

Opinion from America's Outback

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES

Your magazine is a breath of fresh air and trust in a world where honest in-depth research and straight-ahead journalistic reporting are rarely practiced these days. My brother and I support and applaud you and your valiant stand and efforts.

WIRE WILBER, RAMSEY, ILLINOIS

Can't get along without you.

FARNES EGBERT, ST. GEORGE, UTAH



VIA INTERNET

RANGE is a right-wing mag: (1) Trump lost; (2) January 6, all Trump supporters plus white nationalists; and (3) Climate change is real, mostly caused by man. Coal not clean.

NO NAME, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

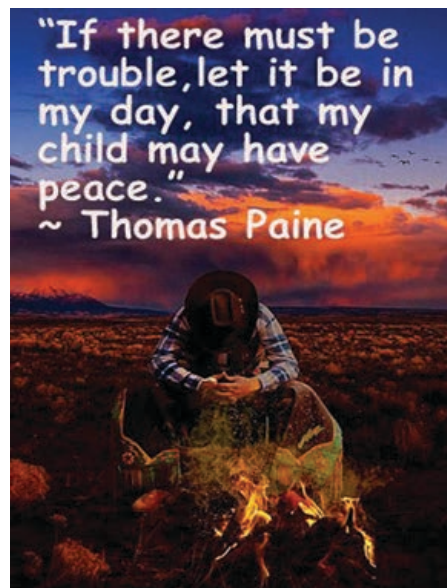
Your awesome magazine is so much appreciated by this 80-year-old trail-ridin' cowboy and so many more. Please continue.

DANNY CRAMPTON, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

CJ, I've been scratching my head trying to figure out how in the world you were picked to be editor of a good conservative magazine. You're obviously a dyed-in-the-wool liberal, anti-Trumper. Your Fall 2021 "Up Front" editorial, which featured the anti-Trump tirade of Fred Scott, should be an eye-opener for your readers. I voted for Trump but as I recall there were only two names on the ballot. The reason I chose Trump was mainly because he wasn't a politician, not for his flamboyant personality. The reasons I didn't choose Biden were because of his 46 years of doing absolutely nothing that did this country a damn bit of good. And look who he has appointed!

I am a veteran and 84 years old, living off the grid in northwest Montana. I am a patriot and I love this country.... I have come to the conclusion that *RANGE* magazine is a lot like Fox News. Whoever controls the purse strings pretty much controls the output. I'd bet that whoever is on your board of directors (or whatever you call them) are a bunch of liberals who got their learning from left-wing professors. I'll bet not one of them is a hard-working farmer or rancher.

RANGE has some good stories that I like, especially those by Dave Skinner. Seems like the bad guys are never punished—maybe a



VIA INTERNET

"If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace."
~ Thomas Paine

slap on the wrist. I also think that a person of your political persuasion is likely to pick and choose what articles and letters to the editor are published, which is a big disservice to your readers. I am still going to renew my subscription because the good outweighs the bad.

RANDOLPH TOBY SCOTT, HELMVILLE, MONT.

The RANGE board consisted of real ranchers from California, Nevada and New Mexico, plus two soil scientists from Idaho and Montana with stellar reputations. Political persuasion never came up. Two retired. Two are dead. Ed Depaoli is RANGE's last man standing. And thanks for sticking with us. Skinner is brilliant. And...a few thousand more subscribers might mean we actually have a purse.—Ed.

Here is some padding for beating your head against the brick wall of liberals. Good luck.

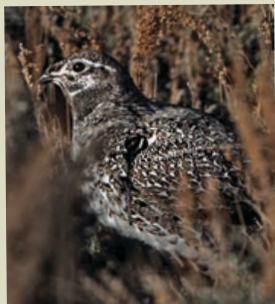
ROBERT DAVIS, PAISLEY, OREGON

(Continued)

THE CHICKEN, THE EGG & THE RAVENS

What came first, the chicken or the egg? The question has been asked for generations with tongue in cheek. No one has an answer. Both are necessary for the continued existence of any bird.

The debate on the survival of sage grouse has concentrated on the chicken: restore the habitat, prevent further intrusions, etc.—all good and necessary measures that should be continued. The egg has not received equal attention, yet it is equal in importance. Neither can exist without the other. The egg needs to hatch to a new chick to continue the species. Today nest survival and chicks hatched are at a low ebb and this needs to change if the species is to survive.



© DIANE MCALLISTER

Unlike most other living creatures that retain their young until birth, birds put theirs at extra risk for about three weeks. Laying an egg exposes it to destruction prior to hatching and becoming a mobile, living chick.

