



Opinion from America's Outback

NECK ON THE BLOCK

We enjoy the way you lay your neck on the chopping block for our way of life. It takes real guts to be our voice even though we know it is right and good. Thanks so much for your much-needed help in this ongoing issue. We feel you are the kind of person who understands why we carry a sharp knife and three ropes.

KENT & JUDY HOWELL, DAYTON, IDAHO

AN ORACLE

RANGE is like an oracle crying out into the storm. Most everything must be read with filtering glasses. Tim [Findley] worried about the "new world order" but never caught on that it is already here. Vast majority of media's sole purpose is to entertain the masses, with a few exceptions, like *RANGE* and *The Guardian*. I spent 45 years in TV news, in a dying period when a sense of public responsibility was a part of the ethic. Gone now. Hard news is too hard and expensive. Easy news is cheap and entertaining, but mindless.

AL TOPPING, TUBAC, ARIZONA

America is in *serious* trouble today and needs all the help it can get from informed folks, not the double dippers in D.C.

(OLD) JIM YOUNG, INDIAN VALLEY, IDAHO

I have been following the Hage case for quite some time and I am glad that the court firmly held in favor of the family. ["Eye of the Storm," Winter 2013] I just wish the agents and supervisors would have gotten some jail time for their actions. The original agency culprit who was doing the most damage was reassigned to the BLM office in Utah in charge of grazing leases...just another reason the government is not to be trusted.

SCOTT ATKINSON, VIA EMAIL

Just finished CJ's article, "Tooth & Claw:

Mustangs Again" in Summer 2013. It really amazes me how people who live east of the Mississippi know better than those who live in the West. When it comes to the "wild horse" issue, their "hearts" overtake reality.

I grew up in California, moved to Arizona, and now live in eastern Wyoming, where cows, sheep, deer, antelope, griz, elk and horses outnumber people. I read the letters to the editor. It's interesting that agendas normally line up according to geographical location. Forget about protecting predators; we need protection from Easterners.

VICTOR BOZIC, GILLETTE, WYOMING

FRAUDS EVERYWHERE

I appreciate the skeptical tone that the magazine has taken in regard to the giant Green scam of man-made global warming. The article "Green Hucksters" by Stephen Wilmeth [Fall 2013] is very pertinent. These frauds are everywhere. I do not see them as having any real concern about the environment. They are about power and the lucrative returns that Green mail provides. It is a great pity that you do not get greater circulation in the cities as

that is where ignorance is greatest.

"Heroin for our Times" by John L. Moore [Fall 2013] reminded me of the occasions when I have found myself looking into the wrong end of a rifle or handgun. I can say from experience, it concentrates the mind and makes one both polite and eloquent. A 12 gauge at close range is the most disconcerting because your concentrated mind tells you that if they pull the trigger they are unlikely to miss. A miscalculation some 30 years ago has left me with a bullet lodged in my arm. It does not give me any problems but does provide a talking point whenever I have an X-ray. It is only a .22 but at the time it felt like a high-speed sledgehammer.

GRAEME CAMPBELL

KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA

Half of our 170,000 readers are urban.—Ed.

CJ NEEDS SHRINK

You should make time to see a shrink, but it may be too late for an old dog like you. God help your employees [to] put up [with] another ugly year with you.

JEFF STOREY, TUCSON, ARIZONA

DESTROYING LIVES TO PERPETUATE FAILURE

Americans must take the warnings of Dr. Michael Coffman in "The Disconnect" (Fall 2013) very seriously. In this important piece, Coffman explains how the United States is committing economic suicide, just as the Europeans did, in a vain attempt to "stop climate change." He rightly concludes, "these progressives and greens believe nature is far more important than people and they are willing to destroy lives to perpetuate their utter failures."

That is why the global-warming scare has become one of the most frightening mass movements in the world today. It is based on the misguided belief that carbon dioxide (CO₂) generated by civilization is causing dangerous climate change. Although this idea is not supported by real-world observations, it has captured governments, corporations, the education system, and most mainstream media. Millions of people assume that "the science is settled" and we must act quickly to reduce CO₂ emissions to avert a climate catastrophe.

