



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States  
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## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

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# Part of Old Wild West Coming to Ohio

A living, breathing, spunky piece of the old wild West will soon arrive in Ohio - a mustang from the open rangelands of Nevada.

Shirley Mendenhall, who owns Willow Lane Farm near Wadsworth, Ohio, will have her adopted wild horse brought to her farm in mid-July. Adopted through the popular program run by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Mendenhall has named her buckskin colt *Cielo Lindo*, meaning “beautiful sky” in Spanish.

Shirley has long been in love with horses, but was overcome with the beauty and grace of wild horses while on an Easter trail ride sponsored by the National Wild Horse Association in the high desert areas near Las Vegas, Nevada. Spotting the first wild horse she had ever seen, she said “just as I saw him, the wind floated his glorious mane, sending chills up my spine.”

That July the Bureau of Land Management conducted an emergency wild horse gather in this area of Nevada because a severe drought had decimated the vegetation and dried up the water holes. A friend of Shirley’s from the National Wild Horse Association called her to tell her about a little buckskin colt that had been brought in, suggesting it was just the horse for her. Shirley went back to Las Vegas for the adoption and agreed, knowing this had to be her horse.

Immediately after adopting *Cielo*, Shirley arranged to have nationally known horse trainer Barbara “BJ” Schafer begin gentling the colt. Her work with *Cielo* demonstrates how trainable and friendly these horses can be. With time and patience, wild horses have been gentled to excel in a variety of disciplines, from endurance and trail riding to reining and western pleasure. They are particularly desirable because of their hardiness and intelligence.

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Shirley adopted her horse through the competitive bid process, with the minimum bid for each of the horses being offered starting at \$125. The adopter is responsible for providing a good corral or stable for gentling the animal, and adequate food, water and care.

“The Bureau of Land Management has been directed by Congress to manage and preserve the wild horses and burros as ‘living symbols of the old West’” said Gayle Gordon, the Bureau’s Eastern States Director. “Because there is an overpopulation of wild horses and burros on the western rangelands, we gather some of them and offer them for adoption to good homes. The Adopt-A-Horse and Burro Program is an excellent way to maintain an ecological balance among wild horses and burros, native wildlife, and domestic animals that graze on the public lands,” said Gordon.

For more than 30 years the Bureau of Land Management has run a successful adoption program, finding caring homes for more than 180,000 wild horses and burros. Without the public’s help, many of these animals would have died from lack of food and water and the rangelands would have deteriorated so few species could exist on them.

An adoption will be held in Columbus this coming February, and one of the proponents of how well the program works is, not surprisingly, Shirley Mendenhall. “I would love for people to see what a wonderful program our tax dollars are going to,” she said. “And I just can’t wait to get *Cielo* back home so I can love him and take care of him and have part of our country’s heritage in my own backyard. Each time I see him I’ll be reminded of those magnificent animals that are still on the range.”

For more information about adopting a wild horse or burro check the National Wild Horse and Burro website at [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov) or call toll free 1-800-293-1781.

*Special Note to the Media:* Shirley Mendenhall is hosting a by invitation only welcome home party and reception for *Cielo Lindo* on July 14, 2001, beginning at 1:00 p.m.. Media is welcome and encouraged to attend. Guest speakers will include spokespersons for the National Wild Horse Association and the Bureau of Land Management from Nevada, two noted equine veterinarians, and the Leader for the Bureau of Land Management’s Adopt-A-Wild Horse and Burro Program. Please contact Ms. Mendenhall at 330-239-1399 for directions and to let her know of your attendance.

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