

July 25, 2022

Piceance East Douglas Wild Horse Gather Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program - Self Assessment

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Assessment Date: July 25, 2022

Goal:

General Notes and Comments: This targeted self-assessment is a follow-up to the CAWP Team Assessment of July 16-18. Outlined here are a review of all CAWP Standards for Gathers as of today as well as comments focused on those standards previously found to be noncompliant during the Team Assessment.

The IC continues to verify all BLM staff, volunteers, contracted personnel and visitors with access to the trap and corral areas have completed CAWP training for wild horse and burro gathers. Those visitors who are not trained within DOI Learn have a copy of the Standards, have completed a review and have been briefed by the IC on the Standards. These individuals are not directly involved with animal handling or care.

The only current non-compliant standard is the equipment standard for the loading chute (height of solid sides). This is not directly impacting animal welfare and will be addressed at a later time. All other noncompliance issues noted during the CAWP Team Assessment have been addressed or mitigated at this time.

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

- The Piceance East Douglas gather will continue to comply with the WHB CAWP policy (PIM 2021-002) at all times including the CAWP Standards for Wild Horse and Burro Gathers.

Non-Compliant Standards at the Temporary Holding Corral (as of 7/25/22)

1) I.A.1; I.A.4 and I.A.9 (panel height and setup)

Two panels on the stud side of the holding corral near the fly chute are tied with a rope instead of pinned in a post. The panels at this corner are less than 6 feet in height, are not strong and functioning as designed creating a potential hazard. **This noncompliant equipment was corrected this day when brought to the contractor's attention.**

Previously Non-Compliant Standards at Temporary Holding Corral

2) I.A.12 (pens with rounded corners)

The corners of the smaller pens created when adjacent pens are opened up have been rounded off when opened. The 90-degree corners created by the gates in the dividing fence cannot be rounded out at this time. The gates will be left open overnight.

3) I.A.5 and I.A.5b (sorting pen availability)

Wild horses and burros are currently sorted by sex, age, wet/dry status, temperament and number. Weak or debilitated animals will either immediately be shipped to a BLM holding corral or alternate pens will be put up on site as needed.

4) I.A.11 and III.B.1.b (water trough locations)

Water is currently being provided twice a day at a rate of at least 10g/1000lb hd/day and refilled morning and evening. Additional troughs have been added to the pens and are now placed in two locations. Where smaller pens are opened to create a larger pen, the troughs are also now placed at two locations overnight.

5) III.B.1.c.ii; III.B.4.f (pen density and bunk space)

At the present time stocking density is in compliance with the standard such that, at rest half the pen is available for horses to move freely about avoiding social conflicts. Hay placement around the perimeter allows all WH&Bs to eat simultaneously. As needed to maintain this standard, the pens holding animals for release will continue to be expanded before additional animals are added.

6) I.B.2 (loading chute)

The height of the solid sides of the loading chute is presently 5 feet. While non-compliant with the equipment standard there are no holes or openings that pose an increased risk of injury at this time.

Previously Non-Compliant Standards at the Trap Site

1) III.B.2 (dust abatement)

Dust abatement equipment is now available at every trap site and is being employed as needed to reduce dust when necessary.