



Opinion from America's Outback

"Great news about climate change. It is a normal thing and nothing needs to be done."



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

I never owned beef cattle. I was a journeyman boot and shoemaker for White's Boots since 1958 and later built western saddles and horse gear until I retired in 2000. This is my closest connection to *RANGE*. Thanks for the best commentary on the West ever printed.

BOB HAMANN, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

"Woody's Method" by Barry Perryman was wonderful. I will be sharing it far and wide.

JIM CHMELIK, COTTONWOOD, IDAHO

GREEN SUCCESS

Marjorie Haun's special report ["State of Emergency"] in Fall 2025 was very well done! The wolf reintroduction projects are the culmination of all that the Environmental Left has worked hard to accomplish over the last 40 years. They want cattlemen and sheepmen off the land. They [have] already destroyed the timber management programs that had protected our federal forestlands from catastrophic wildfire throughout our western states over 30 years ago. I have come to the conclusion that our biggest problem in the West is not the crazy theories of the environmentalists entrenched inside of government, but the sheer power they are given through the enormous size of our government bureaucracies. It insulates the zealots from repercussions for their actions. What these people



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are doing to ranchers across the West is criminal, beyond belief.

All those across the West who love what has made our country great need to rise up and push back hard on these bureaucratic wolf projects. They will ultimately destroy most of what every *RANGE* reader cherishes if they are not checked. A great uproar is the only thing that is going to stop it.

CHRIS CONRAD, SONORA, CALIFORNIA

This is a gift subscription for Patti Playfair. She and her dad, Bob, run a multigenerational tree farm in eastern Washington—where people tend to be born with actual backbone. Different from over here on the WET side, where an amazing number of people seem to be single-cell organisms.

The Big Boss Rode Out Into the Forest for the Last Time

It was just a normal day. All five grandkids, Grandma, and Great-Grandma were at the cow camp cabin hidden deep in the Stanislaus National Forest. Grandpa—known to us as The Big Boss—made them all breakfast. My husband, one of his sons, had joined the group before the two men saddled up and rode out to check and move cattle within our summer grazing allotment. Little did we know that when Grandpa rode into the forest that morning, it would be the last time he would be with us.

We often talk about the dangers of ranching: how our kids are exposed to life and death early during calving season, how nearly everything we do carries risk. Yet nothing prepares you for losing the one who was our leader, who taught us everything, who spent his life building and protecting the multi-generational cattle ranching legacy we are blessed to continue.

Stan Dell'Orto was the hardest working man we knew. He was the heart and the leader of the ranch when it came to cattle. There seemed to be nothing he didn't know. He passed down to his chil-



PHOTOS © ROBIN DELL'ORTO

dren and grandchildren the skills, patience, and determination it takes to run cattle and keep the ranch strong. Still, he left them with so much more to learn.



LEFT: Stan with the five grandchildren he'd just gifted some cattle to. They also have their own brands. **ABOVE:** Stanford "Stan" Carl Dell'Orto, "Some cowboys are born, some are made, but the best leave behind trails for others to follow."

His wisdom was deep, his knowledge hard-earned, and his lessons came not from books but from years in the saddle and a lifetime on the land. Though the work ahead will be harder without him, his teaching will guide us forward. We hope to make him proud by carrying on the ranching legacy he built and cherished.

Our Big Boss is now a rider in the sky. The void he leaves runs deep, but so does our determination to continue what he

spent his life building. Long live cowboys.

LINDSEY DELL'ORTO, WIFE OF MATTLEY AND MOTHER TO TWO OF STAN'S GRANDCHILDREN

I am also a multigenerational tree farmer and hope that the government, which has been busy regulating us out of more and more of our land, will be leaving enough crumbs so my two grandsons can see some good in owning timberland.

DAVE ROBBINS, LILLIWAUP, WASHINGTON

THE DESTROYER

Donald Trump is destroying our country, but you seem to think he can do no wrong. For this reason I will no longer subscribe to *RANGE*.

RON RASMUSSEN, MADISON, SOUTH DAKOTA
We will miss you.—Ed.

I knew when I met you the cattle business would never be the same. I hate to think of how it might have been if you didn't come along. You gave us all courage we wouldn't have had without you and *RANGE*.

I'm afraid our world is changing and leaving us behind and we can't do a darn thing about it. It's like the wolf story in the same issue. Putting kids in cages so they don't get killed by wolves when it should be the other way around. What is this world coming to?

If I had a soul mate in fighting bureaucrats, it was you alone. You inspired me, raised my spirits and informed me, but then you did that for all ranchers and sheepherders. All I can do is thank you from the bottom of my heart.

