

May 13, 2008

**Contact: David Boyd,
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Northwest Resource Advisory Council meets May 22 in Steamboat Springs
The Bureau of Land Management's Northwest Resource Advisory Council will meet 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
May 22 in Steamboat Springs at Citizen's Hall, 124 10th St.

The meeting is open to the public, with public comment periods scheduled for 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Agenda topics include:

Updates from NW Colorado BLM Field Offices
Renewable Energy on public lands presentation
Update from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission on its proposed regulations
Resource Management Plan updates
Emerald Mountain Management update

Fee proposal for some areas in the Grand Junction Field Office

The Northwest RAC is one of three advisory councils to BLM Colorado. Composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, individuals serving in each RAC represent a broad range of public land interests, including environmental, local government, and commercial activity. The Northwest RAC advises the Grand Junction, White River, Little Snake, Kremmling and Glenwood Springs BLM field offices.

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For Immediate Release: May 13, 2008
Contact: Jaime Gardner, 303-239-3681
Fran Ackley, 719-269-8511

BLM offers mustangs & burros for adoption

Golden, CO — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will offer 45 mustangs and burros for adoption Saturday, May 17 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. This includes 30 mustangs under the age of five years, six halter-trained mustangs, several saddle-trained mustangs, and a few burros.

Registration for the adoption will be from 5-8 p.m. on May 16 and from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. on May 17. The silent bid adoption will take place on May 17 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., with a minimum bid for untrained animals of \$125. Opportunities for viewing will be concurrent with registration times. Mustangs and burros that are not adopted during the silent bidding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please come out for a free Westernaires performance from 6-7 p.m. Friday evening at the Westernaires arena. The Westernaires have adopted over 50 mustangs through the Colorado Wild Horse Inmate Program (WHIP) and many of these mustangs will be featured in the performance. Directly after the performance, we will showcase the saddle trained mustangs that will be available for adoption the following day.

The mustangs offered for adoption will be from herds in Colorado and Wyoming, while the burros are

from herds in Nevada. BLM mustangs are known for their trainability and unique coloring, which includes gray, buckskin, palomino, appaloosa, roan, and pinto. All of these animals are certified healthy, have been de-wormed, vaccinated (including West Nile), and come with a complete set of health care records.

Adopters must be at least 18 years old, have the ability and financial means to care for a mustang or burro, and have corrals that meet BLM specifications: Fully grown horses must be kept in a corral with a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet by 20 feet) per animal that is surrounded by a six-foot pipe or board fence. Five-foot fences are allowed for trained horses and those less than 18 months of age. Four-and-one-half-foot fences are required for all burros. Wire fencing is not allowed because it endangers the animals. Animals cannot be released into large pastures until they can be approached, handled, haltered, and led.

Mustangs and burros are well known for their inherent traits of intelligence, loyalty, stamina, sure-footedness, and soundness. Throughout the 37-year BLM Wild Horse and Burro program, adopted mustangs and burros have found their way into the hearts of thousands of recreational riders and show arenas in both Western and English specialties, dressage competition, endurance rides as well as ranch work.

Please contact the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office at 719-269-8539 for an adoption application, or go to www.blm.gov/co and click on the Wild Horse & Burro link at the bottom of the page, for more information.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release
Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097
May 12, 2008

Local BLM volunteer receives national honor

WASHINGTON, DC — The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is proud to announce that one of its own volunteers was honored in a special ceremony on Thursday, May 8, in Washington, DC. Volunteer Ken Emory was presented the 2008 BLM “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Award by Deputy Director of Operations Henri R. Bisson and BLM Colorado Associate State Director Dave Hunsaker. Emory, selected for his exceptional volunteer efforts that benefit public lands and those who recreate on them, is also a member of the BLM’s Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and the Colorado Recreation RAC administered by the USDA Forest Service. Along with Emory, three other individuals, two groups, one two-person team, and one BLM employee also received the award.

“Ken serves on our RAC, volunteers at our front desk, recruits others to volunteer, and acts as a BLM goodwill ambassador all on his own time,” said Kevin Cohenour, volunteer coordinator for the UFO. “Not only that, Ken participates in all kinds of on-the-ground projects that improve public lands and in turn improve everyone’s outdoor experience.”

Emory, an experienced off-highway vehicle enthusiast who retired to Montrose seven years ago,

provides a wealth of information to those stopping by the Montrose Public Lands Center before they head out to the trails. Emory has been especially valuable to the UFO in reaching out to the OHV community as BLM staff work to develop a travel management plan with travel prescriptions for area public lands. Emory is a member of the Western Slope Four-Wheelers and Blue Ribbon Coalition, and has been exploring the San Juan country for over 20 years.