As sage grouse numbers decline, raven numbers rise. Some accounts indicate a raven increase of sevenfold in the last hundred years. Ravens are known for their intelligence while sage grouse are not and these protected ravens (thanks to the Migratory Bird Act of 1918) probably destroy more sage grouse eggs than any other predator. Ravens are observant and like eggs. They will sit on a post or wire and watch a sage hen lead them to her nest. They learn from each other.

Federal agents involved with sage grouse welfare need to acknowledge ravens' impact on sage grouse, both eggs and nests. Without the egg, there is no bird.

EDWIN DEPAOLI, MULTIGENERATIONAL RANCHER AND FORMER BLM AREA MANAGER, LAKEVIEW (ORE.) DISTRICT, FALLON, NEV.

Your wonderful magazine gets better and better every issue. The awards it wins are more than deserved because you serve the nation. We, the people, need to know what the professional politicians inflict on producers and we need to see how good are the “ordinary” people of the land—in words, photographs and personal stories. It is a God-given task that you have spent your life doing and I appreciate the monumental effort it takes.

MARY BRANSCOMB, LAMOILLE, NEVADA

Pussies. Lies, lies, lies. [Expletive] off losers.

JEFFERY HILL, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BRAVO, UNCLE RODGER

Would like to share with you that this gift subscription goes to a 97-year-old veteran who served at Normandy and who loves your magazine. Whatever special attention you can send his way would brighten his day. He survived WWII and now his challenge is to survive COVID. He is a resident at Jacobetti V.A. facility in Marquette, Mich. Thank you.

RODGER & PEGGY SWING, ROCKFORD, ILL.

We sent your uncle “*The Long Trail Home*,” which includes 400 photos and a few stories about his WWII contemporaries. A small token indeed to thank this good patriot.—Ed.



VIA INTERNET, 9GAG.COM

“The Long Trail Home” [see p. 73] turned out wonderful. If I could, I would send you a big bowl of chicken noodle soup, a warm blanket and a bottle of 12-year-old Scotch.

RICK RAEF, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

You have the most unique publication for those of us who live and preserve America’s

authentic West and those who perhaps live an urban life and enjoy an escape to the true West via *RANGE*. Thanks for your awesome books on true western life, events and history.

JEFF LASHER, CODY, WYOMING



VIA INTERNET

When attacked by the Left for what you publish, rejoice because they are reading it! Some despise others and resent their ability to express an opposing view and they are first in line to attempt to silence us. When they do not include their name, it is likely the same 10 individuals hiding in their basements who Rush Limbaugh experienced firsthand when he was attacked. So carry on!

ROBERTA BORLAND, MOORE, MONTANA

It seems ironic that the federal government pays the legal fees of environmental groups to put us out of business with our own tax dollars. In my opinion, the real endangered species in this country are the people trying to make a living in farming, ranching and logging.

RANDY BURNS, VALE, OREGON

CRIMINALS

I am a 69-year-old born and raised in California. Unfortunately, I have seen it go from an exceptional state to a place most sane people leave. Graduated from Cal Poly SLO with a degree in soil science so I am somewhat educated in natural resource, soil and land management. What the experts are doing to our land is close to criminal. They have little or no knowledge of what it takes to responsibly take care of open spaces. I hope this donation might further people’s understanding of what our past and current farmers and ranchers have had to put up with. Keep up the fight.

LEE EDWARDS, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

I’d like to see *RANGE* encourage more individuals to take their bogus BLM and Forest

Service citations to court. Too many people simply take the easy way out and pay the fines. I have taken two mining-related citations to court representing myself with one eventual win in the Ninth Circuit and the other win in District Court. If nothing else, maybe you can educate your readers on jury rights. A well-informed juror is the best way I know to prevent government tyranny.

STEVE HICKS

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA

SMALL WORLD

The world gets smaller, the mess gets bigger! Where we end up is anyone’s guess. Keep it up with the truth but you are preaching to the choir; the word needs “out there” like the truckers did. Our ways of life are in danger and then people will be very hungry.

JANE YECNY, SHERIDAN, MONTANA

Close to half of RANGE’s readers (from coast to coast and more than 20 foreign countries) are urban or suburban and they are listening.—Ed.

I remember when the globalist outfit that owned Dundee Cement Company decided it could get cement from Spain cheaper than having it made in my country. It shut down its manufacturing plant at Clarksville, Mo. Hundreds of jobs were lost and Pike County suffered a major revenue loss. Schools also saw their revenues drop. My school had to shut down the junior high—real world consequences of globalism. And now CJ is shipping books made in Korea. Way to go, CJ. George Soros would be proud of you. Well, I am not. You can take “The Long Trail Home” and shove it where the sun never shines.

