
The Bureau of Land Management has resumed its sales of wild horses and burros affected by a new Federal law after revising its bill of sale and pre-sale negotiation procedures, BLM Director Kathleen Clarke announced May 19. These changes seek to strengthen the agency's efforts in finding good homes for the animals that must be sold. The BLM has also contacted all three U.S. horse processing plants in an effort to restrict the possibility that BLM freeze-branded horses sold under the new law (Public Law 108-447) would be received or processed by those plants. The Director's May 19 announcement ended the Bureau's temporary suspension of sales, which took effect April 25, 2005, in response to two incidents involving the commercial processing of horses that had been re-sold or traded after being bought from the BLM.

Director Clarke noted that Ford Motor Company and Take Pride in America, a national partnership program, have teamed to support the Bureau in its efforts to place in good homes the animals that must be sold. "Our agency is committed to the well-being of wild horses and burros, both on and off the range," Director Clarke said. "With this support from Ford and Take Pride in America, the BLM will be able to carry out the will of Congress while finding good homes for wild horses and burros, which are a treasured symbol of the Western spirit and an icon of American freedom."

For information about the BLM-Ford-Take Pride in America joint effort, called "Save the Mustangs," please visit: <http://web.archive.org/web/20051028022548/http://www.savethemustangs.org/>



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 - [BLM Announces First Sale of Wild Horses under New Law](#) (3/1/05)
- Photo Gallery
 - [Photographs of some of the two hundred horses sold to Wild Horses Wyoming](#), which is committed to the long-term care of these animals. For full details of this sale -- the first conducted by the BLM under its new sale authority -- see the [news release](#).

If you are interested in buying a wild horse or burro for long-term care, please call us toll-free at 1-800-710-7597 or e-mail us at wildhorse@blm.gov.

The BLM is committed to our Adoption Program, which is unchanged by the new law and will remain separate from the new sale authority program. Additional information on adoption events around the country can be found at <http://web.archive.org/web/20051028022548/http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov/>.

Last updated: 03/02/05

Implementation of New Wild Horse and Burro Authority as Directed by Congress

The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of implementing legislation recently passed by Congress. The legislation directs the BLM to offer for sale those wild horses and burros that are more than 10 years old or have been unsuccessfully offered for adoption at least three times. We estimate that there are about 8,400 animals affected by this [new law](#).

The BLM is working expeditiously to carry out the intent of Congress under the new law. We are also committed to our core mission of finding homes for these animals or alternative long-term care. We are appealing to interested groups, organizations and their membership, as well as the general public, to help us in this effort of finding homes for these animals.

In our efforts to place affected wild horses and burros in good care, we have been contacting various



groups and organizations that may be interested in acquiring them. These contacts include wild horse and burro advocacy groups, Indian Tribes, and humane organizations. We are appealing to communities and the general public for help in finding homes for these animals as we work to meet the challenges we face in implementing the new law.

The BLM remains totally committed to its [wild horse and burro adoption program](#), which was unchanged by the new law and will be kept separate from the new sale authority contained in the new legislation. Because these two programs are separate and different, the BLM will not be offering any animals for sale at its scheduled adoptions.

If you are interested in buying a wild horse or burro, or if you have any questions about the BLM's new sale authority, please call us toll-free at: 1-800-710-7597, or e-mail us at: wildhorse@blm.gov.

For more information, please read:

- [Fact Sheet](#) (DEAD LINK)
- [Questions & Answers](#) (DEAD LINK)

BLM STATEMENT April 22, 2005

The Bureau of Land Management has learned that six wild horses sold under the new sale authority have been sent to a commercial processing plant. According to BLM records, the wild horses were sold on April 15, 2005, with the understanding that they would go to a good home.

"I am extremely disappointed. We have been diligent and sincere in our efforts to find good homes offering long-term care for these horses. However, we have no control over the horses after they're sold," said BLM Director Kathleen Clarke.

The BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Group Manager Jeff Rawson reaffirmed the bureau's commitment.

"When we suspected that an individual would not or could not provide long-term care for the horses, we did not sell them," Rawson said.

The individual who purchased the horses that were resold had assured the BLM that they were going to a good home.

