

RANGE magazine WINS MAJOR JOURNALISM AWARDS

On Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017, RANGE magazine received 15 major awards during the Nevada Press Association's (NPA) annual conference in Carson City, Nev. Of the 15 awards, there were eight first places, four seconds, and three thirds. The Better Magazine competition attracted 285 entries from magazines, and was judged by the Utah Press Association.

Notably, RANGE won two of the top three prizes in three important categories: Best Critical Writing, Best Profile/Interview, and Best Illustrated Photo. RANGE is a quarterly magazine devoted to finding commonsense solutions to problems facing the people who help feed more than 300 million Americans. The publication is also the recipient of five consecutive Freedom of the Press awards.

NPA executive director Barry Smith says, "RANGE magazine wins awards year after year because it not only looks good, there is plenty of substance in its pages. The photography and design capture the essence of the West, and that's what draws readers in. Once they get there, the articles are a blast of fresh air."

NPA is the formal member trade organization for news publications in the state of Nevada. It is a voluntary nonprofit organization that represents daily and weekly newspapers in Nevada and the Lake Tahoe region of Northern California, as well as magazines and online news services. Each year notable journalists who have made significant contributions to the press are inducted in the Hall of Fame, whose members include Mark Twain.

FIRST PLACE AWARDS

Best Investigative Story or Series

Wolves: Killers at Your Door

JUDGE'S COMMENT: "Wolves, Killers at Your Door"—"Great work covering a subject that is filled with controversy. A great look at a less romantic side of the wolf. You did a brilliant job bringing out a subject most people would like to avoid thinking about."

Entries are based upon importance to readers, quality of reporting and research, and quality of writing.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS & REPORTS

"Wolves," Letters from RANGE readers to the editor capture the experiences, horror and fear of living with wolves.

"CSI on the Range," Dexter Oliver

"Tampering With Nature," Dexter Oliver

"Wolves at Your Door," Chance Gowan

"Death of a Thousand Cuts," Chance Gowan

"Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?" Earl Stahl, Ph.D.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2013, wolf-proof cages were built to protect children waiting for the school bus in Reserve, N.M. Residents reported that wild animals had stalked and cornered their children, and when a wolf tried to mate with a family dog on a home's front porch, the media took it lightly and called the wolf "love sick." The humor was lost on terrified families.

That terror is growing, according to an investigation by RANGE magazine written by Chance Gowan, a biologist specializing in range/riparian ecology. Earl Stahl, Ph.D., in a companion piece to Gowan's feature, calls on his work that is dedicated to promoting the truth about wolves. Stahl documents wolf attacks on humans. Dexter Oliver, an Arizona wildlife field biologist, adds his extensive experience with predator kills and the introduction of the Mexican gray wolves in the Southwest.

The plan by federal agencies and pro-wolf environmental special-interest groups to increase the wolf population in areas that force human contact have led to a grizzly situation.

RANGE is calling for removal of wolves from the Endangered Species Act and government recognition of the physical and economic danger posed by the animals—a protection needed before more people and their homes become victims of the predatory species. The magazine will continue to use its influence in educating the public and fighting special-interest groups advocating free-roaming wolves in other peoples' backyards.

Best Special Project: "Cowboys & Critters: Symbiosis in the American West"

JUDGE'S COMMENT: "The RANGE magazine's 'Cowboys and Critters: Symbiosis in the American West' is the clear first-place winner in Best Special Project. The writing is phenomenal, some humorous, but all factual and interesting. The photographs are some of the best I have seen capturing the 'Old West' experience."

C.J. Hadley, Publisher/Editor
John Bardwell, Art Director

Category considers a book, calendar, special edition or other project beyond the usual publication. Award based upon originality, relevance to readership, and quality of content.

COMMENT: The hardbound, 160-page coffee-table edition, published by RANGE magazine and Range Conservation Foundation, is a photographic tribute featuring works by some of the best wildlife and ranch photographers in the country, and sprinkled with essays penned by award-winning writers. "Critters" is the latest in a series of 14 books that stand the test of time, unlike video and more temporary social media—creating a permanent tribute for future generations.

"Critters" takes the reader beyond the corrals, the beloved horses and the assortment of herding and protective working dogs, to the critters that share a rancher's world.

Page after page of the color-filled volume contains 186 wildlife and candid ranch life photos by 65 photographers, some of the West's best, and essays on the symbiotic

relationship between ranchers, farmers and wildlife contributed by 11 writers who can also claim a string of awards and accomplishments.

