

What to Know Before You Go Instructions for visitors to the FY2022 Fox-Lake Range HMA Wild Horse Gather

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](#) 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. When recreating, the public should follow local area health orders including Governor Sisolak's [standards](#) for individuals, businesses and employers, practice [Leave No Trace](#) principles, practice social distancing and avoid high-risk outdoor activities.

Where and When to meet: Visitors to the gather, including all media and members of the public, **must RSVP** by calling [\(775\) 623-1567](tel:775-623-1567) – *you must make your reservation by 5:30 p.m. the night before you intend to visit the gather activities.* If you have RSVP'd, no later than 5:30 p.m. the night before, you will receive a call back on meeting time and location no later than 9 p.m. that evening.

Pending the location of the trap sites viewing opportunities are subject to change. If the traps are on privately-owned property, trap observations will be limited or designated as “no public observation days”. If the traps are on public lands, trap observation opportunities will be daily.

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 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 daily operations are completed. We may not know the exact location of these sites; 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. Visitor vehicles must have 4-wheel drive, off-road vehicle tires and it is recommended; the vehicles have high clearance due to deep ruts and rocky roads.

The temporary holding corrals/sites will move around to several locations and the roads can get very rough in and around the wild horse and burro gather sites.

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, off-road spare tires!](#)). There are full-service gas stations in [Fernley](#) and minimal in [Gerlach](#) and [Nixon](#), but no other gas stations on Highway 447 and the gather area.

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 to main roads.

Headlights must always be on during travel and if any vehicle has mechanical problems and/or flat tires, the caravan will stop.

Amenities / Lodging: For gather operations there are lodging opportunities in Fernley, and minimal in Gerlach, Nevada.

Weather conditions: This is Nevada, in Autumn it is advised to plan for everything. Dressing in layers is recommended due to highly fluctuating temperatures throughout the morning, day, and evening.

What to bring:

- Facemask or covering
- Hand sanitizer
- Food and plenty of water
- Extra Can of Gasoline and Spare, off-road Tires (*be sure to have proper equipment*)
- 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
- Toilet Paper / Tissue (*There are NO bathrooms at the trap site so plan accordingly*)
- 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*)