



Visitor Protocol and Ground Rules



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recognizes and respects the right of interested members of the public and press to observe the Triple B, Maverick-Medicine, and Antelope Herd Management Areas (HMAs) wild horse gather. At the same time, the BLM must ensure the health and safety of the public, the BLM's employees and contractors, and America's wild horses. Accordingly, the BLM developed these rules to maximize the opportunity for reasonable public access to the gather while ensuring that the BLM's health and safety responsibilities are fulfilled. Failure to maintain safe distances from operations at the gather and temporary holding sites could result in members of the public inadvertently getting in the path of the wild horses or gather personnel, thereby placing themselves and others at risk, or causing stress and potential injury to the wild horses.

Daily Visitor Protocol

- A Wild Horse Gather Information Phone Line will be set up prior to the gather so the public can call for information on where and what time to meet to attend the gather. Visitors are strongly encouraged to call the phone line the evening before they plan to attend to confirm that the gather and tour is taking place the next day as scheduled (the gather can be effected by the weather, or mechanical or other issues) and to confirm the meeting location.
- Visitors must direct their questions/comments to either their designated BLM representative or the BLM spokesperson on site, and not engage other BLM/contractor staff and disrupt their gather duties/responsibilities - professional and respectful behavior is expected of all. The BLM may make the agency staff available during down times for a Q&A session. However, the contractor and its staff will not be available to answer questions or interact with visitors.
- Observers must provide their own 4-wheel drive high-clearance vehicle, appropriate clothing, and food and water. Observers are prohibited from riding in government and contractor vehicles, and equipment.
- Gather operations may be suspended if bad weather conditions create unsafe flying conditions.
- The BLM will establish one or more observation areas in the immediate area of the gather and holding sites, to which individuals will be directed. These areas will be placed so as to maximize the opportunity for public observation while providing for a safe and effective horse gather. The utilization of such observation areas is necessary due to the use and presence of heavy equipment and aircraft in the gather operation and the critical need to allow BLM personnel and contractors to fully focus on attending to the needs of the wild horses while maintaining a safe environment for all involved. In addition, observation areas will be chosen so as to protect the wild horses from being spooked, startled or impacted in a manner that results in increased stress.
- BLM will delineate observation areas with yellow caution tape (or a similar type of tape or ribbon).
- Visitors will be assigned to a specific BLM representative on guided observation days and must stay with that person at all times.
- Visitors are **NOT** permitted to walk around the gather site or temporary holding facility unaccompanied by their BLM representative.

- Observers are prohibited from climbing/trespassing onto or in the trucks, equipment or corrals, which is the private property of the contractor.
- When the BLM is using a helicopter or other heavy equipment in close proximity to a designated observation area, members of the public may be asked to stay by their vehicle for some time before being directed to an observation area once the use of the helicopter or the heavy machinery is complete.
- When given the signal that the helicopter is close to the gather site bringing horses in, visitors must sit down in areas specified by BLM representatives and must not move or talk as the horses are guided into the corral.
- Individuals attempting to move outside a designated observation area will be requested to move back to the designated area or to leave the site. Failure to do so may result in citation or arrest. It is important to stay within the designated observation area to safely observe the wild horse gather.
- Observers will be polite, professional and respectful to BLM managers and staff and the contractor/employees. Visitors who do not cooperate and follow the rules will be escorted off the gather site by BLM law enforcement personnel, and will be prohibited from participating in any subsequent observation days.
- *BLM reserves the right to alter these rules based on changes in circumstances that may pose a risk to health, public safety or the safety of wild horses (such as weather, lightning, wildfire, etc.).*

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION DAYS

- The media and public are welcome to attend the gather any day, and are encouraged to attend on Saturdays, when they will have additional interpretive opportunities and can interact with staff. The BLM has tentatively scheduled the dates of July 9, 16, 23 and 30; and Aug. 6, 13 and 20 as public outreach and education days. The dates are subject to change depending upon weather and gather operations. The public is encouraged to check the gather hotline nightly at 775-289-1880 for updated information or changes in schedules.

For more information or to sign up, call Tiffany Trodahl, BLM Egan Field Office resource assistant, at (775) 289-1892. The BLM will also regularly post gather information on its Website at: www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html.