The collection is intended to reflect and tell a lasting story about a unique and honorable way of life.

Best Critical Writing: Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.

RANGE is a dual winner in this category, with a Second Place going to Dave Skinner.

Criteria based upon clarity of argument, quality of writing, and impact of story.

BREAKING NEWS:

Environmental scientist Dr. Michael S. Coffman knew he was dying, but rather than give in to the vicious cancer that had plagued him for more than two years, he chose to spend the last month of his life writing the final chapter in his fight against the global agenda that would destroy America as we know it. Dr. Coffman is a recognized expert and researcher in climate change, geo-politics and private property rights. His stories in RANGE magazine and in his own books document the fact that politics, not science, is driving a dangerous agenda.

His last article, "Climate Lies," appears in the Fall 2017 issue of RANGE magazine. In his analysis, Dr. Coffman refers to "a very effectively disseminated global propaganda that climate change is man-caused rather than the result of a naturally occurring cycle." Man-caused claims couldn't be further from the truth, proven by Dr. Coffman's mountain of careful research and documentation.

He writes, "The endgame of all of it is nothing but a power grab, and a redistribution of wealth on a massive global scale."

Sadly, Dr. Coffman passed away on June 21, 2017, just missing the published reports of a trial in Canada involving his nemesis, Dr. Michael E. Mann of Pennsylvania State University. According to news reports from Principia Scientific International, dated July 4, 2017, "Mann was found in contempt of court for refusing to surrender data for open court examination." Mann denied on July 7, 2017, that he was found in contempt and says that PSI's claims are "fake news."

Reports indicate the trial "shames not only Michael Mann, but puts the climate science community in crisis. Many hundreds of peer-reviewed papers cite Mann's work, which is now effectively junked."

Mann's credibility as a champion of environmentalism is in tatters, it says. The Canadian court proceeding has been referred to as the "climate science trial of the century," and could possibly lead to criminal investigation in the United States.

In the big picture, Dr. Coffman expressed concern about the goal of the globalists. "It is not 'saving the planet,' it is not even redistribution of wealth ultimately. It is control. Global control of everyone and everything."

Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D., was president of Environmental Perspectives Inc., and CEO of Sovereignty International. He had more than 40 years of university teaching, research and consulting experience in forestry and environmental sciences.

CONTRIBUTING REPORTS:

“Original Intent” outlines the history of federal lands issues and the impact of current issues. Dr. Coffman wrote: “Most Americans have no idea that more than 50 percent of the western United States is ‘owned’ or controlled by the federal or state governments. This creates a feudal relationship between an all-powerful government and the local landowners who must use the adjacent federal land to make a living. As with the feudal government in Europe during the Middle Ages, the land is managed for the benefit of the government, not landowners, using a dangerous ideology called sustainable development.”

“Powerful Forces” focuses on more than a century of Eastern control of the West’s natural resources and the political and social events that shaped America.

“As the abundant wealth in western territories became known,” Dr. Coffman explained that, “powerful forces attempted to manipulate the federal government so they would have total control over the West’s resources. These industrialists and financiers were known as the northern core that wanted to control the West for its minerals, hydropower, and other natural resources.”

Under the northern core’s considerable political pressure, the United States suddenly reversed its land-disposal policy by not ceding its public lands to the states as required by the Equal Footing provisions of the Northwest Ordinance and the U.S. Constitution, ignoring 100 years of well-established law and constitutional limitations.

“Climate Racketeering” reports that the issue of climate change remains unsettled, with President Donald Trump’s maybe-yes, maybe-no attitude on where his eventual policy on climate change will take us. He says he will keep an “open mind.”

Best Profile/Interview: “Rough and Beautiful Places,” writer Carolyn Dufurrena

A feature story judged upon the quality of writing, depth of reporting, and reader relevance/appeal. This is the second award for RANGE in this category.

Carolyn Dufurrena profiles Jon Griggs of Maggie Creek Ranch in northeastern Nevada. Griggs manages 200,000 acres of public and private land and 11 cowboys and is dedicated to making things better for the grasslands and the families who call the ranch home. The cowboy’s partnership with federal and state agencies has enabled Maggie Creek to have fisheries and wildlife habitat amid sustainable ranching. In fact, Susie Creek has been rehabilitated to the point where Lahontan cutthroat could be reintroduced in the future. Maggie Creek has received the prestigious 2015 National Environmental Stewardship Award.

