

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

September 24, 2021

Gather Name: Barren Valley Complex Emergency Wild Horse Gather

State: Oregon

District/Field Office: Vale District/Malheur Field Office

Incident Commander: Rob Sharp

Lead COR: Shaney Rockefeller

Contractor: Sun J Livestock

Gather Method: Helicopter Drive Trapping

Gather Reason: Emergency – lack of water/forage

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Doug Satica, and Ben Noyes

Assessment Dates: September 14-15, 2021

Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards: 134 out of 188 total

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 132/134 = 99%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: BLM Oregon gather crew created an environment with their staff that supported positive relations with the CAWP Team and with the contractor and contractor’s crew which helped reduce tension and stress of the staff and the animals. The CAWP Team was provided with ample access to each aspect of the gather to complete the assessment. The BLM crew and contractor requested feedback from the CAWP Team so issues could be addressed as soon as possible. Additionally, the contractor only had essential workers at the gather that were there to work. Most CAWP standards were satisfied at the gather.

	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
CAWP Trained BLM Staff	✓			
CAWP Trained Contractor	✓			
Required Documentation	✓			
Trap Site Facility	✓			
Trap Site Animals	✓			
Temporary Holding Facility		✓		
Temporary Holding Animals	✓			
Transport Design and Facilities	✓			
Transport Animals	✓			

Standards where non-compliance was successfully addressed by corrective actions

Trap Site: Facility

Standard

I.A.13 All gates and panels in the animal holding and handling pens and alleys of the trap site must be covered with materials such as plywood, snow fence, tarps, burlap, etc. approximately 48" in height to provide a visual barrier for the animals. All materials must be secured in place.

Non-Compliance: On September 14, 2021, when first arriving at the trap site the snow fence was loose and sagging along the panels of the trap and the gates. The materials were not secured in all places upon arrival.

Corrective Action: After the first group of wild horses were trapped on September 14, 2021, the crew at the trap replaced broken and tightened loose snow fence. The parts of the snow fence that were not secured were secured to the panels to create a visual barrier for the wild horses.

Conditions found to be in non-compliance with the CAWP Standards for Wild Horse and Burro Gatherers:

Temporary Holding: Facility

Standard

I.A.4 Fence panels in pens and alleys must be not less than 6 feet high for horses and 5 feet high for burros, and the bottom rail must not be more than 12 inches from ground level.

Non-Compliance: The panels were 6 feet when connected to the legs, but due to the soil conditions at the Burns Junction Temporary Holding Corral, the panels and legs were sinking and in some places were not 6 feet high. This was most noticeable on the southwestern side of the holding corral.

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Excellent. 99% of applicable CAWP standards were met.