



October 1979 - March 1980

Updated Population Estimates

In January 1980, the Bureau updated its 1978 estimates of the wild horse and burro populations by state. Adjustments in numbers reflect the effects of roundups, normal population increases, and improved inventory data. Horse numbers decreased slightly, while the burro estimates were increased. Part of the decrease in the numbers of horses can be attributed to the success of the adoption program in removing excess animals. The burro numbers reflect upward adjustments in California's estimate. California's burro population was increased by more than 60%, based on revised estimates developed in the California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

Following is a summary of the 1980 wild horse and burro population estimates by state:

<u>State</u>	<u>Wild Horses</u>	<u>Wild Burros</u>
Arizona	125	5,000*
California	2,897	6,152
Colorado	1,229	-
Idaho	935	16
Montana	232	-
Nevada	31,260	939
New Mexico	76	31
Oregon	3,458	20
Utah	1,714	13
Wyoming	<u>10,448</u>	-
	52,374	<u>12,171</u>

\* Includes 800 burros in California, managed by Arizona.

Management

Colorado's State Director has submitted a proposal to designate a horse range in the Grand Junction District. The proposed area, Bookcliff Wild Horse Range, encompasses nearly 30,000 acres and about 100 horses will be maintained there. The current population is 85 horses. A decision on the designation is expected by fall.

Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah are developing 12 wild horse and burro management plans: six are interim action plans and the other six are for long-term herd management based on land use plans.

### Gathering

During the first six months of Fiscal Year 1980, more than 4,800 horses and 600 burros were captured. Most of the gatherings were implementing plans which identified an over-population of animals in herd areas. About 430 horses were captured because they had strayed onto nearby private lands. Another 35 horses were privately owned and in trespass on public lands.

Removals by state between October 1979 and April 1980 were:

<u>State</u>	<u>Wild Horses</u>	<u>Wild Burros</u>
Arizona	13	233
California	493	370
Colorado	110	-
Idaho	153	-
Montana	26	-
Nevada	2,310	10
Oregon	774	-
Utah	19	-
Wyoming	973	-
	<u>4,871</u>	<u>613</u>

### Adoption Program

Because the Bureau revised its wild horse and burro regulations in January, the forms and procedures for adoption had to be updated. The regulations strengthened the penalties for abuse, sale or neglect of adopted animals and restricted the number of horses or burros which could be adopted by applicants. Screening procedures for determining the qualifications of potential adopters have been updated. A copy of the instruction memorandum describing the procedures is attached.

Since the program began, more than 19,500 animals have been adopted. The animals are located in the following BLM jurisdictional areas:

Alaska	7	Montana (N. & S. Dakota)	552
Arizona	486	New Mexico ( Okla. & Texas)	3,149
California	3,424	Oregon (Washington)	3,639
Colorado	884	Utah	939
Idaho	1,219	Wyoming (Kans. & Nebr.)	1,235
Nevada	830	Eastern States - All States east of the Mississippi River, plus Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Louisiana.	3,212

During the first half of Fiscal Year 1980, about 4,000 horses and 500 burros were adopted. Bureau - contracted distribution centers in Eugene, Oregon; Cross Plains, Tennessee; Valley Mills, Texas; and Spanaway, Washington accounted for more than 1,740 of the animals adopted. The Oregon and Washington centers opened in October and December, respectively.

#### Compliance/Enforcement

Nearly 1,200 adopted horses and burros were checked by Bureau officials to determine if the adopters were providing proper care and facilities. As a result of these checks, 28 animals were repossessed. An additional 86 animals were returned by the adopters who were no longer able to care for them.

Formal investigations involving 363 horses and 16 burros are underway. (An investigation is conducted when the Bureau suspects violations of the law or its regulations.) About half of the investigations concern illegal gatherings and harassment. Suspected sale and abuse violations involve 187 horses and 4 burros, and prosecution is pending in 6 of the cases.

#### Title Transfers

Application forms and title certificates are being printed and the Bureau is gearing up for a new milestone in the program. We estimate that slightly more than 60% of the adopters are eligible to apply for titles for their animals. Procedures for processing applications have been developed. Adopters will apply to the Bureau State Office having jurisdiction for their state of residence.

#### Research

A contract has been awarded to Colorado State University for one of the wild horse and burro studies recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Entitled "Food Consumption Rates and Nutrition of Horses and Cattle", the study will determine 1) seasonal diets; 2) daily intake in relation to an animal's size and physiological state (e.g., pregnant, lactating, etc.) and the types of forage available; and 3) the nutritional value of the diet related to the animal's demands, which are affected by season, types and amounts of forage available.

