

Opinion from America's Outback

HITTIN' THE STIRRUP

Once in a while even an old cowboy hits his stirrup on the first try! You folks hit it every time. Keep ridin', the real American spirit needs you bad.

TERRY SCHURR, CORTEZ, COLORADO

I'm not eloquent. You and your magazine are.

RON BOCK, RAVENNA, NEBRASKA

Don't weaken. Justice in this country is a joke! If you are far enough up in politics you have nothing to fear. Laws are for the little people (you and me) to keep us scared. What a pity Ryan Zinke retired. He was getting something done about the overpopulation of wild horses and burros.

"FROM THE FLINT HILLS OF KANSAS"

CHEATS & LIARS

Hitler would have loved your magazine. Trump and Hitler detest laws for all people, only a few. Trump has filled the swamp with cheats, liars and sexual predators. Trump was a draft dodger and a coward.

BRAVELY ANONYMOUS, PORTLAND, OREGON

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of stock growers besieged by government overreach. Much obliged. But here's my question: Is it possible that agribusiness is quietly lobbying against those of us who simply wish to produce our own food? Around these parts there is pastureland for sale where you can keep horses but not a family cow. In my own backyard I'm allowed a pack of barking dogs, but a laying hen is contraband. I once inquired about some ground for sale around Belt, Mont., but was informed by a real estate agent that I

FRIEND OR FOE?

Well, you did it again. "The Magnificent American West" [aka MAW] combines wonderful photos with words from two of the West's most treasured writers. (I feel Mark's writing went downhill when he moved back East!) You are leaving quite a western legacy with your beautiful books and *RANGE*. The quantity and quality of your work will stand the test of time and 50 or 100 years from now westerners will remember.

LEE PITTS, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA

"MAW" is a real treasure.

GREG BIORNSTAD, PORTLAND, OREGON

Why is *RANGE* selling a book involving Teddy Roosevelt? Mr. Roosevelt is no friend to the ranching industry of North Dakota. All the ranch country he took from production and made into parks is a shame. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service regard him as a hero. Enough said. Mr. Roosevelt is not here to defend himself, only the ripples in the pond after he threw the rock.

LANE LOWMAN, BELFIELD, NORTH DAKOTA

Love "MAW." I do not recommend retirement!

RUSS JACKSON, PUEBLO WEST, COLORADO

Thank you for "MAW." Magnificent photos and magnificent writing. It's rich stuff so I read only a little before I am satisfied; I have many nights of pleasure awaiting me.

A.D. HOPKINS, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

ERRATA for MAW

The photo on page 39 of "The Magnificent American West" by Cynthia Baldauf was of Ty Rose and not Evan Williams as noted. And on page 71, Larry Turner's photo of a Yellow-

couldn't keep "hooved animals" on it.

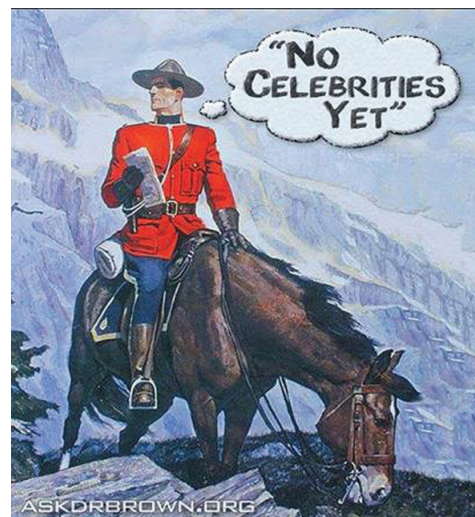
What's going on? This is not an accusation, but it sure seems like somebody wants to keep us buying our grub at the supermarket rather than producing our own.

One last thought: BLM ground is land that was opened up for homesteading, but the land wasn't deemed worthy and a social-bound bureaucracy was born. Why not open her up again? I think I can speak for unlanded Americans. We'll take 'er this time.

LARRY JORDAN, GILLETTE, WYOMING

stone trout was credited to Larry Angier. My "try" was inadequate. So sorry for the errors.

C.J. HADLEY, PUBLISHER, MAW



STROKE FROM D.C., PLUS...

Congratulations on your numerous nominations and wins in 2018's Nevada Press Association Better Newspaper Contest. Your work represents some of the best in Nevada journalism and is an important voice for those who live, work and thrive in the American West.

SEN. CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO (D-NV)
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Carolyn Dufurrena did a great job on her "Give Me a Stone" Special Report in Winter 2019. She captured the issues that we face in Owens Valley regarding the drying up of irrigated lands owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. We hope this will draw attention to the wastefulness of water users in Southern California and the need to look at alternatives in water capture and conservation.

