

BRING HOME
YOUR OWN
WILD HORSE OR BURRO



Wild Horse and Burro Program



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse and Burro Program

HISTORY OF WILD HORSES AND BURROS

A wild horse or burro, as defined by federal law, is an unbranded, unclaimed, free-roaming horse or burro found on public lands in the United States.

Wild horses and burros are descendants of animals released by or escaped from Spanish explorers, ranchers, miners, the U.S. Cavalry and American Indians. Spanish explorers first introduced horses to the Americas in the 1500s. Horses and burros were crucial to survival for settlers and pioneers for activities such as transportation and agriculture.

"Imagine if we could all BELIEVE in these mustangs. Imagine if we could see the POTENTIAL inside of each one of them. Believe in the American MUSTANGS."

— Madison "Mustang Maddy" Shambaugh

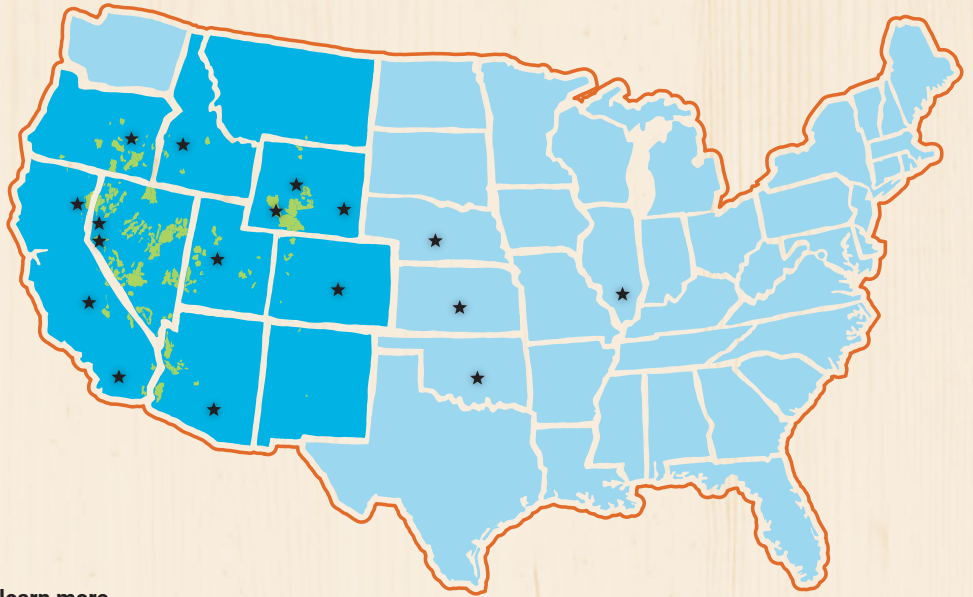
Cover photo: Mustang Maddy with a Bureau of Land Management wild horse named Willie. Mustang Maddy is an educator and entertainer who is dedicated to raising awareness for our wild horses as well as developing innovative and compassionate training methods for adopters.

Photo credit: Rachel Florman

ABOUT OUR HERDS

HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS

Wild horses and burros live in areas of public lands, known as Herd Management Areas (HMA), that cover 31.6 million acres. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 26.9 million acres of this land. BLM managers and field specialists, with input and advice from a citizen-based advisory board, work to manage wild horses and burros on HMA's in 10 western states.



Call (866) 468-7826 or visit BLM.gov/WHB to learn more about these locations and their hours of operation, make an appointment or find additional trained and untrained animals that may be in your area.

KEY | ■ Herd management area ★ Off-range corral location

OFF-RANGE CORRAL LOCATIONS

Off-range corrals (ORC) provide resources and care for wild horses and burros awaiting placement into private care.

