

Sharing the Range

Camping, hiking, horseback riding and hunting are permitted throughout the Wild Horse Range, but we need your help to protect it. Please remember:

- Trails in the Wild Horse Range are designed for foot and horse travel only. Motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are **ONLY ALLOWED** on the Coal Canyon Road, the Monument Rock Road, the Round Mountain Road, and the North Soda Road.
- Please respect private property owners' rights.
- Gates into Coal Canyon are closed to motorized vehicles from December 1 through May 30 to protect wintering wildlife and foaling areas.
- Pet owners — please keep your pet under voice/leash control at all times. Pets increase stress on both horses and wildlife.

Public land within the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range is managed for a number of uses. Wild horse habitat is the primary concern. The BLM develops plans for the range that protect it for horses and wildlife found there. Livestock grazing is not permitted within the horse range. Closely monitored energy development is also conducted within the range causing minimal disturbance to the wild horse habitat.



Special thanks to Marty Felix for sharing her photographs.

Vehicle Access to Wild Horse Range

Coal Canyon entrance: From Grand Junction, go east on I-70 to the Cameo exit (Exit 45), cross the river and drive past the power plant staying on the main road for approximately 1.5 miles. You will come to the Coal Canyon Trailhead.

De Beque/Winter Flats entrance: From Grand Junction, travel east on I-70 to the De Beque exit (Exit #61). Drive into the town of De Beque and stay on the main road (4th Street) until you come to the gas station; turn left onto Minter Ave. and travel two blocks where you are forced to turn right onto 2nd Street. Follow this street to the Winter Flats Road sign. Turn right and travel 19 miles; this takes you to a fork in the road. The right branch takes you to the North Soda area (the northern-most point of the Wild Horse Range) and the left branch takes you into the Indian Park area. **CAUTION:** The Winter Flats and Dry Fork Roads are 4X4 roads year-round and may be impassable during wet conditions.

De Beque/Dry Fork entrance: Exit I-70 at De Beque (Exit #61). Travel north 3.2 miles from the I-70 overpass (past De Beque) along the Roan Creek Road to the Dry Fork Road. Turn left and travel 20 miles until you cross a cattle guard and the road immediately forks. The right fork goes to the North Soda area and the left fork goes to Indian Park and Winter Flats.

Information

For further information about the range or adopting wild horses, contact:

Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506
(970) 244-3000
www.blm.gov/gjra/lbc.htm

or
National Wild Horse and Burro Program
www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov
Toll Free 1-800-417-9647

BLM/CO/GI-07/005

Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range



Welcome to the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range

The 1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act provides for the management, protection, and control of all unbranded and unclaimed horses and burros on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. The BLM was given the responsibility for carrying out the requirements of the Act because the majority of wild horses and burros are found on lands that BLM administers.

Though wild horse herds live in many parts of the western United States, the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range is one of only three ranges in the United States set aside specifically to protect wild and free roaming horses. It encompasses 36,113 acres of rugged canyons and plateaus in the Book Cliffs about eight air miles north of Grand Junction, Colorado. From 90 to 150 wild horses roam the sagebrush parks and pinyon-juniper covered hills which dominate the area. Natural barriers such as cliffs and canyons are supplemented with fencing to define the area and control horse movement. The Little Book Cliffs Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (29,010 acres) makes up about two-thirds of the range. The WSA is under interim management for wilderness pending Congressional action.

Where Mustangs Come From

During the Ice Age, the ancestors of the modern horse roamed the North American continent. They were smaller than the horses of today and became extinct over 10,000 years ago. Horses were reintroduced to the continent in the 1500's by the Spaniards who explored and began to settle what is now the western United States. These horses were known as "mustanos," and those that escaped to form the early wild herds were later called "mustangs." Some of the Little Book Cliffs horses can trace their ancestry back to Indian ponies, but the majority are descendants of horses who escaped from or were turned loose by ranchers and farmers. The BLM has also introduced horses from other wild herds to maintain a healthy herd.

