

## Statement of Work

### Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program

#### I. BACKGROUND

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (the Act) charged the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service with the protection and management of wild horses (also known as “mustangs”) and burros on public rangelands in the Western United States. Because wild horses and burros are federally protected and have virtually no natural predators, populations double every four years. Today, the BLM manages more than 58,000 horses and burros across 31.6 million acres in 10 Western states; the BLM’s target population level is approximately 26,700 horses and burros. The Act requires the BLM to manage wild horses and burros in a manner that achieves a thriving natural ecological balance. As resource conditions and other factors warrant, excess wild horses and burros are removed from the public lands and placed in private care through adoption or sales. Animals that are not adopted or sold are cared for using public funds, and currently total nearly 50,000 animals.

The BLM has been making excess animals removed from the range available for adoption since 1971 and has placed more than 235,000 animals into private care. Over the last 10 years, adoptions have steadily declined to around 2,000 animals per year. Adoptions totaled 2,173 animals in FY 2014 – compared to 6,644 in FY 2004, a decade ago. The Wild Horse and Burro (WHB) Program (the Program) is taking a number of steps to increase animals placed into private care, including building on successful partnerships that facilitate placement and increase the number of trained animals available. Trained horses and burros are in greater demand and are more likely than untrained animals to be placed into private care.

One of the identified barriers to placing greater numbers of animals into private care is the need for additional basic and specialty training to attract adopters. The Program receives requests for different types of trained animals from interested adopters and it is clear that there is a larger demand for trained animals than can be met currently within the existing Program.

In order to meet this need, the Program is developing a pilot Trainer Ambassador Program with potentially two categories of trainers: **Foundation Trainer Ambassadors** and **Specialty Trainer Ambassadors**. Foundation Trainer Ambassadors have extensive mustang training experience and will help each mustang attain a foundational level of training prior to placement into private care or move on to a Specialty Trainer Ambassador. Specialty Trainer Ambassadors specialize in one or more equestrian disciplines and will be expected to train each mustang to succeed in one or more disciplines, show off the horse’s abilities through participating in at least one competition or public demonstration and place the horse with an appropriate adopter.

This statement of work is for the Foundation Trainer Ambassadors **ONLY** in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin that will provide compensation for more trainers to work with mustangs. A separate statement of work may follow at a later date regarding the Specialty Trainer Ambassadors.

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#### II. STATEMENT OF WORK

##### OBJECTIVE

Identify experienced trainers to participate in a Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program that will provide funding for additional trainers to work with animals in an effort to place more animals into private care. The primary objective for this program is for trainers to market the mustangs and locate individuals, independently, for an increase in the program's outreach.

##### SCOPE

BLM will pilot a new initiative called the Trainer Ambassador Program. This program will establish new incentives and trainers who will work with, promote and place mustangs into private care: **Foundation Trainer Ambassadors**.

Foundation Trainer Ambassadors are critical to initiating the placement of trained mustangs into private care. These trainers are very experienced in working with mustangs that have had little formal interaction with humans. The trainers are required to meet the minimum adoption facility requirements as stated by BLM (as stated in Section D: Facilities below) to begin the gentling process. The goal of each Foundation Trainer Ambassador will be to prepare each mustang for further training *or* for adoption/purchase by an individual who is qualified and comfortable caring for a mustang with basic training.

##### TASKS

###### A. Overview

The contractor (Foundation Trainer Ambassador) must provide all necessary labor, transportation, materials and facilities to:

- Feed and care for animal at contractor's facility;
- Handle, sort, load, unload, and transport the animal
- Arrange for/provide farrier and veterinary care as necessary; and
- Train the animal using least resistance methods

###### B. Requirements

1. The contractor is responsible for animal pickup from a BLM facility, BLM satellite adoption or an approved location by BLM.
2. The contractor shall maintain an animal(s) at his/her facility, **WHICH MUST BE LOCATED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATES:** Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. All horses will be mares or geldings between the ages of three (3) and six (6) years old, unless both parties agree (on a case by case basis) to accept a mare or gelding over the age of six (6). The contractor will notify the

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BLM representative, contracting officer's representative (COR) or Project Inspector (PI) of any physical defects or personality traits that may make the animal unsuitable for training within two weeks of initial pickup.

