

Observation Protocol and Information for Wild Horse Gathers

This protocol was created to ensure the safety of both the horses and the personnel at the gather site(s), and to ensure the least distraction to the gather operations.

You and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are responsible for your safety. The BLM will see that you get the best opportunity to experience the gather afforded by the terrain, conditions and the discretion of the contractor and Contracting Officer's Representative.

Observation will be held daily, on a first come, first served basis, with the maximum number of 10 people attending each day. You may attend multiple, consecutive observation days as long as you are within the first come, first served maximum.

Dress appropriately for field conditions and to reduce your visibility to the horses. Wear sturdy, broken-in field boots/shoes-count on rocky, rugged terrain, with sagebrush and rocks; do not wear brightly colored clothing-especially hats-earth tones or dark colors are best. We will be walking a distance to the viewing area; the distance could range from a few hundred yards to a mile. Please bring a lunch and water for the day. Binoculars, camera, lenses, a chair to sit in, etc. and all other personal items should be brought at your necessity and portable enough to carry to the observation site in a single trip.

Visitors arriving at observation without attending the morning briefing and subsequent caravan shall not participate in the observation day. The BLM Law Enforcement personnel will escort these visitors to a designate free-speech area.

In most instances observers are prohibited from riding in government and contractor vehicles and equipment.

The observation area will be marked or designated. Observers are not permitted to leave the observation area unknowingly or unaccompanied by the BLM representative. Of course, restroom breaks are okay. Trips to personal vehicles will be limited according to how far away the viewing area is from the parking area. At all other times, observers must stay within/behind the designated area-walking around the gather operation/site is not permitted.

There are no amenities-including no restrooms-little shade at the observation area. Please plan accordingly with plenty of water, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc. Temperatures will likely be cool in the morning but could reach well into the 80-90's by mid-afternoon.

Observers are prohibited from climbing/trespassing onto or in the trucks, equipment or corrals used in the gather operation. These items are property of the private contractor.

Observers should direct their questions/comments to one of the designated BLM representatives on site. We prefer to share information with the entire group and limit one on one conversation. Observers shall not engage with other BLM or contractor staff.

When given the signal that the helicopter is close to the gather site, observers must sit or crouch down in the observation area and should not move or talk as the horses are guided into the corral. Movement and other distractions may bring more stress to the horses as they come into the holding pens.

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

The BLM will caravan with observers from the gather site no later than 3:00 p.m. or as soon gather operations have stopped for the day.

Uncooperative observers will be escorted away from the gather site by BLM Law Enforcement personnel, and will be prohibited in participating in any subsequent observation days for gathers in Oregon/Washington for one year.

I have read, understand and agree to comply with the above protocol.

Please sign and date and bring the sign copy to the meeting location on the date that you will be an observer.

Signature

Date