

Opinion from America's Outback

AN ELOQUENT MAN

I had the pleasure of meeting Wayne Hage and spending a night on Pine Creek Ranch back in 1987 when I accompanied my cousin, Rick Lovell, on an inspection for Producers Livestock. Wayne was a very intelligent man, well-read, eloquent and fully versed in landowners' rights. The feds picked the wrong guy to try and intimidate when they picked Wayne Hage. He didn't stomp around with an assault rifle screaming epithets and courting the media; he beat the BLM clowns with his brain, his calm and reasonable demeanor, and the law.

TOM BARTLETT, PLEASANT VIEW, UTAH

Thank you for all the facts, beautiful pictures and the true side of stories no one else ever reports on.

RITA ELAM, RATHDRUM, IDAHO
Check Special Info "News on the Hage case" at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

RED MEAT & GIN

We always enjoy the Red Meat Survivors. The American chef, author and TV personality Julia Child (who lived to be 92), when asked about her longevity, credited "red meat and gin." She also noted that the only time to eat diet food was "while you're waiting for the steak to cook."

JUDY BORDA, TABERNASH, COLORADO

Your magazine is awesome! Keep it coming.
GARY & CAROLYN KLAHR, WILTON, CONN.

IMMUNITY & IMPUNITY

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

It seems that our federal employees have diplomatic immunity or something very close to it. We have been told that it is a federal offense to threaten them, but they can threaten us with impunity. Let's look at a few examples. Two men in Oregon were heavily fined and jailed for burning about 140 acres of grass on BLM land—grass they had paid for. Federal employees in South Dakota scorched over 10,000 acres of grass, fences, etc., but had no personal liability and the Forest Service says it is not responsible for the damages.

At least two men have been charged with disturbing streambeds that did nothing but improve the streams. The feds caused the release of thousands of gallons of toxic water into the Colorado River and they are sorry.

In Nevada, feds [BLM] tried to illegally confiscate hundreds of cattle because they might cause harm to the desert tortoise or its habitat, while at a facility to grow and protect said tortoise hundreds were euthanized.

A man was shot and killed in Oregon for participating in a peaceful protest. Several others were arrested and at least one was wounded. This was ruled "justifiable." Too bad the man who was murdered wasn't black or we would have heard a lot more about this.

Our federal government is broke, both monetarily and regulatorily. Get rid of unneeded federal agencies and acts like the EPA and ESA. Get the feds out of our school systems. Have the states administer and care for federal lands within their borders.

JEAN HARSHBARGER, NEWCASTLE, WYOMING

I'm subscribing to "keep some balance." I got liberalized from Vietnam duty and feel I need to see "the other side" on issues, especially when it comes to public lands. Also, I've been a volunteer for 20 years for Arizona's BLM program—having adopted a horse (ride/pack) and burro to hike with. So I'll savor any articles about this controversial issue.

TOM TAYLOR, MESA, ARIZONA
Check "Mustang: Legends and Myths" (Winter 2011) and "Ignoring the Rule of Law" (Winter 2016) at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

SHUT THE HELL UP

The Bundys are nothing more than arrogant loudmouth bullies. They took over land that belongs to all Americans through the use of intimidation and threats of violence. They then *told* their fellow citizens how the land would or

(Continued)

FLASHBACK

Recently I came across a copy of *RANGE*, Winter 2007. In "Up Front" by C.J. Hadley, Tim Findley's section written about "the three-hundred-millionth American born" nailed it. It has been nine years since written but it needs to be republished today.

JON JENKINS VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

A GATHERING STORM

The three-hundred-millionth American was born this month. Tim Findley asks:



TIM FINDLEY © JEFF ROSS

"Who was it? The child of a generations-strong family? The firstborn of a teenage working couple? A fatherless baby born with risks? Or the child of recent immigrants, perhaps illegal until this birth?

"No matter, the milestone in the American population brings a new human being among us...and what in the next 20 years will that precious new life learn?

"Will it be freedom? Or will it be deepening conflict? Will the child grow up with pride in America, or will this impor-

tant person be raised indifferent or even distrustful of his or her own heritage? Only 25 years from now when asked truly to take a place in society, will he or she feel any obligation to liberties established before them? Will we still be a free society able to trust each other in our inevitable disagreements, or will this child learn most of division and hatred?