In reality, climate science is in its infancy. Not only are we unable to forecast future climate states, but we don't even know if warming or cooling lie ahead. Yet, in an effort to appease loud, well-funded environmentalists, President Barack Obama is conducting an all-out war on coal-fired electricity generation, America's most important power source (over 40 percent of total electricity generation). If the climate scare is not soon stopped, all hydrocarbon energy sources, oil and gas included, are also at risk. Obama's stated goal is to reduce CO₂ emissions by eliminating coal (and eventually other fossil fuels) as an energy option in the United States. That his policies threaten the nation's energy security and are triggering higher energy prices and placing millions of jobs and the economic future of the country at risk seems of little concern to the president.

Unable to convince Congress to pass cap-and-trade legislation or CO₂ taxation bills, Obama is using the Environmental Protection Agency to impose national emission regulations based on the Clean Air Act. Canada has closely aligned its climate and energy policies with those of the United States and is also imposing damaging CO₂ regulations based on the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Under laws established to control pollution, both countries use the flawed designation of CO₂ as a toxin and a pollutant as the rationale to control this benign gas.

We in Canada are alarmed at Obama's actions on the climate and energy fronts, not only because our politicians are copying you, but also because, more than any country in the world, Canada needs a strong America to survive. Please, stop the climate scare before it ruins nations that took centuries to build!

TOM HARRIS, B. ENG., M. ENG. (MECH. ENG.-THERMOFLUIDS), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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VIA INTERNET



AGONY FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

The worst blizzard in recorded history of South Dakota just swept through the state and my parents' ranch lies in the storm's epicenter. Mom texted me after the storm: "No electricity. Saving power on phone. It's really, really bad." She called me later that day:

"There are no words to describe the devastation and loss. Everywhere we look there are dead cattle. Nobody can remem-

JOAN WINK



ber anything like this." There were no national media reports for days. She added, "Nobody wants to see this. These deaths are too gruesome." Later Mom wrote: "As the days warm, more and more carcasses are exposed. So many have lost so much." When I told Mom there were so many people lifting prayers to the people and animals of this region, she said, "We feel it. It helps."

DAWN WINK, VIA EMAIL

Tens of thousands of cattle were lost due to the blizzard of Oct. 4-7, 2013, with some ranchers losing up to 75 percent of their herds. Please help by donating to the Rancher Relief Fund at www.giveblackhills.org or send check to S.D. Rancher Relief Fund, Black Hills Community Area Foundation, P.O. Box 231, Rapid City, SD 57709.—Ed.

CLOGGED WOODS

The whole country has become one solid mass of brush, trees, weeds, grass, etc., and now fires can and do burn. There are no tractors, water wagons, handheld fire extinguishers in the woods anymore. Also, no roads or cleared areas. In many spots even the wildlife have lost their good feeding places. They like new growth and not old growth. Sure hope you people who voted for and advocate the closing of sawmills and no logging realize what you have caused. It didn't used to burn hundreds of homes. Now, where is the lumber to rebuild?

ROBERT D. COVEY, VIA EMAIL

Save our national forest, and the American taxpayer. Abolish the U.S. Forest Service and

Obamacare. We can't afford this. We are already in debt, thanks to Congress.

MIKE KIDD, DIVIDE, MONTANA

I'm an East Coaster who has been overseas for most of my adult life and stumbled across *RANGE* while sitting in a laundromat. I found it to be informative, insightful and provides information you don't get from other mainstream press outlets. I read "A Line in the Sand" by Dexter K. Oliver [Winter 2013] and have been trying to find another copy of it to share with friends back East.

PATRICK FERRY, VIA EMAIL

Patrick: Make copies for them from your issue, or call 1-800-RANGE-4-U and we will FAX that story to your friends.—Ed.

LOOKING FOR OPEN RANGE

I've heard *RANGE* is read by everyone in the West and hope one of your readers can help me out. I'm a master falconer seeking open range to fly my large female goshawk in the West. I'm a retired firefighter. I am mobile and able to travel with bird and dog just about anywhere. Thanks, *RANGE* readers!

