

2021 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 not here to lead, but to facilitate 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 them to lean into what excites them, as long as it can be done safely and in a non-disruptive way.



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, and Fly Ranch may be one of the most unique and mysterious locations in this place. Our role is to embody the spirit of the 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, one part social outing, and one part walking meditation.

We should stay curious in our own right. We want to stay in the question of what exists on this property and what the future holds for Fly Ranch Project. We don't want to attempt to be, or give the impression, that we are the sole experts in either of these matters.

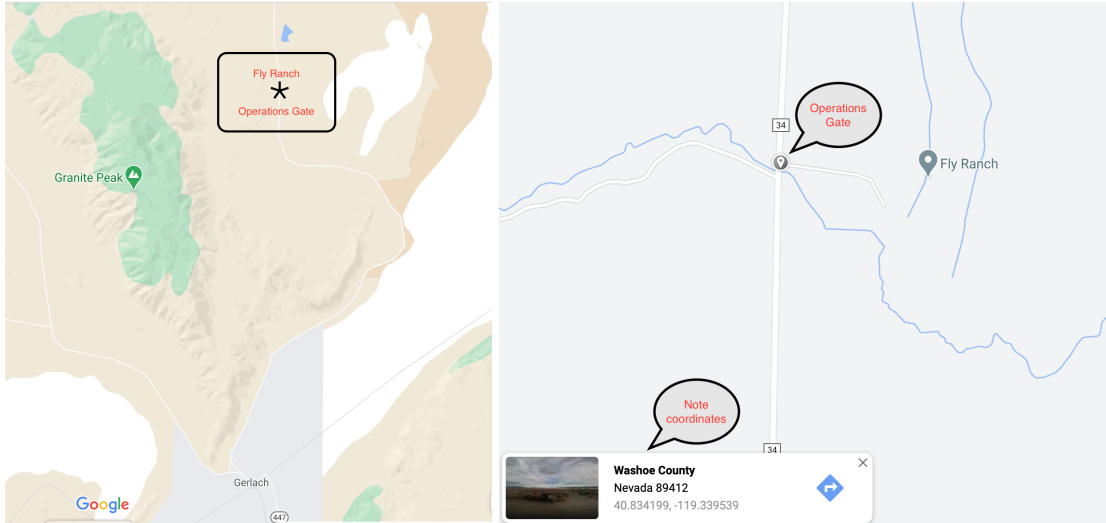
We want to engage the spirits of both reflection and engagement. Each trip will have its own energy and there is something to be gained from states of movement, stillness, conversation, and silence.



Mind:

Planning and Logistics of an Adventure

- During COVID-19 restrictions, walks meet at the Fly Ranch Operations Gate. Wearing your facemask, check that vehicle occupants also have noses and mouths masked. Provide masks or offer an alternative to the nature walk if masks are not in use. 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, facemasks and sanitizing will be required 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 behind the preceding vehicles. Here they will meet another docent who will help direct them to park safely. Ask drivers not to park on vegetation and drive 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 and should be sanitized following use.



- Once all are present, 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, roughly two miles north along the road to the next gate, and then park again in a loop for a second walk also for roughly an hour. The opportunities to use the toilet are prior to departure and following return to the parking area and at the end of the walk at Fly Geyser. Please share this information with participants at the beginning of 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, three is strongly recommended, one of whom should ideally be certified in Wilderness First Aid. One guide will be available to assist if any participant is unable to make the walk because of disability or other condition.
- There is an opportunity for participants to receive a refund of their deposit or make an additional donation to support Friends of Black Rock-High Rock by visiting the website following the trip (blackrockdesert.org). Donations can be made to support Fly Ranch Project at flyranch.burningman.org.
- Participants must travel in their own vehicles, and docents in separate cars, one in the lead and one at the rear, as the group moves between walk loop locations. Facemasks are not required in vehicles unless specified by a particular vehicle group.



- One docent unlocks the Operations Gate (Farmhouse Gate in this illustration), checks in attendees as above, and directs the caravan to the docent in the first parking location. When all have arrived, the docent locks the gate, removes the sign from the highway and either stores it behind the gate (Fri/Sat) or brings it to the bunkhouse and sets within the front part of the porta potty(Sun),and joins the walking group. Docents talk about old ranch structures and equipment, projects such as [LAGI](#), and about art that may be visited during the first portion of the walks.
- Following this walk, all return to their vehicles and travel to the Geyser Gate.
- The docent in the lead car 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 Guide in the last car locks the gate behind the caravan.
- Vehicles park again in a loop, one behind the other in the water truck lot, lead vehicle looped all the way around to be furthest north in the parking area. If someone is unable to make the walk, have the third docent accompany them directly to the geyser or pool area at this time, where the group will meet up with them shortly. 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.