JOE & PATTI ECHENIQUE, BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

At a public meeting last night, an article was referenced in one of your magazines that I would love to read. It is "Give Me a Stone" by Carolyn Dufurrena. I would be grateful for your direction and assistance.

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department, Independence, California
Go to rangemagazine.com, click on Back Issues, Winter 2019, then read or print story.—Ed.

I find *RANGE* to be a very rich magazine.

JACK McALLISTER, MOUNT PLEASANT, UTAH

RANGE and staff have proved they are both the heart and soul of the West. Thank you for

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your passion and for bringing needed confidence and courage to our cause. God bless our great country and every cowgirl and cowboy ever born.

STEPHEN SCRIBNER, POWELL, WYOMING

I LIKE MIKE!

We have lost a great fighter in the death of Dr. Michael S. Coffman. Mike was born on the day I left for the Navy flying circus in 1943. I have been a registered professional engineer since 1950. I am retired now but Mike's columns were always 4.0.

C.A. BERTHOT, CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA

What a wonderful surprise I got from you. "MAW" is just too fabulous. A friend was here, who has never gone farther than Connecticut, and was enthralled with pictures of "The West." It was great to catch up even a little bit with the Hage case. Also, when Trump pardoned the Hammonds I got to explain what that was all about. My new circle of people just have no clue. Education continues. You are such a blessing.

SUZ COFFMAN, BANGOR, MAINE

We will always miss Mike.—CJ

WAITING TOO LONG

Excellent article by Patricia Aiken ["Billy Hill vs. Big Brother," Winter 2019]. Only problem is it makes us realize what a corrupt country we have become. Would still like to get out of California but 86 is too late.

NORM HOSKING, REDDING, CALIFORNIA

Thanks so much for all your efforts and dedication to rural people. My husband and I are both fourth-generation Montanans working on a seventh generation. We too have "been around the block" with our 18 years of water court on issues that had already been to the Supreme Court. We still have our water but not much money!

LINDA QUIGLEY, AVON, MONTANA

I want to keep good journalism coming to good people [with gift subs]. Enjoy!

GREGORY D. HAUSSLER, CAPITAN, N.M.

NEED MORE YANKEES!

I was impressed reading the Fall edition to see a number of articles that hone in on the real issue behind the threat to Western heritage and traditions: the plastic nature of modern American culture. What's happening in the West is a reflection of what has already happened in much of America—the death of rural lifestyles and the increasing role of gov-

ernment and affluent conservationists in changing not just the landscape, but western sociology.

Vermont is no longer run by crusty dairy farmers milking under the beams hand-hewed by their grandfathers. Maine still has a healthy population of lobstermen, but the numbers of independent, irreverent Yankees are too small to guide the state's future. Activists who are brought to tears by the threat to ecosystems largely don't give a damn about the most vulnerable element in the West—the traditions of the cowboy.

By tackling everything from water issues to federal abuse of small ranchers *RANGE* has morphed from addressing western culture to the larger issue of our identity as a people. Well done.

BILL WOODWARD, BUFFALO, WYOMING



MILK COWS OR RIDE HORSES?

Oh, wouldn't want to be a dairy farmer. Hard to step away for any time to enjoy life: 24/7 attention to tending the herd, milk'n, feed'n and shovel'n used cow chow! Now canned milk on the other hand is just too good to be true. "No shit to pitch, no teets to twitch, ya just punch a hole in the S.O.B." How's that for easy livin'? Makes gravy taste great too.

DAVE SHAW, NAMPA, IDAHO

That came from an ad contest for Carnation Milk in 1946. The writer, a Wisconsin woman, didn't win the \$5,000 prize but the boss of the company enjoyed it so much he gave her \$1,000. Here's the whole thing: "Carnation Milk is best of all/No tits to pull, no hay to haul/No buckets to wash, no shit to pitch/Just poke a hole in the son-of-a-bitch." She worked on dairy farms since she "was old enough to walk, with hours of hard work and little compensation."—Ed.

Thanks for running "Still Looking for Hope" by Patrick Wood (Spring 2018). As he points out, anyone who thinks President Trump is going to "drain the swamp" in Washington, D.C., hasn't been paying attention to the real news. In this administration the interests of the rich and powerful will always come before those of the small family ranchers and farmers. You can bet the farm on that.

LARRY CALLISTER, BOISE, IDAHO

TOO POLITICAL

I was raised by people who left western South Dakota in 1936 because they couldn't make a living on the ranch. My grandfather homesteaded in Mead County, S.D., in 1903. The ranch is still in the family being owned by my cousin. Three uncles also ranched in the same area and their ranches are still in the family too. All of these ranches grazed their cattle on association pasture so didn't have to deal with permits. I must say I enjoy *RANGE*, but in my opinion, you are getting too political.

