



Off-Range Branch Update

(as of September 24, 2018)

Public Off-Range Pastures – The BLM has four Public Off-Range Pasture (PORPS) contracts, previously known as Eco-Sanctuaries, provide a free-roaming environment for wild horses removed from Western public lands while allowing for regular public visitation. The PORPS are a more cost-effective and efficient approach to managing costs for animals in holding and continuing to provide the public with opportunities to view wild horses in a natural setting. The pastures will also provide opportunities for the placement of animals into private care to help reduce the number of animals in holding. The four PORPS are located in Kansas (1), Oklahoma (1) and Wyoming (2). (*See process for announcing and awarding solicitations on second page.*)

WHB Public Comment Card - The BLM continues its distribution and collection of the public comment card that was developed to gather data from the public attending events and off-range corrals until approximately September 30, 2019. The cards and event reports are being evaluated by BLM contractor Great Lakes Marketing, Inc., (GLM) and they will provide final recommendations to the BLM by September 30, 2019, and will include aggregate data on what type of animals (age, gender, color, trained, etc.) are preferred by applicants to assist the BLM in determining future event inventories.

FY18 Placement Update – As of the week of September 17, 2018, the program has placed over 4,300 animals, which is the most animals placed by the program into private care since 2007.

Partnership Update –

Mustang Heritage Foundation - The Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF) was approved for a new five-year Assistance Agreement in September, 2017. The partnership continues to reflect the potential for additional growth in assisting the BLM with the placement of trained wild horses and burros into private care. Their continued growth in the east and expansion of the storefront program continues to provide the BLM with additional locations for the public and other TIP trainers to access animals that would normally be difficult to access without driving significant distances. They have assisted the BLM in placing over 1,500 animals in FY18.

MHF also continues to assist the BLM with public outreach and education through the new *America's Mustang Virtual Reality Experience (AMVRE)* trailer. During FY18, the AMVRE trailer was parked in front of the AT&T Stadium where over 100,000 people attended the Professional Bull Rider World Finals and The American rodeo events in February and attended a NASCAR event in Richmond, VA, in April. The multiple videos and virtual reality experience, located inside and outside of the trailer, provided an opportunity for spectators to witness range degradation and scarce water sources on the overpopulated public lands, while learning about the program's multiple-use mission. In addition, the experience provided the public with an opportunity to learn about the adoption and sales programs. The three events provided an opportunity to reach a diverse population that included both general audiences and audiences involved in the western culture.

EquiCenter, Inc. - The BLM and EquiCenter, Inc., of Honeoye Falls, NY, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January, 2018, to facilitate a two-year pilot called the *Mission Mustangs*



Project to provide additional marketing, outreach, and placement opportunities to promote the Wild Horse and Burro Program and assist wounded veterans reintegrating into society. The MOU does not require, nor request, any BLM funding. They purchased their first four animals on May 21, 2018 and purchased an additional two animals on September 20, 2018, as they are anticipating placing two or three of the initial four animals in November. They are retaining one animal, named Hero, as their mascot. The veterans have embraced the arrival of the wild horses into their equine therapeutic program.

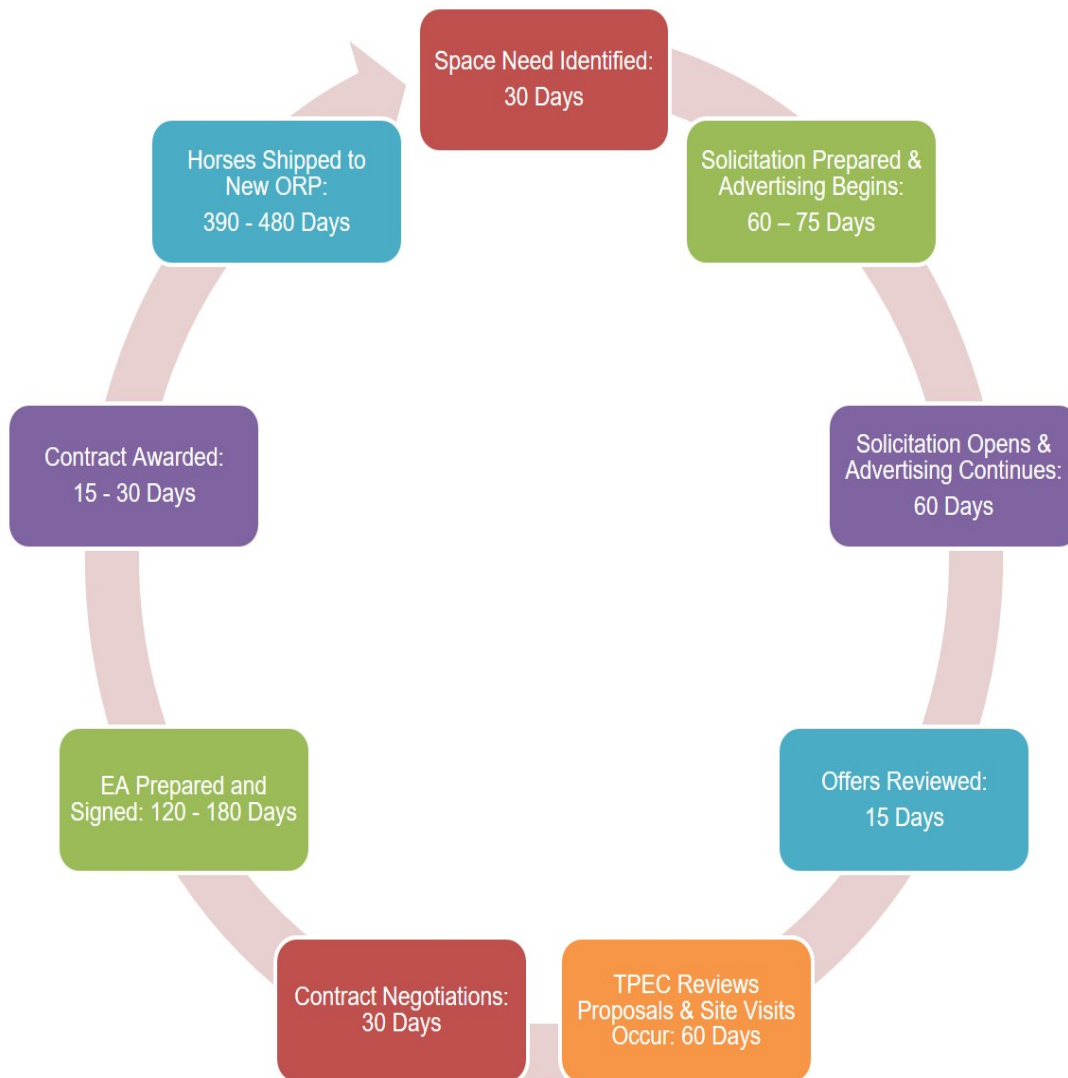


Figure 1 Public Off-Range Pasture Solicitation Process