



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Vale District Office  
100 Oregon St., Vale, Oregon 97918  
[BLM\\_OR\\_VL\\_Mailbox@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_VL_Mailbox@blm.gov)



## Observation Protocol and Information for the Barren Valley Complex Emergency 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 for 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. Access to and distance from the capture site location will be determined jointly by the Contractor and the BLM's Contracting Officer's Representative prior to gather operations. Safety of the horses, crew and public is our top priority.

Gather dates are tentatively scheduled for September 8 – October 6, 2021. Dates are subject to change depending upon weather and gather operations.

Viewing on any given day is not guaranteed. 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, etc. 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.

Observers must contact gather Public Affairs Specialist Larisa Bogardus at [lbogardus@blm.gov](mailto:lbogardus@blm.gov) or 541-523-1407 no later than 12 p.m. MST to request viewing the following day. Viewing is not guaranteed and is limited to no more than 12 people per day. Observation will be offered to those on the viewing list in order, based on the date in which interest was expressed in attending the gather.

Observers will be informed of the designated meeting location the night before. It will likely be in or near Rome, Ore., two hours southwest of Boise, ID, but could be farther afield, depending on the location of gather operations. Observers are prohibited from riding in government and contractor vehicles and equipment.

Observers must attend a pre-viewing briefing with the gather Public Affairs Specialist at the designated meeting location prior to departure. On observation days, you must check in, in person, individually, with the BLM official at the designated meeting site at the designated time.

Personal, high clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicles are REQUIRED. If you do not have adequate transportation to the observation area, you may attempt to carpool with other observers (at their discretion), but this option is not guaranteed. Make sure the gas tank is topped off and that tires, including spares, are properly inflated. Travel time from the meeting site to the observation areas varies. Road conditions will range from paved highway to rough and rocky primitive roads.

Observers should 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, medications, 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. Anything that is packed in must be packed out. There are no amenities – including no restrooms – and little or no shade at the observation areas. Temperatures could vary from lows in the 40s to highs in the 90s in the course of a day. Please plan accordingly with plenty of water, layers, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc.

Observation areas will be marked or designated. Observers are not permitted to leave the observation area unknown to or unaccompanied by a BLM representative. Trips to personal vehicles will be limited according to how far away the viewing area is from the parking area.

Observers arriving at an observation site without attending the briefing and subsequent caravan will not be allowed to participate in the observation day. Observers not associated with the observation day will be escorted away from the operational area to ensure their safety as well as the safety of gather personnel and the horses.

Viewing at the temporary holding facilities may be allowed if it is determined safe and undistruptive by the contractor, and at the discretion of the landowner if private property is used. 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.

Observers will be polite, professional and respectful to BLM managers and staff and the contractor/employees. Uncooperative observers will be escorted away from the gather site by BLM Law Enforcement personnel and prohibited from participating in any subsequent observation days.

The BLM will caravan with observers from the observation area or temporary holding facilities to the meeting site no later than 3 p.m., or as soon as gather operations have stopped for the day. Observers who separate from the caravan before the end of the viewing day may be asked to wait for clearance to depart and may be escorted from the area by law enforcement. They will not be allowed to rejoin the group.

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

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(PARENT or GUARDIAN signature required for viewers under the age of 18)**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_