



## Opinion from America's Outback

### BEGGING TO DIFFER

Unlike a few subscribers who cancel because of *RANGE's* far-right political stances, I will not. I do believe in the wise utilization of natural resources... something you aggressively pursue. My problem with *RANGE* is it seems unable to see any good intentions or ethics in opposing views. You, CJ, have already written off Obama as a terrible threat, apparently because he wants to "share the wealth" with those less fortunate. Our country has been doing that for many years and still exists. France and England had revolutions because the powerful were too greedy. We can affect change peacefully, by voting. And we did.

TED SHANNON  
MOKELUMNE HILL, CALIFORNIA

Your point of view and your articles are way too liberal for my taste. The far left Greenpeace attitude is definitely not my way of life.

CHERYL MARTIN, FALLON, NEVADA

I read and enjoyed your publication. My politics and patriotism may be a little too militant for ya'll. I'm setting out to take our country back from this tyrannous government.

JOE BOTZ, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

### WATCHDOGS AND HEROES

Keep up the excellent articles. We need more watchdogs to keep our way of life going.

DONALD ERICKSON  
HAZELTON, NORTH DAKOTA



My brother, Bob Walz of Fallon, Nev., and I have read *RANGE* for many years. Part of the fun was that after each issue arrived, we would call one another and discuss each article. (Some reminders of our childhood on a dairy farm in Kansas.) Bob passed away last

year and I really miss our phone calls but I shall continue reading *RANGE* and thinking about what he would say about each article. Bob was a real cowboy (see photo), having spent many years on a ranch in Nevada. Thanks for educating and entertaining my brother and me about such a special way of life.

BETTY L. DAME, WHITEHALL, MICHIGAN

Just to let you know, 97-year-old A.C. Byers is still in the saddle riding and training two BLM mustangs every morning. You featured A.C. in Summer 2004's "Confessions."

BILL RUEHLE, BEAUMONT, CALIFORNIA

### DREAM ON

Thanks so much for the autographed book! I'm going to keep it and when you get really famous I'll sell it and live a life of leisure.

GREGORY PERKINS, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

*RANGE* has given a voice to ranchers, farmers and others who love that way of life.

MARIE CASABONNE, HOPE, NEW MEXICO

I own a cattle farm in Dade County near Greenfield, Mo. This weekend I had the pleasure of reading your last publication at the

home of a good friend, Dale Welch, of Clinton, Mo. Dale has a cattle farm there and his son Kim works with him. Dale had asked Kim to take me fishing at the pond on their cattle farm. I told Kim I loved to fish and that I would clean and cook them for us. Kim's reply was, "Dad, I feed those fish every day and that would be like eating one of my own dogs!"



I immediately painted a catfish with dog feet and the saying "Don't Eat My Dogs." My idea was to put

this picture on the gate leading to the pond. I gave this picture to Kim on his 55th birthday. Boy, was he ever surprised and maybe just a wee bit embarrassed, but I was laughing all the time. The picture didn't make it to the gate. It hangs in Kim's room.

ANN DIVINE, GREENFIELD, MISSOURI

### CARNAGE

My grandson just quit work due to the death of one of the hands on the ranch he worked for on the Texas/Mexico border. The boy was shot and killed while out hunting cattle. It's getting pretty scary out there for anyone along the border. I hope Arizona holds to its laws as

### TIT FOR TAT

Michael S. Coffman's, "The Crumbling Climate Fraud," [Summer 2010] said: "When hard science proved the Himalayan glaciers were not rapidly melting..." I don't know about Coffman's "hard science," but the hard evidence shows they are. See, for example, the pictures on pages 66 and 67 of the April 2010 *National Geographic* Special Issue on Water and the article, "The Big Melt—Glaciers in the high heart of Asia feed its greatest rivers, lifelines for two billion people. Now the ice and snow are diminishing." The caption under those pictures: "Mount Everest's East Rongbuk Glacier lost some 350 vertical feet of ice between August 1921 (top) and October 2008 (bottom)."

I know Coffman is popular among westerners who don't read much and who like science that conforms to a literal reading of the Bible.

ROLAND JAMES, VIA EMAIL

Roland: Thank you for writing about my last article. I have not read the issue you mention. However, it sounds like it makes an excellent case for global warming because the glaciers are melting. You may be surprised that I agree, as do almost all scientists who study the issue. The question has never been whether we had global warming in the late 20th century; we have had global warming and it has caused glaciers to recede. The debate has always been about what caused it and how long it will last. Just because glaciers are melting is not evidence that man caused it. Again, I don't know what *National Geographic* says, but I can safely say there is *no* empirical scientific evidence that man caused it. On the contrary, there is overwhelming evidence that the warming of the 20th century is a continuation of the recovery from the Little Ice Age in which it was about 1½ degrees colder than it is today in the 18th century. It was about 1½ degrees warmer than today about 1200 A.D. and called the Medieval Warming Optimum. Several hundred studies around the world confirm this. Also, my discussion of the Himalayan glaciers was not about whether the glaciers receded: they have. My focus was on the bogus claim in the U.N. Intergovernmental Climate Change's 2007 report in which it claimed the Himalayan glaciers will all melt by 2035. This claim was based on an unsubstantiated claim by the World Wildlife Fund, which actually repudiated its own article as unsubstantiated before the IPCC included it in its 2007 report. You can confirm this in the Jan. 24, 2010, *London Times* (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article7000063.ece>).

MICHAEL COFFMAN, BANGOR, MAINE

it has to start somewhere since our government isn't too concerned.

NOLA SCHAUERMANN, BRUSH, COLORADO

I picked up the Spring 2010 copy of your magazine at a coin laundry. It is the best I've seen in a long time, or ever. I'm 91 years old and I feel lost in this world today.

ROSE CATHCARD, GARNETT, KANSAS

I raise sheep, cattle and chickens in Mendocino County, Calif., and have experienced the worst carnage imaginable. I've seen eagles pack baby lambs away, ravens peck out their eyes, coyotes dig under or jump over 39-inch field fence to kill lambs. I've had black bears stampede sheep through woven-wire fences at 10 a.m. to kill, also coming right to the barn looking for an easy meal. I've had mountain lions kill behind my barn and circle my sheep at 10 p.m. in front of the barn selecting a new victim. I regret that I am severely limited to what pastures I am able to use as most of them are just killing fields. Oh, wait, did I forget to mention all the hippy enviros whose packs of domestic dogs are stalking the cattle and digging and jumping in to tear my beautiful ewes and lambs to pieces on land I pay taxes on? What is this all leading to... wait, let me guess, here comes a truck adorned with government license plates pulling a trailer full of wolves!

DEBRA BLUNDELL, LAYTONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

## OPTIONS ON HORSES

I was really impressed with the last issue, especially the wild horse, know-it-all, wealthy people. They don't want to accept the truth about wild horses and the problems of overpopulation. The wealthy can afford to buy their space. Continued success with your important messages and giving us a voice.

LOIS AND JOHN STODDART, BURNS, OREGON

If you are going to tell the "truth" about horses, perhaps you should buck up and be honest enough to tell the truth about cattle and sheep. Cattle and sheep are not native to the range either. If you are going to base your argument for removal largely on the fact that the horse is a feral species (it is), then it would only be right to advocate the removal of all human-introduced livestock. Bison, deer, antelope and elk are all native species adapted to the range. There is no reason they cannot be managed for harvest. Besides, they taste better!

KATHLEEN BRAY, BUFFALO, WYOMING

Wow, you really did it this time with your latest book, "GRIT," compiled from two decades of *RANGE's* outstanding, factual reporting. I espe-

cially appreciated Tim Findley's, "Nature's Landlord, The Arrogance of The Nature Conservancy." Also, your recent book, "This Land of the Free," about western spirit and American history was super. Always having passed *RANGE* on, I recently sent many copies to troops in Afghanistan.