"Who will be the leaders this child emulates? Will there be any? Has this child been born on an absent prairie with little thought about the future? Or in the midst of a gathering storm that may sweep aside the old ideals?

"Imagine yourself as that new one. Would you really want to be here?"

TIM FINDLEY (1943-2010)

Tim Findley, RANGE's investigative reporter/reformed liberal, died on Nov. 28, 2010. His amazing Special Reports can be found at rangemagazine.com and many are included in a rare hardback called "GRIT: Fighting for western land, life and liberty." We all miss Findley.—Ed.

would not be used. They also said they represented “we the people.” No. They represented themselves and their pathetic egos. As expected, they accomplished nothing except getting one of their own killed and landing themselves in jail where they belong. If and when they get out of prison, they need to go back home, get back to work and shut the hell up!

PETER WOOD, VIA EMAIL



GREEN BROKE

RANGE should be required reading—not just for rural folk—but for city dwellers. Getting the word out on the rural lifestyle is going to be an uphill battle as farmers and ranchers comprise such a small percentage of the population. You could say they’re on the endangered species list, perhaps not fully endangered, but threatened for sure.

Here in the Flathead of northwest Montana, you can’t swing a dead cat without hitting a yuppie, a realtor, or a contractor. Most of the time when I tell folks I’m a green-broke housekeeper it doesn’t register until I tell ’em what a green-broke horse is.

Gwen Petersen sure has a charming and delightful manner in which she describes the country life in prose, so I can’t see how the lady vegan from Billings had a problem with Petersen’s “Veggie Puncher,” Fall 2015. She must have been reading somebody else’s mail. Now I ain’t against vegans, but I think it’s a real liability to be one, especially with all the bears, wolves and mountain lions roaming the landscape. You are what you eat, as anyone who has tried to get kissy-faced with a garlic guzzler will tell you. Years ago I heard about a vegan timber cruiser. One fine day while tallying trees he encountered a mountain lion. “Kitty” licked his lips and followed the guy all the way back to his pickup—increasing the length of his strides as he went. He could have ended up as the cat’s meow!

CONRAD GEREGA, KALISPELL, MONTANA

TOO DUMB TO KNOW

In 1966 I was drafted into the U.S. Marines, sent to Vietnam and told it was to fight for freedom. We all know how the country handled that. We were spit on when we returned

home, not praised as heroes. Now our government is doing our land the same way.

Who elected the regulatory agencies to run this country: EPA, BLM, DEQ, MSHA and OSHA? Wait, I know—the environmentalists. Definition of an environmentalist is someone who wants everything the world has to offer but don’t want the rest of us to make a living getting it for them. Without mining we wouldn’t have roads, computers or cell phones, no wind, solar or hydropower, no hard money. Without logging say goodbye to toilet paper, paper (the government uses tons per day), paper money and building materials. Without farming and ranching there is no food to eat! They tell the people of West Virginia and that part of the country how bad they are. Coal is their livelihood, and the rest of us sure like the electricity it supplies.

Maybe I’m just an old guy who is too dumb to know what is needed. Hell, who needs freedom anyway? The thing the government hates the most is free thinking!

GEORGE MARTIN, BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NEV.

I’m a 93-year-old combat infantryman from WWII, and as I read about the awful treatment of the Hammond family, I thought, is this the country we fought to save? Reading about that rotten judge, Ann Aiken, I thought she sounded a lot like those Nazis we were shooting over there. We have a so-called president who traded five of our worst enemies for one miserable American deserter, so I don’t think it would do any good to appeal to him. I will write to my representatives in D.C. Keep up the good fight and I pray that you will win.

C.R. LINDSEY, BIG BEAR LAKE, CALIFORNIA

You put out a darned good magazine.

ROBERT & FAYE BRANNOCK
PLEASANT HILL, MISSOURI

I loved Alan Hart’s story [“DJ in the No Stress Zone”] in the Spring issue. Did he end up with any of that mustache wax? His writing skills are very impressive. His ability makes readers feel like they are there!

NANON G. WILES, MORGANTON, GEORGIA

VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE

Since 1992, I have had three harassment citations from the feds related to mining. Until the Hammond case, I thought miners always had it worse than ranchers. With years of Alaska NPS taking experience, there never was a felony charge against the miners. These days most jurors do not know they can vote their conscience no matter what the law may be or

the judge’s instructions. Had the jurors in the Hammond case been informed, there would not have been a conviction.