Under the new law, once horses are sold, they are no longer protected under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

Since March 2005, the BLM has sold and delivered 992 animals. An additional 950 have been sold pending delivery. The new law directs the BLM to sell animals over 10 years old or that have been offered unsuccessfully for adoption three or more times.

Bureau of Land Management For Immediate Release: Monday, April 4, 2005	Contacts: Tom Gorey (202) 452-5137	Celia Boddington (202) 452-5128
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BLM SELLS 30 WILD HORSES TO CATTLE RANCHER

“They are unique – tough, sure-footed, and when you make a friend with a mustang, you’ve got a friend for life.”

-- Florida Cattle Rancher Larry Jones

The Bureau of Land Management today announced that it is selling 30 wild horses to a Florida cattle rancher who will provide long-term care for the mustangs on his 1,000-acre ranch.

Larry Jones, who owns and operates the Sarasota-area LB Ranch, is buying 16 mares and 14 geldings from the BLM under a new law passed by Congress.

“Our agency is delighted to announce this sale to Mr. Jones, a rancher whose love for mustangs has led him to provide a home for 30 wild horses. The BLM encourages other ranchers who are interested in providing long-term care to consider buying wild horses available for sale,” BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said.

Jones and his wife, Barbara, run more than 500 cattle on their ranch. He says he has loved mustangs since he was a young man.

“I’ve spent a lot of time with them,” Jones said. “They taught me how to be a cowboy. They are unique – tough, sure-footed, and when you make a friend with a mustang, you’ve got a friend for life.”

The BLM has sold, or is completing the sales of, more than 1,400 wild horses under a law (Section 142 of Public Law 108-447) that took effect in December 2004. This law directs the Bureau to sell wild horses and burros that are more than 10 years old, or those that have failed to be adopted at least three times. About 8,400 BLM-managed animals became eligible for sale under the new criteria. The sales do not affect BLM’s thriving adoption program.

Jones, a member of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association, plans to keep 20 of the wild horses and offer the other 10 for sale to other Florida ranchers or others who are willing and able to provide long-term care. Jones said he will require any buyer to sign a contract calling for humane treatment of the animal; if he is not convinced of the buyer’s intentions, Jones said he will keep the horse on his ranch, which he has owned for more than 20 years.

Jones said he hopes his purchase will create interest among his fellow cattlemen. “If ranchers have the available land and forage, they should consider buying some of the mustangs that the Bureau must sell,” Jones said. “Those who do will be adding to their ranching experience while giving horses a good home.”

The Bureau’s wild horse sales, all of which have been negotiated with buyers committed to long-term care of the animals, have included more than 600 horses to two Indian Tribes in the Dakotas; 200 to a company based in Wyoming; and 13 to a wild horse rescue group in California.

The BLM is urging ranchers, Tribes, wild horse advocacy groups, and humane organizations – as well as the general public – to help the agency find good homes for those horses affected by the new law. The Bureau’s toll-free number for those interested in buying a wild horse or burro is 1-800-710-7597. Interested groups or individuals may also contact the BLM at a new e-mail

address: wildhorse@blm.gov.

Last updated: 03/21/05

Bureau of Land Management For Immediate Release: Monday, March 21, 2005	Contacts: Tom Gorey (202) 452-5137	Celia Boddington (202) 452-5128
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BLM Announces First Sale of Wild Horses to Tribes under New Law

The Bureau of Land Management today announced that it is selling more than 500 wild horses to two Indian Tribes in the Dakotas under a new law passed by Congress. The BLM has sold 141 wild horses (105 mares and 36 studs) to the Rosebud Sioux of South Dakota and 120 horses (96 mares and 24 studs) to the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota. Completion of other sales to these Tribes will take place over the next several weeks.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said, "As the BLM implements the new sale-authority legislation passed by Congress, we are pleased to announce our first sales to Tribes. We look forward to completing more sales with Tribes and all others interested in providing long-term care for the wild horses affected by the new sale-authority law."

The Bureau carried out its first sale of wild horses – 200 mares to a Wyoming-based company – on March 1 under legislation recently passed by Congress. This measure, which became law in December 2004 (Section 142 of Public Law 108-447), directs the BLM to sell those wild horses and burros that are more than 10 years old or have been unsuccessfully offered for adoption at least three times. About 8,400 BLM-managed animals became eligible for sale under these criteria.

