



**Opinion from  
America's Outback**

**SWAYING THE MINDLESS**

I continually shake my head and wonder where our country is headed. There are many opinions, ideas and big money that seem to sway the minds, or maybe better the mindless of an awful lot of people. I hope that common sense might prevail, but realistically I doubt it. Perhaps with a change in administration come November, some changes for the better will happen, but this is kind of a scary issue in itself. Keep writing the articles and informing your readers.

TOM BARNES, DILLON, MONTANA

Thank you for leading the pushback against

**EAST MEETS WEST**

I was lucky enough to collaborate on RANGE's new book, "Skinner's Landscapes." The project had an effect on me that I hadn't anticipated. You see, I worked as a legal and business researcher for almost 40 years, but it wasn't until I got immersed in "Skinner's Landscapes" that I saw how much more I could learn by digging deeper while keeping the big picture in view.

As I was reading 22 years of articles by Dave Skinner, RANGE's "Wandering Scout," it hit the news that a new 500 kW transmission line was proposed to come through my rural county in Maryland. A very slick nonprofit suddenly popped up and started asking us for money. Hmm, So, I researched the heck out of that 501(c)(4), Skinner style. As for what I discovered about the founder, I'll just say "holy cow."

the lemmings of the Green New Deal. Common sense of the majority is ignored by those who believe humans can control temperature on Earth. Endorsements of any carbon discussion by ag groups is a huge mistake. Know what your representatives are selling. Wake up, America! With your help we can get back on the road to reality.

SCOTT KERBS, SARATOGA, WYOMING

**I DID HUG A DOG**

CJ: I did, in fact, hug a dog, pet a cat, kissed a horse and still know that Trump is bad for our country! I'm sending \$25 not the discount \$19 since I guess my government made all the prices go up. Harris will win in November and then what, another riot?

DAVID PORTER MISSO, TULELAKE, CALIF.  
*Riots like in 2020 in blue cities when too few were held accountable, havoc reigned, property, businesses and lives lost or destroyed, and Harris helped protect the bad guys? Those riots?—Ed.*

This country is at a crossroad and the truth needs to be put forth at every opportunity. We cannot be allowed to slip into "Third World" status! USA-USA-USA.

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT SENTMAN, TIFFIN, IOWA

**ANYBODY HOME?**

The Fall 2024 issue torqued my anger, especially the stories "Intrinsic Values" by Chance Gowan and "There is no Climate Emergency" by Tom Harris. I decided to write the five senators who did not participate in the vote that

On the heels of the transmission line controversy, efforts by a new LLC to build a "solar garden" on farmland 0.4 miles from my house resumed. The county tried to stop the "garden" by amending the county code to prohibit such construction on land zoned AG, but with state overrule, the developer wins. I dug into that LLC and its founder, too, and yup—"holy cow" again.

Here, we raise animals and grow crops. The rolling hills are dotted with horses. People sell honey and eggs, on the honor system. We have trains, quarries, an asphalt plant and men who still open doors for women. The guy at the feed store has a place in Montana—bought it when he got home from Vietnam. Not happy at all about the low-lifes killing his cattle and squatting on his land.

CINDY MONROE, WOODBINE, MARYLAND  
*See page 82 re "Skinner's Landscapes."—Ed.*



allowed Tracey Stone-Manning to be confirmed as director of BLM.

Guess what? I couldn't get a direct email address to those senators. I called their Washington office and had to leave a voice message. I called several local offices of the various senators and finally got a way to send Marsha Blackburn an email by sending it first to an assistant at the local office. Also, if you are not a constituent of the state, they do not want to communicate with you.

Finally, I called my senator for Georgia Raphael Warnock's local office and they gave me the way to send emails to Washington. His is warnock@warnock.senate.gov. Please pass this on to your readers who are as mad as hell and aren't going to take it anymore and want to write their senators and/or representatives.

I did send my letter to all five senators but so far no answer.

WAYNE NORRIS, CLEVELAND, GEORGIA

Enclosed something to keep the lights on. Keep kicking liberal butts.

JIM PASS JR., GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Thank you for your beautiful 2025 RANGE calendar. I give one to our little local post office for the lobby so many can enjoy it. I live at the foot of the Trinity Alps wilderness in a little town of 200 people. Years ago we had a grazing permit in that area.

MARY HAMILTON, TRINITY CENTER, CALIF.  
*See page 65.—Ed.*

I enjoy your magazine which tells about real life on the range. I grew up watching Roy Rogers with my dad on Saturday mornings. He could've been a cowboy instead of a Wisconsin dairy farmer and inventor. He lived to 94 (my mom 98) eating eggs and meat and garden vegetables every day! I try to follow that, along with riding, dancing and main-

taining trails on my small farm. Thank you for all you do to promote “western life and values.”

JUDITH HANSEN JORGENSON

RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

You must have liked “King of the Cowboys,” by Bill Jones in Summer 2024.—Ed.



