



2014 Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge **Solicitation for Contracts** **Feral Horse and Burro Adoption**

Public Announcement

Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Lakeview, Oregon

- For questions or information about horses and burros on Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, contact: Megan Nagel, megan_nagel@fws.gov, 503-231-6123
- For questions or information about the solicitation for contracts visit www.fws.gov/sheldonhartmtn/Sheldon/horseburro.html for contact information.

Beginning February 18, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting bids from all qualified individuals and organizations interested in working with the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge to place feral horses and burros in long-term homes through adoption. Qualified individuals and organizations must be willing to work under contract, meet criteria outlined in the contract solicitation and be registered as a government contractor.

Sheldon Refuge is the largest intact tract of the Great Basin ecosystem left in the American West. The refuge was established to protect native species, such as pronghorn antelope and sage grouse, and the fragile habitat on which they depend. Feral horses and burros are significantly damaging this sensitive landscape, especially the vital riparian areas on the refuge, and compete directly with native wildlife for forage and water, scarce resources in the desert environment. In order to protect native wildlife and restore the degraded refuge habitat, the Sheldon Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan requires the removal of all feral horses and burros. After the 2013 gather was concluded, there are approximately 70 feral burros and 420 feral horses remaining within Sheldon Refuge.

Feral horses and burros will be gathered, transported, sorted and shipped to adoption contractors selected by the Service consistent with the Sheldon Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan guidelines, including Appendix H: Standard Operating Procedures. These documents are available online at: www.fws.gov/sheldonhartmtn/Sheldon/horseburro.html.

For information about the requirements for adoption agents and how to submit bid proposals, visit: www.fws.gov/sheldonhartmtn/Sheldon/horseburro.html. For the complete scope of work and contract details (solicitation # F14PS00185) visit: <https://www.fbo.gov>.