

**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2007-07**  
**FOR RELEASE: December 13, 2006**  
**CONTACT: Richard H. Brown at 775-861-6480**

Results of BLM Oil and Gas Sale Finalized

The quarterly oil and gas lease sale held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at its State Office in Reno on December 12 brought in \$430,321 in bonus bids.

BLM offered 229 parcels (443,329 acres) and sold 81 parcels (155,131). The highest-valued parcel brought in \$32,940, and the highest bid per acre was \$53. The parcels were located primarily in Eureka County.

BLM received \$366,308 in bonus bids for 68,498 acres during its September 2006 quarterly competitive sale. For fiscal year 2006, the BLM received more than \$4.45 million in bonus bids for 843,166 acres. The State of Nevada receives half the revenue collected from these sales.

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**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2007-06**  
**FOR RELEASE: December 11, 2006**  
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**JoLynn Worley (775) 861-6515**

BLM Nevada State Office to Remodel Public Room

Reno, Nev.--To more efficiently meet public requests for records retrieval, the public room at the Bureau of Land Management's Nevada State Office will be remodeled. Construction will affect the public room, which is also called the Information Access Center (IAC), from Dec. 18, 2006 through Jan. 31, 2007. The State Office is located at 1340 Financial Blvd.in Reno.

IAC staff will make every effort to meet requests for file information, however, delays in file retrieval may occur during this time. Users of the public records are encouraged to plan their work in advance of construction if possible. To help accommodate the public, users may fax or email file requests to the IAC staff, which will pull the documents and notify the requestor when the files are ready for review.

For more information contact Donna "Susie" Mason, Branch Chief, Information Access and Customer Service by phone 775-861-6552; fax: 775-861-6606; or e-mail: donna\_mason@nv.blm.gov.

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**Contacts: Tom Gorey (202) 452-5137**  
**or Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586**  
**or Debra Kolkman (775) 289-1946**

BLM Sets Meeting of National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board  
for December 11 in Las Vegas

The Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet on

December 11 in Las Vegas to discuss issues relating to the management and protection of wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands. The one-day meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino.

The Advisory Board provides input and advice to the BLM as it carries out its responsibilities under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The law mandates the protection, management, and control of these free-roaming animals in a manner that ensures healthy herds at levels consistent with the land's capacity to support them. The BLM manages about 32,000 wild horses and burros that roam BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states. Nevada is home to about half of those wild horses and burros which live in 102 Herd Management Areas.

The public may address the Advisory Board at the December 11 meeting at approximately 3 p.m., depending on the progress of the agenda. The agenda of the meeting has been published in the November 13, 2006, Federal Register. Individuals who want to make a statement should register with the BLM by noon on the day of the meeting at the meeting site (Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino, 3535 Las Vegas Blvd., South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109; 702-731-3311). Depending on the number of speakers, the Board may limit the length of presentations, set at three minutes for previous meetings.

Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the BLM at the meeting. Those who would like to comment, but are unable to attend, may submit a written statement by December 6, 2006, to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Comments may also be e-mailed to: [Ramona\\_DeLorme@blm.gov](mailto:Ramona_DeLorme@blm.gov). Those submitting comments electronically should include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of their message and their name and address in the body of the message.

For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Ramona DeLorme, wild horse and burro administrative assistant, at 775-861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. DeLorme at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

The Advisory Board meets at least two times a year and the BLM Director may call additional meetings when necessary. Members serve without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses according to government travel regulations.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land - 261 million surface acres - than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 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 the public lands.

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**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2007-04**  
**FOR RELEASE: Nov. 6, 2006**  
**CONTACT: Nevada: Maxine Shane (775 861-6586)**  
**or Debra Kolkman (775 289-1946)**

**Washington, D.C.: Tom Gorey (202) 452-5137**

**Palomino Valley Center Reduces Adoption Fee  
For Certain Wild Horses in November and December**

The Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley located north of Sparks, Nev., will offer mares that are at least four years old for adoption at a reduced fee of \$25 each during November. Most of these mares can be expected to be in foal. In addition, the Center will offer geldings (four years old and up) for adoption at \$25 each in December. The standard adoption fee for wild horses and burros is \$125.

