

United States Department of Interior 5001 Southgate Drive

Bureau of Land Management

Billings Field Office Billings, Montana 59101

Contact: Nancy Bjelland Phone: (406) 896-5222 Date: April 20, 2006

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Individuals interested in adopting a wild horse or burro will have an opportunity on May 6, 2006, in Missoula. Approximately 36 untrained wild horses from herd management areas in Oregon and six burros will be available for adoption. Four geldings trained by Steve Mantle will also be available for adoption.

The adoption will be held at the Missoula Livestock Exchange and will begin at 10 a.m.

Demonstrations on how to train your wild horse will be provided by Steve Mantle on May 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again on May 6 from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m..

Adoption registration starts at 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 6. The minimum bid for each animal is \$125. For more information on how to adopt or to receive an application, contact Nancy Bjelland, BLM adoption coordinator, at (406) 896-5222.

The BLM manages public lands throughout the west and their vast array of resources to benefit both current and future generations. One of the BLM's legislative responsibilities is to manage and preserve the wild horse and burro as a "living symbol" of the Old West. The BLM gathers wild horses and burros from the western range in order to maintain an ecological balance between wild horses and burros, native wildlife and domestic animals grazing on western public lands. The gathered horses are put into the BLM's Adopt-A-Horse or Burro program.