

## 2022 Fly Ranch Nature Walk Docent Guide



“Walking is the great adventure, the first meditation, a practice of heartiness and soul primary to humankind. Walking is the exact balance between spirit and humility.” - Gary Snyder

Welcome. What follows is a guide for those who wish to participate as Friends of Black Rock High Rock volunteer docents for Fly Ranch nature walks, offered in collaboration with Burning Man Project.

Friends of Black Rock-High Rock inspires legacies of public land stewardship in the entrancing Black Rock Desert region through conservation and education. Burning Man is a network of people inspired by the values reflected in their Ten Principles and united in the pursuit of a more creative and connected existence in the world. Both are nonprofit organizations which, together, wish to create awe-inspiring experiences that will connect participants to the beauty and wonder of Fly Ranch and the surrounding areas.

Guides are members of the community passionate about the Fly Ranch Project who want to help others engage with this special place. More specifically, we:

- Facilitate an educational and informative experience for participants
- Manage logistics: headcounts, waivers, access, parking, route, and departure
- Establish the energetic tone for the experience and represent the values of the project
- Make sure the group remains safe and practices Leave No Trace values
- Answer questions and provide locations of resources for further information

We are here to facilitate the nature walks. As a group we are walking together. Our role is primarily to make sure people have a safe experience and to set the tone of the experience.

At designated spots throughout the walks the lead docent will have information for the attendees, but all docents are there to support people's experience and engage their curiosity. We encourage all to lean in safely and in a non-disruptive way to what excites them.



This document contains four sections: **Spirit, Mind, Walk, and Talk** . Let them be your guides.

## **Spirit:**

### Embracing the Power of Place and the Unknown

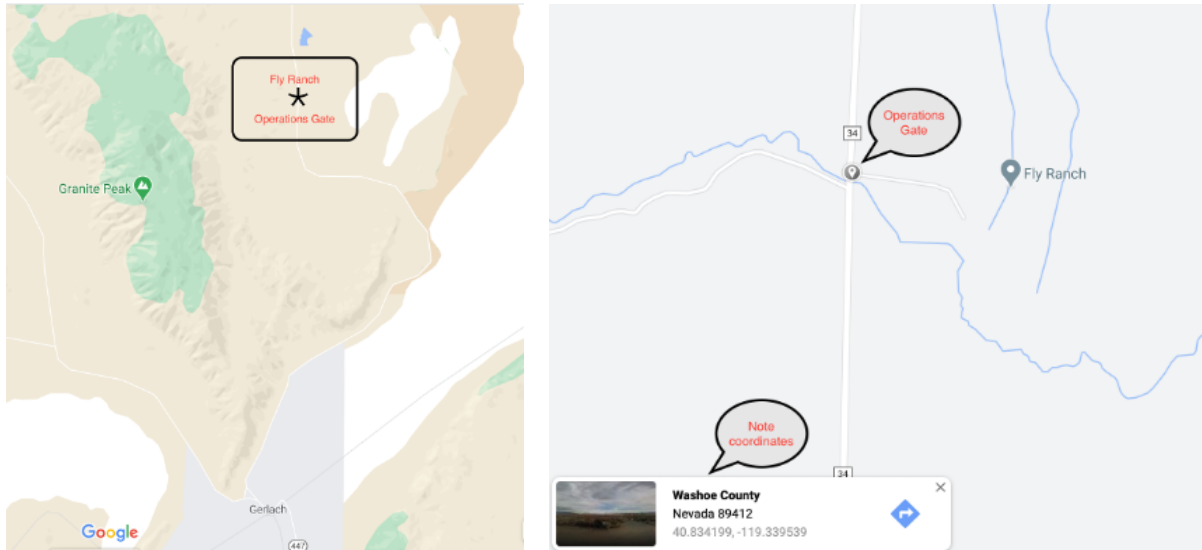
The high desert of Nevada, with its dramatic landscapes and otherworldly features, is a special place. Fly Ranch may be one of the most unique and mysterious locations in this place. Our role is to embody the spirit of this place and project in a way that allows people to feel included but also have their own kind of experience. These trips are one part exploration, another part social outing, and part walking meditation.

We should stay curious in our own right, to question what exists on this property and what the future holds for this project. We don't want to attempt to be, or give the impression, that we are the sole experts in either of these matters. We want to engage the spirits of both reflection and engagement. Each trip will have its own energy and there is something to be gained from states of movement, stillness, conversation, and silence.