So sad to see the suspension tag on your Instagram account. Try Twitter—no censorship now and there are a ton of ag farm rural related accounts. You may get blowback because everyone has an opinion, particularly those who have no idea what they’re talking about, but RANGE is not new to that. Also you will see things you can’t un-see, which is the downside of no censorship.

NATALIE BRIGHT, CANYON, TEXAS

Keep up the good, check your cinch, and keep spurring!

RANDY KIESER, TORRINGTON, WYOMING

### A BEACON OF LIGHT

I am a 91-year-old rancher. I do not like the communist direction our great country is headed. Your magazine is a beacon of light in a dark world. I pray you can keep up.

NORMAN SHARP, TONOPAH, NEVADA

We in the U.S.A. tend to take private property rights for granted. Look up “right to roam laws,” which are prevalent in much of Europe. Your brief research will quickly make you appreciate our “God-given property rights,” which are codified into law in our Constitution.

MIKE DAIL, MASON, TEXAS

Hope you never stop printing RANGE.

PAT BIEDERMAN

JOHNSON CREEK, WISCONSIN

### LETTERS FROM NOBODY

I am always bothered by (and give you much credit for printing) the letters critical of the magazine that almost always are “unsigned.” For heaven’s sake, what have they got to lose by being “brave” enough to acknowledge their names? How effective do they feel such letters would be when they essentially just come from “nobody”? If they feel so strongly about the magazine’s contents, why haven’t they enough courage to indicate who they are?

SANDRA DAVIDSON

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, CALIFORNIA

Many things have been offered in memory of Frank DuBois. All his career history, the knowledge of the workings of the American bureaucracy, the bravado of character, and the curmudgeon idioms of Western lore did a pretty good job of defining Frank, but there was always something much more simplistic in his being. He was The (true) Westerner that he constantly attempted to describe in his blog of the same name. He was north/south without compromise. He had the uncanny ability to set standards of conduct that remained manifest, he was fascinated by his interpretation of the western persona, and he knew when to wear a hat and when to remove it in respect to his surroundings. I will cherish my relationship with him and our sometimes-heated debates on what he deemed appropriate for his blog. What we always agreed upon that was never compromised, though, was our love and respect for our way of life and the people shaped and molded by this great American West.

*Adios, mi amigo, Pancho. Hasta que nos volvamos a encontrar.*

STEVE WILMETH, MESILLA, NEW MEXICO

Especially enjoyed “Leather & Lace” by Stephen L. Wilmeth in Spring 2024. So many women fill in where help is needed. The informative articles are valuable and we need the truth, which is so often hidden. RANGE also reminds us how special our lifestyle is.

BETTY HUMBERT, TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA

God bless your work and insight into sensible.

ART & ELIZABETH LYONS

PENDLETON, OREGON

### IT’S NOT YOUR BATTLE

CJ, I thought of you when I read Bill Bullard’s recent R-CALF column which included this:

*“In June, Charles and Heather Maude, who are ranchers from Caputa, South Dakota, were individually indicted on charges of theft*

*of government property. The couple are accused of stealing and modifying a United States Forest Service Grazing Allotment that consists of about 25 acres. The Maude family has owned and managed this grazing allotment free of infraction or rule violation for over 100 years. The couple were charged separately, so they must retain two attorneys and are each facing up to 10 years in prison and fines up to \$250,000.*

*“Based on the information we have today, these indictments are occurring while the government states the Maude family currently maintains their allotment in ‘good standing.’ What appears to be at issue is that the original fence-line boundary of the Maude’s allotment is not perfectly presented on the survey of the allotment that was completed over 100 years ago.”*

I know RANGE has fought these battles in the West for a long time and I must admit I always thought it was “your” battle. I have been wrong all this time. Keep swinging.

BRETT KENZY, PRESIDENT, R-CALF USA

IONA, SOUTH DAKOTA

### ELEPHANT INVASION!

We are being invaded by elephants and yesterday a professional hunter who has been hunting in the surrounding about million acres



made an interesting comment. He said there is more grass here on Dimbangombe in 10 square yards than he has seen on any thousand acres where he is operating.

ALLAN SAVORY, DIMBANGOMBE, AFRICA

See page 42 for more Savory.—Ed.

Thank you for reminding me of my heritage every time I open this great publication.

BEVERLY BRADSHAW, SOUTH JORDAN, UTAH

I enjoyed Barry Perryman’s “In the Future” in Fall 2024. It is ironic that he used Crocs as an example. You may or may not be aware that the great 2006 dystopian comedy movie “Idiocracy” used Crocs on all the cast members. It was a cult classic and the film’s characters wear



Crocs as their primary footwear.

Mike Judge, the film's writer and director, thought they were "just stupid plastic shoes" and agreed to use them to save money.

