



2013 Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge **Feral Horse Corrals**

Public Observation Announcement

Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Lakeview, Oregon
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On September 13, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) completed gathering 415 feral horses at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) as part of its ongoing management actions to implement the Service's 2012 Record of Decision for the Sheldon NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement.

In order to conduct effective and efficient sorting operations, to ensure safety for horses, employees, and the public, the administrative facility where horses are being held temporarily is closed to public entry. Public viewing and observation of horses in the corrals and sorting operations may be possible at a distance from other areas of Sheldon NWR open to the public.

In addition, the Service will provide an escort for up to 10 members of the public/media to observe horses within corrals at Sheldon Refuge for two hours on a date to be determined during the week of September 30, 2013 (exact date and time will be determined following completion of sorting operations at the facility). Observation opportunities will be provided on a first-come first-serve basis. Primary considerations for selection of observation dates and duration are safety, minimizing animal stress, and to ensure efficient and effective sorting operations. Public observation of horses in the corrals will be from a distance of 50-100 feet.

Due to our need to ensure public safety as well as the safety of animals and employees and to maintain a low stress environment for horses the following guidelines will apply to members of the public/media observing the corrals:

- Observers must sign a Refuge Special Use Permit agreeing to follow all verbal and written staff instructions.

- Observers will have access to view the corrals from a designated safe observation area and will be escorted at all times by Service personnel.
- Pets will not be allowed.
- Failure to follow permit stipulations will result in the immediate removal of individuals. In addition, such individuals may be banned from future observations.

If you wish to observe horses within the corrals at Sheldon NWR, you must notify Megan Nagel no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday September 27, 2013 at megan_nagel@fws.gov or by calling 503-231-6123.