



Know Before You Go

Thank you for taking the opportunity to observe BLM wild horse gather operations. We hope you find the day informative and educational. Before you head out to the observation site, there are several things you must know.

Viewing the gather

- The public is welcome to observe the **Piceance-East Douglas/West Douglas Wild Horse Gather**. BLM will strive to offer public viewing during the first three days of the gather (around August 2-4) and then Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays thereafter, at locations that provide a safe environment for the horses, the public, BLM employees, contractors, and gather crews. Federal Aviation Administration requirements, weather, and gather operations will determine the location and availability of observation sites.
- Observation is available by reservation only and is limited to 10-15 people per viewing day. **Reservations will be accepted by email only at BLM_CO_News@blm.gov. Requests must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. the day prior to the public viewing day you wish to attend.** In your reservation request, please state which calendar day(s) you prefer to attend so we can accommodate as many people as possible. After the first 3 days of the gather, viewing opportunities are on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. *Phone and voicemail reservations will not be accepted.*
- Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date and time the email is received. Individuals may request more than one viewing day; however, priority will be given to those who have not yet attended. Once everyone interested has had an opportunity to observe the gather, additional reservations may be accommodated as space allows. You may attend multiple, consecutive observation days as long as you are within the first come, first served maximum (if one is set).
- **Participants must receive confirmation before attending.** A BLM representative will contact confirmed participants no later than 5 p.m. the day before their scheduled visit with meeting times, locations, and additional instructions.
- Observers must attend a short check-in prior to departure to the HMA.
- The BLM will provide observation opportunities so long as participants do not disrupt operations or create conditions that jeopardize the safety of the animals, observers, contractors, or BLM staff.
- Every effort will be made to accommodate everyone interested each day; however, participation may be limited and/or some days of the gather may not provide a viewing opportunity due to variable circumstances such as moving the trap location (not gathering), no safe area to view activity or

disguise vehicles, rainy or windy conditions (not gathering), poor vehicle access, 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.
- 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. Observation areas will be established to provide observation opportunities that will not disrupt round up activities. **Observers must stay in areas designated.** Terrain and topography will dictate the location of trap sites, and some may provide better viewing than others.
- Travel to and from the observation site is by caravan, with observers in personal vehicles, following an agency representative. High clearance, AWD, and 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended. 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. Government vehicles cannot be used to transport you or your gear to the trap sites or holding facilities.
- Roads are rugged and rocky. Your tires must be in good condition, and you must have a fully inflated spare in good condition and tire changing equipment. A shovel is a good tool to have along as well. We strongly recommend heavy-duty off-road tires, especially if you plan multiple trips.
- Please do not bring any pets to the site. If you bring a pet, you will not be able to participate in the public viewing.

Conditions

- There are no amenities, including restrooms, at the observation sites. There will be restroom opportunities before we leave and when we return. You will be at the observation site most of the day – sometimes up to 10 hours. Plan accordingly.
- Cell service is limited or nonexistent in much of the area. Plan to be out of range for most of the day.
- You must bring your own food and water.
- Be prepared for weather extremes. You may need a jacket for the cool mornings, as we will usually depart before sunrise. Afternoon temperatures are forecasted to reach low-mid 90s on many days. There is limited shade. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and other appropriate protective clothing. You are welcome to bring a lightweight camp- style chair to the observation site, but please make sure it is dark neutral in color and without shiny supports. Pop up shade structures are not allowed.
- Parking will be limited at many observation areas. Be prepared to hike into some locations. Some hikes could be arduous involving steep and rocky terrain. You are responsible for independently walking to and from the observation area, including shuttling your own gear. Please do not park on top of tall vegetation due to wildfire risk.
- Binoculars, spotting scopes or high-powered camera lenses are strongly recommended to provide the best viewing opportunity. You are welcome to bring cameras and video gear, but you

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must follow BLM staff instructions regarding placement at the capture site. Tripods, monopods or any other equipment should be dark neutral in color. If this is not a possibility, plan to have something on hand to cover brightness (silver or polished metal) when horses are in proximity. Drones are not allowed.

- Please wear dark neutral clothing, including hats and coats, in dark or medium shades of gray, green, navy, brown or black. No khaki, white, or other light/bright colors, please.

BLM's top priority is the safety of the public, the horses, BLM employees, contractors, and gather crews throughout gather operations.