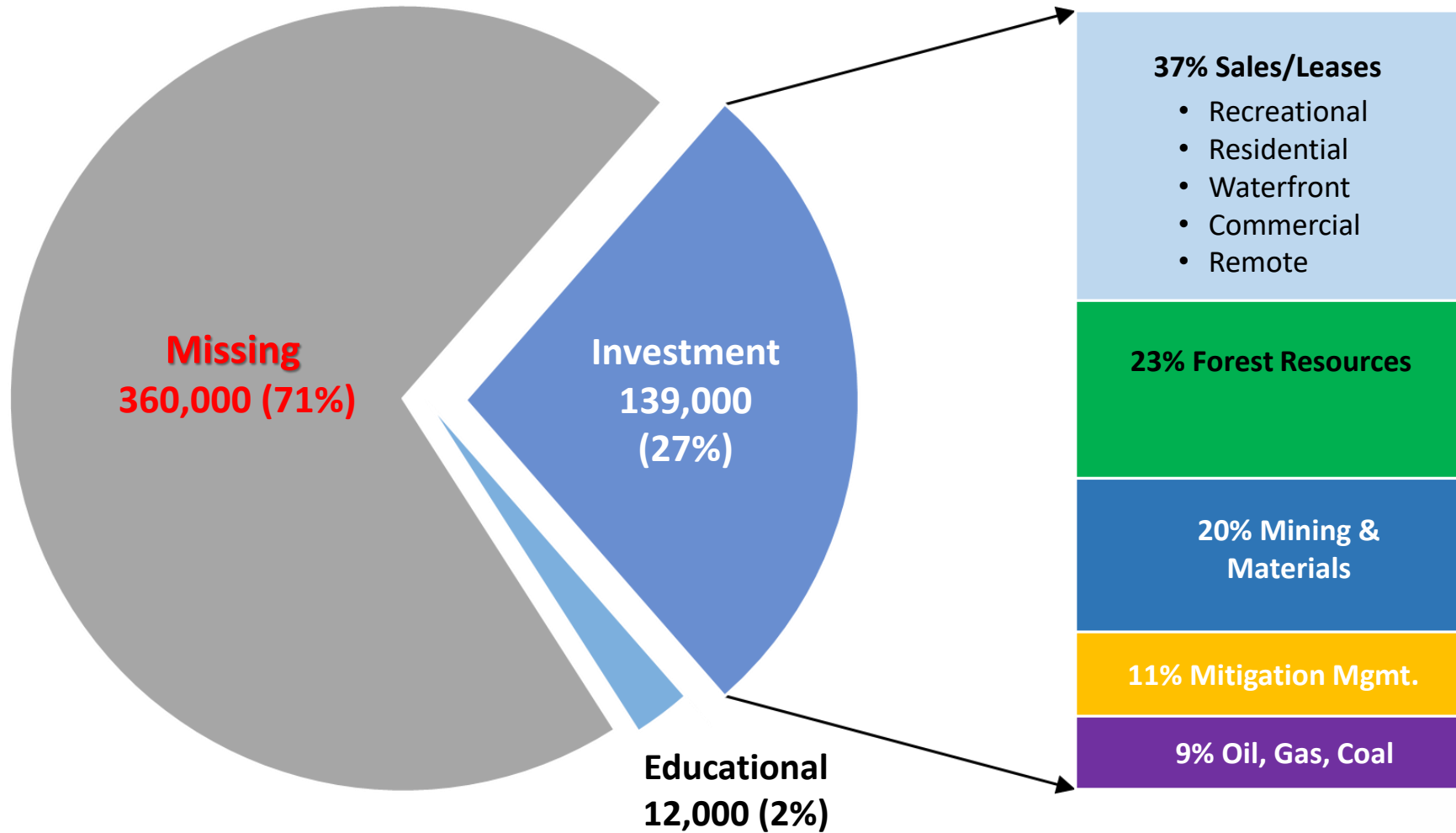
University Land Grant

- Only Delaware & Hawaii rank below Alaska in higher education land grants
- UA only received ~ 110,000 acres of its federal land grant entitlement
- UA's land grant deficit is 360,000 acres