Arizona • Wild Horse and Burro Training and ORC

1305 East Bute Avenue, Florence, AZ 85132 • (602) 417-9200

California • Litchfield ORC

474-000 Highway 395 East, Litchfield, CA 96117 • (800) 545-4256

California • Ridgecrest ORC

3647-A Randsburg Wash Road, Ridgecrest, CA 93562 • (800) 951-8720

California • Sundance Ranch

27273 Pilgrim Road, Redlands, CA 92373 • (800) 951-8720

Colorado • Cañon City Inmate Training Program and ORC

Two miles east of Cañon City on Highway 50 • (719) 269-8500

Idaho • Boise ORC

12449 South Pleasant Valley Road, Boise, ID 83705 • (208) 384-3300

Illinois • Ewing ORC

22295 Sheep Farm Road, Ewing, IL 62864 • (800) 293-1781

Kansas • Hutchinson Correctional Center Training Program and ORC

500 Reformatory Street, Hutchinson, KS 67501 • (620) 625-7515

Nebraska • Elm Creek ORC

5050 100th Road, Elm Creek, NE 68836 • (308) 856-4498

Nevada • Northern Nevada Correctional Center Training Program

1721 Snyder Avenue, Carson City, NV 89701 • (775) 861-6500

Nevada • Reno ORC

15780 State Route 445, Reno, NV 89510 (775) 475-2222

Oklahoma • Pauls Valley ORC

16204 NCR 3205, Pauls Valley, OK 73075
(800) 237-3642 • (405) 238-7138

Oregon • Burns ORC

26775 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738 • (541) 573-2930

Utah • Delta ORC

350 West 500 North, Delta, UT 84624 • (435) 864-4068

Wyoming • Wyoming Honor Farm Training Program

40 Honor Farm Road, Riverton, WY 82501 • (307) 352-0302

Wyoming • Rock Springs ORC

280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901 • (307) 352-0292

Wyoming • Mantle Adoption and Training Facility

615 South Antelope Road, Wheatland, WY 82201 • (307) 322-5799

WITH UNCHECKED HERDS DOUBLING IN SIZE

EVERY FOUR YEARS,

THE BLM NEEDS YOU TO CARE FOR A LIVING
SYMBOL OF OUR AMERICAN HISTORY.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 entrusts the BLM with the responsibility to manage and protect wild horses and burros on the nation's public lands. Because wild horses and burros are federally protected and lack natural predators, the BLM must manage population growth to ensure healthy wild horses and burros thrive on healthy public rangelands. To accomplish this mission, the BLM regularly monitors herd size and health, land health, vegetation quality and water availability and, when necessary, removes excess animals from the range to achieve balance. The BLM then works to place excess wild horses and burros into qualified private care through adoptions and sales.

"If more people understood the true **RÊWARD**
and could grasp the real meaning, no
MUSTANGS would ever want for a home."

— Fred Woehl, WHB Advisory Board Member



Photos in order from top to bottom.

Bobby Kerr with Poncho – **Photo credit:** Mustang Heritage Foundation

Trainer at Carson City Correctional Center – **Photo credit:** BLM

Cat Zimmerman with Beau – **Photo credit:** Mustang Heritage Foundation



HOW TO BRING HOME YOUR OWN WILD HORSE OR BURRO

Depending on your goals, the BLM offers two ways to bring home your new wild horse or burro.

- ★ **PURCHASE:** Available for trained or untrained animals; purchase provides immediate ownership of the animal.
- ★ **ADOPTION:** Available for trained or untrained animals; adoption maintains federal ownership of the animal until the BLM grants title, one year after the adoption date.

Find your wild horse or burro

- Attend an event. Visit [BLM.gov/WHB](https://www.blm.gov/WHB) for event schedule
- Visit an off-range corral (see pages 4 and 5 for corral locations)
- Go to the BLM's Online Corral at [wildhorsesonline.BLM.gov](https://wildhorsesonline.blm.gov)

Complete an application to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro

- Fill out an application at an event
- Send application to the BLM (see contact information in back)
- Submit application online

Once approved, you are eligible to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro

For more information please contact (866) 468-7826 or email wildhorse@BLM.gov.

If you are interested in adopting or purchasing more than four animals, please contact your local BLM office for additional information and requirements.

