

## **What to Know Before You Go Instructions for visitors to the West Douglas Herd Area (WD HA) Wild Horse Gather**

**COVID-19:** BLM staff will escort all media and/or visitors to and from the gather site each day. The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners continues to be paramount. We continue to work closely with the Department of the Interior and follow CDC guidance to ensure public and employee spaces are safe and clean for visitors, employees, partners, and volunteers.

**When to meet:** Visitors to the gather, including all media and members of the public, must call the West Douglas Herd Area Gather Info Line at (970) 673-7768 for an update on the next day's gather activities, meeting times and location. Note: Gather operations are dependent on the weather and could change with little or no notice.

**Where to meet:** Visitors to the gather, including all media and members of the public, will meet at specified locations that are subject to change; locations will be determined based on the location of the traps. Call the West Douglas Herd Area Gather Info Line at (970) 673-7768 for meeting times and location.

All visitors will need to sign in on the visitor's log sheet and there will be a short briefing for the day and introductions.

The group, led by either a Law Enforcement Officer or BLM Staff, will then caravan out to the gather site of the day and all visitors must stay until gather operations are completed. We may not know the exact location of these sites; therefore, it is extremely important that visitors be flexible.

**Transportation:** All visitors must have their own transportation – BLM staff cannot take people in government vehicles except in an emergency. Visitor vehicles must have 4-wheel drive, off-road vehicle tires and it is recommended; the vehicles have high clearance.

The temporary holding corrals/sites will move around to several locations and the roads can get very rough in and around the HMA.

Due to the distances involved within the HMA and the lack of facilities, extra gas cans are highly recommended. Visitors must have their own spare tires. There are full-service gas stations in Rangely.

Cell phones are also a good idea if you get stranded, though coverage cannot be guaranteed. We will travel together to and from the gather.

Headlights must always be on during travel and if any vehicle has mechanical problems and/or flat tires, the caravan will stop.

**Amenities / Lodging:** There is minimal lodging opportunities in and near Rangely. Visit the Rangely Chamber of Commerce for more information on lodging: <https://www.rangelychamber.com/>.

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**Weather conditions:** This is Colorado in July; it is advised to plan for everything. Dressing in layers is recommended due to highly fluctuating temperatures throughout the day.

### **What to bring:**

- Food and plenty of water
- Extra Can of Gasoline and Spare Tire (*be sure to have proper equipment*)
- Bland, earth toned-colored clothing (*NO bright colors or loud patterns, please*)
- Closed-toed sturdy shoes (*recommended some sort of hiking shoe or boot*)
- Coat / hat (*Rain gear recommended dependent on weather conditions at the time of the gather*)
- Sunscreen
- Toilet Paper / Tissue (*There are NO bathrooms at the trap site so plan accordingly*)
- Binoculars and/or Camera
- A small collapsible camp chair or cushion for the ground (*neutral in color and light enough to carry for a distance*)