



Pryor Mountain

WILD MUSTANG CENTER

Fall
2008
Newsletter

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One Year In Museum Building



The Center is located just off of Highway 14-A east of Lovell.

It has been just over a year since the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center settled into its new museum building. The building is almost entirely completed now, with only a few small projects left. New exhibits are now on display, and existing exhibits have been expanded. An entryway for the parking area is being constructed now, and it should be finished this fall.

The Center has been happy to see increased visitation this year. More and more visitors have been able to find the building with the construction of new signs and increasing knowledge of its presence. This year, the Center has so far welcomed over 2000 visitors from 49 states and over 20 foreign countries. This is a significant increase from the first summer open last year. Though many such visitors likely came through the area before the building existed, the Center is now able to provide a centralized location for visitors to come and learn about the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses' history and characteristics as well as how to best view members of the herd.

Wind Drinker 1000

"When wild horses run, they look like they are drinking the wind." ~ Reverend Floyd Schwieger

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center has received nearly 300 donations to the Wind Drinker 1000, along with many other smaller donations. Together, these gifts have provided the Center with \$40,000 in funding. The goal of the Wind Drinker 1000 is to receive gifts of \$100 or more from 1000 donors to raise at least \$100,000. These funds have allowed the Center to operate and work to promote and preserve the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses and the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. The funds go toward the Center's Pryor Mountain Wild Horse monitoring program, educational displays, promotional materials, and operation of the museum building.

The names of all Wind Drinker 1000 donors are on plates featured on a display in the Center, which is designed to hold 1000 name plates. Upon completion of the campaign, each Wind Drinker 1000 donor will also be entered in a drawing for a limited edition bronze sculpture of "A Family Matter" by T.D. Kelsey. The piece is 30" x 20" x 14" and is one of only twenty being offered to the public. The Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and donations made to it are tax-deductible. Donations can be made online at our website or by mailing in the included form.



Nancy Cerroni's photograph of stallions Santa Fe and Doc has become the symbol for Wind Drinker 1000.

Please send your Wind Drinker 1000 gift of \$100 or more today!

For more news and photographs of the Center and the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses, please see our websites at <http://www.pryormustangs.org> and <http://pryorwild.wordpress.com>.

Meet the Mustangs 2008

This year marks the 40th birthday of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, and the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center had a great Meet the Mustangs event to celebrate it. The Center had an open house all day for visitors to come and see the building, enjoy refreshments, and view some of the Hartman family's Pryor Mountain Wild Horses. Local trainer Todd Nunn also gave two demonstrations during the day with his wild horse Pistol, who Todd competed with in the 2008 Wyoming Mustang Challenge.

During the evening, there was a concert performance by Kathy Bender of Killdeer, North Dakota. Kathy gave a very entertaining concert, singing the songs of Patsy Cline and others. Around 200 people attended the concert.

It was a great day, and the Center was happy to welcome many visitors from all over to the event.

Center Board member Daphne Hartman talks about her family's Pryor Mountain Wild Horses.

Photo by David Peck



Monitoring & Research Activities

Reverend Floyd Schwieger started watching the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses in the 1960's, and he eventually began keeping track of individual horses within the herd. Today, the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center continues this herd monitoring project.

At least once per week, different parts of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range are visited by the Center's director, Matt Dillon, so that information can be collected on the horses seen. Recorded information includes harem composition and location, along with any other important observations. With these observations, information on important topics such as herd size and range use can be determined. Research is also being done to understand the history of the herd. With this present and past information, a detailed report is being constructed that will ultimately assist in understanding the dynamics of the herd and how to best manage the herd for long-term sustainability.

Pryor Mountain Herd 2008

This year, thirty-one foals have been born, and twenty-seven of them are still alive. The first foal of the year was born in early April, and the youngest foal was born in mid-September. There has been some loss this year also, with around 7 horses going missing before the summer. There are currently 170 horses, one year of age and older, in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse herd.

Cecelia and Sitting Bull's 2008 colt is the last foal found so far. He was likely born during the week of September 7.



The Bureau of Land Management's Billings Field Office had made plans for a 2008 gather where up to 38 horses could be removed. However, no horses have been removed this year; and the gather is currently on an indefinite hold. The environmental assessment for this gather lasts until March 2009.

2008 Meetings

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center has attended and held a number of meetings this year with representatives of the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Montana and Wyoming congresspeople and senators, and other stakeholders and interested parties involved with the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. These meetings are important, and the Center is very happy to see this dialogue occurring. Topics discussed at these meetings have varied from range conditions to herd size to genetic health. However, most of the discussion has focused on the expansion of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, which the Center is actively pursuing.

Educational Programs

Educating the public about the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses is an important goal for the Center. The Center provides educators with a free interactive DVD packet, and over 400 packets have been sent. A new DVD that can better serve the needs of educators is also being developed. The Center has also been happy to provide assistance to area schools that take field trips to the range. Supporting materials for these field trips are being planned now as well.