STEVE HICKS
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA

We need you now more than ever.

JANE & KEN YECNY, SHERIDAN, MONTANA

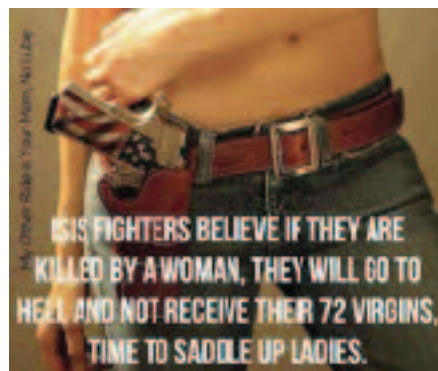
Still surprised that of all your covers, there is only one with a sheep. I am kinda proud that it includes me.

CHUCK DALLAS, WILLSALL, MONTANA
Paul Mobley proved you are a great cover star! We need more good shepherd shots.—Ed.

REMEMBER LAVOY

Appreciate your work on these BLM/Fish & Wildlife Service criminal acts. We can’t let this be forgotten. Also can’t let the death of LaVoy Finicum be in vain. It’s so sad to finance these agencies to harass good hardworking patriots, now known as terrorists! Once they hang that designation on a person anything goes. Stay strong and keep educating people.

BARB OTTO, VIA EMAIL
See “Patterns” starting on page 34.—Ed.
Keep up the fight!



BILL MCKEE, CARBONDALE, COLORADO

OUCH!

I don’t appreciate C.J. Hadley [“Up Front,” Spring 2016] referring to POTUS as Obama and audaciously comparing the release of thousands of incarceratives [sic] to your ranch guys [Hammonds] receiving five years for their illegal infractions in the guise of accidentally burning another’s property.

ALEA RUSSELL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
Go to www.rangemagazine.com and click on “Enemies of the State.” Also note that 10 million acres of federal land burned last year, some of it due to federal mismanagement, then check “The Aftermath,” Winter 2016. Wildlife, cows, sheep and horses were killed or maimed. Private property was destroyed. No one was reprimanded or jailed. Dwight and Steve Hammond accidental-

ly burned 139 acres of public land in a backburn to save their ranch and range, which actually improved after the burn. The Hammonds hurt nothing, were convicted of domestic terrorism (after DOJ took them to court TWICE) and must spend five years each in federal prison. They also had to pay the government \$400,000 for “damages.” The first Oregon judge said the dues paid by the ranchers “shocked the conscience” and cost less than \$100.—Ed.

Keep up the good reporting.

CHARLES FLACH, COMFORT, TEXAS

I get my buckaroo calendars from the Dickinsons’ Vermillion Ranch. They shared a deeded line in northwest Colorado with the Walker Ranch, where we rode, branded and shipped for years. I was disappointed with your lack of buckaroos this year. The anticipation of your calendar is based on people not animals.

CUTTIN JOE KUCKLE, OLD FORGE, PENN.

See ad page 81 for buckaroos and animals.—Ed.

A FLAG & A LIGHT

This economy (thank you Obama and other politicians) has destroyed my business and the incomes of too many of my customers. I’m not giving up or giving in, but need every penny to feed my mules and dogs—and the politicians! Keep up the fight. Your magazine is a flag and a light to the rest of us.

BONNIE SHIELDS, SANDPOINT, IDAHO

Your articles are right on!

DICK ALEXIS, NORTH POWDER, OREGON

IS NEBRASKA NEXT?

I found a copy of your Winter 2016 issue at Walmart in Hastings, Neb. Actually, I found two copies, because I showed the first one to a friend and she gave me \$5 and told me to get her a copy too. And then I gave my copy to another friend after I’d finished it cover to cover, which would make *RANGE* the first magazine I’ve ever read completely through. I don’t know about Sandy or Ken, but come next payday, I’m going to subscribe. This area of the country is more cropland than rangeland, but if Big Brother gets away with it in Idaho or Montana, they’ll try to get away with it in Nebraska next.