LEE PITTS, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA

You have been my hero for decades. You lighten all our lives and are more than cherished.—Ed.

Love *RANGE*! I also sailed on the *Queen Elizabeth*, New York to Southampton, back in the day. Ran out of gas 40 years ago in Nevada so I stayed, worked, bought land and started a



hunt club, as horses and hounds are my thing. Keep up the wonderful work and I will keep sending *RANGE* to my friends.

LYNN LLOYD, RED ROCK HOUNDS
RENO, NEVADA

PRAISE FOR POTPOURRI

Always enjoy Vess Quinlan. A couple articles in Fall 2025: "Big Bill & the Little Fellow" [by

Michael Zimny] for instance, brought a tear, and photographs were exceptional, including "Itty-Bitty Cowgirl" [Larry Turner] and "The Hay Crew" [Cynthia Baldauf], and so many others. I heartily agree with "The Coyote Principle" [Chris Isaacs] and loved Sunny Hancock's "The Horse Trade," which I'd heard Sunny deliver off the top of his head at Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering years ago! Another winner.

DONNA ANDRESS, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

I wanted to share a photo of my grandchildren being the "crew" at the Williams ranch.



From left: Paisley Timm, Gracie Joy and Isaiah Williams. They are always ready for a great day of work.

RICK JOY, VIA EMAIL

STAY CLOSE TO THE HEART

Sent message to Truth Social to get *RANGE* magazine as you keep America going with the ranchers, miners, loggers, farmers and fishermen, the heart of America.

KENNY MCCULLY, VIA EMAIL

CJ, I don't think either of us could pass a physical exam for Walmart greeter! Both rode hard and put away wet. My eyes probably gonna be injected... "What was that you said? Wanna see my bionic hip? Hey, Doc, just how do I lube my 'rusty hinges' now since alcohol and Rx conflict?" Used to watch over my heeler, Scooter, but now she's the visiting nurse! Howsoever...the alternate sucks! Never thought being a Vet meant a lot...till I started with glasses...hearing aids...Rx costs...etc. I've been workin' on a poem/song about the older-but-wiser gang... "What Ya Gonna Do When Ya Can't Do What Ya Wanna Do Anymore?"

RON SPIKE, RONAN, MONTANA

Please remember that we are all patriotic Americans and not the divided community that some would have you believe!

WILLY MATTHEWS, DENVER, COLORADO

NO BEBOP

Thoroughly enjoyed "Goats Don't Understand Jazz, But My Uncle Does" in the Fall 2025 edition. [Fendy] Tulodo can sure write.

DENNIS SIMONTACCHI, LAKEVIEW, OREGON

My husband and I are in our 80s and have been ranching and farming in South Dakota for 60 years on the family farm. We really enjoy reading the articles in *RANGE* and the photos. Keep writing the "truth." We sure agree with what you write.

KATHLEEN HASS

WESSINGTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Thank you *all* for continuing your commitment to bringing such amazing, relevant stories and information to us through your publication. I've been a faithful fan for years. In fact, I have boxes full of back issues. I've said to many people, many times over the years that *RANGE* should be required reading for every household!

TRACY KREKELER, SALMON, IDAHO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN ADVANCE

I'll be 100 in June and get a lot of mail. You probably won't hear from me again but carry on your good work. I grew up on a dairy farm near Fort Bragg and my wonderful husband (who died in 2012) and I raised our large family on this Bald Hill cattle ranch. It's been a wonderful life. May our wonderful country realize its great potential again. Blessings to all.

BARBARA MCGUIRE, FT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA

Thanks for your two-year renewal plus bonus. You are a precious part of RANGE.—Ed.

Joe Biden and B.H. Obama are decent guys and great leaders...as are Rosie O'Donnell, Morgan Freeman, Whopper Goldberg and Bruce Springsteen great intellects and patriots. And I'm a miniature, flying, hairless, purple, French-speaking, Muslim, transgender, Hillary-Clinton-loving orangutan.

JOHN HOAK, BIG HORN, WYOMING

MORE THINGS STAY THE SAME

God bless Donald Trump. But whatever he achieves, it won't be enough. As Winston Churchill said after the Battle of Britain: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is perhaps the end of the be-

ginning.”

The left made frightening gains, not just over the past four years of Biden/Harris, but in the 15 years of Clinton and Obama. Those won't be easily reversed.

The Marxists who call themselves progressives plotted to block Trump's cabinet appointments, protect illegal aliens, including monsters who murder and rape Americans, and frustrate every aspect of the Trump agenda.

The “lawfare” will continue. The media campaign against accuracy and objectivity will proceed apace. The swamp will resist every effort to drain it. Coexistence is impossible. Bipartisanship is a ruse. We must redouble our efforts. Our motto must be: No compromise, no quarter.

