

# **Friends of the Mustangs Bylaws**

## **Article I**

### **Name and Purpose**

#### **1.01 Name**

The name of the organization shall be Friends of the Mustangs, a non-profit organization, hereinafter referred to as "FOM". The mission of FOM is to promote the welfare and awareness of mustangs in particular, and to assist the Bureau of Land Management in the maintenance and protection of mustangs, including the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Herd and Range.

#### **1.02 Purpose**

FOM shall provide educational opportunities to promote awareness of mustangs via participation in community events including fairs, horse shows, expos, parades, farmers markets, open houses, training and demonstration clinics as well as providing, upon request, audio/visual presentations and discussion formats for civic groups, churches, schools, museums and other organized groups.

FOM shall also provide support for the Bureau of Land Management, primarily the Grand Junction Field Office, in the form of financial support, goods, and volunteers. FOM volunteers will coordinate their efforts with the BLM for the benefit of the BLM Range Management Plan for the Little Book Cliffs Range and Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Herd.

## **Article II**

### **Membership**

#### **2.01 Eligibility**

Any individual, who will have the best interest of the mission of FOM and the horses, and pays dues, shall be eligible for membership in FOM.

#### **2.02 Eligibility for Gathers**

To participate in a BLM gather, a member must have a current paid family or individual FOM membership for at least one year prior. Member must ask the board of directors for approval at least six months before the gather date and be willing to undergo a training session regarding gather procedures.

#### **2.03 Classification**

The following is a list of the membership classifications:

- A. Individual
- B. Family

- C. Honorary (at the discretion of the board of directors)
- D. Life membership

#### **2.04 Non-discrimination**

No person shall be excluded from membership in FOM due to race, color, creed, gender, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability.

#### **2.05 Number of Members and Transfer of Membership**

The number of members shall not be limited. Membership is non-transferable.

#### **2.06 Dues**

Membership dues are payable January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Membership will be canceled for any member who fails to pay dues by March 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. The amount of annual membership dues may be changed by the board of directors upon approval of a majority of the members present at the annual meeting.

#### **2.07 Suspension or Expulsion**

The board of directors may, upon the affirmative vote of four of its members, recommend suspending or expelling any member who fails to observe any polices or Bylaws, or whose conduct is contrary to the interests of FOM. Said person will receive written notice not less than 20 days after the board of directors and members vote on the recommendation, and said person will have an opportunity to be heard by the board of directors. The board of directors shall make a recommendation to the general membership to suspend or expel a member. The general membership must approve the suspension or expulsion by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting. No monies paid by this member shall be refundable should that member be suspended or expelled.

## **Article III**

### **Voting**

#### **3.01 Eligibility and Number of Votes**

All members present and in good standing are entitled to vote. All general FOM business will be voted on by members in attendance at regular meetings and can be done by show of hands or secret ballot upon request. Individual members are entitled to one vote. Family memberships are entitled to one vote for each member over the age of 16 years. Junior members 15 and under may vote **only** on the names of the mustangs. An Honorary membership has no voting privileges. Members may choose to abstain from voting in the election of officers or changes to bylaws.

### 3.02 Election of Board of Directors

Nominations for positions on the board of directors will take place at the October meeting each year. Written ballots will be provided to all members in November. Members will submit their ballots prior to the December meeting, and votes will be counted by at least 3 members.

## Article IV

### Meetings

#### 4.01 Regular Meetings

Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Date, time, and location will be published on the FOM website and newsletter.

#### 4.02 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall be held in January. New board of directors will assume their duties at the January meeting.

#### 4.03 Quorum

The presence at the meeting of members entitled to vote (current on dues), shall constitute a quorum for proposed changes or additions to regular FOM business. **A quorum of 10% of members entitled to vote, is required for the election of board of directors and amendments to the Bylaws.**

#### 4.04 Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the president or by the board of directors. Notice of such meetings shall be given no less than 10 days nor more than 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## Article V

### Parliamentary Procedure

Roberts Rules of Order, current edition, shall govern the proceedings of this organization, at the discretion of the president, and when not in conflict with these Bylaws or Articles of Organization.

## Article VI

### Financial

#### 6.01 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be January 1st through December 31st.

## **6.02 Financial Record Reviews**

Internal reviews of the financial records shall take place every three (3) years. A financial review committee shall be made up of volunteers or appointed by the board of directors. The financial review committee shall present a written report to the board of directors and general membership at the next regular membership meeting following the conclusion of the review. External reviews of the financial records may be scheduled at the discretion of the board of directors.

# **Article VII**

## **Officers**

### **7.01 Board of Directors**

The board of directors shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two members at large that volunteer for this position. If more than two members at large volunteer, the club will choose two by a majority vote. The board of directors may designate additional officer positions of the FOM and may appoint and assign duties to other non-director officers of the organization.

### **7.02 Eligibility, Term, and Vacancy**

Officers shall be elected for a term of one year. Only members 18 years of age or older and in good standing will be considered for office. Any member nominated for president must be a member for a period of one year prior to being nominated, and must possess a good understanding of the background and history of the FOM organization, along with the club's desire to have a balance between the caring of the mustangs, the range land, and promoting the mustangs. Vacancies in the board of directors due to resignation, death, or removal shall be filled by the board for the balance of the term of the director being replaced.

### **7.03 President**

The president shall be the chief executive officer of FOM and shall lead the board of directors in performing its duties and responsibilities. The president shall have the general powers and duties of management usually vested in the office of president, including presiding at all meetings of the members. The president shall also serve as an authorized signor of bank accounts and legal documents.

### **7.04 Vice-President**

In the absence or disability of the board president, the vice-president shall perform the duties of the board president. When so acting, the vice-president shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the board president. The vice-president shall have such other powers and perform such other duties prescribed for them by the board of directors or the board president. The vice-president has the authority to sign legal documents as requested by the president.

#### **7.05 Secretary**

The secretary will keep, or cause to be kept, accurate minutes of all meetings of the membership and the board of directors. The secretary will be responsible for giving notice of all meetings of the membership and the board of directors and shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned by the president. The secretary has the authority to sign legal documents as requested by the president.

#### **7.06 Treasurer**

The treasurer, subject to the order of the board of directors, shall have the care and custody of the money, funds, valuable papers and documents of FOM. The treasurer shall keep accurate accounts of all FOM transactions, which shall be the property of FOM, and shall render financial reports and statements of condition when so requested by the board of directors or the president. The treasurer will perform all duties commonly vested in the office of treasurer and such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the president. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in a timely manner. The treasurer shall also serve as the primary signor of bank accounts and is authorized to sign legal documents as requested by the president.

#### **7.07 Historian (non-director officer)**

The historian shall keep a scrapbook of all functions and activities of FOM. The historian is responsible for obtaining articles and clippings which pertain to FOM, along with any pictures or other items of interest, to be kept in chronological order and with identifying captions.

#### **7.08 Removal of an Officer**

Any officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members by ballot whenever in its collective judgment, the best interest of FOM will be served. In the event of a vacancy, the board will appoint a member to fill the position until the next annual meeting of members.

#### **7.09 Compensation of Officers**

All officers of FOM shall be volunteer, non-compensated positions chosen from and elected by the general membership. If at any time FOM enters into a transaction or arrangement with an individual officer, the Conflict of Interest Policy will apply.

#### **7.10 Liability**

The officers and agents of FOM shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the organization.

#### **7.11 Indemnification**

The officers and agents of the organization shall be indemnified by the organization to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of the State of Colorado.

## **Article VIII**

### **Fundraising**

FOM shall engage in fundraising activities for the purpose of supporting its mission. Recommendations for activities may be presented in writing, by members, to the board of directors at any regular meeting. After review by the board of directors, the approval of the fundraising activity will require a majority vote of the members present at that meeting. A fundraising committee will be formed at the time of approval; they will work closely with the treasurer for oversight of the fundraising activity, and will report to the board of directors on a monthly basis.

#### **8.01 Fundraising Activities**

FOM may choose to undertake fundraising in the forms of mail, email, phone or personal solicitations, foundation or grant solicitations, accept donations on the FOM website, donations from other organizations' websites, sale of FOM merchandise, silent auctions, or other activity as deemed prudent by the board of directors. All fundraising activities must also follow the guidelines set forth by Colorado state laws pertaining to fundraising activities.

#### **8.02 Fundraising Committee**

A fundraising committee will be established to monitor specific fundraising activities and research Colorado laws pertaining to them. Committee members can be either volunteer, elected or appointed as deemed appropriate by the board of directors. The treasurer will be included as a member of any fundraising committee.

## **Article IX**

### **Dissolution**

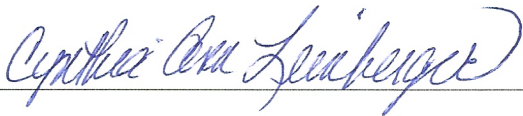

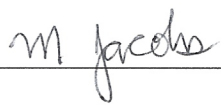
The organization (FOM) may be dissolved by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose. Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principle office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. It is the intention of FOM, upon dissolution, to donate all assets to one or more organizations, that meet the 501(c)(3) criteria, with a similar interest in promoting the welfare of mustangs, as decided on by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting called for this purpose.

# Article X

## Amendments to the Bylaws

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be presented to the members at any regular meeting. Any proposed changes to the Bylaws shall be submitted to all FOM members for a vote via email. If any members do not have access to email, the proposal will be mailed via regular mail.

We, the undersigned, being duly elected as President and Secretary of Friends of the Mustangs, do hereby certify that these Bylaws were approved and adopted by a majority vote of the members.

President		Date	
Secretary		Date	