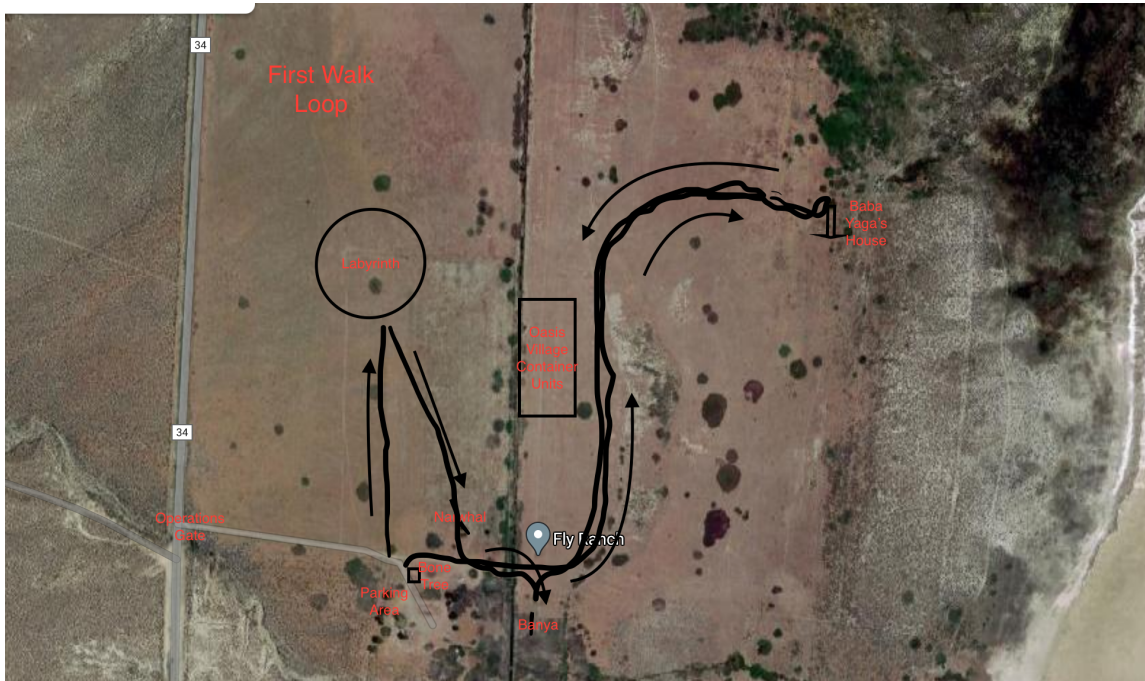


- Confirm the headcount as people gather after parking. Let the group know that this next walk also takes about an hour and will conclude back at the cars. Remind walkers that photography is allowed only at the very end of the walk, and that they should carry water.
- A detailed description of the route and logistics is found in the Nature Walk section below.
- 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 and/or sign up to become a member of Friends of Black Rock-High Rock at blackrockdesert.org.

Nature Walk:

First Walk Loop



- A suggested walk route is shown above. When parked and ready, circle up and give the ground rule information found in the Talk section below.
- Confirm the headcount, decide on your best route and set out with one docent leading the group and one following behind. If some participants have not arrived by start time it is best to visit the labyrinth first so that you can see the gate and potentially send a docent to admit the late arrivals. If all are present you are free to vary the route depending on weather and capabilities.
- Although there is not time or space (with COVID-19 social distancing) to walk the labyrinth, the walk toward the labyrinth allows docents to gauge the focus and physical abilities of the group, whether some will need to be offered alternatives, or whether reminders are needed about masks, photography, etc. It is a good time to give a general orientation and provide an overview of the ranch, geography, geology, history, and to get a sense for what the particular walk group may be interested in.
- Continue from Narwhal through the fence near the Banya (good point to talk about theme camps, Black Rock City). If it is an energetic group you may visit the Banya, and otherwise just discuss from a stop at the fence.
- Follow the dirt track past the Oasis Village (Camp Epic; good point to talk about Burners Without Borders, regional events and efforts) containers to Baba Yaga's House (good point to talk about Burning Man art, ARTery, honoraria), stopping to explain about the rule of thumb for wildlife distancing and the possible need to vary the course.

