

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FOR RELEASE: March 21, 2006

CONTACTS: Maxine Shane at (775) 861-6586 or Debra Kolkman at (775) 289-1946

## Special Wild Horse Adoption Events Set in Nevada

With spring approaching, it's time to adopt, train and ride your own horse or burro. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is making it easier to adopt either a wild horse or burro with four special weekend events slated in Nevada.

- April 15
  - Adopt a horse or burro on April 15 at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley, 20 miles north of Sparks on the Pyramid Lake Highway. On April 15, the Center opens at 8 a.m., and a silent competitive bid begins at 10 a.m. The adoption fee begins at \$125 per animal. Pair adoptions (mother and offspring) begin at \$250. Horses from Nevada Herd Management Areas (HMAs) will be featured. Burros are from the Blue Wing HMA. For details on specific animals, call (775) 475-2222. For applications and general adoption details, call 1-866-4MUSTANGS or visit [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov).
  - A special feature for the April 15 adoption is an opportunity to observe members of the Least Resistance Training Concepts (LRTC) wild horse mentors group gentle and halter train many of the animals being offered for adoption. The LRTC volunteers will be at Palomino Valley from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 12, 13 and 14 and on April 15 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. They will gentle and halter train the BLM animals. For information on LRTC, which is a non-profit organization, call (775) 629-9197 or visit [www.whmentors.org](http://www.whmentors.org).
  
- June 3 and October 14
  - Adopt a saddle-trained gelding. All wild horses are gentled and trained by the Warm Springs Correctional Center inmates in Carson City. The facility on Edmonds Drive opens at 9 a.m. on June 3 and October 14, with oral competitive bidding at 10 a.m. Bids begin at \$150 per animal. Photos of the horses will be posted at both [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov) and at [www.silverstateindustries.com](http://www.silverstateindustries.com) about two to three weeks before the event. Call BLM at (775) 861-6469 for more adoption details.
  
- August 18, 19, 20
  - The Center will be open on August 18, 19 and 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to coincide with the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo being held at the Reno Livestock Events Center, 1350 N. Wells Ave. For information on the Expo visit that organization's website at [www.wswhbe.com](http://www.wswhbe.com).

Pre-selected animals will be available for viewing on April 15 when the center is open for the Saturday adoption. If an adopter is interested in a specific animal located in another pen at the center, the BLM asks that he/she make an appointment on a weekday so a staff member can schedule time to drive this person through the

larger pens in the facility. There are about 474 horses and about 200 burros currently at the Palomino Valley Center.

All potential adopters may be approved in advance by BLM wild horse and burro specialists in their geographic area, or they may bring their application to the Warm Springs or Palomino Valley Center for screening and approval.

Both trained and untrained wild horses are vaccinated to prevent a variety of equine diseases, including West Nile virus and rabies. Adopters receive complete health care records, so they can begin health care regimens with their own veterinarians.

A brand inspector and a veterinarian will prepare paperwork so the horses can be transported across state lines. Personnel at the Warm Springs and Palomino Valley Centers will load out animals. Stock trailers with side-swinging gates are preferred. Drop ramps are not acceptable. Individuals are asked to bring a halter and lead rope appropriate for the size and kind of animal adopted. The adopter should be prepared to transport the horse home that day unless special arrangements are made.

To qualify to adopt, an individual must be at least 18 years old; however, parents or guardians may adopt and allow younger family members to care for the animal. Adopters must provide adequate feed, water and facilities to provide humane care for the number of animals requested. You may not adopt if you have been convicted of inhumane treatment to animals.