

Purpose of the Facility

As a result of amendments to the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1976 and 1978 which addressed problems created by growing populations on the range, BLM identified appropriate management levels and developed a process to remove excess animals. The need for the corrals became apparent when wild horse and burro populations on public lands increased to such numbers that more intense management became necessary. Animals removed from the Oregon range are brought here and prepared for the adoption program. Periodically wild burros from California and Arizona are also brought here for adoption.

Facility Operation

Wild horses are brought off the range to the corrals where they are separated into pens by age and sex. The mares with foals are kept together while weanlings and yearlings, dry mares, studs and geldings are kept in their respective separated pens.

Within a short time of their arrival, the horses are given a health inspection by a veterinarian. Animals with any injuries or diseases are treated immediately.

All animals are prepared for adoption in the chutes area located under the barn where they are checked for age, vaccinated against disease, wormed, and freeze marked. Horses are aged by inspecting their teeth.

The horses are vaccinated against such diseases as Rhinopneumonitis, Influenza, Tetanus, Sleeping Sickness, Strangles, Rabies, and West Nile Virus. The animals are also wormed to rid them of internal parasites. If animals are kept for long periods of time, their hooves are trimmed periodically, as the ground in the pens and pastures is soft and hooves do not wear down as readily as they did when the horses lived on the range and roamed over rougher terrain.

The pens near the barn are used as working pens where horses and burros are separated for various reasons whether for shipping, health inspections, or viewing for adoption. Note the numerous gates, small side pens, wings, and alleyways which make it easier to work with the animals.

The larger holding pens are to the north and are connected to the working pens by alleyways. These horses and burros are kept in these pens unless they are to be shipped out in a very short time. The eastern pens are reserved for female animals and the western pens hold the males. Note the different pen areas in the diagram on the back.

The large barn and handling facility was built in 2001 to replace the old wooden barn which was lost to fire. Upgrades to the chute system, water troughs, and pen design and materials were accomplished in 2007, and the hay barn was enlarged in 2010.



Freeze Marking

Horses and burros are freeze marked using liquid nitrogen and a special branding tool which marks the animals. Each animal is individually identified by alpha angle symbols applied as a freeze mark on the upper left side of the neck. The mark identifies the animal as an official wild horse or burro. The symbol includes the animal's birth year and identification number. The diagram below shows an example of the freeze mark.

Key to the Alpha Angle Symbol

Read each angle to determine the freeze mark number