3. The contractor will coordinate with BLM to return the animal and have the opportunity to select another animal. However, no more than three (3) returns will be allowed within a year.
4. The contractor shall contact the BLM COR at least 45 days in advance of the end of the expected training period (180 days) to prepare the animal for placement into private care and discuss marketing and promotion strategies by the end of the expected training period. These marketing/promotion strategies, coordinated with BLM, should include flyers, ads, photos, videos, blog and an online spotlight.
5. At any time during the training period, the contractor shall make the animal available for inspection at the BLM COR's request.
6. The Foundation Trainer Ambassador contractor is expected to provide care and training of the animal that is maintained at his/her facility on a daily basis (per feed day), until placed into private care, for a maximum of 180 days unless otherwise approved by the BLM COR/PI. A feed day is assessed for the animal at the facility at 5 p.m. of each calendar day. If a Trainer Ambassador is unable to find an adopter/buyer, a sponsored BLM advanced training program or meet the training requirements within the timeframes specified above, s/he may be allowed to keep the horse in training until an adopter/buyer or a sponsored BLM advanced training program is found, but BLM will reduce the daily feed and care rate that is paid by 50%.
7. Foundation Trainer Ambassador contractors will receive a flat proposed training fee once the horse is placed into private care or transferred to a sponsored BLM advanced training program after the BLM COR/PI has approved that the horse has met all of the required Foundation training level skills.
8. Each animal will be placed into private care both competitively and noncompetitively at fees identified by BLM, which is paid directly to BLM; contractors may not under any circumstances charge a higher fee to the buyer/adopter.
9. If the trainer has difficulty securing an adopter/buyer or a sponsored BLM advanced training program within 45 days of the training period ending, the trainer may request that the trained animal be offered at scheduled BLM satellite adoption events (locally or out of state within 400 miles) or via the BLM website. Any qualified adopters interested in the animal at the contractor's facility shall provide an approved application, signed Private Maintenance and Care Agreement (PMACA) and payment to the Eastern States Office. Animals offered for adoption at BLM satellite events will be offered in the same manner as untrained animals. The contractor may conduct training clinics at his/her own expense at his/her facility for qualified adopters.

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10. The contractor shall provide at a minimum a written, detailed summary of the animals' behavior and performance (*see attachment 1*) to the adopter/buyer once the adoption/sales paperwork has been completed. This summary should include all training level skills. In addition, the contractor shall be available for 30 days from the date of placement to answer questions, concerns and overall mentoring.
11. The contractor may be requested and shall be compensated, up to 400 loaded miles, to transport animals to adoption sites, BLM adoption facility or an adopter's facility specified by the BLM to demonstrate the amount of training each animal has received and complete the adoption or sale. Lodging and additional expenses are the responsibility of the contractor.
12. The contractor may adopt the trained animal for themselves; however they will forfeit the training premium.

#### *Foundation Trainer Ambassador Contractor Deliverables:*

- The contractor shall gentle/train the animal to the following levels and meet additional criteria, prior to placement into private care of up to 180 days:
  - ✓ Can be approached, caught and haltered in an open and unrestricted area
  - ✓ Can be safely led from one area to another
  - ✓ Can stand tied or in hand so the farrier can trim or apply shoes to the horses feet
  - ✓ Can load into a trailer
  - ✓ Can walk and trot/jog in a round pen or on a lunge line
  - ✓ Can be bridled and accept a mild bit or hackamore
  - ✓ Can be saddled
  - ✓ Can be ridden at a walk and trot/jog
  - ✓ Has participated in least 2 public events such as demonstrations, lectures, horse expos, etc.
  - ✓ Create marketing/promotion strategy to include flyers, ads and an online spotlight to showcase trained animal in coordination with BLM

