

## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 25, 2023

**Gather Name:** FY2023 Planned Antelope Complex-South Wild Horse Gather

**State:** Nevada

**District/Field Office:** Ely District Office, Bristlecone Field Office

**Incident Commander:** Ben Noyes

**Lead COR:** Tyler Reese

**Gather Method:** Helicopter Dive Trapping

**Gather Reason:** Excess animals, working to achieve AML

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, and Ben Smith

**Assessment Dates:** July 14-18, 2023

**Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards:** 189

**Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards:** 124

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 119

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 119/124 = 96%

**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. Coordination and communication observed with the onsite veterinarian was excellent. The BLM onsite personnel were observed checking ambient temperatures multiple times at the trap site, discussing weather conditions, and relaying information about ambient temperatures to other staff. Gather operations were stopped before exceeding 95° Fahrenheit. While onsite on July 16, 2023, the CAWP team observed a mare hitting a panel, which resulted in a fractured neck. The CAWP team observed the BLM COR, IC, contractor, and onsite veterinary assess the situation, act, and implement BLM policy in a manner that resulted in swift action to care for the injured animal. This action was also respectful to the animal and people in the area. The working of the wild horses at both the trap and the temporary holding corral was done in a quiet manner. Attention to the humane care, handling, and treatment of the animals was a priority of this gather operation.

### 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.

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

### Trap Site Animals

#### Standard

**II.B.6** WH&Bs may escape or evade the gather site while being moved by the helicopter. If there are mare/dependent foal pairs in a group being brought to a trap and half of an identified pair is thought to have evaded capture, multiple attempts by helicopter may be used to bring the missing half of the pair to the trap or to facilitate capture by roping. In these instances, animal condition and fatigue must be evaluated by the Lead COR/COR/PI or on-site veterinarian on a case-by-case basis to determine the number of attempts that can be made to capture an animal.

**Non-compliance:** When at the trap site on July 17, 2023, a foal was gathered without the adult animals in the group. Due to windy conditions, the gather was stopped for safety reasons, resulting in only half of a pair being gathered. The onsite veterinarian did observe the foal at the trap and at holding, and the following morning.

### Temporary Holding Corral

#### Standard

**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).

**Non-Compliance:** One of the pens had troughs placed together in only one location.

**Corrective Action:** An additional panel was added to the pen that allowed for the water troughs to be placed in separate locations in the pen.

#### Standard

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

**Non-Compliance:** When the dry mare pen was first observed on July 14, 2023, the pen did not have enough fence space to allow for all wild horses to eat simultaneously.

**Corrective Action:** An additional panel was added to the pen allowing for more space to feed along and to allow for wild horses to eat simultaneously.

**Transport: Design and Facilities**

**Standard**

**I.B.6** Trailers must be properly aligned with loading and unloading chutes and panels such that no gaps exist between the chute/panel and floor or sides of the trailer creating a situation where a WH&B could injure itself.

**Non-Compliance:** When shipping to a BLM off-range corral on Sunday, July 16, 2023, the trailer was aligned but there were gaps between the chute and sides of the trailer door that could create a situation where a wild horse could injure itself.

**Corrective Action:** When shipping to a BLM off-range corral on Monday, July 17, 2023, the chute had been reset to close the gap between the chute and sides of the trailer door.

**Transport Animals: Loading Procedures**

**Standard**

**V.C.2** WH&Bs should be sorted prior to transport to ensure compatibility and minimize aggressive behavior that may cause injury.

**Non-compliance:** While animals were sorted at the temporary holding corral, mares and foals were shipped from temporary holding corrals to the off-range corral in the same compartment.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

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

**Final CAWP Assessment Rating:** Excellent. 96% of applicable CAWP standards were met overall.

Possible ratings for CAWP Assessments are 96-100% Excellent, 86-95% Good, 70-85% Complies, and 0-69% Failure to Comply.