



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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For Immediate Release
April 22, 2004

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Two Prison Wild Horse Training Programs Receive Prestigious Award

Wild horses – Called Living Legends by Congress – roam our public lands and capture the American spirit like no other animal. Now due to overpopulation, some of these magnificent animals are in search of new homes. But not everyone is equipped to care for a wild horse fresh off the range.

In answer to this dilemma, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) established assistance agreements with several correctional facilities across the United States to gentle and train wild horses. The New Mexico four-state area now boasts of two independent and successful partnerships between correctional facilities in the States of Oklahoma and Kansas.

To recognize the collaborative efforts required to make this possible, the BLM will present the Four Cs Award to the Kansas Correctional Industries (Hutchinson Correctional Facility), in Hutchinson, Kansas and to the James Crabtree Correctional Center, of Helena, Oklahoma. The awards will be presented on April 28th at the Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, located in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, northwest of Tulsa.

The *Four Cs Award* recognizes those within the BLM and outside our agency whose performance exemplifies Secretary Norton's Four Cs philosophy of consultation, cooperation, and communication all in the service of conservation.

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2-2-2-2 Correctional Facilities Recognized for Wild Horse Training Programs 2-2-2-2

Deputy Director Jim Hughes will present the awards on behalf of the BLM. Hughes says “These two partnerships allow for the preservation of public lands, continued care of natural resources, and the ability to bring together wild horses and the American public in a way intended by Congress. In so doing, they also meet all of the components that embody the 4Cs the BLM has come to honor.”

Providing a unique work incentive program, both correctional facilities deliver proven benefits to the Bureau of Land Management, the local community and society at large.

Through these agreements, wild horses available through the Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program are gentled by incarcerated men. Inmates eligible to enter the rehabilitative effort are developing interpersonal skills, learning to function within a structured program, and building valuable vocational abilities. Members of the public qualified to take home one of these gentled wild horses gain a well-trained horse and friend for life.

Established in 1998, the James Crabtree Correctional Center’s training program provides individuals with an opportunity to select and adopt a wild horse to train. The facility has the ability to train 20 wild horses at a time at a cost of \$150 a month per adopted animal (cost incurred by adopter). The level of training varies to include groundwork (gentling), haltering, and saddle-training.

The agreement established through Kansas Correctional Industries, in the year 2001, allows the Hutchinson Correctional Facility to also act as an adoption/training site. The adoption fee for a trained wild horse ranges from \$200 to \$750, depending on the level of training.

For each animal adopted at either facility, \$125 is returned to the BLM’s Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program. To adopt a wild horse, individuals must be pre-approved by the BLM. Both facilities are open by appointment Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on these training programs and other wild horse and burro adoption events, call toll free at **866.4.Mustangs**, or visit the Bureau of Land Management’s website at

www.wildhorseandburro.gov

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming 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 and uses. 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.

-BLM-

Notes to Assignment Editor:

Interviews with BLM-Deputy Director Jim Hughes and representatives of the Correctional Facilities can be arranged.

Directions: From Pawhuska, drive north on Kihekah (at the intersection of Hwy 60). Signs will direct you from this point to the Nature Conservancy's Headquarters.

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