

OUT ON THE RANGE

Stacie Davies in Oregon.

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“I wouldn’t trade this way of life for anything.”

says Stacie Davies. “Our family values are unshakeable. This is heaven for raising a family. The boys learn responsibility and the value of accomplishing something every day. This sets them up for life. People are so soft this day and age. It’s important to learn the value of hard work.”

Davies manages the historic Roaring Springs Ranch along the Catlow Rim of Oregon’s southern Steens Mountains. The ranch was part of the Pete French vast cattle empire of the 1880s. He has ample help with



Stacie Davies and the buckaroos take a break while driving almost a thousand head of cattle to a new pasture.



Stacie Davies (horseback, striped shirt), sister-in-law DaeNel Douglas, and buckaroos Jose Villagrana, right, and Kyl Sperry, left, rally round the chuckwagon at the Roaring Springs Ranch in southeast Oregon. In front are Stacie’s six sons and DaeNel’s daughter Samantha.

wife Elaine and their six boys, ages 5 to 16. Their hard work is paying off. The 600,000-acre range is vibrant and productive—a postage-stamp example of man and nature working and living together. Roaring Springs has a full-time wildlife biologist.

“We are ecologically very sound here. Our sustainable foraging vegetation is 95 percent native plants. We could survive without fossil fuels,” Davies says. “Wildlife is abundant. The sage grouse population is exploding because of our native forb management practices. We are proving that you can have healthy livestock (5,000 mother cows and 150 horses), wildlife and plant communities existing together.” ■

Photographer/writer Larry Turner lives in Malin, Ore. He is a regular contributor to RANGE.

Stacie Davies leads his youngest son Scott. Buckaroo Jose Villagrana rides alongside. Hands-on, the Davies boys learn the value of hard work on the ranch.

