

## Attachment 1

### BLM Wyoming Requirements Governing the Management and Use of Firearms by Non-Law Enforcement Personnel

#### Authorization Requirements and Training

Prior to receiving a BLM Wyoming-issued firearm, transporting any firearm to a work location, or carrying any firearm in the field while on official business, employees must request and receive official written authorization from the State Director. Authorization will be dependent, in part, on successful completion of training requirements described herein. This applies to Government- owned firearms. Personally, owned firearms will not be authorized for professional use. The following personnel **will not** be authorized to carry a firearm:

1. Convicted felons who have not had their right to carry firearms reinstated;
2. Employees who have been convicted of domestic abuse or are under a current restraining order or criminal charges related to domestic abuse;
3. Employees and volunteers under 18 years of age;
4. Volunteers.

Criminal history queries will be conducted on any employees requesting authorization to carry a firearm and background investigations updates are required every 4 years.

In order to obtain authorization to carry a firearm in the field, an employee must first complete the National Rifle Association (NRA) classroom training on firearms safety (or equivalent), be instructed on wild horse and burro behavior and proper euthanasia techniques by a veterinarian, and then pass a firearms proficiency test. The BLM Safety Manual Handbook H-1112-1 Chapter 37 provides detailed guidance on the requirement for instructor certification, classroom instruction, and proficiency testing. Classroom instruction refresher training must be completed a minimum of every 2 years, and live fire proficiency testing will be conducted annually.

Training will consist of the following minimum requirements:

1. Basic firearms safety and maintenance (Firearms Instructor);
2. Legal and moral aspects of firearms use (Firearms Instructor);
3. Shooting Range proficiency (Firearms Instructor);
4. Proper euthanasia of a horse using firearms (Veterinarian);
5. Henneke Body Condition Scoring (Veterinarian).

The BLM Safety Manual H1112-1 (Section 37.3) specifies that only the State Director may authorize a non-law enforcement employee to carry a firearm while on official duty. Upon an employee's successful completion of the prescribed training, background clearance, and proficiency testing, a letter of authorization from the State Director's office will be sent to the employee's manager. The manager will ensure a copy of the letter is delivered to the employee. The employee is then authorized to procure, transport and carry a firearm on official business for humanely euthanizing injured or sick wild horses or burros.

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Authorizations to carry firearms are effective for one year. Proficiency testing must be repeated prior to reauthorization each year.

The BLM Safety Manual H1112-1 Chapter 37 specifies that the State Director is responsible to designate a state firearms manager to oversee the authorization of employees to possess, carry, or use firearms in the performance of their official duties, designating a custodial property officer at each issuing facility to maintain custody and control of firearms and ammunition.

Due to the statistically high level of danger associated with carrying and handling firearms, a Firearms Instructor shall refuse to certify an employee to carry a firearm if the employee demonstrates an obvious lack of situational awareness or appropriate level of caution with a firearm regardless of the employee's performance during the proficiency course.

Copies of all authorizations to carry firearms, training records, and written reports documenting discharge of a firearm for euthanasia will be maintained by the Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead.

### **Humane Destruction of Wild Horses and Burros**

Whenever it is necessary to destroy a wild horse or burro at a BLM facility, on-the-range, or during gather operations as an act of mercy, the destruction must be away from public view whenever possible. Only personnel who have been authorized by the BLM Wyoming State Director will destroy a wild horse or burro with a Bureau issued firearm. In situations such as during a gather operation or on the range, field specialists need to be trained and have a good understanding of the Henneke Method of determining a wild horses or burro's body condition and health prior to destroying the animal.

Wild horses or burros that need to be destroyed at an adoption event with attendance by the public will not be destroyed by use of a firearm. If this need arises, a veterinarian will humanely euthanize the animal. If possible, the sick or injured animal will be removed from the adoption site and transferred to a veterinary clinic or location where the animal can be euthanized safely.

Only the authorized officer, as described in BLM Manual 4730, can authorize the destruction of a wild horse or burro. Washington Office. IM No. 2015-070 (Attachments 2 and 3) provides the most recent guidance concerning euthanasia and circumstances when it is authorized. If there is any question as to the extent of injury or sickness of the animal, a veterinarian should be consulted by phone and/or accompany the wild horse and burro specialist to determine if the destruction is the most humane course of action.

**Firearms Management.** Each office with an inventory of non-Law Enforcement firearms will appoint a BLM employee to have overall responsibility for managing all BLM-owned firearms and ammunition; this person is the designated Unit Accountability Officer (UAO). The UAO is responsible for:

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1. Controlling and tracking inventories of firearms and ammunition, ensuring that the status and location of each firearm is fully accounted for at all times and that there is a written record of every issue and return of BLM-owned firearms or ammunition.
2. Ensuring all firearms and ammunition in their inventory are issued and returned to storage in clean and workable condition.
3. Ensuring that all firearms in their inventory are maintained in good working condition by subjecting each firearm to an annual inspection by a qualified armorer or gunsmith.
4. Ensuring that firearms and ammunition are always stored in accordance with all storage and security requirements stated in this guidance.