To learn more about volunteering for the BLM, contact Kevin Cohenour at (970) 240-5300.

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Editor's Note: Photo available upon request.

BLM May Oil and Gas Lease Sale Nets \$4 Million

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 9, 2008

Contact: Jim Sample 303-239-3861,

Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681,

Mike Blakeman 719-852-6212

BLM Colorado's May 2008 oil and gas lease sale nets \$4 million

DENVER -- On May 8, the BLM Colorado State Office sold 46 parcels of 49 offered at its quarterly oil and gas lease sale, totaling 28,546 acres of public lands. The high bid, for a 160-acre parcel in Weld County, was \$3,300 per acre; the high bonus bid was \$528,000, for the same parcel. The lease sale earned \$3,996,068 in proceeds, of which 48 percent will go to the State of Colorado. The State received \$123 million in Fiscal Year 2007 from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for all federal minerals (including coal).

The original May sale notice listed 133 parcels; all received written protests prior to the sale. After considering the protests, BLM deferred 84 of the parcels for further review. The protests on all of the parcels are still under analysis. No leases will be issued until that process is complete.

A federal mineral lease allows for development of publically-owned minerals, subject to additional analysis and approval. A royalty of 12.5 percent is collected on federal oil and gas revenue, which is split between the United States and the State of Colorado.

-BLM-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 2, 2008

Contacts: Jim Sample, 303-239-3861;

Mike Blakeman, 719-852-6212

Forest Service parcels deferred from upcoming oil and gas lease sale

Denver -- The Bureau of Land Management has deferred offering oil and gas leases for 84 parcels of U.S. Forest Service land encompassing 144,000 acres in Colorado's San Luis Valley at the BLM's May

8 lease sale.

"Based on information we received from the public, local governments and our own internal review, we will defer offering these Forest Service parcels until additional analysis can be completed," said BLM Colorado State Director Sally Wisely.

The Forest Service determines where and under what conditions oil and gas leasing can occur on National Forest System lands. The BLM then determines whether or not National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements have been met before the BLM offers the Forest Service oil and gas leases for sale at auction. The BLM manages the nation's publicly owned mineral estate.

The parcels to be deferred are located in the Rio Grande National Forest in Colorado's San Luis Valley.

The BLM posts notices of upcoming oil and gas lease sales and reviews comments and protests from the public prior to the sale. Based on public input, the BLM can choose to offer the parcels, defer them for additional analysis, or offer protested parcels with a notice to lessees that the parcels are under protest.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: May 1, 2008

Contact: Mel Lloyd, 970-244-3097

Leaving horses on public lands is not only inhumane, it's illegal

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management is seeing an increase in the abandonment of domestic horses on the 36,000-acre Little Book Cliffs (LBC) Wild Horse Range, located north of Grand Junction. Abandoning any kind of animal—large or small—on public lands is not only inhumane; it's illegal and punishable by state and federal law. The BLM is responsible for managing approximately 29,000 wild horses nationwide. Locally, the Grand Junction Field Office manages up to 150 of these wild horses on public lands designated specifically for that purpose.

"If you find that you can't take care of your horse or no longer want it, please don't abandon it on public lands," said Wild Horse Specialist Jim Dollerschell. "Domestic horses are not adapted to the rugged terrain or to foraging for food in the harsh desert, and chances of a slow and painful death are high."

Wild horses will typically ostracize and fight off horses that are unfamiliar to their band, increasing the odds for injury to animals. More importantly, domestic horses can introduce disease to a wild horse herd, increasing the risk of a catastrophic die-off of the herd. Dealing with abandoned animals diverts BLM resources away from the wild horses they are tasked with managing.

Please act responsibly and humanely in caring for your own animals. If you are struggling with adequate care of large animals, don't wait until you are faced with no options. Place an ad in your local paper to find another owner. If it is an older animal with health issues, have it humanely euthanized. While most rescue organizations in the country are overwhelmed with too many unwanted horses, you can try researching organizations online that are still accepting animals. If you haven't made the

decision yet to own a horse, be aware that having one is a long-term commitment and represents a significant financial obligation. Educate yourself before you take on the responsibility of owning a horse.

For further information on the management of wild horses, contact BLM Wild Horse Specialist Jim Dollerschell at (970) 244-3016.

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