



## Off-Range Highlights for

### Wild Horse and Burro (WHB) Advisory Board Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, Oct. 4-6, 2022

**FY 2022 Private Placement Results** – The WHB Program placed more than 7,320 animals into private care in FY22. The BLM credits the Adoption Incentive Program with reinvigorating interest in adoptions, increasing placement figures dramatically, and thereby supporting on-range management efforts by reducing BLM’s reliance on off-range holding facilities. There are thousands of adoption success stories between wild horses and burros and their adopters, ranging from beloved backyard companions to champion performance mounts. Since its launch in 2019, more than 11,990 wild horses and burros have been adopted through the AIP. By increasing adoptions, the BLM is better able to address widespread overpopulation of wild horse and burro herds, which continue to threaten the health and well-being of the animals, other wildlife and the land on which they all depend.

**Online Corral** – The WHB Program continues to expand its use of the Online Corral platform to present more animals for placement and to reach a broader market. FY22-to-date, a total of six OLC events have been held with 1,544 animals being offered. Of these, 849 were adopted or sold, representing nearly a 55 percent placement rate. The average online bid for animals has risen to approximately \$390, yielding just over \$442,000 in all. Nearly 3,200 applications have been submitted by individuals interested in adopting or purchasing a wild horse or burro.

**Mustang Heritage Foundation Partnership** - The Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF) partnership continues to support the Program through its many successful efforts to place animals into private care. In FY22 the Program was pleased to announce \$7,210,000 in funding to support the MHF and allow it to remain on track to increase its private placement goals for the year. By the end of August, MHF had placed 3,421 animals, with an additional 812 animals in training, representing 48% of BLM’s overall placements.

**Off-Range Pasture Solicitation** – A solicitation for additional off-range pastures that can hold between 200-10,000 horses closed on Aug. 16, 2021. A competitive range of proposals was received and evaluated by the contracting staff and a Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee (TPEC) made up of subject matter experts. Successful proposals will undergo National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis before final contract award possibly in late FY23.

**Adoption Incentive Program Revisions** – On July 26, 2021, the WHB Program [announced plans](#) to revise the Adoption Incentive Program (AIP) to better secure the health and safety of adopted animals. The WHB Program followed that announcement with the issuance of [Instruction Memorandum 2022-014](#) on January 26, 2022, that made good on that commitment. Among other things, the new AIP policy accelerated the required time frame for mandatory BLM compliance inspections of animals adopted under the AIP. The policy also tightened the requirement to receive incentive payments by requiring a veterinarian or BLM official to attest to each animal’s wellbeing at time of titling. The policy also set a minimum fee of \$125 to adopt an animal under the AIP. These changes were announced in a [press release](#) on January 26, 2022.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

**Stakeholder Outreach to Review the Adoption Incentive Program** – In May and June of 2022, the WHB Program conducted a series of three workshops with various WHB activist and stakeholder groups to discuss ideas for possibly modifying the current Adoption Incentive Program (AIP). This outreach effort was spurred by concerns voiced by some activist organizations that the AIP in its current form – which offers individuals \$1,000 to adopt and title untrained animals – encourages people to exploit the AIP for financial gain to the supposed detriment of the animals. The WHB Program sought ideas from the workshop participants that could potentially mitigate perceived vulnerabilities of the AIP to such exploitation. From the three workshops, the Program developed several possible changes to the AIP that could be implemented through revisions to existing policy or regulation. The Program is currently engaged with agency leadership to determine if any of the changes can or should be implemented and how.