Is land a good financial investment?

It’s a question many land buyers ask: Will my property prove to be a good financial investment?

Of course, no one has a crystal ball that will predict the future, particularly when it comes to timber and real estate values. But as a hard, tangible asset, land certainly can have advantages as an investment.

John Evans, a Florida real estate professional who specializes in sales of agricultural and recreational property, has written an item on LandThink.com that offers some thoughts on this topic.

Among his main points:

– He is seeing more interest from people who want to buy rural property as an investment, partly due to continuing concerns about the instability of the economy and financial markets.

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Published by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. “This travel kit features information on hiking trails, outfitters, fishing, hunting, wilderness areas and just about any type of outdoor recreation,” shares Mark Knight, who’s part of the Potlatch Preferred Broker network.

Visitors may request a copy or download the 2013 Tour Guide at www.Arkansas.com. Outdoor enthusiasts can also explore Arkansas’s state parks and events at www.ArkansasStateParks.com.

Potlatch Preferred Broker Rick Musick shares an easy and affordable way for families in Idaho to enjoy the state’s beautiful parks this summer and year-round. At a cost of only $10, the Idaho State Parks Passport is available for purchase when residents register their recreational or passenger vehicle online, by mail-in renewal or at any county DMV office. Out-of-state visitors can also purchase a similar pass for significant savings.

“The pass offers Idaho residents access to 30 Idaho State Parks, with boat launches, historical sites and hundreds of miles of trails, plus discounts on camping,” he says. “For those who love the outdoors and want to explore beyond their own land, the pass is quite a bargain.” For more information about this passport, go online.

Potlatch broker Natalie Cowart loves exploring the state’s natural beauty with her family, and has discovered many wonderful jumping off points within the more than 14,000 acres of Minnesota’s exceptional wildlife refuges.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge has two main visitor centers that are gateways to wildlife and recreation around the state. To start some summer exploration beyond your homestead, a map of these and other refuges in Minnesota and around the U.S. can be found at the Fish and Wildlife Services website.

Those planning a visit to “The Natural State” can request a free Arkansas Adventure Guide, published by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. “This travel kit features information on hiking trails, outfitters, fishing, hunting, wilderness areas and just about any type of outdoor recreation,” shares Mark Knight, who’s part of the Potlatch Preferred Broker network.

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When Arkansas land buyers work with Kingwood Forestry Services, they get a major bonus. Kingwood has extensive knowledge of timber management and the timber markets, which can tie well into a purchase decision from an investment perspective.

And professional forestry services such as long-term management, appraisals and timber sales are cornerstones for the continuing success of Kingwood, part of Potlatch’s Preferred Broker Network.

Pete Prutzman, president of the company, has managed Kingwood’s Arkadelphia office since it opened in 1979. He is a Registered Forester and Real Estate Broker in both Arkansas and Oklahoma, and is also a State Certified General Appraiser and Licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator.

To stay current on market conditions and best practices in timberland management, Pete is very involved in the industry. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Forest Landowners Association, is a member of the Association of Consulting Foresters, and is a past chairman of the Arkansas Board of Registration for Foresters. Prutzman has been an active member of the Arkansas Forestry Association, and was recently appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to the Arkansas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board.

This May marked the 30-year anniversary of the company, which has grown both in size and in its range of work over the years.

“Early on, we bought part of a multi-state business that did forestry contracting work,” Pete says. “One of our founders and first broker, Jim Foster, encouraged our team to do what it takes to get the necessary education, certifications and licenses to grow the business.”

In the mid-’80s, Kingwood saw other opportunities related to forest management, like appraisals and land sales. So the company expanded beyond herbicide application, tree planting and the occasional sale, steadily growing its land sales activity.

“Jim Foster’s foresight led us to today,” Pete says. “We have sold properties for most of the major forest landowners in our region, with more than 200 timberland sales transactions in the last year among our three offices.”

Pete, who owns 70 acres of timberland with his wife and two grown children, firmly believes in the long-term benefits of timberland. The number one motivation for Kingwood buyers is forestry investment, he says, followed closely by recreation. But it’s a good idea for recreational buyers to also understand the economics of an investment in timberland.

To connect with Pete Prutzman and the Kingwood Forestry Services team, and to learn more about its Potlatch land listings in Arkansas, call 1-800-308-3831, or visit www.KingwoodForestry.com.
- Buying property gives buyers the ability to enjoy their investment, rather than having all their money tied up in intangible investments.

- With a wider variety of people pursuing a “getaway” with recreational features, he is seeing all types of professionals buying rural property.

- Many buyers are looking at a land purchase as a way to hedge against inflation, and/or to look for an investment that may offer stability.

And talk to a Potlatch Preferred Broker about values of properties you are interested in, both from the timber and real estate perspectives. They can offer historical data and information about the market that can be helpful as you make your buying decision.

Read the full posting online.

POTLATCH PREFERRED BROKER NETWORK

Let us show you why your Potlatch Preferred Broker is the only name you’ll need to know when it comes to buying property. Please contact the broker nearest your area of interest or visit us at www.PotlatchLandSales.com. We look forward to helping you with your property search!

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