



Opinion from America's Outback

STAND UP FOR LIBERTY

The mainstream Eastern/urban media seem clueless as to the battles taking place in western America. Others of us know that land-based businesses are the lifeblood of America's economy. Thanks for educating and inspiring people to stand up for liberty!

SUSAN SNEDDEN, MARICOPA, CALIFORNIA

TOO ONE-SIDED?

Your coverage of the Malheur refuge takeover was very one-sided. We live just across the fence from the headquarters so we know what really went on. Hope to see better coverage in the future. Enjoyed the magazine until that issue. Makes us wonder about other articles.

ANDY DUNBAR, PRINCETON, OREGON

BEAVERTAILS & HEMLOCK

It was reassuring to have the secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, visit Harney County last summer in a time of healing and open a new path for management of public lands in the West; however, she missed the point in her announcement that a new approach to management was being initiated termed "collaboration," which would improve the process.

In this politically correct era we've been informed that words matter. They can be "hurtful," "stressful" and "destructive." I recall that at the end of WWII citizens of France and other European countries dealt harshly with collaborators who aided the Nazis. There had to be more to my understanding of the word. Webster put me straight. A collaborationist was the European culprit, while the secretary's application means to work together to come to a literary or scientific conclusion. Being skeptical, I question, "Who decides what is scientific?"

That question has led to many lawsuits and "hurtful" actions that have either directly or indirectly led to the reason she came to Harney County. I won't dispute the statement that it was going to cost \$6 million to repair damage at the Malheur refuge headquarters. I note that part of the cost was emotional damage done to government employees and their families.

What about stress created with the threat of a 2.5-million-acre monument in neighboring Malheur County that has potential to destroy the economic and social structure of the county? Upon research I found the name Malheur was given after consuming beaver tails laced with hemlock. The word that means bad or evil hour is fitting because the refuge and county bearing the name are and have suffered bad hours. What about emotional damage to the counties' Hammond family as their menfolk languish in a federal prison because of hurtful application of the law?

In closing, the secretary's approach to collaboration would be better served with a different word...cooperation!

MIKE HANLEY, JORDAN VALLEY, OREGON

Want you to know that we keep trying to free Dwight and Steve Hammond from their incarceration. The inequality of what we in natural resources do is truly incomprehensible. Take care, you are the lead in exposing the corruption that has, sadly, taken my country away from me. I do not recognize it anymore. We are staying in the fray and we *will* prevail because we are the *truth*. Your hard work in getting the message to the unknowing (ignorant) public will and is making a very positive difference!

CURTIS W. MARTIN, V P RANCH
NORTH POWDER, OREGON

Thank you *RANGE* for telling it like it is. It is encouraging to see someone stand up against the Greenies and our so-called federal government. We support you 100 percent.

BART NOBLE, PRINEVILLE, OREGON

GOBSMACKED

During my life I have fought many bushfires and have never hesitated to set fire to Her Majesty's "Crown" (i.e., government) land when in my opinion a backburn was the best option, sometimes the only option.

I like America and I like Americans but I was absolutely gobsmacked when I read about a couple of ranchers who are serving five-year sentences for what I would do without hesitation. In our situation a backburn can involve thousands of acres. Invariably the land recovers very quickly with the first rains.



"Collies" © Vel Miller

Aboriginal people in Australia have been using a method of fire farming for thousands of years. They create a mosaic pattern on the land which is very good for containing lightning strikes that could otherwise burn tens of thousands of acres. If government agents do not put in firebreaks or take steps to reduce the fire burden on their land, they should be liable for any damage done to other parties.

I do not know what has happened to your Constitution but I am sure that the draconian action taken by your government is beyond the law. With a federal election looming, now is the time to try and make your polities accountable.

GRAEME CAMPBELL (FORMER MEMBER OF
AUSTRALIA'S PARLIAMENT)
KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA

WOLVES & DOGS

Everything Terry Sullivan said on the back cover of your magazine is 100 percent. What he did not say was that the 1950s were the end of fur trapping. And in Fall 2016's "Tampering With Nature," Dexter Oliver's juvenile Mexican gray wolf is a mixed-up mess of coyote and mongrel dog! The calf could have been killed by anything—most likely by dogs—maybe wolf dogs!

