



Opinion from America's Outback

HANGIN' ON THE MAILBOX

My dad loves this magazine. He's always out hangin' on the mailbox when it's due.

ANTHONY LOMBARDI, COZAD, NEBRASKA

We need you now more than ever.

BOB INNES, GILLETTE, WYOMING

We've cut back in many ways in this economy, but can't do without *RANGE*. You're right, and more people need to read the truth as you tell it.

PHYLLIS JORDAN, REDDING, CALIFORNIA

WRONG DIRECTION

The U.S. has gone from a creditor nation to a debtor nation during the latter part of my life. The revenues of the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM in Oregon used to exceed expenses (in the '60s, '70s and '80s), and they paid the counties part of those revenues. Now both agencies operate at a loss and the counties receive funds from the general treasury (kind'a like welfare), and our forests are going to hell for lack of management. A sad commentary. Something needs to be done, folks.

EDGAR KUPILLAS, KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

RANGE & PAUL REVERE

I was hooked on *RANGE* the first time I read it after I stumbled upon it in a western store. What is most appreciated is to find a magazine that factually, scientifically, and objectively is telling our story that the enviros are anti-capitalists attempting to set aside all our natural resources, prohibiting multiple use, and shutting up our working forests and ranges. Thank you for your patriotic effort; you deserve the Paul Revere Award.

With your Fall 2011 issue, I have first-person knowledge of the veracity of your articles. "Wild Wild Wet" by Dave Skinner accurately relates how the enviros are attempting to take even more of our working Olympic forestlands. As the chief executive for Grays Harbor

Opinions on Wolves

MESSAGE TO ROCHELLE

I am an active NRA member, support hunting, and have *many* active ranchers in my family. However, I cannot believe the false reporting that was used by Rochelle Danielson in "Living on the Wolf Highway" [Fall 2011]. Absolutely no facts were used. This article was published, not to inform the public or educate anyone, but to scare and frighten the public using false information and propaganda. Wolves only killed 75 cattle in 2010, out of millions of head. The ranchers losing cattle to wolves are reimbursed. And wolves definitely do not hunt down children as implied in the article. They are so elusive that they are rarely even seen. Ms. Danielson should stay away from writing until she can write something using actual facts.

GRETCHEN SMITH, VIA EMAIL FROM COLORADO

REPLY TO GRETCHEN

If we use your number of 75 head of cattle killed in 2010 out of millions, it would not be significant when taken in context with the total number of livestock in the United States. However, it would be significant when applied to a specific area where there's only approximately 3,000 head. This creates an economic hardship especially for ranchers who run 200 to 600 head and have more than one loss.

My story speaks of real people in Wallowa County, one of the first ranching communities in Oregon to deal with this predator and the Endangered Species Act on a daily basis. The actual 2010 numbers of confirmed wolf kills in the county on private land, by federal and state agencies, and losses over the normal historical annual loss are: six calves confirmed, and one probable by Oregon Department of Fish & Game, and an additional two calves confirmed by USDI's Wildlife Services. Missing were 43 calves, one yearling and eight cows—rare before wolf reintroduction.

The article points out that Wallowa County folks are fearful of the wolf's presence so close to their homes, children and pets. With the increase in wolf populations and the encroachment on private properties and other areas where humans are present, the so-called elusive wolves are becoming more used to people and therefore have no fear of them.

There have been humans killed by wolves, with the most recent one a jogger in Alaska, plus two deaths in Canada and some in Russia. Check "Wolf Attacks on Humans," by T.R. Mader.

ROCHELLE DANIELSON, ENTERPRISE, OREGON

WREAKING HAVOC

"Living on the Wolf Highway" accurately described the situation which exists in Wallowa but that is little different from the conditions faced in our county, and indeed much of a five-state area where a rapidly expanding wolf population wreaks havoc with ranching operations. Two years ago in Baker's Keating Valley, we had a series of confirmed wolf kills depriving producers of dozens of head of livestock. Ranchers can no longer risk sending their children out into pastures to bring in livestock for fear for their safety. Producers' already slim profits are literally being eaten by these predators. The agenda-driven environmentalists could care less. Their mission is to "save wolves," which need no more saving than the mythical spotted owl which destroyed the timber industry in the entire Pacific Northwest several decades back.

Ranchers are the best stewards of the land in existence, far better than any tree hugger or wolf lover I've ever met. If allowed they will find a balance which preserves a reasonable number of wolves in the region but not at the expense of the entire ranching industry. It is indeed time that we take our country back and protect it from those hell-bent on its ruin.

JERRY BOYD, BAKER CITY, OREGON

PREDATORS & KIDS

I have been in Catron County, N.M., for the past 22 years, and particularly took interest in the wolf cover, "Howling Insanity." The Mexican gray wolf reintroduction has forced the building of cages at the school bus stops in our county to keep the kids cooped up while awaiting the bus, to keep the wolves off them. This summer the bears have turned to killing calves because their normal food supply is depleted.

FRANK G. "MIKE" BELCHER, QUEMADO, NEW MEXICO



Rene Anderson was bow hunting for elk in Idaho when she saw a wolf stalking her from a draw. When it attacked, she dropped her bow and shot it with a .44 Magnum from 10 feet away.

County Chamber of Commerce (for the last 23 years), I have been on the front lines, trying to hold back the assault on our natural resource-based economy. Thank you for telling your thousands of readers about this subversive attempt to take jobs away from hard-working men and women on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula. Thank you for your effort to warn America about the threats to our western heritage.

