

Wild Horse Symposium

Wild Horse Refuge

Craig, Colorado

August 5 - 8, 2026

THE WILD HORSE



CRAIG
COLORADO

Refuge

30,000
ACRES



U Yearling Wild Horse Gentling Sessions

U Clinics & Demos

U 5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs Documentary
Screening in Steamboat Springs August 5th

U Lectures & Panels

U Wild Horse & Foster Horse Adoption Event

U Colorado Wild Horse Film Fest evenings

24319 County Road 17, Craig, CO 81625



WILDHORSE
CINEMA & ARTS



www.mustangsummit.com



The Wild Horse Refuge is a private sanctuary that was created entirely for rescued Wild Mustangs that were taken from BLM Herd Management Areas (HMA) located within Colorado. The Wild Horses living on this special property are now protected and have regained the freedom and independence they had prior to government interference.

With more than 30,000 square miles of contiguous land to run free, their wild and free spirit has been restored. With the Refuge being located just 30 miles from the Sand Wash Basin, the horses feel right at home as they roam freely across the vast open spaces of the Refuge!

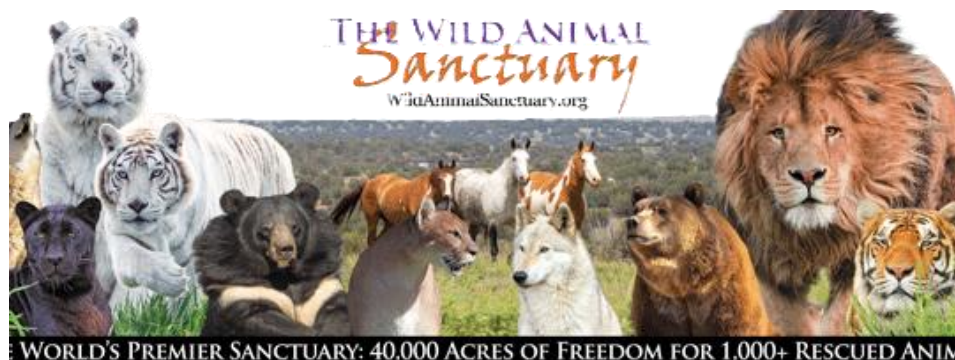
There are no paddocks, stock pens, fenced pastures, or other smaller and more restrictive spaces in use here. Instead of being relegated to pens or smaller pastures where they might have an occasional opportunity to run one or two hundred yards - or possibly even a few thousand feet... the wild horses living at the Refuge continue to run until they choose to stop.

It is truly a beautiful sight to see when these wild horses are able to regain control of where they go and what they do completely on their own!

The Wild Horse Refuge is a completely new facility that was acquired in order to create a special home for Colorado's native Wild Horses.

Wild horses (Mustangs) are allowed to roam freely within the Refuge - which has more than 22,500 acres of land for the horses to roam freely.

<https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>



Wild Horse Symposium General Event Info

ARRIVAL & OPENING NIGHT (AUGUST 5TH)

The symposium begins in Steamboat Springs with a special evening screening of 5,000 Miles 5,000 Mustangs, presented in partnership with the EQUUS Film & Arts Festival. This WEDNESDAY EVENING opening event sets the tone for a week centered on storytelling, education, and connection within the Wild Horse community.

Additional film screenings will take place throughout the week at the iconic Wildhorse Cinema + Arts in Steamboat Springs.

FULL DAYS AT THE REFUGE (AUGUST 6TH-8TH)

From August 6th-8th, The Wild Horse Refuge will operate as an open-campus experience from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM daily. Guests will have access to speaker presentations and live Mustang training and gentling demonstrations led by experienced professionals working directly with the horses.

This offers guests a closer look at Wild Horse care, management, and rehabilitation in practice.

EXPLORE THE REFUGE

Guided Refuge Tours (AUGUST 6TH-8TH)

Guests will have the opportunity to experience more than 30,000 acres of Colorado's northwest landscape through guided Refuge tours. These tours offer a rare window into The Wild Horse Refuge and its mission of providing a safe home for Wild Horses in need of protection and lifelong care. Nearly 300 Wild Horses can be observed living and roaming across the range in natural herd conditions, reflecting the Refuge's commitment to preserving their instinctive behaviors, herd dynamics, and untamed spirit.

Evening Gatherings (AUGUST 6TH & 7TH ONLY)

As the day winds down, guests are invited to gather for complimentary food and drinks, campfire conversations, and Class II dark-sky stargazing beneath the expansive Colorado sky. Slow down, enjoy the night air, and spend time together under one of the clearest night skies in the country. Food will be served beginning at 6:00 PM and dark sky activities will begin around 8:00 PM!

FEATURED EVENT - WILD HORSE ADOPTION

On Saturday, August 8th, the Symposium will conclude with a featured on-site Wild Horse Adoption event. Guests will witness young Mustangs who have completed several days of professional training with experienced trainers from across the country as they take their next step into adoption and placement.



SPEAKER & PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

All Field Expert presentations are included with Symposium registration and will take place at The Wild Horse Refuge in Craig, CO located at 24319 County Rd 17, Craig, CO 81625.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: From Research to Reality: Applying PZP in Wild Horse Management
Presented by: Allen Rutberg, Ph.D. & Karen Herman Ph.D.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Life on the Range: Advocacy and Fertility Control in Sand Wash Basin
Presented by: Stella Trueblood and Stephanie Causey

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: The Forest Service Approach to Wild Horse and Burro Management
Presented by: Teresa Drotar, DVM

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Preparing Mustangs for Adoption Through the Wild Horse Inmate Program
Presented by: Mitch Karstens

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: From Research to Reality: Applying PZP in Wild Horse Management
Presented by: Allen Rutberg, Ph.D. & Karen Herman Ph.D.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: The Forest Service Approach to Wild Horse and Burro Management
Presented by: Teresa Drotar, DVM

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: Life on the Range: Advocacy and Fertility Control in Sand Wash Basin
Presented by: Stella Trueblood and Stephanie Causey

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Preparing Mustangs for Adoption Through the Wild Horse Inmate Program
Presented by: Mitch Karstens



Presenting the “Adoptables”

8 Yearlings started and available on Saturday to go home with you!

1 BLM Reassignment Yearling Available!

Please fill out this form to Adopt:

<https://form.jotform.com/261407132943150>

START TIME	THURSDAY 45-minute sessions Start Time 10:00 am	FRIDAY 45-minute sessions Start Time 10:00 am	SATURDAY 30-minute sessions Auction Starts at 3 pm
10:00 AM	Yearling Alec Adams	Yearling Mary Kitzmiller	Yearling Stephanie Linsey
10:45 AM	Yearling Sky Epperson	Yearling Sky Epperson	Yearling Mikenzie Payne
11:30 AM	Yearling Bruce Anderson	Yearling Alec Adams	Yearling Bruce Anderson
12:15 PM	Yearling Mary Kitzmiller	Yearling Stephanie Linsey	Yearling Sky Epperson
1:00 PM	Yearling George Brauneis	Yearling Mikenzie Payne	Yearling George Brauneis
1:45 PM	Yearling Paige Burnham	Yearling George Brauneis	Yearling Paige Burnham
2:30 PM	Yearling Mikenzie Payne	Yearling Paige Burnham	Yearling Alec Adams
3:15 PM	Yearling Stephanie Linsey	Yearling Bruce Anderson	Yearling Mary Kitzmiller



Presenting the “Foster Horses”

8 available “60+” Day horses available to go home with you!

Please fill out this form to Adopt: <https://form.jotform.com/261407132943150>

START TIME	THURSDAY 30-minute presentations	FRIDAY 30-minute presentations	SATURDAY 30-minute presentations
10:00 AM	Wild Heart Haven Yearling Gelding	Lisanne Fear Burro Pair	Leiah Burnham Yearling Gelding
10:30 AM	Wild Heart Haven Adult Mare	Wild Heart Haven Yearling Gelding	Macey Sanburg Adult Horse Mare
11:00 AM		Macey Sanburg Adult Horse Mare	Wild Heart Haven Yearling Gelding
11:30 PM	Paige Burnham Adult Horse Gelding	Leiah Burnham Yearling Gelding	
12:00 PM	Sarah Welty Adult Horse Mare		Wild Heart Haven Adult Mare
12:30 PM	Macey Sanburg Adult Horse Mare	Macey Sanburg Adult Horse Mare	Paige Burnham Adult Horse Gelding
1:00 PM	Leiah Burnham Yearling Gelding	Paige Burnham Adult Horse Gelding	Sarah Welty Adult Horse Mare
1:30 PM		Sarah Welty Adult Horse Mare	Lisanne Fear Burro Pair
2:00 PM	Lisanne Fear Burro Pair	Wild Heart Haven Adult Mare	

All Horse will be available to be viewed
2:30 PM– 3 PM with their trainers

Please fill out this form to Adopt: <https://form.jotform.com/261407132943150>



**Presenting the Wild Horse Speakers and Presenters
Humans, Wild Horses & Burros**

At the “Meet The Experts” Table & Area

Please fill out this form to Adopt:

<https://form.jotform.com/261407132943150>

START TIME	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10:00 AM	Taryn Hillman Demo with Yearling for BLM Re-Assignment	Taryn Hillman Demo with Yearling for BLM Re-Assignment	Rachel Ann Caring for Burros
11:00 AM	Wild Rose Equine Advocacy Mustang Eventing Demo	Wild Rose Equine Advocacy Mustang Eventing Demo	Wild Rose Equine Advocacy Mustang Eventing Demo
12:30 PM	Kerry Thomas Herd Dynamics	Lisanne Fear 5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs	Jake Harvath Year of the Mustang
1:00 PM	Lisanne Fear 5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs	Kerry Thomas Herd Dynamics	Taryn Hillman Demo with Yearling for BLM Re-Assignment
2:00 PM	Wild Rose Equine Advocacy Mustang Eventing Demo	Rachel Ann Caring for Burros	Kerry Thomas Herd Dynamics
3:00 PM			AUCTION EVENT

www.mustangsummit.com



Special Wednesday August 5th, 2026 Film Premier

5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs

Filmmaker - Julianne Neal & Star – Lisanne Fear

[Trailer](#)

Doors Open at 5:30 pm for Meet & Greet / Film at 7:00 pm

START TIME	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1:00 PM	The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses 90 mins <u>Trailer</u>	Wild Horse Short Film Collection 90 mins	Cloud Wild Stallion of the Rockies Q & A After 90 mins <u>Trailer</u>
3:00 PM	Cloud Wild Stallion of the Rockies Q & A After 90 mins <u>Trailer</u>	The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses 90 mins	3 PM Wild Horses at the Door 40:00 mins
		5 PM "Wild Horses Around The World" – World Premier Filmmaker Q & A	4 PM Americas Wild Horse Crisis 33 mins Julie Carp Q & A
5:00 PM	H.O.O.V.E.S 60 mins <u>Trailer</u>	6 PM Mustang of The Caracas Mesa 27 mins WPM – Short	5:15 PM Wild Horses Around The World Filmmaker Q & A
6:15 PM	Horses for Mental Health Veterans & First Responders Panel Special Guest Panel	6:30 PM Wild Horse Genetics and History Panel Laura Harper & Dusty Pierce	5:45:PM Untamed Bond 35 mins Filmmaker & Star Q & A After Film
7:30 PM	Special Sizzle – A Ranch Musical 10:00 mins Dance of the Wild 90 mins <u>Trailer</u>	Special Sizzle – A Ranch Musical 10:00 mins Throw Away Horses 96:00 <u>Trailer</u>	7:00 PM 5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs 120 mins <u>Trailer</u> Q & A Following

Colorado Wild Horse Film Fest

August 5 – 8, 2026

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Wildhorse Cinema + Arts

655 Marketplace Plaza

1 pm – 9 pm Daily

Films & Wild Horse Panels



MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

www.equusfilmfest.com

www.wildhorsesteamboat.org



WILD HORSE
CINEMA & ARTS



About the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | Wild Horse Summit

The EQUUS Film & Arts Fest is the first event of its kind to offer a home to the storytellers of the horse world, with films, documentaries, videos, commercials, and shorts from around the world and cultural elements of fine equestrian art and literature. In 2025 EQUUS will host 12+ events from the Yukon to the UK. Looking toward a 2027 EQUUS Film Fest in Mongolia!

The Wild Horse Summit is an educational platform to raise awareness and understanding about the Wild Horses in holding, Sale Authority (aka S/A), auction yards, or just waiting, who available for adoption. A horse who has a safe and quiet start can be trainable and become a good partner. It is our mission to bring awareness to Wild Horses who need homes. Focusing on and highlighting the work taking place in the healing and equine assisted learning fields with horses. Providing resources for all who want to learn about the Off-Range wild horse.

Founded in 2013 by Lisa Diersen, Director/Organizer, an equestrian, who has spent her life in the company of horses. Lisa's mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities or disabilities. She resides in Saint Charles, Illinois, with her Jack Russell, Amore and her Lusitano, Urano.

Julianne Neal, with JA Media Productions, joined the team in 2016. As the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Director of Production and Education. Julianne is a gifted storyteller and an important member of the team. Her ability to bring stories and events to life at the festivals and summits is an invaluable component of our events.

Every horse has a story, it's our mission at the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest to share those stories, through film, art and literature.

The EQUUS Film Fest [Channel You-Tube](#), streaming to all your devices.
Visit our website at: www.equusfilmfest.com and our [FaceBook](#) page.
www.mustangsummit.com

PR AND/OR SPONSOR CONTACT:

Lisa Diersen lisa@equusfilmfestival.net +1-630-272-3077

Additional Info: Julianne Neal julianneneal@me.com +1-803-351-0223

Assistant to the Director: Julie Martin

SOCIAL MEDIA

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/EquusFilmFestival>

You-Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/@equusfilmfestival772/featured>



Lisa Diersen

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | Wild Horse Summit Founder / Director

Lisa Diersen is an equestrian; riding since she could sit in a saddle, Diersen has a great appreciation for all types of equestrian disciplines. She is the Founder and Director of the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest, now in its 13th season and the Wild Horse Summit. The EFF empowers storytellers to show horses' rich history and diverse tapestry in human culture through equestrian content, film, art, and literature. The EQUUS Film Festival is the first film festival oriented around equestrian-themed content from all over the world that also travels the world. Screening feature films, documentaries, shorts, music videos, commercials, training educational materials, art, and literature, covering all equestrian disciplines, creating a home for the storytellers of the horse world.

Created for Horse Lovers... by Horse Lovers!

Her mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities, or disabilities. Lisa is passionate about the education and enlightenment of others to the wonderful world of horses and everything they can do to enrich our lives.

Producer and writer credits on the DOWN Syndrome equine documentary "A Pony And His Boy: The Story Of Berry & Josh" for the EQUUS Film Festival in New York City and the National DOWN Syndrome Congress 2019 with SPOTLIGHT Rescue Series partner and film director Julianne Neal. Working on additional SRS documentaries to add to the series she and Neal started in 2017. The Mustang Discovery Ride Project is now in production. Adding the "Wild Horse Summit" to the EQUUS programming in 2022. With a focus on educating the public about Wild Horses and their importance in the world today.

She is a published equine author with many articles to her credit. Diersen spent the early part of her career with General Motors in engineering, then moving into the subdivision development and home/barn building market, winning an Illinois Home Builder Award, before returning to her first love..... working with horses! She spends her time, when not promoting equestrian film, having fun promoting Classical Dressage, Lusitanos, and Wild Horses, and spending time with her faithful Jack Russell Terrier, Amore, and her Lusitano, Urano.

www.equusfilmfest.com

www.mustangsummit.com

lisa@equusfilmfestival.net

+1-630-272-3077



Julianne Neal



**JA Media Productions
South Carolina**

**Podcast Producer/Editor/Host Documentary Filmmaker
EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Director of Production and Education**

WEBSITES: www.jamediaconnections.com
www.naturesview.us
www.amustangstory.com
<https://themarleyproject.org>

Julianne is the owner of JA Media Connections, LLC and the Producer/Director of A Mustang Story, the documentary/docuseries covering The Mustang Discovery Ride and other Mustang-related stories. She works in partnership with Bruce Anderson to provide Equine Assisted Services through Nature's View, Inc. and The Marley Project, Inc, a non-profit 501(c)(3) providing equine education and public service. The Marley Project is a member of the EQUUS Foundation Equine Welfare Network and has been a charity partner with Horses for Mental Health since 2023. The organization works to connect horses with individuals, educational groups, law enforcement officers and management training professionals. The recent work involving Mustangs led to a K-12 curriculum and arts integration component in the non-profit's Wellness Through Mustangs® program. Julianne is a designated professional with Arenas for Change, holding a dual certification in Education and Horses.

Julianne retired in 2022 after a 35-year career in Arts Education and K-12 Administration. A life-long horse lover, she owns and operates Thornfield LLC, a boarding and training facility in South Carolina. She combines her love of all things equine, educational experience and arts focus to bring clients and projects together through the boutique creative production company, JA Media Connections. Julianne completed the Director's Program through the Manhattan Film Institute in 2016 and began working with film production through a partnership with The Art of Storytelling (AOS), an international agency specializing in transformational stories. Their first collaborative project, "THE EDGE: Bruce Anderson - Natural Humanship™" is an award-winning documentary providing insight into Anderson's work

JA Media Connections LLC produces a catalogue of podcasts. The initial podcast, "Whinny Tales: Horse Stories, Pony Legends and Unicorn Yarns" has featured such organizations as the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest, Equitana USA, Horses and Humans Research Foundation and Creative Spirits UnLeashed. As a member of the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Team, she serves as Director of Production and Education, producing and directing the Spotlight Rescue Series and the documentary film, A Pony and His Boy, as well as hosting the festival podcast. Other shows in the JA Media catalogue include a bi-weekly podcast for Brooke USA: On The Road, Tiny Horse Talk and the Mustang Discovery Ride. JA Media produces LIVESTREAM content during festival events, with programming for the panel discussions, training demos and on the scene interviews. The podcast catalogue and links to other content may be found on the JA Media website.

In her spare time, Julianne loves to ride her Warmblood/Shire cross, Winston, as well as her "wildies," Willie and Mustang Congaree.



