

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-08-03 • October 23, 2007

KIGER MUSTANGS UP FOR ADOPTION IN BURNS, OREGON

HINES, Oregon – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District is set to offer over 100 wild Kiger mustangs for adoption this November. Burns District Manager Dana Shuford said, “We’re excited to have the Kigers available to the public once again. With the animals being gathered from the range only every 3-4 years, this adoption is highly anticipated and sought after by horse enthusiasts across the country.”

It’s been said that no other horse in America is quite like the Kiger Mustang, found on Steens Mountain in southeast Oregon. Most wild horses are of mixed influence and characteristics while the Kiger Mustangs possess many characteristics of the original Spanish Mustang. The Spanish Mustang was a part of early American history, having roots in Native American history, and is the horse that helped settle the west.

The November 8-10 Kiger adoption in Burns, Oregon will feature approximately 21 colts, 20 fillies, 42 mares, 31 stallions and 1 mare/foal pair. Ages range from 4-6 months to 17 years. Animal viewing begins at 8:00 a.m. at Oregon’s Wild Horse Corral Facility in Hines on Thursday, November 8. Other event activities, including vendor booths, gentling demonstrations and trained Kiger showings, begin the same day, at 10:00 a.m. at the Harney County Fairgrounds and span through the weekend until the competitive oral bid process starts at 12:00 noon on Saturday, November 10. All activities are open to the public. Those planning to adopt must be registered in order participate in the oral competitive bidding process. Registration takes place at the Harney County Fairgrounds from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 7:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. For a complete schedule of events and photos of the Kigers available for adoption, go online to www.blm.gov/or/resources/whb.

The BLM manages two special areas in southeastern Oregon for Kiger Mustangs. The two areas are located in the Burns District and are known as the Kiger and Riddle Mountain Herd Management Areas. Horses from each of these Herd Management Areas will be available at the November adoption.

The Kiger Mustang exhibits physical color characteristics known as the "dun factor" which was also common to many of the horses the Spaniards reintroduced to North America in the 1600's. Color classifications of the dun factor are: dun, red dun, grulla (mouse gray), buckskin, and variations of these colors. Markings on animals with the dun factor include dorsal stripes; zebra stripes on the knees and hocks; chest, rib and arm bars; outlined ears; the top one-third of the ear on its backside darker than the body color; fawn coloring on the inside of the ears; bi-colored mane and tail; face masks and cob-



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webbing on the face.

Kiger Mustangs have the physical conformation of both the tarpan and oriental hotblood horses from which the original Spanish Mustangs came. They have small, round bones, small feet and very little feather on their legs and fetlocks. Their eyes are wide set and prominent. These animals also have distinctly hooked ear tips and fine muzzles. The Kiger Mustangs also look very much like the modern day Spanish Sorraias. They are indeed a unique breed of wild horse.

For more specific information, or to inquire about BLM's Adopt-a-Horse Program, contact the Burns District office at (541) 573-4439 or (541) 573-4424.

