

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 5, 2022

Off-Range Corral: Axtell Off-Range Corral

State: Utah

Facility Manager and COR: Heath Weber, Facility Manager and Gus Warr, COR

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Dr. Al Kane, Jake Benson, Ben Noyes, and Doug Satoca

Assessment Dates: June 28, 2022

Total Number of CAWP Off-Range Corral Standards: 117

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 98

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 86/98 = 88%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: Assessments of Off-Range Corrals includes the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program standards for Off-Range Corrals and Transportation as applicable.

Coordination with the Axtell Off-Range Corrals was good. The CAWP team was well received and was provided access to the entire facility. The team was able to observe wild horses being sorted and moved through the chute system, the administration of booster vaccinations, deworming and blood collection and loading of wild horses to be shipped to another off-range corral. All BLM and contract personnel were current with CAWP training.

Requirements of Permanent Instruction Memorandum (PIM) 2021-002, Wild Horse and Burro Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP):

- All state, district, and field offices will continue to comply with the WHB CAWP policy within their jurisdictions at all times. This includes the CAWP Standards for Off-Range Corral Facilities, Transportation, and Adoption/Sale Events.
- All personnel, including contractor and partners involved in the care, handling, and transportation of wild horses and burros at off-range corrals and adoption/sale events are required to complete training annually.

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

Facility Design

Standard

- 1.II.F** Fences in pens, alleys, and working chute systems must be not less than 6 feet high for horses, 5 feet high for burros, and the bottom rail must not be more than 12 inches from ground level. (major)

Non-Compliance: Cross gates in the main alleyways, traffic control gates, and alley fences leading into the tub were less than 6 feet.

Standard

1.II.I Ground surfaces in pens must be maintained to promote drainage, reduce wet ground conditions, and allow for routine manure removal. (major)

Non-Compliance: The facility is built on flat ground; the pens do not promote drainage.

Standard

1.II.M Facilities must provide access to shade and shelter (wind breaks) in pens designated for compromised animals needing special care (i.e., injured or weak animals). Additional provisions for shade and shelter (wind breaks) will be evaluated and determined by managers as appropriate for their region, the function of their facility and the condition of the animals under their care. (major)

Non-Compliance: The shelter provided for compromised animals needing special care is insufficient for the size of the facility.

Loading and Unloading Facilities

Standard

1.III.A.2 The side panels of the loading chute must be a minimum of 6 feet high and covered with materials such as plywood or metal without holes that may cause injury. (major)

Non-Compliance: The top height of the loading chute was less than 6 feet in height.

Feed and Water

Standard

1.IV.C.4 Feeding sites must allow all WH&Bs within a pen simultaneous access to hay. (major)

Non-Compliance: While most pens had adequate bunk space, there were 2 pens up front that would not allow all animals to eat simultaneously.

Preparation Procedures

Standard

1.IV.D.2 Facilities must conduct Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing and apply freeze-marks within 30 days of receiving WH&Bs, unless directed by the facility veterinarian when age or physical condition requires a delay. (major)

Non-Compliance: Not all animals were freeze-marked and EIA-tested within 30 days of receiving from gather operations.

Standard

1.IV.D.6 Facilities must adhere to the current BLM vaccination policy. (major)

Non-Compliance: Several of the records checked indicated that some animals were not receiving 6-month respiratory boosters, and other records indicated that some animals had not received the annual booster for 18 months.

Standard

1.IV.D.8 Hoof trimming must be performed twice per year at minimum or as necessary to maintain hooves in a proper condition. (major)

Non-Compliance: Many horses including geldings were observed with very long hooves.

Euthanasia Procedures

Standard

1.IV.E.2 Euthanasia must be done in compliance with BLM Euthanasia policy. (major)

Non-Compliance: There were burros present with severe chronic deformities with a poor prognosis for improvement that meet the criteria for humane euthanasia.

General Handling

Standard

1.V.B.3 WH&Bs should be moved into and out of pens in a manner that will minimize stress and injury. (minor)

Non-Compliance: Horses were observed being brought out of the pens and into the trailer at a high rate of speed.

Standard

1.V.B.7 No equipment should be operated in such a manner as to cause flighty behavior or injury to WH&Bs. (minor)

Non-Compliance: The neck rope in the chute was not removed when the horses left the chute, which caused flighty behavior and increased the risk of injury as horses exited the chute.

Vehicle

Standard

2.III.G Partition gates in transport vehicles should be used to distribute the load into compartments during travel. (minor)

Non-Compliance: Partition gates were not used when animals were being transported.

Table 1: Standards and Overall Assessment Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
CAWP Trained BLM Staff	✓			
CAWP Contract Trained Staff	✓			
Facility Personnel	✓			
Facility Design		✓		
Loading and Unloading Facilities		✓		
Receiving Procedures	✓			
Veterinarian	✓			
Biosecurity	✓			
Feed and Water		✓		
Preparation Procedures		✓		
Euthanasia Procedures		✓		
Carcass Disposal	✓			
Willful Acts of Abuse	✓			
General Handling		✓		
Handling Aids	✓			
Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures	✓			
Vehicles		✓		
Transport Procedures	✓			
<i>Compliant – all the activities were compliant with the standards or policy requirements. Partially compliant – one or more of the activities were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements. Non-Compliant – all standards were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements. N/A – not applicable, standards that were not observed during an assessment.</i>				

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Good. 88% of applicable CAWP standards were met.