- One docent unlocks Baba Yaga's House then steps back to allow each COVID bubble group a turn up the stairs at the north then down at the south. Relock Baba Yaga's House after the last group.
- Retrace your route back to the vehicles, allow toilet break (good time to talk about the Bone Tree, Burning Man themes) before driving to the Geyser Gate for the second walk loop.

Second Walk Loop



- The Second Walk Loop route is highlighted above in orange. Omit the lower desert loop to The Pier. Discuss the art installation from the Lower Dam walk route.
- In the future we may have several routes available ranging from this hour long walk to a day-long trek. For now, stick with this route as we refine our systems.
- 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.
- The starting point of the second walk loop is the westernmost portion of the lower dam. The walk from this point to the 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 pond species.
- Move along the bend in the dam at a sauntering pace. You do not need to say anything, but feel free to take moments to answer questions or enjoy the sights and sounds 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. Invite people to touch the grasses and feel the edges.

- Once you reach the gate, the lead docent will open and close it to protect against COVID transmission. 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 lead docent will turn left into the grass and 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.
- This leg of the walk features one bridge crossing and two fence crossings. The fence points should be clearly marked and can be an opportunity for temporary regroupings. The first fence requires that the lead docent unhook and drop the top barbed wire strand **on the far side of the fence**, then hold the post with the right hand and step down on the remaining three strands of barbed wire while walkers cross at the red tape marks (to give docent 6' social distance). The second fence is electric and should be opened by holding the orange handle and removing the strand of wire and stepping back on the far side of the fence to give the docent 6' social distance.



- After the second fence crossing, navigate the group to the benches on the east side of the pool with the docks. Remain here until the entire group has gathered. 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. Last docent closes the horseshoe gate behind the last walk participant.
- During COVID constraints there is not room for all to visit the geysers at once. Split the group and explain that people can wait for a turn for their social bubble to visit the viewing platform at the main geyser (called either “Fly Geyser” or “1964 Geyser”), then switch off and walk along the upper dam to visit the second geyser (must remain on upper dam path and not descend toward the small geyser, called “Will’s Geyser,” “Little Pot,” or “1996 Geyser”). As all return from the small geyser, 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) before leading them back to the cars. Do a headcount at the cars before departure.
- When people are ready, the lead docent should drive up to open the Geyer Gate. The last docent will ensure that everyone is off site. Use the same process for unlocking and relocking the main gate.



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 and introduce Friends of Black Rock-High Rock, Burning Man, and the docents helping out on this Walk.
- This is a Leave No Trace experience. Talk about the first principle as soon as people are gathered to head toward the labyrinth.

Plan ahead and be prepared. We will be walking outside. If participants need water, sunscreen, bug spray, etc. they must have brought it with them. Toilets

are in the first loop parking area and second loop ending zone. Remind participants to use the toilets before departing to second loop.

- Safety Points

Lead docents will have a first aid kit, and there will be a first aid kit in the truck.

- Lead docents will use phones or radios as available in case of an emergency. FBRHR also provides an emergency GPS locator.
- At least one docent will ideally be Wilderness First Aid Certified.
- Identify the contact person (usually lead docent) in case of emergency.
- If there is anyone with mobility issues, offer to take a shorter alternate route directly to the geyser area.
- In hotter months, and when COVID-19 is not a factor, a shade structure and water may be stationed at the end of the nature walk near Fly Geyser. Pop-up shade may also be available before nature walks, however, social distance and the possibility of disease transmission at communal water supply preclude this courtesy.

- Device Policy: We agree with you that Fly Ranch is a beautiful place. However, no photos may be taken until the end of the walk. We'll indicate when that time begins. We do this for three 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.



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:

- 107+ identified types of plants
- 67+ identified types of birds
- 4 invasive 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 more than 20 Fly Ranch Restoration weekends, sustainable energy gatherings, locals days, and school field trips.
- Burners started volunteering to build key sustainable infrastructure like composting toilets, solar showers, and small upcycled projects like pathways and bridges.
- Fly Ranch has hosted a handful of small prototype gatherings. These experiments were designed 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 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.

Grounding Rules - Part 2

- Stay within eyesight and earshot of the group. Some people walk faster, some people slower. Some people 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.