MARTIN HUNTER, LEWISTON, IDAHO

We fired China and hired an affordable printer in the Free Democratic Republic of South Korea. These are good people who, like Americans, appreciate liberty and strive for quality. We are not dating Kim Jong-un.—Ed.

All that *RANGE* has done over the years is greatly appreciated. You have had a huge hand in keeping families like mine tending to all things “outback” and “living the dream.”

ROBIN PAINE, YERINGTON, NEVADA

Thanks so much for a great magazine that takes up all the issues on environment, forestry and range. At 92, I no longer can enjoy the things I used to when I grew up on 160 acres north of Spokane. Maybe one day we’ll get a president who isn’t so dedicated to igno-

rance and insane jealousy over the accomplishments of Trump and will have some common sense, sound reasoning and good judgment. My favorite commenter is Hank Vogler. God bless you all at *RANGE*.

BOB HAMANN, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Too much Trump. Too much hate. Y'all can go [expletive] yourselves. Sure, cowboys are good; well, except for the crybaby stuff.

ANOTHER NO NAME, PORTLAND, OREGON

Hello fellow Americans. Enclosed find: (1) a \$31 check for "Nippers and Oldies: The Long Trail Home"; (2) a \$2 Jefferson to pour some bison urine in a shot glass for all the snivelers who complain about your magazine; (3) a Franklin just for the hell of it so you can have a cup of coffee and a laugh; and (4) save Ophir prison. I rest my case. Are you having fun yet?

WILLIAM SLADE, FLAG-WAVING KOREAN WAR VET, STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

Enclosed please find my contribution to *RANGE* in support of the world-class literary efforts put forth! Please use it where needed.

JIM PASS, GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

I go to "Red Meat Survivors," "Amazing Facts & Quotes," "Up Front" and "Letters" first before digging into the rest of the awesome publication. Keep up the tough, resilient, significant work.

NINA EWING, CLARESHOLM, ALTA., CANADA



AMERICA'S ENEMY

Trump repeatedly and consistently criticized and challenged false and left-slanted reporting/propaganda, and he dared to say out loud what I, and probably most of you, already knew: the corrupt press and media are America's enemy. The press, media and Lefty Out-



rage Machine shrieked, wailed and called for retribution, while cowardly Republicans and "moderate" media personalities "distanced themselves" from Trump's blunt rhetoric or criticized him openly. But he was obviously correct, as many Americans already had long since observed. Keep reading, sharing information, thinking. Remain skeptical. God bless America.

JOHN H. HOAK, BIG HORN, WYOMING

The ag community is lucky to have smart people like you helping us.

BILL MURPHY, ABSAROOKIE, MONTANA

Appreciate so much all you do for the cattle industry in the U.S. with not much fanfare or accolades. We need all the help we can get, now more than ever with Biden at the helm.

GLORIA SHEEHY, UNION, OREGON

ALL ABOUT FIRE

"Green Ideals, Blackened Forests" by Larry Angier in Winter 2021/2022 and "In Search of Solutions" by Jim Petersen and Chris Conrad in Spring 2022 were very enlightening. Climate change is what most forest fires are presently attributed to; however, as was pointed out, several other factors have contributed to the very significant increase in forest fires recently. Chief among them is the loss of forest stewardship by logging companies whose activities were curtailed by the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973. That act was promoted by environmentalists through claims [that] forests needed to be saved for recreational purposes and the protection of

wildlife. The northern spotted owl was singled out as a threatened species and used as a linchpin for the development of the act.

Proper logging activities, and even clear-cutting, result in a cleaner forest—cleaner by removing some trees and undergrowth. Logging activities also require the development of forest roads which can be used in the event of a fire and for planting of replacement saplings. Perhaps the time has come to revisit some of the logging-related rules that exist.

CHARLES ASTLEFORD, GREEN VALLEY, ARIZ.

I call this image "Waiting for our Wildlife Stimulus Checks." Recently, deer feeding on new



green grass at the bottom of my hill were spooked by something. They gathered near my driveway before seeking refuge up the hill, hesitating long enough for this photo.

ED SCHULZE, NOVATO, CALIFORNIA

Let's return to the beginning: a true republic.

ROGER WHITTEN, DEER PARK, WASHINGTON

DENYING EVIDENCE

During the many years I have taken *RANGE*, I always read "Letters" and usually find a few complaining about the magazine's political emphasis, i.e., "radical right-wing" Trump supporters, accompanied by "cancel my subscription." These serial bomb throwers usually

have some insult to pass on, but rarely provide a factual basis for challenging you on the issues. I believe it's mostly due to you and your writers having such deep integrity and motivation to focus on facts. You define the phrase, "Hope follows truth." Politics? Darn right some articles are political. The reason is because so many issues related to land use/property rights have been politicized via NEPA, the ESA, so-called environmental groups, the Forest "Disservice," BLM, FWS and the endless parade of communistic groups using animals and land use as a pretext for oppressing us.

