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PLUS an essay by
John Jakes on
California Gold

THE GREATEST PLACES

to Live the West

What is home? A state of mind? A front-porch view? A couple of acres to call your own? Here are 20 spots around the West where creating a home is a dream come true. Whether you're retiring, relocating, or looking for room to grow, *American Cowboy* has found the places where Old West charm, open rangeland, and outdoor activities come together like nowhere else. By Kevin Carmody



LIVING THE LIFE NEAR ZION NATIONAL PARK,
A SHORT DRIVE FROM ST. GEORGE, UTAH.

Texas/Okla.



Weatherford, Texas



Still virtually untouched by the suburban sprawl of **Dallas** and **Fort Worth**, **Weatherford** exudes all the character, charm, and attitude of yesteryear. Located 20 miles west of **Fort Worth**, this town of 24,000 moves at a slower pace. With deep roots in all things West, Weatherford is known as the **Cutting Horse Capital of the World**. Tour the famed **Historic Downtown District**, highlighted by the **Museum of the Americas**, or catch a night of action-packed cutting at the **Silverado on the Brazos**. Weatherford was also the inspiration for Larry McMurtry's novel-turned-miniseries, *Lonesome Dove*. Living here can't be beat, as the cost of living index is 10 percent below the national average, and homes are modestly priced (decent "starter" houses can be had for \$110,000). The climate is temperate, save for summers that can run brutally hot, and let's not forget that Texas has no state income tax and social security benefits aren't taxed here, either. The clincher might just be the sandy loam soil, perfect for cutting-horse ranches. Close to a major metropolitan area, yet far away enough to live in tranquility, Weatherford is a place to hitch your horse and hang your hat for a while.

TEXAS IN BLOOM: BLUEBONNETS, THE STATE FLOWER OF TEXAS, BLANKET A MEADOW NEAR WEATHERFORD.

► **POPULATION:** 24,000
► **AVERAGE HOME PRICE:** \$139,000
► **LAND (per acre):** \$6,000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN COWBOY MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES TOP TWENTY PLACES TO LIVE THE WEST

Boulder, CO, March 1, 2010—What is home? A state of mind? A front-porch view? A couple of acres to call your own? *American Cowboy*, America's favorite Western lifestyle magazine, today unveiled its third annual list of the twenty best places to live the West—places to call home—in its April/May issue and on www.americancowboy.com.

The selections were based on criteria for what makes a Western community, well, Western: authentic cowboy culture and charm, a healthy respect for history and heritage, abundant recreational, leisure, and outdoor activities, and a strong sense of community coupled with a free-spirited, rugged independence.

"The places we chose embody the magic and spirit that *is* the great American West, and we're thrilled to recognize each town for its commitment to honoring, celebrating, and preserving its Western history and heritage," said Bill Garrels, publisher of *American Cowboy*. "Whether you're looking for a new place to settle or the perfect place to vacation, these communities deliver top value in the form of adventure, culture, authenticity, natural beauty and frontier history and tradition. This year's selections really offer something for everyone."

***American Cowboy's* 2010 Twenty Places to Live the West:**

Salinas, California

Brawley, California

Chico, California

Santa Maria, California

Ellensburg, Washington

- more -

Top Twenty Places (page 2)

Billings, Montana

Hermiston, Oregon

Roseburg, Oregon

Red Lodge, Montana

Sandpoint, Idaho

Pahrump, Nevada

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Flagstaff, Arizona

Fort Collins, Colorado

Grand Junction, Colorado

St. George, Utah

Weatherford, Texas

Kerrville, Texas

Kingsville, Texas

Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Additional information about this year's top selections can be found in the April/May issue of *American Cowboy* and online at www.americancowboy.com.

About *American Cowboy* Magazine

America's favorite Western lifestyle publication since 1994, *American Cowboy* covers all aspects of the Western lifestyle, delivering the best in entertainment, travel and events, food and fashion, history and legend. Through its signature mix of in-depth reporting, stunning photography, and social commentary, *American Cowboy* keeps alive America's love affair with all things Western and nurtures the dream of those who aspire to live the lifestyle. For more information, please visit www.americancowboy.com.

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