



Opinion from America's Outback

JUSTICE FOR HAGE

I've learned a lot from you over the years, and even though I've moved from the West to the Midwest, I still have a deep appreciation and love for the ranchers of the West and for the struggles they face every day. Your Fall 2012 issue brought a tear to my eye when I read about the court decision in the Hage's case. It's been a long time coming and is a bitter-sweet but well-deserved victory for the family and all ranchers who face challenges of grazing on public lands. Keep up the good fight.

AMY SWINEY, HOLLIDAY, MISSOURI

Your coverage of the Hage saga is your best, and a public service, as it shows the lengths bureaucrats will go to protect themselves and jobs, including ignoring legal rulings. This government obeys the orders it likes and ignores the ones it doesn't like. Seems to me, that started a Tea Party years ago!

DOUG DREBERT, PARADISE, CALIFORNIA

The Hage case is one of the greatest injustices in the history of the West. It has taken almost 20 years for Wayne Hage (now his estate) to get justice for the intentional actions of the BLM and the Forest Service employees who lied, cheated and stole their way through the Hages' property rights for years. Two separate federal courts have now disclosed the way the BLM and FS employees "crawled in bed with the radical environmental groups" and conspired to deprive Mr. Hage of his property and water. The courts have exposed these federal conspirators and it is time that the ranching and farming communities in that Nevada district literally run these employees out of town on a rail. These employees should lose all pension and seniority rights, they should be prosecuted for malfeasance in office, and they should have to pay the money judgments to the Hage estate out of their own pockets

instead of using our taxpayer money. Then agency employees might think twice about bullying people or depriving them of their property rights.

JOANE PAPPAS WHITE, ATTORNEY AT LAW
PRICE, UTAH

Justice for the Hage family was dealt another setback when a three-judge panel overturned U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Loren A. Smith's favorable decision. Property rights interests were and are holding their breaths as they've followed the Hage case. The one certainty has been that it's nearly impossible for private folks to defend themselves against the federal government. Right and wrong has little to do with it since the deepest pocket usually wins and that is "us," the taxpaying public. While we struggle to survive the onslaught of bureaucratic and federal rules and regulations, the extremists within government and outside it are given a green light by the justice system.

MICHAEL HANLEY, JORDAN VALLEY, OREGON
See "Eye of the Storm," page 84, for more on the Hage cases and check www.rangemagazine.com for "Justice for Hage" in Fall 2012.—Ed.

TURN IT AROUND!

I am amazed at the quantity and quality of what you single-handedly have chronicled about the West, its history, its people and its rape. My dream is to see that rape stopped, see families restored to their ranching operations, see irrigation water delivered without some fish being used as an excuse to deliver water elsewhere, see the ranges restocked with livestock, and see the forests brought back to health with meaningful timber harvesting. Most all of this has occurred in my lifetime. We can turn it around!

RAMONA HAGE MORRISON
SPANISH SPRINGS, NEVADA

What a good article ["Boudoir of the Upper Crust(y)" by Alan Hart, Fall 2012]. If we all put God first and treated our neighbor as we wished to be treated, imagine what a peaceful world we would live in. No longer would 60 percent of our taxes go towards war. All would be important and we would not look down on those who are less fortunate. Truth will set us free.

Also, the Sept. 2012 *National Geographic* has an excellent issue on weather. [It says] the

INNOCENCE?

Recently I had an interesting conversation with some folks after a patriotic program that I did. Seems they had recently moved to the country and had a nice little piece of land. The husband was excited about having a milk cow, chickens, a steer, a hog to butcher, and a garden. As he was enthusiastically sharing his plans with me, his wife stood silent with her arms folded in quiet defiance. Their young children were nearby listening to our conversation.

As I was about to offer congratulations and encouragement to them both, the wife began to share her candid feelings first about having a *milk* cow. There was no way she would be drinking *that* milk, and neither would the children. "That's why they have grocery stores," she firmly stated. Then, as you can imagine, she continued on about the chickens, steer and hog. There was no way she would have her children submitted to the raising of a sweet little calf and pig only to have them killed and the children then expected to *eat* them.

