



News Release

BLM Headquarters Office

Media Contact: blm_press@blm.gov

May 25, 2023

National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will hold next meeting in June

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet June 28-30, 2023, at the Whitney Peak Hotel located at 255 N Virginia Street, Reno, NV. The public is invited to attend in-person or view the entire Advisory Board meeting virtually via live stream at [BLM.gov/live](https://blm.gov/live). Also, the BLM will host an educational field tour for the Board which is open to the public on June 27 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm PT.

More information about the Advisory Board meeting, including an agenda, can be found in the [May 2023 Federal Register](#). Additional meeting materials will be posted to [the BLM's website](#) prior to the meeting.

Individuals and representative of organizations who plan to attend the educational tour to the Blue Wing Complex on June 27, must register in advance due to limited space via email to dboothe@blm.gov no later than June 21 by 5 p.m. PT. Attendees must provide their own high clearance transportation, and any necessary food, health and safety items needed for a full day in the field.

The public will have an opportunity to make a verbal statement to the Advisory Board in person and virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, June 28, from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. PT; on Thursday, June 29, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. PT; and on Friday, June 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. PT. To accommodate all individuals interested in providing comments, [in-person and virtual commenters must register with the BLM at least three days in advance](#) of the meeting.

The public may also submit written comments to the Advisory Board in addition to, or in lieu of, providing verbal comment. Written comments should be submitted to the Advisory Board at whbadvisoryboard@blm.gov. Comments emailed three days prior to the meeting will be provided to the Advisory Board for consideration during the meeting.

The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board is comprised of nine individuals representing a diverse range of stakeholders and interests. The Board provides advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service as the agencies work to carry out their responsibilities under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros

Act. The Act mandates the protection and management of free-roaming horses and burros in a manner that promotes a thriving natural ecological balance on public lands.

As of March 1, 2023, the BLM estimated public rangelands managed by the agency were home to approximately 82,833 wild horses and burros—more than three times the number the habitat can sustainably support in balance with other authorized land uses.

[Find more information about the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board.](#)

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



News Release

BLM Headquarters Office

Media Contact: BLM_Press@blm.gov

April 28, 2023

BLM schedules public hearing on use of motorized vehicles for wild horse and burro management

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Bureau of Land Management will conduct a virtual public hearing regarding the use of motorized vehicles and aircraft in the management of wild horses and burros. The hearing is scheduled for May 24, 2023, from 3-5 p.m. MT, and will be held using Zoom video conferencing technology and live-streamed at [BLM.gov/live](https://blm.gov/live).

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires BLM to conduct an annual hearing to consider the use of motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros. The BLM typically uses motorized vehicles to conduct gather operations, complete population surveys, and transport animals to/from corrals, pastures, and adoption, sale, and transfer events.

To provide a comment during the virtual public hearing, members of the public [must register in advance by May 23](#). Written comments may also be sent to BLM_HQ_MotorizedVehicleHearing@blm.gov. Please include “Motorized Vehicle Comment” in the subject line of the email. Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. MT on May 23.

For additional information regarding the public hearing, please contact the Wild Horse and Burro National Information Center at 866-468-7826 or wildhorse@blm.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) at 711 to reach the National Information Center during normal business hours.

The BLM manages and protects wild horses and burros across 26.9 million acres of public lands in 10 Western states. More information on the BLM’s Wild Horse and Burro Program can be found at [BLM.gov/whb](https://blm.gov/whb).

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLOG: WILD HORSE AND BURRO HERD SIZE RELATIVELY UNCHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR

Apr 21, 2023

The population of wild horses and burros roaming public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management remained relatively static over the last year, according to the latest annual survey results released by the agency today.

[Find: wild horse and burro management data](#)

[The BLM estimates there were approximately 82,883 wild horses and burros on BLM public lands as of March 1, 2023](#), which is still about three times what is sustainable and healthy for the land and the herds. The 2023 estimate is 499 more than what was estimated in 2022 and follows two years of population decline from a peak of more than 95,000 animals in 2020. The estimated population is compiled based on the results of commonly used wildlife survey methods and could be as low as 71,494 or as high as 96,083 animals given the uncertainty levels associated with aerial surveys.