A contract covering two additional NAS - designed studies will be issued by June.

### Public Information and Involvement Activities

Public meetings in Arizona, California, Montana, Nevada and Wyoming were held to review horse and burro management proposals and to discuss capture methods used in roundups. Colorado and Utah personnel met with representatives of horse and burro advocate groups to discuss the Bureau's program. Bureau employees in several states gave talks to numerous civic groups and classes.

Bureau corrals in Nevada and Oregon were visited by a number of schoolchildren, civic groups and organizations, who were interested in the wild horse and burro program. Eastern States' public information staff were active in publicizing the adoption program and the availability of horses and burros in the southeast.

### Wild Horse and Burro Staff

John Boyles was selected in February as the Chief of the Division of Wild Horses and Burros. He was the Las Vegas, Nevada District Manager. Wild horse and burro specialist Terry Plummer (from BLM's Riverside, California District) has joined the Division of Rangeland Management's staff. The two divisions work together closely to coordinate on-the-ground management, roundups and the adoption program.

The Bureau's state office wild horse and burro program coordinators include:

Arizona State Office	Vince Ogurek
California State Office	Milt Frei
Colorado State Office	Robert Alexander
Eastern State Office	Don Kellogg
Idaho State Office	Lanny Wilson
Montana State Office	Dwayne Whitmer
Nevada State Office	Dave Goigoechea, acting
New Mexico State Office	Bill Sharp
Oregon State Office	Larry Lee
Utah State Office	Ken Boyer
Wyoming State Office	Roger Mertens

Only the Eastern States, Nevada and Oregon coordinators are assigned full-time to the wild horse and burro program. In the other State Offices, the coordinators are also responsible for the range management program as well.





## United States Department of the Interior

4700 (440)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

April 15, 1980

Instruction Memorandum No. 80-450  
Expires 9/30/81

To: All State Directors

From: Director

Subject: Procedures for Screening Adopters of Excess Wild Horses  
and Burros

The following policies and procedures for screening wild horse and burro adoption applicants are effective immediately.

The procedures are to be followed at all permanent Bureau placement centers; Bureau-operated satellite centers (temporary adoption locations operated by Bureau personnel and located in areas not serviced by permanent centers); and contract distribution centers. Screening will be done by Bureau employees knowledgeable about Bureau policies and procedures; and qualified by education, experience and/or training to evaluate the applicant's qualifications.

Adoption Eligibility

- A. Each applicant must be of legal age in his/her State of residence; have adequate facilities and abilities to care for the adopted animal(s); and not have been convicted of abuse or inhumane treatment of animal(s).
- B. Applicants are to be limited, normally, to adopting (4) animals per year. Applicants requesting more than four (4) animals must provide acceptable justification for their need of the additional animals. More than four (4) animals per year may be adopted if the State Director having jurisdiction over the applicant's residence gives written approval for the adoption after the authorized officer determines that the applicant is capable of humanely transporting and caring for additional animals. The basis for such determination is described in Screening Procedures (B), below.
- C. The authorized officer must check applicant's name and number of animals requested against the master list of Cooperative Agreements (Form 4710-9) maintained by the Denver Service Center to determine that applicant's yearly total adoptions do not exceed four (4) animals.

## Screening Procedures

### A. Routine Screening

The authorized officer will screen applicants in person and/or by telephone, using the attached outline (Enclosure 1), and applying his/her judgment and experience in evaluating the qualifications of the applicant. The authorized officer may request additional information from and about the applicant, if appropriate, but the information on Enclosure 1 must be obtained.

If, on the basis of the applicant's responses, the facilities and capabilities appear suitable, the adoption may be authorized and an appointment to pick up the animal(s) made. The applicant's responses to the screening must be documented in writing and attached to the Bureau's copy of the signed Cooperative Agreement. At the time the Agreement is signed, the applicant's responses should be reconfirmed and the adoption restrictions and responsibilities restated by the authorized officer. The authorized officer will remind the applicant that fraudulent certification regarding qualifications (including any past conviction for inhumane treatment of animals) is a criminal offense. Such certification is required on the revised adoption application form (Enclosure 5). The authorized officer will inform the applicant that compliance checks of adopters are routinely made by a Bureau official or humane representative acting on the Bureau's behalf.

### B. Screening for Five or More Animals

In unusual circumstances, adoptions of more than four animals may be allowed only after the authorized officer:

- 1) carries out normal screening:
- 2) at the Bureau's expense, makes an on-site inspection of applicant's facilities;
- 3) determines the applicant is financially capable of supporting the animals;
- 4) receives confirmation from local humane and law enforcement officials regarding applicant's qualifications; and
- 5) receives the written approval of the State Director having jurisdiction over the area where the animals will be located.

