

BLM Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION <small>(THIS IS NOT AN ORDER)</small>		THIS RFQ <input type="checkbox"/> IS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS NOT A SMALL BUSINESS SET ASIDE		PAGE	OF	PAGES
1. REQUEST NO. L15PS01205		2. DATE ISSUED 09/24/2015		3. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQUEST NO.		4. CERT. FOR NAT. DEF. UNDER BDSA REG. 2 AND/OR DMS REG. 1
5a. ISSUED BY BLM WO-OFFICE DIV BUS RSRCS (WO850) 1849 C ST. NW RM 1075 LS WASHINGTON DC 20036		6. DELIVERY BY (Date) Multiple		7. DELIVERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOB DESTINATION <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <small>(See Schedule)</small>		
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CONTINUATION SHEET	REFERENCE NO. OF DOCUMENT BEING CONTINUED	PAGE	OF
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NAME OF OFFEROR OR CONTRACTOR

ITEM NO. (A)	SUPPLIES/SERVICES (B)	QUANTITY (C)	UNIT (D)	UNIT PRICE (E)	AMOUNT (F)
	kismael@blm.gov should you have any questions.				

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. BLM will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no proposal will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. BLM may or may not issue a Request for Proposals based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.

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 230,000 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 Program is taking a number of steps to increase adoptions, including building on successful partnerships that facilitate adoptions and increase the number of trained animals available for adoption. Trained horses and burros are in greater demand and are more likely than untrained animals to be adopted by private parties.

One of the identified barriers to placing greater numbers of animals into private care is the need for additional foundational and possibly specialty training to attract possible adopters. The program receives requests from interested adopters and it is clear that the demand for trained animals exists.

In order to meet this need, the program is developing a pilot Trainer Ambassador Program in the following states Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin that will provide compensation for more trainers to work with mustangs by creating two categories of trainers.

SUMMARY

In an effort to increase the number of trained animals available for placement into private care, BLM is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to obtain input from horse trainers, both experienced and those specializing in disciplines, on a new “pilot” initiative called the Trainer Ambassador Program. This program will establish new incentives and two categories of trainers who will work with and promote mustangs: **Foundation Trainer Ambassadors** and **Specialty Trainer Ambassadors**. While we expect that most trainers will choose to be either a Foundation Trainer Ambassador or a Specialty Trainer Ambassador, there may be some individuals who elect to serve in both roles as a **Dual Trainer Ambassador**.

Foundation Trainer Ambassadors are critical to starting the pipeline of trained mustangs for adoption. 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 B: Facilities below) to begin the gentling process. The goal of each Foundation Trainer Ambassador will be to prepare each mustang for further training by a Specialty Trainer who has

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less experience with starting untrained mustangs *or* for adoption by an individual who is comfortable owning a mustang with basic training.

Specialty Trainer Ambassadors are the second step in the pipeline of producing trained mustangs; they have the important role of demonstrating the versatility of mustangs and preparing them for their new careers in a particular discipline. BLM will work with trainers from various competitive disciplines (i.e. reining, show jumping, etc.) as well as those who specialize in training horses for recreational riding. Specialty Trainer Ambassadors have an established clientele base and network that will assist in the placement of the animals into private care.

Dual Trainer Ambassadors are a combination of the two, which means that they are capable of providing basic training as well as preparing mustangs for their next “career” in a particular discipline.

A. ADOPTIONS

1. FACILITIES MUST BE LOCATED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATES: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, 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).
2. Initial adoptions/sales will be by privately scheduled appointments between the adopter/buyer and trainer or adopted at BLM satellite adoptions.
3. Contractors may be requested to transport adopted animals a maximum of 400 miles from the contractor’s facility to another BLM adoption facility or to an adopter’s facility when necessary.

B. FACILITIES

1. The training facility shall have pens and/or runways to use for the movement of animals. All pens and/or runways at a Foundation or Dual 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. Mesh wire with larger openings must be covered with plastic snow fence. 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).
2. All pens and runways at a Specialty Trainer Ambassador Contractor’s facility must be at least 4.5 feet high.
3. 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

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day; otherwise a minimum of 400 square feet (equivalent to 20 ft by 20 ft) is required in accordance with 43 CFR 4750.3-2(3)(I). The training facility shall provide separate corrals for each animal being trained with some type of wind break or shelter appropriate for the area and consistent with BLM policy.

4. The facility must be designed and built to comply with all applicable Federal and State regulations relating to livestock waste control and off-site pollution. The entire facility must have sufficient drainage to eliminate any standing water and/or muddy conditions in the areas where the animals are being held.
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.

C. SPECIFICATIONS FOR STOCK OR HORSE TRAILERS

1. Stock or horse trailers used by Foundation or Dual Trainer 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. 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 and has no openings that could allow horses to jump through.

D. TRAINER/CONTRACTOR COMPENSATION

1. The Foundation Trainer Ambassador contractor will be compensated for the care and training of the animal that is maintained at his/her facility until adopted/purchased or advanced to a Specialty Trainer Ambassador contractor, for a maximum of 90 days unless otherwise approved by BLM.
2. The Specialty and Dual Trainer Ambassador contractors will be compensated for the care and training of the animal that is maintained at his/her facility for a maximum of 180 days or until adoption/purchase, unless otherwise approved by BLM.
3. In addition to receiving compensation for the care of the animal as stated above, the contractor will also receive a payment from BLM for each animal adopted/sold while in the contractor's care. The adoption fee will be paid by the adopter/buyer directly to BLM; contractors may not charge a higher adoption or sales fee to the adopter/buyer.
4. The contractor will receive compensation for any transportation of adopted animals.

REQUESTED INFORMATION

GENERAL:	RESPONSE:
Individual/Company/Institution Name	
Individual/Company/Institution Point of Contact	
Individual/Company/Institution Address	
Individual/Company/Institution Phone Number	
Individual/Company/Institution Email Address	

1. Please provide comments on the above description of the proposed Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program.

2. What is your experience with training horses?

3. How can BLM generate interest among horse trainers for the Trainer Ambassador Program?

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4. Based on the above description of the proposed Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program, is it likely that this type of program will increase the number of horse trainers willing to train wild horses for adoption or sale? Why or why not?

5. Based on the above description of the proposed Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program, is it likely that this type of program will increase public interest in adopting or purchasing a wild horse? Why or why not?

6. In the above description, the wild horses trained would be adopted or sold. What amount would you recommend as the adoption fee?

7. In the above description, trainers receive a payment from BLM for each trained horse that is adopted or sold. What amount would be sufficient to motivate more trainers to participate?

8. Instead of BLM keeping the entire adoption fee, imagine that BLM allows trainers to set each individual horse's adoption fee and keep that amount. Would this motivate more trainers to participate? Why or why not?

9. There are various equine disciplines, such as roping and dressage. Are there certain disciplines where trainers would be particularly interested in applying to be a Specialty Trainer?

10. What is the suggested rate to care for the animal? How would that rate be calculated?

11. What services should be included in the rate referenced above?

12. What are some anticipated challenges of the proposed Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program?

13. What supports or mechanisms could BLM offer to overcome those challenges?

14. Training animals is a way of life for some Americans. What are your preferred methods for training horses?

15. Describe an estimated pay structure for training completed at:

- a) 30 days
- b) 60 days
- c) 90 days
- d) 180 days

Overflow space – indicate the question you are answering