Where to See Wild Horses

Wild horses are most frequently spotted in sagebrush parks scattered throughout the horse range, traveling in small bands made up of a stud and his harem of mares, or in bachelor bands of young stallions. Be on the lookout for "stud piles" which are piles of manure left by a stud to mark his territory. Horses use the higher country in spring, summer and fall, moving to lower country in winter where there is less snow and feed is more easily found. During the summer, some of the best opportunities for catching a glimpse of the wild horses are in the Indian Park entrance to the horse range and the North Soda area. During the winter and spring, Coal Canyon and Main Canyon are excellent viewing areas.

Make wild horse viewing safe for you and the animals by following these simple guidelines:

- Most horses and wildlife are moving in the early morning and evening. Choose those times to look for them.
- Observe animals from a distance **THEY** consider safe. If an animal's behavior changes noticeably, you are probably too close. Get your "close-up" by using binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto lenses.
- Don't chase horses or wildlife or behave in any way that might be seen as harassment, which is unlawful.
- Do not try to touch or "bond" with wild horses. They are wild and unpredictable.

Adopt-A-Horse

Home on the Range Becomes Home on the Ranch

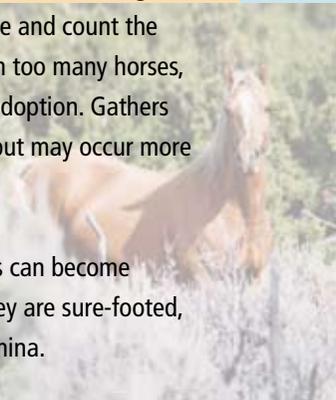
Every spring, new colts and fillies are born to the bands of the Little Book Cliffs, and in general the herd increases by 18 to 20% per year. With only so much food to go around, the horses might face starvation or even death if the BLM did not provide for adoption.

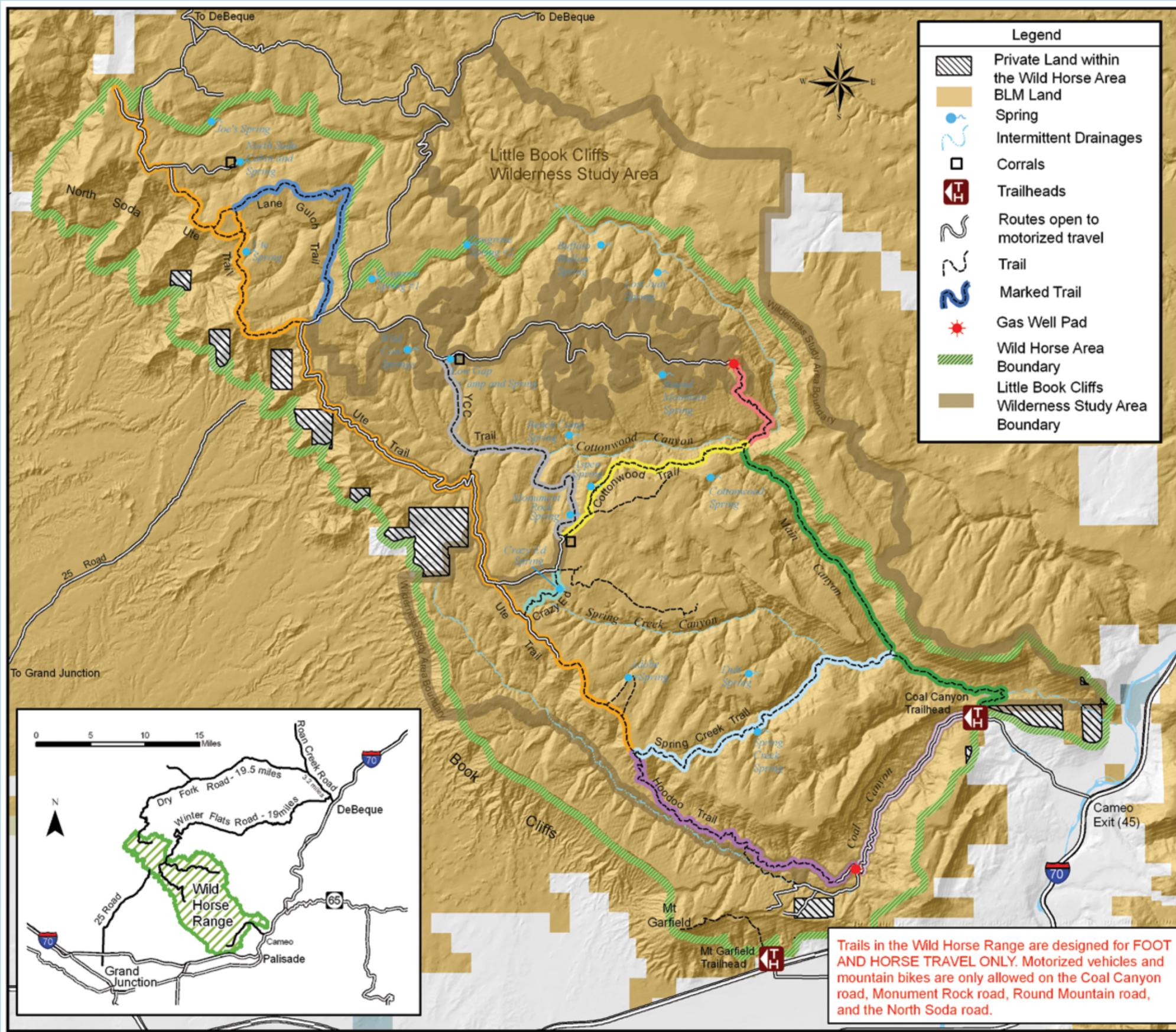
In the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range, volunteers and BLM Range Managers closely monitor the vegetation and health of horses and wildlife living here. Each spring they ride the range and count the horses. If the range is suffering from too many horses, some are gathered and put up for adoption. Gathers generally occur every 3 to 4 years, but may occur more often in cases of severe drought.