The embarrassed husband tried to defuse the situation with a chuckle, then asked the children what they thought about having a cow, feeding chickens and getting to gather the eggs, etc. Both children wrinkled up their noses and pressed in closer to Momma.

I asked the children if they knew where the milk and eggs came from that their mother bought at the grocery store. The oldest, who looked to be about nine years old, said, "on a truck" (hmmmm, there might be a song in there). That really impressed their father! When I asked about hamburger meat and bacon, they both just shrugged.

Now I know this scenario is true of many inner-city children, but this family moved to the country from a small town here in Texas. I was speechless! That is what is wrong with this country. Yes, most people shop for their meat, milk and eggs at the grocery store, but shame on parents, grandparents and all of us for not getting our children out from in front of the TV, computer, Game Boy, etc., and teaching them about where our food comes from. I am as guilty as the next person. Some of my own grandchildren would cringe at the thought of even touching a cow's udder to learn how to milk her.

Our farmers and ranchers are the heart of our country and we are doing them a disservice by not supporting them. We are certainly not teaching our younger generations how to take care of themselves. I suppose I should get down off my soapbox now, and get this in the mail. I am also enclosing my three-year renewal to *RANGE*. Keep up the good work!

JEAN PRESCOTT, OVALO, TEXAS
Jean Prescott is an award-winning singer/songwriter/entertainer. Check www.jeanprescott.com.

Arctic ice is less than in any recorded time.

SUE LAMBORN, NOTTINGHAM, PENNSYLVANIA
Thanks for the first. We beg to differ on the latter. See "Climate Fraud," page 62.—Ed.

I just got the Fall issue and damn near read it cover to cover already. Biggest problem I found is once I start, it's near impossible to stop. RANGE should be required reading for every U.S. citizen, young and old. Never in my life have I read so much smarts (wisdom) in one single magazine. I'm hooked.

BILL SUSTRICH, VIA EMAIL

SCARES HELL OUT OF ME

Dave Skinner's "Buffaloed" [Fall 2012] really got me to thinking about the environment and conservation. It brought to mind the spotted owl fiasco that cost the country tens of thousands of jobs and shut down an entire industry. Then along came the transplanted Canadian wolves, which have nearly wiped out the elk herd in Yellowstone and now stand ready to devastate livestock and with it ranchers and farmers.

Now we're on the brink of shutting down much of Nevada and other western states to supposedly safeguard the sage grouse. All of these things were annoying because the organizations and people behind these travesties were largely unaffected by what damage was being caused by their actions. Most of them, in my opinion, were simply led to believe that their actions were about saving something that really didn't need saving. And the organizations simply found a cause and a way to make money in the process.

But here's what scares hell out of me. Our government supports these programs. That puts us, the human population, somewhere below wild creatures and land. I am all for saving wildlife but not at the expense of American jobs and our economy. Folks, let's keep our place at the head of the table.

TERRY SULLIVAN, WASHOE VALLEY, NEVADA

Sierra Stoneberg Holt ["Buffaloed," Fall 2012, www.rangemagazine.com] must have not read many history books on the killing of the buffalo or seen pictures of the bones and hides shipped on the railroad. The U.S. War Department said the only way to control the Indians was to kill the buffalo. Hide hunters were the cause and demand for hides was the reason they were killed. This is the way things go. If the buffalo were still here, agriculture couldn't survive. Ranchers had nothing to do with the killing, they weren't even here. Some people won't read history.

ORA G. KNOWLTON, BYNUM, MONTANA

I have actually read a good deal of history on the bison disappearance. I prefer period documents to history books, because there is so much wrong information in so many history books. If you are interested in the disappearance of the bison, I highly recommend Dr. Rudolph W. Koucky's brilliant article, "The Buffalo Disaster of 1882," published in 1983 by North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains.