" They are truly a clean slate when you first get them; once you gain their trust, they can become a PHENOMENAL HORSE."

— Matt Zimmerman, WHB Adopter from Idaho

THE WILD HORSE ^{AND} BURRO EXPERIENCE: FROM OUR

ADOPTERS ^{AND} PURCHASERS

Just like you!

Families who have given loving homes to these majestic, wild animals share their experiences:

"As a **faithful partner**, I can always count on her to listen to me when I'm having a bad day."

"They are **compassionate animals** that offer their hearts and make the experience even better."

"The **intelligence and hardiness** of my wild horse is unmatched."

"This experience made me a **better horseman and trainer**."

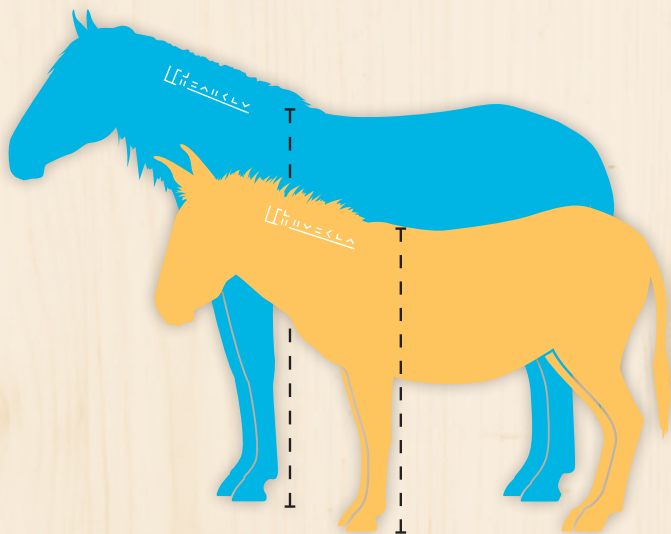
"My burro came to me a **willing partner**."

HORSES

700-1,000 POUNDS
13-15 HANDS HIGH
52-60 Inches

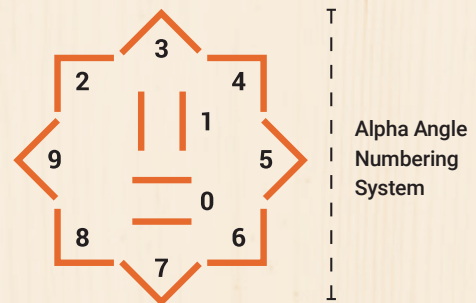
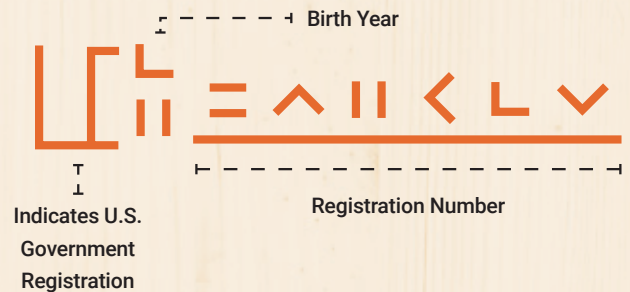
BURROS

500 POUNDS
11 HANDS HIGH
44 Inches



FREEZE MARKS

After gathered from public lands, each horse and burro receives a unique freeze mark on the left side of the neck to identify the animal as property of the U.S. government. The procedure is painless, using a cold iron, chilled in liquid nitrogen.



WHAT TO BRING TO AN ADOPTION/SALE EVENT

PAYMENT: The BLM accepts VISA®, MasterCard®, Discover®, American Express®, travelers' checks, money orders, personal checks and cash as payment for adoption fees or purchases. Some offices may not accept credit cards. Please confirm ahead of time.

EQUIPMENT: The BLM recommends you bring a halter and lead rope for your animal. BLM personnel will place the halter on your animal and load the animal into your trailer. The lead rope should be about 12 feet long and made of cotton or nylon. A trailer and truck to transport your horse or burro is also required.

