



Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse & Burro Program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chris Tincher
405-790-1009, or cell 405-826-3036

WILD HORSES AND BURROS RETURN TO BEAUMONT

(Beaumont, Texas – March 13-15, 2003). Due to such a favorable response last year, the Bureau of Land Management will once again host a wild horse and burro adoption at the Fairpark Coliseum, in Beaumont, Texas, March 14 and 15.

Last year, all of the animals brought to Beaumont were placed with qualifying adopters. This year, Bob Mitchell, Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, plans to bring 80 wild horses, including 60 yearlings (young horses) with the hopes of having the same success again. Mitchell says, “The Bureau is responsible for managing these animals. Part of that management is finding good homes for animals removed from public lands. Based on our past experience, we think we can find many of those homes in the Beaumont area.”

A special attraction at this event is the availability of six gentled wild horses. Gentled by horse trainer Steve Mantle, these horses are in various stages of training. Through an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, Mantle has gentled wild horses for five years. Mantle will be onsite during the Beaumont adoption. The public is welcome to meet with Mantle and other past adopters to learn first hand about the positive experience gained from caring for a wild horse. Admission is free.

Preview of animals begins Thursday afternoon, March 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. and again on Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The oral competitive bid to adopt a wild horse or burro starts at 10 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday. The minimum bid for any animal is \$125 to qualified individuals. All animals must be picked up by 2 p.m. on Sat. in a pre-approved stock trailer.

To qualify, 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. For more information call the Bureau of Land Management toll free at **1-866-4-Mustangs**, or visit the web site at www.wildhorseandburro.gov. Applications can also be picked up and completed on site during preview hours. Wild Horse and Burro Specialists will be on hand to answer questions and to guide adopters through the adoption process.

2-2-2-2-2 Wild Horses and Burros Available for Adoption 2-2-2-2-2

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau 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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