

INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING GATHER:

The BLM is planning a gather on the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range (LBCs) September 11th-19th 2024. (Please note, the roads onto the range will be closed during this time) Friends of the Mustangs members will assist the BLM in identifying horses when they come into the traps, so the appropriate horses are removed based on the genetics of the herd. They will also help identify which horses need birth control before being released back to the range.

FOM members have assisted with the gathers for the last 40 years. The BLM policies for gathers have changed over the years with more decisions being made higher-up in the BLM instead of with the local BLM employees that we know and work with on a regular basis. We put our concerns in a formal letter to the BLM in response to their Environmental Assessment for the LBCs gather, and we were able to get a few positive changes. Our continued involvement with the gathers helps to ensure continued genetic diversity of the herd since FOM members have extensive knowledge of the horses. We hope they hire a careful pilot and a good crew that make horse safety their top priority. We have had safe helicopter gathers for many years on the LBCs, so it can be done safely when the right people are involved.

Once the gather is finished, FOM members will turn their efforts toward finding good homes for our beloved LBCs mustangs when we have an adoption in the spring/summer of 2025. We will also continue to expand our darting program to hopefully never need another helicopter gather again, instead just utilizing small bait trap gathers as needed. Please consider adopting one of our beautiful horses next year. Also, please consider joining FOM and volunteering to help the horses. We need your help! Thank you, FOM members.

If you're interested in volunteering, it's easiest to go to friendsofthemustangs.org and become a member for \$10. You'll receive a monthly newsletter with information. It's also helpful to attend meetings at 7pm at the Sheriff's Posse (25 Rd & F 1/2 Rd) the 2nd Thursday of every month. Talking with other members there will help you figure out how to contribute depending on your interests. Thanks!