ROBO HENDRICKSON, VIA EMAIL



## THE BRIT TWIT

I always read "Up Front" first, and then I look for Studdert and Quinlan and Jones and Pitts and Marjorie Haun and pretty soon a few hours have gone by and I've read the whole issue. All your writers are excellent. Alex Newman's report should be read by everyone. Chris Conrad's story about Jim Bridger reading Shakespeare makes me wonder why I didn't read Shakespeare in school. I'm getting more education by reading *RANGE* than I ever got in public education. Did you and Conrad mean Jim Bowie or Jim Bridger?

KATHY SMITH, ST. GEORGE, UTAH

*Serious fatigue and an empty page four hours before daylight on the day the issue was due at the printer's put my brain on tilt. All my fault, but the online version at rangemagazine.com is now fixed and Conrad forgave me.—Ed.*

## THE FROG SIMMERS

*RANGE* doesn't "scare" the left because of the percentage of people you touch—a tiny cultural fragment of this nation. I started paying attention to *RANGE* back in '94, reading about the idiocy of owls and wolves and becoming more offended by the idiocy of city people.

I grew up in Boise with log trucks rolling through town to the lumber mill, seeing the log trains come out of the mountains. The foothills north of the city were winter range for the mountain cattlemen. Now "environmentalists" use the old cow trails for recreation. I guess at least they're getting out there to enjoy, but they've no idea. Because my mother was a barfly buckle bunny at a critical

age of my life, I was exposed to cowboys, ranch hands, and to top it, buckaroos.

The articles in *RANGE* and my time with livestock lit a fire and I spent my GI bill on a degree in range science. Unfortunately, my dream of conserving the lifestyle has died, because the cancer of progressivism continues to grow. The vast majority of this nation has no idea what is at loss, nor do they care. Their bellies are full, and their needs are met.

It's not too much longer, I'm afraid, and that frog that's been simmering in the pot all these years will soon be soup for the elites. The great experiment that is America is becoming a failure. Not because it's a bad experiment, but because too few have the gratitude to continue working in the laboratory. (Kudos to *RANGE* and that ole gal with the Great Danes. I pray you are not quashed by the machine.)

MIKE MILLER, POWERS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

On behalf of Bear Lake Middle School, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for the Range Conservation Foundation's generous donation of the hardback book titled "Cowboys, Dogs & Horses." We are thrilled to add such a valuable and enriching resource to



our school library. The book's themes align perfectly with our commitment to fostering a diverse and engaging reading environment for our students. Your dedication to education is making a positive difference.

JANET LINDSAY, ED.D., PRINCIPAL, BEAR LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL, MONTPELIER, IDAHO

Enclosed is our check for the renewal of seven gift subscriptions, our own subscription and some extra funds to express our appreciation and to support your noble efforts in issuing this excellent magazine.

Each year when we renew our gifts, I say a prayer of gratitude that there are still talented people with the courage, fortitude and grace to produce—against some formidable odds—each issue with such truthful, well-reasoned and informative articles in a beautifully illustrated and expertly edited product.

Kudos for being that voice in the wilderness. Please keep up the good work, knowing that you have the respect and thanks of so many of us out here for our beloved U.S.A.

PAM WESSEL, LAVINE, MONTANA

Re "Up Front, Fall 2024," my Mom, who taught grammar school, high school and college before getting her Masters in Library Science was a lover of Shakespeare. When her only daughter (me) had difficulty with the Old Master, she bought me Charles and Mary Lamb's easier translation! Then she took me at about age nine to L.A. to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (a very young Mickey Rooney was Puck!) and I finally saw the light! My first stage play!

DONNA ANDRESS, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

*I played Puck in that play when I was in Brit grammar school. I was as hopeless at that as I was at violin, cooking and Latin.—Ed.*

"Thursday's Energy Absurdity: The True Cost of Rural Solar" (via substack.com) coming to a farm or ranch (and/or any open space) near you...as you know.

- Makes no economic sense; produces low-efficiency, high-cost electricity which cannot cover its own capex and opex, so must be heavily subsidized by taxpayers.
- Relies upon Chinese materials, manufacturers and suppliers.
- Relatively short functional lifespan, generates (word play intended) large quantities of solid waste from expired components.
- Covers immense areas, eliminating any/all other uses including wildlife habitat.

■ Requires new power lines and corridors, eliminating further wildlife habitat and beneficial use of land.

- Aesthetically hideous.

All of these disqualifying drawbacks apply also to "windfarms," but these abominations also kill millions of birds and bats annually, and now, offshore wind turbine concentrations are also ruining commercial fisheries and killing ocean wildlife.

Not simply wrong-headed, misguided or even irrational, this is madness....

JOHN H. HOAK, NEW ERA PETROLEUM, INC. SHERIDAN, WYOMING

## A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

It is hard to express how much your magazine means to me. It is like a voice in the wilderness shouting the truth and hope for the future.

MARY SANSOUCY, DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS