



Malheur National Forest

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www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR A WILD HORSE GATHER

John Day, OR – The Blue Mountain Ranger District is planning a wild horse gather in the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory from approximately October 9th to October 25th, announced Brooks Smith, Blue Mountain District Ranger. The Malheur National Forest is currently working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to finalize the specifics of the gather. As plans are finalized, information will be released to the public.

“All efforts will be made to minimize impacts on hunting seasons,” said Smith. “However, the public can expect road closures in areas where helicopter and trapping efforts are happening.”

Cator Livestock Roundup Inc. the contractor who gathered wild horses out of the same area last year, will also be doing the gather this year. It is anticipated that 100 to 150 horses will be gathered.

“The capture of these wild horses will be beneficial to the horses as well as the natural resources,” Smith added. “The reduction of herd size will allow for a stronger, healthier horse population, as well as promote healthier plant populations in the areas the horses graze, benefiting big game populations.”

The horses are humanely gathered using various means. They will be tempted into corrals using hay as bait as well as being gathered by wranglers and possibly helicopters. Once gathered they are driven into horse “traps” which are high corral type structures. The horses are then inspected, sorted and transported to the Burns Bureau of Land Management (BLM) where they will be put up for adoption. If you are interested in adopting a wild horse, information is

available at the Federal Building in John Day, or you can contact the Burns BLM at (541)573-4456

If you would like more information, please contact Jeff Shinn, Range Management Specialist at (541)575-3037.

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