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RANGE is an award-winning quarterly devoted to the issues that threaten the West, its people, lifestyles, lands and wildlife. No stranger to controversy, RANGE is a leading forum for opposing viewpoints in the search for solutions that will halt the depletion of a national resource—the American cowboy.

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Up Front

Five grand and counting.

By C.J. Hadley

I always want to know more—to learn things daily—but thanks to the U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, websites, bloggers and email, my outfit (that would be me) is almost out of control. And thanks to the information age and the Internet, work seems to have increased a thousandfold—and there's still only me to deal with it.

I want to read all my incoming mail (presently, 5,734 emails await attention). I would like to answer every question, help anyone in trouble, and stay out of the red. I try to respond to queries and special requests quickly. But it's just not possible.

RANGE is a national magazine with (just recently) two full-time staffers. Since 1989, I have been milking the brains of enviros, feds, academics, scientists, governors, senators, congressmen, bureaucrats, writers, artists, loggers, miners, farmers and ranchers. I learn about their work. I share some of their dreams. And with all that input I

produce a magazine that is an advocate for the most important people on earth—food producers.

I am often asked to read books...to critique them or write cover blurbs "in your spare time." That could be 50,000 words. I've been asked to read dissertations on scientific subjects, which I understand about as well as Nancy Pelosi cottons on to Obamacare.

I am a slow reader. I enjoy language and take my time over every sweet syllable. Unfortunately, that's not possible with the onslaught. Topics rolling through my big Mac computer include water, endangered species, takings, overregulation, Agenda 21, immigration, Earth Day, pressure on the wrong people (food producers), horse slaughter, horse rights, and lunch (which I

seldom enjoy away from my aching desk).

One big recent project is our next book, "Brushstrokes & Balladeers: Painters and Poets of the American West," which just got shipped to the printer. For weeks, work started before daylight and ended well after dark. This 144-page hardback beauty includes stirring art and sublime words. (See page 61.)

Of course, other work and emails didn't slow down, and this week I found some good news in the stash. In November 2012, the National Park Service, with help from former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, tried to close the Drakes Bay Oyster Company in Marin County, Calif. (See "Shell Game on Drakes Estero" by Carolyn Dufurrena, Spring 2013, at www.rangemagazine.com.)

To get rid of this good outfit with 30 employees, data was falsified and misrepre-



RANGE relief, *Precious*, the 57 Chevy Bel Air ("Up Front," Summer 2013), is now purring and rolling. This is Washoe Valley, Nev., with Washoe Lake in the background. RIGHT: My new Great Dane Strider, King of Gondor. He's joined my two old Danes, Belle Starr the Beauty and Gen. George S. Patton. Strider was 14 weeks old in this photo and weighed 40 pounds. He'll ride in the back seat.



PHOTO BY DENNIS GALLI

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sented by NPS staff for four years—in spite of repeated protests by the review board of the National Academy of Sciences, which repudiated study after study. The Lunny family, award-winning organic farmers supported by more than 90 percent of Marin residents, sued the feds, and the Superior Court recently offered a reprieve so that the Lunnys can remain open until the conclusion of the federal lawsuit against NPS.

That was a good email and a good start—but please don't take it personally if you don't hear from me. It could simply mean that I haven't found you yet.

And whose fault is that? That would be an overwhelmed, overburdened, and apologetic me. ■