



## Know Before You Go!

Thank you for your interest in observing BLM wild horse gather operations in the Red Desert Complex. We hope you find your visit informative and educational.

The BLM is committed to providing as much public access to the gather as possible. However, the Complex lies in rugged and remote areas, and safety is our first priority. BLM staff will escort you to designated areas where you can safely view gather operations. We are providing the following information for your safety so you can be prepared for your visit.

The following information is subject to change at any time during gather operations.

### Observation Days

- The BLM plans to conduct observation days as often as possible and as long as participants do not disrupt operations or create conditions jeopardizing the safety of the animals, observers, contractors or BLM staff.
- After a briefing at the meeting location, the group will be escorted to the gather site. Observers will drive their own vehicles to the gather location.
- Designated observation areas on public land will provide safe observation opportunities which will not disrupt gather activities. Observers must stay in the designated areas.
- Inclement weather, a gather location being inaccessible to the public, or lack of gather operations on a given day (trap moving, equipment problems, etc.) will cancel the observation outing for that day. ***Cancellations may often not be known before the meeting time.***
- Because of the fluidity of gather operations, be prepared for the possibility of waiting at gather locations for hours without seeing any actual wild horses.

### BLM Wyoming Conditions & Safety Requirements

- There are no facilities, including restrooms, in the Complex.
- Cell service is very limited or nonexistent in much of the Complex. Plan to be out of range for most of the day.
- You must bring your own food and water.

- You must provide your own transportation. Government vehicles cannot be used to transport you to the gather locations or temporary holding facilities.
- Arrive at the meeting place with a full tank of gas.
- Roads are rugged and rocky. A high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle is strongly recommended. Your tires must be in good condition and you should have a fully inflated spare and tire changing equipment.
- Be prepared for weather extremes. Check the forecast the night before to ensure that you are prepared and dressed appropriately.
- Wear sturdy boots for hiking in rugged terrain. There is no shade. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and other appropriate protective clothing.
- Parking will be limited at many gather locations. Be prepared to hike into some observation locations. Some hikes could be arduous involving steep and rocky terrain. Hiking requirements will be explained at each morning briefing.
- Binoculars and a camera with a telephoto lens are strongly recommended.
- Dress in earth tones. Brightly-colored clothing can distract the horses.

**The following COVID-19 guidelines will apply:**

- Always stay at least six feet from others. Avoid gathering with others outside of your household.
- Bring hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol as restrooms will not be available.
- Do not attend the gather if you are sick, recently exposed (within 14 days) to someone with COVID-19 or are not feeling well.