DAVE WATSON, DENVER, CO. 720-934-3264

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ODE TO COOPS

Your presence at the service for Don Coops [chairman, *RANGE* board] last week was very

much appreciated. I understand from Don's kids that prior to your visiting Don at the hospital in Lakeview, he wasn't up to communicating much anymore. Nevertheless, when he realized you were there, he rose to the occasion and was able to visit. That's so typical of him. He would go all out for what he believed was worthwhile. May you and your good work with *RANGE* and its causes be blessed!

CATHERINE COOPS MELENDY

SOQUEL, CALIFORNIA

We laughed and cried, then Coops threw me out of his hospital room with a grin. He was a good friend and the most editorially savvy cowboy I ever met. I will always miss him.—Ed.

Larry Angier's photo of Fred Reed fits my verse description of old-timers: Just a good Ole Boy with life's story to tell, no need for words spoken, for his face tells it well!

BOB & JUDY SWA, SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO
See "Photo Contest Winners" in Fall 2013 at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

IT'S ALL ABOUT LIBERTY

The immigrant from Germany [Letters, Fall 2013] not only wants the Second Amendment suppressed but also the First Amendment. What I have to say to her is this: We have a lot of freedoms in this country that most other peoples do not have, and we have a Constitution to protect them. There are some small risks involved with freedom and

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STRONG AMERICANS

If you want to see a fine example of the true American spirit, look no further than the Dwight Hammond family of Diamond, Ore. The Hammonds backfired a portion of land and kept this fire from burning their winter range. This burned a small area of federal land. The federal proceedings from then on took the family's life savings and put both Dwight and his son Steve in federal prison.

I recently asked Susie Hammond how they were doing and expected to hear a cynical and bitter person tell me of their predicament. "You can't let what life hands you destroy you," she said. "Ranchers all have to accept this or they wouldn't be ranchers." I was fascinated by this fine family's attitude and knew they would always survive. It was obvious to me that our government is actually trying to destroy this strongest segment of our society from the top down. Ronald Reagan would have stopped this nonsense immediately.

Los Angeles is turning loose 11,000 convicted felons because of no prison space. We will have rampant crime throughout the West because of this—and Hammond is put in prison for protecting his ranch. A little background: A few years ago the Hammonds won a case against the BLM when it purposely fenced off their water with an illegally positioned fence line. Getting back at the Hammonds from then on was an act of vengeance. They had to win against a corrupt government and they were able to do so. ["Enemies of the State," by Hank Vogler, Spring 2013.]

The high desert and farming areas of California and eastern Oregon should be turned into a separate state not run by corrupt officials in Los Angeles and San Francisco who will always have the votes. It is definitely possible—and necessary. Eastern Oregon and California, secede if you want to survive. Meanwhile, look with great admiration to the Hammonds. They are strong, true Americans. Anyone would be lucky to have them as neighbors.

J.N. SWANSON, CARMEL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

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most of us are comfortable with them. If Albrecht doesn't like it, she can go back where she came from. And she might read up on what happened in the Warsaw ghetto in 1942 when a few Jews did get hold of guns—the Nazis didn't like it one bit. Or what happened when the Germans occupied a country? They went to the police stations, got the registration lists, and confiscated the guns. Made it much safer—for the Germans.

By the way, no gun-control scheme is ever done innocently or with truly good intentions. They are all intended to disarm the general populace for the safety of the government.

CHARLES KNAPP, TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN
Check "Up Front: It's all about liberty," Spring 2013, www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

ANGRY WATERS

I compliment Dave Skinner on "Angry Waters" in Fall 2013. While those connected to agriculture in the West talk about water and all the issues concerning it in almost daily conversation, the average person is disconnected from these issues. As the knowledge gap widens between producers and consumers and demands for water increase, it will be more and more difficult to gain consensus. At any rate, in his discussion of the Flathead Irrigation Project, Dave does an excellent job of laying out the history and facts concerning the current controversy. Decisions concerning the Klamath Basin are not different nor are most other water fights either brewing now or in full swing. Average Americans need to understand what is happening and what it portends for their lives no matter how far removed they are from production agriculture in the West.

JOHN S. NALIVKA, VALE, OREGON

I love your magazine, even if it does raise my blood pressure! Wolf stories need to be told.