## **Mind:**

### Planning and Logistics of an Adventure



During COVID-19 restrictions, walks meet at the Fly Ranch Operations Gate. All docents must be fully vaccinated, although this is not a requirement for nature walk participants. Wear facemasks as required by revision of guidelines or if a particular need is perceived within any interaction. Be prepared to provide masks or offer an alternative to the nature walk if masks are required at a given juncture but are not in use.

The lead docent or a FBR support person will arrive at least one hour before walk start time with that day's attendee lists and walk supplies, provided at the FBR headquarters in Gerlach (320 Main St.). Support docents should arrive at least 45 minutes prior. Be prepared for some downtime while you wait for attendees.

Check in attendees at the gate, provide a laminated copy of the waiver, ask them to sign the waiver sheet and provide emergency contact information. Ensure that they understand that social distancing, face masks and sanitizing will be required as currently mandated throughout their visit. Offer sanitizing wipe after waiver and pen use at sign-in and sanitize waiver and pen for next participant.

Direct drivers to follow the dirt road to the first right and drive in a loop that allows them to park nose to tail behind the preceding vehicle. Here they will meet another docent who will help direct them to park safely. Ask drivers not to park over dry vegetation by driving only on dirt areas, and to park so that the 6' social distance can be maintained as they move around their vehicle. Remind arriving participants that photography is not permitted until the very end of the walk in the geyser area, and that



portable toilets are available for use. Docents should check bathrooms on arrival to ensure they are fine to use. (Cleaning supplies are provided)

At 10 am drive through the gate, lock it behind you, and join the loop of vehicles. Take a headcount and determine which docent will watch for late arrivals and respond.

Explain that the group will walk for about an hour at this first location, then all will return to their vehicles and follow the lead vehicle out the gate and to the right, roughly two miles north along the road, through the next gate and along a gravel road to park again in a loop for a second walk also for roughly an hour. Tell participants that there is time to use the toilet and to get snacks on return to the parking area and at the end of the walk in the geyser area. Share this information with participants before the walk so they know what to expect. Remind them to carry water, hats, etc.



Each walk should have no fewer than two trained docents and three is strongly recommended, one of whom is certified in Wilderness First Aid. One guide will be available to assist any participant who is unable to undertake the entire walk. Participants must travel in their own vehicles and docents should be in separate cars, one in the lead and one in the rear, as the group moves between walk loop locations.

There is an opportunity for participants to receive a refund of their ticket purchase or make additional donations to support FBR or Fly Ranch Project by visiting websites following the trip ([blackrockdesert.org](http://blackrockdesert.org); [flyranch.org](http://flyranch.org)).

Docents talk about old ranch structures and equipment, projects such as [LAGI](#) (Dig/Dug City, Ripple and Seed Symbiosis are indicated on the First Walk Loop map, but are not visited) and about art that can be visited during the first portion of the walks. Everyone returns to their vehicles and all travel to the Geyser Gate.

The docent in the lead car unlocks the Operations Gate, leads north, unlocks the Geyser gate and leads the caravan to the parking location at the J-pipes on the right at the end of the dirt road leading to the lower dam. The docent in the last car locks the Operations Gate and then the Geyser Gate behind the caravan.

Vehicles again park in a loop, one behind the other in the water truck lot, the lead vehicle should be looped and parked all the way around to be furthest north in the parking area. If someone is unable to make the walk from this starting point, have the third docent accompany them directly to the geyser or pool area at this time, where the group will meet up with them after the walk. In cases of extremely compromised mobility an attendee vehicle may park near the composting toilets and move directly to the geyser area with a docent. You will need to use your best judgement in these scenarios.



Reconfirm the headcount once all have parked and gathered to walk. Let the group know that this second walk loop will also take about an hour and will conclude back at the cars. Remind walkers that photography is allowed only at the very end of the walk, and that they should carry water. A detailed description of the route and logistics is contained below in the **Nature Walk** section. At completion of the walk, thank people graciously for their time, and offer them the gift of Fly Ranch postcards and/or Friends of Black Rock-High Rock stickers as available. Let them know that if they want to further support the Fly Ranch Project (Fly Ranch is entirely donation funded) they can

make a donation at this time, and/or they can sign up to become a member of Friends of Black Rock-High Rock.