2026 ALL EQUUS Film & Arts Fest and Wild Horse Summit Events

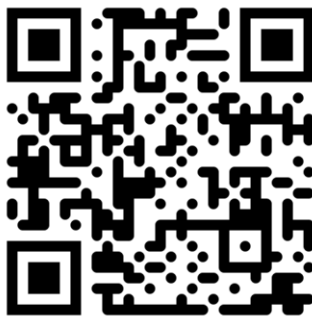
January	SGPL Film Fest	January 14, 2026	Sugar Grove, IL
February	EQUUS UK	February 7, 2026	Helmsley UK
April	Equine Affaire Ohio	April 9-11, 2026	Columbus, OH
May	SGPL Film Fest	May 13, 2026	Sugar Grove, IL
June	Western States Horse Expo / Mustang Summit	June 6-8, 2026	Sacramento, CA
June	Trail of Faith Wild Horse Summit	June 12-14, 2026	Trenton, NC
June	Rupert Isaacson – Horse Boy Midwest Training – St. James Farm	June 27, 2026	Warrenville, IL
July	BreyerFest EQUUS Film Festival at the Kentucky Horse Park	July 10-12, 2026	Lexington, KY
August	5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs Film Screening -	August 5, 2026	Steamboat Springs, CO
August	Colorado Wild Horse Refuge Wild Horse Summit	August 5-8, 2026	Craig, CO
September	SGPL Film Fest	September 3, 2026	Sugar Grove, IL
September	Mustang Valley Wild Horse Summit	Sept 11-13, 2026	West Fulton, NY
October	Libertyfest EQUUS Film Fest Alltech Arena Kentucky Horse Park	October 8-11, 2026	Lexington, KY
October	Tennessee Wild Horse Summit Fall Creek Falls Equestrian Center	October 16-18, 2026	Pikeville, TN
November	Equine Affair Massachusetts	November 12 – 15, 2026	W. Springfield, MA
November	EQUUS Film & Arts Fest Midway Kentucky	Nov 19-22, 2026	Lexington, KY
2027 April	American Mustang Project Summit	Stephans College Equestrian Center	Columbia, MO
2027 May	EQUUS Film Festival Mongolia and International Wild Horse Summit	May 27 thru June 5	Ulaanbaatar Mongolia

2025 EQUUS Event List



Month	Event	Date	City	State / Country
January	SGPL Film Fest	January 08	Sugar Grove	Illinois
April	Equine Affaire Ohio	April 10 - 13	Columbus	Ohio
April	Farmington Mustang Matinee	April 19	Farmington	New Mexico
May	SGPL Film Fest	May 14	Sugar Grove	Illinois
June	Western States Horse Expo Mustang Summit	June 6 - 8	Sacramento	California
June	Colorado Mustang West Summit	June 25 - 28	Grand Junction	Colorado
July	BreyerFest EQUUS Film Fest	July 10 - 12	Lexington	Kentucky
July	Mustang Challenge 2025	July 10 - 12	Las Vegas	Nevada
July	Barrington EQUUS Film Fest	July 26	Barrington	Illinois
August	Albuquerque Mustang Summit	2026	Albuquerque	New Mexico
August	Roaring Fork Valley HC - Private Films	Aug 2	Aspen	Colorado
August	Walk-On Barrington EQUUS Film Fest	August 7	Barrington	Illinois
August	Author Cheryl Erickson Book Signing	Aug 14 - 16	Saint Charles	Illinois
August	ERAHC Virginia Classic	Aug 20 - 24	Lexington	Virginia
August	Maryland Mustang Mission Mustang Summit	Aug 28 - 31	Bel Air	Maryland
September	Mustang Classic KHP	Sep 4 - 6	Lexington	Kentucky
September	SGPL Film Fest	Sep 10	Sugar Grove	Illinois
September	Wild Kid Acres Maryland Mustang Summit	Sep 19 - 21	Edgewater	Maryland
September	GHS Devils Garden Mustang Challenge	Sep 26 - 28	Huntingdon	Pennsylvania

October	Yukon	TBD	Yukon	Canada
October	Liberty Fest	Oct 9 - 12	Lexington	Kentucky
October	IBERICON	Oct 17 - 19	Ocala	Florida
November	Mustang Summit - Carolinas in 2026	2026		
November	EQUUS Film & Arts Fest Maryland	Nov 14 - 16	Reisterstown	Maryland
November	EQUUS UK	Nov 15	Helmsley	York UK
www.mustangsummit.com		www.equusfilmfest.com		



Dates and Locations we participated at in 2024

38 Mustangs in 2024

Based on information from the BLM Website:

It costs BLM about \$27,500, on average, to provide lifetime care for a wild horse not placed into private care.

- March – Rocky Mountain Horse Expo – Denver Colorado - March 15 – 17, 2024
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- June – Gateway Mustang Summit - Potomac, Illinois – June 7 – 9, 2024
 - Small Event - 4 Mustangs & Films – 4 Mustangs - Adoption Event
- July – BreyerFest – Lexington, Kentucky – July 12 – 14, 2024
 - Small Event – Films – Rescued Hearts – (No Yearlings)
- July – The Leanor - Aztec, New Mexico – July 26 – 28, 2024
 - Small Event – Films & Art & Panels – Mustangs & Rescues – (No Yearlings)
- July – August – Adams County Fair – Brighton, Colorado – July 31 – August 4, 2024
 - The Mustang Summit - Mustangs Event – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- August 25 – Mustang Symposium – Soulful Prairies – Woodstock, Illinois
 - 1 Day Mustang Symposium – (No Yearlings)
- September – Mustang Classic – KHP – Lexington, Kentucky – September 13-15, 2024
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest – (No Yearlings)
- September – EQUUS Aiken – Aiken Equine Rescue - Aiken, South Carolina – September 19-22, 2024
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- October – Liberty Festival – Kentucky Horse Park – October 11-12, 2024
 - EQUUS Film & Arts Fest – Rescued Hearts | Freedom Reigns – Film Screening – (No Yearlings)
- October – Ibericon – World Equestrian Center – Ocala, Florida – October 17-20, 2024
 - Small Event – Films – (No Yearlings)
- October – EQUUS BC – Anvil Center – New West Minister, BB Canada – October 26, 2024
 - Small Event – Films – (No Yearlings)
- November – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit Main Event – Albuquerque, New Mexico – November 14 – 17, 2024
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event





Colorado Equine Liability Act

Warning - Under Colorado Law, an equine professional is not liable for the injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes.

Interesting EQUUS Film & Arts Fest Press Links

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/29/movies/cat-film-festival-dog-film-festival-equus-film-festival.html	https://www.horseillustrated.com/equus-film-and-arts-fest-2019/
https://www.chronofhorse.com/article/year-horse-gets-red-carpet-treatment-true-new-york-style-star-studd/	https://www.forbes.com/sites/teresagenaro/2014/11/20/equine-film-festival-makes-harlem-debut/
https://www.theirishfield.ie/sport-horse/sport-horse-news/from-snowman-to-slaughtered-the-equus-film-festival-had-something-for-all-195368	https://montyroberts.com/meet-montys-team-at-equine-affaire-and-equus-film-festival-nyc/
https://www.theplaidhorse.com/2025/11/17/equestrian-docuseries-inside-the-ingate-is-a-2025-equus-film-fest-winnie-award-winner/	https://equenews.com/article/horseball/about-the-third-annual-equus-film-festival-in-nyc
https://equusmagazine.com/news/horses-and-the-science-of-harmony-heads-to-big-screen	https://nwhorsesource.com/feature-film-running-wild-makes-new-city-debut-2016-equus-film-festival/
https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2021/12/28/maryland-horse-industry-board-short-film-wins-award-at-equus-film-arts-fest/	https://www.horsenation.com/2020/10/14/equus-film-arts-fest-2020-virtual-event-to-take-place-november-13-22-2020/
https://sedonafilmfestival.com/equus-film-festival-2019/	https://rewildingeurope.com/news/tarpan-film-won-the-best-short-documentary-award-at-the-equus-film-festival/
https://thinlineglobal.com/blog/unbridled-the-movie-to-screen-september-17-in-the-equus-film-festival-at-the-world-equestrian-games	https://equineinfoexchange.com/recreation-lifestyle/fantastic-films-emerge-amidst-controversy-at-the-equus-film-festival-in-nyc
https://horsesport.com/horse-news/equus-film-festival-lands-ontario/	https://www.americanfarriers.com/articles/8102-farrier-documentary-earns-equus-film-festival-invite
https://www.equinechronicle.com/new-documentary-focuses-on-young-boy-with-down-syndrome-and-his-pony/	https://www.nj.com/horsenews/2016/12/quus_film_festival_presented_b.html
https://equisearch.com/news/equus-magazine-directors-panels-blockbuster-lineup-coming-equus-film-festival-nyc-november-29870/	https://midsouthhorsereview.com/article/5925 https://www.tenntexas.com/2023/08/equus-film-arts-fest-and-the-mustang-summit-in-westcliffe-colorado-this-september/
https://www.horseillustrated.com/horse-news-2014-12-horse-movies-given-center-stage-at-equus-film-festival/	https://horse-canada.com/free-rein/equus-film-festival/
https://www.michigansthumb.com/news/article/A-Sunday-Horse-Named-Official-Selection-at-Li-l-7271551.php	https://timidrider.com/2017-equus-film-festival/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfMfRtPJZxA	https://www.horsenation.com/2016/12/08/editorial-the-equus-film-festival-nyc-sponsorship-controversy/
https://www.horsenation.com/2016/12/01/highlights-from-the-equus-film-festival-nyc/	https://equus-blog.com/equus-film-festival/
https://issuu.com/equusfilmfest/docs/2023_equus_westcliffe-co_program-in-progress_insta	https://equinemonthly.com/a-pony-and-his-boy/
https://www.suu.edu/news/2016/01/film-about-suus-history-wins-national-competition.html	https://horse-canada.com/magazine/miscellaneous/hot-horse-docs/
https://www.theirishfield.ie/sport-horse/pony-tales/zara-s-planet-lands-equus-contract-207038	https://www.imdb.com/news/ni59208329/



present

The Wild Horse “Listeners”



Alec Adams

Lake George, Colorado

Alec Adams Horse and Rider Training

10th Mountain Equine

Author / Mustangs Advocate / Veterans Mustang Program

<https://www.facebook.com/aleczadamshorseandridertraining>

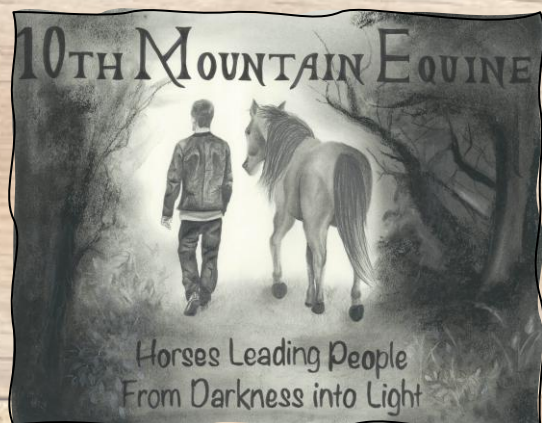


Alec Adams, President and Director of Equine Operations at 10th Mountain Equine. Trainer at Alec Adams Horse and Rider Training, she has been working professionally with horses for over 35 years internationally. A successful competition and pro rider in a variety of disciplines: Hunters, Jumpers, Eventing, Reining, Trail, English Equitation, Western Pleasure, and many Gymkhana Events, she currently works as a horse trainer, private riding instructor, Depth Hypnosis Practitioner, Equine Assisted Activity Facilitator, Ranch Manager, and Mustanger with the Mustang Summit.

Ms. Adams published the book *Mindful Horseback Riding*, and trains horses and individuals alike in methods from her book, from Trustwork to Yoga on Horseback, as well as teaching traditional riding disciplines, vaulting, and mounted archery. She also spent several years designing, creating and training both horses and staff for several companies in both North and South America, including the number one equestrian tour company in Peru, Mountain Lodges of Peru.

In 2019, Alec co-founded the Colorado 501(c)3 nonprofit 10th Mountain Equine, with the mission to rescue horses and serve our community and country by providing proven, effective Equine Assisted Therapies and Activities to improve people's lives including children, veterans and those experiencing psychological trauma. Ms. Adams has been facilitating and providing Equine Assisted Therapies and Activities to people in need for over a decade. She has developed several new modalities, including the Equine Assisted Trauma Release and the Horse Guided Hypnotherapy methods which are becoming increasingly successful across the country.

<https://10me.org/>



Bruce Anderson

South Carolina



Bruce Anderson is a passionate and enthusiastic trainer and clinician who firmly believes not only in the power of the horse, but also in our responsibility to help horses acclimate into our modern world. Bruce grew up on the West Indian islands of Trinidad and Tobago and it was there on the family cocoa and coffee estate that he began his relationship with horses. He learned to ride on the estate and then

represented his country on the National Show Jumping Team. From there he moved on to breeding farms at home, in the U.K. and in the U.S. While in England, he earned an agricultural degree at Merristwood College and in the U.S. where he worked in the Thoroughbred racing industry. He eventually moved into the hunter/jumper “A” show circuit, working in Camden, SC where he is now established as a trainer.

Bruce is certified through the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Trainer Incentive Program and enjoys working with Mustangs, but also appreciates working with owners and their horses to assist them in building better relationships. Bruce's gift is centered in his unique system of Natural Humanship™ developed over a lifetime of work with all types of horses. His recent experience working with feral horses has taken the system to another level. One of Bruce's most powerful and influential work settings took place in 2015 when he was called to the Bahamas to work with Nunki, the last feral mare in the line of Abaco Island Wild Horses, now extinct. That experience was the catalyst for a documentary featuring Bruce's life and work, “The Edge: Bruce Anderson's Natural Humanship™.” A selected presenter for the 2018 World Equestrian Games and 2020 EQUITANA USA, Bruce works with counselors and mental health professionals, law enforcement agencies, school and church groups across the southeastern US to provide Equine Assisted Services with partner Julianne Neal through Nature's View, Inc. and The Marley Project 501(c)(3).

Nature's View website: <http://www.naturesview.us>

The Marley Project website: <https://themarleyproject.org>

View The Edge: <https://equustelevision.com/watch/241>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/Naturesviewinc>
<https://www.facebook.com/jamediaconnections>



George Brauneis

Colorado

Eagles and Wild Horses Ranch



George Brauneis is a lifelong horseman, wild horse advocate, storyteller, and the founder of Eagles and Wild Horses Ranch in western Colorado.

George grew up on the eastern edge of Roubideau Canyon, where the rugged country rises toward the Uncompahgre Plateau—land that was once part of the Ute Nation. Long before he dreamed of becoming an author, those canyons became his playground. Nearly every day brought a new adventure as he explored the mesas, arroyos, hidden springs, and winding trails with his trusty horse, Taffy; his steadfast mammoth burro, Old Ed; and his three faithful dogs—Finster, Zorro, and Licorice. Those childhood adventures instilled a lifelong appreciation for wildlife, wild places, and the stories that nature quietly tells to those willing to listen.

His love of horses began almost as soon as he could walk. At just six years old, George wrote letters to Congress and the President in support of Wild Horse Annie and the legislation that would eventually become the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. What began as a childhood passion grew into a lifelong calling.

After college, George's path led him to Southern California, where he worked in the aerospace industry as a technical engineer and information manager for a precision five-axis CNC manufacturing company serving aerospace leaders, including Northrop Grumman and Boeing. Among the many projects he supported were components that ultimately became part of the International Space Station. While his career helped support humanity's exploration of space, his heart never strayed far from the wild horses, wide-open landscapes, and timeless spirit of the American West.

Eventually, the call of home proved stronger than the lure of aerospace. George returned to western Colorado, where he now dedicates his days to caring for a herd of rescued wild horses and burros, preparing adopted mustangs for successful new homes, and working alongside organizations committed to protecting America's wild horses. His work has included many volunteer hours restoring habitat, improving water sources, removing obsolete fencing, supporting humane fertility control programs, and advocating for practical, science-based management that benefits healthy rangelands, wildlife, livestock, and wild horses alike.

The Watering Hole Chronicles grew naturally from those experiences. Inspired by both his childhood adventures and the remarkable personalities of the animals he has known throughout his life, the series brings together humor, friendship, adventure, and timeless life lessons. Characters like Sneaky Pete, Tahotay, Tux, Bart, Lucy, and the ever-watchful Magpie may be fictional, but their personalities—and many of their adventures—are rooted in the real world.

George believes every horse has a story, every landscape holds a memory, and every person—young or old—still has room for one more adventure. Through his writing, he hopes to remind readers that courage can be quiet, kindness is never wasted, and the best journeys are often measured not by the miles traveled, but by the friends made along the way.

Whether he's standing beneath an ancient cottonwood, watching a rescued mustang discover trust, or sharing a tale around an imaginary campfire, George hopes his stories inspire readers to see the world with a little more wonder, a little more compassion, and a little more joy.

<https://www.facebook.com/george.brauneis>



Paige Burham

Colorado



My name is Paige Burnham and I am the owner and operator of Fantasia Horsemanship LLC. I have over 20 years of horse experience, and am beyond excited to be taking this next step in my horsemanship journey. My experience includes showing at the national and world levels in Dressage, Working Equitation, hunt seat equitation, and western horsemanship with my PRE Andalusian, and gentling and training BLM Mustangs to be successful in a myriad of disciplines, including Dressage, Western Dressage, Eventing, Endurance, Obstacle Challenges, and ranch riding. I have competed in various mustang training challenges, including the inaugural Mustang Classic, the first ever English mustang makeover.

My goal with Fantasia Horsemanship is to help you and your horse build a relationship based on mutual understanding and respect. I utilize a wide variety of training techniques, and follow the LIMA training principles to guide my training. I work to teach owner and horse together, so that both are set up for a lifetime of success. My work in the Human- Horse Relationship during my time at Canisius University, where I graduated with a Master's degree in Anthrozoology, has shown me effective and positive ways that I can guide others to build wonderful bonds with their horses, regardless if that horse is completely untouchable, or an established horse-rider pair looking to build on and improve their abilities.

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Fantasia-Horsemanship-61567454819722/>



Sky Epperson

Indiana



Mustang Listener - Founder of the Mustang Adoption Academy (a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit) & facilitator of the Mustangs of Service veterans mental health program.

Sky has over 20 years of experience training horses and with this hands-on knowledge, as well as inspiration from Dr. Stephen Peters' equine neuroscience research, has developed a set of brain-based horsemanship principles. This approach fueled his formation of the Mustang Adoption Academy, a nonprofit that saves Mustangs and helps Veterans through the MAA's free Mustangs of Service (MOS) mental health program. The deep parallels between mustangs & veterans in the MOS program facilitates transformative moments, when both the wild horse & the veteran start to navigate the pressures of & find safety in this world.

Sky is a certified Life Coach, integrates his training from Equusoma®, is Arenas for Change (ARCH) trained and has completed vast military & trauma-informed trainings. He is also a registered Branded Forever Partnership Trainer.

If you are or know a Veteran who might benefit from the free MOS program, Sky would love to hear from you.