ANONYMOUS, PHOENIX, ARIZONA
Fur trapping in the U.S.A. did not end in the 1950s; it continues to this day. The wolf pictured is from a known pack, some with radio collars, that we had been monitoring for days. Feral dogs don't last in wolf country, they are killed. The remains of the calf were from an area with wolves and other wild predators, no dogs or "wolf dogs."—Dexter Oliver

I love *RANGE*. Everything about it and all it reveals: photos, facts, horses, cattle, people, poor politics, humor, the America I love and hope to enjoy for another 75 years, the facts and truths. Your stories say we had better get involved and speak out and do what must be done to protect the people, lands, wildlife and lifestyles that are so precious. *RANGE*, you tell it like it is. God bless.

COWBOY DANIEL CRAMPTON
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

Keep on fighting for sane folks!
JAN TREECE, PLAINS, MONTANA

DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

I was hoping to see you as one of the speakers at the Republican National Convention the other evening. There is so much people like us could reveal to wake up/shock America to get our country back on course.

Summer 2016 includes "Original Intent" by Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D., and gives valuable insight on how/why the good guys are being robbed in broad daylight right under our noses. The last two paragraphs expose agency/government treachery/trickery.

Dr. Coffman's article in the Fall 2016 issue, "Powerful Forces," is very good! However, an even better title might be "Power Forces and America be Damned," but the article content says that, doesn't it?

God bless you and everyone defending America.

DAVID R. RAWLS, FLORENCE, ARIZONA

RANGE has the best real facts going on the range. From a former Oregon rancher.

JAMES HAWLEY, GRAND FORKS, N.D.

RUSH & RANGE

While filling my truck at the gas pump in Ely, Nev., the other day, I recognized the lady filling a black pickup next to me as *RANGE* editor/publisher C.J. Hadley. I said, "Wow, I know you!" Then I shared with you that my two favorite news sources were Rush Limbaugh and *RANGE* magazine. I read *RANGE* from cover to cover and so much appreciate "the rest of the story."

DAVID GREGERSEN, SPRING CREEK, NEVADA
I just discovered your excellent magazine and promptly subscribed. I'm 74 years old and stopped watching TV over 35 years ago when I sensed it being used to degrade our native Christian constitutional republic. I love the kindred spirit of your publication.

I strive to maintain the concept of normalcy I was taught in my formative 40s and 50s. For example, any group that advocates

mass murder should be called "Mad Dog Killers." That includes our Waco, Ruby Ridge, etc., murderers. I see Donald Trump as an undeserved blessing upon America. God bless your publication. I don't feel so alone anymore.

CHUCK AHERNS, PHILIPSBURG, MONTANA

Hoping for a Trump victory in November. It would do a lot to reverse the trends of big government manipulation of western lands. It would do a lot to ease the pain being inflicted currently on western ranches, farms, mines and timber operations.

DAVID LARIMER, PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIF.
The election was after we went to press.—Ed.

A REATA MAN

It was nice to read the articles on Jack and Irene Walther by Virginia Bennett and Vess Quinlan [Spring 2016]. I worked for Jack at the 71 Ranch at the foot of the Ruby Mountains in the late 1950s, calving heifers. Irene's dad would come and help brand. He was quite a reata man and could throw a houlihan halfway across the corral and come up with both hind feet. I learned a lot from those folks. Sorry to hear they have passed away.

DAVID WOMACK, SILVER LAKE, OREGON

Keep 'er goin'.

JAMES STERLING, MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO

We must do all we can to preserve this way of life, but increasing regulations threaten the freedoms of this rural America. When my *RANGE* arrives, I read it cover to cover without stopping. It preserves important history and is top quality, with professional technical writers and unique photography.

CLARICE RYAN, BIGFORK, MONTANA

UNORDINARY

I like the two pictures on page 8 of the Fall 2016 issue, the top photo is by Jonne M. Goeller of two eagles. One is yelling "Can you hear me?" I didn't know wambli (eagles) could bend their heads like that. I am saving this hilarious picture.

The second picture is of the burro and the dog by Linda Hammond. I almost cry when I see their tender pose. So gentle and serene. The photographers who take these pictures at these moments of "unordinary" happenings are precious and priceless. What a gift to give to readers of your magazine.

MATO WINYUN, PINE BLUFFS, WYOMING

Keep on keeping on. We need you.

