

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 25, 2023

Adoption Event Name: Hamilton Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

State: Montana

District/Field Office: Montana State Office

Providing Facilities: Axtell Off-Range Corral, and Burns Off-Range

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Crystal Cowan, and Preston Rushing

Assessment Dates: July 21-22, 2023

Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards: 94

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 47 out of 49

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 47/49 = 96%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: The assessment of the Hamilton adoption/sale event includes the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program standards for adoption/sale events, transportation, and some of the off-range corral standards as referenced in the adoption standards. An adoption/sale event assessment is of the entire event, including from the providing off-range corral, and the transportation of the wild horses and burros to and from the event.

The Hamilton adoption event is different from other adoption events that have been assessed to date. This adoption event is most like an off-range corral adoption event. The animals were either there from an adoption in June or brought in the week prior, and any unadopted animals would be staying and available for adoption from that location. Many of the standards we were not able to assess due to the design of the event. This adoption event appeared to have a learning and instruction component with for the people handling, moving, and haltering the wild horses.

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 contractors 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.

All personnel assisting with the Hamilton adoption/sale event were current with CAWP training.

Conditions found to be in non-compliance with the CAWP Standards for Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Events:

Facility Design

Standard

3.II.D Fences in adoption pens, alleys, and working chute systems must not be less than 6 feet high for horses and 5 feet high for burros.

Non-Compliance: The height of the pens on the external part as well as internal were not all 6 feet high where horses were. Some was due to manure build up and some was due to the panels sinking into the ground.

Handling Aids

Standard

1.V.C.1 Handling aids such as flags and shaker paddles must be the primary tools for driving and moving WH&Bs during handling and transport procedures. Contact of the flag or paddle end of primary handling aids with a WH&B is allowed. Ropes looped around the hindquarters may be used from horseback or on foot to assist in moving an animal forward or during loading.

Non-Compliance: On the first day of the adoption there were not handling aids including flags or shaker paddles available to be used in moving wild horses and burros.

Corrective Action: On the second day while moving and loading wild horses they were using handling aids and they were available when needed.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

| CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements | Compliant | Partially Compliant | Non-Compliant | N/A |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| CAWP Trained BLM Staff | ✓ | | | |
| Adoption Event Personnel | ✓ | | | |
| Satellite Facility Design | | ✓ | | |
| Care of WHBs Received at Satellite Facilities | ✓ | | | |
| Euthanasia Procedures at Satellite Facilities | ✓ | | | |
| Carcass Disposal at Satellite Facilities | ✓ | | | |
| Willful Acts of Abuse | ✓ | | | |
| General Handling | ✓ | | | |
| Handling Aids | ✓ | | | |
| Loading and Unloading Facilities | | ✓ | | |
| Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures | | | | ✓ |
| Vehicles | | | | ✓ |
| Transport Procedures | | | | ✓ |
| Receiving Procedures | | | | ✓ |
| <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.