

BLM News Release ▼ BLM News Release
 1103 N. Fancher ▼ Spokane, Washington 99212 ▼ <http://www.blm.gov/or>

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Rick McComas (509) 536-1200
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Wild Horse Adoption Scheduled June 2-3 in Monroe

Spokane, WA – Wild horses from eastern Oregon public rangelands will be up for adoption June 2-3 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, Washington. The adoption is sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is being held in cooperation with “Back Country Horsemen of Washington” and “4-H”. The BLM events will include two wild horse gentling demonstrations on Saturday and one on Sunday by Lesley Neuman. At 11:00 a.m. Saturday, a Barefoot Trimming presentation will be conducted by Cherlye McConnaughey. A promotional raffle horse gentled by 4-H will be made available for adoption at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Rick McComas, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist in the Spokane BLM office, says “These animals are noted for their endurance, sure-footedness, and strong sense of loyalty to their caretaker.” McComas expects about 35 horses will be available, with a variety of colors and ages, and also a mix of geldings, mares, and fillies. No burros will be available. Wild horses make excellent partners for any discipline,

Preview of all horses available for adoption begins Friday, June 1 from 4-6 p.m. Our hours of operation on Saturday and Sunday will be 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Potential adopters can view the horses and register to adopt all day Saturday, June 2. All BLM adoption events have free admission.

The adoption will be conducted by oral competitive bid, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 3. Horses not adopted in the oral bid process will be available for adoption until Sunday afternoon. The minimum adoption fee is \$125 per animal to qualified adopters.

To qualify to adopt at the event, bidders must be at least 18 years of age, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. Other adoption requirements include a sturdy corral and shelter, along with a willingness to provide good care for the animal. After one year of certified good care, full ownership of the adopted animal is transferred to the adopter. Interested adopters should submit adoption applications as soon as possible and must also register at the adoption site prior to the adoption to participate in the auction.

For application forms and details on adoption requirements and bidding procedures, contact the Spokane BLM, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane Valley, WA, 99212 at (509) 536-1200. For recorded information about the Spokane adoption, call Spokane BLM at 1-800-997-2022. The BLM nationwide toll free number for Wild Horse & Burro information is 1-866-4MUSTANGS.

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The BLM Adopt-A-Wild Horse or Burro program locates homes for wild horses removed from public rangelands to maintain an appropriate management level. Gathering of excess animals for adoption helps to maintain balance between wild horses, native wildlife, domestic grazing, and the environment. The adoption event presents an opportunity for the public to participate in the adoption process and share in their American heritage. The BLM has placed more than 216,000 horses in approved homes across the country.

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Possible Media Activities:

- Excellent photo opportunities starting Friday afternoon, about 4 p.m. Watch wild horses arrive at the site and wranglers unload them for adoption.
- Follow an adopter from registration to the ride home.
- Talk with past adopters about their experience with the program.
- Interview BLM Wild Horse Specialists about the history of the program, and find out what qualifies as a good home.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the BLM gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.

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