

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-39
FOR RELEASE: July 27, 2005

National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley Extends Hours

Horse Lovers now have more time to see Wild Horses at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley

The National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley, BLM's largest horse preparation facility, will now be open six days a week. The facility is located approximately 20 miles north of Sparks and is a great place for families and horse enthusiasts alike to stop and visit with some of the West's living legends.

"Summer is the perfect time to visit Palomino Valley Center and see wild horses right off the range," said Mike Myers, assistant manager.

The BLM gathers wild horses from July to February and first brings them to Palomino Valley Center. At the facility, the animals receive veterinary care, an individual freeze mark, inoculations and they are separated by gender. The horses are held at the facility until they are ready to be offered for adoption, either locally or at an event or another BLM facility.

Visitors and adopters have always been welcome Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for federal holidays, but now Palomino Valley Center will also be open on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Guests are welcome at the corrals to view the wild horses. There are separate pens for pairs, mares and stallions. Guests can also visit and pet the two new burro mascots, Josie and Butch.

"We are hoping that by offering weekend hours, we will be more available to people with families and busy weekday schedules," Myers said. "We are hoping this will make visiting our facility and adopting a wild horse or burro more convenient."

If you are interested in adopting a wild horse or burro or just want more information on the program, please call (775) 475-2222, or visit www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov.

To get to Palomino Valley Center from Reno or Sparks, take Interstate 80 to Exit 18, Pyramid Lake Highway (State Route 445), and go north approximately 20 miles to Ironwood Road. Turn east on Ironwood Road to reach the facility.

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For more information contact: Jo Simpson at (775) 861-6586

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-38
FOR RELEASE: July 20, 2005

Fire Restrictions in Effect for Much of State

Fire restrictions will be in effect for much of Nevada this weekend, except for White Pine and Lincoln Counties, Eastern Nye County, and the extreme northwest corner of the state.

A heavy buildup of dead and dry vegetation throughout much of Nevada has greatly increased the danger of wildland fire. Nevada's wet winter and spring produced a bumper crop of vegetation this year, with heavy infestations of red brome in the southern part of the state and cheatgrass throughout the rest of the state.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada joins its interagency partners in urging the public to be extremely careful when visiting the public lands.

"As you head outdoors this summer, please make fire safety your first priority," said BLM Nevada Acting State Director Amy Lueders. "We want you to enjoy yourselves outdoors this summer, but please help us to protect your public lands and your family and friends."

"Firefighter and human safety are our first concern," said Lueders. "The extreme danger existing in Nevada through this weekend and the rest of the summer cannot be underestimated."

Evening dry lightning storms across much of northern and central Nevada on July 15 sparked large wildfires that continue to burn in Elko County. Hundreds of thousands of acres of dried-out red brome burned in southern Nevada following the dry lightning storms of June 22-23. Large areas of cheatgrass have already dried out across most of the state. The thick mats of cheatgrass burn like gasoline when ignited.

The slightest spark will set these grasslands blazing, carrying the wildfires to sagebrush and forests damaged by insects and disease.

According to Lueders, anything that can cause a spark can ignite a wildfire, including your vehicle's catalytic converter, discharging firearms, a tossed cigarette or welding. "Please be sure to thoroughly extinguish all campfires, making sure the ashes are cool to the touch; and make sure the spark arresters on your off-highway vehicles are working," she added. "These safety measures are especially important in the areas under fire restrictions."

Fire Restrictions prohibit:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire except a portable stove using gas or pressurized liquid fuel, outside of a developed recreation site or campground (except by permit).
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or within a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
- Welding, or operating an acetylene torch with open flames, except by permit.
- Using or causing to be used, any explosive, except by permit.
- Using fireworks or firing a tracer or other incendiary device, without a permit.

Specific information for your area is available from local firefighting agencies.

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For more information contact: Jo Simpson at (775) 861-6586

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-37
FOR RELEASE: July 6, 2005

Call for Nominations for Outstanding Rancher Award

Reno, Nev.—The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the Nevada Farm Bureau, the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the Society for Range Management, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are soliciting nominations for an Outstanding Rancher Award to be presented at the Nevada Cattlemen's Association annual conference banquet Nov. 18 in Reno. The organizations are jointly sponsoring the award.

The award will be presented to the nominee who best demonstrates sound and innovative stewardship practices in managing a successful ranching operation.

Management activities could involve vegetation and weed management, fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement, water quality improvement, soil protection and building, watershed improvement, and riparian area restoration and protection. The selection committee will be looking at what effect the management activities have had on the productivity and profitability of the ranching operation.

The selection committee will be made up of representatives of the sponsoring organizations. Nominations close Sept 15.

Nomination forms may be obtained from any of the sponsoring organizations, or by calling the BLM Nevada State Office at (775) 861-6586.

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[Nomination Form \(in PDF format\)](#)

For more information contact: Jo Simpson, BLM, 775-861-6586
Rachel Buzzetti, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, 775-738-9214
Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, 775-674-4000
Gary McCuin, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 775-684-5333
Cub Wolfe, Society for Range Management, 775-782-3661, ext. 109