



## Off-Range Highlights for

### Wild Horse and Burro (WHB) Advisory Board Meeting, Reno, NV, June 27-30, 2023

**Private Placement Results FY23** – So far in FY23, the WHB Program has placed more than 5,289 animals into private care. With peak adoption season coming in the fourth quarter, the Program looks on track to potentially top 7,000 placements this fiscal year. The BLM credits several factors for this continued success, including expanded use of the Online Corral. Recently the Program held an Online Corral event that offered nearly 1,000 animals from numerous facilities, nearly half of which were placed into good homes. The Adoption Incentive Program continues to be a driving factor in motivating interest among new and repeat adopters, and new and expanded partnerships promise to support increasing placements nationwide. Successful private care placements remain a cornerstone of the Program’s efforts to ensure high quality care for excess wild horses and burros while being wise stewards of public funds.

**New and Expanded Partnerships** - The Program awarded two grants earlier this year totaling more than \$4.7 million to accelerate the training and placement of excess wild horses and burros into private care. These grants are part of the BLM’s efforts to increase adoptions of wild horses and burros, protect wild herds and their habitat on public lands, and save taxpayers money. The grants were awarded to the Round Rock, Texas-based [Mustang Heritage Foundation](#) and Austin, Texas-based [Mustang Champions](#). Together, the grants have the potential to help facilitate placement of approximately 3,600 wild horses and burros into private care over the next year, saving taxpayers approximately \$99 million over the lifetime of the animals. It costs BLM about \$26,000, on average, to provide life-time care for a wild horse not placed into private care.

**Off-Range Pasture Acquisition** – The Program plans to issue a request for proposals later this fiscal year for additional off-range pastures that can hold between 200-10,000 horses. The effort will support current and future needs to provide cost-effective, quality long-term care for unadopted excess wild horses and burros off range. The Program is working to finalize National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis on several other pastures from an earlier solicitation in 2021 that may be awarded by the end of 2023.

**Policy Updates** – On February 27, 2023, the Program updated policy for Animal Health, Vaccination, Gelding and Microchipping of Wild Horses and Burros (IM 2023-028). This IM establishes policy and procedures for evaluating animal health and body condition, providing preventive medical care for animals in holding, gelding (castrating) male wild horses and burros, issuing gelding reimbursement vouchers, and microchipping wild horses and burros.

On May 15, 2023, the Program issued new policy for the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP) for Off-Range Pastures and Public Off-Range Pastures (IM 2023-41) on May 15, 2023. This IM helps ensure humane treatment, handling, and care of wild horses and burros by consolidating BLM’s longstanding best practices for animal care and handling, as well as adding training for BLM employees, contractors, and partners.

Together, these policies strengthen and affirm the BLM’s commitment to providing high-quality care for excess wild horses and burros off range.