

Carson National Forest

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News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wild horse still available

Taos, N.M., December 15, 2008—For that little one who's looking for My Pretty Pony for Christmas this year, Santa could find a live version from the Carson National Forest. Wild horses collected in the Carson National Forest near Bloomfield are up for adoption.

The Forest Service is attempting to reduce the grazing pressure from wild horses by gathering a portion of the population. Livestock grazing has also been reduced on allotments located within the wild horse territory. A 2004 environmental assessment determined that the territory could support between 50 to 105 horses depending on environmental conditions. The current population estimate is 428 horses. The Carson National Forest plans to gather 93 horses this fall and so far has collected 32, 11 have not been adopted yet. Mt. Taylor Mustangs is the gather contractor and is using a low-stress baiting method.

The horses have been “gentled” with well-known horse whisperers so that the animals have no bad encounters with human beings. Bob Browning, a well-known Farmington-based horse trainer, has been volunteering his time to work with the horses and get them used to people.

Horses are available for adoption on a first-come, first-served basis. Qualified individuals will select a horse and complete an adoption application. The Forest Service will review the adoption materials with potential adopters and verify adopters meet requirements, including facilities needed to care for a horse.

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Upon application approval, adopters will be able to take their horse home. The adoption fee for each wild horse is \$125.

In order to adopt a horse, prospective owners must be at least 18 years of age. Parents or guardians may adopt a wild horse and allow younger family members to care for the animal. Potential adopters must have no prior conviction for inhumane treatment of animals or violations of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, demonstrate that there are facilities for adequate food and water, provide proof that humane care does exist for the number of horses requested, and indicate that the property is in the United States.

To see pictures of the horses and for more information on adoption requirements and adoption applications please check the Carson National Forest Web site at www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson or call the Jicarilla Ranger District office on US 64 in Bloomfield at 505-632-2956 or the Taos Supervisor's Office at 758-6200.

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