Proud adopter of a wild horse.

Managing wild horse and burro population growth on public lands is important because wild horses and burros have no predators that can naturally control herd growth in most areas. Absent management, herds increase rapidly – doubling in size every 4-5 years. Over a short period of time, wild horse and burro herds can grow large enough to overgraze their habitat and degrade important water sources, which can lead to starvation and thirst for the animals and disrupt other wildlife.

The BLM has taken important steps in recent years to bring herds back to sustainable levels. Since 2018, the BLM has gathered and removed more than 64,000 wild horses and burros from overpopulated herds, which is more than triple what was accomplished in the previous five years. Safely gathering and removing animals is the only way to make meaningful reductions in herd size in the near-term. Removed animals are offered for adoption to qualified homes, or eventually transferred to a contracted pasture for lifetime care.



BLM volunteer certified fertility control darter from America Wild Horse Foundation on public lands in Utah.

The BLM has also significantly increased the use of [fertility control](#) vaccines to slow and stabilize herd growth. Available vaccines can safely prevent pregnancy in a wild horse mare for 2-5 years, and are most effective when animals can be located,

identified, and re-treated over multiple years. In Fiscal Year 2022, the BLM treated more animals than it has ever treated in one year, and the agency plans to continue focusing on implementing more fertility control in herds that are near sustainable levels. The agency also supports on-going research to develop better, longer-lasting vaccines.

Thanks to support from Congress, the BLM has made significant progress towards our goal of managing healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public lands and look forward to working with Congress, our partners, and other interested parties to continue on this trajectory. Prior to 2021, wild horse and burro herds had increased for eight consecutive years.

The BLM manages and protects wild horses and burros on nearly 27 million acres of public lands across the Western United States. [The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act](#) directs the BLM (and the U.S. Forest Service) to manage wild horse and burro populations “so as to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance.” To achieve and maintain this balance, the BLM is focused on gathering excess animals from overpopulated herds and finding good private care for them through adoptions and sales, while at the same time expanding fertility control treatments to slow herd growth. Animals not placed into private care are provided space and grassland to roam on BLM-contracted pastures.

[Read: the top 5 things you should know about the Wild Horse and Burro Program](#)

The BLM compiles annual wild horse and burro population estimates [based on data collected by field specialists using scientifically validated aerial survey techniques developed by U.S. Geological Survey scientists](#). Statistical analysis of the data leads to an estimated total number of animals, including those that may be missed during the survey. The BLM normally surveys about one third of all herds using this methodology each fiscal year. For herds not surveyed in a given year, the BLM typically assumes 20 percent growth for horses and 15 percent growth for burros.



News Release

Washington D.C.

Date: April 11, 2023

Contact: BLM_Press@blm.gov

BLM authorizes two wild horse fertility control vaccine trials

Long-lasting fertility control vaccines could help reduce growth rates in wild horse populations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Bureau of Land Management is authorizing two studies of promising new fertility control vaccines that could potentially help address the overpopulation of wild horses on public lands by slowing their annual growth rates. The research projects, which will take place at a corral facility in Carson City, Nevada, are part of the BLM’s broader efforts to manage healthy wild horses on healthy public lands.

“Wild horses are incredible animals, but they can reproduce at a very high rate on public lands, which creates a host of challenges in arid environments,” said **BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning**. “The development of humane, safe, and long-lasting fertility control vaccines is critically important as we continue to ramp up our efforts to protect these herds from the effects of wild horse overpopulation, drought, and climate change.”

Wild horses on public lands are protected and managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. Without intervention by management officials, wild horse herds on public lands increase rapidly, doubling every 4-5 years. As of March 1, 2022 (the most recently published annual estimates), there were 82,384 wild horses and burros on public rangelands. This is nearly three times the appropriate management level deemed suitable to maintain a thriving ecological balance. Many of these herds live in arid environments with little water or forage. Constant overpopulation can stress critical ecosystems to the brink, causing severe damage to riparian and rangeland resources that can take decades to recover, if they recover at all. Moreover, chronic wild horse overpopulation can lead to the inhumane death of horses from thirst or starvation, and the destruction of habitat important to other wildlife, such as elk, deer, and sage grouse.

