

## **For Florence Prison Wild Horse and Burro Holding EA**

Title: Arizona Wild Horse and Burro Holding and Training Program

Arizona Department of Corrections  
Florence, Arizona

### **I. Introduction/Purpose and Need**

#### **Introduction**

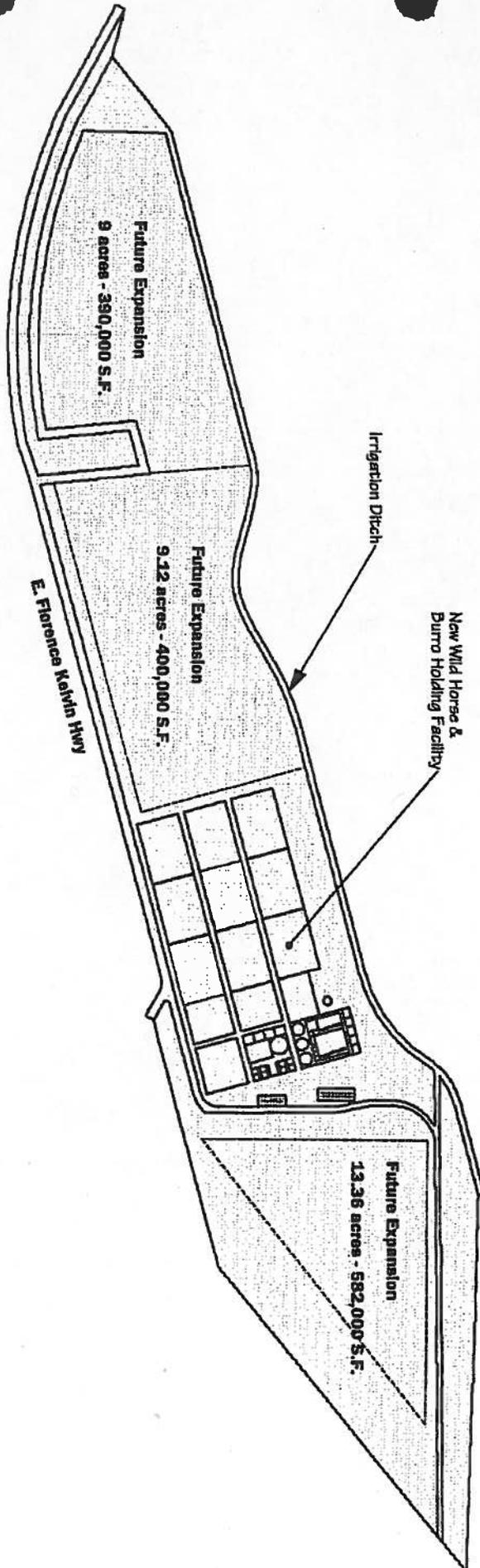
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed to fund the holding of a maximum of 750 wild horses and burros in a facility to be constructed at the Arizona Department of Corrections Facility in Florence, Arizona. Through Arizona Correctional Industries (ACI), inmates at the facility will maintain the facility, care, and feed the wild horses and burros. At the direction of ACI, certain wild horses and burros would be selected and moved to existing facilities within the prison complex for gentling and training by the inmates. The proposed holding facility would be located on approximately 10 acres of old farm land just north of the secure Florence Prison Complex, along East Florence Kelvin Highway. Depending upon the future need and funding, there is the potential to expand the capacity to hold 1,500 wild horses and burros on approximately 32 additional acres. The property, as well as the adjacent active farm land, is owned by Arizona Department of Corrections.

The Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, as amended, requires the protection, management and control of wild horses and burros on public lands at population levels that assure a thriving natural ecological balance. The BLM is responsible for the management of wild horses and burros on 180 herd management areas on public lands in ten western states. When existing populations of horses and/or burros exceed the productive capabilities of the habitat within the Herd Management Area (HMA), excess wild horses and/or burros must be removed to restore the multiple use relationship and thriving natural ecological balance in accordance with the Act. If excess wild horses and burros are not removed, habitat conditions would deteriorate and threaten the existing and future populations of wild horses and burros, wildlife dependent on the same habitat, and other authorized uses such as livestock grazing.

Excess wild horses and burros removed from public lands go to Preparation Facilities where they are sorted by age, sex, condition, tested for Equine Infectious Anemia, vaccinated, and freeze marked with an individual number for future identification. After the animals have been boosted approximately 30 days after the initial vaccination, they are available for adoption through the Adopt A Horse or Burro Program. As capacities at Preparation Facilities are reached, horses and burros available for adoption, may be moved to short term holding facilities that provide care, feeding, and veterinarian services pending adoption. The proposed holding facility at Florence would provide much needed relief due to existing capacity issues at most of the BLM Preparation Facilities.

**Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide additional and critically needed holding capacity that would allow the BLM to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the range, and increase the successful adoptions of wild horses and burros by offering inmate gentled and trained wild horses and burros for adoption. The need is to provide additional short term holding for a maximum of 750 wild horses and burros due to capacity issues at existing facilities. The proposed facility would provide additional facility space to humanely and safely care for excess wild horses and burros removed from the public lands in accordance with the Act.



**OVERALL PLAN VIEW -  
WILD HORSE & BURRO HOLDING FACILITY INCLUDING FUTURE EXPANSION**