ED COOPER, AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

BAD RAP, BAD REP

Last week I spent some time in Washington, D.C., representing our state association of conservation districts. One of my visits on the Hill was with Congressman Raul Grijalva's office. While I was sitting in his waiting room for my appointment, I perused the books he had on his bookshelf and table. The titles I wrote down are: "Welfare Ranching: the subsidized destruction of the American West," "Waste of the West: public lands ranching," and "Wildfire Clearcut: the tragedy of industrial forestry." There were several others of the

same sort. Scary that he was on the short list for secretary of the Department of Interior.

BILL DUNN, KEARNY, ARIZONA
Rep. Grijalva's free copies of RANGE, donated by western ranchers, are probably so worn out he had to throw them away!—Ed.

TIME FOR SELF-FLAGELLATION

My dear and treasured friend, the caption for the Molly Humbert haystack photo [Heroes, Fall 2013] says that Hans Humbert is 60 and *temperamental*. Nothing could be farther from the truth. I wrote: "His skills keep the temperamental 60-year-old equipment running at the Bacon Ranch for three weeks in late July." Hans is around 40 and a super nice man and father. He is patient and kind. Please give him a call and offer an apology. I want Hans to know that is *not* what I wrote. I treasure the Big Hole Valley and the dear folks who live here. The very last thing you or I want to do is to hurt someone.

CYNTHIA BALDAUF, WISDOM, MONTANA
Good grief! I've been lobotomized and need a few years off to heal. I'll call them.—Ed.

Response from Mrs. Humbert: *Thank you so much for the phone call today. Honestly, it was all I could do not to choke on the ice cream cone I was eating, I was laughing so hard! Please know that there is no offense taken on our part. Mistakes happen, and we appreciate your efforts as an advocate for this way of life that we cherish. Hans and I thank you for the giggles.*

—SHAREN HUMBERT, WISDOM, MONTANA

I received the Fall 2013 edition of *RANGE*, including Steve Rich's "Going Native," which has a great tone and message, but I did notice one rather significant error in the caption of the second photo. It should have read "posttreatment" instead of "pretreatment." The photo used was right after the cattle were removed and before recovery started. Either way, I suspect that most readers will note that the caption doesn't match what they're seeing so probably no biggie. I sure appreciate the opportunity for this info to get out there. I'm glad I was able to contribute to the important message that the article hit home with.

CHUCK PETERSEN, VIA EMAIL
Sorry, our error! Corrected version is at www.rangemagazine.com/Fall 2013.—Ed.

A REAL LIB

A rancher friend sent me a sub to *RANGE*. Being a farmer here in the evil East (six-hours drive from the ultimate evil...no, not the EPA headquarters or my &#\$^% president but the home base of the *@# \$^ money-wasting em-

pire) and a real liberal, this fellow figured articles like yours would help me see the true path. I pore over the photos and the stories of the survivors. I struggle with the Ph.D. articles. The bio of the climate-change guy pretty much explains his stuff; next he'll be taking up geology and giving us definitive proof the earth is 6K years old. Grow up and smarten up. Yours in agricultural progress.

DANIEL LATHWELL, VIA EMAIL

I wanted to encourage Dr. Coffman on the awesome work he does for America. I just finished reading "The Disconnect" in Fall 2013. It is amazing the lies that are out there and people actually believe them. You are on our prayer list and I beseech God to work strongly on your behalf to get the truth out.

CHRISTY WICKHORST, VIA EMAIL

Michael Coffman's global-cooling report ["The Disconnect"] is very timely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change quietly revising all its climate models downward since all are simply wrong. The IPCC has very creative writers!

LARRY ANGIER, JACKSON, CALIFORNIA

MORE SOCKS

John Ascuaga is the son of a Basque sheepherder. He just sold the Nugget casino in Sparks, Nev., which he owned and operated for 58 years. John has provided jobs and scholarships for countless people and contributed to many charities. He has ranched in California and Nevada and raised fine cattle. His Hereford bull sale onstage at the Nugget was attended by buyers from throughout the country. But, more importantly, John is a gentleman, a friend and one fine cowboy.