TED MORROW, BLUE HILL, NEBRASKA

Once in 1932/1933, my dad, using a hand-held fresno and a team of broncs (he said), built a water gap on Tullock Creek which passed to the north of Bird Ranch on the OW Ranch. The boss was Jack Turner and his boss was Mervin Kendrick’s other son or grandson of Sen. Kendrick of Wyoming. Kendrick said

he’d never seen a “water gap” and drove out from Hardin (20 miles of gumbo dirt road, usually mud). My mother feared for Dad’s safety working alone on the fresno, but I think she may have been afraid of the “broncs” he was using. They were pretty rough!

PAT FULKS, CHANDLER, ARIZONA



INTERNET

TRUMP & TRAGEDY

By far the biggest underprivileged group in the United States of America is not blacks or Hispanics or gays, it is poor whites. This group has never really recovered from the Civil War. Collectively they tend to be hardworking, independent, religious and not well educated. These characteristics mean that they have never been of any consideration in matters of federal politics. However, “Times they are a changing” and the once large middle class has been eroded over the last 30 years of policy out of Washington, D.C. I cannot think of any revolution in history that was not instigated by the middle class. What Washington has done is to drive the middle class into the arms of the poor whites.

At the same time, the federal government is waging a war of attrition on middle-class ranchers across the western states. This attack seems to be driven by a pseudo environmental rhetoric that is very lacking in science but is massively funded by zealots in the East.

It is this disenfranchised silent majority that is providing the groundswell of support for Donald Trump. They have been ignored for too long. If Trump wins, they think that they will have a chance; if he does not win, they are no worse off. Win or lose, this is a voice that will be heard. Without social justice there can be no social cohesion and without social cohesion America will not remain the world leader, and that will be a tragedy for us all.

GRAEME CAMPBELL

KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA

THE LOST GOSPELS

The poem/song on page 86 of the Spring issue, “All This Way for the Short Ride” [by Tom Russell and Paul Zarzyski], includes the line, “They preached at the service from John 25.”

Problem is, the Gospel of John has only 21 chapters.

JOHN R. BOYCE, MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA
Problem is, 25 rhymes with “ride” and 21 don’t. It could be from the lost gospels of John.—TR

HOLY CROW!

For the last couple of years we have driven down to Vegas past Madeleine Pickens’ Mustang Monument in northeastern Nevada. Just did it again and finally looked it up online. Holy crow, what a ridiculous spot! After looking over the website and seeing the silliness of the “safari” and cost per night, I wondered how much \$\$ the members of the board of SAM each take in and how much is actually used for “preservation of the horses.” I love Rachel Dahl’s “Ignoring the Rule of Law” in Winter 2016. I am a horse person, have had them slaughtered and euthanized and worked in a stockyard for eight years so know the importance of having slaughterhouses. “Do-gooders” do such harm!

MARYANN BYERLEY, VIA EMAIL

I was watching CSPAN the other night and the Energy secretary was on. He actually said the western wildfires and the pine bark beetles are the result of climate change! I was astounded. How do we fight that? I would like pictures of the graves of the feral horses, the emaciated feral horses, the dead feral horses lying in the ditch alongside the road. The image of the fat, happy, flying-mane-and-tail “wild horse” is what is being spewed and believed by most. Maybe pictures of reality will wake some up. The same goes for pictures of the charred animals, etc., in the fire zones. All you see in the media is smoke or burned ground. That isn’t really the story. I believe it’s time to fight fire with fire.

SHERRI BACON, VALENTINE, NEBRASKA
Check “Ignoring the Rule of Law” and “Destruction of the West” (Winter 2016) at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

TREASURE

RANGE was introduced to me as a gift from friends who ranch near Lovelock, Nev. As a result of receiving this magazine, my world of information has been expanded. The writers who contribute have introduced me to facets and people I would have not learned about just a few years ago. Treasures are seldom found when we seek them; they are found by accident. So it is with finding *RANGE*.

BOB GOLDEN, VIA FACEBOOK

Regarding the letter written by Norm Steiner from Texas. Didn’t he ever stop to think that

insulting people won't persuade them? It just makes them angrier. Also, the First Amendment gives people the right to believe what they want and gives freedom of the press. In his favor it does give freedom of speech. I was told not to raise my voice, but to improve my argument. Surprisingly, it works really well!

