

# *Friends of the Mustangs*

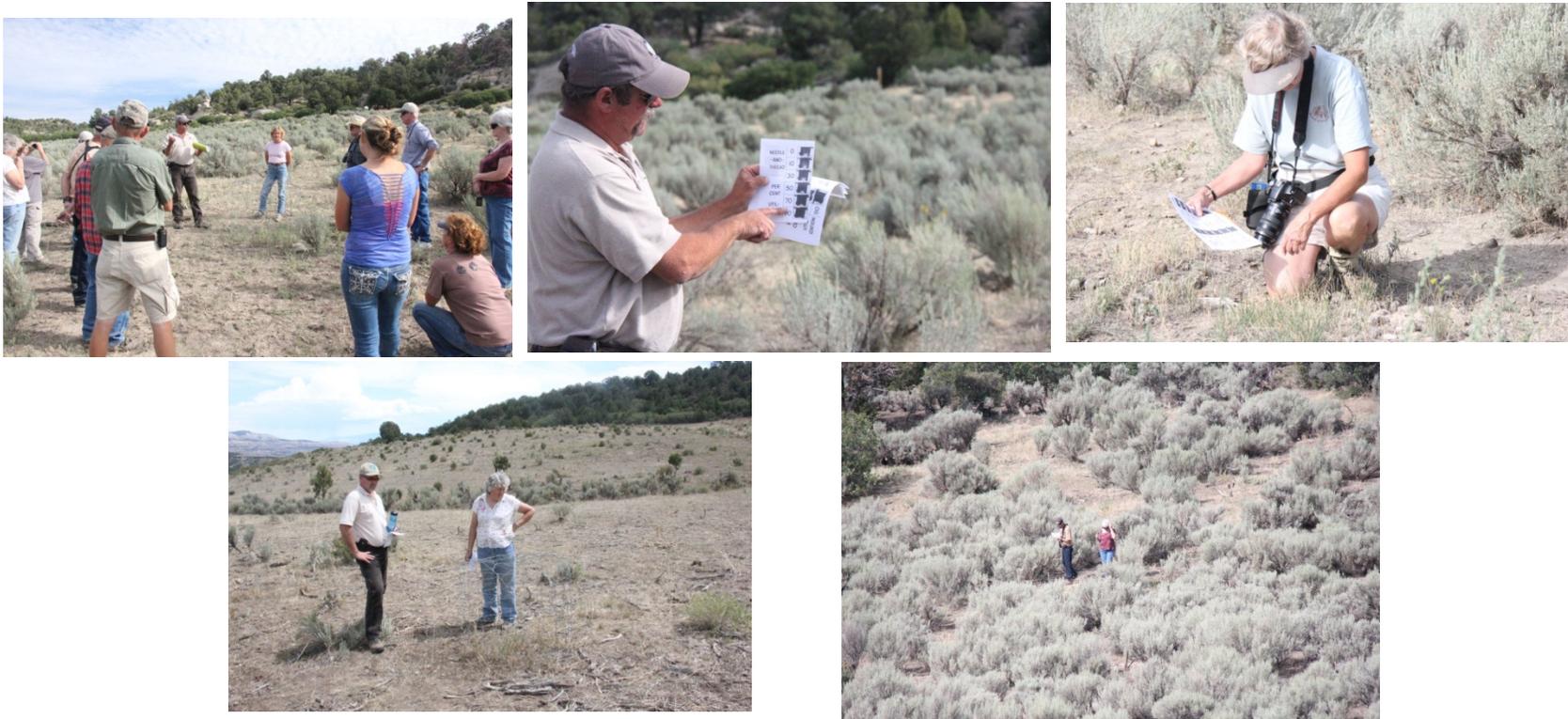


## *Overview*

*2013-2014*

## Range Utilization Evaluation August 20<sup>th</sup> 2013

BLM/FOM checked for forage across the range. Numerous spots have small cages that protect the growth, so as time passes, these areas are checked and compared to the surrounding area. This determines if the un-caged area is being over grazed or is handling the amount of animals grazing those areas. It was evident to many that the range was in poor shape. Mainly due to many years of drought. These findings lead the BLM and others to determine the range needed some relief.



