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 30th Anniversary
- Amazing safety record given the type of work
- 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

Pine Ridge Fire

Trend
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

- Darted 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 darted, where darted (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
Darting Team

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

“I raise you A dollar”
Found Dart

Road Hunting

Practice a Must

Look like a rock

Look like a tree
Results so far

Foaling Rates

Pre-treatment | Post-treatment
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2000 - 31 | 2005 - 17 | 2010 - 11
2001 - 38 | 2006 - 26 | 2011 - 11
2002 - 41 | 2007 - 24 | 2012 - 17
2003 - 40 | 2008 - 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

- Color
- Conformation
- Size

Examples of different horse characteristics.
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