

MODOC MUSTANG TRAINING (MMT) PROGRAM 2018

EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

The Modoc National Forest (MDF) Modoc Mustang Training (MMT) Program is looking for qualified individuals to gentle/train up to four (4) wild horses at a time and make a good faith effort to place animals in private care that meets BLM minimum adoption and facility requirements. Individuals are responsible for all costs associated with the humane care of the animals while in their possession, including facility maintenance/repair, veterinarian care, farrier, disposal costs, and feed/grain and other needed supplements. Only approved trainers may pick up horses for the Modoc National Forest MMT Program. Trainers will be paid once the horse is placed into private care and all MMT and BLM adoption paperwork is complete.

Applicants – Please sign the bottom of the first page and initial the bottom of each page after and return to the Modoc National Forest, c/o Modoc Mustang Training Program, 225 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101 or email: klsandusky@fs.fed.us along with your MMT Application.

OVERVIEW:

- Only approved trainers may pick-up, train and adopt out animals through the Modoc Mustang Training Program. Trainers must be at least 18 years of age. Interested trainers may apply to become an approved MMT Trainer by completing and submitting the MMT Trainer Application that can be found online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=FSEPRD512471>.
- Trainers must have no prior convictions for inhumane treatment of animals or for violations under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971.
- Trainers must be able to demonstrate, through the application, that adequate feed, water, and facilities are available to provide humane care of any animal(s) accepted through this program.
- Trainers must be able to provide a temporary home for the animal(s) in the United States.
- Trainers' facility and trailer must meet BLM's minimum facility requirements (see below). Trainer will be responsible for transportation of the horse(s).
- Trainers must demonstrate, through the application, a track record of successfully gentling/training animals using least resistance training methods (natural horsemanship gentling techniques).
- Trainers must understand that until titled by the BLM, the animal cannot be sold, traded or given away. Nor can they be neglected, abandoned, inhumanely treated, or for other commercial purposes. Horses cannot be used for bucking stock, even after title is transferred per BLM regulations.
- The BLM and Modoc National Forest must be notified in writing within 7 days if a horse dies. A veterinarian's statement must follow. The Modoc National Forest and BLM must also be notified if the horse(s) is (are) moved to a new location other than the location listed on your application.
- **Before** soliciting an adopter for the horse(s) the trainer must meet the minimum training requirements as listed below (animals must be leading, loading in a trailer, allowing human contact for grooming and picking up all 4 feet)
- Trainer must have the horse(s) in training for a minimum of 10 days before completing the adoption process. Trainers are encouraged to find an adopter within 60 days. Horses(s) must be adopted or returned to BLM within 70 days of pick up or payment will not be made to the trainer.
- In order to receive payment, trainer must submit the MMT Payment Invoice to the MDF as well as the MMT Training Assessment form (to be completed by the adopter) within 60 days of the adoption agreement being signed. Failure to do so will delay or forfeit the payment process.

Trainer Name Print: _____ Signature: /s/ _____

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Minimum Facility Requirements

Corral

Measurements: You must provide a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) for each animal adopted. Until “fence broken” **adult** horses need to be maintained in an enclosure at least 6 feet high, **0-18 months old**, 5 feet high. You should not release a wild horse into a large open area, such as a pasture, as you may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary care. However, once the horse is gentled, you may release it into a pasture or similar area. **Materials/Construction:** An acceptable corral must be sturdy and constructed out of materials such as; poles, pipes, or planks (minimum 1.5 inches in thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are not acceptable for fencing. Posts must be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter and spaced no farther than 8 feet apart. Horizontal rails should be 3-inch minimum diameter poles or planks at least 2” x 8”. If you use poles, there should be a minimum of five horizontal rails, and when you use 2" x 8" planks, there should be at least four rails. No space between rails should exceed 12". You should fasten all rails to the inside of the post with either heavy nails or lag screw. You must provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your horse(s). Contact your administering BLM office for shelter requirements in your area. Applicants will not be approved until all facility requirements are met.

Trailer

Horses must be transported in a stock-type trailer with a full-height rear-swing gate with no loading ramps. The trailer must have the following: A covered top, sturdy walls and floors, with a smooth interior, free from any sharp protrusions, ample head room, adequate ventilation, removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary, and the floor must be covered with a non-skid material.

2. Trainer Approval

Interested trainers must complete the Modoc Mustang Training Program Application found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=FSEPRD512471> and mail or email it to the Modoc National Forest office. You will be contacted by the Modoc National Forest via phone, email or mail letting you know if you have been approved.