You are correct that the railroads shipped out tremendous numbers of hides. The most accurate estimate I could find is that during the three years when the most killing occurred, almost 3.7 million animals were slaughtered. But the most commonly given estimate for the total number of bison is 60 million, which will produce at least 7.5 million calves every year. So if about 1.3 million bison a year were being killed during the most intensive slaughter, it could not possibly have wiped out a herd of 60 million bison plus their 7.5 million calves.

Over a million bison look very impressive in a picture. You are correct that the War Department wanted to wipe them out. But it was not able to do it with slaughter. If you know what you are looking for, you will find many first-hand references to enormous herds of bison dead of disease. Even today, bison are susceptible to a number of diseases, many of which are native to this continent and to the bison.

If you look at the railroad records and the bison hide purchase records and the existing rifle technology and the human population, you will come to this conclusion: either there were much fewer than 60 million bison (no more than 10 million in the entire United States), or the hide hunters did not kill them all. I will repeat: you cannot kill all of a reproducing herd numbering tens of millions by killing a million annually. My family has a herd of about 200 cattle and we kill approximately 160 each year, and that just keeps the herd stable. It doesn't wipe it out.—SIERRA STONEBERG HOLT

HATCHET JOB

I know we're not going to agree on much, but Michael Coffman's piece on George Soros [Summer 2012] is about the worst hatchet job I've seen in years. Nonetheless, hope you're doing well, and the magazine looks good. I just can't stand to read it.

CORY FARLEY, VERDI, NEVADA
Be careful, you might learn something.—Ed.

Daily Bag Limits: Two sage grouse. Possession Limits: Two times the daily bag limit for sage grouse. Season Dates Sage grouse: Sept. 1 to Nov. 1. Now why do I find it ironic that our state game agency allows the little darlings to

(Continued on page 15)

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be hunted, all the while vying with other agencies to protect them as “threatened,” if not yet “endangered.” A few years back, I dealt with a BLM fella who kept track of bald eagle nests, one of which I have on my property. He also went out in the field to count and monitor sage grouse leks. I asked him how it was that BLM and game agents were so concerned about the sage grouse, yet they permitted them to be hunted. His response was, “I’m not going to touch that one.” Am I missing something here?

NAME WITHHELD, VIA EMAIL

MORE TAKINGS

Regarding “Good-bye Property Rights,” by Dr. Coffman in the Fall issue, I want to call attention to a statute now being applied in Wyoming that is referred to by attorneys and at least one district judge as the “private condemnation law.” It is identified as W.S.1-26-815. Under this law, an individual can simply reach out and take his neighbor’s land and property for his own personal profit and benefit! The land and property is *not* taken for public necessity, the land and property is *not* taken for the public good! We were victims of this law in Fremont County and there is at least one other elderly property owner in that county who has lost land under this statute. In both takings of privately owned land and property, no compensation was given to the property owners for what was taken!

DON NICHOLS, TUCSON, ARIZONA

VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Thank you so much for the story by Dr. Barney Nelson in the Fall issue of *RANGE*. I’ll thank Dr. Nelson for making me sound so special. I’m not...just trying to help great ag producers in a small way and Texas CattleWomen to preserve and promote our way of life.

Your “Good-bye Property Rights” by Michael S. Coffman is so true. I hope it will be read by many people. You and the staff always have such great content and “tell it like it is.” Thank you for helping to keep our industry going. You are truly a voice in the wilderness.

BECKY TERRY, EL PASO, TEXAS

STROKES

Talk about luck of the draw! I purchased *RANGE* just by chance last month thinking our brother-in-law, a cowboy from his boot soles up, might enjoy a subscription. The more I read, the more I enjoyed and agreed with the articles. We live two hours west of Grangeville so the article on “Who Can Stop the Swap?” by Shelley Neal was particularly informative and very well written. “A Bloody Campaign” by Stephen Wilmeth was full of facts—not ideologies. “Living for the Lambs,” by Suzanne Finney again, a well-written and very interesting arti-

cle. We live by the Snake River close to Hells Canyon and 20 miles upriver is a sheep ranch that has six Great Pyrenees to guard their herd.

