

## **Off-Range Corral Solicitation FAQs**

Updated 08/11/2020

### **Why does the BLM have Off-Range Corral (ORC) contracts?**

The growing population of wild horses and burros on the range requires BLM to remove more animals from the range than the agency can immediately place into private care. This results in a growing number of animals in off-range care. ORCs provide needed capacity to hold these excess animals and thereby support BLM's mission of maintaining healthy wild horse and burro herds on healthy rangelands. There are currently about 11,500 animals cared for in ORCs.

ORCs also serve as initial preparation facilities for animals removed from the range. Animals are, aged, freeze marked and inventoried upon arriving at these facilities from the range. They are provided with hoof care, vaccinated, dewormed, and otherwise made ready for placement into private care. Animals more than six years old are typically moved to permanent ORPs.

Finally, ORCs provide the infrastructure necessary to facilitate movement of animals gathered from Western public rangelands to Off-Range Pastures (ORPs) or adoption and sale locations in other parts of the country. Depending on their condition, animals can only be humanely transported a certain distance in a single day (typically no more than 10 hours). Consequently, it is necessary to have a network of ORCs strategically located to allow for safe and humane shipment.

### **Why does the BLM continue to remove animals from the range?**

Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, as amended, the BLM manages and protects wild horses and burros on Western public lands while working to ensure that population levels are in balance with other public rangeland resources and uses. The BLM removes animals from the range to control the size of herds, which double in population every four years because wild horses and burros have virtually no predators that can naturally control population growth.

### **What are the general requirements for an ORC contract?**

The contractor shall provide all necessary land, facilities, personnel, and supplies to perform the following general tasks:

Provide corrals and adequate facilities to load and unload wild horses and burros.

Load, unload, sort, and segregate wild horses and burros upon their arrival at the site.

Provide feed and water to all animals on a daily basis.

Provide all corrals, loading chutes and adequate facilities necessary to prepare animals for adoption, sale, transfer and shipment to off-range pastures, other off-range corral locations or approved BLM events and locations. This preparation work may include but is not limited to: vaccinations, hoof trimming, deworming, castration, blood draws and microchipping.

Provide regular observation on a daily basis of animals on site and a record keeping system that documents the frequency and results of observations.

Provide a record keeping system that identifies the pen location, sex, age group, and quantity to include per pen of inventory animals.

Thoroughly document any and all animal deaths and dispose of remains in accordance with state and local sanitation laws.

In consultation with BLM, euthanize animals suffering from acute or chronic illness, injury, physical condition, or lameness that cannot be treated or have a poor or hopeless prognosis for recovery.

Provide personnel that are intimately familiar with the health requirements of equines.

Have personnel with knowledge, skill and ability to safely handle wild horses and burros.

**Can the land be located in any state and qualify for the ORC solicitation?**

The exact geographic area of consideration will be specified in the posted solicitation. Proposals from outside the defined area will not be considered.

**Where do I locate the ORC solicitation?**

Go to [www.beta.sam.gov](http://www.beta.sam.gov);

Scroll down under Contract Opportunities (FBO) and click "Search Contract Opportunities";

Enter the solicitation number in the "Keywords" field and hit Enter.

**Is there anyone that can assist me in developing the proposal?**

You can contact the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) for your state which you can find on the Internet.

Applicants who are new to conducting business with the government must first obtain a Duns and Bradstreet number at [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com) and then register at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) to respond to the solicitation. No fee is involved. The solicitation describes what to submit to the BLM, where to send it and the deadline for submission. You may contact a Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) in your state to assist you with the solicitation. You can reach them by calling (615)268-6644 or visiting [www.ptac-us.org](http://www.ptac-us.org)

**How many ORC contracts will be awarded?**

The BLM could award several contracts depending on the number of acceptable proposals received and number of animals each proposal can accommodate to meet the BLM's needs.

**What does the BLM pay a contractor to hold horses on an ORC?**

The applicant must submit a business plan that supports the dollar amount needed per head/day to conduct business with the government. The bid should include the percentage of profit the contractor is seeking. The BLM cannot provide a suggested rate.

**Will the BLM visit my property before making a decision?**

Yes. If a proposal meets the BLM's needs, several BLM technical experts will complete an on-site visit before making a final recommendation to award a contract. Additionally, throughout the contract's period of performance, a BLM Contracting Officer's Representative will be the contractor's immediate point of contact and will closely monitor the contractor's performance for compliance.

**If awarded a contract, when would BLM begin shipping horses?**

The BLM ships animals to a facility only after the offered property meets the minimum requirements outlined in the contract specifications, together with any mitigation or additional requirements identified in the BLM's environmental assessment, and contract is awarded. Horses are typically shipped 34-36 animals at a time using a semi-truck and trailer. Contractor must be able to offload horses using a loading chute.

**Do the animals receive health care prior to shipping to ORCs?**

ORCs typically serve as the initial preparation facility for animals recently removed from the range. Upon arrival at an ORC, animals are provided essential care such as vaccinations, hoof trimming, deworming, castration, blood draws and microchipping.

**What is the life expectancy of wild horses living on ORCs?**

Horses and burros maintained in off-range facilities may live up to 30-plus years old, due to consistent availability of quality feed and water and the absence of harsh competition as would normally occur within wild herds.

**What is the payment timeframe for an ORC contractor?**

First payment will be made after animals are received at the ORC and have resided there for one month. Each contractor MUST keep track of the number of horses on their ORC and invoice the BLM once a month. On an annual basis, at a minimum, BLM and contractor will conduct a joint animal inventory.

**How many ORCs are currently under contract with the BLM?**

The BLM currently has 26 ORCs with an average capacity of approximately 1,000 animals.

**After reviewing the solicitation at [www.beta.sam.gov](http://www.beta.sam.gov), who can I contact with additional technical questions about the agency's requirements for this solicitation?**

The technical point of contact for this solicitation is Scott Fluer, 307-714-1823, [sfluer@blm.gov](mailto:sfluer@blm.gov). He can put you in touch with the Contracting Officer if you have further questions about the solicitation process.

**How can I learn about future ORC solicitations?**

The BLM posts all solicitations on the official Government-wide Point of Entry (GPE) portal at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov) and [www.beta.sam.gov](http://www.beta.sam.gov). Once a solicitation is posted, a press release/announcement is posted at [www.blm.gov/whb](http://www.blm.gov/whb) under Funding Opportunities and through traditional and social media outlets.