Thank you for the articles on wild horses in your Spring issue discussing overpopulation, overgrazing, and the costs to taxpayers. I canceled my subscription to *National Geographic* following their biased, romantic short story on mustangs last year. They went too far by including wild horses in their endless endangered-species doctrine.

BARBARA NEDDENRIE, SMITH VALLEY, NEVADA

## HUH?

Your magazine was a treasure and a delight for several years. Then it became an art and society page for the "big" names who appeared in evening dress and fake smiles. We have no interest in Mr. & Mrs. Hotshot who are swelling around the cocktail party. *RANGE* is a beautiful magazine but it no longer represents those of us who live on the land.

JACKIE NAUGLE, EMMETT, IDAHO

I come from a ranching/logging family and can relate to all the articles in your magazine. Our ranches have been in our family going on five generations and we are always looking for ways to keep our private property rights, and to find ways to keep these ranches in our family to pass down to the next generation.

SHARON HUNT ANDERSON, DAYTON, NEVADA

## GOVERNMENT YEAH OR NAY?

*RANGE* became far too political. I know as well as you know that both Republicans and Democrats have a place in this country. We also know other views and ideas are not all crazy. We are tired of the attitude "There, we got the government that time!" Many of us have abused the land and do need to change our ways. Many times your magazine just preaches to the choir.

THOMAS C. HALL SR., BRUNEAU, IDAHO  
*Half of our 173,000 readers are urban/suburban. More than 80 percent of our two million Web hits per year are urban. What choir are you talking about?—Ed.*

Past issues of *RANGE* have been of great benefit. My fellow local citizens and I find ourselves striving to counter a campaign waged by the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center to create the Siskiyou Crest National Monument that would encompass a bit more than 15 percent of our county. I have fought the environmentalists for the past 55 years with few wins, and they

were small. Many of your articles point out just how undemocratic and, yes, dictatorial, our government is in the administration of national monuments elsewhere in the West. It is difficult for this dumb dirt forester to understand how our government can tolerate, even encourage, such outrageous conduct.

JERRY CONE, YREKA, CALIFORNIA

## OOPS!

By now you have probably heard from a bunch of others, but Charles Patten's place is in south-eastern Montana, not south-western as stated under the picture on page 18. ["The Last Cowboy Show," by John Christopher Fine] It would be fun to have him here, but no such luck.

DOROTHY STOUT, DILLON, MONTANA

I was paid for a photo that wasn't mine ("Heroes," Summer 2010). I did have a merit-award winner in Outback Roundup of a cow and calf. That may have caused confusion.

ROBIN DELL'ORTO

MOKELUMNE HILL, CALIFORNIA

*We apologize. Your photo is on page 57. Katy Simpkins' is on page 47, Summer 2010.—Ed.*

I can't do more than a one-year renewal 'cos I'm 87 and don't even buy green bananas.

BUCK BRENGLE, SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA

## IN DEFENSE OF CEs

Tom and I enjoyed many features and the photography was always spectacular in *RANGE*, but we became disenchanted with the slant of the editorial when hardworking, grassroots ranchers were criticized and ridiculed for trying to save their ranches through the use of conservation easements [CEs]. These easements were wrongly put down by you because they were for perpetuity. Well, because of financial difficulties, we had to sell our ranch that had been in the family since 1937, to nonranching urbanites who don't care a bit about the land or the community. That property is definitely lost for perpetuity now and the Forest Service permit is even lost because the new owners did not own up to it. We believe that the land grabs by big-money elitist urbanites are the greatest threat to the land, the environment and our way of life. People who value traditions of neighbors helping neighbors, history being passed down through the generations, and the strength of a handshake are the endangered species.

We are not blaming you for us not being able to get a conservation easement in time to save the ranch, but we were disappointed in your view of other ranchers who could get them. We wish you would have given ranchers respect and valued their right to choose how

they try to save their ranches.