UA Land Holdings

~151,000 acres



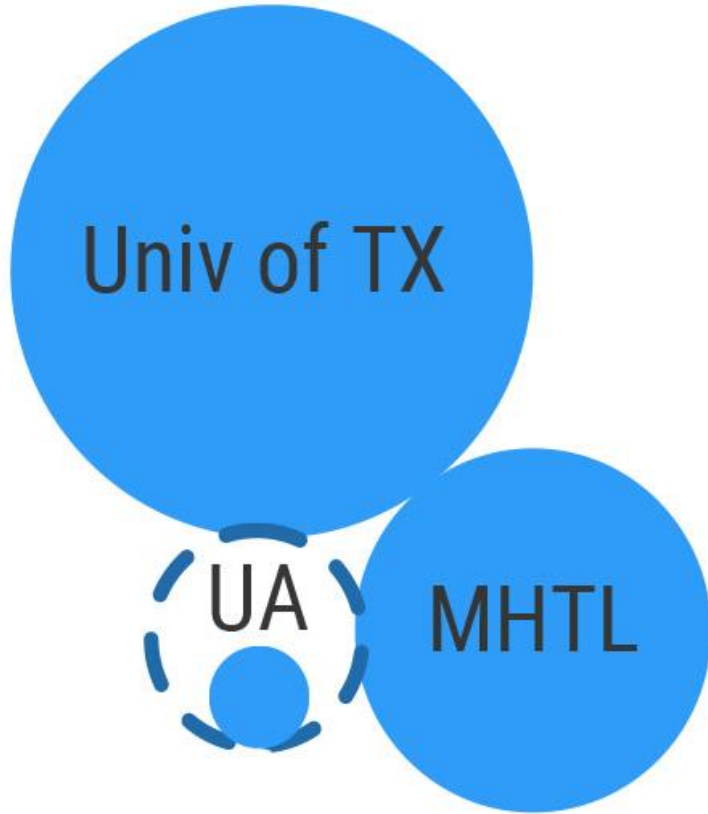
Educational: Includes campuses, research sites and other facilities



University Land Grant

- Robust permanent land endowment would allow University to generate more revenue, and over time help moderate state general fund support
- State of Alaska repeated attempts to remedy gap but constitutionally precluded from doing so
- Federal government's position is that University land was included in Alaska's Statehood Act grant and has resisted remedies that rely solely on additional federal lands

UA Land Grant Acreage Comparison



University of Texas	University of Alaska	Mental Health Trust
2.1 Million Acres (1876)	150,000 Acres (1987) (360,000 missing)	1 Million Acres (1994)
Generated \$21.4 billion in 2019	Generated \$6.8 million in 2019	Generated \$10.6 million in 2019

The State of Alaska received 104.5 Million Acres (1959) and generated \$11.2 billion in 2019

Land Grant History

Pre-Statehood Federal Laws for UA Lands

- **1862 Morrill Act:** Each state upon admission was to receive 30,000 acres per each member of Congress (90,000 acres for Alaska) dedicated to higher education. Provisions not extended to Alaska at Statehood and so no acreage was conveyed to UA.
- **1915 “Wickersham” Land Grant Statute:** Reserved an estimated 336,000 acres in Tanana Valley area. Lands remained largely unsurveyed and less than 5% were ever conveyed to UA.
- **1929 “Sutherland” Land Grant Statute:** Congress grants 100,000 acres for UA. Left intact at Statehood, and acreage is (eventually) conveyed to UA, where it makes up most of current land holdings.



