

O U T O N T H E R A N G E

The Pine Forest Range in northern Nevada. Photos by Linda Dufurrena. Words by Carolyn Dufurrena.

The two-lane road climbs the steep rock face that defines the edge of that other country. Layers of volcanic ash, white, buff, orange, green, rise 200, then 300 feet off the valley floor. There are only a couple of places to stop and look back. Traffic is hidden around the bend of the hillside, but if you look up, you can sometimes see the truck coming, or no truck coming, and then when you reach the wide spot in the road, you can pull out, across the downhill lane.

From this gravelly spot, the whole edge of the Great Basin spreads out before you. The steep red wall of McGee Mountain arcs away south and east, ash flow roiling from vents, frozen

forever as it rose from the earth. The narrow canyon of Thousand Creek Gorge knifes through the ring, a slice through a doughnut. Hawks float over its rugged walls.

The valley stretches 20 miles wide, sagebrush and bunchgrasses. Long black tablelands bound the north, as the earth healed rents with flows of thin black lava. It is the edge of the Columbia Plateau, the margin of Basin and Range. ■

Excerpted from "Fifty Miles From Home: Riding the Long Circle on a Nevada Family Ranch," by Linda Dufurrena and daughter-in-law Carolyn Dufurrena. This gorgeous book is available from RANGE for \$39.95. To order, please call 1-800-RANGE-4-U.



On the way to Onion Reservoir in the Pine Forest Range, past Theodore Basin. View is toward McGee Mountain on the Sheldon Antelope Refuge in northern Nevada. This is just northwest of the Black Rock Desert. Altitude is approximately 5,500 feet, just below the tree line. This is perfect Great Basin buckaroo country.



Aspen grove in spring, Pine Forest Range, Humboldt County, Nevada, northwest of Winnemucca and south of Denio on the Oregon line. Great country for mule deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and bighorn sheep. Fishing is good at Onion Reservoir, Knott Creek Reservoir or Blue Lake. Ranchers have run their livestock in this pretty country for more than 100 years.