FRED SCOTT, VIA EMAIL

You are *too damned efficient!* Someone needs to shorten up your leash. Order a martini. It's lunchtime.

JIM PETERSEN, EVERGREEN MAGAZINE

DALTON GARDENS, IDAHO

October 2018: So Clive [sic] Bundy is free. Big deal. Now he and his looney clan can go back to stealing from us law-abiding citizens again. Just because the feds seem to be made up of morons, doesn't make Bundy some sort of western hero. He's a thief and a bigot.

WILLIAM GREGERSEN-MORASH

EAST WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON

In search of civil dialog, we beg to differ. Click on "Tyranny" at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

CRAZY CHANGING CLIMATE

I remember reading an article on climate change [re "all scientists agree"] a few years back in *RANGE* on how the 97 percent figure was derived. Could you please point me to the correct issue with that article? I am tired of seeing that number quoted in my hometown newspaper and I want to set the record straight. Although it may be a futile gesture, I will feel better.

JOE PAULETTO, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Joe, go to www.rangemagazine.com, click on the icon "RANGEDEX." When that link opens, write "climate change" in the search box and 25 stories will come up. If what you are looking for is not one of those, please let me know.—Ed.

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SELF-WORSHIPPER

RANGE does a good job telling about life with nature and a good life for the people living on the ranches. But I have a hard time that you do not recognize the oceans are rising due to melting glaciers. Islands are disappearing. Coastal cities are going to have to figure a way to keep the water out. It is going to be expensive. Islands are disappearing.

How can our current president be considered good when he is self-worshipping? All of the 10 commandments have been broken by him. The tax cuts for the rich is a terrible budget. A trillion-dollar deficit doesn't seem to phase [sic] him while he uses planes at our expense to escape to his golf courses. We would be able to balance the budget if the rich were taxed at a greater rate.

Most farmers are holding on while hopping prices received for their products might cover expenses. Is there a move to get rid of the small farmer while a few large operations feed the nation?

SUZANNE P. LAMBORN
NOTTINGHAM, PENNSYLVANIA

From 1968 to 1970, I was in Anchorage, Alaska. A newspaper article described the effects that earthquakes were having on the Aleutian Range. The quakes were deteriorating the underwater mountains allowing some of the warm Japanese current into the Bering Sea. The article was favorable about opening a shipping channel through the Arctic. I often wondered why I've never seen or heard this mentioned in reference to climate change?

B.D. PIERCE, VIA EMAIL

DOES SHE LIKE CATS?



My wife and I and our three little girls just moved to Cody, Wyo. Attached is a picture of my four-year-old, Aislin (nickname Ace).

We were heading to Yellowstone for a day of horseback riding when Ace decided that she did not want to partake. While trying to convince her that she would have a memorable time, she decided to draw a line in the sand while lowering her hat and refusing to speak or make eye contact. I

think it captures a moment in time that every parent with a child has experienced at one time or another. The fact that her face is covered also shows that it could be any child, any place, out West.

ANDREW MURRAY, CODY, WYOMING
*Did you ever get Ace on a horse?—CJ
Funny you should ask. She did get on the horse and proceeded to fall off, get hurt and need stitches. Maybe I should have listened to her in the first place.—Andrew*

AHHHH!

I've been trying to make a donation to the Range Conservation Foundation for several days and have been having all sorts of problems. Here are some suggestions to prevent the roadblocks I ran into: Add a button at the top of the home page saying "Donate Now" rather than having it buried in the website. Do not include in your shopping section; they are two entirely different actions. The check-out page would not accept my credit card.... All very frustrating.

CHUCK CUNDY, CORA, WYOMING
Thanks for your help! Hope our changes work better at rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

Explored the three corners of Idaho/Oregon/Nevada and visited [Claude Dallas'] Bull Camp. That trip was on my bucket list. Wow! The solitude and history are incredible.

If I ever get to sell my dying timber in Mendocino County, I will become a better donor. In the meantime, keeping the ranch in the family is my goal. You are an inspiration to me.

MATT WILSON, WHITE ROCK RANCH
LAYTONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

SPACE FOR A DATE

Always had a question about those endangered species and the land they tie up. If kids can have sex in the backseat of a VW, why does it take 32,000 acres for a spotted owl?

JERRY BERGEN, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

I read RANGE from the first page and finish on the last. Steve Wilmeth's words and photo of Aden Lee Morales for "Portrait of the West" (Winter 2019) were on page 86. It does equate. May he continue as a miracle of life!