## Little Book Cliff Wild Horse Range Gather

In September 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office had their first Bait Trapping Gather. Under the guidance of the Little Book Cliff Wild Horse Range (LBCWHR) Wild Horse Specialist, Jim Dollerschell, and the Northwest district wild horse specialist, Jerome Fox, the Friends of the Mustangs (FOM) achieved ~~the~~ success in this first bait trapping gather. This project was a huge undertaking. The common method of preparation for gathers with a full week of gathering using a helicopter, hauling Mustangs to the holding facility, caring for the horses, and vet day and adoption day. The bait trap gather is more in depth because the length of time and man hours required getting the wild mustangs used to the trap pens, which contain water and feed to entice horses into the trap areas. A great amount of paper work, schedule planning and time to maintain and prepare locations for the trapping is an enormous mental and physical fete to say the least! FOM Volunteers diligently took on the tasks assigned to them. A majority of the volunteers have the knowledge, experience, and great working relationships from previous gathers which brought about a smooth outcome over all. Other tasks included checking trap areas regularly, checking water and feed for a month prior to the beginning of the bait trapping gather and hauling water and feed to trap areas. FOM and BLM added panels to the traps until the trap was complete. When Mustangs wandered in to eat and drink, even lay down for a nap, the gate would either be electronically released or someone would pull it closed by a buried rope. The Mustangs are captured in a calm, low stress manner. It is well worth it for the sake of the animals and the cost is immeasurably less than the typical cost of a Helicopter gathers. This huge success has made history.

At the posse grounds someone would be present to care for the mustangs around the clock seven days a week. Emery and Debbie Welch along with Peggy and Steve Elsmore over saw and coordinated a crew of FOM and BLM taking shifts. Each shift was the responsibilities to feed/water the mustangs, cleaning pens throughout each day. Volunteers at the holding facility also met with the Veterinarian if needed, disbursed meds if needed, and talked with visitors and promote the mustangs. The volunteers informed visitors of the Mustang's lineage and life on the range. They also explained to potential adopters how to qualify and the process of adopting a mustang. Vet day was a full day of vaccinating, worming, sorting and freeze branding the Mustangs.

The Canyon City crew aged them, wormed, and branded them. The Veterinarian vaccinated and aged them also. The members and staff of FOM and BLM sorted and moved Mustangs to the treatment area and back into pens. The safe and caring demeanor that all volunteers and staff possess for the Mustangs is phenomenal! Through the years a trusting relationship has developed between the BLM and FOM from many years of working and learning together.



Monument Rock bait trap set up. Georgia Manus and Callie Hendrickson aboard member of the “Wild Horse and burro Advisory board.” took a tank, water and hay to set the area. From set up to shut down the water and feed is supplied regularly.



After the mustangs are use to the water and feed, panels are setup. Then we wait for mustangs to get comfortable with the panels. Every trap is set up the same way. Except this is the only trap that we used a mare to try and call mustangs in.



This trap is more remote and the wild ones are more elusive. TJ Holmes is the Lady in blue. TJ cares for the Spring Creek herd area, she came over for a day to see the bait trapping. The mountain lion was just around Monument rock from the trap area.



Administered (PZP Fertility Control) to one of the mares in this band.



This band was off the range perimeter of the range. We transported back onto the range.



Transplanted two mares from another area of the range to Monument Rock for genetic diversity



One muddy Day! Just when we thought nothing else could happen, Jerome Fox calls on the radio about a large rock in the road.



Monument Rock





One of our muddy days

Jerome Fox



After getting rained out for several days, when we drove back in we came upon these camp robbers. They had a great time with water tanks and hay!



Misty released back on the range. Below this picture she is back with her Stallion, Traveler.



At least a month and half later we drive out with the last mustang going to town. The end of the bait trapping part of the gather.



*"One heck of a Vision"*





Bait trapping  
gather

2013

Vet day at the  
Posse Grounds



“Thor”  
being processed and  
released back to his pen

## **Compliance checks**

Some of the FOM member have been certified to do compliance checks on newly adopted Mustangs. 18 compliance checks were done on the mustangs/burros adopted in 2013 as well as the compliance checks on those Mustangs/burros at the end of the year. The check completed at the one year mark from the adoption allows the ownership to transfer from the BLM to the adopter and signifies the animal is healthy and being properly cared for.

### **Marty Felix, a FOM member, has put together a Power Point Presentation**

This slide show has been shown to the FOM group and Marty will be presenting it to the public soon. This presentation shows the progress and history of the range advancements and Mustangs.

### **Checking springs/natural potholes**

Water sources should be checked at least twice a year, and if repairs are needed, can require several trips with supplies to maintain these springs. We have at least five natural water sources and ## springs with tanks we maintain.

### **The BLM is in the process of writing Herd Management Area Plan**

At one of our meetings, Jim Dollarschell talked about the process and asked that suggestions be made to the BLM of thoughts, ideas, and plans for improvements of the range, mustangs, and wildlife on the range. People providing suggestions should think about anything that may help improve the range for over the next ten years when the HMAP will be updated next.