Land Grant History

- Following Statehood, the Alaska Legislature tries to provide UA's land. In **1959** a bill reserving 1 million acres, passes both Houses, but is vetoed
- During **60's-80's** available land base become narrower with the Land Freeze and passage other federal legislation
- Alaska Legislature in **2000** passes bill, and overrides gubernatorial veto, to grant UA 260,000 acres
- In **2004**, Alaska Supreme Court rules land conveyance is not an appropriation, but declines to address dedication clause issue



Land Grant History

- **2005:** Legislation identifies specific lands for transfer to UA (HB 130)
- **2007:** Environmental group sues arguing land transfer violates Constitution's anti-dedication clause (Article 9, Section 7)
- **2009:** Alaska Supreme Court agrees and sticks down the 2000/2005 legislation. State can't make a land grant to UA that "would operate in a manner similar to the way that the University's federal land grant has operated since before statehood."
- **2010:** UA begins transferring land back to the state
- **Today:** UA owns ~151,000 acres, most from 1929 Sutherland Act, private party donations, as well as from local governments.



Framework for Solution

- UA's unfulfilled land grant a Statehood Act issue
- Congress assumed Alaska Legislature would be able to fulfill the entitlement
- Alaska Delegation, Governor, DNR and Dept. of Interior are discussing other issues related to Alaska's remaining 5 million acre Statehood Act land selections
- Anti-dedication clause has an explicit exemption: *“when required by the federal government for state participation in federal programs”*
- Solution may entail a structured federal program permissible under the constitution



University of Alaska Fiscal Foundation Act

- Federal legislation by Alaska's Congressional Delegation
- Establishes program within Bureau of Land Management to identify and convey available lands to UA from lands selected by State of Alaska
- Framework for UA and State to jointly identify up to 360,000 acres
- U.S. Dept. of Interior will provide technical assistance identifying lands for inclusion in program
- Delegation working towards reintroduction in 117th Congress

UA Land Holdings

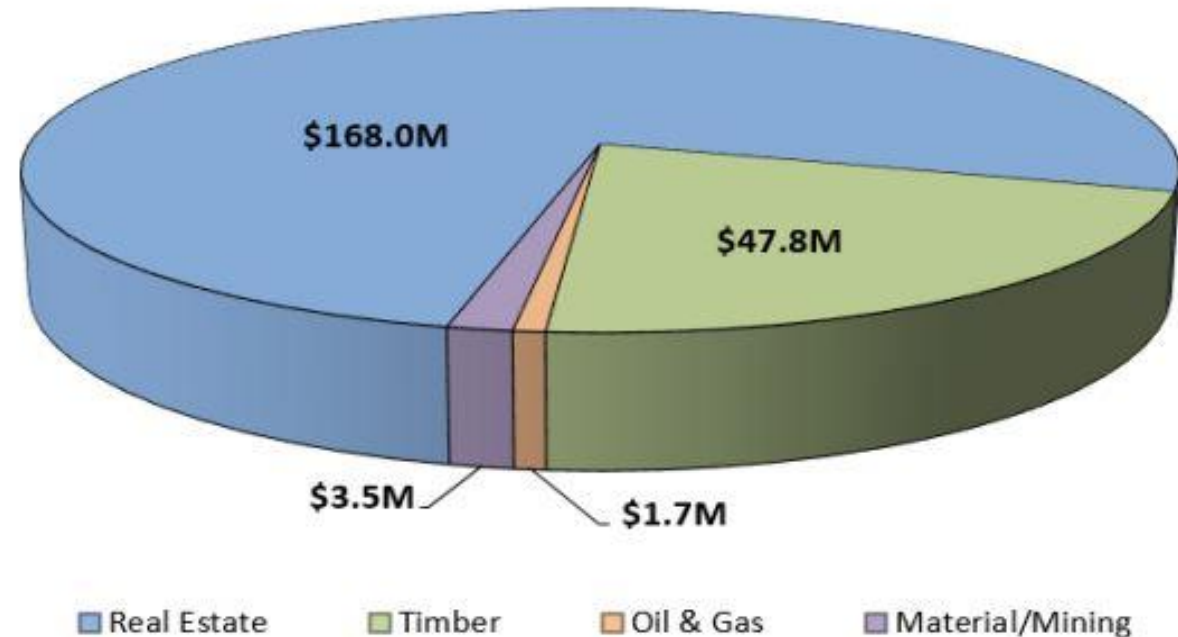
Intended for a Return:
Trust investment lands actively monetized as Congress intended.