### C. Screening for Power of Attorney (POA) Adoptions

Power of Attorney (POA) adoptions are not encouraged. However, requests by applicants to share pro-rated transportation and travel costs may be considered, if their locations are not readily accessible to an adoption center. Approvals shall also be based on the lack of future availability of animals for adoption in such areas (e.g., no Bureau-operated satellite or contract center scheduled for a nearby location within the following 12 month period).

Procedures for screening POA applicants are outlined in Enclosure 2. The format for Power of Attorney is attached (Enclosure 3).

### D. Screening of On-Site Adoption Applicants

On-site adoptions are strictly limited to a last resort alternative and can be made at Bureau-operated satellite or contract centers only. This alternative is to be used when the adoption center is located at some distance from the Bureau's permanent western centers and returning the remaining animals to such centers would be too costly. Under no circumstances can on-site adoptions be authorized at permanent Bureau facilities.

On-site applications can be accepted, only after all of the following conditions have been met:

#### Satellite Centers

1. No shipments of animals to satellite centers will be made until all animals are scheduled for adoption by applicants approved under normal screening procedures.
2. Additional standby applicants shall be screened under the normal process in case scheduled adopters do not appear. Standby adopters will be allowed a reasonable time to appear at the satellite location.
3. When the list of all previously screened applicants is exhausted, on-site adoptions may be considered as a final alternative to having a few animals remaining at the closing of a satellite center.
4. Use of on-site applicants must be approved by the Bureau State Office having jurisdiction over the applicant's residence. Actual screening responsibility may be delegated by the jurisdiction office to the Bureau official in charge of the satellite center.

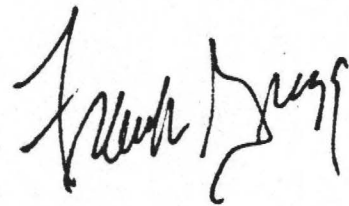


Contract Distribution Centers

1. Animals must have been available for adoption at the center for a minimum of thirty (30) days and not have been accepted by previously screened applicants.

2. The Bureau State Office responsible for the center can elect to accept on-site applicants (if qualified) for animals which would otherwise be destroyed at the end of forty-five (45) days.

Procedures for On-Site Adoptions are outlined on Enclosure 4.



5 Enclosures

- Encl. 1 - Procedures for Screening Adoption Applicants
- Encl. 2 - Procedures for Power of Attorney Adoptions
- Encl. 3 - Power of Attorney (format)
- Encl. 4 - Procedures for On-Site Adoptions
- Encl. 5 - Application for Adoption of Wild Horses and Burros

PROCEDURES FOR SCREENING ADOPTION APPLICANTS

1. Have you ever adopted wild horses/burros before? How many? When? Where are they now? (Verify with the Denver Service Center Adoption Records)
2. What sex and age range of animal(s) would you like? (Are you willing to accept a stud(s) or older animal(s) now, rather than wait for your preference?)
3. Are you aware of the \$ \_\_\_\_\_ fee for each animal? The fee includes: (describe in detail veterinarian fees, brand inspection fee, transportation fee, etc.)
4. Do you realize the animal(s) is wild and must be trained? Will you train the animal(s) yourself? If not, who will?
5. What previous experience have you had with horses/burros? Have you ever been convicted of inhumane treatment or abuse of animals?
6. How do you intend to use the animal(s)?
7. Describe in detail the corrals and facilities where the animal(s) will be kept. (Materials, size, height, pasture, shelter, etc.)
8. If the animal(s) will be boarded, give name and address of the facility. Does the owner understand the horse/burro is wild?
9. Describe your feeding and watering plans for the animal(s). Are BLM or Forest Service lands adjacent to or involved with the feeding plan?
10. Do you have access to a veterinarian for medical care and advice? (Name, address).
11. Are you aware of your state's requirements for health certificates, blood tests and/or inoculations of animal(s) being imported into your area? You must insure that the required procedures are followed for your animal(s).
12. Describe the trailer/truck you intend to use for transporting the animal(s) from the adoption center.
13. Are you aware of the costs of maintaining a horse/burro? (Describe applicant's responsibility for all expenses incurred for the adopted animal(s).)
14. Wild horses and burros are protected by federal law from harassment, commercial exploitation and inhumane treatment. Prior to obtaining title you cannot:

(Cite prohibited acts in Section 4760.2 of 43 CFR 4700.)

