

Media Access Guidelines for Wild Horse Gatherers

BLM Wyoming welcomes the media to cover its wild horse gathers as it furthers one of our four identified gather objectives: transparency through continued public outreach. However, the first and overriding objective is safety: for the public, our employees, our contractor and the horses.

There are three issues involved in determining media access for our gathers: who, when/how long and where.

Who: anyone identifying themselves as a journalist who can provide either an official press credential (such as the NY Times) OR a letter from a media outlet identifying them as a representative of that outlet OR, if a freelancer, clips from a body of your work (article, photo, etc.)

When/How Long: All media meeting at least one of these criteria will be provided special access, if requested, depending on their specific needs (video vs. stills vs. reporter, etc.) if the BLM determines such access beyond that granted to the public can be provided safely. As special access takes extra staff and contractor time, each media outlet will be allocated up to one day of such access to complete their assignment per gather. After that, media will be provided the same access as public observers. There can be exceptions granted but such requests must be in writing and based on demonstrated and generally accepted journalistic needs.

Where: Media access requests must be made to the lead public affairs officer (PAO) who will work with the Operations Section Chief (OPS) who will work with the COR who will consult with the contractor to locate a safe access location as close to the media's needs as possible. For their own safety, media reps must follow instructions specified by the PAO who shall consider and pass on to the OPS special requests as warranted. Violations of the media safety instructions could result in a revocation of special access or other steps.

These guidelines are prepared to provide the media reasonable but safe access to our wild horse gathers. We appreciate any ideas and feedback on how we can provide special access to media to further media goals and still meet our gather objectives of safety and transparency.