DON FEDER, FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

I couldn't resist sending this picture to you! It belonged to Andrew's grandfather, Bob Perry,



mentioned in my article “Ruthie's Table” in Summer 2025. This binder contains issues from 1991 through 1996, the year he died. I think he would have loved to see his

family's story in *RANGE*.

LARA RICHARDSON, SALIDA, COLORADO
See page 28.—Ed.

SINGING & STRUMMING

Home run on the Fall 2025 issue. Have known Brenn Hill since before his son was born and anyone who wants to listen to real cowboy music should look him up. God bless his family. It's been a hard ride.

BETTY BREWSTER, VIA EMAIL

In a letter to George Orwell about “1984,” Aldous Huxley wrote: “Whether in actual fact the policy of the boot-on-the-face can go on indefinitely seems doubtful. My own belief is that the ruling oligarchy will find less arduous and wasteful ways of governing and of satisfying its lust for power, and these ways will resemble those which I described in ‘Brave New World.’” He went on to write: “Within the next generation I believe that the world's rulers will discover that infant conditioning and narco-hypnosis are more efficient as instru-

ments of government, than clubs and prison, and that the lust for power can be just as completely satisfied by suggesting people into loving their servitude as by flogging and kicking them into obedience.”

FRANK HAMMOND
THERMOPOLIS, WYOMING

TO BIG LOOP & THE RELIC

I have been worried, CJ, that you would not be able to keep going with all the demands of *RANGE* for so many years! I and countless others are so thankful for you and that you will continue as Editor! You will be a great help to Rachel as she will be to you!

Welcome, Rachel! So very happy you have jumped in and will continue the fight so sadly needed. You have to be tough to take on this battle. Thank you! God bless you both!

GENEVIEVE ROSS, WHITEHALL, MONTANA

I walked into our Lovelock Safeway and the Fall 2025 *RANGE* magazine was front and center. This old girl bought it, and I have savored it from front to back.

I first want to say congratulations to Rachel Dahl! Next, as a girl from an old Nevada ranching family I would like to say thank you to *RANGE* for always showing what's actually going on in the West and the detriments that ranchers face, and also the wonderful positive things ranchers do for our country. Your articles have helped me in many debates with people who don't have a clue about ranching, mustangs, and range management. (Yes, I'm a fierce defender and don't keep my mouth shut.) Keep up the great work, we need you.

SHELLY DEBRAGA, LOVELOCK, NEVADA

HORNED COWS VS. WOLVES?

The continued reports of wolf depredations in our beef cattle industry are heartbreaking and financially perilous to the rancher. All the whiz-bang attempts to stop the calf killings seem to have not worked, or maybe minimally. Every ranch outfit cannot afford protective night herders, packs of guard dogs, miles of fladry and fox-lites surrounding their herds.

What if we returned to leaving the horns on our mother cows? Would the girls rally and form a bovine Greek (or was it Roman?) phalanx to protect their calves? Some say not. But it works for musk ox, cape buffalo and bison. I've even heard of burros being introduced to some herds.

Would be interested to hear of positive

results. As the late J.P.S. Brown would say, “Hold Fast.”

STEVE PAYER, BEND, OREGON



SEED MONEY

Along with my two-year renewal, sending a little extra to help spread some *RANGE* seeds and hope they germinate. As a third-generation farmer in California, we are like ranchers. Fightin' the battle every day, fighting frosty mornings on just-planted vegetable plants and tree crops, power outages on wells and drip systems, pests, weeds, droughts, man-made water shortages, land rents, labor, taxes. I could go on and on!

I thank the good Lord every day for our freedom and the blessings we have. Also for your wonderful magazine. With so many lost souls out there, your staff keeps us on the right path. We all live under the same roof, breathe the same air! Ag is always fighting for our way of life and we will keep up the fight, seek and save the lost, and keep reading *RANGE*!

AUGIE SCOTO, ATWATER, CALIFORNIA

RANGE Riders for truth and integrity: I thoroughly enjoy your work from cover to cover and try to do so slowly, as I know it will be several weeks until the next event.

Thank you for your grit and perseverance, fighting back at the “mouth full of marbles” media representing the Marxist hoard! Please “take a poke” at Gov. Polis and his “Wolf Witless Protection Program” if you find the time. Best to all. Stand tall!

P.S.: I just had a chance to read the current issue and realize that Marjorie Haun has already addressed a small part of the Polis wolf infection. Your response time is

DETERIORATION OF LAND IS A NATIONAL PROBLEM

CJ, we will always be grateful for the help that you gave us in trying to get ranchers to understand my work—tragically only a few changed and the bulk continue to shoot themselves in the foot and help environmentalists and government agencies kill the western ranching culture you and I love.