For decades, the BLM has used fertility control vaccines to help manage wild horse herd growth on public lands. However, the most common fertility control vaccines for wild horses in use today require more than one treatment to remain effective and are often not effective beyond one or two years. A single-dose vaccine that can last multiple years could provide several benefits for the populations of wild horses that the BLM manages, including requiring fewer gathers for retreatment or reducing instances of permanent removal.

One study led by scientists associated with Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and Northwest Wildlife Conservation Research, a small non-profit research organization, will test whether a form of porcine zona pellucida (PZP) vaccine known as ‘SpayVac’ lasts longer when injected in the neck muscle or the flank. The other study, led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s National Wildlife Research Center, will test which formulations of the Oocyte Growth Factor vaccine cause long-lasting contraception from a single dose.

To test how well the vaccines prevent pregnancy, groups of vaccinated mares will live in a pen with a stallion. Researchers will monitor the mares' responses to the vaccines and compare them against a control group. The health and welfare of all the animals will be monitored by researchers and other personnel, with veterinary care always available if needed. The approved projects will also have animal welfare oversight from independent animal care and use committees of the research institutions involved in the studies.

Details about the decision are on [BLM's eplanning website](#). The studies were analyzed in an environmental assessment that was released for public comment in 2022. The BLM also analyzed but is not authorizing at this time a third study that would have tested the effects of an intrauterine device. If the BLM authorizes that study in the future, it will do so through a separate decision. The BLM's responses to public comments about all three studies are available on [BLM's eplanning website](#).

In addition to supporting the development of better fertility control tools, the BLM continues to take action to curb wild horse and burro overpopulation to protect animal and land health. The BLM set new records last year for the number of animals gathered, removed for private care, and treated/released with fertility control. Additionally, the BLM continues to ramp up its efforts to find good homes for excess animals; the agency placed nearly 7,800 animals into private care just last year.

Find more information about the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program at [BLM.gov/whb](https://www.blm.gov/whb).

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News Release

BLM Headquarters Office

Media Contact: blm_press@blm.gov

March 27, 2023

BLM awards more than \$4.7 million for wild horse and burro training and adoption programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Bureau of Land Management has awarded two grants totaling more than \$4.7 million to accelerate the training and placement of excess wild horses and burros into private care. These grants are part of the BLM’s efforts to increase adoptions of wild horses and burros, protect wild herds and their habitat on public lands, and save taxpayers money. The grants were awarded to the Round Rock, Texas-based [Mustang Heritage Foundation](#) and Austin, Texas-based [Mustang Champions](#).

Together, the grants have the potential to help facilitate placement of approximately 3,600 wild horses and burros into private care over the next year, saving taxpayers approximately \$99 million over the lifetime of the animals. It costs BLM about \$27,500, on average, to provide life-time care for a wild horse not placed into private care.

“Training and finding good homes for wild horses and burros is an integral part of keeping our wild herds and public lands strong and healthy, and it helps cut costs and save taxpayers money,” **said BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning.** “I look forward to working with the Mustang Heritage Foundation and Mustang Champions on fresh and innovative approaches to finding more good homes for these cherished animals.”

“We are excited to continue our partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and are appreciative of our collaborative work that has placed thousands of wild horses and burros into productive and loving homes. Our staff is looking forward to fostering our supporters’ engagement in order to make a lasting difference in the adopter’s and animal’s lives,” **said Karen Gustin, Mustang Heritage Foundation Executive Director.**

“We are so honored to have this opportunity to partner with the Wild Horse & Burro Program,” **said Matt Manroe, Mustang Champions Executive Director.** “We created Mustang Champions to design and produce events and an educational program to engage and persuade the American public to get more involved and potentially adopt an American mustang transitioned out of holding. The Mustang Champions team is very experienced and very talented. We know that we can make an impact on the future of mustangs in holding. We encourage everyone to come and join us in our efforts.”

