

Guidance for Selling Excess Wild Horses and Burros

In the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Act), Congress directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell excess wild horses and burros that are more than ten years old or that have been offered unsuccessfully for adoption at least three times. While sale-eligible animals may also be adopted, excess animals that meet the sales criteria must be made available for purchase. Animals become "sale-eligible" because of their age or the number of times they have been offered unsuccessfully for adoption, regardless of age. In addition to the statutory criteria for sale eligibility set forth in the Act, the BLM considers only those animals that meet all of the following criteria to be sale-eligible.

A. Sale-Eligibility Criteria

1. An excess wild horse or burro that is 11 years of age as of January 1 (*For example: Animals born in 2007 are sale-eligible on January 1, 2018*).
2. An excess wild horse or burro offered for adoption unsuccessfully three times at a qualifying individual adoption event.
3. A Henneke Body Condition Score of three or greater.
4. Vision in at least one eye.
5. Able to bear weight on four legs.
6. Meets the requirements for a valid health certificate.
7. A qualifying individual adoption event must be created in the Wild Horse and Burro Program System (WHBPS) database and is defined as:
 - a. Satellite Event: An organized event (organized by the BLM or a partner for any duration), held at a location other than a BLM Off-Range Corral (ORC) or BLM contract facility. Each event will count as one adoption opportunity (strike), regardless of how many days the event lasts.
 - b. Internet Event: A BLM- organized event that is held on the WHB Online Corral (internet site), for any duration. Each event will count as one adoption opportunity (strike), regardless of how many days the event lasts.
 - c. Off-Range Corral Event: An event where specific animal(s) are offered at a BLM ORC, BLM contract facility on-site, or on the WHB Online Corral (internet site), for any duration. Each event will count as one adoption opportunity (strike) regardless of how many days the event lasts; cannot be consecutive days; and there must be seven days between events offering the same animals.

B. Preparation Requirements for Sale-Eligible Animals

1. **Freeze Marking:** All sale-eligible excess animals (animals that are 11 years of age or older) removed from the range, will be freeze marked with the standard alpha angle animal identification freeze mark applied on the left side of the neck. Four digit hip numbers that correspond to the animal's freeze mark will be applied to all animals prior to being shipped to off-range pastures. A freeze mark is a standard, permanent, and unalterable way to uniquely identify each animal. It follows the International Alpha Angle System, which uses a series of angles and alpha symbols that cannot be altered. The mark contains the Registering Organization (U.S. Government), year of birth, and registration number. The technique is simple and completely painless to the animal.
2. **Vaccinations, Deworming, and Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Tests:** To help safeguard the health of all animals held in off-range corrals, routine vaccinations, deworming, and EIA tests will be administered to new sale-eligible animals removed from the range and those being held in off-range corrals in accordance with Preparation Handbook 4750-1 and Instruction Memo 2015-070 "Animal Health, Maintenance, Evaluation and Response". Facility Managers will update expired or soon-to-expire (less than 30 days) vaccinations, and deworming, and EIA testing for animals that have been selected by a purchaser.

C. Animal Identification

1. Identification of sale-eligible animals will be based on the following :
 - a. Freeze mark on the left side of neck.
 - b. Signalment key codes used for describing animal's physical appearance (WHBPS database).
 - c. Animals that cannot be identified due to unreadable freeze marks will be re-aged by a veterinarian or BLM employee with experience in aging horses and burros and given a new freeze mark.

D. Sales Process

1. All purchases shall include the following steps:
 - a. Every purchaser should complete and sign an Application for Adoption and/or Sale of Wild Horses and Burros (Attachment 2), email it to wildhorse@blm.gov, deliver it to a BLM ORC, or call the BLM WHB National Information Center (866-468-7826) for assistance.
 - b. The Assistant Director, Resources and Planning must approve requests from individuals or groups to purchase more than 25 animals. Individuals or groups interested in purchasing more than 25 animals should submit a proposal detailing where animals will be kept, plans to provide humane care including adequate forage, water, hoof and veterinary care, fencing, and the intended use for the animals. Proposals should be sent to wildhorse@blm.gov or call the BLM WHB National Information Center 866-468-7826 for assistance.