JACK EATHERTON, SUNDANCE, WYOMING

Best regards for C.J. Hadley from my husband, Pedro de la Cruz, who is a real fan of her always interesting editorials.

BEATRIZ JIMENEZ AGREDA
SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN

Muchas gracias, mis amigos.—CJ

"Confessions of Red Meat Survivors" [Fall 2016] has an article about Wesley Sandall of Red Cedar Ranch in Bassett, Neb.—a family friend who I used to work for years ago in the '50s. Wesley's lovely wife, Gettie, is now gone as well as the horse mower that Wes converted to pull with a Farmall H. Great family, now run by Dan. Thank Deanna Licking for the story.

MAURICE RENARD, MANTORVILLE, MINN.

A MATTER OF TASTE

My husband and I were disappointed with some of the photographs chosen for the 2017 calendar. January looks like a model for some western clothing catalog. How about a photograph of June *after* moving the 1,000 head of mother cows, which would portray a more authentic "buckaroo"? The eagle's centerfold would have made a great monthly photo!



Who wants to look at someone else's kids for the entire month of August?

With all the great photographs in *RANGE*, couldn't you have made better choices? Western scenes and exceptional animal photos are preferable to posed photographs of people.

DAN & MARCIA TODD, GRANGEVILLE, IDAHO
Ouch! Please send your best by March 2017 for our 2018 Real Buckaroo Calendar.—Ed.

LOSS OF THE WEST

I suppose I've been guilty in feeling that Democrats are the cause of the problems in our country, but reading that you and Sheriff David A. Clarke are Democrats, I guess I'll readjust my way of thinking to what is really the thing that is troubling me, the loss of the West and too much government.

I work for a family that still runs cattle in our rugged mountains (all 365 square miles) in Southern California and have since 1860. I see the same regulatory nonsense they deal with every day. The U.S. Forest Service demands all salt be placed a quarter of a mile from all water sources, and the green-up range is only for the quino checker spot butterfly until all is dried up and brown, then cows are allowed to access that range. This is all in spite of the cowmen insisting years past when cattle and butterflies were together that there were more butterflies then.

On a night I was having problems sleeping, I thought I would cut out a few pages of *RANGE* to get copies made to send to friends. I found myself taking out the staples because there were so many articles I felt were important. I then realized things have become even worse than I thought.

Keep up the good work. My job is to tell ranchers where most of the mountain lions are, and how many, so they can keep a close look upon their calves.

ARTHUR D. HARKLEROAD, ANZA, CALIF.

COWBOY POETS

Got a kick out of the Summer 2016 article by Bill Jones, "True Confessions, Ramblings and Observations of a Legal Gun Dealer." He was a cowboy poet in Lander some 20 years ago. I have been reciting cowboy poetry for 30 years.

JEAN HAUGEN, LANDER, WYOMING

Thank you so much for publishing the story about Ray Green (Summer 2016 "Confessions"). He is still driving and hasn't been stopped for speeding again. He will be 104 in October.

PATTY VAUGHN MILLER
CLIFTON, COLORADO

Our generation removed the 10 commandments from our churches. I am a weary old cowboy and ask, "Are we a church of God or a church of man?" Wake up, America.

LARRY SHEPPERD, MILLS, NEBRASKA

As always, keep up the hard trail to keep the West the West!

NEIL R. CROWLEY, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

RANGE is like a breath of fresh air in a country that is [screwed] up like Hogan's goat.

BRIAN NODWELL, TOLAR, TEXAS

To the staff of *RANGE*: We just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your hard work. Keep telling it like you do.

BILL & BARBARA DICKSON
RIDGWAY, COLORADO



Jay 2 (born Jan. 2!) Hoggan from Hamer, Idaho, gives grain to the team, Rita and Mindy (the names of Jay 2's sisters). They pull from 3-5 loads of hay on a sled through a foot of snow every day.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

I used to commiserate with all those *RANGE* subscribers who would read their new issue as soon as they get it in the mail and then were miserable till they get the next one three months later. That is, until a few months ago, when I began picking old copies at random out of my considerable stack and rereading them. Wow! A nostalgic gem from my hometown ("Saga of a Town Dog" by Jean Bilodeaux, Winter 2007); great informative articles ("Best Science," Spring 1997, and so many more commonsense contributions over the years by Dan Dagget); both humor and hard truth from Hank Vogler ("Ode to Ranch Cooks," Winter 2014, and "Going With the Flow," Fall 2005).

