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Hello Everyone! The week started off with the Northwest ablaze. Fortunately, no troubles here at the ranch; just smoke settled onto the valley. Made for some colorful sunsets.



Following the busy two weeks of the Buck Clinics, this week was a vacation not only for our guests, but also for us crew! Randy even rode with us. The haying now complete, Randy got back to his riding. He just jumped right in

with teaching horsemanship and cattle working. Shayne and Des followed Buck down to his next clinic for the week. What a dream to be able to dive into this horsemanship with Buck on the road. Fortunately we have extraordinarily skilled horsemen in Shayne, Randy, and Roby. The wide variety of experience they have to share with us as each came from completely different sides of riding.

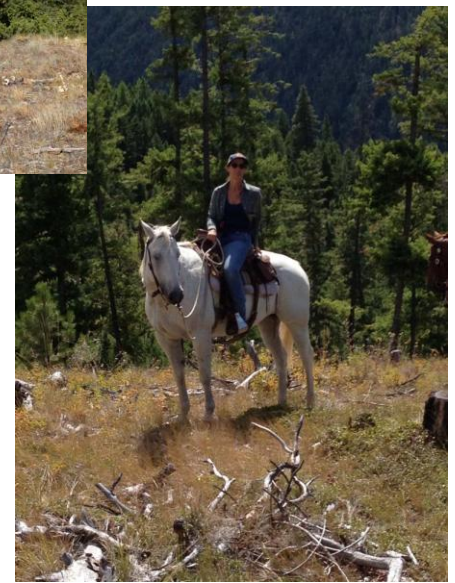
While fun was had here at the ranch, I had a couple days out with some folks on our summer range, and the rest of the days I went out on my own. The cattle are lying low during the day...we have to look under every shrub; if this guy hadn't shook his ear tag we would have ridden right by! There are 176, 900 to 1000 lb. steers out, and Graze looks like a ghost town. Riding at Graze is better than an Easter Egg Hunt! When we find them, they are like a bunch of teenagers sleeping in after a full night. We walk up



to them and sometimes have to pat on them to stand up and move so we can see that their feet are good, and eyes are clear. Once their numbers and location are noted, we move on to find more. We may see 30 in a day. Here's the country they have to roam in though.



Friday, California Girl, Jennifer on the left, rode out with me. I parked the truck and trailer further south this time to hopefully have better luck in seeing some cattle. I



don't know where they all were all week, but I bet we saw at least 70 head that day! All were shiny, butterballs and ready to see some new country. Right On! Sunny with cool breezes, they moved easily for us to our furthest southern water hole.

Satisfied with a good days work while noting their ear tag numbers, G23 showed us his bad eye. 1:30 pm...we haven't eaten lunch yet...but it had to wait as we had a long move back to the north-loading corral. Just out of curiosity, I started my GPS app to track us. We started out with G23 and four other buddies. A half an hour in to the move, our steers piled in with another 30 hiding in a thicket. They were staring disappointedly into a recently dried up water tank. Dang, I thought, the spring had just gone dry within the last two days. So Jen and I peeled them out of the shrubbery onto the roadway and got them heading to the south water hole, G23 in the lead! I did manage to sort him back through the herd and enlisted four new buddies for him to travel with. On I went to the north, and Jen took the herd to the south. Next trick had to be figured out as I

started passed our truck and trailer. Jen hadn't returned yet, so I stashed G23 and buddies in the shade, jumped my horse in the trailer and drove further down the road. By the time I rode back, Jen had shown up. Off we went again. Passed our truck and trailer, got her and cattle lined out, trotted back, moved the truck up behind, jumped out, lined her and the cattle out again...we did this for 8 MILES!!! 5 pm and two more changes in buddies for G23 we arrived at the corral. Just as we were closing up the pen, Randy showed up with another truck and trailer. We loaded up the steers, and horses and headed for the ranch. Jen was a tired cowgirl! We found a really cool feather along the way that day that she put in her hat. She earned it! All in a day in the life of ranching. I wouldn't trade it for anything else.

I think of Randy's stories of riding the outsides when he was cowboying in Wyoming. There were days when he wouldn't see a cow. That's the purpose of riding the "outsides"; you are making sure your cattle haven't left your range. So we're doing great.



Here's Marilyn and Doc. She worked really hard this week to grasp this way with horses. Seeing the rightness of it all, she wanted to build her skills to share with her horse at home. "He'll be so much happier!"

We have a big group coming this week so we're all busily turning the ranch over to get a few hours off before we start again. Have a great weekend!

Dori and the crew

