

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 Gatherers

To participate in a BLM gather, a member must have a current paid family or individual FOM membership for at least one month prior. All members who wish to participate in the gather must complete a training session regarding gather procedures.

2.03 Classification

The following is a list of the membership classifications:

- A. Individual Membership: Must be 18 years old.
- B. Family Membership: 1 or 2 adults, 18 years or older, who reside at the same address along with their children.
- C. Honorary Membership: Conferred as an honor by election of majority vote of club members present at a monthly meeting. An honorary member will receive the newsletter, have a vote and does not pay dues.
- D. Junior Membership: Any person under 18 years old, with written consent from a parent or guardian who has signed a volunteer form with BLM is qualified to be a Junior member. They must be under direct supervision of a specified adult and are allowed to vote on horse names.

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 1st of each year. Membership will be canceled for any member who fails to pay dues by March meeting of that year. The amount of annual membership dues may be changed by approval of a majority of the members present at the annual meeting.

2.07 Suspension or Expulsion

Officers shall hear any grievances brought against a member who fails to follow the bylaws, policies or who conduct is contrary to the interests of FOM. The officers will decide if the grievance has merit. If so the offending member shall be notified and have an opportunity to address the grievance with the officers at a special meeting. If after this initial meeting the officers decide that further action is warranted, then a special meeting (Section 4.04) shall be called for club members only that shall meet within 10 days of notice. A vote for or against suspension or expulsion shall be taken at that meeting. Minutes for all meetings shall be accurately taken and kept on file.

Communication between members whether by letter, email, telephone, public forum, (LAG) Facebook, or in person at a meeting shall be done in a respectful manner. All discussions shall be done in line with the purposes of the club. Negative outbursts or cruel, rude communication will not be tolerated. Threats to destroy this organization or endanger the health and welfare of the Mustangs may bring about correction and/or revocation of membership rights.

Article III

Voting

3.01 Eligibility and Number of Votes

All members aged 18 years or older, in good standing are entitled to vote. All general FOM business will be voted on by members that are in attendance at the monthly meeting when the vote takes place. Individual members are entitled to one vote per member. Family members are entitled to one vote per adult, maximum of 2 votes per household. All members, including junior members under 18 years old, are entitled to vote on horse names.

3.02 Election of Officers

Nominations for officers, as defined by Article 7 of these bylaws, will take place at the October meeting each year. If at the meeting the slate of officers nominated are unopposed, then nominations may be closed, and the nominated officers can be elected by acclamation by members present at that meeting. If any positions are contested by nominated individuals, the contested office(s) and names of the nominee(s) will be placed on a ballot which will be included in the November newsletter. It will be the responsibility of each member wishing to vote to print and fill out their ballots and send their ballot back to FOM prior to the December meeting where they will be counted. The process will be further explained in a voting procedure policy created to describe it in more detail.

3.03 Requirement for Election of Officers and Bylaw Changes

A quorum of 10% of all members entitled to vote is required for the election of officers and amendments to the bylaws.

Article IV

Meetings

4.01 Regular Meetings

Meetings will be held on the 2nd 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 officers will assume their duties at the start of the January meeting.

4.03 Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the president or by the officers if an urgent need arises between regular monthly meetings. Notice of Special Meetings shall be given no more than 10 days prior to the meeting date. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and these are open to all members.

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. The financial review committee shall present a written report to the general membership at the next regular membership meeting following the conclusion of the review. External reviews of the financial records may be requested from the floor at a regular monthly meeting and scheduled if approved by a majority of members present.

6.03 Expenditures

All expenditures under the \$200.00 limit should be used for planned/approved events, and for normal necessary monthly supplies. All expenditures over \$200.00 (excluding grants) must be approved by a majority vote of members present at a regular monthly meeting. Any check written for more than \$250.00 must have two approved signatures. Receipts are necessary for reimbursement from the Treasurer.

Article VII

Officers

7.01 Officers

The Board of Directors shall be referred to as the Officers within these Bylaws.

The officers shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

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 caring for the mustangs, the range land and promoting the mustangs. Vacancies of an office due to resignation, death or removal shall be filled for the balance of the term of the officer being replaced by a member who shall be selected and voted on by members present at the next regular monthly meeting.

7.03 President

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 president. The vice-president has the authority to sign legal in lieu of the president as needed if he is in acting in the position of president.

7.05 Secretary

The secretary will keep and archive accurate minutes of all business meetings of the membership and the officers. The secretary shall keep a copy of the reports from the treasurer and archive them for future reference as needed.

7.06 Treasurer

The treasurer shall have the care and custody of the money, funds, all items with monetary value, as well as a current record of all hard assets. The treasurer shall keep accurate accounts of all FOM transactions, which shall be the property of FOM, and shall tender financial reports and statements of all

transactions at each regular monthly meeting. 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.

7.08 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. The vacancy shall be filled by nomination and vote of the club members present at the meeting.

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 **Ancillary Offices**

8.01 Historian

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.

8.02 Events Co-Ordinator

8.03 Range Activities Co-Ordinator

Article IX

Fundraising

9.01 Purpose and Approval

FOM shall engage in fundraising activities for the purpose of supporting its mission. Recommendations for these activities may be presented by members at any regular meeting. Approval of the fundraising activity will require a majority vote of the members present at that meeting.

All active fundraising activities shall be overseen by the officers and reported to the membership at the regular monthly meetings, including written documentation of all income and expenditures.

9.02 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 activities. All fundraising activities must also follow the guidelines set forth by Colorado state laws pertaining to fundraising activities and shall not be in conflict with the purpose of FOM as stated in these bylaws. Grant writing, Grant acceptance, and management of a Grant must follow the 'FOM Grant Policy'. The 'FOM Grant Policy' can be amended by a majority vote of members present at a regular monthly meeting.

Article X

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.