



# ***BLM News***

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## **Saddle Horse Adoption Helps Girl Scouts Learn About Living Legends**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is donating proceeds from their Saddle-trained Horse Adoption on February 11 at Carson City's Warm Springs Correctional Facility to the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada (GSSN). The profit from the sale of one saddle horse will be given to GSSN to sponsor the organization's Wild Horse and Burro Patch Project.

The Wild Horse and Burro Patch Project will promote education about Nevada's wild horses and burros and the Adopt-A-Horse Program. The program also serves to educate the younger generations of the community about multiple-use management and the protection of wild horses and burros.

The Saddle-trained Horse Adoption Program in Nevada began in 2000 to help showcase wild horses which have been removed from the range to ease the strain of wild horse overpopulation on the resources and vegetation of state and BLM-managed lands. Some of the excess animals which BLM has prepared for adoption are taken to Warm Springs Correctional Facility where they are trained by inmates for up to 120 days then put up for adoption by competitive bid. By participating, inmates are able to help pay for their food and board and are required to contribute to a Victims of Crime fund.

The Saddle-trained Horse Adoption will be held at the Warm Springs Correctional Facility in Carson City with a preview from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and bidding beginning at 10:00 a.m. Ten BLM horses, three estrays (State of Nevada horses), and one paint yearling halter horse will be offered for adoption.

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The Saddle Horse Adoption Program is a cooperative venture between the Nevada Department of Corrections industries program (Silver State Industries) and the BLM in Nevada to help perpetuate the animals and the land they live on. When the number of horses surpasses the Appropriate Management Level for a Herd Management Area, the excess animals are gathered and brought to a BLM preparation facility. Horses in the Warm Springs program are selected from a short-term holding prison facility contracted by BLM. The Saddle-trained Horse Adoption Program, which started in 2000, has proven extremely successful and helped ease the amount of stress on over-inhabited land.

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