3. Horse Selection

Once approved as a trainer, the Modoc National Forest will provide you with the contact information of the BLM facilities serving as MMT pick up locations. The approved trainer will be responsible for making an appointment with the BLM to schedule the pick-up of wild horses. Wild horses will be available for pick up at BLM facilities or BLM satellite adoptions. Trainers are not required to pay any adoption fees when picking up horses. Do not contact BLM about picking up animals until your trainer application has been approved and you have been contacted by the Modoc National Forest. Please note that riding of a 0-24 month old will result in immediate removal from the MMT Program. If a trainer has a potential adopter, they should bring them to the corrals with them to help select the horse.

4. Care - Trainers are required to:

- Provide adequate and good quality feed and water for each animal in your care on a daily basis. All costs to be covered by the trainer.
- Provide adequate and good quality health care for each animal in your care including all veterinarian and farrier needs. All costs to be covered by the trainer. A health care record should be maintained.
- Contact the BLM and Modoc National Forest and a licensed veterinarian if the animal becomes sick or injured. All costs to be covered by the trainer.
- Contact the BLM and Modoc National Forest in writing immediately if the animal dies, and submit a veterinarian’s report to the Modoc National Forest within 7 days.
- Arrange to have any animals, which die, disposed of in accordance with all state or local ordinances/requirements. All costs to be covered by the trainer.
- Contact a farrier, if farrier care is needed. All costs to be covered by the trainer.

- Maintain possession of the animal and its health records until it is released by the BLM to the new adopter, or returned to a satellite adoption or the Litchfield Corrals. Individuals are responsible for all costs associated with the humane care of the animals while in their possession, including facility maintenance/repair, veterinarian care, farrier or disposal costs, and feed/grain and other needed supplements. None of these costs will be reimbursed by the MDF or BLM.

5. Training – MMT Trainers are required to:

- Gentle/Train the animals in your care for a minimum of 10 days before an adoption application is submitted to the BLM.
- Gentle/train the animals in your care using least resistance training methods (natural horsemanship gentling techniques).
- Gentle/train the animals in your care until you are able to: halter, lead and groom the animal, pick up all four feet and load & unload into a trailer. These are the **MINIMUM** training requirements. Trainers are encouraged to have all of the requirements met before an application to adopt is submitted to the BLM.
- Provide the approved adopter with the Training Assessment Form. This form is intended to give the adopter an idea of what the trainer has been able to accomplish during the training period. Trainers are required to have this form completed and signed by the adopter. This form should be submitted along with the MMT Trainer Invoice upon a completed adoption. Payment will not be made to the Trainer without this completed form. Payment may be forfeited if invoices are not received within 60 days of completed adoption.

6. Advertising

Trainers are expected to positively portray and represent the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program and the Modoc National Forest at all times. This includes paid and free advertising as well as the use of online and social media outlets. Trainers are expected to find qualified adopters. If, after making a good faith effort, trainers may request the Modoc National Forest use their staff and volunteers to attempt to find an adopter. The BLM will be responsible for approving adopters.

Identifying Potential Adopters

Once approved for the program the MMT will contact you and provide you with the following:

- Facebook Groups Instructions to help trainers fully utilize the online adoption galleries
- This may all be used to assist trainers in searching for an interested adopter. If you need additional assistance in locating interested adopters, please call the office and we would be happy to assist you.

Training & Adoption Fees

- Trainers cannot advertise animals as FOR SALE. The adoption must be advertised as \$125 made payable to the Bureau of Land Management.
- Trainers cannot charge any type of “holding”, “deposit” or “application” fees. Adopters are only required to pay the \$125 BLM Adoption Fee. After the adoption is complete, trainers and adopters may enter into private arrangements for continued training, boarding, etc.

7. Adoption Process & Timeline

The BLM is responsible for adoption application approval. Trainers should provide potential adopters with the appropriate adoption or purchase application; however the BLM will complete the adoption process.

Please note: If the trainer refers an interested adopter to BLM to adopt an animal and the adopter’s application is approved, unless BLM finds cause for reversing the approval, the adoption of the animal will continue. Once both trainer and adopter complete all MMT and BLM required paperwork, the trainer is obligated to release the animal to the BLM approved adopter.