LEROY TIPTON, ABERDEEN, WASHINGTON

DOUBLE EXPOSURE

Whoever coughed up for the extra color printing on "Double Exposure" by Charles W. Guildner and Robb Kendrick in Fall 2011 got paid back double. Best looking thing I've seen in *RANGE*. Apparently the printer took the day off when the Merit Awards were being plated. Or maybe you guys were just sniffing the developer when you were judging.

BOB BROWN, PORTLAND, OREGON

There's always much food to cogitate upon in every issue. Too girlie? Nope. "Double Exposure" (by Guildner and Kendrick) awesome.

GAIL KYTONEN, COLVILLE, WASHINGTON

Best magazine on freedoms and agriculture ever found. My FFA students rely heavily on the research from your articles for their public speeches they compete with. Thanks!

DAVE ERICKSON, VIA FACEBOOK

LESSON FROM HAWAII

Your Summer 2011 story about the McCandless Ranch in Hawaii is a lesson to us all to never trust the government. The ranchers shook hands with one or more government agencies in a conservation effort and then another one (the IRS) rides in and puts a noose around their neck.

The McCandlesses have been good stewards of the land in Hawaii since 1880, but trusting the government was naive. They should have never agreed to the proposition (conservation easement and wildlife refuge) by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or The Nature Conservancy. These groups obviously were aware of the probability of an IRS audit and while mentioning that, did not warn of the hostility of the audit process and possible outcomes from what was to be a *donation* for the sake of wildlife conservation.

The McCandlesses have been royally screwed. If the IRS has disqualified the entire donation portion of the three-year-old agreement, I would opt out of the entire thing with

all the government agencies and go back to raising cattle on the land. All the parts of an agreement/contract are to be upheld or the entire contract falls apart. Tell all these government agencies where they can put their contract and then quote the IRS when they "all but insinuated that both the appraisal and property were worthless." That should lower the company's property taxes. If nothing else, I would find some way to sue the U.S. government. If the McCandlesses don't, mark my words, the government will somehow end up owning the whole ranch and at no cost to them. The only losers will be the McCandlesses and the U.S. taxpayer.

CLAUDIA HUNTER, ROSEBURG, OREGON
Aloha, CJ. Thank you again for publishing the article. Hopefully this example and others can change the way the IRS views these donations. Our audit continues to drag on, but hopefully the IRS will be a little more careful, because what they finally decide to do with McCandless will affect conservation easements nationwide.—Keith F. Unger, G.M., McCandless Land & Cattle Co., Honaunau, Hawaii

TRUTH ABOUT HORSES

I am a college student majoring in horse science, and I have been assigned to write a paper about the unwanted horse issue, and horse slaughter pros and cons in particular. I read several very insightful articles about this issue in *RANGE*. It had been difficult for me to find fairly balanced material from both sides, and I wanted to thank you for putting all the information out there.

MELISA WILLIAMS, VIA EMAIL

KEEP OUT THOSE COWS

Green groups like the Sierra Club and others want the forest of the Gila managed with prescribed fires. When people go into a wilderness area to enjoy a wild area, they don't want to encounter cows. Nothing can detract more from a wilderness hike than to wake up in the morning to find yourself in the middle of a herd of cows and all that they bring and leave behind. Grazing in the Gila National Forest is another matter entirely.

DALE SIMONSON, VIA EMAIL
Dale, please explain what "another matter entirely" means. Do you want cows to cut down potential fire problems in the Gila? Or is the Sierra Club changing its tune to accept cattle because of the fire danger?—Ed.

On Aug. 5, 2011, Dale Simonson replied: When the Wilderness Act was passed the environmental groups pushing for the legislation warned that fire needed to be restored to the

wilderness because of the buildup of fuels and the denseness of the forest. Those requests were ignored. Environmental groups have always advocated prescribed burning to return the forest to a more healthy state. Wildfire as a tool is a good thing by which to manage a wilderness, but it has to be done very carefully and the public must understand why it is happening and accept the smoke.

When I stated that cattle grazing in the national forest was another matter entirely, I meant that reasonable grazing outside of the wilderness was fine.—DALE SIMONSON
Dale, please read "Clearcuts Don't Burn" in our Fall issue (www.rangemagazine.com) and "Logging, Good Sense & Hypocrisy" on page 60, both by Derek Weidensee. Using cows, sheep and goats to keep brush and excess forage under control would improve the resource and be a lot less hazardous and detrimental than fire.—Ed.

PRAIRIE RATS & GOOD GUYS

My friend Ron Rehfeld has kept me subscribed for a long time, since I started shooting his prairie rats for him. Thanks for caring enough to do something. Most folks don't.

MARK MASON, SHERIDAN LAKE, COLORADO

I enjoy the variety in your magazine but wish that you might be a little more open minded about the United Nations and have compassion for those who have less finances. I know farmers make do and get by. We need to do a better job of communicating with our city neighbors who have no comprehension of the work and heartbreaks of those who work with nature.

SUZANNE P. LAMBORN
NOTTINGHAM, PENNSYLVANIA

Obama has put \$24 billion in his transportation budget for infrastructure in livable communities. He is bound and determined to put us in population centers so George Soros will have better control of us. I see a sack full for Sen. Reid's L.A.-to-Vegas light rail project also.

LOUIE PFRANGLE, WORLAND, WYOMING

We are an old couple. John is 80 and I'm a little younger. We work spring to fall at a mobile cow camp for a great ranch family. We still ride the range as a team.

JOHN AND ALI WIENKE, KINNEAR, WYOMING

Love your magazine. Don't always agree on everything, so you must be doing a great job.

DAN & GINGER BROCKMAN, VIA EMAIL