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August 2012

Volunteers Remove Nearly 800 Pounds of Barbed Wire from Wild Horse Area

By BLM Public Affairs Specialist, David Boyd

About a dozen volunteers donated their weekend to helping make the Sand Wash Wild Horse Herd Management Area safer for wild horses.



The volunteers rolled and removed 780 pounds of old barbed wire from three separate areas in the Sand Wash HMA. The effort was supported by funding from the BLM Director's Challenge, which is a national program aimed at improving Western rangeland conditions where wild horses roam and engaging volunteers in the stewardship of public lands.

"We really appreciate the hard work of these volunteers, who made this area safer for not only wild horses, but also native wildlife and human visitors," said BLM Little Snake Field Manager Wendy Reynolds.

The first site was a 5-acre area that included a stock pond with an old fence dating to the 1960s around its perimeter. The second site appeared to be an old wild horse trap dating to at least the 1940s that included barbed wire strung through junipers to create wings to funnel the horses to a corral. All of the historical integrity was left in place, but the dangerous barbed wire was removed. Finally, volunteers removed the fallen barbed wire from an old, 0.5-mile fence dating to at least the 1950s.

The barbed wire was taken to a local scrap metal recycling facility and the proceeds were given to the Sand Wash Basin Wild Horse Club.

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Employee Spotlight BLM Colorado Educator

Kyle Sullivan
working as a
with the Colo

The 158,000-acre Sand Wash HMA is about 45 miles west of Craig, Colo. It is one of four wild horse herd management areas in the state. The Little Snake Field Office manages the area in the BLM's Northwest District. Wild horses are an important part of the field office and the BLM is committed to maintaining a healthy wild horse herd in this area as part of its multiple-use mission.

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BLM Announces Oil and Gas 2013 Leasing Schedule

By Public Affairs Specialist, Vanessa Delgado

The Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Office recently announced its 2013 oil and gas leasing schedule with information on upcoming lease sales and opportunities for public participation.

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The online leasing schedule was created earlier this year as part of leasing reform to provide the public with more opportunities to get involved in the leasing process and better inform our decisions on public lands. The schedule is located on the following link:

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http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/oil_and_gas_lease.html

The BLM is tasked with responsibly developing oil and gas resources to help reduce our dependence on foreign oil in a thoughtful and balanced way that takes into consideration signature landscapes and cultural resources. In addition to easing our dependence on foreign oil, onshore energy development also supports economic stability for local communities throughout the county.

The State of Colorado receives 49 percent of the proceeds of each lease sale. In Fiscal Year 2011, Colorado received more than \$154 million from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for all federal minerals, including oil and gas. Statewide, there are more than 52,678 jobs tied to mineral and energy development on public lands.

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The BLM manages the public's land and mineral estate for multiple uses, ranging from energy development to wildlife habitat to recreation and conservation. The BLM also touts a robust regulatory framework, mandated by laws like the Mineral Leasing Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and many other federal laws and regulations.

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More information about BLM Colorado's leasing program is located online at:
http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas.html

Colorado Wild Horse Inmate Program

By BLM Wild Horse Program Lead, Fran Ackley

Canon City, Colorado, is home to the BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office. It is also home to one of the largest prison populations in the country. During the 1980s, the BLM was implementing an adoption program as part of its effort to manage wild horse populations and their



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habitat, and many mustangs became candidates for adoption. At the same time, the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) was seeking labor opportunities for inmates. In 1986, the BLM and the CDOC recognized an opportunity to help each other and created the Colorado Wild Horse Inmate Program (CWHIP).

Cody West from the Colorado Department of Corrections.

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What began as a makeshift, temporary holding and training facility, with a capacity of about 50 horses, has evolved into a state-of-the-art training facility, the largest BLM holding facility in the country, with a capacity of 3,000 animals. It has more than 100 pens, varying in capacity from 1 to 125 horses, connected by an alley system that was built and designed by BLM and CWHIP staffs. The CWHIP employs seven full-time staff members from the CDOC as well as 50-60 inmates. In addition to routine sorting, moving, and loading, the staff administers tens of thousands of vaccinations annually, feeds the horses 20-30 tons of hay per day, and deworms more than 10,000 horses each year. The most time-consuming task is keeping hooves trimmed, but with the aid of four hydraulic tilt chutes, supervised inmates can trim 400 hooves or more per day.

