



# Malheur National Forest

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[www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY AREA CLOSURE DURING WILD HORSE GATHER**

John Day, OR – The Blue Mountain Ranger District is currently conducting a wild horse gather in the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory, announced Brooks Smith, Blue Mountain District Ranger. For the safety of the public and the wild horses, a temporary area and road closure has been implemented. The closure includes Thorn Creek, Murderers Creek, Deer Creek, John Young Meadows, Keller Creek, and Flagtail Mountain area. The roads that are affected by this closure include:

- Forest Road 21 (Fields Creek) from the Forest Boundary to its junction with Forest Road 2170.
- Forest Road 2150 to its junction with Forest Road 21.
- Forest Road 2480 from Forest Road 24 to its junction with Forest Road 2490.
- Forest Road 2490 from the Stewart Cabin to its junction with Forest Road 24.
- Forest Road 6370 from the Izee Highway to the Forest Boundary.

A detailed map showing the actual closure is available at Forest Service offices in John Day and Prairie City and on the Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur). The closed area will be signed and posted and the closure will remain in effect until approximately August 17.

The use of motorized vehicles is prohibited within the closed area, except for the wild horse contractor and any of his/her representatives connected with the wild horse contract. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting organization in the performance of an official duty, or persons authorized by permit may also enter the closed area.

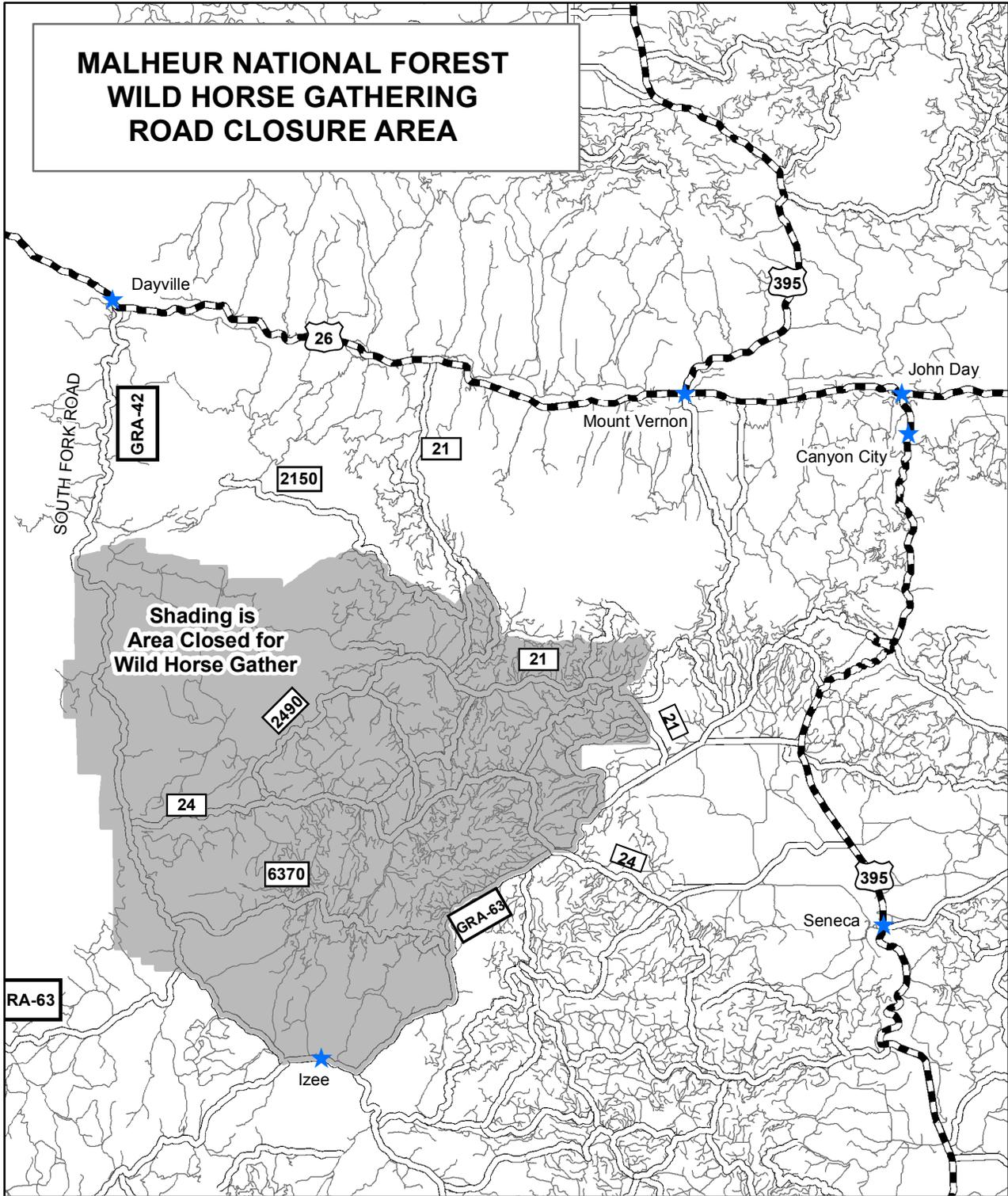
“We anticipate that the number of horses gathered will be 100 to 150 head,” said Smith. “The capture of these wild horses will be beneficial to the horses as well as the natural resources. The reduction of herd size will allow for a stronger, healthier horse population, as well as promote healthier plant populations in the areas the horses graze, benefiting big game populations.” “This temporary road and area closure will allow for the safe and quick capture of the wild horses and we will re-open the area as soon as we can,” added Smith.

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)575-3073.

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# MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST WILD HORSE GATHERING ROAD CLOSURE AREA



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