



Opinion from America's Outback

COWARDLY OR BRAVE?

Your uncommon courage is on common display on virtually every page. It is most apparent when you print letters from those who claim “Bravely Anonymous” as their moniker, which is, of course, an oxymoron—the two words are mutually exclusive.

All societies recognize and reward their heroes. If you're brave, you won't remain anonymous very long. If your identity remains a secret, then “cowardly” must replace “bravely.”

T.M. Murphy, Madison, Missouri

Lee Allen's “The Rugged Frontier” in Summer 2017 about H. Alan Day is excellent. Liked the quotes from Kit Carson, who knew the South-

west well, and Wallace Stegner, the author of many western masterpieces and professor of creative writing at Stanford. Just ordered the Days' book on Amazon.

Tone down the pro-Trump propaganda. The poor guy may not last a year. May quit or be fired or resign or face impeachment.

Robert Payne, Redding, California

NOTE FROM TERMINAL ISLAND

I think Summer RANGE 2017 is the best yet.

But wish page 13 wasn't on page “13”

L.O.L. Would like to thank you in a publishable note form, but have no idea where to start, what to say or how to say it. I feel like a dried flower on a shelf. Edit at will please! Cut and paste, add or subtract.

P.S.: Sending you some subscriptions, not sure that is the best way to help you but...

Dwight Hammond, Terminal Island
Prison, San Pedro, California

Dwight, no changes necessary, your letter is perfect and it's a treat to hear from you. Hundreds of thousands of people are with you, including everyone at RANGE. Hope to celebrate with you, Susie, Steve



and family soon, back at the ranch near Burns, Ore.—Ed. (For more information on the Hammond case, go to www.rangemagazine.com, Back Issues, Spring 2013, for “Enemies of the State” by Hank Vogler.)

DOUBLE STANDARDS

About June 17, 2012, a U.S. Forest Service crew had a controlled burn in Muncy Creek in the Shell Creek Range in White Pine County near Ely, Nev. The crew lost control of the fire. As a result, over 11,000 acres of USFS, BLM and private land burned as well as two mining properties with buildings, a doublewide trailer and outbuildings where a ranch hand lived. To my knowledge no restitution has been made to the ranch owners and no person has been arrested or convicted of domestic terrorism. Double standards.

Name withheld by request

CJ, CHE & EL CHAPO

I admire your unwavering dedication to the cowboy lifestyle. That is, a sharp focus on a single theme; an editorial charter that gives the book a well-formed personality. I think that the cover of the Winter 2015-2016 issue (the Todd Klassy photo of Dani Jones) is not only a fantastic work of art, typifying the image of the RANGE reader, but it is also one of the best

TIME TO COPY WILD HORSE ANNIE

The 2018 BLM budget proposal for wild-horse management released in late May 2017 has set off a firestorm of wailing and gnashing of teeth from those who have claimed the wild horse as the icon of the American West.

The president's proposal cuts \$10 million out of a budget that cost \$80 million in 2017, nearly double what it cost in 2008 (\$36 million) to run the wild-horse program. It also proposes to give the BLM authority to implement all provisions given it in the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses & Burros Act, including the ability to sell horses without limitation.

John Ruhs, acting deputy director of the BLM, says the chance of this budget passing is now up to Congress. “The administration will need to really focus Republicans to push this through.” He says the livestock associations, the public lands councils, and wildlife folks will have to be engaged to support the budget language.

The BLM has the statutory obligation under the 1971 act to maintain animal populations on the range at appropriate management levels (AML). It admits that current management of the program is “unsustainable” as the number of animals on the range and

in BLM holding facilities grows this year to nearly 100,000.

To reach AML, which in many Herd Management Areas is currently three times what the range can sustain, the BLM will have to gather horses. Because each horse that is gathered costs taxpayers \$50,000 to maintain over the span of its lifetime, the only way to sustain the program is to allow for sale of the horses without restriction.

Ironically, the proposed budget has sent the wailing wild-horse advocates straight over the edge of reason. Their propaganda machine has lit on fire, social media is ablaze, and the modern-day version of Wild Horse Annie's (aka Velma Johnson) schoolchildren's letter-writing campaign has begun. But it is just this sale authority that should make wild-horse advocates happy, because it gives each of them the chance to put their money where their mouth is—like Madeleine Pickens, Virginia McCullough, and several others who rescue horses from sale houses, letting taxpayers off the hook for long-term maintenance.

The real icons of the American West—cowboys and the ranchers who own property rights to the lands in the West—are quietly optimistic, but according to Demar Dahl, Elko County commissioner, “It's going to take a lot of letters from a lot of people to support this.”

