Gather Observation Protocol
for the FY2027 Antelope Complex Wild Horse Gather

The Bureau of Land Management strives to offer safe and meaningful opportunities for the public to observe helicopter-assisted wild horse gather operations. The BLM recognizes that members of the public hold strong views regarding wild horse gathers. We encourage you to use the public comment period during the environmental review process as the best opportunity to share your views. Every individual attending and working a gather operation is responsible for ensuring the safety and fair treatment of both people and animals. General complaints and suggestions should be directed to the Wild Horse and Burro Information Center at wildhorse@blm.gov.

To ensure the safety of the public, gather personnel and the wild horses, the BLM has established the following protocols for observing wild horse gathers:

1. **Observation sites are final.** The BLM chooses the location of the public observation site prior to the arrival of the public - observers cannot negotiate a new location. The number one priority of the BLM when selecting public observation sites is to ensure the safety of the operation and those viewing it; the site is also selected so as not to disrupt gather operations or place undue pressure/stress on the animals or the operational personnel.
2. **Observers are escorted.** BLM representatives will escort observers to and from the gather and/or temporary holding facility observation site (when available) during designated observation days.
3. **Follow instructions.** If a helicopter or wild horses are nearby, observers may be asked to remain quiet, crouch on the ground, and/or remain by their vehicle before being escorted to an observation area.
4. **Be respectful.** The BLM's goal is to provide a positive experience for all observers, which could include families with young children. Harassing or violent behavior will not be tolerated.
5. **Be professional.** Observers should not attempt to provoke others for any reason, this includes an aggressive use of cameras to intimidate BLM staff or fellow observers. Members of the media should request interviews with BLM staff in advance. The BLM will make every effort to accommodate interview requests based on staff availability.
6. **Don't be a distraction.** Observers may not wear brightly colored clothing or display signs, placards, or other items that are likely to obscure the view of other observers or disrupt gather operations.
7. **Keep hold of your belongings.** No observers, media or otherwise, will be allowed to place microphones, cameras or other devices outside the designated public observation site or on gather equipment (including gates, fences and helicopters).
8. **Leave no trace.** All observers must pack out all trash and properly dispose human waste.
9. **Focus on the task at hand.** Observers, media or otherwise, please do not record or photograph any vehicles, other observers or agency staff at the observation site unless official approval to do so is documented.

Observer's Printed Name and Signature _____ Date _____