ANDREW GRAHAM, CHEYENNE, WYOMING

NO FOOL

I've been a loyal reader of *RANGE* for many years. As a cow-calf producer and farmer here in southwest Minnesota, I can fully understand the dedication others, from other parts of the country, have to the land. I have several very good friends who ranch in South Dakota. I take offense, however, to the one-sided "grass-only" stance by Linda Hasselstrom ["The Resurrection of Grass," Spring 2016]. I don't particularly care to be called a fool for feeding her and the rest of the world. Over 30 years ago, I actually took improved cropland out of production and seeded various grasses to run my cowherd and was proud to be called "crazy" for doing such a thing by my neighbors. But I've never been called a fool for working to feed and sustain the world's ever-growing population.

NICK KISSNER, WOOD LAKE, MINNESOTA
Mr. Kissner has missed the point of my article. I called "fools" folks who destroy native grass to grow "plants requiring massive infusions of water and chemicals, such as corn, wheat, gladiolus, lawns, spruce trees, alfalfa." I certainly did not suggest that grasses seeded to feed cattle (which are the subject of the article) are such a crop.—Linda M. Hasselstrom

A DOMESTIC THREAT

I'm troubled by rumblings suggesting that the "material support for terrorists" provision in the Patriot Act may be broadened to include donations to *anyone/group* imagined to be a domestic threat to those who have the wherewithal to make and break rules the rest of us are required to respect with mute exactness.

The Hammonds have been "labeled." The Bundys have been "labeled." I've been labeled "militant" here in North Dakota for questioning how property taxes on our 1,700 acres are being spent by the county, and why cattlemen in this valley have to pay the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to access water rights guaranteed by the state of North Dakota in the 1960s.

Is it possible that at some juncture, pasture rental income received from a young cattleman in the area will come to be considered material support because of a family's vocal objection to frivolous county expenditures or Corps of Engineers overreach in denying

water rights guaranteed by the state? Who knows? Some of that pasture income might be spent on barbed wire, pipe, a large water trough, and a pump. Once you are branded a domestic threat, where does it go?

DONNA KURSZEWSKI, LINTON, N.D.

PRE-GLOBAL

Dan Dagget's feature, "Connecting With Enviros," in your Spring 2016 issue offers a great message.

I am an old forester (ranch raised). I was in the Forest Service for 15 years, the last 10 as a district ranger in Wyoming. I switched to private industry logging, lumber manufacturing and marketing management for the last 30 years. I was always guided by a concept of environmentally sensitive and stewardship-driven multiple-use management.

From 1946 (end of World War II) to 1990, the timber, livestock, mining and petroleum industries were giant drivers of the economy in the western United States. This was before our once-great nation went global and the good jobs, money and profits went to foreign countries. This has been a curse on the families and industries that built our great nation.

To the environmental extremist it is wrong to be in commercial business enterprise and make money. The environmental extremist is a socialist. "Those ranchers are in business to make money, not to help the environment," said the environmentalist in Dagget's story.

Most of the people the environmental extremist wants to influence live in the city or in suburbia. They are the prime targets to be easily brainwashed. The environmental extremist is in the business of removing people and their domestic animals from the land and they need the support of a large portion of the public in order to promote the removal of people from the land and convert the land into federal ownership.

The overall goal of the well-organized environmental extremist is not based on a concern for the good health of the environment. It is based on a socialist desire for sufficient power to terminate the people's individual liberty, free enterprise and private property ownership.

JACK MAHON, HELENA, MONTANA
P.S.: Buy rural America's wonderful reference, "Storm Over Rangelands—Private Rights in Federal Lands," by Wayne Hage (Merrill Press, 12500 NE 10th Pl., Bellevue, WA 98005).

CROSSING THE LINE

Reading Dexter Oliver's "Mouse Meisters" [Spring 2016] about barn owls reminded us of our experience. We wanted to get one or two

hoping they would set up housekeeping in our barn here outside of Markleeville, Calif. We learned of a Nevada rancher in Carson Valley who had a pair of barn owls which he wanted to get rid of so we tried to make arrangements to go to the valley and pick them up. But we ran afoul of your referenced federal and state laws: we could not transport them across state lines. Of course, when they grew up they would be able to *fly* across the state line but it's doubtful that this would have helped our cause. Too much regulation. Bah, humbug.

NANCY THORNBURG,
MARKLEEVILLE, CALIF.

SURVIVORS

Almond trees bloom optimistically, blissfully unaware of the fate of their neighbors in California's politically parched Central Valley.

