



# Know Before You Go:

## *Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Gather September 2024*

Thank you for taking the opportunity to observe BLM wild horse gather operations. We hope you find the day informative and educational. Before you head out to the observation site, there are several things you must know.

### Observation Days

- RSVPs are required. The number of visitors allowed at an observation site is limited and may change by day. If you are interested in observing the gather, you must RSVP by leaving a message on the hotline no later than 5 p.m. (MT) the day before a scheduled gather. Call **(970) 579-0134** and leave a message with your name and phone number.
- You must have confirmation to attend. A BLM staff member will contact you to confirm your visit no later than 9 p.m. (MT). Selections are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Your confirmation will include details such as a meeting time, location, possible drive time, and observation rules.
- Times for each day will vary depending on the trap site location and may start as early as 4 a.m. and end as late as 7 p.m. If you choose to leave, you may have to wait for an escort to become available and you will not be allowed reentry. After a briefing, BLM staff will escort the observers to the trap site.
- The BLM will provide observation opportunities so long as participants do not disrupt operations or create conditions that jeopardize the safety of the animals, observers, contractors, or BLM staff.
- Observation is held on a first come, first served basis. Every effort will be made to accommodate viewers each day; however, participation may be limited and/or some days of the gather may not provide a viewing opportunity due to variable circumstances such as moving the trap location (not gathering), no safe area to view activity or disguise vehicles, rainy or windy conditions (not gathering), poor vehicle access, etc.
- Notice on the days where no viewing opportunity exists will likely be given on short notice – perhaps the day before or the morning of the gather operation. You may attend multiple, consecutive observation days as long as you are within the first come, first served maximum (if one is set).
- Access to and distance from the capture site location will be determined jointly by the contractor and the BLM contracting officer representative prior to gather operations. Observation areas will be established to provide observation opportunities that will not disrupt round up activities. Observers must stay in areas designated. Terrain and topography will dictate the location of trap sites, and some may provide better viewing than others.
- If temporary holding corrals are not on private land, visitors may be allowed at the corrals at the completion of daily gathering operations. BLM staff will be on hand to answer questions.

## Conditions

- There are no facilities, including restrooms, at the observation sites. There will be restroom opportunities before we head out and when we return. You will be at the observation site most of the day, so plan accordingly.
- Cell service is limited or nonexistent in much of the area. Plan to be out of range for most of the day.
- You must bring your own food and water.
- Consider any known health/medical conditions and bring what you need for the day. Remember, many observation sites are hours away from a main road, town and emergency services.
- You must provide your own transportation. Government vehicles cannot be used to transport you or your gear to the trap sites or holding corrals.
- Roads are rugged and rocky. A high clearance four-wheel-drive vehicle is required. Your tires must be in good condition, and you must have a fully inflated spare in good condition and tire changing equipment. A shovel is a good tool to have along. We strongly recommend heavy-duty off-road tires, especially if you plan multiple trips. BLM is not responsible for damage to your vehicle caused by the conditions of the road to the observation site.
- Be prepared for weather extremes. You will need a jacket for the cool mornings, as we will usually depart before sunrise. Afternoon temperatures will climb into the 90s on many days. There is limited shade. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and other appropriate protective clothing. You are welcome to bring a lightweight camp-style chair to the observation site. We do not allow pop up shade structures or umbrellas.
- Parking will be limited at many observation locations. Be prepared to hike into some locations. Some hikes could be arduous involving steep and rocky terrain. Please do not park on top of tall vegetation due to wildfire risk.
- Binoculars, spotting scopes or high-powered camera lenses are strongly recommended. You are welcome to bring cameras and video gear, but you must follow BLM staff instructions regarding placement at the capture site. **Drones are not allowed.**
- Please do not wear brightly colored clothing or hats.