I have long said and recently repeated in podcast interviews on biodiversity loss and desertification that if only one rancher chairman or president was a leader (and not just a representative of a western cult) of any cattlemen's organization in a western state, they could have turned it all around 40 years ago. That person never arose and still has not.

Where the ranchers and especially their organizations deny land degradation and desertification they are engaged in denial as I have observed for over 40 years. If I (and any rancher leader with moral courage could do this) was elected chair or president of a state cattlemen's organization, my first action would be this: "Stand up and openly say we ranchers are under constant attack by bureaucrats and environmentalists because of the deteriorating biodiversity and desertification of our land. They are right, our land is deteriorating. However, we see that the same thing is happening on land in nearby national parks, wilderness and on lands managed by environmental organizations. Clearly, we have a national problem, and we all need to be working together to solve it and not attacking one another."

One courageous leader saying that would have changed things years ago, and it still could, especially if *RANGE* published it. As you know, I have pointed it out since arriving in the United States in 1980 and have been under criticism and ridicule by both environmental and ranching organizations. My life's work is well summed up in this Churchill quote, "Out of intense complexities, intense simplicities emerge."

ALLAN SAVORY, VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE, AND STUART, FLORIDA



astounding! God save Colorado and our heritage.

H.D. CARTER, ERIE, COLORADO

NO MAGA B.S.

I do hope you listen to everything D.J. Trump says and ask yourself what would you do if Biden talked like that.

The artwork and photos in *RANGE* are worth the \$25, but not the MAGA B.S.

DAVID MISSE, TULELAKE, CALIFORNIA

As you well know, sadly the age of great journalism has passed. Yet *RANGE* magazine and its band of rebellious patriots are the grand exception. God bless you mightily! For several years I have enjoyed receiving this unique journalistic gem like a fresh, cool breeze in a torrid desert. You and your writers tell the truth, expose the lame government quagmires, and remind us that we are a great country that needs to be preserved, cared for, and, at times, honored for the blessings it pours upon us. And, of course, you and your readers urge us to be thankful to the Good Lord for what he has gifted us.

Thank you for standing up for the farmer

I'M NOT PARTICULARLY FOND OF PEOPLE WHO FLY IN PRIVATE JETS TO A MEETING WHERE THEY DISCUSS HOW TO TAKE AWAY MY CAR AND FEED ME BUGS... BUT THAT'S JUST ME.



and rancher, and all those who rely on the soil and grasslands for subsistence. Our city cousins need to be more appreciative of their rural relatives, and the governments need to listen carefully to the stewards of the land and not to pseudoscience, liberal elites, or ecology zealots. So it is refreshing to read the issue and be reassured that men and women are standing up to the evils that exist out there and preserving the American legacy for the sake of God and country. Please keep your efforts in high gear and have the standard-bearer wave the colors high.

G.F. JOY, MOULTRIE, GEORGIA

THE MIDDLE WAY

At heart I am and always will be conservative/libertarian in my philosophy. But at some point I have come to a skidding, screaming halt. What we are now alleging to be "conservative" and calling "patriotic" and "mega-(MAGA) American" is *not*!

I believe in the sacredness of property rights and that the proper use of public lands is for constructive products such as beef, timber, some minerals and varied recreation with minimal restrictions. However, I have always leaned toward the middle ground and shunned the extremes of either the "socialist liberal" (No, they are *not* communist!) or the ultra-right-wing conservative groups.

While I sympathize and generally identify with the people you mainly write about, there are aspects that I find beyond appalling. To wit: the raging hatred of "socialism" really makes no sense. For a century the U.S.A. has been a capitalistic/socialistic nation. It is impossible *not* to see that. How many of those who rail passionately against socialism regularly use the post office or drive or transport their livestock on the interstates? How many who live in town use municipal garbage collection or law enforcement when they suffer a crime or similar issues? All of these things are—*gasp*—living examples of socialism!

There has to be a *middle ground*, separate from the insane extremes that have split We the People in two! No, I do not mean "working together," because zealots cannot and will not accept a modification to their programs. The "work together" must come from the true majority who are basically in the middle.

GAYE M. WALTON, BENSON, ARIZONA

While researching for our story in this issue [see page 52], Nancy and I found fine reading in the cow camp outhouse while touring Hart



Butte with Dan Warnock.

ROCHELLE DANIELSON, LA GRANDE, OREGON
Looks like the Warnocks need to renew their subscription. I will send a free, fresh issue for cow camp.—Ed.