

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 22, 2022

Gather Name: 2022 Piceance-East Douglas Wild Horse Gather

State: Colorado

District/Field Office: Northwest District

Incident Commander: Kyle Arnold

Lead COR: Tyrell Turner

Contractor: Cattoor Livestock Roundup, Inc.

Gather Method: Helicopter Dive Trapping

Gather Reason: AML, outside HMA, and private land issues

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Ryan Bradshaw, and Preston Rushing

Assessment Dates: July 16-18, 2022

Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards: 189

Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards: 120

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 112

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 112/120 = 93%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: Coordination and access to this gather was excellent. Both BLM and the contractor were willing to ask and answer questions. Requests were made by members of the gather team to adjust or fix some of the concerns at the temporary holding corral; some of those requests were partially implemented while the CAWP Team was on site, but most were not. A rainstorm made portions of the temporary holding corral wet and muddy. There were two portions of the dry mare pen that had standing water, including the outside of the pen where the animals were fed. BLM requested that the pen to be made larger to provide additional dry space, but this did not occur while the Assessment Team was on site. Additionally, requests were made to enlarge another pen to smooth out the corners, but that also did not occur while the team was onsite. Handling of the wild horses at the trap site and while working them at the temporary holding corral was excellent.

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 Wild Horse and Burro Gathers.
- All personnel, including contractor and partners involved in the care, handling, and transportation of wild horses and burros at wild horse and burro gathers are required to complete training annually.

All BLM staff and volunteers had completed yearly CAWP training for wild horse and burro gathers. The level of attention to the CAWP policy by BLM Colorado was outstanding.

There were several of the contractor's staff who were not current with CAWP training. These observers/non-essential personnel did not cause flighty behavior of the wild horses, but they were not trained in the CAWP. These individuals were observed at the temporary holding corral and the trap site.

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

Trap Site

Standard

III.B.2 Dust abatement by spraying the ground with water must be employed when necessary at the trap site and temporary holding facility. (major)

Non-compliance: Dust abatement at the trap site was necessary and it was not performed.

Temporary Holding Corral

Standard

I.A.12 The design of pens at the trap site and temporary holding facility should be constructed with rounded corners. (minor)

Non-Compliance: The temporary holding facility was not designed to minimize corners and sharp angles. The gates placed in the big pens on the outside part of the corral created 90-degree angles when closed, and when left open presented places for wild horses to hit. Additionally, sharp angles were created when adjacent pens were used to provide additional space when pens were too small.

Standard

I.A.5 The temporary holding facility must have a sufficient number of pens available to sort WH&Bs according to gender, age, number, temperament, or physical condition. (major)

I.A.5.b Alternate pens must be made available for the following: (major)

- 1) WH&Bs that are weak or debilitated
- 2) Mares/jennies with dependent foals

Non-Compliance: Sufficient pens were not available to sort by physical condition, including debilitated animals.

Standard

I.A.11 Water must be provided at a minimum rate of ten gallons per 1000 pound animal per day, adjusted accordingly for larger or smaller horses, burros and foals, and environmental conditions, with each trough placed in a separate location of the pen (i.e. troughs at opposite ends of the pen). Water must be refilled at least every morning and evening. (major)

III.B.1.b Water must be provided at a minimum rate of ten gallons per 1000 pound animal per day, adjusted accordingly for larger or smaller horses, burros and foals, and environmental conditions, with each trough placed in a separate location of the pen (i.e. troughs at opposite ends of the pen). (major)

Non-Compliance: Troughs were not placed at the opposite ends of the pens and in some cases, multiple troughs were placed in the same location within a single pen.

Standard

III.B.1.c.ii Hay placement must allow all WH&Bs to eat simultaneously. (major)

Non-compliance: Placement of hay did not allow for all wild horses to eat simultaneously.

Standard

III.B.4.d Alternate pens must be made available for the following: (major)

- 1) WH&Bs that are weak or debilitated
- 2) Mares/jennies with dependent foals

Non-compliance: There were no pens for debilitated wild horses, and they were not separated.

Standard

III.B.4.f WH&Bs in pens at the temporary holding facility should be maintained at a proper stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area. (minor)

Non-compliance: The stocking density in all pens did not allow for half the pen area to be open and available for wild horses to occupy when at rest.

Facility Design: Loading and Unloading Areas

Standard

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

Non-Compliance: The loading chute was not covered a minimum of 6 feet high with materials such as plywood or metal.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
CAWP Trained BLM Staff	✓			
CAWP Contract Trained Staff		✓		
Required Documentation	✓			
Trap Site Facility		✓		
Trap Site Animals	✓			
Temporary Holding Facility		✓		
Temporary Holding Animals	✓			
Transport Design and Facilities		✓		
Transport Animals	✓			
<i>Compliant – all the activities of the section were compliant with the standards or policy requirements.</i> <i>Partially compliant – one or more activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.</i> <i>Non-Compliant – all activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.</i> <i>N/A –activities were not observed during the assessment.</i>				

Rating scale for CAWP Assessments: 96-100% - Excellent, 86-95% - Good, 70-85% - Complies, and 0-69% - Failure to Comply.

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Good. 93% of applicable CAWP standards were met.