

# What to Know Before You Go Instructions for visitors to the 2020 Paisley Desert HMA Emergency Wild Horse Gather

**When to meet:** Visitors to the gather, including all media and members of the public, must call Lisa McNee, Public Affairs Specialist, at (541) 947-6811 for daily meeting times as the time to meet is subject to change. Note: Gather operations are dependent on the weather and could change with little or no notice.

**Where to meet:** Visitors to the gather, including all media and members of the public, will meet at specified locations that are subject to change; locations will be determined based on the location of the traps. All visitors must call Lisa McNee, Public Affairs Specialist, at (541) 947-6811 for daily meeting times as the time to meet is subject to change. All visitors will need to sign in on the visitor's log sheet and there will be a short briefing for the day and introductions.

The group, led by either a LEO or BLM Staff, will then caravan out to the gather site of the day and all visitors must stay until gather operations are completed. We may not know the exact location of these sites until the day before, therefore, it is extremely important that visitors be flexible.

**Transportation:** All visitors must have their own transportation – BLM staff cannot take people in government vehicles except in an emergency. The temporary holding corrals/sites will move around to several locations and the roads can get very rough. Visitor vehicles must have 4-wheel drive and it is recommended; the vehicles have high clearance.

Due to the distances involved within the HMA and the lack of facilities, extra gas cans are highly recommended. Visitors must have their own spare tires (we suggest multiple spare tires!). There are full-service gas stations in Paisley and Christmas Valley.

Cell phones are also a good idea if you get stranded, though coverage cannot be guaranteed. We will travel together to and from the gather. Headlights must always be on during travel and if any vehicle has mechanical problems and/or flat tires, the caravan will stop.

**Amenities / Lodging:** There is minimal lodging opportunities in and near Christmas Valley, Oregon.

**Weather conditions:** This is Oregon in October; it is advised to plan for everything. Dressing in layers is recommended due to highly fluctuating temperatures throughout the day.

**COVID-19:** BLM staff will escort all media and/or visitors to and from the gather site each day. The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners continues to be paramount. We continue to work closely with the Department of the Interior and follow CDC guidance to ensure public and employee spaces are safe and clean for visitors, employees, partners, and volunteers.

The [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) has offered guidance to help people recreating on public lands prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We will continue to monitor all functions to ensure that visitors adhere to CDC guidance for mitigating risks associated with the transmission of COVID-19 and take any additional steps necessary to protect public health.

## **What to bring:**

- Bland, earth toned-colored clothing (*NO bright colors or loud patterns, please*)
- Closed-toed sturdy shoes (*recommended some sort of hiking shoe or boot*)
- Coat / hat (*Rain gear recommended dependent on weather conditions at the time of the gather*)
- Sunscreen

- Food and plenty of water
- Toilet Paper / Tissue (***There are NO bathrooms at the trap site so plan accordingly***)
- Extra Can of Gasoline and Spare Tire (***be sure to have proper equipment***)
- Binoculars and/or Camera
- A small collapsible camp chair or cushion for the ground (***neutral in color and light enough to carry for a distance***)
- Facemask or covering
- Hand sanitizer