RACHEL DAHL, MESQUITE, NEVADA

magazine covers I have ever seen.

However, I am more than a little troubled by your strident alt-right political views (so far to the right of, say, Alex Jones that you make him look like Che Guevara). If it wasn't for the gov'mint that you guys so virulently hate, the official language of the British Isles would be Hoch Deutsch and the Big Sky spaces that you guys love would be under the thumb of El Chapo (of the Sinaloa Cartel). Be careful what you wish for.

Much love,

Steve Smith, Wyoming, New York

Steve was my boss at Car & Driver in New York City in 1966. He was my boss again for PC Computing in Boston in 1989. He is one of the best editors I ever knew.—CJ

Summer 2017 is one of the best issues you have ever produced, and that is a difficult statement to make since they have all been outstanding. Special “kudos” for your perseverance, tenacity, and drive for “hanging in there” for these past 25 years, truly an incredible achievement. I can only imagine, actually I can't imagine, the insults and criticisms you obviously have withstood and incurred throughout these 25 years. Bless you!

David E. Knutsen, Scottsdale, Arizona

RANGE is my favorite read!

Mark Munzert, Nassau, New York

Congratulations to you and all your staff for the 100th issue of RANGE. We would never know what is going on in rural America if not for you.

Don Sperlich, Armour, South Dakota

You are just like Rush Limbaugh on radio—a true patriot. I look at back issues, which I put in your binders, again and again. It's a great library and the covers are beautiful.

Richard Meece, Pilot Point, Texas

A TOUGH MARINE

I have been reading the latest issue (Summer 2017) cover to cover as I often do. The letter from a North Dakota farm kid, well I laughed till I cried. I don't consider myself tough, but she is re-

ally something! It points up the center divide between city people and country people under which we suffer—us “deplorables” in flyover country! From Bundy Ranch online, I see the lengths to which the government will go to trap and ensnare people it doesn't like. Ammon said to FBI agents posing as journalists: “I never did once think I'd have to take a life out. My stand would be where someone would take my life, me standing against and not threatening their lives.”

Heidi Beck, Cedarville, California

RANGE is sanity in the middle of the left coast

Dick Burton, Soquel, California

LESS OR MORE?

Hey CJ, if you are still a registered Democrat, you're stupid.

Dave Burrus, Memphis, Missouri

CJ, you're a Democrat? All I can say is we need more Democrats like you!

Ordean Ebel, Fessenden, North Dakota

As usual, the liberals won't read or listen to the conservative side. It is their way or no way. CJ is the exception to the above statement. So sad for me to read about government “storm trooper's” actions. It is encouraging to me to know you are fighting for justice.

Marvin Reed, Reno, Nevada

BETTER IN A HAT

Engraving is one of my hobbies and I wanted to send you my latest creation. Abe looks pretty good in a cowboy hat, don't you think? I plan



on putting hats on lots more presidents, queens, and even some communists on Russian coins. I'll send them to you when

I finish them. It would make a good promo for a hat company because it's true—everybody looks better in a cowboy hat.

Lee Pitts, Los Osos, California

Love the penny and your columns and books. You are a RANGE hero!—Ed.

I showed Terry Sullivan's “Cowboy Hat Etiquette,” Summer 2017, to my wife to evidence my compliance with this heretofore undocumented but important hat etiquette. She quickly pointed out that while I have the correct number of felt and straw hats, my age precludes me from having a feather in my “going to town” hat. She also pointed out I use the same system with my underwear.

Eldon D. Shiffman, Swall Meadows, Calif.,
“the part that should be in Nevada”

GREAT SPIRIT

Sure do like RANGE and always first thing I read is your “Up Front” article. You seem very knowledgeable and a strong and kind person but unafraid to say what you think and believe in. I also love the pictures of you and your “huge” beautiful dogs that are sometimes in the magazine. Seems like you had a small dog too?

I hope your life goes well and with happiness. May the Great Spirit watch over you! Enclosed is Tatanka (buffalo) hair for you. Good, strong spiritual medicine.

Mato Winyum (Bear Woman)

of the Yankton Sioux Nation

Pine Bluffs, Wyoming

Thanks for your kind words and treasured gift. My first dog was a mongrel named Slug. He got caught in a trap at nine months, spent seven days in the snow, and lost a leg due to gangrene. Slug lived 14 years and was a beauty.—Ed.

A BEAUTIFUL FOREST

Thank you for putting the truth in print. I read RANGE cover to cover.