Positive income :

1. Real Estate (*sales, leases, easements*)
2. Forest Timber Sales
3. Mining Coal, Oil and Gas Development

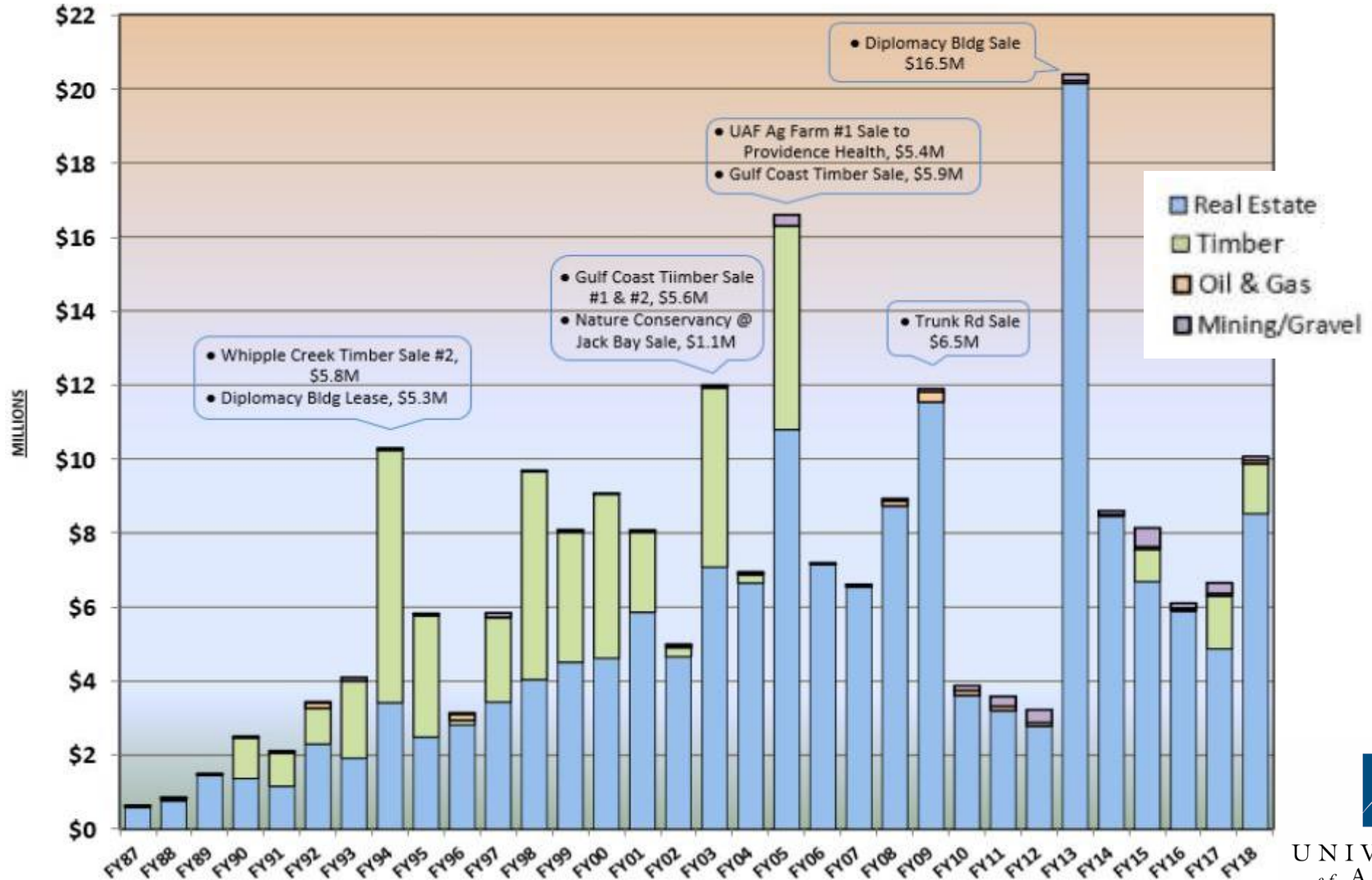
Historical Receipts by Resource

(\$221,005,093 FY87-FY18)

