The Hammond story is well covered in RANGE, mostly thanks to Hank Vogler. It can be found on rangemagazine.com (click on “Enemies of the State”). But the life of these ranchers “inside” is less well known.

“For someone like me who has worked

(Continued on page 7)

Miracles in Hage Case
(Full story in an issue soon.)

In the Summer 2018 issue, readers were told about an imminent foreclosure on the Hage family’s Pine Creek Ranch. Due to a startlingly defective Notice of Foreclosure issued by American Title Company, and the miraculous help of several individuals who stepped in to offer financial backing (who are also readers of RANGE), the Hages are moving forward to finish the work of their parents. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals made it clear in the April 13 hearing of U.S. v. Hage that the court’s rulings in the Hage and Hunter cases provide ranchers the right to remove their vested water rights from federal land via an 1866 Mining Act right-of-way when ranchers are denied access to that water for grazing by either the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or U.S. Forest Service (FS). The Hages are reviewing all options including filing another constitutional Fifth Amendment takings of property case.

A recent National Geographic article about wild horses acknowledged western ranchers have been cut 50 percent in permitted livestock on BLM-administered lands since the range was originally adjudicated in the 1950s. In Nevada, combining both BLM and FS range-land, that number is closer to 80 percent and many grazing allotments stand vacant. In short, since these agencies have actively crippled the range livestock industry and have, by those policies, generated fuel loads ripe for catastrophic fires, many ranchers may prefer to put their water to better use elsewhere, or sell it to the highest bidder. Ironically, the government’s 40-year campaign to destroy the Hage family has culminated in turning western ranches into water ranches.

For more info, go to rangemagazine.com and click on “Hage v. United States.”

Up Front

Euphoria.
By C.J. Hadley

I t was before 7:30 a.m. on July 10, 2018, when the phone rang in my big black Ram truck. I was in a parking lot in Sparks, Nev., waiting for my eye doctor. (“Stop using your computer and do not read so much,” was his advice for relief.) Ramona Hage Morrison was the caller. She said, “President Trump has just signed full pardons for Dwight and Steven Hammond.”

I could hardly breathe. I shook. The relief was intense. Through tears, I thanked Ramona and told her we were still waiting for justice for her family. Then I dialed Susie Hammond in Burns, Ore. She was still in bed when Republican Congressman Greg Walden called to tell her the good news that President Trump had just signed “Executive Grants of Clemency” for her husband and son. It took very few minutes for people to be knocking on Susie’s door and calling in from coast to coast, “and I’m still in my nightgown,” she laughed.

Forrest Lucas, of Protect the Harvest and Lucas Oil (and a good friend to RANGE), took his private jet from Indiana to California t w as before 7:30 a.m. on July 10, 2018, when the phone rang in my big black Ram truck. I was in a parking lot in Sparks, Nev., waiting for my eye doctor. (“Stop using your computer and do not read so much,” was his advice for relief.) Ramona Hage Morrison was the caller. She said, “President Trump has just signed full pardons for Dwight and Steven Hammond.”

I could hardly breathe. I shook. The relief was intense. Through tears, I thanked Ramona and told her we were still waiting for justice for her family. Then I dialed Susie Hammond in Burns, Ore. She was still in bed when Republican Congressman Greg Walden called to tell her the good news that President Trump had just signed “Executive Grants of Clemency” for her husband and son. It took very few minutes for people to be knocking on Susie’s door and calling in from coast to coast, “and I’m still in my nightgown,” she laughed.

Forrest Lucas, of Protect the Harvest and Lucas Oil (and a good friend to RANGE), took his private jet from Indiana to California to pick up those cowboys and fly them home in style from Long Beach to Burns.

A few hours after the president signed the pardons, Dwight and Steve were at the prison gates wearing prison-supplied clothes and holding a credit card valued at about $200 (the amount they had in the commissary). They waited an hour for Dwight’s niece, Karen, to get out from Los Angeles to pick them up. At the same time, Steve’s wife, Earlylna, was in Sparks, Nev., 382 miles from their Diamond Valley ranch, at Ellington Peak’s Western Video Market sale—a group extremely supportive of this family for years.

The Hammond story is well covered in RANGE, mostly thanks to Hank Vogler. It can be found on rangemagazine.com (click on “Enemies of the State”). But the life of these ranchers “inside” is less well known.

“For someone like me who has worked

(Continued on page 7)