



**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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WILD HORSE & BURRO ADOPTION IN LORTON, VIRGINIA OCTOBER 11

The Bureau of Land Management – Eastern States (BLM) is holding a Wild Horse and Burro Adoption at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in Lorton, Virginia. The animals will arrive on Friday, October 10 and can be seen between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. The adoption will be from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Saturday, October 11.

This is the first adoption to be held in Northern Virginia in 5 years. A variety of animals of various colors, including yearlings, burros and other horses under 5 years old, will be available for this event. These horses are noted for their endurance, sure-footedness and intelligence.

Since the Adopt-A-Wild Horse & Burro Program began in 1973, over 185,000 animals have been adopted nationwide, including over 1,650 in Virginia. Gentled wild horses in Virginia are used for trail riding, foxhunting, dressage, western events, and other disciplines. Burros are great companion animals and are used by farmers for predator control.

The BLM is responsible for the wild horse and burro herds on Western public lands. To maintain an ecological balance and protect rangelands from overgrazing, excess animals are gathered from the fragile rangelands. All animals have been examined by a veterinarian, vaccinated, dewormed, and blood-tested prior to being offered for adoption to good homes. Every wild horse and burro in the BLM's Adopt-A-Horse-or-Burro program is vaccinated for West Nile Virus, Rabies, Strangles, Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus, Rhinopneumonitis, and Influenza.

Prospective adopters must have sturdy corrals, at least 6 feet high for horses and 5 feet for burros, shelter, transportation, and the means of caring for the animals. The adoption fee will be determined by competitive bid, with a minimum bid of \$125 per animal. The fees help defray the Federal Government's cost of roundup, veterinary care, transportation and administrative expenses. Adopters must provide their own stock-type step up trailer. Trailers with ramps, interior dividers or split two-horse type trailers are not allowed. BLM staff will sort, halter and load animals onto the adopters' trailers.

The event will be held at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, 10406 Gunston Road, Lorton, Virginia. The property is located approximately 10 minutes off I-95.

Applications to adopt will be reviewed Friday afternoon and Saturday. The adoption begins on Saturday morning at 8:00 A.M. Any animals which are not adopted during the morning's

competitive bidding will be offered for adoption at the set \$125 fee following competitive bidding. The majority of animals are usually adopted during the morning, so prospective adopters should plan to arrive early. Several educational sessions will be held during the event.

For applications, facility and trailer requirements, or other information about this event, contact the Bureau of Land Management, Meadowood SRMA at 703-339-8009 or visit the website at www.es.blm.gov. Adopters' applications must be approved by a Wild Horse and Burro Specialist prior to being eligible to adopt.