BRING HOME YOUR LIVING LEGEND
A HOW-TO GUIDE

Photo credit: Marsha Hartford Sapp and Cobra (Chason Photos)

Wild Horse & Burro Program

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

"Mustangs are a special breed; they take some time to know. But once you’ve earned their trust, you’ll be amazed at what they show."

– Jessie Willyerd, "Mustangs I Have Known"
Wild horses and burros live on segments 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) oversees 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.

Off-range corrals (ORC) provide additional 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) 728-3296

**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

Call (866) 468-7826 or visit BLM.gov 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.
THE NEED FOR PRIVATE CARE

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 entrusts the BLM and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service 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, works to place excess wild horses and burros into qualified, private care.

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

– Fred Woehl, Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board Member
Wild horses and burros:
★ Come in a variety of colors and sizes, each with a unique personality
★ Exhibit characteristics associated with certain breeds
★ May or may not be trained

**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.

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

**BURROS**
- 500 POUNDS
- 11 HANDS HIGH
- 44 Inches

Indicates U.S. Government Registration

Registration Number

Birth Year

Alpha Angle Numbering System

EVERY WILD HORSE AND BURRO IS UNIQUE
BRING HOME YOUR LIVING LEGEND

Depending on your goals, the BLM offers two ways to bring home your new 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 BLM grants title, one year after the adoption date.

Limitations
PURCHASE: Up to four (4) animals in a 6-month period
ADOPTION: Up to four (4) animals in a 12-month period

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

WHAT TO BRING TO AN ADOPTION/PURCHASING EVENT

PAYMENT: The BLM accepts VISA®, MasterCard®, Discover®, American Express®, travelers’ checks, money orders, personal checks and cash as payment for adoption fees. 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.

HOW TO PURCHASE

It’s easy! If you are interested in purchasing a wild horse or burro, including full ownership, please complete the Application to Purchase Wild Horses and Burros and email to wildhorse@BLM.gov or fax to (202) 912-7182. Please review the clauses in the bill of sale. Find the application and sample bill of sale online at BLM.gov.

If you have questions regarding the purchasing program, please contact the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

Minimal cost and great reward

$125

Standard for Trained/Untrained Wild Horse or Burro

Fees vary based on location and competitive bidding.
If you decide to return your animal(s), you are responsible for returning your animal(s) to the BLM and the fee is non-refundable.
It’s easy!

Complete the Application for the Adoption of Wild Horse(s) or Burro(s), Form 4710-10, located at the back of this brochure. It is also available at the BLM off-range corrals, events and offices or you may download it at BLM.gov.

Take the completed application to a BLM off-range corral, event or mail/fax/email it to your local BLM office.

Once the BLM approves your application, you are eligible to adopt your very own wild horse or burro. Go to BLM.gov to locate an off-range corral or view the current schedule of adoption events.

For internet adoptions, you must apply online at BLM.gov/adoptahorse. For more information about the Internet process, please visit the website or call (800) 370-3936.

ADOPTION APPLICATION 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. 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.
- Shelter requirements detailed on page 14.
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 dependent 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.)

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.
PRIVATE CARE COSTS

The financial commitment for caring 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 the wild horses and burros, while a veterinarian provides all the 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.

I’ve known some MUSTANGS in my time, thanks to friends and competitions. A better horse you will not find, regardless of conditions. Love and Joy and FREEDOM. Mustangs represent all three. I hope that you can get a LOOK at what I already see.

— Jessie Willyerd, "Mustangs I Have Known"

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE/BILL OF SALE

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 the Act or federal regulations. The animal is considered private property.
"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
Sharron Evans, Utah State Office Volunteer, won a BLM 2016 Making a Difference National Volunteer Award. Sharron contributes her time to many facets of the BLM Wild Horse & Burro Program. One of her primary areas of responsibility is recordkeeping for the 1,600+ wild horses and burros that currently reside at the contracted Off-Range Corral in Axtell, Utah. Sharron spends long hours promoting the BLM Wild Horse & Burro Program in person and via social media. Her outreach efforts have helped the BLM, partners, contractors and members of the public work together effectively in their efforts to safeguard America's wild horses and burros.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions, need program information, or need to mail paperwork to BLM for approval, please contact the appropriate office below:

BLM – Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Program
(866) 468-7826 • wildhorse@BLM.gov
BLM.gov

Alaska – Alaska State Office • (907) 271-5555
222 West 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, AK 99513

Arizona – Arizona State Office • (602) 417-9200
One North Central, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004

California – California State Office
(916) 978-4400 • 2800 Cottage Way,
Suite 1623 • Sacramento, CA 95825
Litchfield • (800) 545-4256 • 474-000 Highway
395 East • Litchfield, CA 96117
Ridgecrest • (800) 951-8720 • 3647-A Randsburg
Wash Road • Ridgecrest, CA 93562

Colorado – Royal Gorge Field Office
(719) 269-8500 • 3028 East Main Street
Cañon City, CO 81212

Eastern States – Eastern States Office
(202) 912-7700 • 20 M Street SE, Suite 950,
Washington, D.C. 20003

AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA – Southeastern States Field Office
(888) 274-2133 • 278 Market Street,
Flowood, MS 39232

CT, DE, DC, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN,
MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV, WI – Northeastern States Field Office
(800) 293-1781 • 626 E. Wisconsin Avenue,
Suite 200, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Idaho – Idaho State Office • (208) 373-4000
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709
Boise District Office • (208) 384-3300
3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705
Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota –
Billings Field Office • (406) 896-5013
5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MO 59101
Nevada – Nevada State Office • (775) 861-6500
1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89502
New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas –
Oklahoma Field Office • (800) 237-3642
201 Stephenson Parkway, Suite 1200,
Norman, OK 73072
Oregon, Washington – Burns Wild Horse Corrals
(541) 573-2930 • 26755 Highway 20 West,
Hines, OR 97738
Utah – Utah State Office • (801) 539-4057
440 West 200 South, Suite 500, SLC, UT 84101
Salt Lake Field Office • (801) 977-4300
2370 South Becker Lake Boulevard,
West Valley, UT 84119
Fillmore Field Office • (435) 743-3135
95 East 500 North, Fillmore, UT 84631
Wyoming, Nebraska – Rock Springs Field Office
(307) 352-0256 • (307) 352-0292 • 280 Highway
191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901

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