### First Nature Walk Loop



When parked and ready, circle up and give the ground rule information found in the **Talk** section below. The green walk loop shown above starts at the Bone Tree (good point to talk about Burning Man, the 1997 event and art still in place; Black Rock City theme camps, Burners Without Borders). Oasis Village and Burners Without Borders containers have been moved up near the Bone Tree behind the old ranch building into the new camping area. The Narwhal, Banya and Baba Yaga's House remain in place.

One docent should remain near the front of the group, while the other should accompany the last participants. **Do not leave anyone behind and do not rush participants; it's okay to move slowly.** Watch at the beginning of the walk for mobility issues, those who may not have understood or embraced photography, dog or rule of thumb guidelines, and any who may require hearing or language considerations.

Walk away from the Bone Tree and check that all are staying with the group (good point to explain rule of thumb, LNT). This route allows one docent to leave the group at Narwhal for late arrival entries (good place to talk about mutant vehicles, MOOP,



volunteer and communal effort), and continues past the Banya (good point to talk about inclusiveness, global population, regional burns) to Baba Yaga's House (good point to talk about Burning Man art, ARTery, honoraria). If Cottonwood Ditch is dry, cross the barbed wire fence line through the gate to the Labyrinth. There is not time to walk the Labyrinth, but it is a good time to give a general orientation and provide an overview of the ranch, geography, geology, history (good place to talk about Emigrant Trails and Conservation Area; Sunday Labyrinth walks). If Cottonwood Ditch is flowing it is best to visit the Labyrinth first, come back to Narwhal, visit Baba Yaga's House and then return to vehicles. Give people time to use the toilet if needed (good time to talk about the Bone Tree, Burning Man themes) before driving to the Geyser Gate for the second walk loop.

### Second Nature Walk Loop



The Second Walk Loop route is highlighted above in orange. Omit the lower desert loop to The Pier as it is not currently safe for large groups. Discuss the art installation from the Lower Dam walk route (good place to discuss Coyote Mountain LAGI installation, mining impacts).

The starting point of the second walk loop is the westernmost portion of the lower dam. The walk from this point to lower desert loop is the time to give people a general orientation and provide some basic information about the riparian zone. When you reach the point to talk about the lower desert/playa, pause and let the group gather for a moment. Use this time to use the **High Point Conversation**. Let folks know that we



are on the Pacific Flyway migration route, talk about species (American coot, western grebe, many types of ducks including wigeon, shoveler, teal, gadwall, mallard, mergansers) on the pond.

Move along the bend in the dam and enjoy the sights of the pond on your left. There is often wildlife there, and it is a good place to point out the shape of the scirpus, the importance of the collapsed vegetation for carbon sequestration (storage of carbon dioxide removed by plants from the air). Once you reach the barbed wire stretch gate, the lead docent will open and close it while the group gathers. **Always close this gate.** Let participants know that this gate keeps cows out of the sensitive wetland habitat area, talk about gate conventions throughout western ranchlands.

Shortly after this gate, the path turns left into the salt grass; use the space between the Fly Geyser and Wizard Geyser as a guiding point. Move slowly as the terrain can be uneven. Seek out and use high ground. When you reach the dark ponds, use the **Dark Pools Conversation** information.

The walk features one bridge crossing and two fence crossings. The first fence has a swing gate secured by large carabiner. The second fence is electric and should be opened by holding the orange handle.



After the second fence crossing, lead the group to the benches on the east side of the pool and wait for all to gather. Do a headcount. Go through the **Pool Conversation** points below in the **Talk** section. Then lead the group through the horseshoe gate and announce that photography is now allowed.

There is not enough room for all to visit the geysers at once and maintain 6 foot COVID safety distancing, so ask the group to split and take turns visiting the two geysers. One docent must wait with those in queue to visit the viewing platform at Fly Geyser, and another docent must walk along the upper dam with the other part of the group to visit Little Pot/Will's Geyser (stay on upper dam path and don't descend toward the small geyser; good opportunity to talk about social trails and invasive seed transport). Some will need to be offered seating on the tree trunks at the fire pit. As all return from geyser visits, go through the **Closing Conversation** points listed below in the **Talk** section. Conclude by thanking participants and offering postcards and/or stickers.

Allow the group time to visit the composting toilets (explain use and sanitation; "If you pee let it be; if you poop add a scoop. There's sawdust in the bucket next to the pot.") before leading them back to the cars. Make sure to do this at least 10 minutes before the stated ending time of the trip. **Do a headcount at the cars.** When people are ready, the lead docent should drive up to unlock and open the Geyser Gate. The last docent will ensure that everyone is off site. Lead docent can determine whether soaking is possible (no other events or visitors onsite) and offer docents that opportunity if desired.



## **Talk:**

### Communicating About Fly Ranch

It is important to represent your role honestly and accurately. When introducing yourself to the group, please make it clear that you are a volunteer and not a Burning Man, Fly Ranch, or Friends of Black Rock-High Rock staff member. Also feel encouraged to share what you are passionate about that brought you to volunteer.

### **Grounding Rules - Part 1**

Don't think of them as ground rules so much as a promotion of the idea that staying present is an awesome thing to do. We want to encourage folks to have a direct experience with the landscape and inhabitants of this space. To that end, we communicate the following to every guest:

- **Welcome everyone!** Make sure everyone is welcomed and introduce Friends of Black Rock-High Rock, Burning Man, and the Guides who will be helping out on this Walk.
- **Acknowledge indigenous predecessors.** Explain that we are on the tribal lands of the Numu (pronounced “new moo”, Northern Paiute) and Newe (pronounced “knee way”, Western Shoshone) people and that we remove no artifacts. If we discover a spear point or arrowhead we can share it in place but not remove it.
- **This is a Leave No Trace experience.** We talk about the first principle as soon as people are gathered at the Bone Tree.
  - **Plan ahead and be prepared** - We will be walking outside. Participants will need water and hats. Toilets are in the first loop parking area and second loop ending zone, and there is time before driving to the second loop to use toilets and get snacks.
- **Safety Points**
  - Lead docents will have a first aid kit, and there will be a first aid kit in the truck.
  - Lead docents will carry radios as available to contact the outside world in case of an emergency.
  - Ideally, at least one docent will be Wilderness First Aid certified.
  - Make sure the group knows who to contact in case of emergency or medical assistance.
  - If there is anyone with mobility issues, offer to take a shorter alternate route to Fly Geyser and Will's Geyser.
- **Device Policy:** We see Fly Ranch as a beautiful place. We ask that no photos be taken until the end of the walk. We'll indicate when that time begins. We do this for several reasons:



- **Safety:** One of the top causes of injury is not paying attention to your surroundings. In order to help keep everyone safe, we ask that you stay aware of your surroundings.
  - **Respect:** Because we have a limited amount of time, if people are lagging behind to take pictures, it means there will be less time for everyone else to take pictures at the end of the walk, when we reach Fly Geyser.
  - **Immediacy:** We want to encourage you to experience Fly Ranch through your senses and not through a device. When trying to create the perfect picture, we often tune out the rest of what's going on around us, leaving an incomplete picture. Enjoy the moment with those around you.
  - **LNT:** When photographs are shared on social media they often carry geolocation information. While at Fly Ranch we can educate about respect for sensitive artifacts and features, but that information is not conveyed to those who may trespass.
- **Driving Route:** Explain that we're driving from the Operations Gate to the first parking area, talking about the property and the plans for it, walking the first loop, then returning to our vehicles and driving about 2 miles north to the Geyser Gate for the second walk loop.

### **Farmhouse Conversation**

People have lots of questions, so here is a good time to cover the basics of the property, along with the goals and plans of the project. Talk about the [Land Art Generator Initiative](#).

#### **Basic Info:**

- 3,800 acres.
- 53 separate parcels
- Zoned General Rural
- 21 miles from Gerlach, 125 miles from Reno
- Home of 1997 Burning Man event, 10,000-person event

#### **Plants & Animals:**

- More than 100 identified types of plants
- More than 70 identified types of birds
- Several non-native plants including Russian Knapweed & Chokeweed

#### **What Burning Man has accomplished:**

- Our Fly Ranch Biology Fellow completed a preliminary [environmental baseline map](#) of flora, fauna, weather systems, sensitive areas of the property, and a ton more.
- The site has hosted about 30 Fly Ranch Restoration weekends and campouts.