Minimal cost and great reward

\$25 TO \$125+

Standard for Untrained/Trained Wild Horse or Burro

**Fees may vary.*

If you must return your animal(s), you are responsible for returning your animal(s) to the BLM and the fee is non-refundable.

Caitlin Martin with Flash Gordon

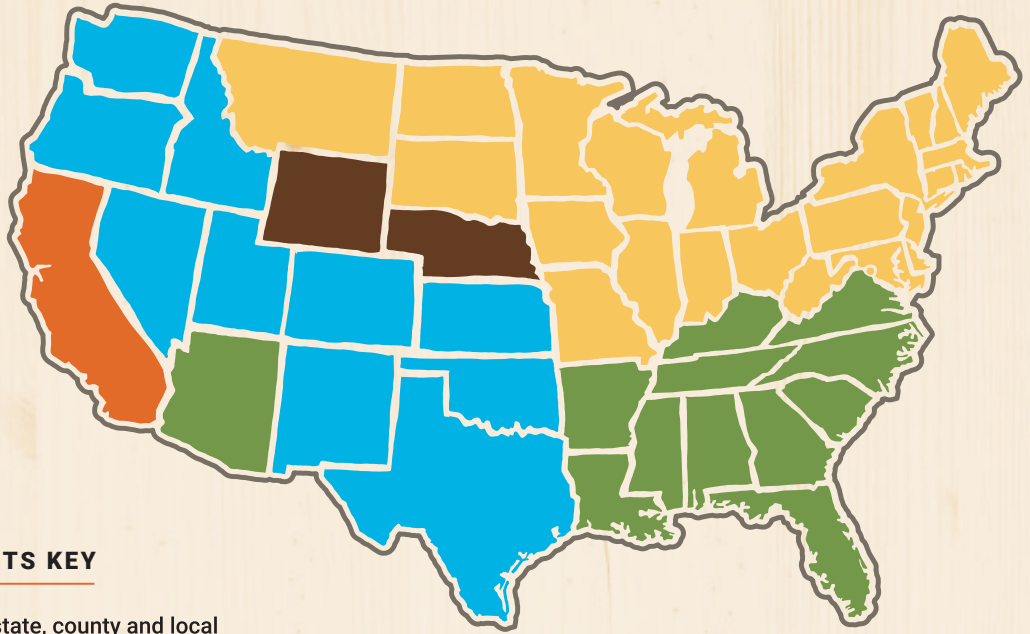
Photo credit: BLM partner Beaty Butte Training Facility in Adel, Oregon



ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

- Adopted animal must remain in the United States until titled. (Eligibility occurs on its one year anniversary.)
- Applicant has no convictions of inhumane treatment of animals or violation of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.
- Applicant must provide a facility with access to feed, water and shelter. Reference shelter requirements on pages 14 and 15. NOTE: Facility refers to enclosed area such as corral, barn, stall, etc. Approval is not based on pasture fence height, but the height of the enclosed area.
- Applicant must provide a stock or horse trailer with a rear swing gate and covered top. Provided the dividers are removed or folded back, slant trailers are acceptable. Drop-ramps are acceptable if there is an additional back gate to the trailer. Two-horse trailers approved on case-by-case basis. No one-horse trailers approved.
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old.

ADOPTIONSHELTER REQUIREMENTS ^{BY} STATE



STATE SHELTER REQUIREMENTS KEY

These requirements are in addition to state, county and local animal health and welfare laws and regulations for the area in which the animal resides.

- ★ Shelter shall be available to mitigate the effects of inclement weather and temperature extremes. The requirement is at the discretion of the authorized officer and will vary depending on the severity of weather in the region.

Example: Natural cover (tree) or man-made structure (plywood or other material on side of corral, stall, etc.)

- ★ A two-sided shelter with a roof.

Example: Structure with sides and a roof (wood, metal, etc.)

- ★ A three-sided shelter with a roof.

Example: Structure with sides, a back and a roof (wood, metal, etc.)