"I urge horse advocacy groups, humane organizations, and more Tribes – as well as the general public – to help the BLM find good homes for those horses affected by the new law," said Director Clarke. The Bureau has set up a toll-free number for those interested in buying a wild horse or burro (1-800-710-7597). Interested groups or individuals may also contact the BLM at a new e-mail address regarding the purchase of wild horses and burros (wildhorse@blm.gov).

There are about 37,000 wild horses and burros roaming on public lands managed by the BLM in 10 Western states. Wild horses and burros have virtually no natural predators and their herd sizes on the range can double about every five years. As a result, the current free-roaming population exceeds by some 9,000 the number that BLM-managed rangelands can sustain. The Bureau has determined – on the basis of its analysis of rangeland conditions – that 28,000 is the number of wild horses and burros that BLM-managed rangelands can support in balance with other resources and other approved uses of the public lands.

Federal law authorizes the BLM to remove wild horses and burros from the range to control herd sizes; those animals removed are cared for in holding facilities and thousands are placed into private ownership through adoption each year. Since 1973, the BLM's adoption program has put more than 203,000 animals into private care. Currently there are about 24,000 wild horses and burros cared for

in short-term facilities in the West and long-term facilities in the Midwest.

The cost of holding and caring for wild horses and burros in both short- and long-term facilities is projected to be about \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2005, which will be more than half of what the agency expects to spend on the wild horse and burro program in the current fiscal year. The cost of caring for and feeding a wild horse in a long-term facility is about \$465 per animal per year.

The BLM manages wild horses and burros under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Congress has amended this law three times – in 1976, 1978 and most recently in December 2004, when it directed the BLM to sell wild horses and burros meeting the law’s newly established sale criteria. The BLM remains fully committed to its adoption program, which it will keep separate from its new sale-authority program. Thus, the Bureau will not be selling wild horses and burros at any of its adoptions.

The BLM 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

Last updated: 03/09/05

Bureau of Land Management For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 9, 2005	Contacts: Tom Gorey (202) 452-5137 Celia Boddington (202) 452-5128
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BLM Announces Sale of Wild Horses to Horse Group in California

Bureau of Land Management Director Kathleen Clarke today announced a sale of 13 wild horses to Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue, a California-based group dedicated to wild horse protection. The wild horses, all mares, were sold under a new law (Section 142 of Public Law 108-447) that Congress passed in December 2004. The new law directs the BLM to sell wild horses and burros that are more than 10 years old or have been unsuccessfully offered for adoption at least three times. The BLM announced its first sale of wild horses on March 1; that sale involved 200 mares and went to Wild Horses Wyoming, LLC, a southeastern Wyoming company committed to wild horse preservation.

“The BLM is committed to finding long-term care for wild horses and burros affected by the new law,” said Director Clarke. “We are so pleased that groups committed to caring for these animals are stepping forward. We are reaching out to other groups and people who want to care for horses.” Clarke noted that other sales are pending and will be announced in the near future.

Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue has also recently adopted foals born to two of the horses sold as part

of this sale. Jill Starr, President of Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue, based in Lancaster, California, said, "I am thankful that the BLM is offering opportunities for the sale-mandated horses to be placed in caring homes and safe sanctuaries. They are making efforts beyond what the new law requires, which proves the BLM is really trying to help horses. I am pleased to be able to offer sanctuary for some of the horses and their foals, and I wish we could do more."

The Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue ranch comprises 46 acres and supports more than 130 wild horses. The group, which operates on contributions from the public, is also developing 160 acres in Twin Oaks, California, which will become the "Born to be Wild" natural habitat sanctuary for rescued mustangs.

The BLM manages wild horses and burros under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act. Federal law authorizes the BLM to remove wild horses and burros from the range to control herd sizes; those animals removed are cared for in short- and long-term holding facilities and thousands are placed into private ownership through adoption each year. Since 1973, the BLM's adoption program has put more than 203,000 animals into private care. Currently there are about 24,000 wild horses and burros cared for in short-term facilities in the West and long-term facilities in the Midwest.