Find more information at www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com

Follow along with the MAA & MOS Veterans Program on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MustangAdoptionAcademy/

or Instagram: @MustangAdoptionAcademy

MUSTANG



Adoption Academy



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HETMANDESIGN.COM

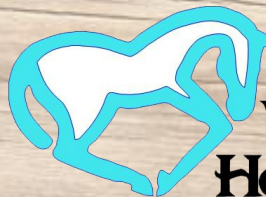
Taryn Hillman

Colorado



**Presenting the BLM
Reassignment Yearling
Tag # 6227 / Jinnie
Sponsored by: Jessica Yi
HMA: Sulfur, Utah**

Born and raised in Colorado, Taryn graduated from CSU with a degree in Equine Science and Agricultural Business. She pursued her passion for horses from a young age and has been actively involved in both training horses and teaching lessons for over 20 years. She became a PATH Certified Instructor in 2007, helping individuals with special needs accomplish their goals while learning how to ride. She has participated in multiple Extreme Mustang Makeover competitions and several of those mustangs became partners in her therapeutic riding and lesson program. She has also competed in the Equine Comeback Challenge and several local TIP challenges, consistently placing among the top performers. When training horses she strives to do right by the horse, using natural horsemanship training methods to gain trust and respect while working with the horse to create a partnership with the goal of developing quiet, versatile horses that most anyone can ride



**Wild Hearts
Horsemanship**

<https://www.facebook.com/wildhearthorsemanship>
<https://wildhearthorseman.wixsite.com/whhlc>
<https://instagram.com/wildhearthorsemanship>

Mary Kitzmiller

Texas

www.marykitzmiller.com



Perhaps my greatest of equine teachers has been the American Mustang. Mustang training can be an incredibly humbling experience as they do not readily hand you their trust and their heart. You must earn it. In 2011 I began competing in Extreme Mustang Makeover events which require trainers to work with a Mustang for 3-4 months and then compete with their mounts. In 2012, I placed 4th in the finals and 2013 I was awarded 5th place and \$50,700 in the first ever Mustang Million competition. I was the highest placing woman of the event. I have such an immense love and respect for Mustangs and am so grateful to the wonderful Mustangs in my life that opened up a world of opportunities for me.

marykkitzmiller@gmail.com



Stephanie Linsey

Colorado



Stephanie may have lucked into her early involvement with Mustangs as she grew up in Wild Horse Country here in Grand Junction... but since adopting her first Mustang in 2007, she has deliberately dedicated her life to them. Through her work with various nonprofit organizations, and with her own horsemanship business, she has had the privilege to draw knowledge and share experiences with over a thousand Mustangs over the years. Currently, Stephanie teaches horsemanship clinics around the world and offers online horsemanship courses, all with the guiding principle of seeking balance in all things... with our horses and with ourselves.

www.infinityhorsemanship.com

www.facebook.com/infinityhorsemanship



Mikenzie Payne

Missouri

Royal Payne Stables

Owner & Riding Instructor



Mustang Mikenzie is a horse enthusiast, experienced mustang handler, head trainer and owner of both Royal Payne Stables and Mustang Mikenzie Horsemanship located in Sedalia, MO. This program specializes specifically in mustang gentling, training, and rehabilitation. Mikenzie has dedicated the last 9 years of her life to rescuing and gentling wild Mustangs and providing them with strong, lasting, foundational training they can take anywhere!

<https://www.royalpaynestables.com/>
royalpaynestables@gmail.com





The Wild Yearlings “Adoptables”





Adoptables & Fosters

Adopters/Purchasers for the Wild Horse Refuge Symposium Wild Horse Summit Adoption event will be able to view the horses and burros after 1pm on Saturday August 8th with a completed adoption/purchase form.



No entry fee will be required with completed adoption application on Saturday August 8th after 1pm.

You MUST bring a copy of your completed application or have it available on your phone. This applies to both the "Adoptables" & "Foster Horses". NO Bidding without it.



Yearling “Adoptable”

Gelding – Red Roan



Tag # 5986 – Cheerio - Sponsored by: KC KIDS

HMA: Sulfur, Utah



Starting

Bid

\$500

\$1500

**Buy Now
Option**

Sulfur, Utah - HMA

In the mountain peaks and sloping lowlands of western Utah roams a nationally recognized population of wild horses with a Utah heritage much older than most of ours. Many of these horses draw their bloodlines from the Colonial Spanish Horse, the first horses brought to America by the Spanish explorers in the 1500s.

Location: The Sulphur Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in western Iron, Beaver, and Millard counties, Utah, approximately 50 miles west of Minersville in the Indian Peak and Mountain Home mountain ranges. The elevation ranges from 9,790 feet on top of Indian Peak to 6,000 feet on the valley floors. The HMA contains 230,157 acres of BLM land and 35,554 acres of federal, state, and privately owned land for a total of 265,711 acres.

*Please fill out the Adoption Application Form if you are going to attend the adoption event. Scan QR Code to access form.
NO Access to event without completed application.*



Yearling “Adoptable”

Mare – Grey



Tag # 6046 / Gertie – Sponsored by: Barstow Moms
HMA: Adobe Town, WY



**Starting
Bid
\$500**

**\$1500
Buy Now
Option**

Adobe Town WY HMA

The horses exhibit a full range of colors, with greys and roans predominating. The present population has been influenced by the routine escape of domestic saddle stock from the surrounding populated areas. The horses range from 14 to 15 hands and 900-1100 pounds mature weight. One of the most famous wild horses of all times, named “Desert Dust” came from this area.

Location: The Adobe Town HMA is located in south central Wyoming between Interstate 80 and the Colorado/Wyoming border. It encompasses nearly 347,840 acres of mostly BLM-administered public land with a small portion of intermingled private lands and is west of Baggs, Wyoming..

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Yearling “Adoptable”

Mare – Buckskin



Tag # 6048 / Benjamina – Sponsored by: Jennie Chang
HMA: Adobe Town, WY



**Starting
Bid
\$500**

**\$1500
Buy Now
Option**

Adobe Town HMA WY

The horses exhibit a full range of colors, with greys and roans predominating. The present population has been influenced by the routine escape of domestic saddle stock from the surrounding populated areas. The horses range from 14 to 15 hands and 900-1100 pounds mature weight. One of the most famous wild horses of all times, named “Desert Dust” came from this area.

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Yearling “Adoptable”

Mare – Bay



Tag # 6057 / Serendipity – Sponsored by: Jessica Yi
HMA: Adobe Town, WY



Starting
Bid
\$500

\$1500
Buy Now
Option

Adobe Town HMA WY

The horses exhibit a full range of colors, with greys and roans predominating. The present population has been influenced by the routine escape of domestic saddle stock from the surrounding populated areas. The horses range from 14 to 15 hands and 900-1100 pounds mature weight. One of the most famous wild horses of all times, named “Desert Dust” came from this area.

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Yearling “Adoptable”

Mare – Sorrel



Tag # 6066 / Shelby – Sponsored by: Sophie & Ellen
HMA: Adobe Town, WY



**Starting
Bid
\$500**

**\$1500
Buy Now
Option**

Adobe Town HMA WY

The horses exhibit a full range of colors, with greys and roans predominating. The present population has been influenced by the routine escape of domestic saddle stock from the surrounding populated areas. The horses range from 14 to 15 hands and 900-1100 pounds mature weight. One of the most famous wild horses of all times, named “Desert Dust” came from this area.

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Yearling “Adoptable”

Gelding - Pinto



Tag # 6172 / Wyatt – Sponsored by: Sandy Maddry
HMA: Bible Springs, Utah



**Starting
Bid
\$500**

**\$1500
Buy Now
Option**



Bible Springs, Utah HMA

The herd's lineage is based in ranching and mining stock, and their size and colors vary. Most of the wild horses are bays, sorrels and brown, but there are pintos, palominos, buckskins, roans and grullas.

Location: The herd is located in Iron and Beaver counties; approximately 45 miles West of Cedar City, Utah, and accessible via the Lund Highway.

The Herd Management Area contains 56,588 acres of BLM lands and 5,274 acres of Federal, State, and privately-owned land for a total of 61,862 acres.

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Yearling “Adoptable”

Mare - Bay



Tag # 6178 / Daydream – Sponsored by: Jessica Yi
HMA: Sulfur, Utah



Sulfur, Utah - HMA

In the mountain peaks and sloping lowlands of western Utah roams a nationally recognized population of wild horses with a Utah heritage much older than most of ours. Many of these horses draw their bloodlines from the Colonial Spanish Horse, the first horses brought to America by the Spanish explorers in the 1500s.

Location: The Sulphur Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in western Iron, Beaver, and Millard counties, Utah, approximately 50 miles west of Minersville in the Indian Peak and Mountain Home mountain ranges. The elevation ranges from 9,790 feet on top of Indian Peak to 6,000 feet on the valley floors. The HMA contains 230,157 acres of BLM land and 35,554 acres of federal, state, and privately owned land for a total of 265,711 acres.

**Starting
Bid
\$500**

**\$1500
Buy Now
Option**

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Yearling “Adoptable”

Gelding - Dun



Tag # 6188 / J-Hope – Sponsored by: Jessica Yi
HMA: Sulfur, Utah



Sulfur, Utah - HMA

In the mountain peaks and sloping lowlands of western Utah roams a nationally recognized population of wild horses with a Utah heritage much older than most of ours. Many of these horses draw their bloodlines from the Colonial Spanish Horse, the first horses brought to America by the Spanish explorers in the 1500s.

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**Starting
Bid
\$500**

**\$1500
Buy Now
Option**

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Demo BLM Yearling

Mare – Bay

BLM Reassignment

Tag # 6227 / Jinnie– Sponsored by: Jessica Yi

HMA: Sulfur, Utah



**Reassignment
Fee**

\$125

+

\$375+

**Training
Fee**



Sulfur, Utah - HMA

In the mountain peaks and sloping lowlands of western Utah roams a nationally recognized population of wild horses with a Utah heritage much older than most of ours. Many of these horses draw their bloodlines from the Colonial Spanish Horse, the first horses brought to America by the Spanish explorers in the 1500s.

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Adopt

an American living legend



[BLM.gov/colorado](https://blm.gov/colorado)



Meet Jake Harvath
“Year Of The Mustang”
Cross Country Rider



www.yearofthemustang.com

THE WILD HORSE



CRAIG
COLORADO

Refuge

30 000
ACRES

present

The Wild Horse Foster Program



Leiah Burnham

Colorado



I started riding with my dad at a young age, and joined him at rodeos and breaking colts. Throughout my life I have had horses by my side through all major life events- my quarter horse stallion was in my wedding, and all 4 of my kids sat on him as soon as they came home. Recently, I have competed my friesian sport horse in dressage, western dressage, working equitation, and obstacle challenges, as well as riding in a sidesaddle drill team. I love horses, and am very excited to gentle this sweet mustang and get him placed in a great home!



Leiah Burnham

Colorado



Foster: Yearling – **“AVAILABLE”**
Gelding



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Paige Burham

Colorado



My name is Paige Burnham and I am the owner and operator of Fantasia Horsemanship LLC. I have over 20 years of horse experience, and am beyond excited to be taking this next step in my horsemanship journey. My experience includes showing at the national and world levels in Dressage, Working Equitation, hunt seat equitation, and western horsemanship with my PRE Andalusian, and gentling and training BLM Mustangs to be successful in a myriad of disciplines, including Dressage, Western Dressage, Eventing, Endurance, Obstacle Challenges, and ranch riding. I have competed in various mustang training challenges, including the inaugural Mustang Classic, the first ever English mustang makeover.

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<https://www.facebook.com/p/Fantasia-Horsemanship-61567454819722/>



Paige Burham

Colorado



Foster: Adult **“AVAILABLE”** Gelding

Loki is a sweet and intelligent 4 year old gelding. He is a goofy boy who is absolutely brimming with personality. He walks up to you to be haltered, leads, picks up all 4 feet, and more- he has had the slow and steady foundation to set him up for a great future! He has a willingness to please that will absolutely make him a great partner for someone!



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Lisanne Fear

Wyoming



After riding 5000 miles across the country from Delaware to California, to inspire and educate the adoption of 5000 mustangs from holding, things have been relatively quiet now that I am back in my home state of Wyoming. I am actively working on a new project to continue to help mustangs find homes while also putting a large focus on helping humans with their mental health. With the documentary covering my ride, "5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs" launching this year, I myself am looking forward to seeing what else I can add to my 'about you' paragraphs in the future.



Lisanne Fear

Wyoming



Foster: Burros “AVAILABLE”

2 Jennies

MUST go together

Bonded pair

Betty is a 3-year-old, 12hh, red(roan) jenny burro from Big Sandy, AZ, HMA. She is extremely sweet and loves to be pet.

Boop is a 2-year-old 11.2hh, gray, jenny burro from Alamo, AZ, HMA. Even though she is missing her right eye, she is the more curious one between the two.

These girls come as a package deal as Boop relies on Betty to keep an eye on her blind side.
;)

They lead on their own terms & time, load on a trailer when they know they are going together & the first ones on, and each pick up all 4 feet for low maintenance trims.

Both girls are sale authority so no BLM paperwork necessary.



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Macey Sanburg

Colorado



Born and raised in Montrose, Colorado I grew up outdoors doing anything I could to get close to horses. I got my first horse at 14 and showed in gymkhanas and local 4-h shows. I have been training and showing mustangs since 2019 when my first filly got my family and I hooked! I love the gentling process, and watching these wild horses learn to trust and become willing partners, whether that's for me or helping find them their forever home.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011954284354>



Macey Sanburg

Colorado



Foster: Adult “AVAILABLE”
Adult - Mare

Millie is a 2020 mare out of Antelope, NV. I got her as an 8 month old filly and nursed her back to health, slowly training her along the way. She has extensive ground work and even knows a few tricks! She has been started riding and is doing well in her training, we are taking it slow and steady.



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Sarah Welty

Colorado



Foster Horse

Adult - Mare

Sarah Welty is a Natural Horsemanship trainer and colt starter who runs her own ranch in Fort Lupton, Colorado. Sarah has been training mustangs for 14 years while also taking on private client horses, teaching off site lessons, and working as a training partner with 3 mustang related organizations since 2019. Sarah believes it is crucial to create a solid relationship based on trust before proceeding to more advanced asks with her horses.

Sarah grew up riding precision drill, and currently specializes in behavioral and restart training. She also competes in Mustang Makeovers in Meeker Colorado. She is dedicated to helping these incredible animals land on their feet, and also help owners and horses find better communication with one another.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moOiklDAisk>

<https://www.facebook.com/sarah.yount>



Sarah Welty

Colorado



Foster: 8-Year-Old **“AVAILABLE”** Mare

Nova is a 8-year-old Appaloosa Mustang mare. Looking into her HMA currently as she was rescued from a kill lot. Her Name Nova represents her fresh start and second chance that she is getting at life.



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Bree Thompson

Wild Hearts Haven Colorado



Wild Hearts Haven is a nonprofit 501c3 restart program committed to improving the lives of equines and humans through rehabilitative care and education, grounded in compassion and expertise. We offer equines in transition a second chance by providing superior training and dedicated rehoming services. We rehab, restart, and rehome horses of all types and backgrounds, with a focus on mustangs. We believe that investing in a solid training foundation is key to helping these horses live happy, successful lives back out in the community. 720-404-9032

<https://www.facebook.com/WildHeartsHaven>

<https://www.wildheartshaven.org/>



Wild Heats Haven

Taryn Hillman & Bree Thompson
Colorado



**Foster: Melee, 2½ year old “AVAILABLE”
Mare**

That is Melee, a 2½ year old unbranded mustang mare
(mom was pregnant with her when adopted).



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attend the adoption event. Scan QR Code to access form.
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Wild Heats Haven

Taryn Hillman & Bree Thompson
Colorado



9 years old | BLM Mustang Mare | ~14.3hh
Meet Honey!

Training Level: Riding

Honey is an 9 year old BLM Mustang mare from Antelope Valley, NV HMA. She was a transfer from a rescue where she got pregnant at a foster home and was part of a group of several horses there that needed to be removed.



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**The Wild Horse
Symposium
Presenters**
presenting at
**The Wild Horse Refuge
Craig, Colorado**



Patrick Craig

Wild Horse Refuge

Colorado



Founder and Executive Director – Pat Craig – Pat began saving captive wildlife after learning that thousands of “surplus” animals were being kept in tiny cages in the back of zoos all across the country – with many being euthanized on a daily basis. Pat set out on a mission to help save these animals by building a small rescue facility on his family farm outside Boulder, CO. At age 19, Pat became the youngest state and federally licensed person in the country, as well as the first person to build a sanctuary dedicated to saving large carnivores and other animals.

Pat’s vision has led 44 years later to the oldest and largest nonprofit sanctuary in the world dedicated to rescuing captive exotic and endangered large carnivores that have been abused, abandoned, exploited or illegally kept. Beginning in 2022, Pat saw the need for a wild horse refuge to be created in order to help wild Mustangs in Colorado. He subsequently created the largest wild horse sanctuary in the United States by opening a 22,500-acre facility in northwest Colorado for Mustangs that were being removed from their native ranges by the BLM.

Pat’s 44 years of experience in captive large carnivore rescue, transportation, animal behavior and sanctuary development have led to his becoming a leading expert in the field. He spent more than a decade rescuing PMU horses back in the late 80's and early 90's and has rescued hundreds of horses in need while also operating three separate large carnivore sanctuaries.

Pat lectures regionally and nationally on captive wildlife rescue and transportation, great cat behaviors and diets, and has worked tirelessly toward better protection for these animals. He works hand-in-hand with the USDA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and many other state and national organizations in the never-ending fight to rescue animals in need. Pat has also worked with Canadian, Mexican, Spanish, Bolivian, Uruguayan, Panamanian and Peruvian, Lebanese and Korean government agencies on large and extremely complicated rescues from within their countries.

Pat oversees and participates in all TWAS’ operations, including rescues, both within the United States and abroad. Pat has over 44 years of experience in designing, building and operating specialized rescue equipment for use in transporting large carnivores and wild horses and manages the largest fleet of rescue equipment in the country. His expertise in handling large rescues in demanding situations, as well as successfully covering great distances is well known among law enforcement agencies across the U.S.

Pat has a BS in Education from the University of Northern Colorado and has received recognition and awards from many sources including the United States Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award for service above and beyond to the USDA, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Humane Association and E-Chievement Award from E-Town Environmental Radio Show. Besides being featured as a modern-day Noah by 60 minutes news, Pat was also a finalist in Animal Planet’s “Hero of the Year” selections and currently has two Emmy Awards for educational videos he helped produce.

<https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>



PAT CRAIG
Executive Director

303.536.0118 | pat@wildanimalsanctuary.org
www.WildAnimalSanctuary.org | www.WildAnimalRefuge.org
1946 county Road 53, Keenesburg, CO 80643

THE WILD ANIMAL
Sanctuary

Saving one animal may not change the world...But surely, for that one animal... The world will change forever!



Alen Bittner

Colorado

Deputy State Director for Resources and Planning at the BLM State Office

Alan Bittner serves as the Deputy State Director for Resources and Planning at the BLM State Office in Colorado. The division provides guidance and policy direction to the four districts and ten field offices within BLM Colorado's 8.3 million acres. The division includes all biologic resources, wild horses, water rights and cultural resource management. In addition, statewide planning guidance and recreation management are led out of the division.

Before Colorado, Alan served as the Northern California District Manager in Redding, California since 2017 where he oversaw four field offices in a district that stretched from the coast to NW Nevada. Alan served as the Anchorage Field Manager, where he oversaw 24 million acres of BLM-administered public lands in western, south-central, and southeast Alaska. Alan also served as an Assistant Field Manager in Carson City, Nevada for four years where he oversaw the forestry, range, recreation, wildlife and wild horse and burro programs.

Alan began his career in Idaho where he worked for the U.S. Forest Service and BLM for 15 years. He has a Bachelor's Degree in biology from Cornerstone University in Michigan and he enjoys getting outdoors with his wife Monique and their two boys.