Additional minimum requirement for Alaska only:
Heated water source

- ★ Natural cover or man-made structure that provides a windbreak.

Example: Tree or structure with a side (plywood on side of corral, stall, etc.)

- ★ Natural cover or man-made structure that provides shade.

Example: Tree or structure with a roof (wood, metal, etc.)

ADOPTER FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 400 ft.² of corral space per animal (e.g., 20' x 20');
- Suitable materials: pipe panels, wood post, planks (min. 1.5" thick), horse fence (V Mesh or 2" x 4" square);
- 5' high facility for yearling or gentled horse of any age;
- 6' high facility for an ungentled horse two years or older;
- 4.5' high facility for a burro of any age;
- Applicant is required to adhere to the shelter requirements for wild horses and burros based on the state or region in which the animal resides, unless otherwise stipulated by the authorized officer.

WHAT TO EXPECT

PRIVATE CARE COSTS

The financial commitment to care for a wild horse or burro can exceed \$1,000 per year, depending on your location. You are responsible for all costs associated with the care of your animal, and, if the animal is pregnant, its offspring. **Though the adoption fee may seem minimal, it's important to consider the following costs when calculating a wild horse or burro budget:**

- Medical-Veterinarian care – Medicine, deworming and vaccinations
- Stall/Corral rental or materials
- Tack
- Salt or other supplements
- Transportation /Hauling
- Grooming supplies
- Feed
- Farrier/Shoeing

If your animal(s) escapes from your property, you are responsible for all costs associated with recovering the animal.

VETERINARY TREATMENT

The BLM vaccinates, deworms and freeze marks all wild horses and burros, while a veterinarian provides necessary medical care. The BLM provides a record of the animal's age, gather history and medical history, including the negative results of a Coggins test, to each new adopter or purchaser. A negative Coggins test indicates the animal does not have Equine Infectious Anemia.

OWNERSHIP

A wild horse or burro belongs to the federal government until the BLM issues a Certificate of Title or Bill of Sale.

- **If adopting**, you will be notified one year from the adoption date directing you to obtain a signature from a qualified person, such as a veterinarian or county extension agent, verifying that you have given humane care and treatment to your adopted animal(s). Once you return the signed letter, the BLM will mail you a Certificate of Title. *(There are no additional federal fees involved in the titling process.)*
- **If purchasing** the animal, you will receive immediate ownership upon receipt of the Bill of Sale.

Upon the issuance date of the Certificate of Title or Bill of Sale, the animal is deemed private property. The animal is no longer considered a wild horse or burro protected by federal law or regulations. The animal is considered private property.



Marsha Hartford with Cobra
Photo credit: Kimberly Chason –
ChasonPhotos.com

CARING FOR
WILD HORSES & BURROS
AND HEALTHY
RANGELANDS



"There is no greater gift than having an untouched
WILD HORSE learn to trust. Once they do,
they open their heart and soul to you —
from there, the possibilities are ENDLESS."

— Stacie Zimmerman, WHB Adopter from Idaho



BLM.gov/WHB • (866) 468-7826 •    



Trooper and 1SG (Retired) Mark Hansen, U.S. Army, Iraq/Afghanistan

The BLM and EquiCenter, located in western New York, have partnered to develop a national model called *Mission Mustang™*. This program's purpose is to document the process of gentling and training wild horses and burros for eventual placement into loving homes, including integration into other therapeutic equestrian programs designed to improve the health and well-being of veterans suffering from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and other physical and mental wounds. EquiCenter initially purchased six wild horses and partnered them with ten veterans and two nationally acclaimed professional wild horse and burro trainers to document their individual outcomes. The veterans realized profound changes through *Mission Mustang™*, including a decrease in hyper-vigilance and stress, increased trust, and a renewed sense of purpose, while the wild horses progressed at their own pace, becoming the veterans' trusted partners and equine ambassadors with other EquiCenter participants.

There is a wild horse or burro waiting for you!



For more information, visit [BLM.gov/WHB](https://blm.gov/WHB)
or call (866) 468-7826 •    

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