四. Travel and camp 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.” Should you find anything on your walk that is made by humans and less than 50 years old that you can carry, please pick it up and bring it with you. Docents collect MOOP (matter out of place) throughout the walk to add to the collection of items found on Fly Ranch.
 - Respect wildlife - We are outdoors near a lot of water and may encounter many animals including waterfowl, raptors, jackrabbits, horses, etc. 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).
- Wilderness areas visible from Fly Ranch (west to east): High Rock Lake, Calico Mountains, North Jackson Mountains, South Jackson Mountains.
- 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:
 - 五. 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 the largest in northwestern Nevada.
- Recorded subsurface temperatures up to 250°.
- 191 pools ranging from dinner plate sized to more than 40 feet across
- Pool temps ranging from 70° to 158°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.

Geysers:

- There are 3 geysers on the property: The Wizard, Fly Geysers, and Will's Geysers aka Hot Pot.
- The Wizard: Well-drilling attempt in 1916; over time has created a pillar of travertine (calcium carbonate) about 12 feet (3.7 m) tall. The flow reduced dramatically when Fly Geysers began releasing water in 1964. In 2019 the Geysers started showing signs of life and it is now flowing and growing again. Water at the base is 195°.

- 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 the presence of iron. Source temperature is said to be less than 250° because WG walked away from the project. Temperature of water being emitted averaged 175° during a recent geothermal survey. Temperature in the highest pool on its flanks is 115°. Thermophilic algae. Calcium carbonate, sulfur.
- Will's Geyser aka Little Pot: So named 12 years ago, believed to be naturally occurring. Grows about 6 inches a year, named for Will Roger during scouting for the 1997 Burning Man event held on Hualapai Flat. Locals call it Little Pot, as long ago they used to put their meals in it, go swim, come back and the chicken, corn, hot dogs and such would be cooked!

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, where content is updated regularly.
- This project is still in its formative stages. 2021 will focus on the LAGI proposals and their possible implementations, and on stewardship of the ranch.
- If you have ideas or questions, there is a vibrant community conversation platform on the website where you can engage in directly with the Fly Ranch community. More information about, and how to get involved with or become a member of Friends of Black Rock-High Rock at 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 the 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.

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 contributions will be financial but many are gifts of 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 typically done on select weekends throughout the year 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. Nature walks are a much needed boost to the local economy, resulting in an increase in hotel stays, spending at local businesses and more.



Fly Docent Walking Notes 2021

What follows are quick notes and additional detail frequently updated, useful as a sort of cheat sheet or review guide. Docent input is welcome.

Advance work: know date, time and meeting location; have clipboards with attendees, waivers; have COVID-19 supplies; have radio, water, first aid, gate access.

Arrivals: direct each vehicle to an appropriately distanced parking spot NOT OVER DRY VEGETATION in predetermined area; ask occupants to stay with their vehicles; introduce self and other docents; explain COVID-19 protocols; give masks to any who are not prepared; direct any who will not comply to alternative activity off Fly Ranch (Soldier Meadows, Black Rock Desert, High Rock Canyon drives, etc.).

v Each person MUST wear a mask covering nose and mouth at all times except when drinking from their flask or briefly snacking (give mask if not equipped).

v Maintain 6 feet distance between people not in your social bubble. Have people hold their arms straight out so that hands touch no other person in any direction who also has their arms out. This will be the minimum spacing throughout the walk.

v Touch as little as possible so that things don't need to be sanitized. Lead carries wipes and trash bag for use at handles, toilets, fence crossings, etc. Each person sanitizes after toilet use. Docent sanitizes all other points of contact.

Further Introductions: self, other docents all volunteers with training in wilderness first aid and leave no trace education. Friends of Black Rock is a conservation and educational non-profit whose members act as land stewards for the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. Burning Man Project,

also a non-profit, is a group of people who share passion for a more creative and connected experience. Fly Ranch has been a working ranch over centuries, and is now a place for gatherings, cultural expression and education.

- 3800 acres owned by the non-profit Burning Man Project within the 1.2 million acre Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area.
- Purchased by Burning Man Project in 2016 for \$6.5 million through private donations.
- Hualapai Flat was the site of the 1997 Burning Man event.
- LAGI (Land Art Generator Initiative) is a program that invites proposals for development at Fly Ranch with the focus on sustainability, regeneration, environmental protection and art.

Orientation

- We are at 4014' elevation.
- 15,000 years ago you would have been at the bottom of Lake Lahontan with 500' of water over you.
- The lake had receded from this area by 11,000 years ago, but you can still see ancient shore lines on the surrounding mountainsides.

Remind people that there is no photography until the end of the walk at the geysers, so all devices should be safely stowed. Ask everyone if they have what they need for about 30 minutes of wandering then set out toward Baba Yaga's House, staying on the dirt tracks and pushing through the scrub near the base of the installation.

