

# Wild Mustang and Burro Freeze Marks

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) uses freeze marking to identify captured wild horses and burros. Freeze marking is a permanent, unalterable, and painless way to identify each horse and burro as an individual. It is applied on the left side of the neck. It follows the International Alpha Angle System, which uses a series of angles and alpha symbols that cannot be altered. The mark contains the Registering Organization (U.S. Government), year of birth, and registration number.

The technique is simple and completely painless to the animal. The left side of the neck is shaved and washed with alcohol, and the mark is applied with an iron that is chilled in liquid nitrogen. The hair at the site of the mark will grow back white and show the identification number.

In addition to the freeze mark on the left side of the neck, sanctuary wild horses are marked on the left croup with four-inch high Arabic numerals that correspond with the last four digits of the freeze mark on the neck.

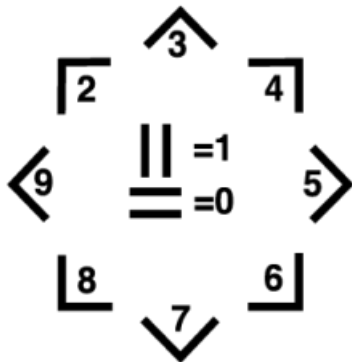
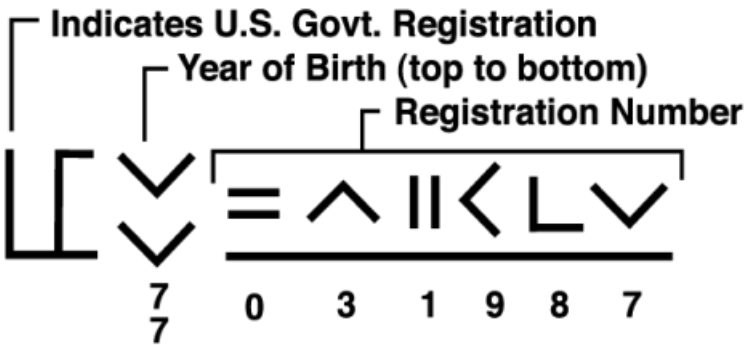
Although every effort is made to apply freeze marks that are legible, occasionally freeze marks do get blurred. This happens when the animal moves as the iron is applied, resulting in all or some of the identification number becoming illegible. The graph below illustrates how to read a freeze mark.



**Heritage**, the official mascot of the Mustang Heritage Foundation, shows off his freeze mark.



## Read each angle to determine the freeze mark number.



## Freeze mark number range by State

- Arizona**  
80001-160000
- California**  
160001-240000
- Colorado**  
240001-320000
- Idaho**  
320001-400000
- Montana**  
400001-480000
- Nevada**  
480001-640000
- New Mexico**  
640001-720000
- Oregon**  
0-80000
- Utah**  
720001-800000
- Wyoming**  
800001-880000
- Eastern States**  
880001-880100