## Workdays

also have been fewer this year because of the weather. In the spring we had our first workday of the year. This project was another huge success! For many years we have repaired a fence in the Coal Canyon draw, however every year either the flash floods or people cut the fence making it a place for the Mustangs to wander off the range. The crew put a flexible fence in the draw which is now holding up very well especially this year with the high precipitation and flooding. The rain has made drastic changes to trails, draws and roads on the range as well as roads on the way into the range. Numerous people rode, hiked, ATV's to check springs all season long. A lot of these areas are off the beaten path and you really need a good idea where they are. Every year the land changes and the mustangs and wildlife make new trails. One of the springs on the list, in need of major overhauls, was the Adobe spring, one that had never needed any repairs since it was put in many years ago. It is in a very remote area. All is well at the Adobe Spring and the water is running well. The other is the North Soda Cabin Springs. BLM staff and FOM members have worked on the spring at least three times or more. It is looking good at this point, but will need to be monitored regularly.

## Events:

Fruita Coop Days – FOM members had a booth and talked to members of the public, informing where they can view horses and what we do as a organization in conjunction with the BLM. Outdoor heritage. And the North American Trail Ride Conference, Region 3 annual convention hosted by the Competitive Trail Riding Group.

In August, the FOM attended the DeBeque Wild Horse Days event. It a lot of fun and many people enjoyed the Mustangs there. Afterwards the Town of DeBeque presented the FOM with the winnings from there Horse Poker ride.

Our events coordinator stepped down earlier in the season, so we did not attend as many events as in previous years.

**Adobe Spring**



**FOM members at Holding facility**



**Cabin Spring**



**Aspen Spring**



**Spring Creek Spring**



**The Seep**



**Cosgrove 2 Spring**



**Jerry Creek Main Canyon**



**Buffalo Wallow**



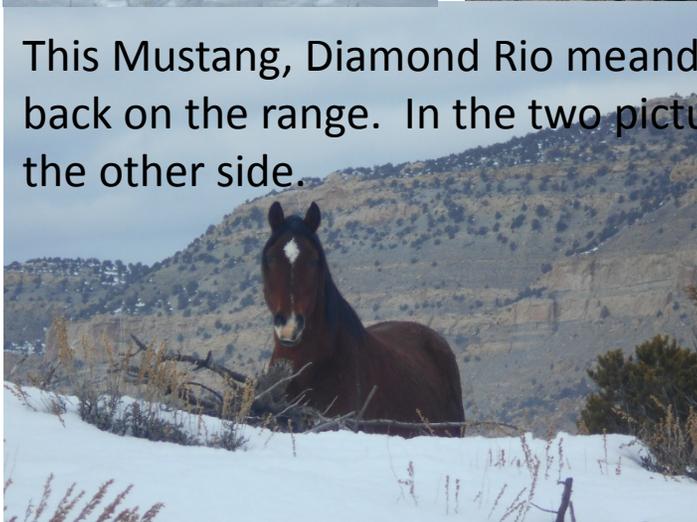
**Duh Spring**

**Some of the springs we check**

# Adobe Spring workday



This Mustang, Diamond Rio meandered off the range twice last winter. We had to coax him back on the range. In the two pictures above the range is at the top of the mountain and over the other side.





“Duh Spring”



Ride to check the Duh Spring. Thank goodness it is in good shape! Love this ride, but it does have some harry spots.

## Transplants

Little Book Cliff Wild Horse Range  
transplanting for genetic diversity  
November 19<sup>th</sup> 2014

In October of 2014, Jim Dollarschell and Georgia Manus traveled to Canyon City to pick out Mustangs for transplanting to the Little Book Cliff Wild Horse Range (LBVWHR) to improve the genetic diversity of the herd. These mares are from the Checkerboard gather in Wyoming last month. On November 19, 2014 Jim and Georgia picked up the designated mustangs and transported them to the LBCWHR. Members checked a few areas of the range with for Mustang bands nearby, in order to release the new transplants in close proximity to horses. The day could not have gone much smoother! The team work from everyone participating in this special task is so appreciated! Jim Dollarschell (Wild Horse Specialist BLM), Chris Joyner (Public Relations BLM), Marty Felix, Cathy Blazer, Lois Bethune, Carolyn Gilbert, Jim Hyrup, Beckie Diehl, and John Boughton, Thank you! I, Georgia Manus, personally am honored to be a part of this mission and that we could provide these mustangs, recently gathered, a wild and free home again. One of the transplants is a “Curly” and this mare is an awesome addition to LBCWHR. I love those Curly horses!

