Typical Operations of a Wild Horse Off-Range Pasture

This information is presented with the goal of describing a typical off-range pasture operation. For more information, please call the Bureau of Land Management at 866-468-7826.

As of 3/9/16

Horses are delivered via semi-truck. The ORP contractor must have a working chute ready to receive wild horses.

Horses come in groups of 30 or 35. The contractor must have smaller acclimation areas where the animals are able to adjust to the new environment.

Animals are moved into pens or smaller pastures to become familiar with the feed before they enter the larger pastures.

Some off-range pasture contractors add supplemental pellets on top of the hay during the acclimation period.

After acclimation, horses enter the large pastures. Rough natural features like rocks will help keep hoofs trimmed.

Sometimes the acclimation works a little too well!

Off-range pastures must have good, clean water sources sufficiently large enough to support the wild horses.

Supplemental feeding may need to occur for a period of up to four months.

BLM may require one or two public and/or media tours, hosting by BLM staff and the contractor, during the life of the contract.

BLM acquires off-range pasture contracts through a competitive bid process.

Pastures must how a minimum of 200 horses and be large enough so that horses can maintain their “free-roaming” behavior.

Visit www.blm.gov/whb and click on “Funding Opportunities” to see any open solicitations and for details on how to apply.