Even the horrible fires are occurring, in large part, because of politics. Do they think, or care, about what the subjects of your articles are going through to survive? *RANGE* defends these rights like no other. Neither *RANGE* nor ranchers ever asked for politics to intrude on their lives.

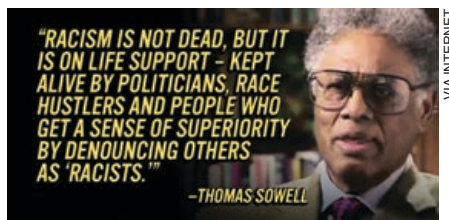
One writer in the Winter '21/22 issue tries to build credibility by telling us he's a Republican and a former rancher who can "turn on the TV for politics." He may be Republican, like many I can name who don't have a clue about the basis for a constitutional republic: *property rights*. You will almost never find defenders of those rights on TV. I have to reply to his bomb about Trump, stating that he didn't "like" Trump's business practices or the way he treated people. A very shallow and superficial assessment. I could understand his opinion of Trump before the 2016 election, but not now, after all the things Trump has done to lift the burdens of federal oppression and his obvious sympathy for the causes and people we support.

GLENN HELM, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA



Got the Spring 2022 issue and loved the photo of the puppy with head on the boot and it reminded me of *this* photo of *my* new red heeler puppy, Listo, taken by my niece, Cindo Austin. It's still his favorite place.

MARKLE AUSTIN, STANFORD, MONTANA



We are a homeschooled family and our "adopted grandparents," the Goddards, subscribed to *RANGE* for us. We love getting your issues and reading the articles and Amazing Facts & Quotes is a favorite thing to read! In your Spring 2022 issue we were very intrigued by Marie Lee's "An Explosion in Bly." We researched more of it and it became our history lesson for the day. We live about six hours from Bly and are planning a trip to the monument.

HARMONY MCNEIL & FAMILY: MEMORY, 8; SYMPHONY, 11; ZECHARIAH, 13; JOSIAH, 15; HARMONY, 17; MOM (STACEY) AND DAD (STEVE), CLATSKANIE, OREGON

I love it when I have touched someone's sense of history.—Marie Lee

GOVERNMENT CAN WORK

I have appreciated *RANGE*'s mix of articles, from Joel Nelson's imaginary conversation with Aldo Leopold to Jay Wild's efforts to rehabilitate his degraded watershed land by reintroducing beavers and cooperating with USDA's Forest Service and NRDC. I believe that it is time to leave the divisive politics of many of your editorial opinions in the "trash heap of history." We don't need to demonize other Americans who have different life experiences and opinions.

The choices we face are not between capitalism and socialism or between the rural West and the coasts. The real choice is if we are going to make the effort to understand the problems we all face and take a realistic look into the long-term future of our children and grandchildren. We need to work together to build a healthy future for them and the nine or 10 billion humans they will share that future with this century.

Ronald Reagan may have said that government is not the solution to all our problems but it would help having a government that makes decisions for the benefit and long-term health of all our citizens, our wildlife and the productive capacity of our lands, and can actually get something done. Our government will have an important part to play in our future. If you asked my grandparents, who homesteaded on the Eastern Front of Mon-

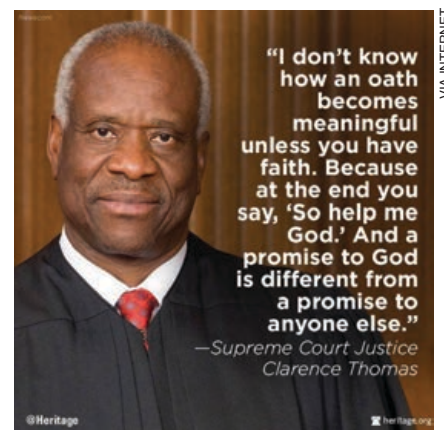
tana's Rockies, FDR's efforts to build dams that brought the irrigation water and electrified much of rural America was just what our country needed in the depths of the Depression. It could be time again for a government that can encourage us to work together to do what needs to be done.