Concerning Judy Boyle's article “Rapacious Feds” (Spring 2017), here in central Oregon there have been numerous instances of forest fires starting on mismanaged federal lands and spreading to neighboring private timberlands. Feds are not good neighbors!

About 15 years ago, I was logging—if you can call thinning pecker poles logging—on the Fremont National Forest between Paisley and Lakeview, Ore. We were not allowed to cut any tree over 21-inch diameter, breast high (DBH). Trees that size and larger were considered “old growth.” With 50 years' logging experience the

only conifers I'd consider old growth at 21-inch DBH would be lodgepole, white bark pine and yew. The rest of our conifers at 21-inch DBH are mere juveniles. Makes you wonder whose pipedream became the magic 21-inch old growth. At any rate, just south of the Paisley city limits on Forest Road #33 was erected a huge sign which reads, "A beautiful forest is a well-managed forest." Road #33-#28 is paved and connects with Lakeview. For 30 miles the view is of mountains cloaked with dying, dead and down real old-growth timber, unmanaged and unsalvaged because of the magic number 21. The bug infestation spreads unchecked creating fodder for forest fires. I don't visit that area often nowadays, but maybe one of your subscribers from Paisley could send you a photo of that asinine sign.

Dewey Dietz, retired/tired logger
Prineville, Oregon

BOLSHEVIKS

There has never been an attack on a U.S. president like the present attack on President Trump by the bolsheviks in the mainstream news media. These bolsheviks made a concerted effort to get Clinton elected. They failed. The bolsheviks have taken control of the mainstream news media. They have taken control of many universities such as Berkeley with their bolshevik professors and bolshevik student spawn. They have taken control of the U.S. education system. The bolsheviks have placed many bolsheviks as federal judges in courts.



In U.S. Air Force security training it was stated that a movement that wants to subvert and take over a

country targets the news media, the education system and the judicial system. The bolsheviks have done this. They are attempting to drive an elected President Trump from office. Like the MIT professor who developed Obamacare said, there are a lot of stupid people in the United States.

Roland West, Odessa, Missouri

Carrie Couey. ["On the Western Slope," Summer 2017] found herself holding hands with President Trump on March 13, 2017, when, following a surprise phone call from the White House,



she was invited to join several other parents with special-needs children, doctors and local leaders from across the country in a "listening session" on the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare.

Marjorie Haun, Grand Junction, Colorado

Thanks for a great magazine and updates on our rural property rights' articles.

Judy Martens, Somerville, Texas

GREEN PASTURES FOREVER

Enclosed is a donation to RCF in honor of C.J. Hadley's beloved horse, Gib. Reading her "Up Front" in the Summer 2017 issue made me realize just how important our ranch companions are to us all. They are an integral part of ranch life and willingly do their jobs and provide us with an ear to listen to our triumphs and disappointments. Whether equine, canine, bovine or feline, we count on them to be there for us. Green pastures forever for Gib and all of us!

Terri Arington, Columbia, California

I have every issue that has been printed! I am stopping my subscription because of the addition of advertising ads in your magazine. If you need money, just raise your subscription rates. Also you are getting way too many political articles!

Dale Russell, Blue Earth, Minnesota

RIGHT-WING NUTCAKE

You remind me of the cowboys of the late 19th and early 20th century clinging to a lifestyle that was well on its way to extinction. Just keep proliferating your nonsense about "Climate Racketeering" or the "Fraud of Climate Science" as the

world warms and your 19th century mentality goes the way of the horse and buggy. You know, the world can hardly believe there are such morons living in the United States at the beginning of the 21st century, and neither can we. Keep grasping at straws and be prepared for the scorn that will be heaped upon you and your kind from around the world as the earth becomes less and less habitable. What a legacy to leave your children.

RANGE...what a pile of horseshit masquerading as "journalism!" F.U. and every other one of you right-wing nutcakes.

Randall Tolpinrud
Salt Lake City, Utah

Stay after the government. They all suck!
Dan Brewster, Fort Lupton, Colorado

In this era of highly questionable "news," I feel very strongly that my favorite magazine, RANGE, must be very accurate with its facts. Thus said, I must point out that in the Spring 2017 "Up Front" piece, your statement that there were "more of us than there were of them" is factually incorrect. Unfortunately Hillary received 2.89 million more votes than did Donald. Donald won because the Electoral College gives preference to "rural states" and thus Donald was elected.

In case you are wondering, after being a Republican for 36 years, I am now an independent since I cannot vote Democratic either! Let us use our brains, since we know politicians are for the politicians.