I've rediscovered great writing by Carolyn Dufurrena ("The Desert River," Fall 1998) and J. Zane Walley. Of course, it also gives me the opportunity to revisit the incomparable investigative reporting of the amazing Tim Findley who has enlightened us on so many issues crucial to the rural West.

If you haven't already dug through that old stack of past issues, give it a try. It beats whining until your next *RANGE* arrives.

DENNIS GOLDEN, COLD SPRINGS, NEVADA
Thanks! Collector Sets are on p. 52.—Ed.

Love your awesome magazine!

KELLY DAVIS, GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA
Thank you much for your great magazine. We as readers mourn the passing of Tim Findley, and it must be much worse for you who knew him, but I'm sure I'm not the only one who is impressed at the way you have kept the quality of your reporting up without his genius. God bless you and keep it up.

CLARK T. CARTER, MONETTA, S.C.

Enjoy the mag so much.

WAYNE W. MCKEE, INDIANOLA, IOWA

TIGHT GRIP

What seems to be happening is that the feds, by monumentalizing more and more land, are just tightening their grip on federal land to where the states will never ever get a grip on any of those lands. Nor will the feds be expanding the monumented land uses into mining, drilling, forestry, grazing—*EVER!*

HUGO VON PLATEN LUDER
HOLUALOA, HAWAII

The listing of vendors carrying *RANGE* in Klamath Falls, Ore., needs to be updated. Big R Stores was bought out by Coastal Farm & Ranch which no longer carries *RANGE*. Here's their info: CF&R, 6225 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls, OR 97603. Phone 541-882-5548.

JONNE GOELLER, KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON
Many stores only carry RANGE if it is requested by its customers. Hope you can help get these agents back.—Ed.

I know that all of us *RANGE* lovers depend on each other, but without your never-tiring efforts to bring us together we would have no hub to support. We are just the spokes and you are the center of the universe. Tell your "huge" support staff thanks for what they do to make *RANGE* possible.

CHUCK CUNDY, CORA, WYOMING
People like you make RANGE possible.—Ed.

ME FIRST!

To Mr. Ed Depaoli, treasurer, RCF: Our library is thrilled to have received your generous gift, "The M Bar." Our community and our youth take great pride in our cowboy heritage, so this read is very gratefully accepted. In fact, I barely had time to catalog it before several students were negotiating for first reader rights.

We appreciate and support the mission of the Range Conservation Foundation, and thank you for the book and the foundation's efforts in advocating and protecting that which is the bedrock of our heritage here in the Oregon high desert.

SUSAN STUDDERT FRANK, LIBRARIAN
DALY MIDDLE AND LAKEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL
LAKEVIEW, OREGON
See page 85 for "Harry's Duet."—Ed.

Mr. Depaoli: We wish to thank you so much for sending us a copy of "Call of the Cow Country." What a wonderful way to help libraries get some fantastic literature into the hands and brains of our students.

The funding for this book, I noted, was

from sheep and cattle ranchers from across the American West. My family was able to rent a house for a few years from Tom Drumheller, who made a living raising sheep. He told many interesting stories. I also remember as a young child having to wait on the highway until his herd of sheep was allowed to cross the Columbia River at the Vantage Bridge to go to higher ground to graze. I can't wait to read this book!

LORETTA SWAGER, EPHRATA MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY, EPHRATA, WASHINGTON

Here's a photo I took of my grandson, Blake Harris, napping in the saddle. I'd enter it in your photo contest if it was better quality. It was shot on his grandpa's ranch, the CH Land and Cattle Company, on the Crow Indian reservation in central Montana. Thanks for including me, once again, in your wonderful magazine.



MARK DOWIE
POINT REYES STATION, CALIFORNIA

ANOTHER MASTERPIECE!

Bill Jones just sent me a copy of "Reflections of the West," and it's magnificent, in the vein of "Brushstrokes & Balladeers." These books will be collectible and read over and over again. The mating of art to verse is outstanding. Bill sent copies to be placed in our Hospice Home here in Riverton for the enjoyment of the patients and their families.

KENT & MARY STOCKTON
RIVERTON, WYOMING
See page 37 for "Painter/Poet Pair."—Ed.