There are about 37,000 wild horses and burros on public lands managed by the BLM in 10 Western states. The Bureau has determined – on the basis of its analysis of rangeland conditions – that 28,000 is the number of wild horses and burros that BLM-managed rangelands can support in balance with other resources and other approved uses of the public lands. Wild horses and burros have virtually no natural predators and their herd sizes on the range can double about every five years. As a result, the current free-roaming population exceeds by some 9,000 the number that BLM-managed rangelands can sustain.

The cost of holding and caring for wild horses and burros in both short- and long-term facilities is projected to be about \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2005, which will be more than half of what the agency expects to spend on the wild horse and burro program in the current fiscal year. The cost of caring for and feeding a wild horse in a long-term facility is about \$465 per animal per year.

The BLM has set up a toll-free number for those interested in buying a wild horse or burro (1-800-710-7597). Interested groups or individuals may also contact the Bureau at a new e-mail address regarding the purchase of wild horses or burros (wildhorse@blm.gov).

The BLM 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

Bureau of Land Management
For Immediate Release: Tuesday, March 1, 2005

[Fact Sheet](#)
[Questions & Answers](#)

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BLM Announces First Sale of Wild Horses under New Law

The Bureau of Land Management has carried out its first sale of wild horses – 200 mares to a Wyoming-based company – under legislation recently passed by Congress. The new sale authority (Section 142 of Public Law 108-447), which became law in December 2004, directs the BLM to offer for sale those wild horses and burros that are more than 10 years old or have been unsuccessfully offered for adoption at least three times. The agency estimates that about 8,400 animals are affected by the new law.

“As we implement the new sale-authority legislation passed by Congress, we are committed to finding long-term care for these wild horses and burros,” said BLM Director Kathleen Clarke. “We are working to place as many of these animals as we can in good homes, and we are appealing to wild horse advocacy groups, Indian Tribes, and humane organizations, as well as the general public, to help us in this effort.”

The 200 mares were sold to Wild Horses Wyoming, LLC, a southeastern Wyoming company committed to protecting wild horses. Ron Hawkins, ranch operations partner in the Wyoming company, said, “I’m very pleased and proud that Wild Horses Wyoming is the BLM’s first buyer of wild horses under the legislation recently passed by Congress. Our company is committed to the long-term care of these historic animals, and I urge the public to support us in our efforts to ensure good homes for those horses facing an uncertain future under the new law.”

There are about 37,000 wild horses and burros roaming on public lands managed by the BLM in 10 Western states. Wild horses and burros have virtually no natural predators and their herd sizes on the range can double about every five years. As a result, the current free-roaming population exceeds by some 9,000 the number that BLM-managed rangelands can sustain. The Bureau has determined – on the basis of its analysis of rangeland conditions – that 28,000 is the number of wild horses and burros that BLM-managed rangelands can support in balance with other resources and other approved uses of the public lands.

Federal law authorizes the BLM to remove wild horses and burros from the range to control herd sizes; those animals removed are cared for in holding facilities and thousands are placed into private ownership through adoption each year. Since 1973, the BLM’s adoption program has put more than 203,000 animals into private care. Currently there are about 24,000 wild horses and burros cared for in short-term facilities in the West and long-term facilities in the Midwest.

The cost of holding and caring for wild horses and burros in both short- and long-term facilities is projected to be about \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2005, which will be more than half of what the agency expects to spend on the wild horse and burro program in the current fiscal year. The cost of

caring for and feeding a wild horse in a long-term facility is about \$465 per animal per year.

The BLM manages wild horses and burros under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Congress has amended this law three times – in 1976, 1978 and most recently in December 2004, when it directed the BLM to sell wild horses and burros meeting the law's sale criteria. The BLM remains fully committed to its adoption program, which it will keep separate from its new sale-authority program. Thus, the Bureau will not be selling wild horses and burros at any of its adoptions.

Director Clarke noted that the BLM has set up a toll-free number for those interested in buying a wild horse or burro (1-800-710-7597). Interested groups or individuals may also contact the Bureau at a new e-mail address regarding the purchase of wild horses and burros (wildhorse@blm.gov).

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Last updated: 04/15/05

PICTURES OF HORSES SOLD TO WILD HORSES WYOMING

Photography Credit: Rick Carpenter

Photographs of some of the two hundred horses sold to Wild Horses Wyoming, which is committed to the long-term care of these animals.

For full details of this sale -- the first conducted by the BLM under its new sale authority -- see the [news release](#).

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