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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD HORSE ADOPTION SET FOR SEPTEMBER IN BURNS

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be offering over 400 wild horses for adoption at the Burns Wild Horse Corrals near Burns, Oregon on September 24 and 25, 2004 reports Cody Hansen, BLM Burns District Assistant District Manager for Operations. Hansen says, "The weekend event will feature horses from the Beatys Butte Herd Management Area which were gathered in early August and will be available for adoption for the first time."

The Burns Wild Horse Corrals are located 5 miles west of Hines on U.S. Highway 20, Mile Post 122 and will open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The animals vary in age class from weanlings up to 5 years, and there will be mare/foal pairs available as well.

According to Hansen, "Adopters should be pleased with this group of horses. They have good size and conformation, many are young and will be more easily gentled, and there is a large selection of colors."

The Burns adoption will use a walk up adoption procedure which allows adopters to select an animal, go immediately to the adoption office, and complete the paperwork for the adoption. The cost is \$125 per single animal and \$250 for a mare/foal pair.

All prospective adopters will be required to pre-register at the adoption office to facilitate the adoption paperwork, brand inspection, and health certification procedures. Registration at the Burns Wild Horse Corrals will begin at 8:00 a.m. on both days.

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Loading will begin as soon as practical and continue until finished or until darkness occurs each day.

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 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738** as soon as possible (telex 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 Manager Dana Shuford. “To help maintain that balance, BLM gathers the excess wild horses and offers them for adoption,” he says.

Hansen says, “We encourage all horse enthusiasts throughout the Northwest to consider becoming adopters so we can place these wild horses in good, safe homes. With their stamina, hardiness, and quick intelligence, Oregon’s wild horses make excellent equestrian partners for any discipline.”

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. Check the following website for more information on the upcoming Burns wild horse adoption: www.or.blm.gov/burnswww.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov. Check www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov for information on the BLM’s National wild horse and burro management program.

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