Best Portrait

A portrait of a person or a small group of people judged upon the quality of the photo, photo editing, and effectiveness of theme.

Photographer Todd Klassy

“Portrait of the West: Josh Granell”

Montana rancher, rodeo competitor in team roping and steer wrestling, and horse trainer, whose cheeky grin captured by the photographer reflects his love of life.

Best Illustrated Photo

Artistic photos posed and designed to illustrate a specific article, feature or theme judged upon achievement of purpose, originality, and technical quality. RANGE received two awards in this category.

Photographer Jessica Brandi Lifland

Article: “DeeDub Under Big Sky,” lead photo

“Cowboy poet and musician ‘DW’ Groethe fixes fence at the Granley Ranch where he works as a ranch hand in Bainville, Mont.”

Best Ad Series

Image/25th Anniversary Ads

Snarling Cat ad, “Raising a Fuss and a Ruckus in Favor of Ranchers Since 1991,” photographer Mark Hayward

Bear ad, “Loaded for Bear in Defense of the West Since 1991,” photographer Mark Hayward

Full-page ads that celebrated RANGE magazine’s 25th Anniversary and its “A Quarter Century. No Quarter,” promotion. All ads included dramatic critter photos, a series that continued during the anniversary year.

Best Feature Photo

JUDGE’S COMMENT: *“No need for captions or a story. The photo says it all.”*

Photographer Roxanne Knight, “Daddy’s Hands”

Photo was named a RANGE photo contest merit winner.

For photos that are not directly related to a specific breaking news event, and that have a storytelling quality or unusual elements.

SECOND PLACE AWARDS

Best Local Column

Tales From the Wasteland, Berry Perryman, Ph.D., educator, researcher, author and rangeland ecologist.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNS

“Shepherd’s Pie Anyone?” Perryman makes the point that it is best to keep supervision or government as local as possible. When an entity thousands of miles away makes the rules, those distant are likely to suffer.

“National Theft” focuses on the abuse westerners suffer because of the Equal Access to Justice Act, which compensates special-interest groups—at taxpayer expense—even when they lose a lawsuit.

“Fun With the Polls” Perryman recalls how he dealt with election robo-calls by pressing random numbers to answer programmed phone questions, only to become a 19-year-old Hispanic female with an annual income of over \$250,000.

Columns are judged upon quality of writing, style, originality and impact.

Best Illustrated Photo

Photographer Todd Klassy

Feature: “The Long Cold Winter”

“Ty Rose of Dillon, Mont., keeps an eye on the herd from its flank. It’s much too cold to wear a cowboy hat.”

This is the second win for RANGE in this category.

Best Critical Writing

Dave Skinner

Skinner serves as RANGE magazine’s investigative writer dealing with the politics, people and policies impacting America’s food producers. A previous award winner for individual features, Skinner has established himself as a tireless and aggressive researcher by following the money, problematic relationships, backroom deals and special-interest groups with hidden agendas. This is the second winner for RANGE in this category.

CONTRIBUTING REPORTS:

“The Shadow Force: The Professionals”

By all accounts, the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge standoff in Oregon ended in utter disaster—one man dead, with major participants either arrested or under threat of future arrest, with their public credibility destroyed forever. But the protesters didn’t only sabotage themselves. Clemency now for unjustly persecuted Harney County ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond? Slim chance. Reform of federal land management? Forget it. But the Malheur fiasco was a huge win for special-interest environmental groups, a public relations and political bonanza. Skinner explains the goal of the special-interest folks was to yank, successfully, the hanging rope handed them by the occupiers as hard as possible.

“Monumental Megabucks”

President Obama used the closing days of his presidency to use the 105-year-old Antiquities Act to designate more than two-dozen national monuments. Westerners have long suspected that claims of “local, grassroots support” for new national monuments are

false. Only millions of dollars, anonymously and selectively spread to willing professionals, could generate such obvious and obviously expensive Astroturf. Skinner outlines the proof of his statement by naming the people and special-interest groups that have IRS “charitable” status, claiming they are non-political. Skinner lays out the case that these are, indeed, political groups.

“Unforgettable”

Apparently, President Donald Trump will bear watching because he knows little about the West and issues. When asked about transfer of public lands, the then-candidate Trump told Anthony Licata of *Field & Stream*, “I don’t like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don’t know what the state is going to do.”

