

Bureau of Land Management – California

Surprise Field Office
High Rock Complex Wild Horse Roundup

Know Before You Go

Welcome

Thank you for taking the opportunity to observe BLM round up operations in the High Rock Complex. 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 herd management areas in the High Rock Complex are in rugged and remote areas, and safety – for the horses, the staff and the public -- is our first priority. BLM staff will be available each day to escort members of the public and the news media 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 will be invited to gather at predetermined assembly points on each day of the gather. After a safety briefing observers will be escorted to the trap site. Observers will be required to provide their own transportation in high clearance four wheel drive vehicles. Public transportation is not permitted in BLM vehicles. Information on each day's observation opportunities will be provided on a telephone recording, (530) 279-2816.
- 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 announced as far in advance as possible and posted at the assembly points.

- Visitors will be allowed at temporary holding corrals from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Maps to these facilities will be provided. BLM staff will be on hand to answer questions.
- Animals will be taken to the BLM Litchfield Corrals initially. Animals rounded up later in gather will be taken to the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Center near Reno. Visiting hours will be announced.

Credentialed News Media

Members of the news media are welcome to cover the roundup. The BLM will accept various forms of media credentials.

- When safety and operational considerations allow, the BLM will establish media observation points to provide a closer or different vantage point to gather operations than that established for the general public. If safety and operational considerations would be compromised by closer access, the news media will be required to remain in the general public observation area.
- Where news media observation points are established, credentialed reporters, photographers and videographers will be allowed three opportunities to observe operations from the media observation point at each trap site. The BLM will consider requests for one additional follow-up visit if needed and in accordance with generally accepted journalistic principles and practices.
- If use of the media observation sites becomes unsafe or disruptive use will be discontinued at that trap site.
- BLM managers and staff will be available for interviews. News media representatives can arrange these interviews by working with the on-site BLM public affairs officer.

Conditions and Safety Requirements

- There are no facilities, including toilets, in the herd management areas. Facilities will be available at the BLM field office in Cedarville and at temporary holding corrals.
- Cell service is very limited or nonexistent in much of the HMA. Plan to be out of range for most of the day. There is no ATT&T cell service in Cedarville.
- You must bring your own lunch, water and snacks. A folding chair will make waiting time at the trap sites more comfortable.
- 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 cold mornings, as we will depart before sunrise. Afternoon temperatures will climb. There is no shade. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and other appropriate protective clothing. Dress in layers.
- 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.