### C. HUMANE CARE AND TREATMENT OF WILD HORSES

1. All training will be conducted using minimal resistance or natural horsemanship techniques. The use of round pens and pressure and release techniques will be the foundation for all training activities. Training techniques involving snubbing posts, sacking out under physical restraint, tying animals down, heading and heeling will not be permitted.
2. Animals shall have adequate care and feeding including free access to clean water and high quality forage appropriate for horses. Supplemental feed including hay, grain or protein and energy supplements will be fed by contractor as necessary to maintain the animals in an acceptable body condition (Henneke condition score no less than 4 and no greater than 7). Hay must be good quality, non-moldy, non-dusty grass, alfalfa, or a mix. Only animals that initially fit this body condition will be offered to contractors to ensure the animal can achieve and maintain this condition. If an animal cannot maintain adequate condition (at least a Henneke condition class of 4), the contractor shall contact a veterinarian for consultation and

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- isolate the animal in a separate pen for individualized care and contact the BLM COR/PI to help address the problem.
3. All animals acquired by the contractors will have current vaccinations, deworming and hoof care addressed by BLM prior to pick up. Contractors shall arrange for all farrier care needed during the training period; which will be reimbursed by BLM at previously agreed upon rates. All necessary veterinary care will also be arranged by the contractor. BLM will reimburse contractors for up to \$200 per year for routine veterinary care including Equine Infectious Anemia tests for interstate transport and Certificate of Veterinary Inspections for interstate transport of events as required. Contractors will be authorized to provide emergency veterinary care up to \$500 which will also be reimbursed by BLM. The need for veterinary care beyond these limits will require a report and recommendation from the attending veterinarian to BLM, review by a veterinarian at BLM's request and must be pre-approved by BLM.
  4. All animals shall be maintained, treated, and handled in a humane manner, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and in accordance with BLM's Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program guidelines.
  5. The animals' hooves shall be trimmed as needed to maintain the proper shape and length of the feet. Shoeing will be at the discretion of the trainer in consultation with their farrier as needed for animals in training.
  6. If the animal is injured or becomes sick in the contractor's facility, the contractor must notify the BLM PI or COR within 24 hours.
  7. The government shall be notified of the course of action on all health issues noted by the contractor and/or his/her veterinarian, such as injuries or infectious diseases.
  8. The death of a wild horse in the contractor's facility shall be reported to the BLM PI or COR within 24 hours. A report from a veterinarian who has examined the animal shall be sent to the BLM PI or COR within three business days.

#### D. FACILITIES

1. The training facility shall have pens and/or alleys to use for the movement of animals. All pens and/or alleys at a Foundation Trainer Ambassador Contractor's facility shall be 6 feet high and of sufficient strength to hold wild horses 3 years and older. Acceptable materials in order of BLM's preference are: Pipe, wood, and/or mesh wire with openings smaller than 2 X 4 inches. Corrals constructed of mesh wire must be covered with plastic snow fence or equipped with sight boards (2 X 6 inch lumber). The sight board shall be located at the upper and middle portion of the corral fence. Corrals that are constructed of pipe or wood must have proper spacing between members (no more than 12 inches). \*Barbed wire, electrical fencing materials, t-posts and hog panels unsupported by pipe fencing will not be approved as part of a corral facility.

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2. If kept in a stall or corral, a minimum space of 144 square feet of corral space (equivalent to a 12 ft by 12 ft stall) shall be provided for each animal that is in training and exercised each day, otherwise a minimum of 400 square feet (equivalent to 20 ft by 20 ft) is required, per animal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4750.3-2(3)(I).
3. The training facility must be clean and the animal waste removed at least daily from stalls and weekly from runs or pens. The facility must be designed and built to comply with all applicable regulations relating to livestock waste control and off-site pollution. The entire facility must have sufficient drainage to reduce any standing water and/or muddy conditions in the areas where the animals are being held.
4. The contractor is responsible for the recapture of any animals that may escape.
5. Pastures must have natural or manmade shelter sufficient for the number of horse(s) in the pasture. Animals on pasture shall have free access to water at all times.

