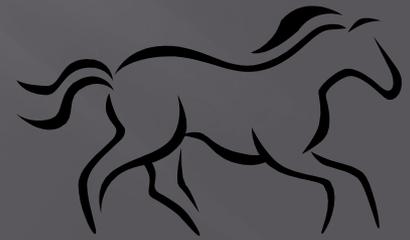


# LITTLE BOOK CLIFFS WILD HORSE RANGE

BLM and Friends of the  
Mustangs (FOM)  
Partnership



# BLM/FOM Partnership

- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding and Volunteer Agreement.
  - ❖ Covers Current Members
  - ❖ Renewed Annually
- ❖ FOM meets once per month at BLM Office
- ❖ 501 (c) 3 organization with by-laws and officers
- ❖ Annual volunteer hours have ranged from 1500 to 4500
- ❖ In 2012 the FOM and BLM celebrated 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- ❖ Amazing safety record given the type of work

# Workload

- ▣ - **On Range Activities (Work Days)**
  - Check Fences and Springs (13), repair as needed.
  - Monitor Health of Wild Horses and Range.
  - Sign and repair trails and routes to get to wild horse area.
  - Reseed areas of range.
  - Fence stream crossings
  - Maintenance of facilities on range (cabin, low gap camp)
  - Map and GPS Horse Range
  - Wild Horse Gathers (unique)

# Adobe Spring

Before



After

## Fence Stream Crossing



## Trail Signs

# Monitoring of Range Conditions



Low Gap Camp



Utilization



Trend



Pine Ridge Fire

# Monitoring of Horse Condition



# Off Range Activities

- ▣ **Promotion of Wild Horses:**
  - Fruita Farm and Ranch Days
  - Heritage Days in Palisade
  - Debeque Wild Horse Days
  - Steadfast Steeds on Glade Park
  - Open Houses
  - Horse Expos
  - Compliance Checks – BLM trained
  - FOM Webpage & Face Book
  - Help new adopters and find mustangs homes

BLM supplies promotional  
Materials and panels



Debeque  
Wild  
Horse  
Days



Open Houses



# Fertility Control Program

- Dated 14 mares thus far in 2014 (ave 20-25 yr)
- Started in 2002 with USGS Research
  - Four volunteers (hired by USGS) were part of the research
- Have treated over 90 mares
- 325 Remote Delivery Hits
- Four current volunteer darters
  - Trained by Jay Kirkpatrick (BLM approved)
  - Marty Felix, Georgia Manus, Gerald Thygerson, John Boughtton
  - Billie Hutchings is record keeper (Who, when dated, where dated (left hip or right hip), type of vaccine and dose “ and body condition. Kept in data base.

# Fertility Control (cont)

- ▣ BLM provides:
  - Darting Supplies (Darts, vaccine, darting gun, misc. supplies)
  - Vehicle if available or desired
  - Radios
  - Some private vehicle gas costs within last year
- ▣ Volunteer provides:
  - Time
  - Gas for vehicle
  - Commitment and knowledge
  - Computer for record keeping



10/27/2014

Darts



10/27/2014

Mixing Kit

# Darting Team

- ▣ Meet annually to discuss mares to be darted
- ▣ Based on age, approachability and genetic background



"I raise you  
A dollar"

Found  
Dart



Look like a rock



Practice a Must



Road Hunting



Look like a tree

# Results so far

## ▣ Foaling Rates

### ▣ Pre-treatment

▣ 1999 - 37

▣ 2000 - 31

▣ 2001 - 38

▣ 2002 - 41

▣ 2003 - 40

▣

### Post-treatment

2004 - 25

2005 - 17

2006 - 26

2007 - 24

2008 - 17

2009 - 16

2010 - 11

2011 - 11

2012 - 17

2013 - 11

2014 - 12

# Results (cont)

- ▣ What does this mean:
  - Population growth went from 20-25% to 8-15%
  - Gather cycle went from every 2-3 years to 6 years
  - Less Horses removed, less in holding facilities
  - Could not do without volunteers

# 2013 Bait/Water Trapping

- ▣ Duties on Horse Range:
  - Helped monitor utilization levels on grasses
  - Helped select potential horses to be removed
  - Hauled water and bait (hay)
  - Monitored motion cameras
  - Helped set up traps
  - Helped separate horses and load

## ▣ Duties at Holding Facility in GJ

- Feed and Water Horses
- Separate and organize pens
- Keep area dry
- Work with veterinarian
- Talk with visitors

## ▣ Duties at Vet Day and Adoption

- Move horses between pens and thru squeeze chute
- Assist with record keeping
- Answer questions for adopters
- Help load horses
- Pass along success stories



# Herd Management Plan

- ▣ Initial Public Scoping
  - More fertility control
  - Less fertility control
  - Prefer Bait/Water trapping
  - Increase AML
  - Manage for zero population growth/No more gathers
  - Allow for some population growth/occasional gathers
  - Remove WSA designation
  - New Range Improvements: Guzzlers, Ponds, Rx

# USGS Research

- ▣ Fecal Analysis
  - Population Estimation
  - Genetic Diversity
  - Seed and Weed dispersal



# Horse Transplants



Conformation



Color



Size

# Horse transplants

- ▣ The 3 horses from Wyoming with new addresses.

Volunteers helped develop shopping list



Volunteers were present for transport and release of horses



# Why the partnership works

## ▣ TRUST

- ▣ Working together in field
- ▣ Agree on goals for herd
- ▣ Takes time – must earn

- ▣ Commitment from both sides
- ▣ Good communication
- ▣ Volunteer's response