“Clearly, while the new Trump presidency beats an overtly hostile Clinton II White House by miles, westerners nonetheless must watch this new administration closely,” Skinner advises. “The president knows next to nothing about western matters.”

Skinner adds: “There is real danger that the Trump White House views the West like voters saw Trump—as an inkblot, a blank slate of what one hopes to see, not as how things actually are. When it comes to the public-lands West, the Trump administration faces a steep learning curve with major knowledge gaps. Those gaps will absolutely be filled by those willing to do the filling.”

Freedom of the Press

CARING FOR THE LAND: AMERICA’S RIGHT TO KNOW

Western people & lands under duress.

An award for upholding the principles of the First Amendment and protecting the public’s right to know. This is the fifth consecutive Freedom of the Press award for RANGE.

JUDGE’S COMMENT: “An extensive and laudable series of stories to give voice to under-represented ranchers and farmers in the West.”

RANGE magazine is the recognized watchdog for the problems that threaten America’s food sources, and is known for its editorial that illustrates the dire need to protect the land and promote the public’s right to know the truth—all of it.

In the four quarterly publications covering the NPA journalism competition year, RANGE has devoted 36 reports, sidebars and features, totaling 85 pages of editorial about people and lands that are under duress. It is not a pretty picture. RANGE also profiled 21 ranching families as they shared their troubles, issues, humor and dedication to the land—despite interference from government agencies, special-interest groups and Mother Nature. Their locations include Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Montana, North Dakota, California, Wyoming, Arizona and South Dakota—people devoted to maintaining a healthy land for their families and the wildlife that shares their world—and to producing food and fiber for millions of Americans.

Caring for the land is a complex, controversial subject in need of understanding the laundry list of dangerous circumstances. For 26 years, RANGE has exposed the issues faced by dedicated ranchers and farmers in a straightforward style, and pursues

commonsense solutions to problems by presenting reports written by renowned scientists and investigative researchers. This includes endangered species, special-interest groups with hidden agendas, the impact of wildfires and what should be done to protect our forests, excessive and burdensome government regulations, failure by agencies to follow the law and protect the land, government corruption, national monuments, suspicious legal relationships, government harassment, misunderstanding of western people and their issues, and innocent newcomers who have the money to buy huge ranches for the view but little understanding of how to keep them healthy.

RANGE follows the issues throughout in its pursuit of truth. The public needs to know what is at stake.

CONTRIBUTING REPORTS:

“Powerful Forces.” Environmental scientist Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D., graphically explains the approximately 640 million acres of land, or about 28 percent of the 2.27 billion acres in the United States, claimed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service.

“Rapacious Feds.” Judy Boyle, a fifth-term Idaho state legislator, writes that western states are sick of being colonists and should demand sovereignty over their own lands and assets.

The entire population can be impacted by the issues RANGE covers. Simply put, it is important to everyone who consumes food, any kind of food. Collectively, the stories in RANGE illustrate the dire need to protect the land, without which there would be no life. Despite the seriousness of the subject, misinformation, politics, self-serving special-interest groups and Mother Nature all present obstacles.

“Monumental Megabucks.” Dave Skinner writes, “Westerners have long suspected that claims of ‘local, grassroots support’ for new national monuments are false. Only million of dollars, anonymously and selectively spread to willing professionals, could generate such obvious and obviously expensive Astroturf. Well, now there is proof.” Skinner lays out the players and payers in a well-documented report.

“Ignoring Nature’s Law.” Rachel Dahl, an expert on the wild horse issue, writes about BLM’s failure to follow the law. The agency ignores the provisions in the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses & Burros Act that require immediate removal of excess horses from the range. Consequently, wild horses were dying of dehydration and starvation. Both are excruciating deaths. Unfortunately wild-horse advocates can’t shake reality and instead file lawsuits to protect their romanticized notion of wild horses galloping free across the land. Ranchers have had to restrict grazing livestock on the forage they own because too many horses have taken too much.

“Endangered Intellect.” Hank Vogler is a Nevada sheep rancher, who puts his college education to good use as a writer, humorist and radio commentator. But he gets serious when it comes to the Endangered Species Act and the damage it creates in the environment. “The world needs food and only 10 percent of the planet is arable,” he writes. “Every year more and more animals, plants, reptiles, fish, and insects get added to the endangered species list. None ever leaves. The list is longer than a polygamist clothesline.”

“National Theft.” Writer Barry Perryman, Ph.D., is a rangeland ecologist specializing in natural resource management issues of the western states. For RANGE, he reports on the Equal Access to Justice Act, which enables special-interest groups to file lawsuits and be paid (by American taxpayers) even if they lose the case. As far as anyone can determine, 3,300 lawsuits were filed by 12 environmental groups between 2000 and 2011, and \$37 million in attorney fees were awarded.

“ECO-Profits.” Dan Dagget is a freelance writer, speaker, range consultant and a Pulitzer Prize nominee. At one time he was the darling of the Sierra Club, named one of its 100 Environmental Heroes. Today he refers to himself as a reformed eco-radical. For RANGE, he shows what can happen when the land is “protected,” and left dormant. Amazing before and after photos are proof of the benefits of livestock grazing.

“How It Should Be.” Writer Steven H. Rich is president of Rangeland Restoration Academy, specializing in good land management. For RANGE, he writes about the “hope” for the future of a healthy land by using team management. Rich cites: “We were healing nature and human relationships. We could see results on the land. In fact, we had hold of something better than we dared hope.”

JUSTICE DENIED

Also on RANGE’s watch list is a cast of characters with proven connections to nefarious anti-grazing occurrences, and others with agendas suspicious enough to be considered more than coincidental.

RANGE’s nominated package of eight reports focuses on the people who are faced with destructive issues forced on them by special-interest groups, and/or the federal government. It is clear that ranching interests have one thing in common: they have something that is coveted by someone, or some other organization, even the federal government.

These are all a few of the names to be remembered: Hage, Hammond, Gerber, Bundy and Finicum. RANGE wants the public to remember that people have died, been imprisoned, homes destroyed, livestock and wildlife burned to death, and yet Americans do not know the truth, or hear only segments and versions created by spin-doctors.

RANGE’s editorial contends that the West could be productive again if real producers were respected, if forests were managed sustainably (with timber cuts), if glorified mustangs were kept to the numbers the resource can sustain, if private property rights were considered sacrosanct, if forage were eaten by cows, sheep and wildlife rather than by fire, if government policy did not take precedence over hardworking people, and if Washington’s leaders were to give a damn about anyone west of the Potomac.

THIRD PLACE AWARDS

Best Profile/Interview

“The Anti-Millennial,” writer Craig Rullman

Jesse Midgely, 24, of Janesville, Calif., represents thousands of young American farmers and ranchers who have inherited a legacy of hard work, commitment to a family ranch, and service to a purpose larger than themselves. At age 14, when his friends were fighting for time on the Xbox, Midgely chose carrying on family traditions and never

looked back. As for future threats faced by young ranchers, he answers, “Wolves and Democrats.”

This is the second win for RANGE in this category.

Best Entertainment Writing

Lee Pitts is a humorist and author who has written more than 15 books, including the popular, “People Who Live at the End of Dirt Roads.”

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNS

“Eggplant Lasagna”

Pitts bemoans the sad state of “wimpy males,” and begs the species to stop waxing their legs, turn off the video game, get off the couch, forget Facebook, and man up! Instead, he suggests: “Kill your own food, fire up the barbecue, turn on the ballgame, have a beer, scratch and spit. Leave your bed unmade, get out of the Zen garden, no more pedicures, take the remote control back, and quit crying.”

“Butts & Bags”

Pitts questions how anyone on earth can say something derogatory about an animal that produces milk, filet mignon, cheese, ice cream, hamburger and leather while at the same time mowing weeds, producing fertilizer, and reducing fire danger. Pitts offers a point-by-point pithy list of the differences between dairy cows and beef cows. Example: “When dairymen ogle their cows the first thing they look at is their bags. Cowboys are far more interested in big butts on their bovines.”

“Just What the Doc Ordered”

Pitts admits that many of his best friends have some pretty disgusting habits. One chews with his mouth open and has been known to pass gas at embarrassing moments. He also confesses that he spent the night once with a female friend who had bad breath, poor hygiene, and snored. “Just so you don’t get the wrong impression, the male friend is my horse and my female friend was a sick cow.”

For his money, Pitts says that laughter isn’t the best medicine, animals are.

Best Cover Design

RANGE issues:

Summer 2016, photographer Kathy McCraine

Fall 2016, photographer Skye Clark

Winter 2017, painting by Philip R. Goodwin from the David and Sandra Solberg Collection

For excellence in design, including use of photos, graphics, headlines and type faces with an emphasis on drawing the reader into the magazine.