PAUL BELGUM, SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA

DREAM ON

Very respectfully, I believe that many fine folks have opinions that are laudable, however, given the current trend toward complete domination, suppression and censorship of any dissenting voices, it probably is not very realistic. Why should I or any other rural-dwelling member of our society wish to lend credibility and/or cede authority of property and interests to urbanites who have completely destroyed the ecosystems in which they reside? Artificial solar warming from asphalt roads and lots, concrete and steel high-rise structures with only small parks and pigeon scat to tie them to nature hardly qualifies them as good stewards of the environment, yet they not only desire an equal say in my life (through zoning, ordinances, regs, etc.), but also infer that I'm just not enlightened enough to manage my own life without their assistance. Unfortunately, as long as those in power benefit and retain control through the promotion of divisiveness, all the fair-weather predictions in the world will not quell the storm that is approaching.

ALAN HART, TROUTDALE, VIRGINIA



BEHIND THE GREEN CURTAIN

Greetings from behind the environmental curtain that is Northern California. I have been enjoying more and more articles in *RANGE* that deal with governmental overreach. The photos and articles on critters and families are great but things will go from bad to worse if we don't watch everything that our

government does (to us).

I am enclosing an article from the *San Francisco Chronicle* wherein the writer urges the relisting of the gray wolves as endangered. He doesn't seem to realize that livestock and predators are a very poor mix.

DAVE LARIMER, PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA
Or perhaps he does.—Ed.

I like David Wojcik's article about "climate change" [Spring 2022, "Farming the Air"]. The Anasazi Indians (I think Chaco Canyon New Mexico and the Great House Ruins) thrived between 950-1150. These are absolute dates [from] tree-ring dating (dendroclimatology) and radio carbon dating (C-14). The Anasazi culture flourished because of an unusual 100-year wet cycle. They were brought down by three major droughts starting around 1085-1095, with the final blow in 1129. This all sounds a lot like "climate change," doesn't it? If only the Anasazi had access to electric automobiles, all their climate problems would have been solved.

DEWEY DIETZ, PRINEVILLE, OREGON

STEVE KERNS



How valuable is an old horse? Priceless! Cousins Levi Kerns (6) and Elli Kibbe (6) ride Copper (29) at the Kerns Ranch in Round Mountain, Calif., in May 2021. In his younger days Copper could do it all. Now he is helping to train the next generation. Thank you for a great magazine.

STEVE KERNS
ROUND MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

Thank you for the story on Charlie Russell by Randy Rieman ["Master Storyteller," Winter

2021/2022]. I appreciate your coverage of art and photography, as well as life in the West past and present. It is reassuring to relax with your magazine during this time of pandemic fatigue and read about "real men," as well as the "bad guys" in politics. Here are our sheep-



© BARBARA NEDDENRIEP

dogs in Smith Valley, always ready to work!

BARBARA NEDDENRIEP
WELLINGTON, NEVADA

I love your magazine!

BERT WEAVER ("OLD, OLD AMISH")
ASHLAND, OHIO

Totally looking forward to each issue—keep passing it on when I'm done. Please send a gift to my dentist and his staff. If his lib patients don't like it he can pull their teeth!

MIKE WALTERS, WESTON, WISCONSIN

South Dakota small ranchers need your publication. Keep up the *great* work!

CHRIS WOLCOTT, FAIRBURN, SOUTH DAKOTA

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

It has been a year of suffering, hasn't it? My leg injury has been minor compared to the agony of sickness and loss that so many people have gone through. I have never before seen so many robust, decent, productive people taken by cancer, suicide, accident, in so short a time. The Lord chastens and tests those he loves, I suppose.

But...to see those Canadian truckers and thousands of patriots from across the world rise up to confront tyranny has been nothing less than thrilling. As a social media troll I have the advantage of seeing news and video clips that never make it into the mainstream reports. Ireland, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and other European nations are completely dropping mandates. There are freedom convoys in Canberra, Australia, across Europe, Canada of course, and many states. First Ottawa, then D.C.

And the protests! They are revivals, and beautiful. The truckers in Ottawa spent one day playing street hockey, another day feeding

the homeless, another singing and dancing, and the streets of Ottawa have never been so clean. Best of all, Biden, Trudeau and the rest of the petty tyrants are crumbling before our eyes. There is no force greater than the will of people who refuse to cede their God-given liberties.

At the edge of darkness is light. I think it's growing lighter—if by mere photons—by the day. Hold fast.

MARJORIE HAUN
RANGE'S SOCIAL MEDIA GURU
LA SAL, UTAH

We are very skinny on western cowboy and horse magazines here in our sterile and, yes, political East Coast. You did an almost perfect job handling the radical politicians and gold seekers. I am on the side of the horsemen, ranchers and cowmen. God bless and stay healthy. Love you.

DICK RONALTER, PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT

