



Opinion from America's Outback

NO AMBIGUITY

I can't hardly find the words to say "What a great magazine."

BILL RENO, GILLETTE, WYOMING

There's one thing that's consistently missing from *all* your articles that all other magazines I've seen have an abundance of. You all ain't got no ambiguity! God bless you for that!

JOSHUA BAMA, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Your magazine is such an inspiration to us.

DAVID AND MARJORIE MAPLES
ROAN MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE

Thanks for the honest journalism.

GARY HUCKINS, BROADUS, MONTANA

SCREWING UP

You got to get that printer to give you better service. There's nothing on the lion cover [Summer '12] that is in focus. *Nothing*. That means the plate was bad, not the negative. Talk about screwing up a good image.

BOB BROWN, PORTLAND, OREGON

The entire article [by Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.] "Soros the Destroyer" in Summer '12 was full of half truths, exaggerations and stuff pulled out of context. The governments that he brought down were communist Hungary and the U.S.S.R. How does that fit his supposed goal of bringing down the United States? Soros' concern with the U.S. pertains to market fraud. He's a hardened proponent of free enterprise. Read the Wikipedia summary of this and his supposed confiscation of Jewish property. Please consult something in addition to Glenn Beck.

HARRY BRANCH, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
I certainly do not claim to be all knowing about George Soros. However, I believe Mr. Branch is sadly mistaken. Contrary to his belief, I used over 30 reputable sources in writing the article,

plus more I did not cite. Only five were from Glenn Beck and they were video or audio excerpts from actual interviews of Soros himself. I also used an exact transcript from a "60 Minutes" interview in which Soros himself detailed his tragic childhood. Most of my article was based on Soros' own words. They are not "half truths, exaggerations and stuff pulled out of context," as Mr. Branch alleges. I am surprised Mr. Branch seemed to get his information from Wikipedia. It is not a bad source to get quick information on noncontroversial issues. However, an analysis of Wikipedia will clearly show that it is heavily biased from a progressive viewpoint of reality. It should not be surprising the Wikipedia Foundation receives financial donations through Soros' Open Society Institute.
—Michael S. Coffman

SPOOKY DUDES

I really enjoy RANGE. Your Summer '12 issue is outstanding. Great articles on George Soros [by Mike Coffman], Hans Wyss [by Dave Skinner], wolves [by Steve Wilmeth], and bison [by Pat Hansen]. Keep on telling the truth, please.

JOHN I. KITTEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW
FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN

The last magazine with powerful articles about "Bad Spooky Dudes" [Soros and Wyss] is very, very good.

R. BOB MAGART, VIA EMAIL

What did we do to deserve so many ultrarich people for enemies, especially foreigners? I would guess envy, but that's too simple an idea. Much more complicated than that. I can understand the Muslims and Taliban, but the Soros' and Wyss' of the world are beyond me. People like that Brademeyer are clowns, and Western Watersheds (Jon Marvel) and the Sierra Club are irritants (like the feds) that may wound us, but at least they are where we can see them. It seems almost like a natural disaster that a person can't plan for, like an earthquake or hurricane. Very daunting.

On the positive side—a great article on Ellington Peek by Lee Juillerat. What a good man and a great friend. We went back to Oklahoma City for his induction into the Hall of Fame, a well-deserved honor.

JIM HAWKINS, HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA

Thank you for the very informative article about Hans Wyss [by Dave Skinner, Summer '12]. He sounds like a wonderful, generous

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE FREEBIES STOP COMING?

For many years I served the Wisconsin County Forests Association, a unique partnership between state and counties in combination with national forest personnel, a partnership found only in Wisconsin. In 1997, I was given the opportunity to represent this association at a meeting in Seattle. In connection with this, we took a short vacation around some of the state. Starting on the western edge we visited private lands in various stages of harvest and regrowth, all very beautiful. We continued down to the Columbia River, and up the easterly part of Washington state. Oh, my gosh! We ran into areas where the trees were completely brown, killed, we assumed, by the fungus and bugs that had been at work. Vegetation on entire sides of mountains were brown. And I think you know who owns these forests.

Years ago several of our children each worked a summer at Yellowstone National Park, over a span of four years. I visited some of the park each time. It was very beautiful! And I wanted to give my husband a chance to see it. In 2010 we had the chance to spend two weeks in the mountains. The visit to Yellowstone was very disappointing. Fire and disease had done a number on the beauty of the park! My daughter and son-in-law (who had met years before while working in the park) were especially disappointed and quickly agreed to continue on up to Glacier. Here we enjoyed the beauty of Montana we had expected to see in Yellowstone. I sincerely hope that the Forest Service will be allowed to restart generally accepted forestry practices in the lands under its jurisdiction!

Thank you for giving permission to copy the Summer 2012 article, "Soros, the Destroyer," written by Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D. I hope and pray this country will wake up before great disaster hits. That sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach just will not go away. The government seems to be appealing to the greed in certain people who feel they are entitled to benefits they did not earn, feeling the "government" should provide. And it sounds like it is expected that these "benefits" should be paid for by those who have worked hard for a future and enjoy certain benefits from that hard work. Too many people in this country are falling into this trap. When the freebies stop coming, what then?

I have often felt there was some type of control going on in the world, most likely from long ago, but coming to fruition soon...unless enough people start to recognize what has been happening and do what is necessary to reverse the process. I hope and pray we are not too late.

COLETTE MATTHEWS, TOMAHAWK, WISCONSIN

person. Too bad there aren't more like him. It was a treat to learn about him. More articles like this one.

CAROL KENYON, BRADLEY, CALIFORNIA
[PRESIDENT, HESPERIA HALL FOUNDATION]

GOOD AND BAD

Please thank Lee Allen for such a nice article about Dr. Ken Jackson, "House Calls on Horseback." [Summer '12] I used the article as a centerpiece of my radio show that aired on June 10. It's great to read about someone who is giving back to the community and being of service.

BILL MCCALLIE, COWBOY JUBILEE RADIO
SHOW, WSMC PUBLIC RADIO 90.5
COLLEGEDALE, TENNESSEE

In 2009 you ran stories about my dad, Howard Delbert Boyer, and I want to let you know that the old cowboy has hung up his spurs. Dad died on Dec. 11, 2011, at 99 years, just 23 days after Mom, at 91 years. Their minds were intact, which was a blessing. Something I didn't put in the Red Meat article was that the Oglala Sioux gave him the Indian name of Many Horses as a young man. This was because every time he rode into their camp, he was riding a different steed. He would just catch a new mustang when the old one got tired!

DIANNE BOYER BEAN, VIA EMAIL

NOT A GREEDY BONE

If so many city people and Easterners want to see and hear wolves, I bet us Westerners would be most happy to share. Ain't a greedy bone in our bodies!

I think there are enough packs of wolves to establish breeding packs in every state in the Union. Whether it is "introduce" or "reintroduce," I bet there used to be wolves in Central Park in New York City. I bet there were once wolves in the Poconos, Appalachians, and Adirondacks. You can bet there were wolves right in the city park in Chicago. Heck, I bet there were even wolves on Cape Cod. Shoot, the more I think about it, I know we can establish thriving packs in every big city park, state park, and national park in the United States.

I know we can come up with enough unwanted western packs to provide the city folk and Easterners with all the packs they want in *their* backyards. Imagine the benefit to our environment. Those folks would not have to travel to our backyards to get to enjoy the wolves. They'd save gasoline, time, cause less pollution to our air, cause less traffic on our highways, and prevent us from cussing them so much. It is a win-win situation. They get what they want and we get rid of what we

THE EMPTY CORRAL

My old Jeep came to a complaining stop behind the Eureka County administrative building. It was hot, and probably the driest year I've seen in the 80 years I've been in Nevada. On the dash, a single sheet of paper read, "Notice of Public Meeting: The Eureka County Natural Resources Advisory Commission will hold a public meeting on July 11, 2012, at 6 p.m." Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County natural resource manager, had given me this paper a couple of days ago. I had received notice of these meetings before, but this time it was going to be different. The second item on the agenda read one word and one word only—"Drought."

Once inside, I was among friends and neighbors—people I have known for years. There wasn't the same jolly atmosphere that usually exists when friends get together. Even Fred Bailey didn't have his regular, permanent smile on. These people had been told that they were to reduce their cattle numbers on the range and, in most cases, remove their cattle entirely. Told, but not in writing. A "Full Force and Effect Decision" was threatened if they didn't remove their cattle voluntarily.

These good people are the ranchers of the Diamond Mountain Complex. In this area, the feral horses, by the Bureau of Land Management's own numbers, are more than 1,200 percent of the appropriate management level. Horse numbers on the Diamonds are at 826 and running there 12 months of the year. The damage they do to the resource, springs and water developments is huge and the ranchers see the destruction every day.

Doug Furtado, Battle Mountain BLM manager, was called on the speakerphone to explain. Doug said the horses could not be gathered until January, if at all, because of "higher priorities." He mentioned a shortage of funding to complete the gather but he failed to mention that the BLM budget for the wild horse and burro program is \$74.8 million for the current year—the highest ever. Doug explained the "fact" that horses don't damage the riparian areas as much as cattle do. According to this bureaucrat's facts, cattle drink and lie around the water source, destroying and damaging the resource while the horses go much higher on the mountain away from riparian areas.

After listening to Doug, it was my understanding that what he meant, or believed, was that if cattle are removed, the horses will do no further damage. He failed to mention, as Ellen Rand did later, that it would be impossible to keep cattle inside private fence and on the ranches and feed them \$250-per-ton hay—if it can even be found at that price.

This is the story being told across our state. Yes, it's dry. But why gather our cattle and livestock while leaving the horses to destroy everything the ranchers have built for the last 150 years? Many ranchers have already shipped their livestock and many more will. We could be seeing the demise of ranching (and rural communities) as we know it. It could be the end. Just an empty corral.

GEORGE PARMAN, EUREKA, NEVADA

don't want. We could establish thriving packs with diverse genetics and have a country full of creative and cunning predators.

Don't worry about the wolves going hungry. They are efficient killers. Bike riders and joggers would do for deer and elk. The homeless population would replace our cattle. The poodles and pugs would replace the sheep. Fat people could do for our moose.

Ain't a greedy bone in our bodies. If the city people want wolves so much, give them wolves in their backyards!

TIM FORCE, OLATHE, COLORADO

POOR DUMB BIRDS

Very good article on sage chickens [by Carolyn Dufurrena and Wayne and Julie Burkhardt, Summer '12]. We have most of the same data, plus some we have accumulated over the years. I believe these poor dumb birds have been studied to death. Case in point, about 50-plus were collared near here

to track them. These collared birds had a 70 percent mortality rate. This is unacceptable and unsustainable. We have heard that the collar can act as a target for predators. If the "experts" would listen to some old-timers and leave the birds alone, they would survive as they have for centuries.

JEAN HARSHBARGER, NEWCASTLE, WYOMING

Your special report on the sage grouse was outstanding. I want to protect them as much as anyone, but I do not want to protect them to the detriment of the rest of the citizens of the West. That is exactly what the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service seems to want to do under the Endangered Species Act. Each time government agents talk about listing the grouse as endangered, they admit that it will have a huge economic impact on Nevada and other western states. I do not, nor does anyone I know, want to put miners and ranchers and

(Continued on page 17)

LETTERS (Continued)

others out of business for the sake of a bird. You might also want to remember that this is being done by a bunch of bureaucrats who will not be affected by this decision. They should not be able to impact us because of a bird. By all means they should work to protect all species but never forget that the spotted owl devastated the timber industry.

Humans are at the top of the food chain and I am not willing to give up that position, particularly in light of the fact that there is no effort to control the primary problems for the decline of this bird—a lack of predator control and ever-diminishing grazing, which of course leads to an abundance of wildfires.

TERRY SULLIVAN, WASHOE VALLEY, NEVADA

OHIO HUNTER

I was at Walmart in Piqua, Ohio, recently looking for *Cowboys & Indians*. They were out but had one copy of *RANGE*. It was about the West, so I bought it. I love it and will be sending in my subscription. I've hunted the West for big game since the '70s—deer, elk, bear, moose, antelope, mountain lion, javelina, etc., and became aware of the wolves since they have been released, multiplied, and in general created havoc for ranchers and big game animals. I've read many articles in Wyoming's *Pinedale Roundup* and it looks to be impossible to rein in the federal government no matter how out-of-whack things get. Somehow the people who do these programs need to be held personally responsible and not argue about some endangered species or something that does not have a face or name behind the actions with things that get out of control.

WERNER SCHMIESING, MINSTER, OHIO

Read "Call of the Cow Country," loved it!

MICK CATES, EUGENE, OREGON

Call 1-800-RANGE-4-U for more copies of Harry Webb's gem of a cowboy book!—Ed.

NO MISTAKE

I am writing to point out an error in the caption for the picture on page 88 ["The Saga of Spotted Dog," Summer '12]. The caption states, "Bison...were hunted almost to extinction during the late 1800s." To avoid accusations of rancher bias, I will use a quote from the World Wildlife Fund's 2007 publication, "Ocean of Grass: A Conservation Assessment for the Northern Great Plains," to refute this statement. Page 11 states, "American bison... may have totaled some 30 million or more... railroads brought...the means to transport the hundreds of thousands of hides taken annually." The math is very straightforward: 30,000,000 - 999,999 + 3,750,000 (the absolute-bare-minimum-really-sick-and-barely-producing-any-calves annual increase for a herd of

30 million) does not equal zero. It equals 32,750,001. This is not a mistake. Records show that the hunting that occurred does not even account for the yearly increase of a herd with tens of millions, let alone reduce it. Bison nearly went extinct, but overhunting fails to explain that fact.