Eric J. Thompson, Lincoln, California

I suggest you provide Ryan Zinke [secretary of Interior] with a personal gift subscription and a formal transmittal of every one of your special reports, particularly the more recent ones that focus on the anti-West administrative and managerial practices by the BLM and other agencies.

Chris Jurack, via email

BUNDY BOYS ARE STRONG

Thanks for letting me know that Lisa and Kelli's videos have been removed from our Facebook page. We don't know what's going on but we

still want them shared. Thank you for the heads up. [Judge Navarro] hasn't responded to our speedy trial motion but we are sure she will side with the persecution. Our civil rights are being violated and she is an evil judge with no conscience. Cliven and the boys are strong men. They are tired of being caged up and are ready for their day in court. Big hugs.

Carol Bundy, Bunkerville, Nevada
To help the Bundy family please go to bundyranch.blogspot.com.—Ed.

Alayna Uhart...age 17? [Spring 2017, "Branding on Black Mountain"] That gal's got a future!

Duane Bennetch, Fleetwood, Penn.

Outback Roundup 2017 in the Summer issue, the second-place picture of the mountain lion jumping between rocks by Jim Cunningham, shows the bluff in the background of



Powell Point. From the top of the bluff you can see a portion of the Colorado River close to 100 miles to the south. John Wesley Powell noted the bluff as a landmark in his explorations. Just thought it might be of interest. Outstanding picture.

Marty Bush, Boulder City, Nevada

I was at "The Meeting with LaVoy Finicum that Never Happened" in John Day, Ore., last January and heard Jeanette speak. ["Matron Saint," by Todd Macfarlane, Summer 2017] KrisAnne Hall also spoke there. Both very inspirational.

Todd's article mentioned the Finicum family working to market LaVoy's book "Only By Blood and Suffering." I bought the book off Amazon over a year ago and immediately saw it could be easily made into a Hollywood box office hit. The script practically wrote itself. I sent suggestions around and I would urge every RANGE reader with contacts in the film world to push the idea. LaVoy's knowledge of the West and survival techniques, coupled with his talent

for spinning a great tale that involves modern-day threats to our well-being, like cyber attacks and a breakdown of society, would thrill moviegoers and greatly help his family.

Jim Falk, Fallon, Nevada

SEND HIM TO PETA!

I had to laugh at the blatant hypocrisy of Dexter Oliver's "Death & Destruction." [Summer 2017] He's all bent out of shape over cruelty to a mule and two horses, yet submits [sic] his article to a publication that advocates shooting wolves and coyotes, and turning cattle into steaks. The beef industry commits cruelty to animals as part of doing business. He wants PETA's phone number? Give me a break!

Don Manning, Elko, Nevada

LETTER FROM OZ

By definition "civilised people live in cities." So said Gough Whitlam, one-time prime minister of Australia. These were frightening words and they hastened my flight from socialism, as he was implying that cities were a measure of civilization.

If you analyse the results of the Brexit referendum, the rise of Marie La Pen and indeed the success of Donald Trump, there is a big correlation between city and country voters. This is very worrying because there is a tremendous co-relationship between city and country and if this is not recognised, then the nation will ultimately fail.

To paraphrase a famous American who said, "If every city in America was destroyed by any means the country would rebuild the cities, but if the country was destroyed it would become covered in grass." That was true of America and Australia then and it is just as true today. If Trump wants to retain his constituency he needs to be proactive in righting the wrongs of the past. He should be making a full pardon of the Hammonds, father and son, and he should be investigating the whole Bundy fiasco. This will require a thorough overhaul of the federal environmental authorities and the proclamation of excessive new national parks that have been created to placate a vocal and affluent but ignorant urban section of the community.

The excessive land ownership in the western states by the federal government has become a real threat to the survival of the federal system that made America great. We have a similar problem in Australia.

GRAEME CAMPBELL

KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA

BUCKAROO

I buckarooed on the Whitehorse in 1984. I enjoyed seeing the pics of the horse barn and it is good to see that they still care about buckaroo tradition. The Whitehorse was one of the Miller & Lux ranches and they still brand the HH brand (at least when I was there), and were probably the last ranch to use that historic iron.

John Hanlon, Payson, Arizona

HOW MANY DO YOU NEED?

In Dan Dagget's "Eco-Profits" in Spring 2017, the photo on page 55 (above) shows the U.S. Forest Service study site in central Arizona has 11 government workers looking at the grass. Does it really take that many government workers to figure out what's going on with the grass?

