



# NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE ■ 1474 RODEO RD ■ SANTA FE NM 87505

Hans Stuart ■ Public Affairs Chief ■ 505.438.7510

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Debbie Collins**

918.621.4145

918.625.5292

**Danita Burns**

505.761.8713

## **NATIVE WILD HORSES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION IN SOCORRO**

**(Socorro– Aug 28)** Strong – Proud – Symbolic of New Mexico’s Heritage – 32 wild horses are heading to Socorro’s Fairgrounds in search of new homes.

You can experience the versatility of America’s Living Legends by adopting one of these amazing animals for your local ranch. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently gathered these animals from the Bordo Atravesado Herd Management Area (HMA), located approximately 15 miles east of Socorro.

Hosted by the BLM, a Wild Horse adoption event will take place at the Socorro County Fairgrounds, Aug 27 to Aug 28. The two-day event features a mix of pairs, mares, and studs that range in age from 5 years old and younger. There will be a total of 32 animals.

Preview of all animals available for adoption begins Fri. afternoon, Aug 27, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., then again on Sat. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The competitive bid adoption begins on Sat. at 10 a.m. Following the initial competitive bid, walk-up adoptions will be held throughout Sat. until 5 p.m.

Applications to adopt are accepted on site. The minimum adoption fee is \$125, per animal to qualified adopters. Individuals are caretakers for the first 12 months and then, after a positive compliance check, they are eligible to apply for title to the animal.

Admission is free. Spectators and adopters are encouraged to stop by early to learn what it takes to adopt a wild horse or burro. Wild Horse and Burro Specialists and past adopters will be available during this event for questions on the adoption experience.

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. All animals **must be picked up on Sat. by 5 p.m.** in a covered trailer with solid walls and floors – no drop ramp trailers.



[www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov)

The Bordo Atravesado area contains 19,605 acres consisting of public lands, state lands, and private lands. The first wild horses in the area were observed in the early 1950s. Most of the wild horses east of Socorro and the Rio Grande were captured and removed in the late 1940s and early 1950s, with the exception of the Bordo Atravesado herd. Color of horses in the herd are: sorrel, bay, black, buckskin, claybank, gray, red roan, blue roan, etc.

**For more information about the Socorro adoption, call toll free at 800-237-3642.**

**Directions to Socorro County:** Take Exit 147 off of I-25; turn left (south) on frontage road to fairgrounds. A sign pointing to the Socorro County Fairgrounds is on the right-hand (west side) of the frontage road.

**Media Activities:**

- Excellent Photo Opportunities starting Friday morning. See wild horses on site.
- Follow an adopter through the process from registration to loading their adopted animal into a trailer for the ride home.
- Interview BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialists about the history of the program, and find out what qualifies as a good home

*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. 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 -