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Over its 25-year history, the CWHIP has trained thousands of inmates in animal care and horsemanship. The work provides inmates with a meaningful, productive way to pay their debt to society and saves millions of taxpayer dollars. In addition to learning a valuable skill, inmates gain a sense of accomplishment and pride, self-esteem, and respect. Mustangs have a way of leveling the playing field among inmates—regardless of their size or how many tattoos they have, they're all equal in the eyes of the mustang. Most of the inmates have no experience when they begin, and most don't look like horsemen, but after a year of working mustangs 5-7 days a week, they know their business. For many of them, taking a wild mustang, training it, and seeing it adopted is the most rewarding experience of their lives. Upon release, some inmates have made new lives for themselves in the equine industry.

Learn more : at: www.blm

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A unique bond and a mutual respect develop between many of the inmates and the horses they train. The day-to-day struggles and victories experienced between the inmates and mustangs can be seen in "The Wild Horse Redemption," a 2007 documentary based on the CWHIP that follows the capture and training of several mustangs. It was selected for the Toronto Film Festival as well as several other film festivals.

Places to Visit in Arkansas

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, several other states initiated inmate training programs based on the Colorado model. These programs were initially successful, but changing circumstances required the BLM to withdraw financial support. One reason was that BLM's new removal process targeted younger horses that did not need to be trained to make them more adoptable. Canon City's program was faced with a choice: either shut down or make the program pay for itself. The CDOC chose to make the program self-supporting. Rather than simply gentling (a relative term) mustangs and sending them to adoptions all over the country, the CDOC reasoned that there was a much larger market for saddle-trained mustangs and that training horses to ride might make enough money to support the program. It was a big risk for the CDOC and the BLM, but it paid off, and it forms the foundation of their partnership today. Even after 25 years, demand for trained mustangs outstrips CWHIP's ability to train them.

Expansive vistas the upper valley The valley's be rich historical sites for both tribes.

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Activities: Bill Gold Panning,

There have been many success stories for CWHIP mustangs. Graduates have gone on to compete in dressage, jumping, calf roping, team roping, barrel racing, and competitive trail riding. They have also been used for search and rescue, equine-assisted psychotherapy, organizations for disabled riders, and just about every other equine discipline. The most common use, though, is for recreational riding.

The U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) has been adopting CWHIP mustangs since 2007, and it now has more than 125 mustangs patrolling both the northern and southern borders of the nation. These mustangs have become favorites of the USBP due to their durability, versatility, tough feet, and the fact that they are at home in rough terrain. On January 20, 2009, 10 mustangs from the USBP's Project Noble Mustang program marched in the Presidential inauguration parade in Washington, DC.

The first and longest-running inmate training program of its kind, the CWHIP exemplifies a win-win partnership and continues to provide benefits to adopters, the taxpaying public, inmates, and mustangs.

Francis "Fran" Ackley has been with the BLM for 28 years, the last 20 as the program leader for Colorado's wild horse and burro program. He lives in Canon City and has raised three daughters, all of whom learned to ride on mustangs.

In the News

[Guest Commentary: Investing in the outdoors](#) (7/29/12)- As leaders of trade associations representing thousands of outdoor recreation businesses, we know that our country's public lands and waters provide the bulk of recreational opportunities that fuel this important economic engine. We want to see responsible management of these public resources so all of us can access, enjoy, and continue to benefit from them.

[Fire restrictions eased on federal land](#) (7/28/12)- It appears that the fire danger is subsiding in the region, prompting the Bureau of Land Management to reduce its fire restrictions on Friday.

[Friends of the Mustangs" celebrates 30 years](#) (7/28/12)- A local group dedicating to managing and protecting the Little Book Cliffs horse herd celebrates its 30th birthday.

[America's Biggest Landlord](#) (7/27/12)- The Bureau of Land Management administers about 700 million acres of federal mineral rights and about 248 million acres of public land.

[Interior's Solar Energy Zones Initiative Targets 16,000 Plus Acres in the San Luis Valley](#) (7/25/12)- Colorado is one of six states that will be home to utility scale solar projects via the Solar Energy Zones initiative from the U.S. Department of Interior. The 285,000 acres across 17 sites include more than 16,000 acres in the San Luis Valley on the Western Slope.

Recent Press Releases

Rock Climbing

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List of Fees:
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For more in
[www.parks.s
/Pages/Arka](http://www.parks.state.co.us/Pages/Arkansas)

[Kremmling and White River BLM offices lower fire restrictions \(07-27-12\)](#)

[BLM lowers fire restrictions to Stage 1 Grand Valley Ranger District remains in Stage 1 \(07-27-12\)](#)

[BLM Issues Interim Final Rule Regarding Placer Mining Claim Maintenance Fees \(07-27-12\)](#)

[Friends of the Mustangs Turns Thirty \(07-26-12\)](#)

[BLM Seeks Comments on Hartman Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan \(07-25-12\)](#)

[BLM issues final environmental assessment on Destiny Mine proposal \(07-19-12\)](#)

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