George Machado

South Lake Tahoe, California

GOOD TO BE OLD

I want to commend you for the longevity of your publication! I first came across it when we stayed at a log cabin bed and breakfast a few years ago in Lander, Wyo. I saw an ad in the magazine for the "L.A. Hearn Co." Larry Hearn was my Godfather when I was baptized in King City, Calif., in 1943. I lived on the family ranch a little northwest of King City and Larry owned a warehouse there which he had started in the 1930s. It brought back memories! I was 40 years old and already had my medical degree when I started law school in 1983. I was surrounded by political science majors and I am convinced those who also obtain their law degree are truly a clear and present danger to our Constitutional Republic. I submit Hillary Clinton as a great example!

Dr. W. David Herbert Esq.

Billings, Montana

THE PENDULUM SWINGS BACK

I believe the last election started the pendulum swinging back. President Trump's folks are reducing government regulation and in some cases the size of government itself. If we can maintain that trend for six to eight years, our fundamental liberties will remain secure at least for a decade or two. But it has always been so.

Keeping freedom requires constant vigilance. You and RANGE have played an important role in that effort.

Jake Cummins, Bozeman, Montana

I grew up during the last four years of World War II in rural Germany and all fieldwork was done with horses, oxen and by hand. After school or in the summer we often bartered some food from local farmers with help in the fields or the barn. Today we do most of our tree-thinning work on a small ranch by hand and with tractors. Fortunately we had only about 50 ponderosa pines fall victim to bark beetles but none were near a house, power lines or the highway. Some of the dead pines will be milled for boards and planks for use around the ranch.

PETER JELITO, TUOLUMNE, CALIFORNIA

I had a wildlife camera aimed at one of our cattle troughs when this golden eagle landed.



© DUNCAN HARKLEROAD

Thanks for all your work to expose our broken systems, especially the USFWS, BLM and USFS!

DUNCAN HARKLEROAD, ANZA, CALIFORNIA

LITTLE BUT MIGHTY

One hundred issues! I hope you know how much we appreciate the immense good you've done for our ranching industry and all of those folks who rely on federal lands for our livelihood and enjoyment. You and your little, but

mighty crew have put the facts out there for a population that's mostly ignorant to the huge challenges we face.

So here's to another 100 issues! Go get 'em my little but mighty friend. My dad always said, "Dynamite comes in small packages"! You and I know that's true. God bless you, we love you.

LYNN TOMERA, BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NEVADA
Lynn rode on "The Grass March" in September 2014 to protest "regulation without representation." Go to rangemagazine.com and click on Summer 2015.—Ed.

My story on Henry Poling in Summer 2017 has created quite a stir in Platte County. My wife tells me social media (I don't use social media) is abuzz about it and a friend told me he drove to Guernsey, Wyo., to buy extra copies for folks who had requested it. In addition, I have had some emails from friends as far away as New Jersey, South Carolina, Arizona and Montana about the article. It is my hope that you folks receive a few subscriptions as a result.

RAY HUNKINS, CHEYENNE, WYOMING

FOLLOW THE LAW

Federal laws, federal policies and federal court rulings are forcing Americans to follow an environmental fascist belief system. The environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act violate the public's right to life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, property rights, freedom of religion, the right to free enterprise, and the separation of church and state.

The Wilderness Act should be modified to state all Roadless Areas shall be returned to general management. Timber shall be harvested on all lands suitable for timber harvest. Fifty percent of all federal lands shall be managed to maximize income for rural counties and their citizens. The first priority of federal lands is to harvest timber on a sustained-yield basis as required by the National Forest Management Act and the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act. Riparian areas and landslide-prone areas shall be managed with uneven aged management or shelterwood cuts. Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas shall be harvested leaving 15 to 35 percent of the maximum stand density index of

the seral species of the vegetation habitat type. All forest roads are to be maintained for the maximum economy of timber production and to protect the timber from wildfire. The Endangered Species Act should be repealed. State governors should hold a convention and impeach federal judges legislating from the bench.

WES CASE, VIA EMAIL

The letter from the Dakota soldier in Summer 2017, is so good my husband has everyone who walks through our door read it.

YVONNE HOLLENBECK

CLEARFIELD, SOUTH DAKOTA

WAY TO GO

This isn't just another card saying congratulations! Way to go! Good show! This one also says, Bravo! Wow! Felicitations! Great News! Applause! Applause! One hundred issues—every new one is better than the last! Congrats to you and all your staff and never stop. I love every word.

BARBARA SIMPSON, MORAGA, CALIFORNIA
[FORMERLY "THE BABE IN THE BUNKER"
AT KSFO COAST-TO-COAST RADIO]