15. If you decide to transfer the adopted animal(s) or are unable to keep it, you must: (describe procedure of notifying nearest BLM office - give name and address; have new adopter file application; note that these procedures are outlined in the Cooperative Agreement which he/she will be required to sign).
16. Under recent amendments to the law, you may apply for title to your animal(s), after 1 year of proper treatment. Until title is received, the animal(s) remains under the protection and ownership of the U.S. Government. The title application process will operate in the following manner:
  1. BLM will send the title application to you after one year.
  2. A veterinarian must check the animal(s) and submit a written certification that the animal(s) receives proper care.
  3. Title will be issued by the Bureau of Land Management if the formal application requirements are met.

PROCEDURES FOR POWER OF ATTORNEY ADOPTIONS

1. When a request for Power of Attorney (POA) adoption is received by a Bureau Placement Center (e.g., Palomino Valley, Rock Springs, Susanville), the Center's manager will immediately notify the BLM State Office (and District Office(s), where appropriate) having jurisdiction over the State where the potential adopter(s) resides, for approval of the POA adoption request.
2. Each applicant and the applicant's representative will be screened by telephone by the responsible Bureau official, from the office of jurisdiction, or from the Placement Center, if delegated by the office of jurisdiction.
3. A power of attorney form (see Encl. 3) will be sent to each applicant by the Bureau officer completing the screening.
4. The screening officer will notify the Placement Center when the applicant(s) are approved or disapproved.
5. Applicant(s) must submit a desired adoption date; transportation plan (including hauling equipment, rest stops, halters to be provided, etc.); and distribution plan.
6. When the applicant(s) are approved, a copy of their adoption date, transportation plan (including resting stops, etc.) and distribution plan will be provided by the Placement Center to the BLM office of jurisdiction.
7. Copies of Cooperative Agreements will be provided immediately to the office of jurisdiction. The Cooperative Agreements will state under the heading, Notes, the NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER of the BLM office of jurisdiction.
8. The BLM office of jurisdiction will mail a letter to each adopter within one (1) month to restate the prohibited acts, BLM jurisdiction office, and transfer procedures.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

State of \_\_\_\_\_:  
County of \_\_\_\_\_:

Know all men by these presents, that I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
the undersigned, of \_\_\_\_\_, City of \_\_\_\_\_,  
County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby make,  
constitute, and appoint \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, City of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_,  
State of \_\_\_\_\_, my true and lawful attorney in fact for me and  
in my name, place, and stead, and on my behalf, and for my use and benefits:

1. To exercise or perform any act, power, duty, right, or obligation whatsoever that I now have, or may hereafter acquire, arising from, or relating to the adoption of a wild horse or burro under the Adopt-a-Horse program of the Bureau of Land Management under the Act of December 15, 1971, 16 U.S.C. §1331, et seq., as amended; and, applicable regulations found in 43 C.F.R. 4700.

2. To select, choose, pick, receive, and hold and possess a wild horse or burro for me and in my stead, and deliver to me, on my behalf, and in my name, a wild horse or burro so selected;

3. To conduct, engage in, and transact, any and all shipments of said wild horse or burro, in my behalf, and in my name;

4. I grant every proper power necessary to carry out the purposes for which this power is granted, including the signing of the Cooperative Agreement between myself and the Bureau of Land Management, with full power of substitution and revocation, hereby ratifying and affirming that which \_\_\_\_\_ or his substitute shall lawfully do or cause to be done to himself or his substitute lawfully designated by virtue of the power herein conferred upon him.

5. This instrument is to be construed and interpreted as a general power of attorney. The enumeration of specific items, rights, acts, or powers herein is not intended to, nor does it, limit or restrict, and is not to be construed or interpreted as limiting or restricting, the general powers herein granted to said attorney in fact.

6. The rights, powers, and authority of said attorney in fact herein granted shall commence and be in full force and effect on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, and such rights, powers, and authority shall remain in full force and effect thereafter until \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, personally appeared before me \_\_\_\_\_, to me known to be the individual, or individuals, described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledge that \_\_\_\_\_ signed the same as \_\_\_\_\_ free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the  
State of \_\_\_\_\_  
Residing at \_\_\_\_\_  
My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCEDURES FOR ON-SITE ADOPTIONS