- Burners volunteered to build composting toilets, solar showers, and small upcycled projects like pathways and bridges, repair fences, clear invasive species, develop paths.
- Fly Ranch hosted prototype gatherings in 2021 to test the site and its systems. We used composting toilets, an off-grid kitchen, and various housing solutions and part of community-organized gatherings with a variety of programming, activities and speakers. Some of these gatherings were a general mixture of artists, staff, volunteers, and folks that have been involved in Fly Ranch to date, and some had a more specific focus around a particular topic.
- The Pier and Narwhal Art projects were brought to join the Bone Tree on the property, followed by the Banya and Baba Yaga's House. The Labyrinth was created in 2020.
- After hearing that Fly Ranch was short on power, the Theme Camp Milk+Honey offered Fly Ranch the use of their solar system. Milk+Honey brought the system out from the Bay Area, led an installation project, and taught a group of Fly Ranch volunteers how to operate it. This system powered almost all of the activities on Fly Ranch for the Summer. The Renewable Arts Team has also supported solar implementation at Fly Ranch and helps others develop alternative energy support for projects and installations.
- The Theme Camp Art of Steam tested a unique healing experience and source of warmth during the cold nights at Fly Ranch. After four years of building and bringing their Russian-style Banya steam rooms (think 'wet sauna') to Black Rock City, the camp installed their 2017 BRC art project "The Onion" for the use and enjoyment of volunteers and campers at Fly Ranch. Their team of steam masters offered treatments to weekend participants and taught lessons on the technique, methodology, and history of the banya in Russian culture. To top things off, The Onion is powered by the solar array offered by Milk+Honey.

Here is a synopsis of Fly Ranch 2021 activity and some plans for 2022.

Weekend nature walks, guardians, campouts, Sunday labyrinth walks and staff soaks provide nearly year-round engagement.

Land Art Generator 2020 Fly Ranch will bring ten teams to create sustainable structures.

150 cattle graze the land and deliver calves over winter roughly doubling that number.

Ongoing projects include solar implementation, fencing, dam maintenance, and invasive species mitigation. Path development and species documentation are ongoing.

## 2022 Plans

Guardians and stewardship will continue to be emphasized, and nature and labyrinth walks will create opportunities for the public to visit. There will be a climate change adaptation initiative, public work days, campouts, and LAGI teams. Efforts will be made to protect local and regional water and ecology.

## Grounding Rules - Part 2

**Stay within eyesight and earshot of the group.** Some walk faster than others; some want to walk alone. This is fine, just make sure to stay within range of visual and auditory contact.

**The docent is a facilitator, not a tour guide.** We are here for a collective experience not to tell you where to go and every fact that we know. Are you curious about something? Ask!

**This is a Leave No Trace experience.** We talk about the rest of the principles in the field.

**Travel and park on durable surfaces** - Please watch your footing. We are traversing areas of varying stability (slippery, uneven), so be careful where you step. We are near wetlands, so please stay with the leader and follow the group to avoid impacting sensitive habitat areas.

**Leave what you find** – Artifacts are protected by the Antiquities Act.

**Dispose of waste properly** - “Pack it in, pack it out.” If you find anything on your walk that is made by humans and less than 50 years old, please notify or give it to a docent. Docents collect MOOP (matter out of place) throughout the walks to add to the collection of items found on Fly Ranch or for disposal.

**Respect wildlife** - We are outdoors near a lot of water and may encounter many animals including waterfowl, raptors, jackrabbits, horses, reptiles. Explain the rule of thumb; if you extend your arm and hold up your thumb it should conceal any animal. Otherwise, you are too close and should move away. If your actions change the behavior of the animal, you must also yield to the animal.

## High Point Conversation

While standing on the lower dam above The Pier, explain

- Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area was designated in 2000 by an act of Congress. This designation includes 7 wilderness areas encompassing 1.2 million acres (plus 3 immediately adjacent wilderness areas). History of NCA - trails and native peoples.
- Wilderness areas visible from Fly Ranch (west to east): High Rock Lake, Calico Mountains, North Jackson Mountains, South Jackson Mountains, South Black Rock Range (in layer in front of Jacksons, and on a crisp clear day you can see Black Rock Point for which the area is named).
- Wilderness areas not quite visible from Fly Ranch (west to east): Little High Rock Canyon, Pahute Peak, Black Rock Desert.
- National Conservation Areas restrict new development and mining claims, but other uses are allowed such as hunting, camping, hiking, OHVs on designated routes and trails (over 900 miles in the NCA alone), grazing, rockhounding, hot springs, star gazing, and many other uses.



