

Piceance-East Douglas Wild Horse Gather

October 11 – October 22, 2010

Meeker, Colorado

What is taking place?

The Bureau of Land Management will be conducting a wild horse gather outside the boundary of the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA) on the Piceance Basin southwest of Meeker. This includes lands in Game Management Units 21 and 22.

The gather will take place Oct. 11-22. Hunters and other visitors in these areas may see helicopter traffic and activity on the ground during this time, and some specific areas may be temporarily closed during gather operations. The goal is to gather approximately 138 wild horses located outside the HMA and be placed in BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. None of the horses within the HMA will be gathered.

Why is BLM gathering wild horses?

The BLM is responsible for managing the nation's wild horses and burros.

Keeping wild horse numbers at approved levels will ensure quality habitat exists for wildlife such as deer and elk, as well as other uses such as livestock grazing. The last gather in the area was in 2006. Just as hunters and predators help keep wildlife populations in check, periodic wild horse gathers keep wild horse populations in check.

Why is BLM gathering horses now?

BLM is committed to conducting wild horse gathers humanely as possible, and fall is the ideal season. Fall gathers avoid stress on pregnant females and new colts, as well as the higher temperatures in the summer. Access is limited during winter. While we made a strong effort to completely avoid hunting seasons, the gather is part of a national schedule, and there are hunting seasons throughout the fall in Colorado.

Should I adjust my plans?

BLM wants you to be aware of the activity and potential temporary closures, but you should not need to change your general plans based on this gathering activity. The gather location will vary by day, and activity will be fairly local and obvious. Any temporary closures will be posted.

What should I do if I see activity near me?

If you happen to be near an area where gathering activities are taking place, we suggest you move to a different location. This will help ensure your safety as well as help BLM successfully gather the horses.

Where can I get more information?

Stop by BLM's White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641, call (970) 878-3800, or visit http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo/wrfo_wild_horses.html