Stephanie Causey

Colorado

Public Herd Documentation Team Member, Sand Wash Basin Wild Horse Advocate Team

Stephanie Causey has been a member of the Sand Wash Advocate Team Public Herd Documentation Team since 2024. In this role, she contributes to documenting and monitoring the wild horses of Sand Wash Basin through field observations, identification work, and detailed record-keeping. Her efforts help support accurate herd data and ongoing understanding of movement patterns and herd dynamics. Through her participation, she assists the broader mission of SWAT in promoting informed, humane, and sustainable management of the Sand Wash wild horse population.

<https://sandwashadvocateteam.org/>

SWAT
SAND WASH
ADVOCATE TEAM



Rachel Ann (The Donkey Lady)

Colorado



Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue and Education

At the “Meet The Experts” Table & Area

Rachel Ann is a seasoned professional in donkey training and rescue, with over a decade of experience in the field. Beginning her journey in 2010, she has been passionately rescuing donkeys since 2013. In 2021, she founded Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue, which has achieved the status of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, further solidifying her commitment to animal welfare.

Holding a B.S. in Equine Science from Colorado State University, Rachel graduated with honors, presenting an insightful thesis on Easily Unrecognizable Equine Facial Expressions. This academic foundation enriches her understanding of donkey behavior and care.

<https://www.heehawhalfwayhouse.com/>



Teresa Drotar, DVM

Colorado



Teresa Drotar, DVM, is a veterinarian and the National Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead for the United States Forest Service. In this role, she oversees wild horse and burro management efforts on National Forest System lands, focusing on herd health, habitat stewardship, fertility control, and long-term ecosystem sustainability.

Dr. Drotar brings a veterinary and science-based perspective to the complex challenges surrounding wild horse management. She works collaboratively with federal agencies, researchers, and stakeholders to support humane and sustainable management practices for free-roaming horse populations across the western United States.



Jake Harvath

Utah

Year of the Mustang

At the “Meet The Experts” Table & Area



Jake Harvath is a long-distance rider from Heber City, Utah. He is the founder of the Year of the Mustang project. A six-thousand-mile horseback journey that has taken Harvath and his mustangs from Utah to the Atlantic coast. Now they are headed west, with plans to pass through twenty-five states in total. Jake's mission is to show the usefulness and versatility of mustangs as working horses and to educate the public about the need for adoption. A trainer and farrier by trade, Jake is applying the skills he's obtained in life to the challenging journey.

While his horses; Denver, Bella, and Eddy are showing the world the qualities that mustangs possess, Jake found a voice by documenting his journey on YouTube and social media. Giving the world a unique look at what it's like to cross America on the backs of wild horses.

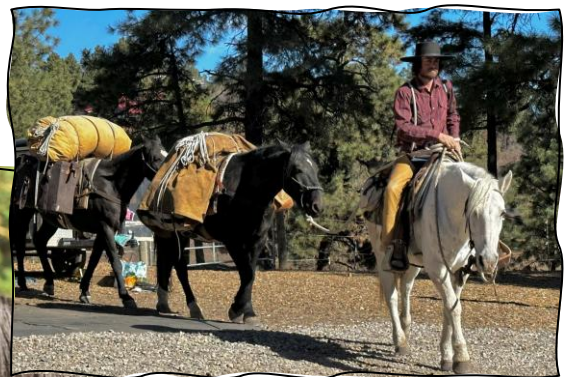
<https://youtu.be/88yPCT0gQpg?si=wDNcYHNjZSsxXWzr>

<https://yearofthemustang.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095731503504>

<https://www.instagram.com/yearofthemustang>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-support-the-year-of-the-mustang>



Karen Herman, Ph.D.

New Mexico

Co-Founder & Director, Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary

Karen Herman, Ph.D., is a researcher, wildlife advocate, and co-founder of Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary, a nonprofit dedicated to the humane protection and conservation of America's wild horses. Her work focuses on science-based, ethical management practices that allow wild horses to remain free on the range while protecting ecosystem health and herd welfare.

Dr. Herman has collaborated on research and publications involving wild horse fertility control, humane population management, and conservation policy. Through sanctuary development, public education, and scientific collaboration, she continues to advocate for sustainable, compassionate solutions for free-roaming horses across the western United States.

<https://www.skymountainwild.org/sanctuaryteam>



Austin Hill

Wild Horse Refuge

Colorado



Public Relations Director, Austin Hill first visited The Wild Animal Sanctuary the day after graduating college in 2014 and was instantly enamored! He spent some time as a traveling educational theater actor and would read the TWAS tour guide in-between performances. Born and raised in Colorado, he grew up in a family that was heavily involved in animal rescue. By Summer 2015, he found himself joining his very favorite place/mission on the planet. He is extremely passionate about sharing the animals' stories to educate others about the Captive Wildlife Crisis - and also of Wild Horses!

Wild Horse Refuge: <https://www.wildhorserefuge.org>

The Wild Horse Refuge is a completely unique and pioneering facility that was created in order to guarantee a wild home for Colorado's native Mustangs. Wild horses are allowed to roam freely within the Refuge, which has more than 30,000 acres of land for the horses! A massive 30,000-acre sanctuary that serves as a permanent home for over 230 rescued Mustangs, many from the nearby Sand Wash Basin.



Mitch Karstens

Colorado

Wild Horse Inmate Program & Colorado Correctional Industries



Mitch Karstens serves as Director of Colorado Correctional Industries, which partners with organizations and agencies on a variety of vocational training programs, including the Wild Horse Inmate Program. The program provides incarcerated participants with the opportunity to work with and train wild horses, helping prepare the animals for adoption while developing valuable skills and experience.

Through his leadership role with Colorado Correctional Industries, Mitch has helped support programs that create meaningful opportunities for both people and horses. His work involves overseeing initiatives that combine workforce development, rehabilitation, and animal stewardship, contributing to successful outcomes for mustangs transitioning into adoptive homes.



Allen Rutberg, Ph.D.

Massachusetts

Director, Center for Animals and Public Policy, Tufts University

Allen Rutberg, Ph.D., is a behavioral ecologist and internationally recognized expert in wildlife fertility control and humane population management. As Director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, his work focuses on wildlife behavior, ethics, and immunocontraception in free-roaming horses and deer.

For decades, Dr. Rutberg has helped lead research into humane alternatives to lethal wildlife control and large-scale removals. His work involving PZP fertility-control vaccines has played a major role in shaping modern wild horse management discussions throughout the United States.



Cayla Stone

Wild Rose Mustang Advocacy Group
Colorado



Mustang Eventing Demo at Wild Horse Refuge

<https://www.wildrosemagic.org>



Stephanie Swanson

Wild Rose Mustang Advocacy Group Colorado



Eventing Demo at Wild Horse Refuge At the “Meet The Experts” Table & Area

Stephanie didn't start riding until she was 34, but she's been making up for lost time ever since. After a few years of learning the basics, she went on a quest to find the perfect trainer—someone with eventing expertise and a natural, horse-first approach. That journey led her to Cayla and Wild Rose, and the rest is history!

Her horse family started with Gentleman Jack, whom she still has, but it didn't stop there. Stephanie is now also the proud “mustang mama” of Dougie, Zephyr and Oliver, all adopted from Wild Rose. Add a few dogs to the mix and “Swanson Acres” is always full of excitement, dirty boots, and a whole lot of heart.

By day, Stephanie is a Business Officer at a local University, where she puts her accounting and organizational skills to work. When not at her day job, she uses those same skills to support Wild Rose's mission, helping Mustangs find homes and helping youth trainers succeed. Swanson Acres also provides an important resource for Wild Rose horses by offering space for new arrivals to quarantine, a place for horses to rest and recharge after training, and additional room to support Wild Rose's growing needs when space with our exceptional trainers is at capacity.

<https://www.wildrosemagic.org>



Kerry M. Thomas

Pennsylvania

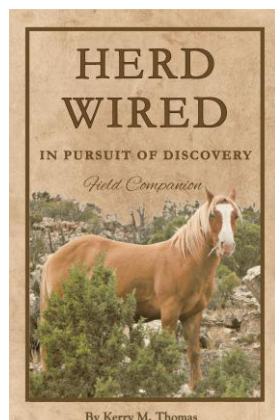
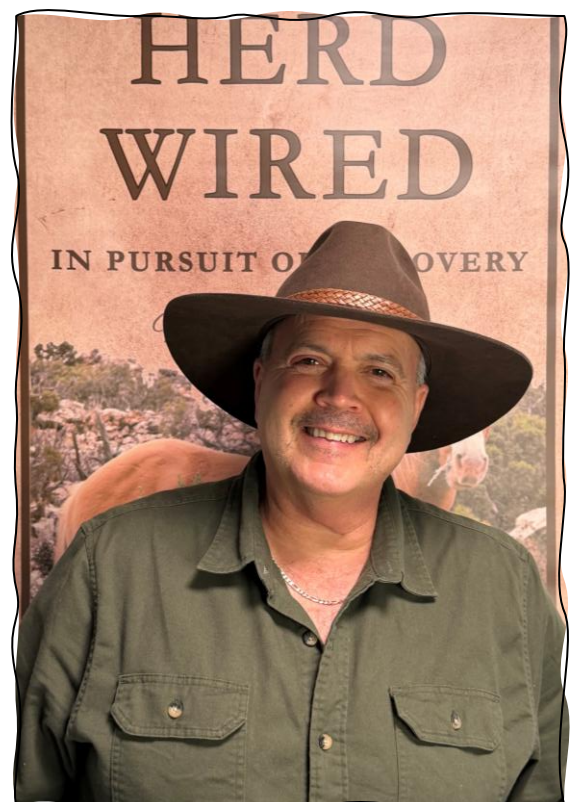
At the “Meet The Experts”
Table & Area

Kerry M. Thomas’s work sits at the intersection of equine behavior, education, welfare, and performance. Over the course of several decades, his research, teaching, and consulting have been sought by institutions, professionals, and private clients around the world who are working to better understand how horses—and people—experience anxiety, stress, communication, and relationship.

Rather than focusing on outcomes alone, Kerry’s work emphasizes internal experience: how sensory processing, emotional regulation, and herd dynamics shape behavior, performance, and well-being across disciplines and environments.

https://open.spotify.com/show/2SyaYKRMOE717JM89FzCwz?si=xvjRNfkLQ8CUc_Je6mQpkw&nd=1&dlsi=d90b360496ec4059

<https://www.kerrymthomas.com/>



Stella Trueblood

Colorado

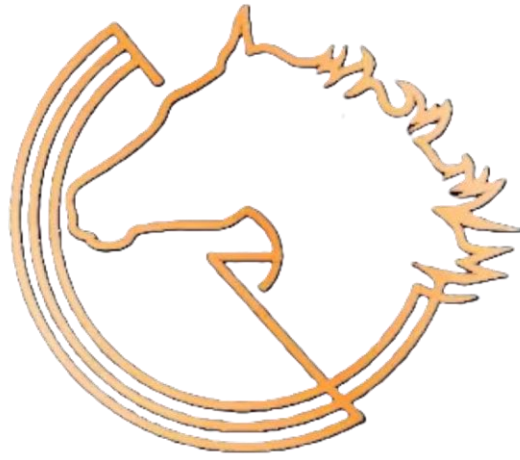
President, Sand Wash Basin Wild Horse Advocate Team

Stella Trueblood is President of the Sand Wash Advocate Team (SWAT), a volunteer organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the wild horses of Colorado's Sand Wash Basin. Since 2012, she has worked extensively in the field advocating for humane, on-range management solutions that allow wild horses to remain free in their natural habitat.

Working in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, Stella has helped lead PZP fertility-control efforts in Sand Wash Basin since 2014. Through hands-on fieldwork, education, and public outreach, she continues promoting responsible wild horse management and long-term herd sustainability.

<https://sandwashadvocateteam.org>





WILD HORSE
CINEMA & ARTS

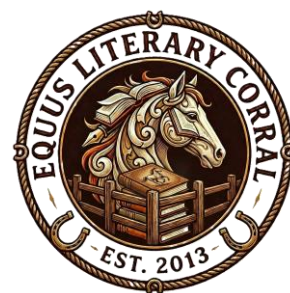
**Special Guest Speakers,
Filmmakers,
Authors, & Artist
presenting at
Wild Horse Cinema + Arts
Steamboat Springs, Colorado**



Randi A. Samuelson-Brown

Author

Colorado



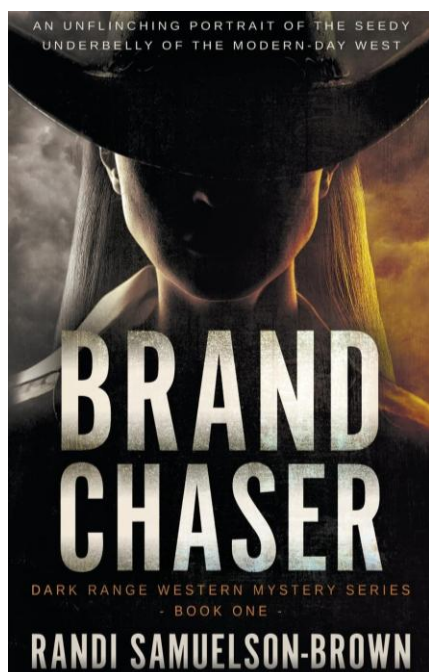
Author of Historical Fiction, Colorado History and Frontier Fiction. All on the dark side, of course!

Author: Randi A. Samuelson-Brown

Author of Historical Fiction, Colorado History and Frontier Fiction. All on the dark side, of course!

Randi Samuelson-Brown was born in Denver, Colorado and grew up in Golden. She writes historical fiction and has always enjoyed uncovering strange and obscure historical facts and details. Randi's undergraduate degree is in History, and she continued on to Post-Graduate Research at Trinity College, University of Dublin. Frontier Fiction and the shadier aspects of the Wild West has always held a place close to her heart. The Beaten Territory was her debut novel (re-released as Market Street Madam in paperback) and The Bad Old Days of Colorado: Untold Stories of the Wild West was her first non-fiction - and was a Finalist in the 2021 Colorado Book Awards

<http://www.randisamuelsonbrown.com/>



“Pappa” Mike Cassedy

Kentucky

Author - “The Way”



Authors Corner at Wild Horse Cinema + Arts – Steamboat Springs

Spending summer after summer, watching, learning and riding up on the Rez, gave me that solid foundation of learning the horse.

Years of the love of the horse, brought me to my first mustang in 2017.

Attending a Pow Wow in Ohio, approached by a young lady who had a “free mustang” from a rescue organization for her green rider daughter’s 4-H introduction, was the start of my passion for the mustang.

Accepted three times for the KY EMM was an opportunity of a lifetime, though my first EMM was at the age of 65.

The passion carried over to my daughter, April Michelle Cassedy, and 14-year-old AD Adren Gross that became known as Team Pappa Mike.

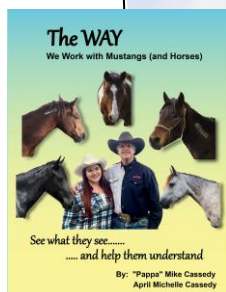
Over the last 5 years, Team Pappa Mike has worked with over 30 mustangs of various degrees in their training.

What we found after our very first mustang, One Horse’s Journey, barn name “Journey”, was the large number of mustangs that horse people were either incapable or lack the training ability to move forward with their adopted mustangs.

We decided we would no longer adopt untouched mustangs (with exceptions of the EMM Competition) but would focus on helping others with their mustangs and/or taking on abandoned mustangs.

Journey is still with April Michelle along with 3 other mustangs and I have Wakiyan, my 2019 KY EMM Mustang and Akicita my other Pinto Mustang.

We continue to move forward and work with all levels of mustangs as it has become a “Whatever It Takes” mindset with these National Treasures through what we established as “The Way” we work with mustangs. Pappa Mike Cassedy.



Daniella DeSilva

Indiana

Mustang Translator – Program Facilitator of the Mustang Adoption Academy (a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit) & the Mustangs of Service veterans' mental health program.

www.mustangadoptionacademy.com



Daniella has over 30 years of experience working with horses and more than 20 years involved in therapeutic riding programs. She is one of the program facilitator's for the Mustang Adoption Academy, a nonprofit that saves Mustangs and helps Veterans through the MAA's free Mustangs of Service (MOS) mental health program. The deep parallels between mustangs & veterans in the MOS program facilitates transformative moments, when both the wild horse & the veteran start to navigate the pressures of & find safety in this world.

Daniella holds a Master's degree in Counseling, is a certified Life Coach, is level 2 NL-P, EP certified through Natural Lifemanship, has taken courses through the Polyvagal Equine Institute and has completed vast military & trauma-informed trainings - blending her lifelong horsemanship with trauma-informed, relationship based healing.

Find more information at www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com

Follow along with the MAA & MOS Veterans Program on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MustangAdoptionAcadem

or Instagram: @MustangAdoptionAcademy



Kerry Ferguson

Colorado

The Cloud Foundation

Executive Director

THE *Cloud*
FOUNDATION



Presentation at Wild Horse Cinema + Arts – Steamboat Springs

Kerry Ferguson joined The Cloud Foundation team in 2022. Originally from San Diego, she has enjoyed exploring Colorado from the back of her friend, Toby (The Wonder Horse), since moving to Colorado in 2012. A former educator, she came to The Cloud Foundation from a Regional Manager position working in the nonprofit sector. A lifelong lover of animals, and a horse geek, she is thrilled to be able to channel her experience and passions into this meaningful work.

kerry@thecloudfoundation.org

<https://www.thecloudfoundation.org/>



Linda Greaves

Maryland



Save America's Wild Horses
Presentation at Wild Horse Cinema + Arts – Steamboat Springs

Linda Greaves is the Founder and Director of Save America's Wild Horses and creator of the National Wild Horse & Burro Conference. A lifelong advocate, she organizes education and lobbying initiatives, serves as a Volunteer Documenter for Wild Horse Education, and works to advance humane, science-based solutions for America's wild horses and burros.

<https://www.saveamericaswildhorses.org/>



Brittany Leigh Ference

Colorado

EVOKE

The Great Escape Mustang Collaborative



<https://www.greatescapemustangs.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/britt.ofthewild>

Brittany is the Executive Director for the Great Escape Mustang Collaborative. She has dedicated her life's work to addressing the unique challenges faced by wild horses. She holds a strong sense of responsibility to advocate for the once wild ones as they find their way through domestic life. Her personal experiences in the wild serve as a constant reminder of the beauty and resilience of these remarkable wild animals and reinforce her commitment to serve the Mustangs and the people who take them into their homes. Through her unwavering dedication, expertise, and passion, Brittany continues to make a significant difference in the lives of Mustangs.

Brittany lives off grid in the southern Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico with her family where her lifestyle re-employs slow living, simplicity and connection to nature. You can catch her spending time with her family homesteading and in the backcountry horseback riding, fishing, hunting and foraging.