1. Once animals are gentled, and have met the minimum training requirements, an adopter should be identified.
2. Once the trainer has identified a potential adopter, trainers should provide the adopter with the following information:
 - A. A copy of the BLM adoption or purchase application online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro>. The Adoption Application and Requirements are in the IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS section. The Litchfield Corrals are holding the Devil's Garden horses gathered in 2016. They are located at 474-0000 Hwy 395 East, Litchfield, CA 96117 (21 miles east of Susanville on US 395N). Adoptions are by appointment only. Call 800-545-4256 or 530-254-6575.
 - B. Adopters are responsible for submitting their completed application to the BLM office. Mail adoption applications to Litchfield Wild Horse and Burro Corrals, P. O. Box 455, Litchfield, CA 96117, FAX to 530-254-6762, or via email to vretterath@blm.gov.
3. Once BLM has received the application they will review it and, if approved, will mail the adopter a Private Maintenance and Care Agreement (PMACA). This form is to be signed by the adopter and returned to the BLM, along with a check for the minimum adoption fee of \$125.00 (made payable to the BLM). Trainers should encourage adopters to sign and return this form in a timely manner.
4. Once BLM has received a copy of the signed PMACA they will provide the adopter with their adoption packet to include:
 - a. A receipt for the paid adoption fee
 - b. A copy of the animal's health record
 - c. A copy of the signed and approved PMACA
5. Once the adopter has received the above from the BLM, the adopted animal may be released to the adopter of record. It is not required but is recommended that both trainer and approved adopter be on-site for the transfer.
6. The BLM will notify MDF Range Program Manager or District Ranger of any completed adoptions.
7. Trainers must complete and submit the MMT Payment Invoice to the MDF.
8. Trainers must have the adopter complete and sign the Training Assessment Form. This form should be submitted to the MDF with the MMT Invoice for Payment.
9. Upon receipt of both forms, and notification of a completed adoption by BLM, trainers will be eligible for payment. Please notify the MDF of any change in address or personal information. If the MMT Payment Invoice and Training Assessment Forms are not submitted to the MDF within 60 days of a completed adoption, payment may be forfeited.

Trainers are encouraged to find an adopter within 60 days. If an adoption has not been completed by the 60th day – the Modoc National Forest will contact the trainer to discuss the situation and ascertain a progress plan. MMT may extend the training contract. If there is no completed adoption by day 60, MMT will give the trainers a “10 day” return notice. Any un-adopted animals may be returned, by appointment, to the Litchfield corrals or a designated facility. Animals that are returned to the BLM facility before day 70 are eligible for limited reimbursement of training costs. Horses must be adopted and/ or returned within 70 days of pick up unless other arrangements are made with the Modoc National Forest MMT Program.

8. MMT Payment

Upon receipt of the Training Assessment Form and MMT Payment Invoice, Trainers will be paid the set fee. Horses of all ages will be paid at a flat rate. Trainers will only be paid the set fee via invoice and will be responsible for any other expenses while caring for/gentling MMT horses.

RETURNS: Trainers will receive a fee related to training expenses for no more than 70 days for animals that are NOT adopted and returned to the Litchfield Corrals or another designated facility. The Invoice for MMT payment must be submitted within 60 days of the adoption in order to receive payment.

Animals must be adopted and or returned to the Litchfield Corrals or another designated facility within 70 days of pick up unless an extension has been negotiated with MDF.

9. NOTICE (Non Compliance)

Participation in the Modoc Mustang Training Program and any other program offered by the Modoc National Forest is strictly INVITATIONAL. Therefore, if the MMT determines (at any time) that a trainer is not meeting or exceeding our moral code or professional expectations, stated formally or not, the MMT reserves the right to remove them from any and all programs immediately. In this case trainers would not receive payment for any time, travel, or effort incurred. All determinations of the Modoc National Forest are final.

Examples of non-compliant behavior are listed below:

1. Injuring or killing an animal as a result of inhumane treatment or handling
2. BLM-documented compliance issues or repossessions
3. Lack of adopter satisfaction (as documented by complaints to MODOC NATIONAL FOREST)
4. Failure to appropriately identify the animal(s) as available for adoption
5. Negatively portraying the MMT Program or BLM Wild Horse & Burro Program
6. Negatively portraying the trainability/versatility of the horse
7. Failure to communicate with the MMT regarding MMT animals in your possession
8. Failure to return un-adopted animals to the BLM facility within 70 days of pick up unless other arrangements have been made with the Modoc National Forest MMT Program.
9. Numerous returns of un-adopted MMT horses due to failed adoptions