

Know before you go

Prepared by the Eagle Lake Field Office, current as of 8/5/10

Thank you for taking the opportunity to observe BLM round up operations in the Twin Peaks Herd Management Area (HMA). We hope you find the day informative and educational.

The BLM is committed to providing as much public access to the gather as possible. However, the Twin Peaks HMA is a rugged and remote area, and your safety is our first priority. BLM staff will be available each day to escort you into observation areas. For your safety, we are providing the following information so that you can be prepared for what can be harsh conditions.

Observation Days

- BLM plans to conduct observation days every day of the gather. The BLM will continue to provide these daily opportunities as long as participants do not disrupt operations or create conditions that jeopardize the safety of the animals, observers, contractors, or BLM staff.
- The BLM will discontinue regular observation days if gather operations are disrupted or safety is jeopardized.
- Observers are invited to assemble at the BLM Litchfield Corrals, 20 miles east of Susanville, at 6 a.m. daily. After a briefing, the group will be escorted to the trap site.
- Observation areas will be delineated at each trap site that will provide observation opportunities that will not disrupt round up activities. Observers must stay in areas designated.
- Bad weather or lack of gather operations on a given day (trap moving, equipment problems, etc.) will cancel the observation outing for that day. Cancellations will be posted at the Litchfield facility, and the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office at (530) 257-0456.
- Visitors will be allowed at temporary holding corrals from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Maps to these facilities will be provided. BLM staff will be on hand to answer questions. These sites are on private land, but the owner is allowing access.
- Animals will be taken to the Litchfield Corrals initially. Animals rounded up later in gather will be taken to the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Center near Reno. Daily visiting hours will be announced.

Conditions and Safety Requirements

- There are no facilities, including restrooms, in the herd management area. We will provide restroom opportunities before we head out and when we return.
- Cell service is very limited or nonexistent in much of the HMA. Plan to be out of range for most of the day.
- You must bring your own lunch, water and snacks.
- You must provide your own transportation. Government vehicles cannot be used to transport you to the trap sites, holding corrals or the Litchfield Wild Horse and Burro Corrals.
- Roads are rugged and rocky. A high clearance four wheel drive vehicle is strongly recommended. Your tires must be in good condition and you should have a fully inflated spare and tire changing equipment.
- Be prepared for weather extremes. You will need a jacket for the cool mornings, as we will depart shortly after sunrise. Afternoon temperatures will climb. There is no shade. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and other appropriate protective clothing.
- Parking will be limited at many trap locations. Be prepared to hike into some observation locations. Some hikes could be arduous involving steep and rocky terrain. Some hikes could exceed two miles. Hiking requirements will be explained in the morning briefing on each observation day.
- Binoculars are strongly recommended.
- Please do not wear brightly-colored clothing as that could be distracting to the animals.