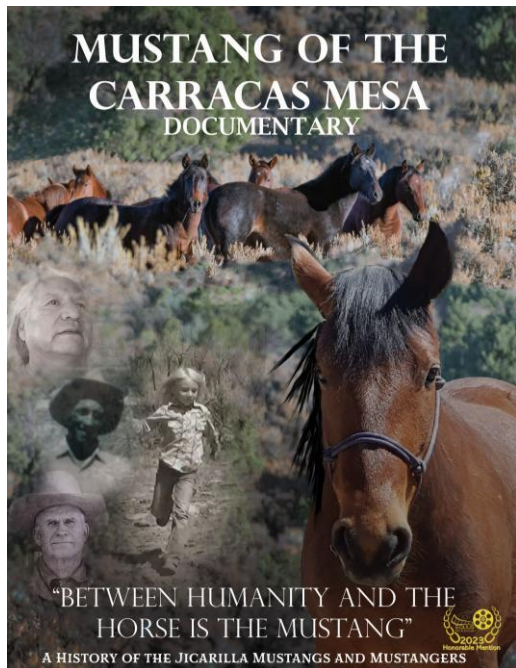


Laura Harper

Colorado

Laura lives in Dolores Colorado with her husband Greg and her horses, Dusty Dandy, RAMBO and Wendy. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Jicarilla Mustang Heritage Alliance, Editor of the Four Corners Equine Rescue newsletter publication and President of the San Juan County Historical Society, NM. She holds a MA in Organizational Management.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556884025662>



Amanda Held

Ohio

H.O.O.V.E.S. | Equine Wisdom Integration Method™

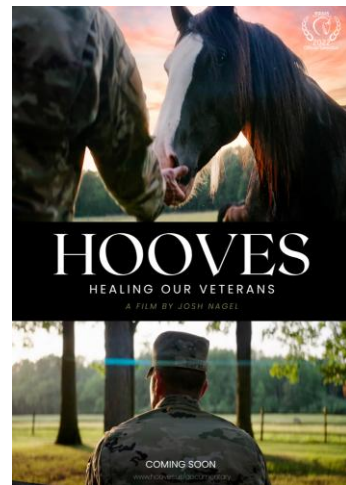
Amanda Held is the Founder of H.O.O.V.E.S. and CEO of the Equine Wisdom Institute. She has spent over two decades developing structured, biologically grounded approaches to the horse human connection.

She is the creator of the Equine Wisdom Integration Method™, Equine Communication Charts, and the EquuSpeak™ app, a digital platform designed to translate equine behavior into structured human insight and integration.

Her work serves veterans, first responders, equestrians, and leaders, guiding them toward greater clarity, resilience, and alignment through direct and digital interaction with horses.

<https://ewim.org/>

<https://www.hooves.us/>



H.O.O.V.E.S. is a private, donor-supported charity that provides fully funded, 4-day non-clinical retreats for veterans, first responders, and their family members nationwide, who are seeking recovery from service-connected stress.

Retreats are led primarily by veterans and family members who have themselves gone through trauma and achieved growth. During retreats, participants are facilitated through a process that integrates past traumas and reveals underlying strengths, as they forge connections with others and ultimately create a mission, vision, and purpose in service to both themselves and to humanity.

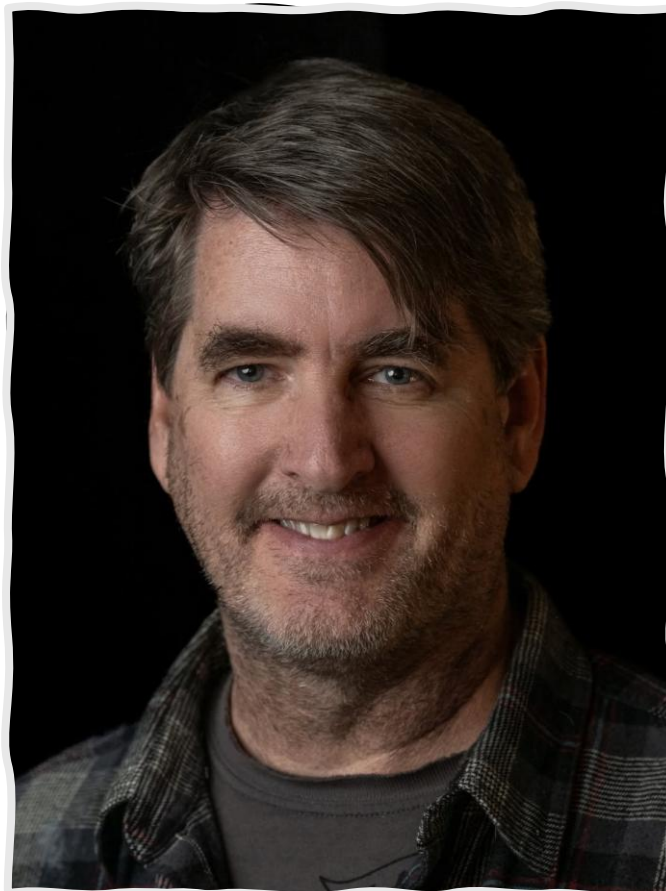
Steve Hoesteler

Colorado



Steve Hostetler is a Colorado photographer whose passion for capturing the beauty of the American West has led him to become known for his striking images of the Sand Wash Basin wild horses in Colorado. Since first photographing the mustangs of the Sand Wash Basin in 2018, he has dedicated countless hours to documenting their lives, behaviors, and the rugged landscapes they call home. His work celebrates the freedom, strength, and spirit of these iconic animals while inspiring appreciation for their place in the West.

www.stevehostetler.com



Valery Lozano

Colorado

Warhorse Ranch

Executive Director / Therapist/Co-Founder



WARHORSE
RANCH

Valery graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a BA in Psychology and a BS in Criminal Justice. She earned a Master's degree in forensic psychology from Arizona State University and a second Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Capella University.

She spent 12 years as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer until 2020 when family needs at home outweighed her career. She has been a military wife for 16 years and knows how tough it can be living with, supporting, and raising kids in a house with a veteran that struggles with their inner battles.

Establishing Warhorse Ranch is not just her and Mike's dream, it's also their therapy. Their past careers have always involved serving their communities and country, and to be able to provide that same passion and help to military, first responders, and victims of trauma through their ranch, is something that they feel they were meant to do.

<https://warhorseranch.org/>



Allysa Matthews

Colorado



Filmmaker – “Gallopig Free” - World Premier

I have been horse crazy for as long as I can remember. My Mom always likes to tell the story about bringing me to a birthday party when I was three years old. I told everyone that I loved Casper (the pony) and I wanted to ride all by myself. No one else in my family was into horses, so I’m not sure they knew what they were getting into... But they let me start riding lessons when I was five and I haven’t stopped riding since!

The Quest Mission

To share amazing horse breeds with the world and inspire others to chase their dreams!

DiscoverTheHorse has been featured by ABC's Right This Minute, Jeopardy, Equitana, Horse Illustrated, Young Rider, Ariat, Cowboy Magic & Horses in the Morning. The videos have been shared worldwide.

When complete, it will be a World Record & The Largest Equine Education Project of its Kind!

<https://www.discoverthehorse.com/>



Dusty Pierce

New Mexico

A life-time of working with horses started my research on Pre-Columbian horses in the Americas.

Shortly after moving to Pagosa Springs, Colorado in the fall of 1978, I met Bob Browning, the iconic Horse Whisperer of San Juan County. I had been a horseback riding instructor since my youth, but it was with Bob Browning where I learned horsemanship through Ray Hunt, John Lyons and others. I worked with Bob Browning for 40-years using breed horses and the mustangs to improve attitude in youth of the Navajo Nation and other school, court, church, college, university, FFA, 4H and Boys and Girls club programs.

Special to my journey with horses and my research of them was working alongside Bob Browning in his 1990 initiative to revive the interest of the Appaloosa breed among the youth of the Nez Perce; riding the 1300-mile Chief Joseph Trail Ride where many oral history stories were told.

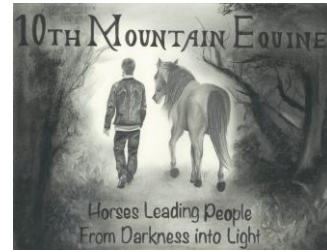
The Bob Browning Ranch became the number one mustang collection and adoption agency as he partnered with bait-trapper Dan Elkins in a contract with the Jicarilla Forest Ranger District; I had the honor to work with Bob and Dan to support an alternative to menacing all-terrain vehicles and helicopters to round up mustangs. It would be 2013 when Bob Browning and I introduced Laura Harper to Dan Elkins at a local café for her to learn his age-old but, at the time, novel method of bait and trap to be documented in Mustang of the Carracas Mesa. I continue my research to answer the question Bob and I often entertained that continues to drive me back to the past to find the answer, “What came first in the domestication of the horse?”



Russell Granger

Colorado

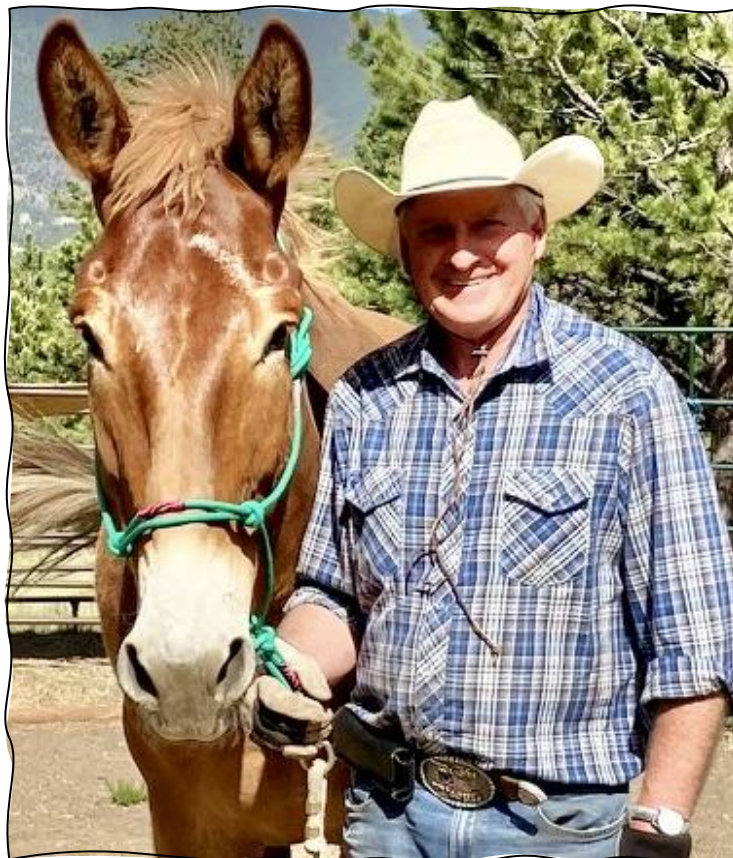
10th Mt Equine



Russell Granger is a semi-retired Colorado District Court Judge who served in Colorado's 5th Judicial District for 25 years. He also lectured nationally for approximately 19 years to prepare students to take the bar exam.

Russell is deeply involved in the equine world and together with Alecz Adams, operates Granger Equine, a horse ranch located 6 miles off-grid high in the Colorado mountains at 9300 feet above sea level. He also serves as one of the founding directors for 10th Mountain Equine, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides a variety of Equine Assisted Services.

Russell continues to lecture, now mostly related to Equine Assisted Therapy. In 2019 Russell presented at the Colorado Judicial Conference regarding evidence-based support for equine therapy and how equines may be used in the Colorado Court System. In 2022 Russell presented at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo on the evidence-based research supporting Equine Assisted Therapy. This research objectively verifies positive results from Equine Assisted Therapy utilizing the client's heart rate variable. This result is verifiable, repeatable, fully objective and is the subject of multiple peer reviewed scientific papers.



Mary Leslie

Colorado

Mary Leslie Fine Art

Mary Leslie is a Western Artists based out of Westcliffe CO. Her love of horses and everything western inspires her work. Life in Westcliffe among a ranching community provides much inspiration along with her many treks across the western states observing and photographing wild life and desert Flora. It is a blessing to live in such a beautifully harsh and abundant environment among the wild ones.

<https://www.marylesliestudio.com>



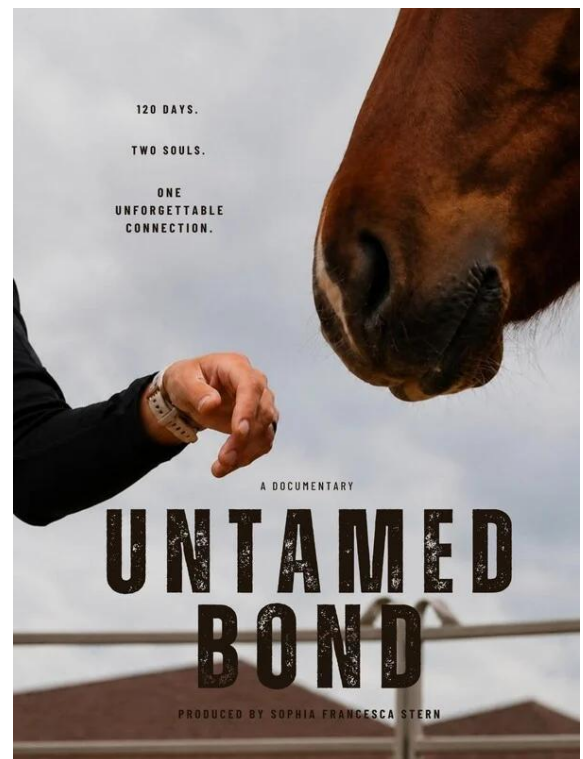
Sophia Stern

New York

Filmmaker

My name is Sophia Francesca Stern, and I am a multimedia producer based in New York City. I am also the filmmaker behind Untamed Bond. I grew up between California and Colorado, where my love for storytelling and horses naturally came together. Having spent over 16 years riding and working with horses, this film felt like the perfect way to combine two of my greatest passions. I love creating documentaries that capture authentic moments and explore the connections between people, animals, and the world around us. My hope is that Untamed Bond leaves audiences with a deeper appreciation for the patience, resilience, and trust that can exist between humans and wild horses.

www.lensofwander.com



Lynn Thomas

Utah

Horses for Mental Health

Lynn Thomas is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, receiving her Master's of Social Work from the University of Utah in 1995. She first developed a program integrating horses as a primary treatment component while serving as Executive Director of Aspen Ranch, a residential boarding school for troubled adolescents.

In 1999, Lynn co-founded Eagala, the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, providing training and certification in the Eagala Model of incorporating horses in psychotherapy. In the 21 years she served as its CEO, Lynn built Eagala into a leading organization in the area of horses for mental health.

Lynn co-founded and presently serves as CEO of Arenas for Change (ARCH), an organization focused on a values-based community learning and supporting one another in facilitation concepts that increase emotional safety and deepen client stories bringing healing and change in mental health and overall well-being. Thanks to the work over the years of Lynn and her team, involving horses in psychotherapy sessions has gone from a little-known approach to a widely accepted and credible mental health option, backed by research.

With Lynn's experience, vision, and passion for the impact horses have on well-being, she co-founded Horses for Mental Health (HMH) in 2021 to build momentum, expand the movement, and uplift programs worldwide to impact and strengthen global mental health through horses.



ARCH
arenas for change

<https://horsesformentalhealth.org/>

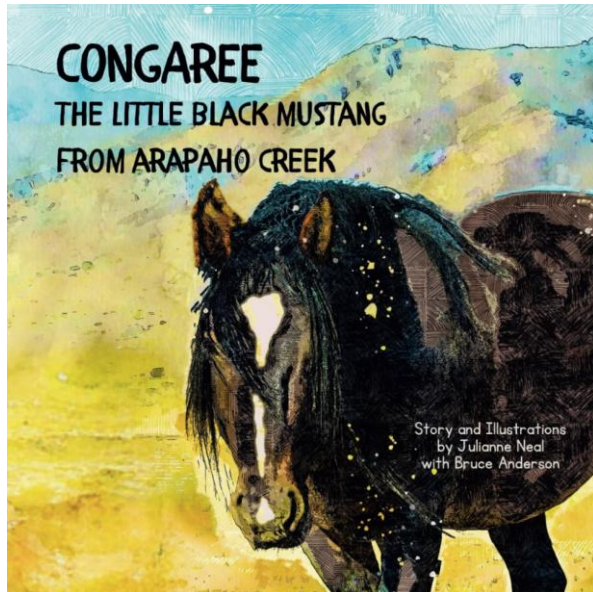


**HORSES FOR
MENTAL HEALTH**



Congaree The Little Black Mustang From Arapaho Creek Set

Author: Julianne Neal
South Carolina



The herd of horses lived happily in the valley in between the mountains in an area called the Red Desert Complex. The rippling water of Arapaho Creek flowed nearby, making a beautiful home for the little black horse with the long white stripe on his face. When his herd was gathered and moved to a holding facility behind a prison in Colorado, what would happen to the little Mustang? As he made new friends along his journey and learned new routines, the little horse wondered where his forever home might be.

From the Red Desert Complex in Wyoming to a holding facility, the Mustangs from the Arapaho Creek herd were learning a new way of life, but the little black horse would travel even further before he found his forever home.

Congaree: The Little Black Mustang From Arapaho Creek is the first book in the series, Adopted by a Mustang. The Congaree Book Set includes a children's book, Activity Book and Coloring Book.

100% of the proceeds from the sale of the books, coloring books and activity pages in the series provide for the care of the Mustangs and rescue horses in the Wellness Through Mustangs® program.

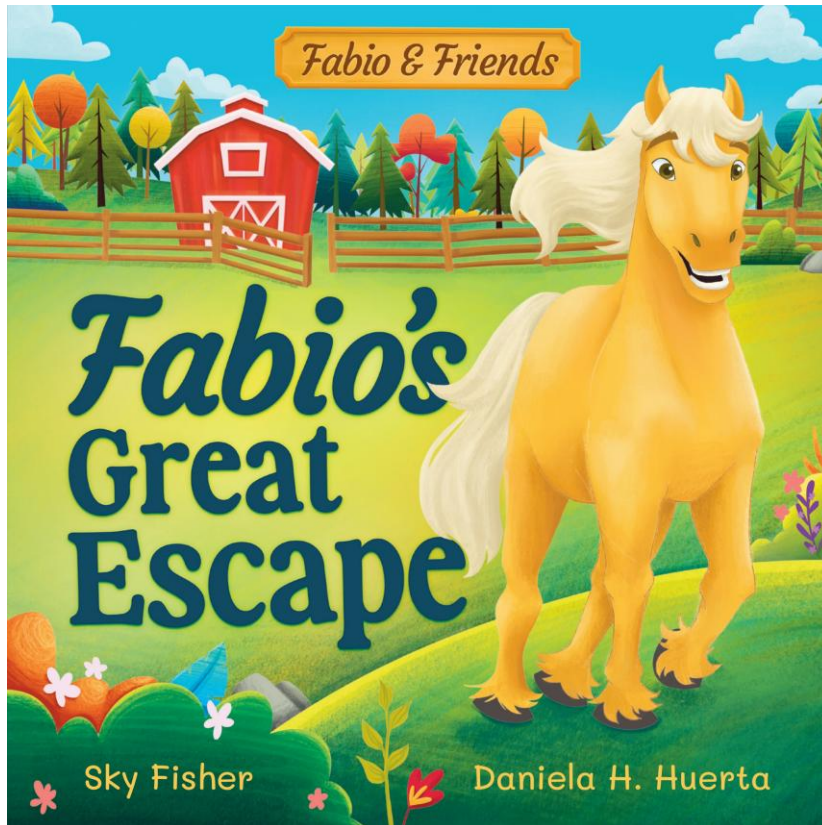
<https://jamediaconnections.com/>



Author: Julianne Neal

Fabio's Great Escape

Author: Sky Fisher
Maryland



Fabio the mustang loves his home, his best friend Moon, and his favorite human, Kay. But after spending so much time in the same pasture, life begins to feel a little...boring.