- Notable Mountains:
  - Granite Peak 9,056' – Granite Range
  - Selenite Peak 7,115' – Selenite Range (stone at center of labyrinth is selenite)
  - Old Razorback Mountain 5,500' (Trego at north, Frog Pond at south across BRD)
  - Sheephead Mountains (might be able to see – southeast of Razorback)
  - Kamma Mountains (just south of Hycroft Mine) – Rosebud Peak 6,514'
  - King Lear Peak 8,923' – Jackson Mountains
  - Black Rock Point 4,552' – Black Rock Range
  - Steamboat Rock 4,269'
  - South Donnelly Peak 7,719' & Donnelly Peak 8,533' – Calico Mountains
  - Unnamed Peak 7,660' – High Rock Lake Wilderness Area, Calico Mountains
  - Division Peak 7,261'
  - Hog Ranch Mountain 7,671' – adjacent to Leadville ghost town
  - Fox Mountain 8,222' (not visible from Fly Ranch)

### **Dark Pool Conversation**

After leaving the lower dam, the trail cuts past several hot pools. Talk about Hot Spring safety, and use the following information:

- Fly Ranch's springs are among the largest in northwestern Nevada
- Recorded subsurface temperatures up to 250°
- 181 pools ranging from dinner plate sized to 40 feet across
- Pool temps ranging from 70° to 178°F



## Swimming Pool Conversation

People usually have a lot of questions about the geysers at this point in the walk, so it's a good time to talk about the history and science of the place.

### History:

- Property was first homesteaded in the late 1800s by Fred Gerlach, son of Louis Gerlach, for whom the town of Gerlach was named.
- 1866-1867 was home to Spring City Post Office and Hot Springs Post Office.
- From 1866-1964 the property was named as "Ward's Hot Spring".
- Fly Ranch was a part of the John Casey estate, until it was sold to Todd Jaksick (Bright Holland Corporation) in 1998.
- Multiple rumors about the origin of the name, including that the site was once home to a flight school. There is an old airstrip near the farmhouse. There is a place called Fly Canyon up by Soldier Meadows, to further complicate the mystery.

### Geysers:

- There are 3 geysers on the property: Wizard, Fly Geyser, and Will's Geyser or Little Pot
- The Wizard: Well-drilling attempt in 1917; over time has created a pillar of travertine (calcium carbonate) about 12 feet (3.7 m) tall. The flow reduced dramatically when Fly Geyser began releasing water in 1964. Wizard used to spray water 10-12' high, and has recently become more productive.
- Fly Geyser: In 1964, a well was drilled by Western Geothermal, geyser is formed by growth of travertine deposits from the water. The yellow, red and green colors represent different species of algae and serve as a kind of heat map. The orange color indicates presence of iron. There is a lot of aragonite in the formation. Temperature of water shooting from Fly Geyser is 225°F.
- Will's Geyser: Named 12 years ago, and believed to be naturally occurring, the small geyser has been known for decades as Little Pot. Grows about 6 inches a year, named by Will Roger when discovered during scouting for the 1997 Burning Man event held on Hualapai Flat. Called Little Pot locally because used to be used to prepare food while people soaked. Water temperature at geyser top is 206°F.

## Closing Conversation

As the walk concludes, it is helpful to give people some direction on how to get involved or learn more about the project. After the group has visited both geysers, we give them the following information:

- A ton of information can be found at [flyranch.org](https://flyranch.org), where content is updated regularly.
- This project is still in its formative stages. 2021 focused on the LAGI proposals and their possible implementations, and on stewardship of the ranch. 2022 will see some of that come to be, and will bring many more visitors, some for longer stays.
- If you have ideas or questions, there is a vibrant community conversation platform on the website where you can engage directly with the Fly Ranch community. More

information and how to get involved with or become a member of Friends of Black Rock-High Rock at [blackrockdesert.org](http://blackrockdesert.org).

### **Commonly Asked and Anticipated Questions**

Below are answers to some of the more frequent questions. What should you do if something comes up you don't know how to answer? It's totally fine to say you don't know. Most of the time, directing people to the website is the best course of action.

#### **What is the purpose of Fly Ranch?**

The Fly Ranch project is an opportunity to take the power and creativity of the annual experiment of Black Rock City and give it a place to thrive year-round. It is an opportunity to create a platform for Burning Man Project's nonprofit programs and to engage individuals from across the Burning Man community as well as new groups inspired by the principles of Burning Man.

