"What to Know Before You Go" FY2024 Roberts Mountain Complex Wild Horse Gather

<u>When to meet:</u> Visitors to the gather, including all media and members of the public, wanting to view gather operations must call the Roberts Mountain Complex information hotline <u>nightly no later than</u> 5:00 p.m. at (775) 861-6700 to **RSVP**. If no RSVPs are received by 5:00 p.m., no public viewing will be available the following day. **Note:** Gather operations are dependent on the weather and could change with little or no notice.

<u>Where to meet:</u> 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. Although the meeting location could change, the regular sight meeting location will be at the Eureka County Fairgrounds located just west of Eureka on U.S. Highway 50.

All visitors will need to sign the "Observation Protocol" the first day they are observing, sign in on the visitor's log sheet daily, 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; therefore, it is extremely important that visitors be flexible.

Transportation: All visitors must have their own transportation – BLM staff cannot take members of the public or media in government vehicles except in an emergency or unless they approved personnel from another Federal or State agency. Visitor vehicles must have 4-wheel drive, off-road vehicle tires and it is recommended; the vehicles have high clearance.

Due to the distances involved within the Complex and the lack of facilities, it is highly recommended that visitors fuel their vehicles each night upon returning to Eureka. Gas stations are not guaranteed to be open in the early morning hours prior to departing for the gather activities. Visitors must have their own spare tires (we suggest multiple spare tires!). There are full-service gas stations in Eureka, Nevada, but no other gas stations between Eureka and the gather areas.

- The temporary holding corrals/sites will move around to several locations and the roads can get very rough in and around the Complex.
- 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 operation trap sights.
- Headlights must always be on during travel and if any vehicle has mechanical problems and/or flat tires, the caravan will stop.

<u>Amenities / Lodging / Weather conditions:</u> There is minimal lodging opportunities in and near Eureka, Nevada. This is Nevada in the Fall; it is advised to plan for everything. Dressing in layers is recommended due to highly fluctuating temperatures throughout the day. Temperatures could easily fall below zero at night and in the early morning hours and reach as high or more than 75 degrees during the day.

What to bring / wear:

- Food and plenty of water
- 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 and a small collapsible camp chair or cushion for the ground *(neutral in color and light enough to carry for a distance)*