

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Membership Nomination Process

Each year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests nominations for the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board (Board) from individuals, national organizations, and associations involved with, and interested in, the protection and management of wild horses and burros on public lands administered by the Department of Interior through the BLM and by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

One-third of the Board positions are vacated each year. The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act directs that Board membership reflect special knowledge about protection of horses and burros, management of wildlife, animal husbandry, or natural resource management. The positions on the Board are specified in the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Charter. The Board members are appointed to serve 3-year terms.

Before a Board position reaches its expiration date the BLM starts the selection process. The selection process is as follows:

- The BLM Washington Office issues a public announcement in the *Federal Register* (www.federalregister.gov) and a press release calling for nominations. The public announcement is shared with state and local news media and posted at www.blm.gov and at www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram.html.
- After the nomination period closes, all nominations are reviewed. Nominees are evaluated based on their education, training, and experience that qualify them to serve in the position for which they have been nominated; experience or knowledge of wild and horse and burro management; experience or knowledge of horses and burros (equine health, training, and management); and experience in working to achieve collaborative solutions on challenging issues where there are diverse viewpoints. Consideration is also given to the BLM's advisory committee regulations (43 CFR 1784), that require each committee to be structured to provide fair membership balance, both geographic and interest-specific, in terms of the functions to be performed and points of view to be represented.
- The Director of the BLM and BLM's Assistant Director for Resources and Planning (who serves as the Designated Federal Officer for the Board) are briefed on the nominations received.
- The nominations are sent to the Department of Interior's (DOI) Office of the White House Liaison for vetting.
- After concurrence by the Office of the White House Liaison, the appointments are approved by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. After the appointment letters are mailed to the appointees, all other nominees are notified that they were not selected and encouraged to reapply. The BLM issues a news release announcing the selection of the members.

