

FY 2023 and FY 2024 WH&B Cooperative Agreement Summary (HQ260)

Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center Wild Horse Training Program Sacramento Sheriff's Office Wild Horse Program; CA State Office

The agreement between BLM California and the Sacramento Sheriff's Office supports the continuation of their Wild Horse Program, in which inmates at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center in Elk Grove, California, saddle-train wild horses for adoption. Established in 2013, this partnership has helped numerous horses find homes while also providing inmates with valuable skills and life lessons to help them reintegrate into society upon release.

Piceance East Douglas HMA Piceance Mustangs; CO State Office

The agreement with Piceance Mustangs supports range improvements focused on enhancing water resources. The agreement also includes continuation of a fertility control program, including treatment with GonaCon-Equine of 183 horses through darting and the annual monitoring of foal births and fluctuation of herd size.

Wild Horizons Expansion Meeker Mustang Makeover; CO State Office

This agreement focuses on community outreach, education, and expansion of the Meeker Mustang Makeover model to other communities. Key activities include distributing educational materials, participating in events like the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo and the Colorado State Fair, and engaging with local communities through farmers markets and clinics. The program will also produce a video series featuring trainers and adopters to highlight the benefits of owning a wild horse and create a library of training methods. Additionally, it seeks to share the Meeker Mustang Makeover model with other communities by developing resource guides and best practices for hosting similar events.

Mustang Champions Program Mustang Champions; Headquarters Office

The agreement with Mustang Champions features three high-profile public events to showcase the abilities and trainability of wild horses: Mustang Classic, Mustang Challenge and Mustang Magic with English and Western riding disciplines. It also emphasizes education and outreach through a pre-made booth setup and virtual reality experience designed for use at conferences and other events.

Colorado State University; Co-production of accessible curricula on Western wild horses and burros for K-12 and community audiences; Headquarters Office

This project will develop a K-12 wild horse and burro education curriculum co-produced with BLM, starting with the Poudre School District and Denver Public Schools, that can then be taken nationally via an online Teaching Resources Platform. It will include five fully functional K-12 Wild Horse & Burro Teaching Modules. Ultimately the project's goal is to provide education opportunities for students about the challenges and benefits of managing wild horses and burros as part of the American Western landscape.

Healthy Lands and Healthy Horses: promoting lasting change through youth programs by Utah State University Cooperative Extension; Headquarters Office

The program will provide both virtual and hands-on, cross-disciplinary experiences about wild horses and burros, their management, and rangelands. The agreement includes the development of a 'Mustang Camp,' a two-day in-person experience where participants will learn about the history and biology of horses and burros, understand public rangeland measurement and management, and will hopefully see wild horses and burros. In addition to the in-person camps, the project will offer Virtual Mustang Camps

equipped with online resources and mailed materials that classrooms and youth programs nationwide can use. Virtual classroom materials and 4-H club curricula will make Mustang Camp accessible to a large number of participants from all walks of life and will be available year-round.

**Pathways to Preservation: Educational Outreach and Responsible Adoption
Forever Branded; Headquarters Office**

This partnership seeks to increase wild horse and burro adoptions through the establishment of Branded Adoption Centers that will offer more options to pick up a wild horse or burro, Branded Partnerships that will pair experienced trainers with wild horses or burros in need of training, and a Branded Bonanza that will showcase the trainability of wild horses and burros through a public competition, starting first in Idaho and then expanding outward. The program will engage communities with a range of outreach activities, including speaking events, community development, and online educational content. Collaborations with established equine associations will incentivize adopters to showcase their animals' abilities. Collaborative awards will boost participation, spark conversations about adoption, and validate the competitive edge of wild horses and burros in a variety of disciplines.

**Mustang Yearlings Washington Youth
Mustang Yearlings Washington Youth; OR State Office**

This project aims to encourage youth and adults in Washington and surrounding states (including Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California) to develop their equestrian skills through the process of gentling and training a wild mustang or burro. Each year, trained horses and burros will be placed into safe and humane environments through a competition event or final auction. The project will raise public awareness of the trainability of mustangs and burros and demonstrate how easily they can transition from wild to domestic life.

**Education, Awareness, Placement
Teens and Oregon Mustangs; OR State Office**

This project continues and expands the Teens and Oregon Mustang's Mustang Adoption Challenge by offering similar training events across the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Idaho, and California. Additionally, the program will expand by offering new adoption sources, called 'Mustang Hubs,' across the U.S., but particularly in states without local BLM off-range corrals. Additionally, the project includes creating a certified pool of inspectors for compliance inspections throughout the Pacific Northwest.

**High Desert Strategies Fertility Control
High Desert Strategies; OR State Office**

This project involves monitoring wild horse and burro herds to collect data and determine darting strategies and priorities. The partnership will work to identify priority animals for fertility control treatment, and develop a strategic plan to dart them. After darting is complete, continual monitoring will help determine successes and guide next steps. Additionally, the project will maintain its website and social media platforms to expand public outreach.

**Fertility Control of Onaqui Mountain Herd
Wild Horses of America Foundation; UT State Office**

This agreement involves identifying, documenting and treating with fertility control wild horses in the Onaqui Mountain Herd Management Area in northern Utah, a popular herd among photographers and wild horse enthusiasts. Data and information will be presented through an online database.

**Cedar Mountain HMA Field Darting Fertility Control Program
American Wild Horse Conservation; UT State Office**

The project will build upon the activities initiated under a volunteer agreement, expanding efforts to document the Cedar Mountain Herd Management Area wild horse population in Utah, and implement a fertility control field darting effort. This will involve identification and detailed tracking of individual animals and applying darting techniques to slow population growth.