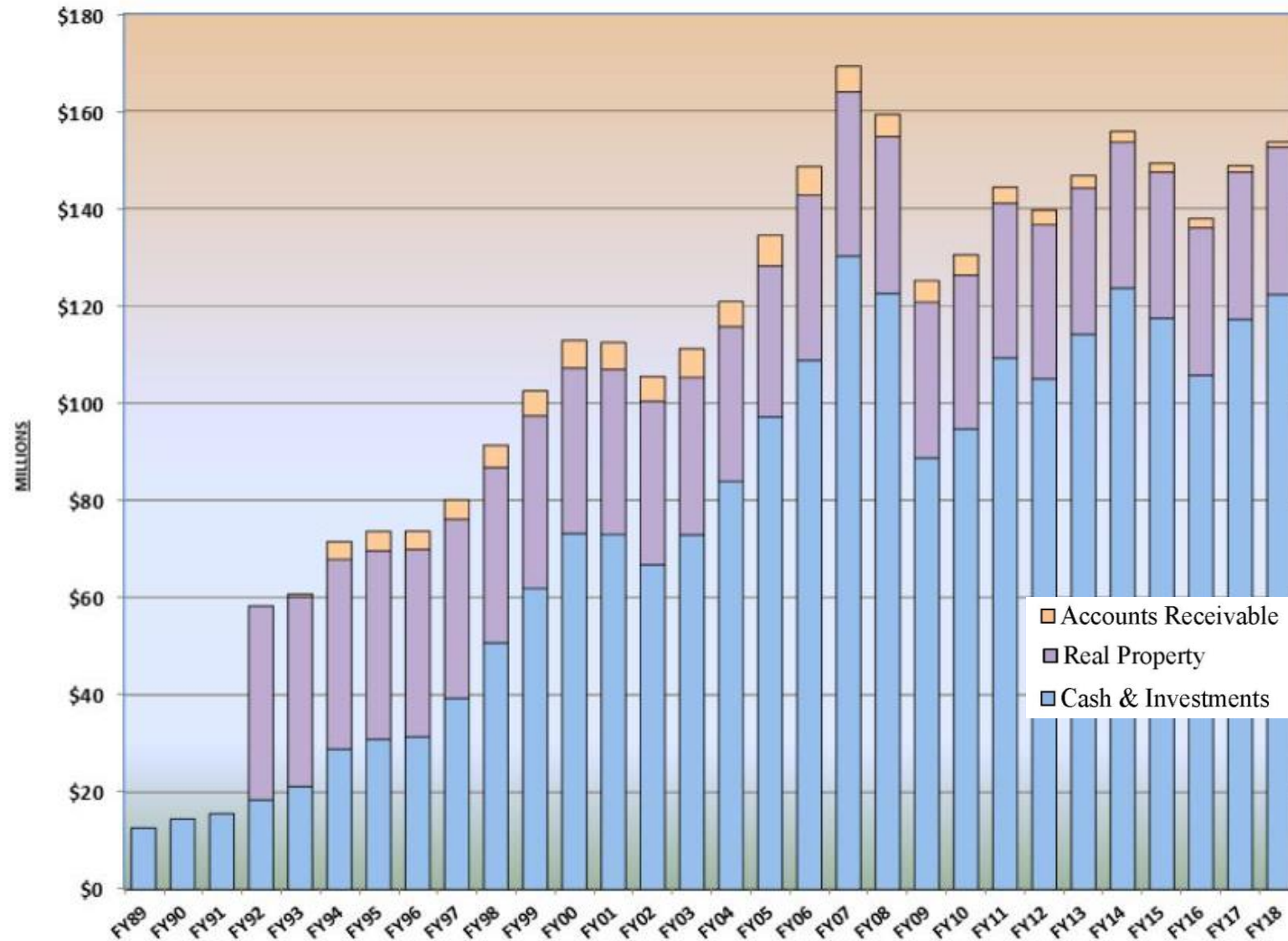


***Over \$220 million generated since 1987
with limited Trust land assets***

Revenue by Resource Category



UA Land Trust Balance



Thank You