Not only could I identify with several articles, but I read new information I found interesting, especially “Passing the Buck” by Dave Skinner and “Soros the Destroyer” by Michael S. Coffman. Again, well written and backed by facts. This magazine and the people behind it reach deeply into the hearts of readers, expressing their concerns, hopes and fears. I’m 63 years old, and for the first time, I’m very worried about our country’s future and our children’s future. Knowledge is power and the more I know, the better I can understand and vote.

Thank you for this wonderful magazine that informs, confirms, amuses and delights readers. As far as our brother-in-law, I’m so sure he’ll enjoy *RANGE* that he’s getting a two-year subscription. And not to be left out, I’ve ordered three years for our family.

LORENE UPTMOR, ASOTIN, WASHINGTON

NO CLUE

The environmentalists haven’t a clue about how to live with mother nature and her children. Keep going. We the people need to make them understand there has to be balance, with balance comes harmony and everyone profits—especially our land.

MARY FRIGON, NICEVILLE, FLORIDA

RANGE is the only magazine that I read and study, and I believe it should be required reading for all upper grades in school. Thank you for all your fine efforts in our behalf.

DOROTHY KEENAN, TORRINGTON, WYOMING

I like looking at my *RANGE* calendar each morning. I don’t feel so far from home!

FLOYD HODGES, PITTSBURG, TEXAS
2013 calendar available now! See below.—Ed.

I was initially drawn to *RANGE* as a horse lover and I was pleasantly surprised by the informative, conservative articles concerning the loss of our rights as the government continues to create more and more laws affecting not only ranchers, but all of us.

SUZANNE FRESCHI, GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

We all enjoy *RANGE* very much. Many of the problems facing ranchers in your country are similar to the problems facing farmers here.

SARAH BAILEY, COALVILLE, ENGLAND

THE VOICE

I’ll gladly pay full price just to keep your “voice” out there. We need you and also need a return to common sense and “I can do it myself” instead of depending on someone else (the government)

to do it for you. Hands helping other hands, not “handouts,” built this country. No one owes you a damn thing, darn it! And, yes we did build it ourselves! If you ever get up this way, the latch string is out.

JANE YECNY, SHERIDAN, MONTANA

You help keep me sane!

MELINDA MURRAY, MARYLHURST, OREGON

We live in the sand sage country of southeast Colorado. My husband and I ranch full time until 2001, then had to get jobs away. He’s a CSU range and livestock specialist and I teach HS/JH science at a small country school. We use your articles as reference material all of the time—spreading the facts and news “one person at a time!”

BRENDA FICKENSCHER

CHIVINGTON, COLORADO

RANGE is one of the last breaths of fresh air in the world of journalism.

FLOYD HUCKINS, BIG HORN, WYOMING

I really enjoyed “Call of the Cow Country” by Harry Webb. I enjoy reading *RANGE* magazine very much.

DONALD DUNN, MCRAE, GEORGIA

“Call of the Cow Country” by Harry Webb is outstanding! I’ve been through his Colorado and Wyoming country and I could smell the sagebrush. Mom graduated from high school in Oak Creek, Colo., in 1939. My aunt lives in Rock Springs, Wyo. I particularly enjoyed Harry’s experiences with Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. I portray Cody, the scout, at cowboy reenactments and enjoy reading about him good or bad.

MICHAEL DOTSON, MONON, INDIANA

Everybody needs a Harry! See page 21.—Ed.

We live way out, away from our county seat, and they don’t even know we are alive so I know what some are going through. Our state has been very busy taking the water away from us so it can water all its pretty golf courses. We haven’t been able to raise a crop for five years so had to sell our herd of Angus cows. It was the hardest thing I’ve done since losing my husband.

I still work for a rancher so I do get to take care of some cattle. A couple more years and I’ll be a “Red Meat Survivor.”

NOLA SCHAUERMANN, BRUSH, COLORADO

I have built my dad guns, knives, pack saddles, etc. Every time I ask him what he wants for his birthday, it’s always the same response, “*RANGE* magazine.” Go figure, ha, ha.

ANTHONY LOMBARDI, COZAD, NEBRASKA