With patience and time, wild horses can become excellent family or ranch horses. They are sure-footed, smart and have a great deal of stamina.

Friends of the Mustangs

Beginning in the mid-1980s Friends of the Mustangs and the BLM have worked together to ensure that both the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range and the horses living there are kept healthy. Projects include trail clearing, spring development and maintenance, and tracking horse numbers, locations and range conditions. Friends of the Mustangs also assist in gathers and in finding adoptive homes for the animals, working with prospective owners and checking back with them to make sure horse and owner are doing well. If you are interested in becoming a member of Friends of the Mustangs, contact the Grand Junction BLM office for their address and phone number.





Friends of the Mustangs Volunteer Group on the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range



Trail Descriptions

Trail Name	Length/Time	All travel directions assume a start at the Coal Canyon Trailhead. The times for the trail were calculated one way on horseback.
Main Canyon*	5 miles/ 2 hours	Cross saddle into Main Canyon. Follow old two-track trail.
YCC***	4.25 miles/ 3 hours	Trail connects Low Gap Camp to Monument Rock area.
Lane Gulch**	3.7 miles/ 3 hours	From Indian Park drop into Lane Gulch, then back towards North Soda. Or can be used as a loop with the Ute Trail.
Spring Creek***	4.5 miles/ 3 hours	Travel up Spring Creek, taking the first left canyon. The trail goes up the left side of the canyon, which is very steep and rocky.
Round Mountain***	1.75 miles/ 1 hour	At Cottonwood Canyon confluence, stay right, pass through gate. Continue uphill. Steep and rocky section.
Cottonwood**	3.4 miles/ 2.5 hours	Stay left at Cottonwood Canyon confluence. Some narrow sections with steep drop offs.
Crazy Ed*	1 mile 1 hour	Trail connects Monument Rock and Hoodoo Trail.
Hoodoo***	4.5 miles/ 2 hours	From gas well pad in Coal Canyon, take the upper road on a bench which parallels bottom of canyon. Last section is very steep.
Coal Canyon*	3 miles/ 1 hour	Gentle ride. Continue ride on Hoodoo.
Ute**	15 miles/ 8 hours	This trail goes from the North Soda area, past Indian Park, to the Hoodoo trail.

* Easy
** Intermediate
*** Difficult