

# Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue, Inc.

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## **Wild Burro Project 10-Year Budget Summary**

The key to the PVDR Wild Burro Project's success is in our Adoption Program. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Adoption Program was plagued with many failures, the greatest being the bureaucracy that comes with any government institution. Their capture numbers so overwhelmed their adoption numbers, that they have been forced to "store" these 43,000 surplus animals at an annual cost to the tax payer of \$2,000 per horse or burro. Desperation has now forced them into offering \$1,000 to anyone willing to adopt a wild mustang. This will obviously only draw out those individuals who would otherwise make poor candidates for adoption. On a positive note, PVDR will eventually end up with the majority of their stored burros, as once they become 10 years old they must be sold and PVDR is the only organization able to take them in quantity. With our latest acquisition, our intake of BLM sale burros has surpassed 1,000 to date.

PVDR's Adoption Program is anchored by our Satellite Adoption Centers (SAC). These SACs are private individuals who volunteer their time and homes to place our donkeys into pre-screened homes. They are not chapters or charters, simply an extension of our policies, procedures, officers and Trustees. As a result, PVDR is now a "local" rescue in every corner of our country with even more on the way. In the past, our greatest weakness to the program was in keeping the Satellite stocked with donkeys on hand. Our previous system was based on all donkeys coming into the San Angelo, Texas facility then being distributed around the country. Because of weather in the extreme North, we were very limited on our delivery window.

The latest improvement to our Adoption Program is the creation of Transportation Hubs in the West and the East. These Hubs will allow us to stockpile adoptable donkeys so that they can be delivered to their nearby SACs in a relatively short time. These hubs will also be staffed with qualified trainers who can help move the wild burros into a domestic life. The Western Hub is managed by Madison Nealey and is located in Scenic, Arizona. This facility's construction is nearly complete but they are already in full operations. The Eastern Hub is located in Brookneal, Virginia and is managed by Kimberly Clark. This facility is only partially complete but is still capable of operating at 50% capacity. (Please see PVDR-West and PVDR-East construction and outfitting expenses).

The majority of our current contracts are in Southern California. We will "stage" all captured burros at a small holding area in Furnace Creek within the Death Valley National Park. This facility will be responsible for bringing the burros in from each capture location, identifying them using microchip and Iris-Trac technology, starting the vaccine protocol, administering de-wormer and recording all physical characteristics of the burros. This is also where our veterinarians will draw blood for health papers, research projects and treat any urgent medical needs. We will have a full time staff member on site; feeding, cleaning and providing security. (Please see Furnace Creek outfitting expenses).

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Much of the capture “heavy lifting” will be performed by the Cattoor Family, a highly respected wrangling firm with experience in all of our Burro Management Areas. These associated costs are shown under the “Capture Cost” line item. PVDR will, however, be manning many of the traps after the initial big captures in an effort to save money. This will require trail cameras, which will also be a part of the scientific studies, along with panels and a trailer to fill water traps. (Please see Capture Equipment).

Peaceful Valley is in the rare position of managing 4,500,000 acres of burro habitat. In the past these areas were viewed individually, where we can now view it as one large herd that moves freely between properties. As a result, we can now conduct actual scientific studies, with some of the very best academics of our time, and assess the true effects these burros are having on the eco-system and native wildlife. Our unbiased studies can then be applied to a legitimate Burro Management Policy. Our Research plan along with a list of participants is available upon request. (See Scientific Studies).

PVDR’s Burro Management Project currently encompasses 4.5 million acres in Southern California. This land contains Death Valley National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Fort Irwin Army Training Center, China Lake Naval Weapons Center and NASA Goldstone Deep Space Communications. There is no consensus as to how many burros are actually living on these adjacent and unfenced properties. In the past, the Bureau of Land Management did annual gathers of wild burros to try and keep the populations numbers in check. That program was abandoned in 2016 due to lack of funds and overcrowding on their existing storage facilities. After many discussions with people with actual knowledge we are assuming that the true number of burros is between 6,000-10,000 as of now. If we aggressively manage these populations we can prevent exponential population growth due to breeding. For the purpose of this budget we will average the number of burros to be removed, in the foreseeable future, to 8,000.

All costs used to substantiate this budget come from the contractor’s experience in catching the burros during all phases of a project. Early on, burros are easier to catch because they are more plentiful in number and they are not aware of our motives. Later in the project the remaining burros will be more wary and harder to trap. The numbers used for post capture figures are based on Peaceful Valley’s actual expenses over the past 20 years. Some items will increase in cost due to inflation and unseen weather related disasters that can impact hay and feed availability.

Very Truly Yours:

PEACEFUL VALLEY DONKEY RESCUE, INC.



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