JOHN BACON, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

SHUT OFF

Kudos to Dani Nichols for "Water as a Weapon" (Winter 2018) in bringing to light the problems of the Sprague River Valley in Klamath County, Ore. My husband and I live

in Beatty, which is at the northern end of the valley. We have had two of our four irrigation wells shut off by Oregon Water Resources Department over the past four years, using surface water modeling sans science. Some of our neighbors had all of their irrigation and stock wells shut off for the entire 2018 season. If this continues there will soon be no more agriculture in the Sprague River Valley where close to 50,000 pairs of cattle are trucked in for summer pasture and where some of the best hay is grown. If this can happen here, you may very well be next. Beware!

JOAN SEES, BEATTY, OREGON

This photo is of my one-year-old grandson, sitting on his father, Andy Joy's, horse during a break working cattle at the Pitchfork Ranch in Vinton, Calif. I hope you can use it in your



photo section. We certainly enjoy your magazine. Thanks for all of your hard work.

RICK JOY, PORTOLA, CALIFORNIA

Please do not allow anyone to change or destroy the editor's serious concerns, demeanor, encouragement or insight to farmers and ranchers. She is very aware of the vicious increasing government control. We are very thankful for President Trump.

JAMES P. MILLER, GOSHEN, INDIANA

I always enjoy Hank Vogler's column. He is my favorite and was very prophetic in his last paragraph in Winter 2019. His last four words were "or it will burn," as California is now doing! Keep up the good work and, as Hank would say, "Hang and Rattle!"

RICH MEECE
PILOT POINT, TEXAS

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DON'T QUIT

I never throw *RANGE* away and will be giving testimony in John Day, Ore., on the new Blue Mountain Forest Plan and needed ammunition. Vess Quinlan's "The Bubble People" (Winter 2014) is a keeper. He speaks of the incompetence in the Veterans Administration, the BLM, and the Department of Education. I quote: "We knew where real wealth came from and that there were only two sources. We grew it or we extracted it."

As a former teacher I decry the lack of education in our schools. Today dealing with the Forest Service is the "Reign of the Unelected" as reported by Jim Beers. I will use both articles and credit will be given.

There are times when I want to quit and let the world go by, yet I just can't seem to do that. I have to keep trying. Thanks to you for continuing to stay in the saddle and produce a volume of information to use in the struggle to maintain the production of food for those who don't seem to realize that maybe we are of some value to society.

SHARON LIVINGSTON, LONG CREEK, OREGON



Absolutely need to subscribe today. There is heart and soul to this endeavor and love and enthusiasm bring talented writers and photographers together to educate and inform about issues facing the West.

VICKIE MULLEN

SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON

Call 1-800-RANGE-4-U for Vickie's "6 for \$20" special new sub deal!—Ed.

"RANGE" OF LIGHT IN TROUBLED TIMES

We want to thank you for bringing us together with like-minded and hopeful folks. Being of the "Boomer Generation" we have not experienced the horrific challenges that the "Greatest Generation" faced. We often feel as if we have lived in the best of times! Challenges that we have faced include the nuclear annihilation threat of the '60s, the unrest of the Vietnam era, and the hateful rhetoric of the Reagan years. As farmers we have experienced failed crops—froze out, dried out, rained out, and hailed out. We have lived through the uncertainties of making a living from a variety of means dependent upon natural resources. We don't whine, we just put our heads down and carry on.

These days we are experiencing what appears to be a "doom and gloom culture" fueled by fear. Fear of natural climate changes, the polarization of politics, and the future in general. Fear and negativity seem to be the top billing for lots of folks, politicians, and the news media which serves to create more of the same.

Reading the articles and letters in *RANGE* gives us a boost, good feelings and hope, knowing we're not alone in a world that has become a fearful stage. You folks encourage us by your stance for the truth, which comes from knowing and working the land, caring for its resources, and being close with nature. We, in turn, want to encourage you to never give up. *RANGE* keeps us going, and bound together through "faith, hope, and love" we survive to help do our part in caring for the earth, flora and fauna, and its people. A few degrees temperature change one way or the other is just another challenge we can manage. Thanks, *RANGE*, for bringing us together to shine on through such times!

TOM LEWIS & CHERYL ZELLERS

COULTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA

GLEEFUL CHICKEN

Now Trump will be impeached, but he's still in office 'til the next general election. Yay!

"BRAVELY ANONYMOUS" IN NEVADA

This magazine is hated by those bent on destroying our freedom. Need I say more?

JEFF GREENWOOD, VIA FACEBOOK

The sacrifices you lay upon the altar of freedom are surpassed only by those of the Sullivan brothers of WWII.

T.M. MURPHY, LEWISTON, MISSOURI