KATHY DEFOREST, ADIN, CALIFORNIA  
Please read Tim Findley's "Forever & Ever, Amen" in the Winter 2004 issue, CE's pro and con, at [www.rangemagazine.com](http://www.rangemagazine.com).—Ed.

Thank you for wonderful RANGE. Have been a reader since you first started, somewhere in the last century. Tim Findley is great. He should be writing for the *National Review* also.

JERRY ROTH, BORN PROUD IN BUTTE, U.S.A.,  
THE KNOWN CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

## CHICKENS AND PICKENS

I like your sense of humor. Great cover [by Larry Turner of boy with chicken]. Tell me how did you keep from slapping Madeleine Pickens? Her husband has never told the truth in his life and wouldn't know the truth if it bit him in the butt. She is the same.

ROY HAYNES, VIA EMAIL

Your "Up Front" in Summer 2010 about Madeleine Pickens is terrific. Hank Vogler was a good choice to level the field. He provided great details and you made good use of them.

REX AND ALICE CLEARY, GENOA, NEVADA

Thank you for printing the outstanding article, "Harvesting Wolves," by Heather Smith Thomas in Summer 2010. I am on the other side of the divide near the Idaho border, suffering the problems she described in her article on wolf hunting. Here in Montana we are trying to influence Fish, Wildlife & Parks to increase the quotas and create some better management in order to get a handle on the wolf problem. Unfortunately, the Endangered Species Act is the roadblock of unintended consequences that created this problem. Please ask your readers to keep pressure on their respective wildlife agencies and all elected officials to change the rules so the rancher, outfitter, hunter and recreationist can once again enjoy life in the West.

STEVE JENNINGS, PRESIDENT,  
BEAVERHEAD OUTDOORS ASSN., MONTANA

I have spent a great deal of time looking up 990 tax forms trying to figure just how much tax-free (to them) tax dollars they are ripping off the backs of the American people. Henry Lamb's "The Green Scam" did a great job digging out information that is deeply buried by environmental groups and their judges and ignored by mainstream media. You provide the information that enviros and their supporters in the media try to keep under covers.

MARION DICKINSON, GREYBULL, WYOMING

I was looking at some car magazines at WalMart (yeah, I'm a car guy), and there was a copy of

your Fall issue, standing like Elijah in the machine-worshippers' temple. I was really drawn to your mag, and the more I read thru it, the more I appreciated what you all are doing to "sound the alarm" and tell the whole truth about the ecological agenda and the selective info that we, the public, are told about it all.

JOHN FITZGERALD, SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

I appreciate your efforts to keep us who hold farming and ranching near and dear to our hearts, informed and alerted. Here is a quote from my hometown newspaper, *The Lakin Independent*, Lakin, Kan., from a story first printed on March 31, 1910, by the *Kearny County Advocate*, its forerunner: "It seems unfortunate that just at a time when the laws of supply and demand push the cost of living to a high point, that a high tariff should raise it still higher. The men who did it belong to a class who do not feel the pinching of need as the laboring classes do. The distance between the common citizens and the members of the U.S. Senate is becoming too great for wise and beneficent legislation."

STEVE MERZ, LIBERAL, KANSAS

What a joy to reread some of RANGE's great articles and stories in "GRIT: Fighting for western land, life and liberty." We have had many champions for our cause during the history of the West. But none has done what you have. In our entire history, no one has so meticulously and relentlessly organized the documentation, and the positive visual image of our side of the issues.

SEN. TAYLOR BROWN, BILLINGS, MONTANA  
[WWW.NORTHERNAG.NET](http://WWW.NORTHERNAG.NET)

I think it's sad when a person does something so consistently well that we sometimes take them for granted. You deserve accolades like this with every issue you put out but isn't it nice when someone like Eric Schwennessen from Clifton, Ariz. [Letters, Summer 2010] recognizes your effort?

LEE PITTS, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA