



Opinion from America's Outback

NOTHING BUT...

Thank you for the wonderful work that you all do on behalf of the truth.

KATHIE RHOADS, ALTURAS, CALIFORNIA

My dad farmed with horses in South Dakota until I was about 10. There was no electricity or running water, but it was a good life. We sold the farm in 1959.

NOEL PEIRCE, KEIZER, OREGON

Thanks for telling the stories the news media never tells. Some of us back East understand what's happening to our West and the ranchers who are trying to preserve it.

RON FLETCHER, SHEEPMAN/MULE RIDER
MIDDLEBOURNE, WEST VIRGINIA

I added an extra two years to my subscrip-



Stewardship with science and cowboy savvy: Al Steninger, Nevada's real buckaroo, rancher, appraiser, arbitrator and university-trained BLM area manager, receives 2017's Society for Range Management's Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award in St. George, Utah.

tion. I just had my 91st birthday but I have a sister 105 so I am optimistic.

CJ, do not ever say you are not educated. We educate ourselves. Schooling just teaches us how to educate ourselves. I am a retired structural engineer (PE) and I am self-educated. Schooling just made it easier.

CHARLIE BERTHOT, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA

CALL THE KOCHS!

Your "Cowboy Spirit" is controlled by billionaires. Please cancel my subscription. I need my money more than they do.

KARLA CHRISTENSEN, JORDAN, MONTANA

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

Thank you for the Alston Chase article, "The Suicide of the West: Rachel Carson Revisited," in Winter 2017. "Silent Spring" was required reading when I was in high school in the 1960s. We were not encouraged to question the legitimacy of Carson's conclusions. Now we have reached an age of biased "reporting" and Group Think that silences dissenting opinions. Alston Chase wrote an informative, sensible, thoughtful piece. After reading and rereading it, I bought "In a Dark Wood" and look forward to reading this book along with his other work. I appreciate his broad and deep perspective on not only what is occurring but what it all means. More pieces by Alston Chase please.

SUZANNE FINNEY, ADA, MICHIGAN
& CORA, WYOMING

CAMO UNDERWEAR

To Colorado's "bravely anonymous" who decided to rip and tear on us conservative cow folks in the last edition of *RANGE Letters*: Your insecurities became evident when you called us all racist. That's the first thing out of a leftist mouth when they are so

To all RANGE readers URGENT NEED FOR HELP

Although barely reported in the national news, wildfires devastated millions of acres across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas in March. Seven people died trying to save their homes and livestock. Historic homes and ranches burned to ash. Thousands of animals died in the fires or had to be destroyed by the people who had cared for them. It's calving season and many young calves have been left without mothers.

An outpouring of volunteer help has arisen from the agricultural community. Truckloads of hay, bags of calf milk replacer, and fencing supplies are being donated. College kids spent their spring break helping ranchers and farmers roll barbed wire made brittle by the flames, starting to rebuild the miles of fence that will keep their surviving animals off the highways. It will take months, even years to rebuild.

Your help is needed. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association has a Web page with links and phone numbers to organizations and individuals that can facilitate help, www.beefusa.org/firereliefresources.aspx. More state-specific information is included below:

Kansas: Over a million acres burned, including fires that swept across the Oklahoma border, and some 5,000 head of cattle have been

lost, not including calves. Milk replacer for orphaned calves, feed and fencing materials are urgently needed. Donations are being accepted at the Kansas Livestock Association, www.kla.org.

Oklahoma: Losses total more than 318,000 acres and 3,000 cattle. Hay/feed is the number one priority, with fencing materials and help to rebuild miles of fencing a close second. Contact www.okcattlemen.org to help or if you are in need of assistance. In Oklahoma, donate hay at the following locations: Buffalo Feeders four miles east of Buffalo on Highway 64. Contact: Caleb Nelson (580) 727-1332. ■ Tyree Ag on U.S.-283 in Laverne. Contact: Jay Dee Nielsen (580) 334-6819. ■ Dale Long, northeast of Gate (580) 571-1249. ■ May Coop Elevator in May. Contact: Tom Fanning (580) 727-5530. ■ Buffalo Coop at 322 E. Harper in Buffalo. Contact: Beverly Mings (580) 735-2533. ■ Western Equipment at 3999 Lakeview Drive in Woodward. Contact: Caleb Zook (580) 254-0080. ■ For donations of trucking services contact the Harper County Extension Office at (580) 735-2252.

Texas: 436,000 acres in the Panhandle burned. Four young people died as they attempted to save livestock. Contact local chapters of Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn., www.tscra.org.