When the gate swings open, adventure calls! Fabio and Moon race into the forest, but soon, they're lost. Can Fabio find his way home?

A fun tale of adventure, friendship, and appreciating what you have.

Fabio's Great Escape is part of the Fabio & Friends series.

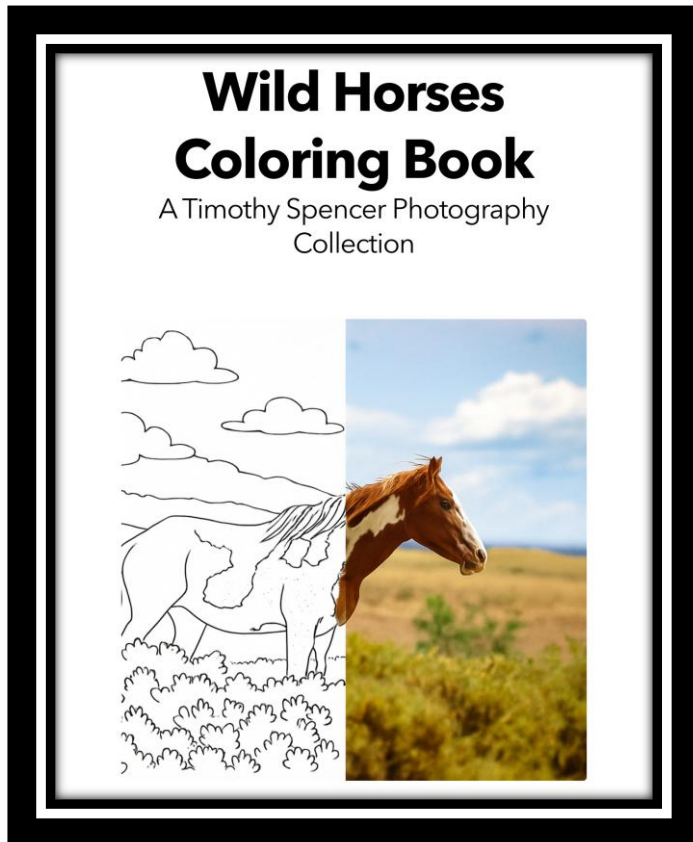
www.fabulousfabiobooks.com



Author: Sky Fisher

Wild Horses Coloring Book

Author: Timothy Spencer
Illinois



Timothy Spencer

I am a professional photographer, and I wanted to take my photography to the next level by turning my prints of wild horses into coloring pages.

<https://www.timothyspencerphotography.com/>



Author: Timothy Spencer



Film & Arts Fest

Presents

The Films

World Premier

5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs

Directed by: Julianne Neal

100:00 mins

Filmmaker Panel Following Screening



What happens when you combine a passion for wild horses with a quest for grand adventure? In 2021/2022, the result was the “Mustang Discovery Ride.” Produced by JA Media Productions and directed by Julianne Neal, the 5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs Documentary captures the 14 month long ride of Wild Horse trainer Lisanne Fear, along with her team of Mustangs. Joined by support staff, visiting videographers and a rotating host of guest riders, Lisanne’s team experienced the extremes of major cities and remote wilderness as they crossed the country on the American Discovery Trail (ADT), riding previously wild Mustangs while packing, camping and speaking about the power of these amazing animals. From the Atlantic shores of Delaware to the Pacific coast of California, the film follows the team through grueling heat waves, intense wind storms, and encounters with everything from copperheads to wild herds. Set against the rugged beauty and diverse landscapes of the ADT, the documentary mirrors Lisanne’s mission to bridge the gap between wild horse advocacy and public awareness while showcasing the raw spirit of the Mustang. Attendees will experience a visually stunning film that is both a call to action and a love letter to America’s wild horses. The documentary release in 2026 is timed to coincide with the America 250 commemoration, the perfect backdrop to honor one of our nation's most enduring Living Legend.



Director: **Julianne Neal**

JA Media Productions, located in Ridgeway, SC, channels the power of storytelling through film, video and podcast production, art and literature. Creative Director Julianne Neal is a multi-award-winning author, film director and podcast host. She serves as Director of Education and Production for the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest, is a member of the American Horse Publications Community and holds a dual certification in Equine Services and Education with Arenas for Change.

Contact Julianne for more information at 803-351-0223 at or email jamediaconnections@gmail.com. 1

AMERICAN MUSTANG

Music Video

Directed by: Julianne Neal

4:10 mins – **Shorts Collection**



The song "AMERICAN MUSTANG (I'm An American Too)," written and performed by Buddy Celman, speaks to the plight of these living legends. Featuring footage from A Mustang Story, Lisanne Fear with The Mustang Discovery Ride, and Brooke Miller Mustangs, the video shows the power of Mustangs, both on and off the range. "AMERICAN MUSTANG" is one of the songs featured in the upcoming documentary, "5000 MILES 5000 MUSTANGS."

<https://jamediaconnections.com/>



Director – Julianne Neal

Julianne is the owner of JA Media Connections, LLC and the Producer/Director of A Mustang Story, the documentary and docuseries covering The Mustang Discovery Ride and other Mustang related stories.

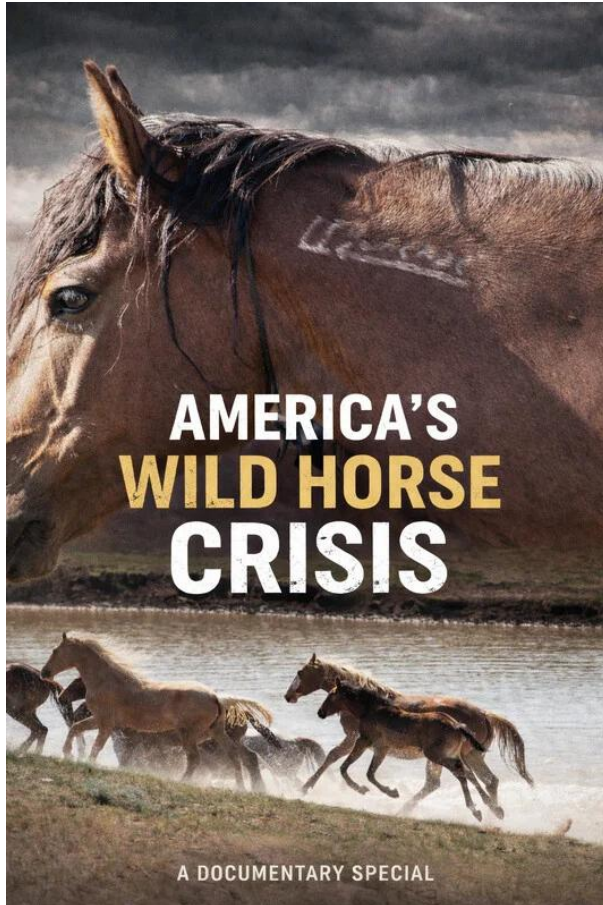
Julianne retired in 2022 after a 35 year career in Arts Education and K-12 Administration. A lifelong horse lover, she owns and operates Thornfield LLC, a boarding and training facility in South Carolina. She combines her love of all things equine, educational experience and arts focus to bring clients and projects together through the boutique creative production company, JA Media Connections LLC.

America's Wild Horse Crisis

22:00 mins

Directed by: Julie Karp

Filmmaker Panel Following Screening



America's wild horses are among the most recognizable and misunderstood animals in the American West. This documentary explores the beauty, struggle, and present-day reality of America's free-roaming wild horses and why their future has become one of the most complex land-management challenges in the United States.

<https://youtu.be/Lb6JoJHAQbE?si=hvJwF08Q9Pl08E26>

Director: Julie Karp

Julie Karp is a documentary filmmaker and co-founder of Wild Horizon Productions, dedicated to telling visually compelling, fact-driven stories rooted in the American West.

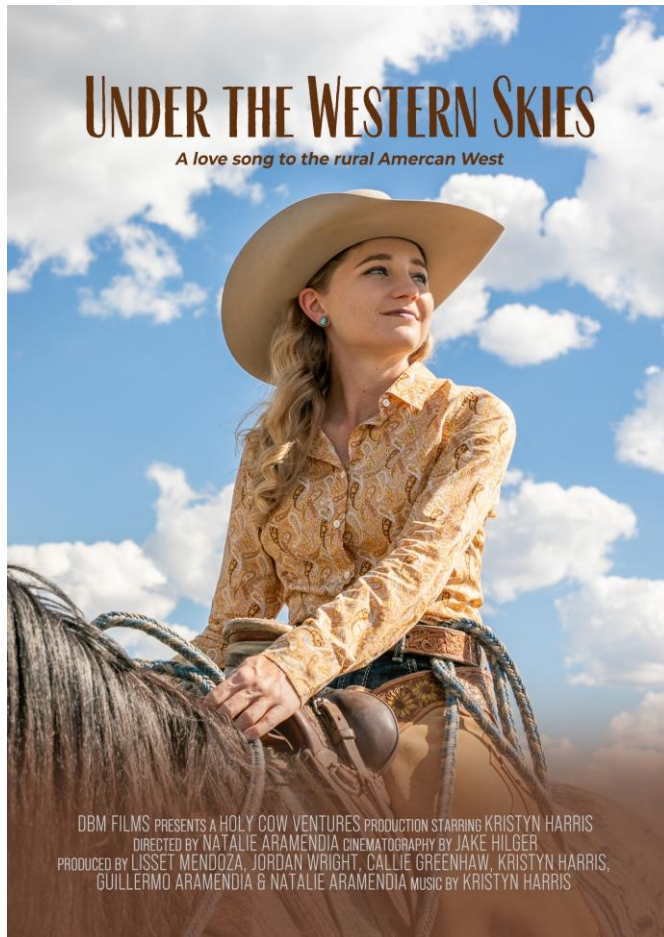
Her recent work focuses on the American wild horse — examining its beauty, cultural significance, and the complex management realities shaping its future. Drawing on immersive field cinematography and carefully researched narrative, she approaches her subjects with balance and integrity, seeking to inform rather than persuade. Through her films, Julie aims to foster meaningful conversation around conservation, public lands, and heritage.



Under the Western Skies

“SPECIAL SIZZLE!!!”

Directed by: Natalie Aramendia



Kristyn can handle rugged land, stubborn cattle, and impossible odds. What she is not prepared for is the possibility that saving her family's ranch may require help from a tech-savvy outsider with shiny cowboy boots. Fiercely independent and deeply tied to the traditions of ranch life, Kristyn has spent her life proving she can carry her family's legacy forward. But when foreclosure threatens the future of the ranch, she is forced to consider a future she never wanted – one shaped by innovation instead of instinct.

That future arrives in Jordan, a charming city-bred neighbor whose modern ideas challenge everything Kristyn has fought to preserve. As their worlds clash, Kristyn must navigate the tension between tradition and progress, pride and vulnerability, duty and desire.

A Ranch Musical is a romantic western about family, identity, and the courage it takes to embrace change without leaving your roots behind.

<https://www.ranchmusical.com>

Director: Natalie Aramendia

Natalie Aramendia is a Mexican-American filmmaker with more than a decade of experience producing and shooting independent films, branded content, and documentaries centered on distinct identities and underrepresented communities.

Originally trained as a cinematographer, she developed her visual storytelling style behind the camera, crafting work that foregrounds emotion, place, and perspective. As a producer, she has guided award-winning projects from development through post-production with a collaborative and deeply hands-on approach.

With A Ranch Musical, Aramendia makes her feature film directorial debut, while also serving as writer, producer, and editor. Set in rural Nevada, the toe-tapping western musical draws inspiration from her family's agricultural roots and love of western music, blending cultural heritage with themes of innovation, family legacy, and belonging. Aramendia is passionate about telling stories that connect generations, communities, and traditions through a visually-driven and emotionally grounded lens.



Buddy Two Socks

Directed by: Neta Rhyne

3:00 mins – **Shorts Collection**



Buddy Two Socks, a 34-year-old horse and his pasture mate, a Mustang named Jasper, are the stars of the Thundering Hooves Honor Ride and Gathering on the Old Santa Fe Trail. Buddy and Jasper stood proud on the Santa Fe Plaza, loving all the attention and time spent with children, proving, once again, the value of old horses is indeed ...priceless!

<https://thunderinghooves.com/index.html>

Director: Neta Rhyne

An award winning director, producer, and writer, Neta Rhyne is a proud enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, Direct Descendent of the 'Trail Of Tears'. Through her Cherokee heritage Neta has a deep rooted connection to the Earth and holds a special bond to the spirit of the horse.

Neta founded Thundering Hooves 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2011 to bring awareness to the many hardships horses face today, and the important role we play in protecting the environment.

Today Neta continues to be a tireless advocate for the horses both wild and domestic, and stays active in her mission to help protect and save San Solomon Springs, a series of artesian springs that have flowed for over 11,000 years in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas now in danger of disappearing ...forever!



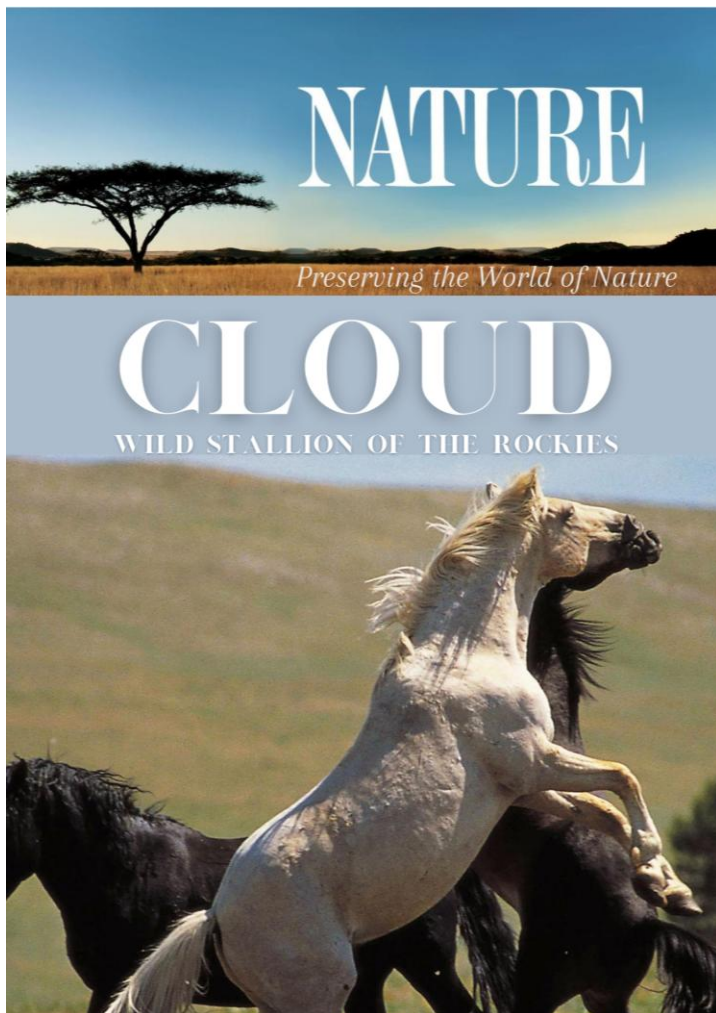
Cloud Wild Stallion of the Rockies

Directed by: Ginger Kathrens

90 mins - Q & A with Kerry Ferguson after the film

The Cloud Foundation is dedicated to preventing the extinction of Cloud's herd through education, media events and programming, and public involvement. We are also determined to protect other wild horse herds on public lands, especially isolated herds with unique characteristics and historical significance. As an organization, we care about the preservation of all wildlife, and about the preservation of public lands as well. Without public lands, Cloud's story of wild freedom couldn't be a reality. All of this work would be impossible without the help of you, our supporters.

<https://www.thecloudfoundation.org/>



Ginger Kathrens

Founder and Board President

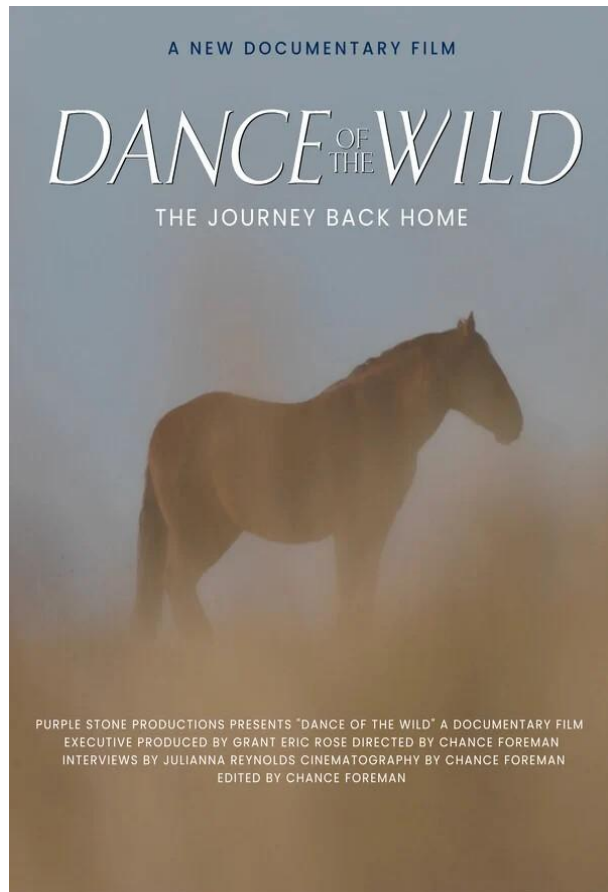
Ginger Kathrens is an Emmy Award-winning producer, cinematographer, writer and editor as well as an award-winning author. She introduced Cloud, Wild Stallion of the Rockies to the world in her famous documentaries, giving us the first in-depth look at the rich and complex society of wild horses. Ginger is the founder of The Cloud Foundation and acts as the foundation's Board President.



Dance Of The Wild

90:00 mins

Directed by: Chance Foreman



“Dance Of The Wild” is a poetic journey into humanity’s timeless bond and fascination with the wild horse—a connection that mirrors our relationship to nature, spirit, and the deeper layers of the soul. Told through the lived wisdom of nine remarkable horsewomen, the film weaves sweeping landscapes, intimate stories, and teachings rooted in natural law to reveal why wild horses are more than just symbols of American heritage—they are sentient, mystical beings whose presence is vital to our survival and evolution.