The history of the Curly Horses are unique to say the least. My personal favorite is the website [www.cowboyshowcase.com/the-damels-and-the-curly-horse.html](http://www.cowboyshowcase.com/the-damels-and-the-curly-horse.html)

**“Released Wild and Free”**



Loading transplant mares



Loading Mustangs



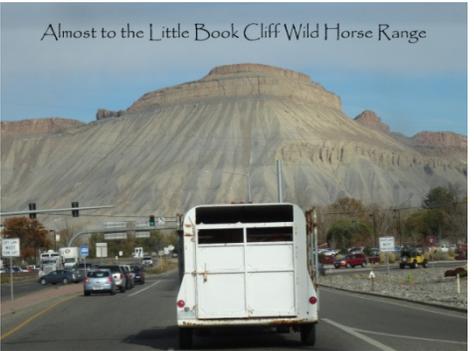
Fran Ackley and Jim Dollarschell



Georgia Manus and Fran Ackley



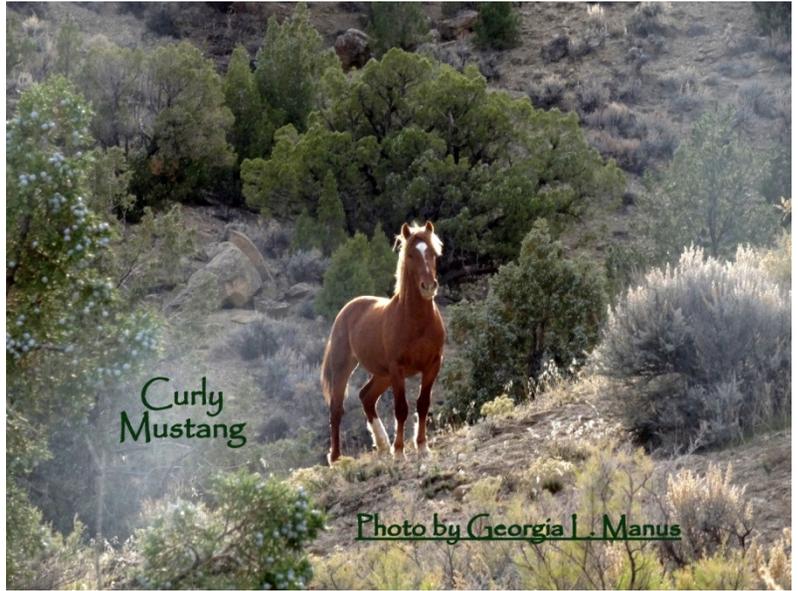
Taking care of business



Almost to the Little Book Cliff Wild Horse Range



getting closer Curly girl



Curly Mustang

Photo by Georgia L. Manus

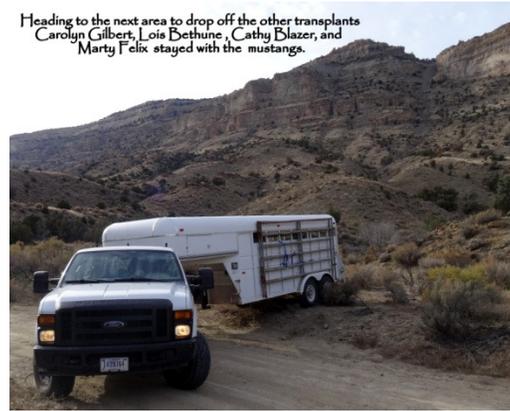


Lois Bethune must be behind the trees, Carolyn Gilbert, and Cathy Blazer



Snoopy Jr's Band

Transplant Curly mare



Heading to the next area to drop off the other transplants  
Carolyn Gilbert, Lois Bethune, Cathy Blazer, and  
Marty Felix stayed with the mustangs.



Jim Dollarschell and Marty Felix



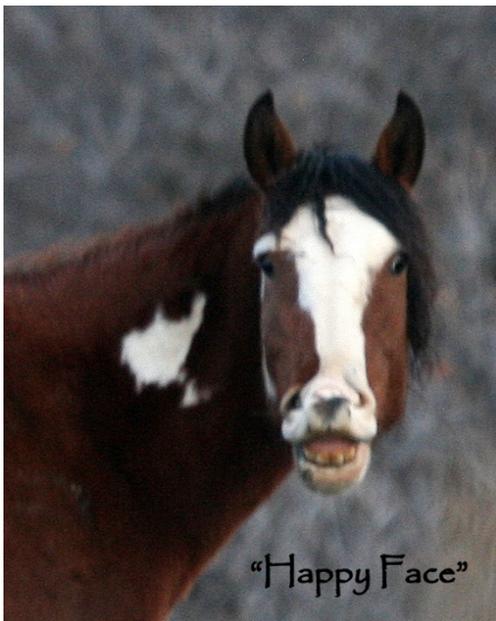
Jim Hignup, Beckie Diehl, and John Boughton  
In truck at second drop off of transplants



Doc's Band

Transplant mares

Photo by Georgia L. Manus



"Happy Face"