The BLM awarded approximately \$4 million to the Mustang Heritage Foundation to support and expand a network of private trainers and storefronts for wild horses and burros, build and develop a mounted program, launch a new follow-up program to assist adopters and conduct post-adoption check-ins, and create training resources for current and future trainers, among other activities. The BLM has partnered with the Mustang Heritage Foundation since 2007, during which time the organization has helped place more than 20,000 wild horses and burros into private care.

The BLM also awarded nearly \$750,000 to [Mustang Champions](#). Mustang Champions, a new partner to BLM, will develop a wild horse-specific humane training curriculum, host English and Western discipline competition events and placement programs, and conduct educational outreach. The programs are designed to grow adoptions and sales through increased competitive participation and to raise awareness of the status of America's wild horses and burros and the management of their rangeland.

The BLM offers wild horses and burros for adoption in support of its efforts to manage and protect free-roaming herds on public lands as required by the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Most herds on public lands are located in arid environments and lack natural predators that can control herd growth. As a result, herds can grow quickly and overwhelm the food and water available to them, which can damage the land and lead to starvation and thirst for the animals. To protect wild horses and burros from overpopulation, the BLM periodically gathers excess animals and makes them available for adoption or sale to qualified owners.

Historically, adoptions and sales have not matched population growth and removal rates on public lands. As of February 2023, the BLM is caring for more than 22,000 wild horses and burros in its off-range corrals awaiting adoption, and an additional 40,000 unadopted animals are being provided long-term care on private pastures. Last year, it cost the BLM nearly \$83.5 million to care for unadopted and unsold animals.

The grants announced today continue the BLM's efforts to reinvigorate its adoption and sales programs and reduce the number of animals in off-range corrals and pastures. Thanks to the help of its partners and innovative tools like the [Adoption Incentive Program](#) and the [Online Corral](#), the BLM has doubled the rate of private care placement over the last five years compared to the previous five years. Since 1971, BLM has placed a total of nearly 290,000 animals into private care.

The grants were awarded after a thorough review of off-range proposals received through a [2022 funding opportunity](#). Both agreements cover a period of one year, with an option to extend for four additional years contingent on Congressional appropriations.

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News Release

BLM Headquarters Office

U.S. Geological Survey

BLM Media Contact: Jason Lutterman, jlutterman@blm.gov

USGS Media Contacts: Heidi Koehler Koontz, hkoontz@usgs.gov

March 1, 2023

New tool models the future for wild horses on public lands

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management today announced the public release of a new modeling program designed to predict the potential outcomes of using various non-lethal methods to manage and protect wild horses roaming public lands. *PopEquus* provides realistic predictions that will help inform the use of various population-control methods to protect animal and land health from overpopulation.

“*PopEquus* is a ground-breaking new tool that will no doubt become invaluable to BLM field staff and managers as they compare different ways to manage and protect wild horses and their habitat on public lands, especially as drought and overpopulation continue to threaten animal- and land health,” said **BLM Wild Horse and Burro Division Chief Holle` Waddell**. “The BLM is grateful for the hard work and determination that went into building *PopEquus*, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and other scientists and experts who share our goal of using the best-available science and technology to manage and protect healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public lands.”

“At the USGS, we sought to provide a science-based tool for wild horse and burro managers to inform their decision making,” said **USGS Research Wildlife Biologist Kate Schoenecker, located at the USGS Fort Collins Science Center**. “Being able to compare outcomes of various management actions and the financial costs of those actions can help managers consider and weigh trade-offs. We hope this tool will be educational for the public as well, as it shows the constraints and intricacies of managing wild horses and burros using real-life scenarios.”

PopEquus is open-source and uses peer-reviewed information to model expected outcomes for a given population of wild horses and the cost associated with that outcome. The model can project, for example, what the population size of a given wild horse herd will be after 10 years using a fertility-control vaccine to prevent pregnancy in a proportion of mares, as well as the expected cost. BLM managers can use this information to compare different possible management strategies.

The BLM manages and protects wild horses and burros on public lands as directed by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. With few predators that can naturally control herd growth, wild horse populations on public lands can double in size every 4-5 years if not managed, which can quickly overwhelm available forage and water resources and damage the habitat for horses and other wildlife. As of March 1, 2022, the BLM estimated there were more than 82,000 wild horses and burros on public lands administered by the agency—more than three times what is sustainable.

The BLM is committed to using a variety of management tools to slow herd growth and reduce overpopulation across the West, including using more fertility-control methods to temporarily prevent pregnancy in a portion of a herd's mares. *PopEquus* will provide additional analysis that will help BLM fulfill this commitment.

Visit [BLM.gov/WHB/science](https://www.blm.gov/WHB/science) for more information about *PopEquus* and the BLM's efforts to use science and technology to improve management of wild horses and burros on public lands.

The Free Roaming Equid and Ecosystem Sustainability network will host a free public webinar April 5, 2023 to demonstrate *PopEquus* and answer questions about the model. The webinar will feature scientists from the USGS and BLM who helped develop the tool. To learn more about the webinar or to register to attend, [visit the FREES website](#).

The USGS provides science support to Department of the Interior agencies to improve management of natural resources. Additional information about wild horse and burro population science can be found at: [Wild Horse and Burro Population Management | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#) or at: [Search | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#).

To access the *PopEquus* user interface, go to the USGS web site: <https://rconnect.usgs.gov/popequus/>

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The USGS provides science for a changing world. Learn more at www.usgs.gov or follow us on Twitter [@USGS](#), Instagram [@USGS](#) or Facebook [@USGeologicalSurvey](#).



OP-ED: BLM INVESTING IN HEALTHY WILD HORSE HERDS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT IN SAND WASH BASIN

Feb 6, 2023

Written by Doug Vilsack, BLM Colorado State Director

Sand Wash Basin is one of Colorado's special places, with its majestic wild horses, wide-open range, and important wildlife habitat. However, this 158,000-acre landscape is out-of-balance due to increasing horse populations and persistent drought. To set Sand Wash Basin on a sustainable path, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is investing the funding necessary to benefit wild horses, wildlife species such as greater sage-grouse, and public land users.

While over half of Sand Wash Basin is classified as priority habitat for greater sage-grouse, their numbers are lower in areas with wild horses than in adjacent areas. A large gather of horses in 2021 brought the Sand Wash Basin horse population back within the appropriate management level (AML) of 163 to 363 horses, reducing impacts on wildlife habitat. But horse populations have climbed above this carrying capacity once again.

Additional BLM funding will be used to develop fixed trap stations to gather enough wild horses this year to get us back on track, and to consistently gather smaller numbers of horses as necessary to maintain AML. These beautiful horses will be adopted through events organized with local partners. In addition, the BLM will work to increase the use of fertility control darting in Sand Wash Basin to limit the growth of horse populations while working to maintain the genetic diversity of this world-renowned herd. Finally, we will invest in range health and monitoring efforts to benefit a landscape under stress due to drought exacerbated by climate change.

Success will not be achieved alone, so BLM's new investment will support local partners to implement fertility control, build and maintain fences, document range conditions, and construct and repair water storage systems. Beyond Sand Wash Basin, we hope that this momentum will spur the state, wildlife organizations, and wild horse advocates to partner with us to maintain thriving and sustainable wild horse herds in all of our herd management and wild horse areas.

BLM Colorado is committed to managing healthy herds on healthy public lands. By stabilizing wild horse populations and focusing on the health of the entire landscape, this investment will help the BLM and our partners restore Sand Wash Basin for the public, for wild horses, and for greater sage-grouse and other wildlife species.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLOG: FORMULARIOS E INFORMACIÓN DE CABALLOS Y BURROS SALVAJES EN ESPAÑOL | WILD HORSE AND BURRO FORMS AND INFORMATION IN SPANISH

Jan 10, 2023



¿Hablas español o conoces a alguien que lo haga? Ahora puedes encontrar información en español sobre cómo puedes darle un buen hogar a un caballo o burro salvaje. Ya sea que desee andar en senderos, participar en competencias o simplemente necesite una buena montura para el trabajo y las tareas del hogar, hay un caballo o un burro salvaje esperándolo. Comience leyendo la información

proporcionada a continuación sobre nuestros requisitos y qué esperar, luego asista a un evento o visite una instalación cerca de usted.