As modern pressures threaten both the Earth and all living beings, “Dance Of The Wild” invites viewers on a journey of remembrance: a return to heart, to land, and to the ancient magic shared between human and horse.

Ultimately, the film poses a profound question: What if this sacred relationship holds the key to our collective healing and spiritual evolution?

<https://www.danceofthewild.com/>

Director Chance Foreman

Chance Foreman is an award-winning filmmaker, poet, and global storyteller. From the rainforests of Borneo to the streets of India's slums, Chance's work resonates worldwide. With credits on acclaimed films like "Kiss the Ground" and the follow-up film "Common Ground" as well as projects on Netflix, Apple TV, and Amazon Prime, his storytelling prowess knows no bounds. As a recipient of the Grand Jury Award for Activism, his short documentary set in Brazil stands as a testament to his commitment to effecting positive change through the art of filmmaking. Based in Venice, CA, Chance continues to ignite hearts and minds with his captivating storytelling, inspiring others to join him in shaping a better future for all..



Evoke

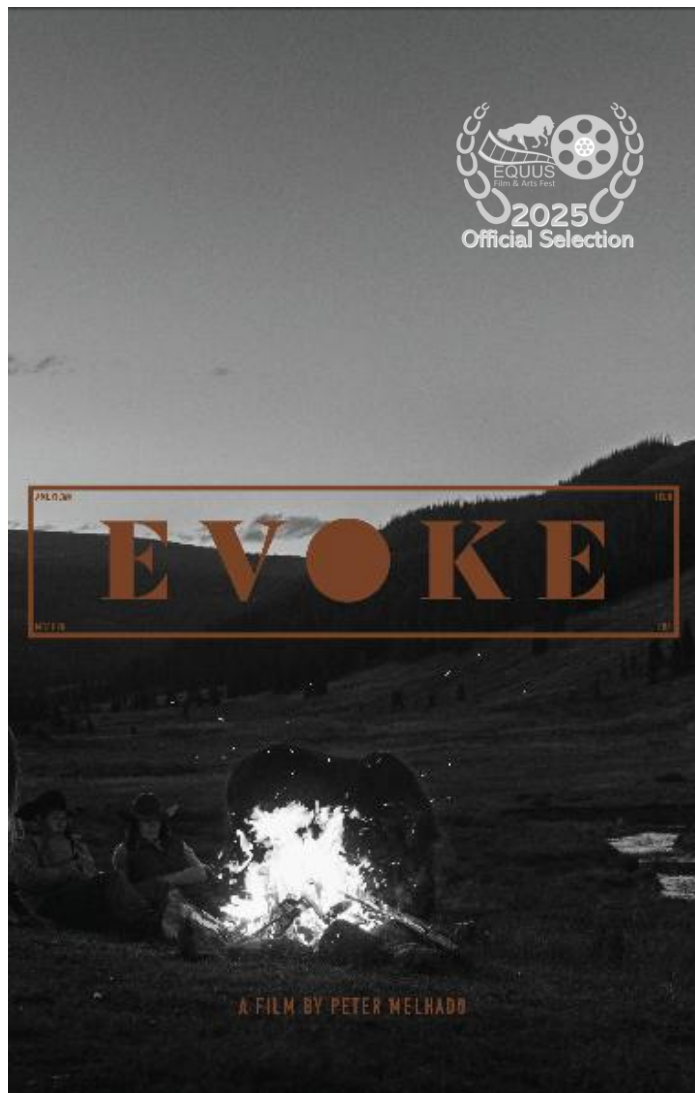
Directed by: Peter Melhado

21:00 mins – Shorts Collection



This film explores the challenges faced by modern-day mustangs, from overpopulation and starvation to mistreatment and slaughter. Filmmaker Peter Melhado follows Great Escape Mustang Collaborative through Colorado and New Mexico as they work to integrate these iconic horses into domestic life. Great Escape Mustang Collaborative is an organization dedicated to training, rehabilitating and rehoming mustangs the film captures the resilience of these horses and the trainers who work to give them a domestic life where they are thriving. It celebrates perseverance while addressing the complex issues surrounding mustang management and conservation. The journey showcases the Mustang's resilience and individuality, shedding light on the complexities of managing wild horse populations in the U.S. while striving to preserve their legacy as a symbol of the American West.

<https://www.greatescapemustangs.org/evoke>



Director - Peter Melhado

Peter Melhado is a Charleston based photographer and filmmaker. While Peter shoots a broad spectrum of subjects, his passion projects tend to revolve around the relationship between humans and nature.

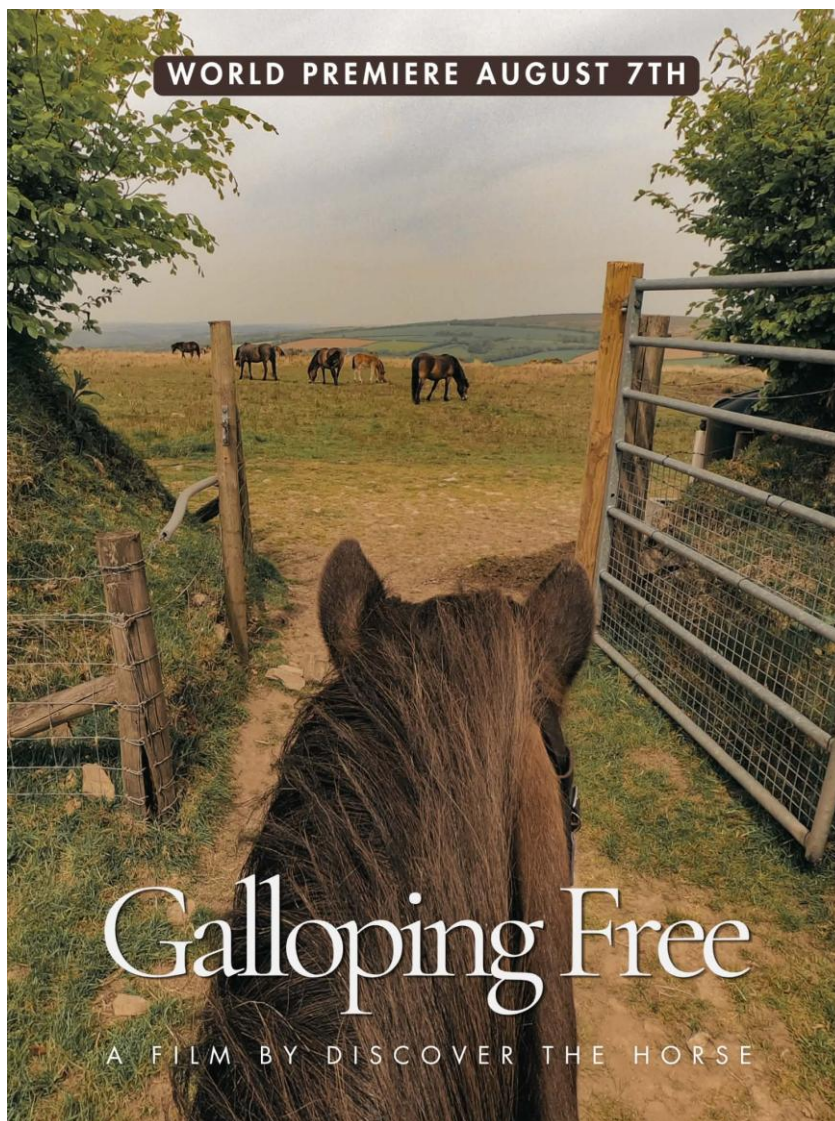
I was drawn to the story of the mustang as I believe it speaks to the broader societal shift away from nature and our tendency to be a throw away culture. As a solo filmmaker with limited budget and time, getting this project completed was tricky to say the least, but I was honored to be able to tell this story.

Galloping Free - ***World Premier***

Directed by: Alyssa Mathews

30:00 mins

From DiscoverTheHorse comes Galloping Free, a global documentary celebrating the wonder of the horse. Join equestrian Alyssa Mathews on a journey across continents to explore unique equine populations defined by their heritage of freedom. From meeting free-roaming herds to riding historic breeds in their homelands, Alyssa captures the raw beauty, resilience, and timeless allure of these incredible animals. It is an immersive, global quest into the enduring spirit of the horse.



Filmmaker: Alysa Mathews

I have been horse crazy for as long as I can remember. My Mom always likes to tell the story about bringing me to a birthday party when I was three years old. I told everyone that I loved Casper (the pony) and I wanted to ride all by myself. No one else in my family was into horses, so I'm not sure they knew what they were getting into... But they let me start riding lessons when I was five and I haven't stopped riding since!

Mustang of The Carracas Mesa: A History of the Jicarilla Mustangs and Mustangers

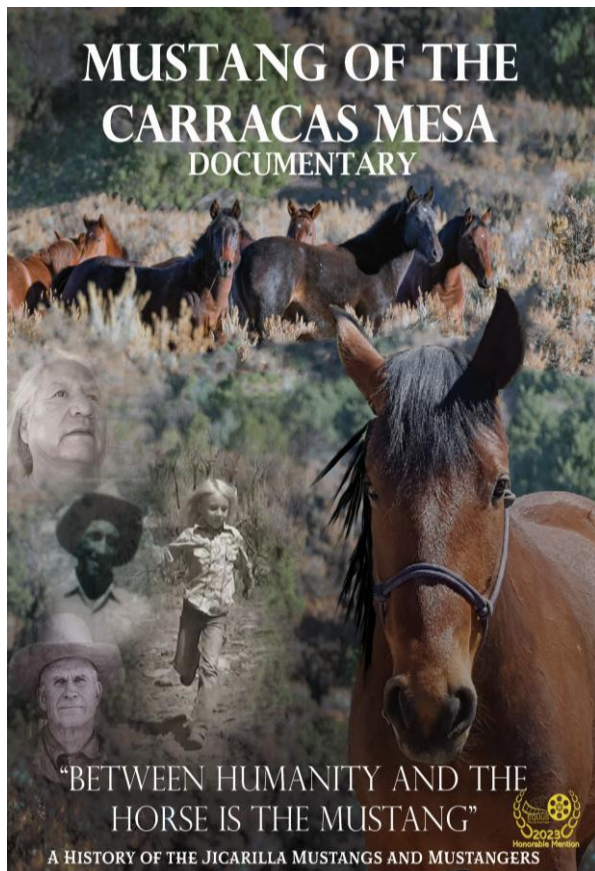
30:00 mins

Directed by: Laura Harper

Filmmaker Panel Following Screening

More than three years ago, Laura Harper began work on a film script about her once-wild mustang, Rambo. As she delved into his life, she found Rambo's story connected the evolution of the horse to New Mexico's history and her own life here in San Juan County. Laura discovered that the horses used by the Conquistadors more than five hundred years ago to traverse New Mexico had an ancient bloodline that is found here today. Amazingly, a 2013 genetic analysis conducted by Dr. E. Gus Cothran, Department of Veterinary Integrative Bioscience, concluded the Old-World Iberian breed is conclusively a genetic marker present in the Jicarilla mustangs of Northern New Mexico and Rambo's DNA as well. By tracing the mustangs' bloodline, a wonderful history of New Mexico—its wild horses and its people— is revealed and vibrantly retold in Laura's film, "RAMBO of the Carracas Mesa: A History of the Jicarilla Mustangs and Mustangers."

The film features local families that represent the diverse culture of Northern New Mexico and their personal relationships with the Jicarilla mustangs. It is through their individual stories that we learn the Jicarilla mustang's historic value to Northern New Mexico's culture. The documentary concludes with the idea that by joining nature, horsemanship, community, science, and technology, there can be a positive future for the mustangs and the approach of the mustangers.



Laura Harper

Laura lives in Dolores Colorado with her husband Greg and her horses, Dusty Dandy, RAMBO and Wendy. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Jicarilla Mustang Heritage Alliance, Editor of the Four Corners Equine Rescue newsletter publication and President of the San Juan County Historical Society, NM. She holds a MA in Organizational Management.

Renegade

Born to be Wild

Directed by: Adam Ben Cohen

23:23 mins – **Shorts Collection**



The 23-minute documentary follows renowned Mustang trainer Jeff Cook as he takes on the challenge of earning Renegade's trust. Through quiet observation, patience, and respect, Jeff attempts to bridge the vast gap between untamed spirit and human connection. Renegade is a story of transformation—for both horse and trainer—and a meditation on what it truly means to protect something wild.

<https://www.adambencohen.com/renegade>



Director – Adam Ben Cohen

Adam Cohen (b. 1976) discovered his passion for photography in 9th grade while attending a professional photography school in Tel Aviv, Israel. He honed his skills working at a commercial photography studio before moving to New York to specialize in portrait photography. In 2010, his creativity expanded into video production when he co-produced and shot a stop-motion music video, igniting a love for storytelling through motion.

The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses

Directed by: Steven Latham & Conrad Stanely
90:00 mins

"The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses" is a feature documentary that is executive produced by Robert Redford, Patti Scialfa Springsteen and Jessica Springsteen.

The film features songs by Bruce Springsteen, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson and an original song written by Diane Warren and performed by Blanco Brown.

"The Mustangs" takes audiences on an odyssey throughout America to places few people have seen or even know about. There are more than 80,000 wild horses on our public lands and more than 50,000 in government corrals.

This film will make you fall in love with America all over again and understand why the protection of our wild horses and our public lands are worth fighting for.

<https://themustangsfilm.com/>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/SSWEC0buBq0>



Director - Steven Latham

Steven Latham is an award-winning filmmaker and the President of Steven Latham Productions. Mr. Latham produced and directed the film, *Saved By The Sun*, for NOVA/PBS. He also produced and directed the feature documentary about the TED Conference, *The Future We Will Create*, with Daphne Zuniga.

Mr. Latham created and was the producer/director of the PBS series, *The Living Century*, which told the amazing stories of the 20th Century through individuals who were at least 100 years old. He produced this with Barbra Streisand and Cis Corman of Barwood Films. The project's board of advisors included Leonard Maltin, Art Linkletter, Dr. Tom Perls and 3-Time U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky.

Throw Away Horses

Directed by: Theresa Demarest

97:00 mins – USA



Through interviews, photos, and the use of both archival and new footage filmed by and/or obtained by Joshua Records, LLC, the filmmaker has divided the film into 4 to 5 sections portraying the multifaceted and sometimes tragic lives of the modern day horse. To tell the story and engage the audience in this critically needed feature film, the filmmaker explored modern day horse life from private ownership to commercial use. The filmmaker follows what happens to individual horses and the impact it has on the people in their lives. This film has a special focus on rescue operations, delving into both the journey of the horses and the people who run these organizations.

<https://throwawayhorses.com>



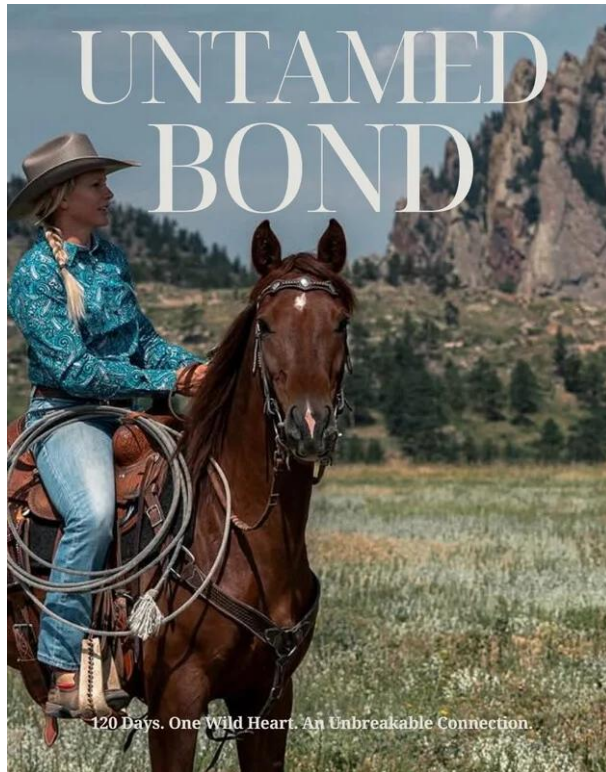
Director Theresa Demarest

When I was growing up in Sacramento California, every few years a guy would come around with a pony and a camera and convince parents in the neighborhood to have him take pictures of their kids on his pony. That pony made a huge impression on me and as I grew older, I longed to be around horses. Then one day, after retiring from years of Critical Care Nursing as an RN, I answered an ad in the paper that read: "Do you love horses, and would you like to learn to ride." That's when I met my match, my mentor, my spirit guide, my sometimes nemesis, my wizard, my teacher, my yoda, my other worldly companion. She was 6 months old and her DNA is among the hottest, most intelligent, most athletic breeds there is. Me, on the other hand, would have been considered what experienced horse owners would call: 'A dope with a rope'. I named her Tehya Takota and her 6-month-old response to me was: "You and whose army" It took years and mountains of forgiveness on Tehya's part for me to learn what I know now: her language.

Untamed Bond

33:00 mins

Directed by: Sophia F Stern



In 120 days, trainer Sarah Welty must gentle a wild mustang for the Meeker Mustang Makeover, taking us with her through the powerful transformation—from fear and uncertainty to trust and partnership.

Director Sophia F Stern

I have always been drawn to the stories that live in quiet moments—the ones found in people's expressions, in landscapes, in communities, and in the small details that often say the most. My background in journalism, photography, and documentary filmmaking has shaped the way I see the world: with curiosity, care, and a desire to understand what lies beneath the surface.

As a filmmaker, I am interested in stories about people, place, the environment, and the connections between them. Whether I am filming on digital, shooting stills on film, or following a story as it unfolds, I am most inspired by work that feels honest, human, and rooted in the real..



Wild Heart

Directed by: Ronda Gregorio

10:00 mins – USA

Shorts Collection



Wild Heart: The Mustang Book Project brings to light the profound partnerships forged between humans and previously wild mustangs. This project has been a labor of love, capturing moments of connection to showcase how these horses—once untamed and overlooked—can do anything when given a chance.

<https://www.gregoriophotography.com/wild-heart>



Director – Ronda Gregorio

Healing In The Open

Directed by: Dewi Marquis

31:00 mins – **Shorts Collection**



www.gatewayhorseworks.org

Healing in the Open is a documentary short capturing the power of incorporating horses for the mental health treatment of people.

Gateway HorseWorks' vision is to make the incorporation of horses for the mental health treatment of people accessible to all by prioritizing access for our most marginalized and vulnerable communities. Through the development of groundbreaking programs, education, and a community-driven approach, Gateway HorseWorks aims to further research in this field of practice and be a leader in innovative mental health solutions.

As individuals, we maintain a deep curiosity about ourselves. We cannot expect to help others on their journey of self-discovery, growth, and learning unless we are committed to knowing ourselves and owning our stories, choices, and actions. This requires vulnerability, courage, and accountability.

Director: Dewi Marquis

Déwi (dae-wee) is a mixed-race Native Bornean and independent film director, and editor based in Louisville, Colorado. Déwi has directed, cast, produced, filmed, and edited for a wide range of clients, including the BBC, The Discovery Channel, Exposure Labs, ProPublica, and nonprofit organizations like Rare. She is a proud member of the Asian American Documentary Network, Brown Girls Doc Mafia, Cine Fe, Film Fatales, and Kin Theory. She loves collaborating on Indigenous-led film projects that uphold sovereignty both on and off camera, and push the creative boundaries of documentary.