- c. Purchasers should provide adequate feed, care and a facility. (*Facility refers to an enclosed area such as a corral, barn, stall, etc. Materials used may include: pipe panels, wood post, planks, horse fence, etc. Facility may also be a pasture, however, must be suitable for maintaining animals. Feed may be hay, grass or supplemental. Water source may be natural, tank, pond or well.*)
 - d. If there is evidence indicating a purchaser does not meet sales standards or does not intend to provide humane care, the BLM authorized officer will deny the sale and must document the reason(s) for the decision in WHBPS.
 - e. The BLM authorized officer must send a copy of the completed and signed Application to Purchase Wild Horses and Burros and a copy of the completed and signed Bill of Sale for Wild Horses and Burros (Attachment 4) to the Washington Office (WO) Wild Horse and Burro Division (WO-260) via email at wildhorse@blm.gov within 14 days of the completed sale.
 - f. Purchasers should provide transportation for the purchased animal from the approved BLM sales location to its new home. All trailers should meet the minimum standards as described in the adoption handbook (H-4750-2, as amended).
 - g. Purchased animals may be transported on loads to ORCs, coordinated by the National Shipping Coordinator, in an effort to increase efficiencies. Purchasers should coordinate pick-up of purchased animals with facility managers.
2. Offices must send copies of all sale documents (Application for Adoption and/or Sale of Wild Horses and Burros (Attachment 2), Bill of Sale, and proposals to purchase more than 25 animals) to the WHB Sales program lead, who will file and maintain the documents in the BLM official records.
 3. The BLM will provide each purchaser the following:
 - a. Bill of Sale: Animal ownership is transferred by an original Bill of Sale issued to purchaser(s). A Bill of Sale is proof of purchase of an animal. It indicates that the animal is private property and no longer a wild horse or burro that is protected by the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, as amended. A copy of all Bills of Sales will be retained for official BLM records.
 - b. Health Record: Lists medical records including vaccinations, Coggins test results, and the animal's freeze mark, and signalment key.
 4. Animals that are sold will have a current negative EIA test record, and as required by state laws, a brand inspection and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate).
 5. The BLM authorized officer and facility manager must approve and coordinate a purchased animal being held at a BLM off-range corral for more than 24 hours after a sale is finalized.
 6. Payment is due at the time of purchase. Acceptable forms of payment are cash,

credit card, certified checks, money orders, and personal checks payable to DOI-BLM.

7. Except as otherwise required by law, all BLM employees will obtain authorization from the WO WHB Sales program lead before disclosing, either orally or in writing, any information from a Bill of Sale to anyone except Department of the Interior officers and employees who have a need for the information in the performance of their duties.

E. Sales Fee Structure (identifies minimum fees)

1. Untrained Animals – The starting sales fee for untrained animals will be \$25. This applies to animals sold through both competitive and non-competitive bidding.
2. Trained Animals – The starting sales fee for halter and saddle trained animals will be \$125. This applies to animals sold through both competitive and non-competitive bidding.
 - a. Halter trained is defined as an animal that may be approached, caught and haltered in an open unrestricted area, led safely from one area to another, stand tied, allow its feet to be picked up, and load into a trailer.
 - b. Saddle started is defined as an animal that has successfully mastered all the components of the halter trained animal and have the ability to be ridden at a walk and trot.

F. Wild Horse and Burro Program System Data Entry Requirements and Reports

1. Wild Horse and Burro Program System (WHBPS): This database is the official record of the number of events an animal has attended and the number of times an animal has been offered unsuccessfully for adoption. All events must be created, amended, and finalized based on the reporting requirements in WHBPS.
2. Event: BLM Personnel responsible for entering information into WHBPS will be required to create an event for satellite, internet, and facility internet/satellite events that include all animals offered at least seven days prior to the event.
3. Sale Information: The Bill of Sale form may be completed electronically or by hand. The required purchase information must be entered in WHBPS within seven business days after the sale is completed.

G. Project Code and Sales Subactivity Codes

1. Project Code: All labor and operational expenses associated with the sale of wild horses and burros must be coded to the WBS project code "LXSISALE0000."
2. Labor and operational expenses to prepare animals for sale and conduct sales must be

coded to program element "HI" and project code "LXSISALE0000."

3. Subactivity Codes: Funding generated by animal sales will be deposited to the 1061 subactivity.

H. Sales of Wild Horses or Burros to BLM Employees or Contractors

All BLM employees, their immediate family members, and WHB Program contractors will comply with all sale procedures established above, and the following:

1. All BLM employees, their immediate family members, and WHB Program contractors will complete and sign an Application to Purchase Wild Horses and Burros and email it to wildhorse@blm.gov, call the BLM WHB National Information Center 866-468-7826 for assistance, or hand-deliver it to a BLM Off-Range Corral.
2. The Application to Purchase Wild Horses and Burros must be approved by the BLM authorized officer in their state (with delegated authority). If the BLM employee is the BLM authorized officer for that office, that application must be approved by another delegated BLM authorized officer and a copy sent to their supervisor. As part of the approval process, employees, contractors, and partners will be counseled on the applicable code of ethics matters and ensure that no real or apparent use of position or public office for private gain will occur.
3. All BLM employees, contractors, and partners shall purchase animals on their own time (not while working/volunteering as an employee, contractor, or partner) and must participate in the same animal selection process available to the public.