While providing savings to potential adopters, the reduced adoption fee is aimed at moving more BLM-managed animals that are currently in preparation facilities into good homes of private owners. The BLM's cost for maintaining wild horses and burros in short- and long-term holding facilities accounts for more than half of the agency's total wild horse and burro budget, which was about \$37 million in fiscal year 2006.

"We hope that anyone who has the interest and means of providing good care for these mares or geldings will come to our facility in November or December," said John Neill, manager of the Center. Under the BLM's adoption program, an individual can adopt up to four animals within a one-year period; under certain circumstances, more than four can be adopted, but an adopter can receive titles of ownership to only four animals during that timeframe. Qualified adopters are eligible to receive title after providing one year of humane care.

There are currently about 1,200 wild horses at the Palomino Valley Center which is located approximately 20 miles north of Sparks, Nev. From Interstate 80, take Exit 18 (Pyramid Way/SR445) and go north about 20 miles to Ironwood Road. Turn east on Ironwood Road to reach the facility which is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon, except for Federal holidays. The Center's number is 775 475-2222.

Neill says there are about 120 mares currently at the facility which are eligible for adoption under this special arrangement. About 80 geldings will be available in December.

Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the BLM manages, protects, and controls wild horses and burros as part of its overall multiple-use mission. BLM works to ensure that population levels are in balance with rangeland resources and other uses of the public lands; toward that end, the BLM removes thousands of wild horses and burros from the range each year to control the size of herds, which have virtually no predators and can double in population about every four years.

The current free-roaming population of wild horses and burros on BLM-managed lands is about 31,000, which exceeds by some 3,500 the number determined by the Bureau to be the appropriate management level. Off the range, there are more than 28,000 wild horses and burros cared for in either short-term (corral) or long-term (pasture) facilities. All animals in holding are protected by the BLM under the 1971 law.

The Bureau works to place as many of the wild horses and burros that are in holding into private care, and since 1973, the BLM has placed more than 213,000 animals into private ownership through adoption. Under a December 2004 amendment to the 1971 law, the Bureau also seeks good homes

through sales of horses and burros that are more than 10 years old or have been passed over for adoption at least three times. (In the case of sales, the title of ownership passes immediately from the Federal government to the buyer.) Since that amendment took effect, the BLM has sold more than 2,100 eligible horses and burros. The BLM encourages those who are interested in providing good homes to wild horses or burros to visit the agency's Website ([www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)) for information about adoptions or sales.

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**ELY FIELD OFFICE NO. 07-005**  
**FOR RELEASE: Friday, Oct. 27, 2006**  
**CONTACT: Chris Hanefeld (775) 289-1842**

#### BLM Extends Public Input Period for Lost Ox OHV Trail System

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely Field Office is providing the public an additional 21 days to return to the federal agency with alternatives to trails locations within the Lost Ox Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail System.

The deadline to provide input is 5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15. The deadline was to have expired this week.

The Lost Ox OHV Trail System is a managed, sustainable trail system designed to provide OHV enthusiasts with a quality recreational experience while protecting public land health. The trail system is to be located in the South Egan Range, near Ely. The BLM in February signed the decision to implement phase one.

In August, the White Pine County Coordinated Resource Management Steering Committee (CRM) asked BLM to stop work on the system, requesting additional time to provide input.

The field office in September held another public meeting to listen to public concerns and identify alternatives. About 35 people attended the meeting, mostly sportsmen and OHV enthusiasts. The meeting was followed in October by a field tour.

To learn more about the Lost Ox OHV Trail System or to provide input, call David Jeppesen, BLM Ely District outdoor recreation specialist, at (775) 289-1800.