<https://amymarquis.com/pages/about>



HOOVES: Healing America's Veterans

Directed by: Josh Nagel

60:00 mins

This film speaks to the need of mental health as it brings to life the journey of 9 veterans completing a transformational process that liberates them from the demons in their head, allows them to intrinsically connect to a new purpose, and ultimately find peace of the heart and mind.

This mission of this documentary is to bring hope to those struggling with the effects of trauma and to help those who support our veterans understand what they experience at a deeper level.

<https://www.joshnagelproductions.com/>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/O7QADH9Y1cE>



Directed by: **Josh Nagel**

Josh Nagel Productions is an award-winning video production company located in Toledo, OH. Josh Nagel is the Founder and Lead Cinematographer of this company, and he has over 11 years of experience in the video production industry. Since then, Josh has developed his dynamic, compassionate video storytelling style through experience, unique vision, and personal connections Josh forges with people. He has a highly skilled team of creators who are passionate about the video production process. Josh offers various videography styles, combined with abundant creativity, ensuring clients a professional and reliable service with the best end product.

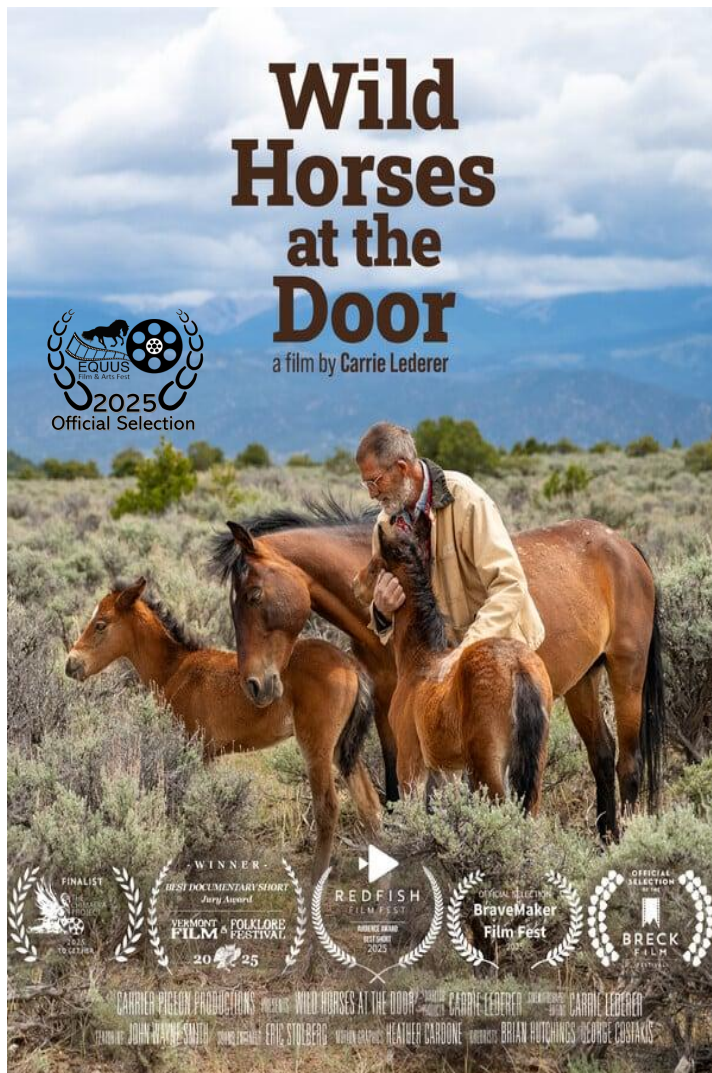
Wild Horses at the Door

Directed by: Carrie Lederer

40:00 mins – USA



Coloradoan John Wayne Smith was homeless for eight years working through recovery when he resettled off-grid on a high desert mesa where wild horses roamed. Nursing a wounded mare and delivering her foal sparked a healing journey into their world. Years later living in isolation, John realizes that the resource scarcity he was familiar with while unhoused now threatens his beloved mustangs.



Director – Carrie Lederer

Carrie Lederer is the quintessential one-woman band filmmaker, nicknamed “Carrier Pigeon”

for her global reach and decades of on-the-ground storytelling. Her multi-decade career spans unscripted television for major networks, independent documentaries, and nonprofit-driven social impact films across a wide range of genres and locations.

Combining

cinematographic expertise with journalistic instinct, she creates immersive, human-centered

narratives and builds deep connections with the people she documents. Now based in Portland, Oregon, Carrie returns to documentary filmmaking with her short directorial debut,

Wild Horses at the Door.

Wild Heart

Directed by: Ariana Noel Sakaris

11:00 mins – **Shorts Collection**

This is a true story about a girl and her Mustang. It's a story of a girl that never gave up on her horse, no matter how challenging it was. It's a story about two souls, terrified of each other, yet longing for connection. It's a story about how they both brought out the greatest parts of each other behind their deepest fears.

<https://www.arianasakaris.com/>

ariana@arianasakaris.com

<https://www.facebook.com/arianasakaris>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/VPIKOpROQBw>

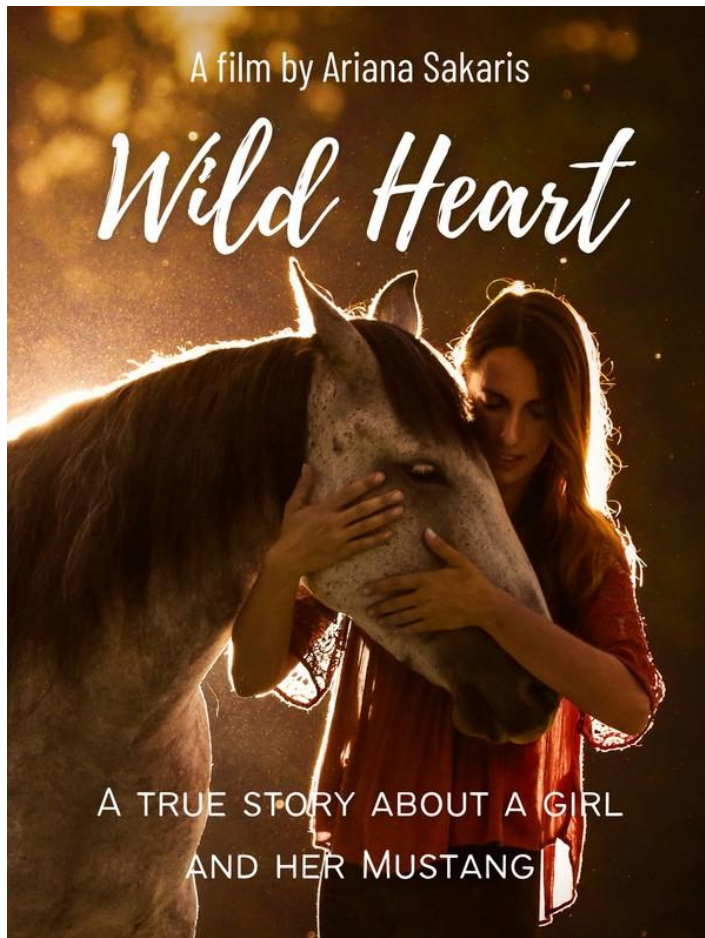


Director : Ariana Noel Sakaris

Over the years, Ariana traveled the world to work with renowned mentors studying the art of Dressage, Liberty, Groundwork, and Horsemanship.

Ariana's journey with horses began at the young age of 5 years old, where she became fascinated with horses and the interactions humans share with them. This led her into a lifelong passion of learning and growing, both in her horsemanship and in her own personal life. She committed many years to traveling both within the U.S. and overseas to gain valuable hands-on experience, and to be mentored by world renowned professionals. She has trained with several respected USDF Gold Medalists and Grand Prix trainers in Dressage, earning her USDF Silver Medal. She has spent time overseas learning about Classical Dressage and spent time learning from greatly valued Horsemanship and Liberty professionals. These experiences helped her gain valuable insight into the love, patience and compassion that goes into bringing horses and people to a point of better understanding both on the ground and in the saddle.

Ariana is based in the horse capital of Lexington, Kentucky with her mares "Mermaid" and "Wild Heart." She teaches, trains, and travels for clinics, focusing on Dressage, Groundwork, Liberty, and Horsemanship. She offers online education and coaching in her "Student of the Horse" Membership, offering over 650 training videos. Her intention is to inspire and help people gain a better understanding of themselves and the connection they have with their horses. Her goal is that this connection helps to grow a greater acceptance of people and animals worldwide.



Woodrow and My Dad

Directed by: Ivy E Schexnayder

06:13 mins – **Shorts Collection**

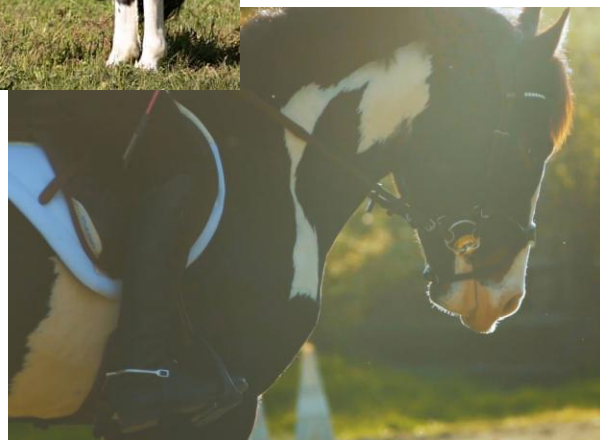
Maryland

Woodrow the Mustang helps a woman feel closer to her dad.

Hi, my name is Ann Hanlin, and I am the owner of SBF Mustang Eventing and the host of the Maryland Mustang TIP Challenge. My journey with mustangs began in February 2018 after winning the bid of a black and white pinto Mustang named Woodrow. Now, I'm proud to say I've personally gentled 1 Mustangsgs (#20 coming end of April) and helped over 60 get out of holding and into forever homes. This journey has been life changingng and has set me on a mission to help as many of our American US Mustangs as possible! So, that's why I decided to host the Maryland TIP challenge!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/775340236733053>

<https://mustangheritagefoundation.org/tip/>



Director: Ivy E Schexnayder



THE WILD HORSE



CRAIG
COLORADO

Refuge

30,000
ACRES

The Wild Horse Refuge is a private sanctuary that was created entirely for rescued Wild Mustangs that were taken from BLM Herd Management Areas (HMA) located within Colorado. The Wild Horses living on this special property are now protected and have regained the freedom and independence they had prior to government interference.

With more than 29 square miles of contiguous land to run free, their wild and free spirit has been restored. With the Refuge being located just 30 miles from the Sand Wash Basin, the horses feel right at home as they roam freely across the vast open spaces of the Refuge!

There are no paddocks, stock pens, fenced pastures, or other smaller and more restrictive spaces in use here. Instead of being relegated to pens or smaller pastures where they might have an occasional opportunity to run one or two hundred yards - or possibly even a few thousand feet... the wild horses living at the Refuge continue to run until they choose to stop.

It is truly a beautiful sight to see when these wild horses are able to regain control of where they go and what they do completely on their own!

The Wild Horse Refuge is a completely new facility that was acquired in order to create a special home for Colorado's native Wild Horses.

Wild horses (Mustangs) are allowed to roam freely within the Refuge - which has more than 22,500 acres of land for the horses to roam freely.

<https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>



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WARHORSE
RANCH

WARHORSE RANCH

Healing Trauma. Restoring Purpose. Preventing Suicide.

WHO WE ARE

Warhorse Ranch is a dedicated nonprofit organization providing equine-assisted therapy and holistic healing programs for individuals impacted by trauma. We offer a safe, supportive environment where veterans, first responders, and trauma survivors can reconnect, build resilience, and find renewed purpose through the transformative power of horses.

WHO WE SERVE

- Veterans
- First responders
- Trauma survivors
- Families

PROGRAMS

- Equine Therapy
- Individual and Group Sessions
- 5-Day Retreats
- Beekeeping

PROBLEM

Trauma and PTSD are silent crises. Without support, individuals face immense challenges:

- High rates of suicide
- Isolation and depression
- Difficulty reintegrating

WHY IT MATTERS

75% higher suicide rate among veterans compared to civilians.

600+ served annually through our lifesaving programs.

Your support directly impacts lives, offering hope and healing where it's needed most.

FUNDING ASK

Program and General Operating Support.

- Sustain existing programs
- Support staff & horses
- Expand access to rural areas

• 600+ Served Annually



Trauma-Informed Care



Rural Communities Served

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Valery Lozano, Executive Director | valery@warhorseranch.org | (970) 761-3231



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About

For more than three decades, Kerry M. Thomas has researched the behavioral and sensory systems that shape how horses experience the environments we create for them.

His research into Herd Dynamics and Sensory Soundness explores how horses interpret pressure, process sensory information, and form emotional responses within training, management, and performance settings.

Rather than focusing only on physical movement or performance outcomes, Thomas's work examines the psychology of the equine athlete—the internal framework that influences stress tolerance, decision making, and behavioral expression.

His work has been shared internationally with trainers, institutions, and equestrian organizations seeking deeper insight into equine behavior, welfare, and performance sustainability.

Contact and Social

Email:
Sensorysoundness@gmail.com

Educational Resources

Learning Library

Webinars and masterclasses exploring herd dynamics, sensory processing, and the behavioral architecture of the horse.

www.kerrymthomas.com/learning-library

Glossary of Terms

A reference guide to terminology used in Sensory Soundness and Herd Dynamics research.

www.kerrymthomas.com/glossary-of-terms

Book:

Herd Wired: In Pursuit of Discovery

Written as a field companion rather than a traditional textbook, Herd Wired offers readers an ongoing reference for understanding the emotional and behavioral framework that shapes the horse's interaction with the world.

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*Available internationally in English and in Dutch
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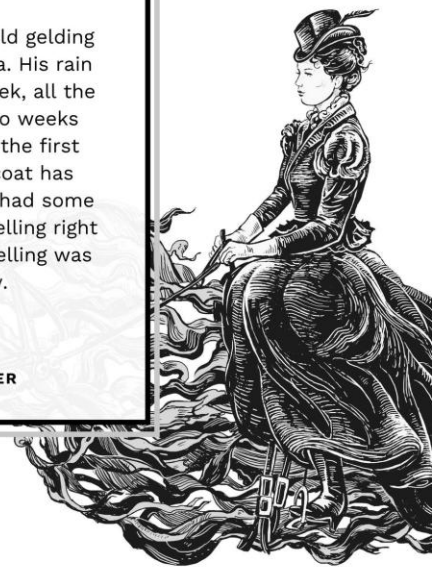
StableFeed is an innovative all-natural horse feed and supplement company that uses science to harness the power of real whole foods to promote and maintain systemic health in today's equine athletes. We focus on clean, real whole foods imbued with health giving properties. Decades of research shows that the consumption of combinations of minimally processed foods creates a synergy that may result in improved health and improved performance over supplemental nutrients fed in isolation. Utilizing this information, each of our products supports and promotes multiple ameliorative effects for the skin, hair, bone, joint and hooves.

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I just started my 26 year old gelding on the loose Spirulina Chia. His rain rot cleared up within a week, all the hair grew back within two weeks and he's got dapples for the first time ever! His summer coat has come in gorgeous! He has had some insect bites with some swelling right after but I noticed the swelling was gone the next day.

~ SHANNON S.
SATISFIED CUSTOMER



www.stablefeed.com

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM works to place excess animals into private care through its Adoption and Sales Programs as well as [successful partnerships](#) with organizations across the nation. Many have found it personally challenging and rewarding to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro. It is a chance to care for, and then own, a part of America's heritage.

The BLM has placed more than 300,000 wild horses and burros into private care since 1971. Many of those animals have become excellent pleasure, show, or work horses.

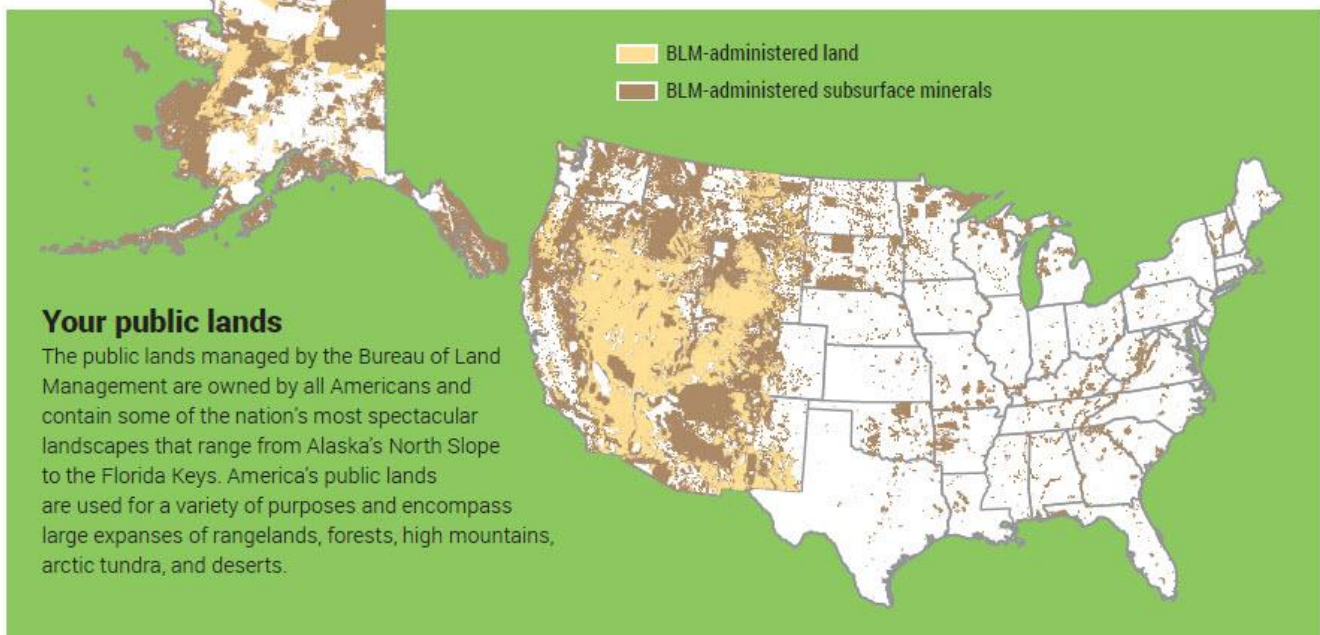
Learn more about:

- [How to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro](#)
- [Off-range corral adoption and purchase locations](#)
- [Wild horse and burro adoption and sale events](#)
- [Visiting and adopting or purchasing from a public off-range pasture](#)
- [Sale Program](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)



The Bureau of Land Management

Manages more than 1/10 of the nation's surface area and 30% of the nation's minerals and soils.



<https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management>
<https://www.facebook.com/BLMNational>

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