We will miss you at the Nugget, John. We will also miss the fine food and drink in the bunkhouse while trailing more than a thousand cows each November from Bridgeport, Calif., to their winter home in Smith Valley, Nev. Those four days were always amazing regardless of weather—even though sometimes I needed warmer socks!

TERRY SULLIVAN, WASHOE VALLEY, NEVADA

TIME FOR CHAINSAWS

Just got in from a hot, nasty circle. Wind blowing, 105 the Dodge swears, following dust everywhere, cows and the whole northern horizon on fire. I heard a report saying when the fire (Silver Fire, already reported at 91,000 acres) burns into country that is not as steep and thick the FS will make progress on it. What we can surmise, if that was my garbage dump or pile of tires burning to

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make that much free carbon I'd be in jail, on the news, and identified as an enemy of society. Someone said it needed to burn. Well, maybe, but it also needed 70 years of stewardship and a chainsaw, a sawmill, some goats, a Cat, some logging chains, a few cows, more family homesteads, and free and independent men wouldn't hurt. An underreported debacle.

STEPHEN WILMETH, MESILLA, NEW MEXICO

Been a long, tough summer in our neck of the woods. Save the wolf, the grizzly, etc., but not the feed or the forests. The Eureka Fire, over 6,000 acres, \$3.3 million, 25 percent contained, discovered July 25, sat on it for weeks and when it got away, "Oh my, we better fight this thing!" My family used to summer five bands in the area, saw my only in-the-wild wolverine in Coal Creek, now ashes. Many feel they let it go to get the few bands of sheep and cattle left off "the forest" for good. Time will tell. My heart is breaking. I'll never see it as it was again. Twenty-five years since they cooked Yellowstone, you'd think they could remember that long. Guess not. Hang in there. If it were easy, everybody would do it!

JANE YECNY, SHERIDAN, MONTANA

REMEMBER THE GLORY

RANGE is the last bastion of hope for the rancher, farmer and sportsman. I'm glad to be 71 years old and have seen America in its glory. I worry for my grandkids and what this country will be for them.

JESSIE OVERMAN, QUINCY, WASHINGTON

I've sold all my cows. Hated to do it, but am 90 and not up to doing everything that must be done to run cows. I certainly hope we can get that [man] out of the White House before he completes the job he set out to do and totally destroys our country. Keep up the good work. You are waking people up.

RUTH MACY, SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the article "Horses We've Loved" by John L. Moore [Summer 2013]. I'm a much older man than he and a fourth-generation rancher in eastern Wyoming, straight south of eastern Montana. My life sounds synonymous to his: the mentors that came before him; the love and remembrances of certain horses; the neck injury that causes numbness in my fingers and thumbs that "spark" with pain. The

awkward slow motion with excessive caution is now my way of life. Mr. Moore is a heartfelt writer I appreciate.

FRED HEPP, BUFFALO, WYOMING

Keep the educating, heartwarming, realistic rural life stories/articles coming. I believe the future is bright for all of us to cooperate and find solutions to our one and only earth's problems. From one of your longtime Progressive readers who understands the rural life perspective, having spent 45 of my 53 years there!

BARBARA, VIA EMAIL

RANGE seems to take most of a day out of my life—can't stop reading from cover to cover before I pass it on to my daughter.

TED COFFMAN, ENNIS, MONTANA

DON'T EVER CHANGE

I like what you stand for—don't ever change. The world needs more of you.

AL CHRISTIAN, AMES, IOWA

Don't like the way magazine is being put out compared to the old way.

JOHN MCDUGALL, WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

In the constant negative news and information world, you provide a very bright light.

ROBERT INNES, GILLETTE, WYOMING

RANGE is the real America, boys. Watch that government doesn't take it from you.

DAVE SCHUDEL, CORVALLIS, OREGON

STEAK ALWAYS HELPS

Oh, indeed, I've tried them, occasionally over a period of many years. If anything, my intense dislike has dramatically increased. I hate vegetables. Always have. Hate the way they look, their texture, the way they taste. I ain't no rabbit. The only way I can stand them is to forcibly usher the things into an improved state—via blender. Pulverize the buggers. Then, quickly down a double shot of bourbon (to forget the experience) and a large rare rib eye with a side of hot Mexican chili. Euphoria.

KARL BOSSELMANN

COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA