



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts: Tom Gorey, (202) 912-7420

BLM Seeks Bids for New Pasture Facilities to Care for and Maintain Wild Horses

As part of its responsibility to manage, protect, and control wild horses and burros, the Bureau of Land Management is soliciting bids for new long-term pasture facilities located in the continental United States that provide a free-roaming environment. One solicitation is for pasture facilities accommodating 200 to 1,000 wild horses; the other is for facilities accommodating 1,000 to 4,000 wild horses. Each pasture facility must be able to provide humane care for a one-year period, with a renewal option under BLM contract for four one-year extensions. Both solicitations are open through June 14, 2010, and are 100 percent set aside for small businesses under the North American Industry Classification System.

The BLM's bidding requirements are posted in solicitations **L10PS02219** (200 to 1,000 horses) and **L10PS02221** (1,000 to 4,000 horses), the details of which are available at <http://www.fedconnect.net>. To obtain the solicitations: (1) click on "Search Public Opportunities"; (2) under Search Criteria, select "Reference Number"; (3) type in solicitation number (either L10PS02219 or L10PS02221); (4) click "Search" and the solicitation information will appear. The solicitation form describes what to submit and where to send it. Applicants must be registered at <http://www.ccr.gov> to be considered for a contract award.

The BLM manages wild horses and burros as part of its overall multiple-use mission. Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the BLM manages and protects these living symbols of the Western spirit while ensuring that population levels are in balance with other public rangeland resources and uses. To make sure that healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands, the BLM must remove thousands of animals from the range each year to control the size of herds, which have virtually no predators and can double in population every four years. The current free-roaming population of BLM-managed wild horses and burros is nearly 37,000, which exceeds by some 10,350 the number determined by the BLM to be the appropriate management level. Off the range, there are more than 36,000 wild horses and burros cared for in either short-term corrals or long-term pastures. All these animals, whether on or off the range, are protected by the BLM under the 1971 law.

After wild horses and burros are removed from the range, the Bureau works to place younger animals into private care through adoption. Since 1971, the BLM has placed 225,000 horses and burros into such care through the adoption process, in which the adopter may gain the title of ownership after providing one year of humane care. Under a December 2004 amendment to the 1971 wild horse law, animals over 10 years old, as well as those passed over for adoption at least three times, are eligible for sale, a transaction in which the title of ownership passes immediately from the Federal government to a buyer committed to long-term care. Since that amendment took effect, the BLM has sold more than 4,100 horses and burros. For more information about the BLM's wild horse and burro adoption and sales programs, go to <http://www.blm.gov>.

The BLM manages more land - 253 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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1849 C Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

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