

January 16, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD HORSES SET FOR ADOPTION IN BURNS

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be offering approximately 180 wild horses for adoption at the Burns Wild Horse Corrals, near Burns, Oregon, on February 7, 2004. The competitive bid adoption will include Oregon wild horses from the following herds, Kiger and Riddle Mountain (all Kiger Mustangs), Hog Creek (near Harper), and Paisley (near the town of Paisley). The animals vary in age class from weanlings to mature animals up to 12 years and contain individuals representing a wide range of colors. Among the Kiger Mustangs, there will be one mare/foal pair available.

Tom Seley, BLM Burns District Wild Horse Specialist says, "Adopters should be pleased with this group of horses. They have good size and conformation and many are young and will be more easily gentled."

The Burns adoption will use a competitive bid procedure with a minimum bid of \$125 per animal.

Note: The mare/foal pair will require a minimum bid of \$250.

Viewing at the Burns Wild Horse Corrals will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday and from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Registration at the Burns Wild Horse Corrals will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, and 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

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Animal selection and competitive bidding will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at the wild horse corrals. Loading will begin at approximately 1:00 p.m. until dark on Saturday and continue Sunday beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Although applications will be accepted at the adoption site, people who are applying for the first time are encouraged to mail their applications to **BLM Wild Horse Program, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738** as soon as possible (telefax applications will not be accepted) to allow for corrections and/or clarification of application information in time for the adoption.

“The Adopt-A-Horse or Burro program provides homes for wild horses that have to be removed from the public rangelands to maintain an appropriate management level consistent with maintaining a balance between wild horses or burros, native wildlife, domestic grazing, and healthy ecosystems,” says BLM’s Burns District Wild Horse specialist Tom Seley. “To help maintain that balance, BLM gathers the excess wild horses and offers them for adoption,” he says.

Seley says, “Adopters can provide good, safe homes for the animals gathered in Oregon and contribute a lot to the National effort.” Given proper training, wild horses make excellent equestrian partners. They are known for their stamina, sturdiness, and intelligence.

For details on adoption requirements, bidding procedures, application forms, wild horse training demonstrations, and other events scheduled, call the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4456. The following Web site has current information on the Burns adoption: www.or.blm.gov/burns. For information on BLM’s National Wild Horse and Burro adoption program, check www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov.

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