Colorado: Lost 30,000 acres. Contact the Colorado Farm Bureau Foundation at www.coloradofarmbureau.com.

mad they tremble and then drop their pacifier. The term bravely anonymous is an oxymoron with being heavy on the “moron” part. Put your spandex on over some camo underwear and go for a bike ride in the country where real folks live and work. The fresh air will do you some good.

MAD JACK HANKS, RETIRED COWBOY & RANCHER, WELLINGTON, COLORADO

OUCH!

You are ---holes. *RANGE* is a grossly biased magazine. The Spring '17 issue (*expletive*) Trump so often it makes me sick to my stomach.

BRAVELY ANONYMOUS, PHOENIX, ARIZONA

A GOOD DAY IN THE WEST

From left, my son-in-law Kade Clark, and



sons Gabe Clark with three coyotes and Matt Clark with wolf. Gabe and Matt are identical twins and Skye's brothers. Needless to say this is one of my favorite pics for lots of different reasons.

PATTY CLARK, AFTON, WYOMING

Skye Clark is a great photographer whose work was on the cover of Fall 2016 and in the Real Buckaroo Calendar.—Ed.

Thanks for all you do. Love, love *RANGE!*

BRIDGET COLE, ONTONAGON, MICHIGAN

RANGE is the gift I got from my friend Eileen of Northcott Rodeo in Caroline, Alberta. Great! Enjoying it.

OZZIE LEAF, FALKLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA

SEEKING ENLIGHTENMENT

This is for a gift subscription for my brother who turns 90 on March 18. Feed the kitty with the extra \$10. Darrel has lived on the liberal side of the Cascades for so long I think he needs some of your enlightenment.

Mike Coffman's article "Power Down" on green energy in the Spring 2017 issue is the main reason I want him to see it because it thoroughly explains my thinking on solar and wind power. Without taxpayers and

government intervention both fizzle worldwide.

Thanks for running a good spread. You all are needed now more than ever. God bless Jack Yantis, LaVoy Finicum's family, the Hammonds and the Bundys.

VERN KAYS, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

I spent the early months of 1954 with Tom Thornal on his ranch in McGill, Nev. He had a few broncs to tame. Anyway, "The Big Lift" by Donnelly Curtis in Spring 2017 brought back a lot of memories. I remember Tom telling about that time of the big snow and the haylift bales crashing into his washhouse. Tom was a great old-time cowboy on the big cattle ranches of Wyoming before he came to Nevada. His real name was Walter Robbins, brother to Wild Horse Robbins.

MILT WAMBACH, VANCOUVER, WASH.

Over the years, I have purchased *RANGE* at the local Safeway. Now, with the election of President Trump, I am coming out of the closet. Thus emboldened, I enclose my subscription and request three gift subs for Washington, Arizona and New Jersey.

DAVID C. KENNEDY, BENSON, ARIZONA

LOOKING FOR MORE

Great magazine. Highly informative and, therefore, very educational. Awesome photography. More Dexter K. Oliver and Dr. Michael S. Coffman.

GARY H. KLAHR, WILTON, CONNECTICUT

See pages 10 and 77.—Ed.

Thank you for the view from the real side. Not many places tell the story. Good to touch base with home folks.

C.E. WIGGINS, SPRINGER, NEW MEXICO

BRAVO TO LUCAS!

Readers take note! Lucas Oil Products is the first advertiser to run a two-page spread in *RANGE*. Congratulations for teaming up. I can personally attest to the effectiveness of Lucas Heavy Duty Oil Stabilizer. My 1994 Isuzu with 172,000 miles still purrs like a kitten after 27 years as I use this product with every oil change.

CHARLES CUNDY, CORA, WYOMING

I discovered *RANGE* sitting on the back shelf of a bookstore many years ago. I was not certain what the magazine was about, but it looked interesting. I have been a happy subscriber ever since! You produce the best pub-

lication to be found. I just renewed for three years and if you offered a five-year plan, I would buy that.

KEN STINSON, DES MOINES, IOWA

STOP!

RANGE is not relevant to our family's beliefs and interests, as we are Democrats, support climate change, and eat a mainly vegetarian diet, etc. For these reasons we would like to cancel our gift subscription. Please STOP sending this magazine.

SHAY CARR, ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA
I am also a Democrat who likes veggies. Funny how your gift subscription was for 12 issues and you asked to cancel on the 11th.—Ed.

Don't know if this has already been done; however, if not I would like to purchase a one-year subscription to *RANGE* for Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. If they read it they will have a better understanding of the West.