Art

- Bone Tree, by Dana Albany in 1999. Created with bones collected from nearby ranches. Originally "Nebulous Entity," built by Micheal Christian (at Larry's request) in 1998. Nebulous Entity was also the theme that year. Frame was repurposed, covered with bones, and brought back to playa in 1999 as "Bone Tree" by Dana Albany. Dana has told us that bones came from the "surrounding area." Bone Tree used to be placed on Esplanade near First Camp but in 2013ish was in such a state of disrepair, it was left in storage. We brought it to Fly Ranch in 2019 and Dana has plans to refurbish and place at an appropriate location on the Ranch. There is also a bone arch by Michael Christian built and still standing at the site of the 1997 event on Hualapai Flat.
- Narwhal, by Pepe Ozan, has been going to Black Rock City from 2002-2017, served in operas (first for "Ark of the Nereids," converted to "Narwhal" and feminized in 2005). Not technically an art car because it was towed. At BRC, it can usually be found at "Profiles in Dust" camp. Art cars are a huge part of Burning Man, serving as public transport, moving art, sound, expression centers.
- Banya, or "Onion," by Art of Steam theme camp. Wet sauna created in the Russian style, to be powered by solar array on loan from Milk and Honey BM theme camp. The

Banya has never been to BRC, but the camp has a mobile version on a trailer that they travel around with during the event

- Labyrinth, by Crimson Rose and Will Roger, created 2020. They ask that if you visit you walk the entire labyrinth and not cut across. 104' diameter, wheelchair accessible, 12 circuits. Based on an 11th century Chartres labyrinth.
- Baba Yaga's House, by Jessee "Sprocket" Janusee and The Cauldron Crew, was at Burning Man 2018. Based on Slavic folktale, Russian version describes house on chicken legs. Placed at Fly Ranch in 2019. Originally built at The Generator makerspace in Sparks, NV.

Geyser portion of walk

Park at J pipes on right at end of gate road. Again, have people stay with their healthily spaced vehicles while reminding them of COVID-19 precautions, and other rules to stress for the walk.

Describe the route

- We will walk together from here along this earthen dam into the wetland area.
- There is a toilet here and at the end of the walk about 45 minutes from now.
- Remind people again that photo opportunities will be given at the end of the walk.
- We will loop from the dam through small pools and salt grasses to the geysers.

The Pier was built by Matt Schultz and The Pier Group at The Generator makerspace, same place Baba Yaga's house was built. The Pier was at Burning Man 2010 and 2011, and then again in 2017 with the sunken galleon La Llorona at its end. Matt and crew brought the Pier out to Fly Ranch over a weekend in the spring of 2018

The dam creates a migratory point of rest and nesting as species travel as far north as the Arctic Circle and to Tierra del Fuego in southernmost South America.

There are more than 125 plant species and 70 critters on Fly Ranch. Google Fly Ranch Project and you will find [links to a blog](#) by the biologist (Lisa "Scirpus" Schile-Beers) who documented during her land fellowship.

Hot springs are lovely but can be dangerous, variable in temperature. Stay on path, always test pools when visiting hot springs, leave no trace.

Use caution at fence crossings, touch as little as possible, and close all behind the group.

The Geysers

The largest geyser is known as Fly Geyser, drilled in 1964 for a geothermal project, and growing ever since. Temperatures range from 175 to 210 degrees. Also referred to as 1964 Geyser.

The geyser in the distance is Wizard, drilled in 1916 for irrigation water. It used to shoot 10-12' into the air but died back with 1964 drilling. Now emitting water and growing again. The pool at its base is about 195 degrees. Also referred to as 1916 geyser.

The large pool hovers around 100 degrees but varies 10 or more degrees hotter and cooler.

The smallest geyser is along the upper dam road and has been known locally as Little Pot, recently as Will's Geyser from its documentation in 1996 while scouting for the 1997 Burning Man event. Also referred to as 1996 geyser.

Photos may be taken along the boardwalk and on the platform at Fly Geyser, and along the upper dam at the small geyser. You can capture Wizard Geyser while photographing these two.

Gather and lead people to the compost toilets and then back to their vehicles. Distribute FBR stickers.

All must enter and leave through gates together. Gates must be closed and locked as soon as all vehicles have entered and then left.



Nebulous Entity 1998 (Michael Christian) Photo by Gabe Kirchheimer



Bone Tree 1999 (Dana Albany) Photo by Walterrrr

Photos by Erika unless otherwise noted. Maps by Scirpus and Erika.