



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Observation Protocol and Information for the Kiger and Riddle Mountain Herd Management Areas Wild Horse Gather

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 operation.

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 a 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.

Gather dates are tentatively scheduled for July 6-15, 2011. The dates are subject to change depending upon weather and gather operations. Some days of the gather may not provide a viewing opportunity at the capture site, due to variable circumstances such as moving the trap location (not gathering), no safe area to view activity or disguise vehicles. Notice on the days where no viewing opportunity exists will likely be given on short notice – perhaps the day before or the morning of the gather operation.

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.

Observers will meet at 4:30 a.m. daily, beginning July 6, at the Burns BLM District Office in Hines (28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR, 97738) for a short briefing and then be led to and from the gather site by BLM employees. Personal, high clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicles are required. Make sure the gas tank is topped off and that tires, including spares, are properly inflated. Travel time from the BLM to the observation area is approximately 1 hour. Road conditions will range from paved highway to rough and rocky.

Access to and distance from the capture site location will be determined jointly by the contractor and the agency's Contracting Officer's Representative prior to gather operations. Safety of the horses, crew and public, is our top priority.

Visitors arriving at observation site without attending the 4:30 a.m. briefing and subsequent caravan shall not participate in the observation day. The BLM Law Enforcement personnel will escort these visitors to a designated free-speech area.

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 to or unaccompanied by the BLM representative. Of course, restroom breaks and 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 – and little shade at the gather site. Please plan accordingly with plenty of water, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc. Temperatures will likely be in the 80s, but could reach mid-90s.

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 BLM managers and staff and the contractor/employees.

The BLM will caravan with observers from the gather site no later than 3 p.m., or as soon as 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 if they are available.

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