All UAOs shall designate an assistant/s to act for them when they are not available to issue or receive firearms, to ensure that firearms and ammunition are available for issue when needed and there is someone to receive and secure firearms and ammunition upon their being returned from the field.

The State Director will appoint a State Firearms Manager (FPM) to oversee and coordinate the efforts of the UAOs statewide. The FPM will assist field UAOs in the development of inventory management practices, policy review and development, and program assessment. The FPM will audit and assess each field firearms program at least once annually. Audits will be unannounced. Written audit reports will be prepared and submitted to the Associate State Director and copied to the facility's senior manager and UAO.

### **Firearm Type**

To euthanize wild horses "on-the-range", field specialists will use a centerfire rifle. For gather or facility operations, a handgun will be used.

### **Discharge of Firearms**

After discharging a firearm for euthanasia, the involved employee must complete a written report documenting the circumstances involved in the discharge of the firearm. This report will identify the firearm that was used, include a description citing the need for euthanasia, and will be forwarded to the Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead.

### **Procurement**

The BLM Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro program lead will be responsible for the oversight of procuring the firearms and ammunition issued. All requests to purchase firearms must be sent through the Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead.

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### Storage and Security Requirements

The BLM Safety Manual Handbook H-1112-1 Chapter 37, para 37.D.6 requires non-law enforcement firearms not in active use to be stored in an unloaded condition with the action open, in a secure location, out of sight, and in an approved and secured safe. Access to the firearms storage container is limited to those employees designated and authorized to possess, carry, or use firearms.

Each Field Office, or BLM facility with authorized personnel, will have a designated secure location for the storage of Bureau-issued firearms and ammunition. Non-law enforcement firearms **will not** be stored in law enforcement firearm vaults.

In order to further ensure the safety of our employees, their families, and the public, all BLM personnel responsible for Bureau-issued/approved firearms will also use an effective and fully engaged trigger locking mechanism on any firearm that is being stored or transported.

This requirement applies to any non-law enforcement firearm, regardless of the length of time it will be stored, or the distance it will be transported. The firearm will remain in the storage unit except for:

1. A firearm actively being carried for its intended purpose in a field situation;
2. For the purpose of qualifications;
3. When a situation arises that demands the destruction of a wild horse or burro; or
4. When there is a significant, potential need for euthanasia, such as during a gather, or within a BLM facility.

Lockable hard-sided cases and locking gun cabinets will not negate the requirement for trigger locking mechanisms under this policy.

### Transportation

When traveling, the firearm will be trigger-locked and secured in a lockable, hard-sided, gun case approved by the State Firearms Officer. Firearms will be unloaded at all times, except when actually in use.

No firearms will be left in a Government vehicle overnight. When authorized personnel are away from their duty station, they will remove the firearm from the vehicle, apply a trigger lock, secure the firearm in a lockable, hard-sided case, and store it in a secure location. The key to the trigger locking device must, at all times, be in the secure possession of the employee that is responsible for the firearm. Firearms and ammunition must not be left unattended in motor vehicles or watercraft unless they are physically secured from theft and out of public view. All BLM-Wyoming non-law enforcement firearms will be secured in firearms safes when not actively in use in the field. Each facility issuing firearms will locate their firearms safe(s) in one centralized location, under the control of the UAO. At no time may a firearm be unsecured or unsupervised in any other location at a facility, the sole exceptions being a firearm secured in a locked gun case in a locked vehicle preparing to depart to the field.

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Violations of this policy will result in the loss of the employee's authorization to carry a firearm. An employee returning a loaded firearm to its place of issue must immediately lose their certificate of firearms authorization and must be subject to disciplinary action. Threatening behavior toward other people involving a firearm is cause for disciplinary and legal action.

**Restrictions on Public Carry.** It is important that members of the public do not mistake a non-law enforcement BLM-Wyoming employee for a Law Enforcement Ranger or Special Agent. Non-law enforcement employees are not authorized to wear or carry a sidearm when dressed in a BLM uniform. Only warranted BLM law enforcement officials have the authority to interact with the public when wearing a sidearm with a BLM uniform.

Uniformed non-law enforcement employees will not carry any type of firearm in locations where extensive or continuous contact with members of the visiting public is likely to occur such as campgrounds. Firearms in such locations will be kept fully secured and out of sight in locked vehicle trunks and truck cabs, to be retrieved for use by the authorized employee when the necessity arises.