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**Nevada State Office News Release No. 2007-03**  
**Release Date: Oct. 25, 2006**  
**Contact: JoLynn Worley, 775-861-6515**

#### BLM Authorizes Data Collection Work on SNWA Water Project

Reno, Nev.—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has authorized the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to start some hydrologic and geotechnical data collection. The data will be used in the analysis of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a water development and rights-of-way proposal to transport water from eastern Nevada to Las Vegas.

A contractor for SNWA began drilling exploration wells in Spring Valley and soil/geotechnical sample bore holes in all seven basins that are included in the proposed project. Pumping tests on four exploration wells will be used to determine aquifer characteristics. Forty-two bore holes will be drilled from Spring Valley to Las Vegas to determine soil characteristics. These areas will also be tested for the presence of radio nuclei.

BLM is working on additional sites for exploration wells throughout the project area that will continue to collect data for the EIS.

A map showing the locations of the exploration wells and the bore holes may be reviewed at the Ely Field Office, 702 N. Industrial Way.

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**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2007-002**  
**FOR RELEASE: October 20, 2006**  
**CONTACT: Richard H. Brown at 775-861-6480**

#### BLM Implements Second Round of Wildfire Risk Assessments for Nevada Landscapes

The Nevada Landscape Risk Assessment Project will implement the second round of wildland fire threat assessments in October to analyze wildfire risks for the remainder of Nevada's vast and vulnerable landscapes.

The project will evaluate the fire threat and recommend fuel treatment projects for the landscapes that surround the state's cities and towns, an essential next step for completing the state's overall fire danger picture. The Consolidated Municipality of Carson City (Carson City "County") will be the first of six Nevada counties to be assessed by the end of 2007. Landscape risk assessments for all of Nevada's counties are scheduled for completion in 2009.

Evaluations on 250 Nevada communities were completed during the first round of wildland fire threat assessments in 2005, and they eventually formed the basis of community wildfire protection plans. These assessments and plans became a vital first step in statewide efforts to disrupt the persistent and disastrous cycle of wildland fire. Funded in 2003 by a \$1.35 million BLM grant to the Nevada Fire Safe Council, the threat assessments targeted wildland-urban interface areas adjacent to these communities.

Wildland Fire Associates, a consulting firm specializing in landscape-scale fire risk assessments, has been hired to complete this planning project. Building on the county-level assessments and plans already completed, contractor fire specialists will identify, evaluate and score the wildfire hazards and risks that occur on the larger landscape.

The contractor will incorporate information gathered on:

Wildfire hazards such as steepness of slope, the direction the slope faces (aspect), and fuel characteristics.

Risk analysis of lightning strike frequency and the chance of human-caused fires.

The presence and density of human habitation.

These risk factors will be displayed on a map for each county that shows areas of very low, low, medium or high fire threat. The maps and accompanying ratings will be used to describe fuel treatment projects and assign priorities.

Once again this year, Nevada ranks at the top of all states in terms of acres burned from wildfire. While only a few structures were destroyed and no lives were lost, more than 1.3 million acres of valuable range and woodland went up in smoke during the 2006 fire season.

As this cycle continues to be repeated year after year, it is clear that relying solely on rapid response and the ability of firefighters to suppress these fires will not adequately address the threat. Increasingly homes and businesses in Nevada are built in areas susceptible to wildfire.

Critical habitat for wildlife, valuable grazing land, watersheds and scenic resources are also vulnerable. The need to preemptively reduce the threat of wildfire by modifying or removing hazardous fuel is paramount. But the danger of catastrophic wildfire is not the same everywhere.

"By concentrating our fuel treatment efforts in those areas facing the greatest threat we hope to increase community protection and begin reducing the serious damage caused by wildfire every year," said Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Project Manager Butch Hayes.

The three-year project is scheduled for completion in December 2009, with five-six counties assessed per year. Other organizations and agencies providing support and oversight for the project include the Nevada Fire Safe Council, the U.S. Forest Service and the Nevada Division of Forestry.

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