Documentos informativos

- [Folleto de Adopción y Venta](#)
- [Requisitos de adopción](#)
- [Guía de Cuidado y Alimentación](#)

Formularios requeridos

- [Solicitud de Adopción y Venta](#)
- [Muestra de Acuerdo Privado de Mantenimiento y Cuidado](#)

Do you speak Spanish or know someone who does? Now you can find information in Spanish about how you can give a good home to a wild horse or burro. Whether you want to ride trails, participate in competitions, or you just need a good mount for work and chores around the home, there's a wild horse or burro waiting for you. Get started by reading the information provided below about our requirements and what to expect, then attend an event or visit a facility near you!

Informational documents [in Spanish]

- [Adoption and Sale Brochure](#)
- [Adoption Requirements](#)
- [Care and Feed Guide](#)

Required Forms [in Spanish]

- [Adoption and Sale Application](#)
- [Private Care and Maintenance Agreement Sample](#)



News Release

BLM Headquarters Office

Media Contact: blm_press@blm.gov

December 8, 2022

The BLM and USFS issue second call for nominations to fill two vacancies on National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have released a second call for nominations to fill two vacancies on the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board for the positions that represent livestock management and wildlife management.

The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board is comprised of nine members representing a range of interests who advise the BLM and USFS on the protection and management of wild horses and burros under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, as amended.

Individuals qualify to serve on the Advisory Board based on their education, training, or experience that enables them to give informed and objective advice regarding the interest they represent. Members are selected with the objective of providing representative counsel and advice about public land and resource planning. No person is to be denied an opportunity to serve because of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin.

Board members typically serve three-year terms and meet 1-4 times annually. Board members serve without salary, though they are reimbursed for approved travel and per diem expenses related to their activities on the Advisory Board.

Interested parties should submit an application packet that demonstrates their experience or knowledge of the area of their expertise and their commitment to collaborate in seeking solutions to resource management issues. [Additional instructions can be found in the Federal Register notice published December 8.](#)

The BLM and U.S. Forest Service first issued a call for nominations for these positions as well as a position to represent humane advocacy on August 12. Due to the limited number of nomination packets received, it was determined that a second call for nominations was warranted for the positions representing livestock management and wildlife management. If you have already submitted your nomination, you do not need to reapply. Nominations must be received and post-marked no later than January 23, 2023.

For more information on the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, visit the BLM website at [BLM.gov/WHB/AdvisoryBoard](https://www.blm.gov/WHB/AdvisoryBoard).

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BLOG: WILD HORSES AND BURROS ON 60 MINUTES

Nov 22, 2022

Did you catch it? The Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program [was featured in a recent segment of CBS's 60 Minutes on November 20](#). The segment gives a quick overview of the wild horse and burro issue and highlights BLM's collaborative program at the Wyoming Honor Farm, a minimum-security correctional facility located in Riverton, which pairs inmates with an experienced horse trainer to gentle wild horses and burros and place them into good homes. This win-win-win endeavor helps lower recidivism rates for program participants, makes gentled wild horses and burros more attractive to adopters, and lowers costs for the BLM to hold and care for unadopted animals.

The BLM supports five inmate training programs across the country that help train and adopt out hundreds of wild horses and burros every year. [As chronic herd overpopulation and severe drought continue to threaten animal and land health](#), the BLM remains committed in its work with Congress, partners and stakeholders to find innovative solutions for managing healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public lands. [This fact sheet](#) provides further information about the BLM's challenges in managing wild horses and burros on public lands as directed by the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.





BLOG: MY WILD HORSE STORY: ANNELYSE AND SHANIA

Nov 16, 2022

This My Wild Horse Story was submitted by Annelyse Biblehimer. To submit your own story, please email wildhorse@blm.gov with the subject line My Wild Horse Story.

My name is Annelyse Biblehimer and I've been a horse-crazy girl for as long as I can remember. I guess I was just born with it! I grew up reading every horse book and was obsessed with the movie Spirit. I believe that's where my love for wild horses and the West started. I grew up in the Northeast and never had a horse of my own but took lessons once a week and got around horses any chance I got. As I got a little older, I learned about the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program and realized my dream of having a wild horse could really happen!