#### **E. SPECIFICATIONS FOR STOCK OR HORSE TRAILERS**

1. Stock or horse trailers used by Foundation Ambassador Contractors to pick up a horse from a BLM facility must be a minimum of 12 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 6 feet high with a rear swing gate. Trailer tops must be permanently covered. Floors must be made of non-skid materials or covered with non-skid materials. Trailers must be mechanically sound, have no sharp edges or protrusions, and a single back gate that opens the full width of the trailer or split door trailers that allows the animal into the full inside compartment of the trailer. There should be no openings that could allow horses to attempt to jump through the doors. Provided the dividers are removed or are folded back flat, three-horse slant trailers are acceptable. No drop ramps (unless previously approved), two- or one-horse trailers will be accepted.

#### **F. GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Costs for routine veterinary care including updating vaccinations, deworming and dental care for horses in training more than 180 days will be reimbursed up to \$200 annually to the contractor. Costs for emergency treatment and possible dental care by a veterinarian (for conditions such as sudden illnesses, colic, injuries) up to \$500 will be reimbursed to the contractor if the BLM PI or COR is notified within 24 hours of treatment. Any other veterinary costs must be preapproved by the BLM PI or COR. BLM reserves the right to limit treatment options, transfer an animal to a BLM facility for treatment or otherwise remove an animal from training for treatment or euthanasia in accordance with BLM policy.
2. In the event an animal dies while under the care of a contractor, the animal or carcass must be examined immediately by a veterinarian who will prepare a written report that is forwarded to the BLM COR within three business days. The contractor will be compensated for the disposal of the carcass in accordance with applicable sanitation laws and regulations.

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3. Should it become necessary to euthanize an animal, the contractor and the attending veterinarian shall contact the BLM COR or PI before the animal is euthanized however, if the animal is suffering, the contractor may authorize a veterinarian to euthanize the animal as an act of mercy consistent with BLM policy. In all cases the contractor shall provide the BLM COR or PI with documentation from the attending veterinarian supporting the need for euthanasia. BLM will reimburse the contractor for veterinarian and carcass disposal costs.
4. The government may perform random inspections of a trainer's facility and untitled horses in their care at BLM's discretion. The inspections may be performed by the BLM PI, COR or another BLM representative. BLM may remove a horse from the contractor's care at any time if it determines that the contractor has violated the terms of his/her contract, BLM's animal welfare policies, or there are serious concerns about the care or welfare of the animals.
5. The BLM COR/PI or authorized officer will verify the stated training level in person or video formats, based on training level descriptions above, of all horses three (3) years and older prior to authorizing compensation for care and/or payment of the sale/adoption premium.
6. BLM shall be notified of requested visits by the news media or other outside interests in relation to the Trainer Ambassador Program and/or the wild horses being trained.

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**ATTACHMENT 2:** Detailed Summary of the trained animal's performance and behavior

TRAINING SKILL	YES	NO	TRAINER COMMENT
Is the animal approachable?			
Can the animal be caught in an open unrestricted area?			
Can the animal be safely led from one area to another?			
Can the animal stand tied for the farrier and pick up feet?			
Can the animal load into a trailer?			
Can the animal walk and trot/jog on a lunge line?			
Can the animal be bridled and accept a mild bit or hackamore?			
Can the animal be saddled?			
Can the animal be ridden under saddle at a walk and trot/jog?			
What type of rider is this animal suitable for?			
Does the animal have any noticeable habits such as kicking, biting, etc.?			
Has the animal participated in at least 2 public events such as demonstrations, trail rides, horse expos, etc.?			
PUBLIC EVENT #1:			
PUBLIC EVENT #2:			