Really enjoyed "Daisy, Me & the Feds" in the Fall 2016 issue by Carolyn Dufurrena. Excellent writing.

LEE JULLERAT, KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

SIERRA SAGA

I was seated next to CJ on a flight to Modesto in the '90s and she let me read some of the articles she was editing. Signed up as soon as I got home. Anyway, John Lacey was one of my college roommates. See him far too infrequently. I enjoyed Lisa Michelle's "Sierra Saga" in Fall 2016 very much. The housecleaner, "wife," tossed the magazine before I could share it with some other roommates. Can you send me another copy?

LYNN FRENCH, HUGHSON, CALIFORNIA

COME ON DOWN!

In reference to E.T. Collinsworth III's letter in Fall 2016: To quote the Dowager Countess of Grantham, "Does it ever get cold up there on the moral high ground?"

TERRY MAHONEY, CATTLE QUEEN RANCH
MOUNT PLEASANT, UTAH

A WIN BY 40 POUNDS

I really enjoyed reading "Anxious Times on the Arizona Border" by Leo Banks about the ranch owned by Tom and Dena Kay in Fall 2016. I have not seen Tom since 1989. I was helping Wilson Chitwood fatten 850 steers on 10,000 acres of beautiful grassland east of Durango, Colo., in the Piedra Valley. Tom was running steers on the gain on an adjacent ranch. We helped him and he helped us that summer.

Tom was the real deal, a helluva hand, horseman, cattle handler, and the best pasture roper I had ever been around. We had scales that weighed 80 head at a time, so when we gathered Tom said do not so much as sneeze when we got the steers on the scale. He knew calm cattle would not crap as much so that meant better weights.

Anyway, once our steers were weighed, loaded and shipped, we were all in a celebratory mood. We had lost only two steers out of 850 that summer so we were feeling it. Tom was having a fun time so he bet me that his big bay weighed more than my gray. I told him that my horse's head weighed

more than his saddle so I bet the \$20 (big bet for cowboy wages). I had named my horse "Headley" 'cause his head was about the size of a small square bale. We weighed and my horse beat Tom's horse by 40 pounds.

I left for Texas the next morning but always thought about Tom Kay over the years. He was a cowboy but I remember thinking he would have made a hell of an old-time outlaw! Maybe that's why the ranch on the Mexican border suits him so.

SAM PARSONS, FOREST, VIRGINIA

PROMISES

CJ, saw this on a septic pumper truck: "May contain political promises."

TED PARR, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

CJ, wanna dance?

GENE HAMMERLUN [THE MULESKINNER]
GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

Hell yes, on my 80th.—Ed.

NOTE: WE APPRECIATE YOUR LETTERS. SADLY, WE CAN'T PRINT THEM ALL. A FEW WERE EDITED FOR SPACE, OTHERS WERE HELD FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE. THANK YOU, DEAR READERS, FOR SHARING YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS. DON'T STOP WRITING BUT PLEASE KEEP YOUR LETTERS SHORT!—EDITOR

LOOKING FOR FAIR SHARE

It is often said that a resident in New York has just as much ownership in the western federal land as a Nevada resident. Eighty-five percent of Nevada is federal land and at least 85 percent of New York is privately owned. Ownership of private land brings with it the burden of taxation. If we all own the federal land, why are we all not paying our fair share for its care and maintenance?

The existing program to compensate states with an excess of federal land "in lieu of tax" arrangement is plagued with political interference, distribution problems, etc. A more equitable approach would invoice a "Federal Land Tax" where each citizen is assessed a fee for "owning" and the privilege for using what they "own," federal lands. For example, a base tax of \$1 per person, adjusted for the amount of federal land in each state: Nevada—85 percent federal land, tax = \$0.15. New York—15 percent federal land, tax = \$0.85.

The funds would go to each state based on the amount of federal land in that state. (New York would get its share.) States would distribute the funds to the counties on the same basis. They would be used for such things as road maintenance, fire control, law enforcement, search and rescue, etc., with a percentage retained for on the ground improvements to the land from which they came.

All Americans now can enjoy federal lands in just about any way they choose as long as it's legal—hunt, fish, hike, camp, photograph, etc. Should they not all share in the cost of their care?

ED DEPAOLI, FALLON, NEVADA