After graduating college and pursuing my dream of moving and working out West, I started planning and saving up to finally get my very own horse! In early Spring 2022 I was approved and ready to find my horse, but with all the big gathers that just occurred, the facilities near me were all closed for adoptions.

Now I've wanted a horse for almost 20 years at this point but having to wait now was awful! My impatience to wait for a few more months led me to call the Mantle Ranch in Wheatland, Wyoming to see if they had any. Sure enough, they did! After talking with Steve Mantle on the phone about what I was looking for, I made the 6-hour drive later that week to see what they had.

I got there and met up with Steve and walked into his barn with several young mares and instantly locked eyes with a big bay mare. Something told me that was the one I would be adopting. I made sure to look at all the others because I didn't want to base this big decision off one look. I was able to get each one out to see them move. The big bay had a bit of sass and opinions, had a very curious personality and I just loved her build. I left saying I'd take her and headed back a week later to bring her home to northeastern Utah.

After a week of her at home, she finally got a name: Shania! I spent time with her every day and she quickly became my best friend. I plan to use her for trails and to camp and hunt with her. She's been on several camping trips to the mountains with us already and tagged along on our deer and elk hunts this year for exposure. She seems to love it just as much as I do! I hope to get her started under saddle this winter so we can continue our mountain adventures! I haven't been in a huge rush with training, and we've been going at her pace and enjoying our time together. She really enjoys liberty work, so we do a lot of that. I've been teaching her tricks, too: her favorite is to "smile." I've had her for 7 months and she's helped me heal from past experiences and has taught me so much. Being impatient usually doesn't lead to positive outcomes, but this was the rare exception that it did. I feel so blessed and grateful to have found my forever heart horse.

Make plans to give a good home to your own wild horse or burro! [Visit an adoption event or facility near you.](#)



Shania is a 3-year-old from the Fifteenmile herd in Wyoming adopted in April 2022.



Annelise and Shania enjoying some October snow on a deer hunt.



Shania's first elk shed.



Shania had other plans for this high country bouquet.



Annelise and Shania



Annelise and Shania enjoy the views on a hike in the Uinta Mountains of Utah.



News Release

BLM Headquarters Office

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Bureau of Land Management reissues solicitation seeking services to expand fertility control efforts for wild horses and burros

WASHINGTON– The Bureau of Land Management has modified and reissued a [solicitation](#) seeking new contract services to humanely gather, treat with fertility control, and then release wild horses and burros back to the range. The BLM anticipates making up to \$20 million available over one to five years for these efforts, subject to the agency’s discretion, based on future needs and appropriations. A previous solicitation for these services [announced on May 10, 2022](#), has been rescinded due to the earlier solicitation being protested. This reissuance resolves that protest with minor modifications. The BLM is committed to awarding any contracts under this new solicitation in a timely manner to ensure this important work continues to efficiently move forward.

Wild horse and burro herds grow rapidly on public lands and can double every four or five years if not managed. As of March 1, 2022, the BLM estimated there were more than 82,000 wild horses and burros on public lands, which is more than three times the healthy amount. Overpopulated herds are put at increased risk for starvation and thirst, and they can over-use and degrade forage and water resources that are also important for thousands of other wildlife species that share public lands. As extreme drought conditions continue across the West, these impacts are being amplified.

Though some animals can be darted with fertility control with the help of partners and volunteers, most animals need to be gathered for treatment due to the large and remote landscapes they inhabit. All activities to manage wild horses and burros, including gather operations, must [follow required handling standards](#) to prioritize animal care and welfare. As a result of BLM’s commitment to humane treatment, wild horse and burro gathers have [a very high success rate and serious injuries are exceedingly rare](#).

Contracts awarded under this solicitation will, under BLM supervision, perform wild horse and burro gathers using approved bait-trap and helicopter-assisted methods, apply an assigned fertility control treatment, provide any care/short-term holding that may be required, and then release the animals back to public lands. Contracts will be for a period of five years. Offerors who submitted a proposal to the previous solicitation are asked to submit a new proposal to this solicitation.

The solicitation closes 3 p.m. MT on November 30, 2022. [Access the solicitation](#).

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including

Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.