JOE MURPHY, POWDERLY, TEXAS
*Thanks, Joe. We take small donations from lots of people and make sure every member of Congress receives *RANGE*, plus the president, vice president, and major secretaries, which include DOI, DOA and EPA. We rely on individuals within the states to pay for subscriptions to those same members of Congress in their main state offices—at least the ones who might care about ranchers and farmers.—Ed.*

NOT HAPPY

I am deeply disappointed by the inaccuracies in Earl Stahl's story "Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?" that ran with my picture [Spring 2017]. This is why I hesitated to have you use my image. I did not unconditionally say there is never any reason to fear wolves. What I did say in my story is that the center I visited in Golden, B.C., takes a lot of precautions to make sure that people visiting it are not harmed. They are told how to behave should they go on a wolf walk. They are not told that wolves are harmless, but rather that there are a lot of myths that have hyped wolf dangers. Frankly, how pure or hybrid the wolves are was never the point.

Yes, wolves are wild animals and these particular wolves are used to being around people. But the couple who run the center stressed again and again that the rescued wolves we met are wild. As for whether they are 100 percent wild wolves, I guess that would require a DNA test.

I expect to see some sort of retraction or apology in a future issue.

YVETTE CARDOZO, ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON
The Northern Lights Wolf Center contains wolves that are transferred from wildlife centers across North America. As stated in my article, research recently has shown that all wolves in the lower 48 states are hybrids. To represent a species as “pure” requires scientific evidence. Further, history is clear that wolves, whether pure or hybrid, cannot coexist with humans. To be honest, I didn’t question the DNA of the wolves at the rescue facility. Whether they are 100 percent wolves or 70 percent is not the point.—Earl Stahl, author of “Wolves at Your Door” (available on Amazon), Neenah, Wisconsin

UNFORGETTABLE

I wanted to tell you how much I appreciated Dave Skinner’s “Unforgettable” in Spring 2017 about Trump being elected...or should I say about Hillary being rejected. Ever since this Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Compact situation, I am extremely distrustful of politicians, every damn one of them. I listen to what they say but watch their feet. Most do not “walk the talk,” a few dance around, and darn few are straight-talkers.

I am skeptical about Ryan Zinke as secretary of Interior having briefed him for several hours on the CSKT Compact from our point of view. My impression was that all he knew about it was that it was contentious. He was quiet and thoughtful and I’d like to think he understood our message. Quite simply, 2,400 irrigating family farms and ranches would be put out of business by the passage of this egregious compact.

JERRY LASKODY, ST. IGNATIUS, MONTANA

ME QUIT? NOW?

You are amazing! I don’t know how you put in the long hours I know you have to in order to keep *RANGE* going. I worry what will happen to it when you do decide to retire. I hope you have some capable person lined up to replace you at that time.

KATHY MCCRAINE, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA
Thanks for the thought, but there’s more to do and I’m not ready to quit yet.—Ed.

I recently spent several days at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nev. What an honor to have met so many fine people! I didn’t feel compelled to give fully dressed women a dollar for new jeans (because torn jeans to me are a sign of

poverty). All men were dressed as men, no doubt as to their gender. The “stars” of the shows were just folks in the crowd who exercised their God-given gifts. I’ve waited years to get to enjoy Elko. Now, I’ve returned home to the latest edition of *RANGE* and delight in its wealth of information and just good stuff.

DUANE BENNETCH, FLEETWOOD, PENN.



Applaud my pickin’ or else.

BLM, BUNDY, HAMMOND

I haven’t figured out why the BLM needs a bunch of guys who dress and act like they are Delta Force operators.

JOHN D. HOGUE, VIA FACEBOOK

BLM should not have policing power in any county of the United States. Domestic federal agencies have been funded beyond the scope of their intended purpose.

C.J. HARRIS, VIA FACEBOOK

It is not the Hammonds who belong in jail. The Bundys most definitely do. Even if it is only for crossing state lines with firearms for the purpose of intimidation of government employees and attempted insurgency.

GERRY SMALL, VIA FACEBOOK

You need to read “Onslaught at Gold Butte” by Vin Suprynowicz (Fall 2014) and “Ammon’s Slam Dunk” by Todd Macfarlane (Spring 2017) at rangemagazine.com.—Ed.

It’s not the Bundys who belong in prison!

GWEN DAVISON MANGELSON
ROGERSVILLE, MISSOURI

“Ammon’s Slam Dunk” by Todd Macfarlane in the Spring 2017 issue better not be a plug about the miscreant Ammon Bundy and the

travesty of justice in Portland. This S.O.B. belongs in jail.