VESS QUINLAN
FLORENCE, COLORADO



© VESS QUINLAN

LAWLESS COUNTRY

We now live in a lawless country and the most egregious lawbreaker in existence is the federal government. But, as Ron Arnold was wont to say, "They have more guns than we do." What to do?"



SUSAN CHURCH

FRED GRAU, BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

Rabbits took over the hay yard at northeastern Nevada's Keddy Ranch last winter and destroyed a lot of good feed.

SUSAN CHURCH, ELKO, NEVADA

Your magazine is the BEST and your tireless efforts are much appreciated.

TERRI ARINGTON, COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA

(WOLF LETTERS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



© MARK HAYWARD

WOLVES

Ignoring the law, encouraging killers.

A PLAIN & SIMPLE PREDATOR

Since wolves were introduced in the mid '90s by Slick Willie, the current Democratic presidential frontrunner's husband, wolf numbers have expanded unchecked. Just as a reminder, wolves were to be limited to a three-digit number and then removed from the endangered species list once that goal was attained. Today we're staring at numbers that far exceed what was in the original legislation, only because the U.S. government is one entity that doesn't have to abide by its own laws.

Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis is very outspoken about the damage caused by this beast. Regardless of the current legislation that overprotects this species, the wolf is plain and simply a *predator* just like the coyote and fox. Rep. Lummis recently testified on the floor of the House about the destructive nature of the wolf. She emphasized how the moose and elk herds in the Greater Yellowstone area of Wyoming are being decimated by wolf attacks on calves. As a result, she says, "There is no longer a breeding population of moose or elk in major areas of this country."

The destructive nature of the wolf on ungulates is so severe that where multiple hunt units once existed, they have been combined into only one hunt unit. In Washingtonspeak, the wolf is considered a species of least concern. It's no wonder with the thousands that exist today versus the hundreds that were planned in the original legislation.

Another trick the federal government used was to introduce the wolf and—after it was established—turn over management of the species to state governments. Of course, the rules the states have to follow are not their own, but those instituted by the federal government while funding for the wolf program comes from the state.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has determined from a scientific standpoint that wolves are fully recovered. Yet radical environmental groups, funded by the indoctrinated masses in major metropolitan areas, continue to file lawsuits to keep the wolf on the endangered

species list. Court cases are filed in districts where judges are friendly to these groups and judges then rule in their favor and the ever-expanding wolf population.

It is close to 20 years since the introduction of the wolf and the numbers continue to grow with no end in sight. Through the heavy-handed political machine and the failure to use good, sound scientific management practices, the balance of nature is being altered to the detriment of the ungulate population. We should all be thankful to Rep. Lummis for her outspoken stance on this subject.

CHUCK CUNDY, CORA, WYOMING

FIFTY DEAD?

At the elk feed ground that I often snowmobile by and routinely fly over, the wolves have killed more than 12 elk this season. I would estimate that only one out of every four dead elk are discovered. That would mean about 50 dead in that area alone. Several times the wolves have stampeded the elk to the point that there were very few or none that came in for feed the next day. That puts a lot of stress on the elk at a vulnerable time of year.

FRED HOLDEN, CORA, WYOMING

HEIFER HORRORS

On Friday morning, an 850-pound replace-

ment heifer was killed and another was fatally wounded by a pack of four or five wolves. This attack happened on our family ranch near Absarokee, Mont. Although this attack is shocking and painful, people need to be aware that this pack and many others are traveling through densely populated areas and very near to towns. These wolves have become a threat to life—you, your kids and your pets. This is no



© KAYCE WORKMAN

longer a problem just for ranchers; it's now hunters, anglers and families hiking or camping who need to be aware of the very real danger. We have been told wolves will only kill the elk but this pack passed through 150 elk just over the fence to get to these cattle. They kill for fun or sport, not just to eat. These heifers were not consumed!

People are scared, these wolves are not afraid of people, they have been sighted in people's yards. We need to get the word out there and increase awareness. These animals need to be listed as predators so people can protect themselves.

KAYCE WORKMAN, VIA EMAIL

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DEFINITELY NOT BENIGN

(EXCERPT) A friend introduced me to a fine editorial written in Spring 2016, “Up Front: Spindled & mutilated,” by C.J. Hadley.