### EACH POTENTIAL ON-SITE ADOPTER MUST:

1. Be from local area.
2. Complete an application form (4710-10).
3. Be approved by the Bureau official, having jurisdiction over the applicant's State of residence.
4. Qualify by appropriate responses to Bureau screening questions (Encl. 1). A copy of the completed screening information must be attached to the Bureau's copy of the Cooperative Agreement.
5. Have facilities and personal character (as related to financial and physical capabilities to properly maintain an adopted animal(s)) approved by a local humane organization representative; veterinarian; sheriff; and/or contract distribution center manager. Those individuals must approve such adopter (s) based on personal knowledge of the applicant and his/her facilities. The approval must also include a declaration by the local authorities that the applicant(s) has not been convicted of, or known to, abuse animals under his/her ownership or care. Such statements of approval must be documented in writing and attached to the official Bureau copy of the Cooperative Agreement.
6. Select from animals which have been available for adoption at contract centers for at least thirty (30) days or animal(s) available on the last day of a satellite center operation.
7. Be provided a copy of the Prohibited Acts, if the adoption is approved by the Bureau screening official.

Cooperative Agreements issued to on-site adopters will be immediately provided to the BLM office of jurisdiction and noted that application and approval was on-site.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 42-R1749

**APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION OF WILD HORSE(S) OR BURRO(S)**

(Act of December 15, 1971 (85 Stat. 649), as amended by P.L. 95-514)

1. Name Last First M.I.

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2. Street Street

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3. City, State, and Zip Code City State Zip Code

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4. Home phone (include area code) 5. Business phone (include area code)

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6. Animals desired for adoption (maximum of four per year)

HORSES				BURROS			
MALES <i>(number desired)</i>		FEMALES <i>(number desired)</i>		MALES <i>(number desired)</i>		FEMALES <i>(number desired)</i>	
MINIMUM AGE	MAXIMUM AGE	MINIMUM AGE	MAXIMUM AGE	MINIMUM AGE	MAXIMUM AGE	MINIMUM AGE	MAXIMUM AGE
to		to		to		to	

7. What kind of facility and pasture do you have? Describe shelter, number of acres owned, or leased.

8. Are you aware that you are responsible for the welfare of the animal(s)?  Yes  No

9. Do you plan to rent boarding facilities for the animal(s)?  Yes  No (If "yes," furnish facility address, phone number, and concurrence.)

(Signature of Facility Owner)

10. Do you have adequate hay or means to provide hay during winter or when pastures are inadequate to maintain animal(s)?  Yes  No

11. To which State(s) will you be willing to travel to pick up the animal(s) desired. (Check appropriate box)
- |                                     |                                  |                                     |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona    | <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho   | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon     | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Eastern States |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee  | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Plains States  |

Note: In addition to the States listed above, animals may be available less frequently in various areas of other Eastern or Plains States.

I CERTIFY That I meet all qualifications listed on the reverse for adopting wild horses or burros

Signature (Applicant)	Date	Driver's license no.  State issued
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Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001, makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representation as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

(Instructions on reverse)

## INSTRUCTIONS

Submit to: "Adopt A Horse"  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 25047  
Denver, Colorado 80225

### QUALIFICATIONS

*Each applicant must:*

- be of legal age in his/her State of residence.
- have adequate facilities and abilities to care for the adopted animal(s).
- not have been convicted of abuse or inhumane treatment of animal(s).

### APPLICATION CONDITIONS

1. Approval of this application and subsequent issuance of a Cooperative Agreement for private maintenance of wild horses or burros are subject to the applicable provisions described in the regulations (43 CFR 4700), pursuant to Public Law 92-195 (85 Stat. 649), as amended by Public Law 95-514.
2. Applicants *must* provide or make all arrangements for transporting the animals from the adoption center to their home. Fees for required inspections, medical care, and/or transportation *must* be paid by the applicants.
3. Applicants are limited to adopting no more than four (4) animals per year, under normal circumstances.
4. You are responsible for the health and welfare of animals assigned to you.
5. If you are unable to maintain your adopted animal(s), it is your responsibility to find a new home. However, animals *cannot be transferred, or reassigned* to another person without the written permission of an Authorized Officer of the Bureau of Land Management.
6. It is unlawful to sell or use for commercial exploitation any wild horse or burro or their remains, until title of ownership is transferred from the United State Government by an Authorized Officer of the Bureau of Land Management.

### NOTICE

The Privacy Act of 1974 and the regulation in 43 CFR 2.48(d) provide that you be furnished the following information in connection with information required by this application.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 1333

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: The information is to be used to process your application to obtain custody of wild horses or burros.

ROUTINE USES: (1) The determination of the applicant's right to obtain custody of wild horses and burros. (2) Documentation for public information. (3) Information from the record and/or the record will be transferred to appropriate Federal, State, or local agencies, when relevant to civil, criminal or regulatory investigations or prosecutions.

EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION: Disclosure of the information is voluntary. If all the information is not provided your application may be rejected.