The site will eventually become a platform for cultural growth and social impact upon which people can express their creativity and experiment with new ideas that could inspire culture, business, technology, and humanity.

Burning Man Project's role in this is not to build an awesome thing at Fly Ranch, but to build a context for many different people to create their awesome things and share them with others. Part of Burning Man Project mission includes the creation of "rural centers and spaces that incubate and showcase collaborative and interactive arts, culture, and community participation." Fly Ranch is a huge step toward making this happen.

#### **What is being done right now?**

These walks are really the most important step as it is important that there is an opportunity for immediate interaction at Fly Ranch; nothing takes the place of an immersive experience. People can find information and make a reservation on our website.

Aside from the walks, the focus now is on learning as much as Burning Man can about the property and developing the tools for meaningful community engagement, including these walks. In order to get a strong understanding of the current state of the property, the Burning Man Fellowship program appointed its land fellow to complete a baseline environmental analysis of things like plants, animals, temperature and water changes. They're also building online and in-person resources for large scale dialogue and decision making for a community as diverse as Burning Man and as vast as the potential for Fly Ranch.



**What is taking so long?**

Getting to this point has been 20 years in the making and the purchase was just one of many steps on a very long journey. A proper environmental baseline study 18 months to do right. One of the great advantages of Fly Ranch is that we can move slowly with intentionality and make sure that we're building something that can truly last.

This is all part of the greater evolution of Burning Man, from an ephemeral experiment into a global cultural movement having a profound impact on social, economic and artistic systems globally. That takes time.

**Where did the money come from? How is Fly Ranch funded?**

Currently, the Fly Ranch project is entirely donation funded. While 13 donors helped us raise the \$6.5 million necessary to purchase the property, hundreds of people have made donations at every level since the acquisition.

All of these donations are in the true spirit of the gifting principle of Burning Man; there is no quid pro quo, and these gifts are towards a project intended to support the entire community. No money is coming from BRC ticket, vehicle pass or ice/coffee sales, and ongoing community support is critical for our continued operation. People who want to help Fly Ranch turn into something incredible can help support the mission on our website [flyranch.burningman.org](http://flyranch.burningman.org).

**How is the project “inclusive”? Will this just be a playground for the rich? How can people get involved now?**

Fly Ranch has opportunities for engagement of every kind. Some make financial contributions but many gifts time, energy, and ideas. In order for Fly Ranch to be as inclusive as possible, we want to involve as many interested parties at each step of the way as we can. This is why the first offering of the project is an open invitation for those interested to join us in small groups to walk the property on weekends.

The walks are offered in partnership with the local conservation group, Friends of Black Rock-High Rock, and are donation based. If someone can make a reservation online and get themselves to Gerlach, they can experience the property first-hand. Folks can find more information on our website.

Tickets to Black Rock City sold out for the first time in 2011, and each year the overwhelming demand for tickets far outpaces supply, leaving many Burners without a ticket 'home'. Black Rock City has essentially reached its current capacity. Fly Ranch, on the other hand, presents the future possibility of year-round and ongoing engagement with Burning Man. It has the long-term potential to provide even more

people with opportunities to participate than are currently possible in the container of Black Rock City.

**Is Burning Man interested in purchasing more land in the area?**

Our focus is now on understanding the incredible and dynamic property that we already own, and on building the means and tools for people to get involved. Burning Man has purchased several pieces of property in the area over the past 15 years and it would be foolish not to look into all kinds of ideas for the future, but we're not committing to any particular course of action until we've really investigated and it and decided it's viable and makes sense in the long term.

**How does this benefit citizens of Gerlach and Empire?**

Burning Man has owned land in the area since 2001 and is used to being a neighbor and a participating member of the local community. We have staff members contributing regularly to local groups including the citizens advisory board, the Gerlach economic development meetings, and the volunteer fire department, and we look forward to deepening our relationships with Empire, Gerlach, the Paiute Tribe and local property owners.

Additionally, Black Rock City has an enormous economic benefit in Northern Nevada, and Fly Ranch is an opportunity to create an even greater impact spread more sustainably throughout the year. We hope to provide opportunities for folks to come to the area and appreciate the stunning landscape and wonderful community outside of the annual Burning Man event.