I grew up in the mountains of Colorado. I traded the annual trip back to the family farm in Howard, Kansas, for nearly eight years in the U.S. Army as a medic, two years of liberal arts college, and two years of Bible College. I am diagnosed bipolar with a seizure disorder. In 2012, I began wearing a pin that reads, “Dept. of Homeland Security mistaking veterans with terrorists since 1969.”

Two events really rocked my world as an adult: 9-11-01, where 19 Islamic terrorists in second wave of jihad brought down the World Trade Center in New York City, attacked the Pentagon, and intended the same for the White House. Yet our government treats the Muslim terrorists better than it treats ranchers and patriots. The second, and equal for its horror, was watching the FBI-released drone video of the ambush and murder of LaVoy Finicum near Burns, Ore. This sparked a coal-seam fire inside me. They intended to snuff out a brushfire by the murder and subsequent imprisonment of dozens more.

When I watched the network news of Ammon Bundy’s protest at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, I was entertained but not given essential facts. It was easy to look away and move on. I thought it good that somebody was standing [for the Constitution] but the media soon moved on and Bundy’s group was forgotten. The Hammonds never heard about it until after Robert LaVoy Finicum was murdered.

So long as the BLM and Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Department of Defense are benign, it is easy to ignore a few hardworking ranchers. Their interests are their own. It was easy to see, just watching the network news, that I had forgotten where I came from. I never knew there are government land ownership maps. In my estimation, once the government claims more than 30 percent of the land in any state, it will continue to grow like a cancer until the state no longer exists.

Like Islam, when they are small and weaker, they appear benign. When any cancer starts, it is easy to ignore. Robert LaVoy Finicum said the BLM had a lot of government people working for it, but it ought not have the power it does. He was angry at the injustice done to the Hammonds. Rightly so: the network news ignored the Hammonds and the Constitution.

When Robert LaVoy Finicum was murdered, the government hoped to stamp out the brushfire and hoped to blast the virus of constitutional support rising in the sagebrush rebellion. Maybe it did. I don’t know.

ROBERT J. BURKHOLDER, FRUITA, COLORADO

HARRY’S CALUMNY

I see where our beloved lame-duck Sen. Harry Reid took to the Senate floor again April 7. This week’s calumny? He insists that—with the “outrageous lawbreaker” Cliven Bundy and four of his nonviolent sons now in custody (after a “deadly Oregon police shootout” in which the cops did all the shooting, as usual)—it’s time to renew the push to “preserve the scenic Gold Butte area northeast of Las Vegas.”

Note that’s an area now open to the public as well as to the Bundys’ cattle, which the Green Extreme actually wants to *fence off* from all motor-vehicle access.

With summer temperatures soaring to 115 degrees and little surface water (the BLM has its heart set on torching up and hauling away the Bundys’ water tanks, which it’s already started), how many people do you think will be hiking in the 20 or 30 miles from the highway? Furthermore, please note that the number of “threatened” desert tortoises rounded up on

Las Vegas golf courses and subdivisions (and turned in as required) is now so huge that authorities are “euthanizing” them. But in the official “desert tortoise recovery areas” where ranchers with their cattle and water tanks are removed, tortoises don’t “recover”—they “die out.” The feds can’t document a single “recovered” population, except on the golf courses.

It’s interesting how this coordinates with the renewal of calls from the “turn-the-land-into-a-fire-prone-desert” extremists to “end the trespass of Bundy cattle” on lands for which the Bundys hold the state-adjudicated grazing rights. (See April 5 press release from Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.)

Yet there are still ranchers in the West—lots of them—who seem to think everything will be fine as long as every rancher “keeps in compliance” with the ever-more-restrictive, economically crippling edicts of the BLM and

the U.S. Forest Service.

We drive the Red Rock Canyon road quite often, where the old Spring Mountain Ranch is now a state park. There are fences, and cattle guards at every entrance and exit from that valley, but not a single cow or horse. New signs now threaten a \$500 federal fine if you stop to feed a burro...or a nonexistent horse.

Reminds me of the law-abiding Dutch Jews lining up to turn in their gold and silver at a special “bank” as ordered (but they got a receipt!), then later carefully writing their names in chalk on the baggage they were made to leave behind on the railroad platforms, so it could be “forwarded to them later” at the German death camps. Just “obey.” How much worse could it get?

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Check “Patterns of Harassment,” Fall 2014, at www.rangemagazine.com.—Ed.