GALE L. DAYTON, SANDY, UTAH

There is no reason to seal this case except for the sake of what the government is hiding. The Bundys don’t hide anything.

ANITA FRANCO, VIA FACEBOOK

If there is nothing to hide, then why would you hide it? So many facts were hidden and so many lies were told about Waco and Ruby Ridge and the general public doesn’t have a clue. Some in the federal government think of the people as being not much more than a bunch of rats. This has to be turned around and these maggots purged from their so-called service to the country.

MIKE BOBBITT, VIA FACEBOOK

Dereliction of duty...throw this case outta court.

JIM GREGG, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Since I’m getting a little crotchety these days, I’m renewing my issues of *RANGE* according to age. My brother Bob is well over 90 and my classmates are in their late 80s. All love *RANGE*—thanks to you and your gang. We will stick with you so keep rolling!

DAVE TIDWELL, MERIDIAN, IDAHO

TROUBLING

It was with great interest that I read “Death by a Thousand Cuts” by science editor Chance Gowan in Spring 2017. As an elected county commissioner in northeast Washington I am intimately familiar with the specifics of what has occurred here with the protection and reintroduction of wolves. The article was spot on, complete in the analysis and should be taken very seriously.

The horrible misstatement of facts (false news) from a state-funded college professor, the unrelenting pressure of too many wolves and their absentee supporters, and the bone-numbing work by ranchers trying to protect their livelihood and way of life is more than troubling. The management by our state agency is handicapped by howls and threats from wilderness advocates living hundreds of miles distant that threaten an important part of our local economy. As local elected representatives we work hard to get the facts out in the hope that we will see sanity return to the rural landscape. So far, no luck.

STEVE PARKER, STEVENS COUNTY
COMMISSIONER, COLEVILLE, WASHINGTON

ON THE COAST

I'm interested in Dan Dagget's "Eco-Profits" [Spring 2017], as it significantly projects its support to serious issues facing the Gaviota Coast north of Santa Barbara. This phenomenon has taken place on this last undeveloped coastal land in California where my ranch is. This is where Reagan's ranch is. It's sad to see the way state parks and environmentalists take care of the land versus the way ranchers guard the land. You can take pictures of empty riverbeds with barely any vegetation on "environmentally protected" state parkland versus the ranchers' land where vegetation stays strong, even in droughts. A new plan has been passed to make the area into a park with trails. We are lucky to have the Reagan ranch here, which may help protect the area.

LIZA FLETCHER, GOLETA, CALIFORNIA
Tim Findley wrote a major piece about the Gaviota Coast in Spring 2002. Check rangemagazine.com, Back Issues.—Ed.

RANGE is a unique and valuable publication that provides access to information not widely published in the standard print press or in refereed technical journals.

JOHN L. FISHER, PH.D., FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

CRITTERS & GOVERNMENT BRILLIANCE

I grew up on the ranch owned by Jack Rice near Alturas and I still take the *Modoc Record*. There was an interesting article that all of the "wild" horses that were gathered but not adopted will be returned to the Devil's Garden area of Modoc National Forest. According to all the brilliant minds, the area should support 300 horses and there are about 3,000 there already. The ranchers with grazing permits will probably have their allotments cut again.

RON HUNTINGTON, YAMHILL, OREGON

Just got Spring 2017 and enjoyed reading Rachel Dahl's "Ignoring Nature's Law" on the wild-horse problem. Good job.

JIM FALK, FALLON, NEVADA

Thanks so much for the great mustang information. While I was going to write a real long letter to Secretary Zinke, I just told him personally that I thought his BLM had a tiger by the tail and the problem needs a real solution. And I passed along your materials. He'll be well-informed if he reads it.

JIM CARRIG, BOZEMAN, MONTANA



"Pickup buddies." This is my foster son, J.J. Cerini, with Sam at our ranch east of Hiawatha, Utah.

LEO HARDY, M.D., PRICE, UTAH

As is typical of your contributors, Larry Turner's eagle gracing your Spring cover is "stopped" in midflight, with the photographer moving his camera at precisely the same speed as the bird, thus capturing details that would otherwise be blurred.

Observing its feet, can we assume its "male" left foot is used as "first strike," and the "female" right for "dressing" its prey? Is that typical of raptors?

T.M. MURPHY, MADISON, MISSOURI

I regret that I can only renew for three years. I would renew for life if possible.

R.E. CHMIELEWSKI, WACO, TEXAS