



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Observation Day Protocol and Ground Rules for the Tuscarora Gather

These rules were created to ensure the safety of both the humans and the animals at the gather site(s).

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has tentatively scheduled observation days on Friday, July 23 and Saturday, July 24, **by appointment only** to provide the media and public opportunities to view activities during the Tuscarora wild horse gather.

To provide a safe environment for the animals, BLM staff, contractors and members of the public/media, requests will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and be limited to ten people per observation day.

Contact the BLM at 1-866-468-7826 to schedule an appointment to participate in an observation day.

The BLM recommends all appointments be made as far in advance as possible in order to help us schedule and confirm your request, and will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the public.

Observation days and gather operations may be suspended if bad weather conditions create unsafe flying conditions.

The BLM will notify observers as soon as possible if an observation day is canceled due to bad weather.

The BLM will rendezvous with interested members of the public at 7:00 a.m. in Midas, Nevada and caravan to the temporary holding corrals.

Observers must provide their own 4-wheel drive high clearance vehicle, appropriate shoes, clothing and food.

Observers are prohibited from riding in government and contractor vehicles and equipment.

Visitors arriving at the rendezvous site without an appointment will not be allowed to participate in the observation day.

The BLM law enforcement will escort non-scheduled visitors to a designated free-speech area.

BLM representatives will escort visitors to and from the gather and/or temporary holding facility.

Visitors will be assigned to a specific BLM representative and must stay with that person at all times.

Visitors are **NOT** permitted to walk around the gather site unaccompanied by their BLM representative.

The BLM will clearly identify observation areas and visitors **must** stay within these designated areas.

Observers are prohibited from climbing/trespassing onto or in the trucks, equipment or corrals, which is the private property of the contractor.

Visitors must direct their questions/comments to either their designated BLM representative or the BLM spokesperson on site, and not engage other BLM/contractor staff and disrupt their gather duties/responsibilities.

BLM may make the BLM/contractor staff available during down times for a Q&A session.

When given the signal that the helicopter is close to the gather site bringing horses in, visitors must sit down in areas specified by BLM representatives and must not move or talk as the horses are guided into the corral.

Observers will be polite, professional and respectful to BLM managers and staff and the contractor/employees.

For safety purposes, the BLM will escort observers from the gather/holding site around 1-2 p.m.

Visitors who do not cooperate and follow the rules will be escorted off the gather site by BLM law enforcement personnel, and will be prohibited in participating in any subsequent observation days.