SIERRA STONEBERG HOLT, HINSDALE, MONT.

Dear CJ:

I just received my gift subscription to *RANGE* from Rod McQueary and Sue Wallis. What a great surprise. This looks to be very interesting reading. Being a fourth-generation rancher, I cherish the Cowboy Spirit. Thank you for personally forwarding me the first issue and extras for my reception areas.

GOV. MATTHEW H. MEAD

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Despite what the experts are saying, the range in the West can change drastically from one season to the next. For example, the BLM and private range in western Wyoming has had *no* growth this spring and now summer and with the lack of rain, .66 inches since the first of January, the same thing can happen in other western states as well. The general consensus among the stockmen is that the only animals on the winter range will be the feral horses, and the remaining water will be trampled to mudholes, and whatever green there is will be eaten to the roots.

JOHN RADOSEVICH, WHEATLAND, WYOMING

My grandfather was a grape grower and wine maker. I am now living on my parents' 10-acre property surrounded by houses. My parents grew prunes and walnuts as well as a mixed lot of this and that. Most of the trees are gone but my sister and I are keeping a few things going for us, with some left over for friends and family. Are there plans for a digital version of *RANGE*? That would be great.

JIM TOSO, FLYING J RANCH

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

Sorry, no. *We love paper and ink.*—Ed.

NONE OTHER LIKE IT

Hello, CJ. Our ranch has been annexed into the town of High River, Alberta, and will be turned into houses in due course. I have retired from raising cattle and practicing law after 35 years and have moved to Calgary. I always enjoy reading *RANGE* from cover to cover. There is none other like it!

DAVID POPE, CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

Thanks for your support of America's food producers.

DON CANINE, GILBERT, ARIZONA

LETTERS *(Continued)*

I was born in Battle Mountain, Nev., in 1920, and lived on the Silver Creek Ranch in Austin. My parents were Peter and Grace Laborde and they wanted to move to California and run a sheep business. As time went on, I met a sheepman and raised many lambs and sold wool also. His name was Frank Arburua; he was a Basque.

CATHERINE ARBURUA, STOCKTON, CALIF.

Summer 2012 was the best. Keep it up!

CHANDLER L. BOND, ST. JOHNSVILLE, N.Y.

Thanks for all that you do, and for how much you care!

MIKE GUERRY, CASTLEFORD, IDAHO

The summer issue included the story of my very dear friend, Clinton Basey, in the Red Meat Survivors section. Clinton is the best example of a true cowboy that I can imagine. He is hardworking with a cheerful disposition and he loves his horses and working cattle. He is always willing to help a friend in any way he can. It would take a whole book to tell all the stories of how Clinton and Mary Ann were there to help someone out of a difficult situation. I am so grateful for their friendship.

PAUL L. HAUG, SOLVANG, CALIFORNIA

You continue to put out a great magazine, and I appreciate the coverage on Jack Swanson's beautiful new book, as I am the printer.

RICHARD CASEY, KING CITY, CALIFORNIA
Great job! See page 86.—Ed.

My daddy loves all the stories. I love the pictures the most. Makes me think back to when I was born and raised on cattle ranches in the San Joaquin Valley. I miss all that and your magazine really brings it back to me.

ISABELL STAR COSANS
BEECH BLUFFE, TENN.

SPEAKING OF WISDOM

One of my guests from the Texas Hill Country showed me a copy of *RANGE*. I liked what I saw and will give it a one-year try. At my age, pushing 86, I don't see any wisdom in any long-term sign-ons. Speaking of wisdom, I found plenty in your Summer '12 issue, sort of unusual but welcome to my old eyes.

BILL SUSTRICH
WAGON WHEEL GUEST RANCH
SALIDA, COLORADO

I live where we have had the urbanites send us wolves and now we will be blessed with bison. Please keep fighting our fight.

JOHN LARICK JR., LEWISTOWN, UTAH
See Dave Skinner's story, page 44.—Ed.

I recall you saying you needed all the help you can get. Am I right to assume this to mean more circulation on your magazine? It is the very best source for real and critical information for people who are trying to live off the land. Every country person should read it.

LARRY NEMEC, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA
If every subscriber would encourage one more...we would be in great shape!—Ed.

I love your magazine. It is our refuge from what's happening to farmers and ranchers.

NOLA KAY SCHAUERMANN, BRUSH, COLO.

It's been a lot of years with *RANGE*, CJ, and I've dropped all my magazine subscriptions—except this one. Hope we both go a bunch more. Re-up me for three more years and throw the leftovers into the kitty.

DENNY DICKOVER
LAZY DOUBLE D RANCH
CAVE CREEK, ARIZONA