



## **Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report**

**June 11, 2024**

**Adoption Event Name:** Annville Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

**State:** Pennsylvania

**District/Field Office:** Northeastern States District Office

**Providing Facility:** Wheatland Off-Range Corral collection location for multiple ORCs

**Rest Facility:** Ewing Off-Range Corral

**Back Haul Facility:** Ewing Off-Range Corral

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, John Hall, Meredith Kueck, and Lisa Reid

**Assessment Dates:** June 3-9, 2024

**Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards:** 187

**Number of Applicable CAWP Standards:** 154

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 139/154 = 90%

**General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team:** The assessment of the Annville 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 the providing off-range corral and the transportation of the wild horses and burros to and from the event. Assessments are a snapshot of what is happening regarding compliance with CAWP standards at that specific time.

The adoption team at the Annville adoption event was made up of staff from multiple BLM offices and several volunteers. Morning safety briefings were completed daily to encourage communication and establish daily goals for the adoption event while in Annville.

Communication is key for a successful adoption event, for the safety of the adoption team, the wild horses and burros at the event, and the public. The communication of this adoption team was outstanding. The team sorting the wild horses and burros took the time to move all animals in a safe manner, even when it was difficult to separate some animals. The sorting and load-out teams remained positive and calm, which helped reduce stress on animals as they are sorted and loaded. The adoption team provided excellent care to a wild horse that had injured itself in transit between the rest facility and arrival at the adoption event. Working with the on-call veterinarian, the team helped keep the injury clean and cared for, and the swelling had greatly reduced when the wild horse arrived at the back-haul facility.

The Annville adoption event was a large pick-up location for wild horses and burros adopted through the Online Corral. The providing facility receives wild horses and burros from multiple off-range corrals that are then transported to adoption events. The providing facility is critical in the success of moving wild horses and burros from western off-range corrals to adoption

events in the mid-west, eastern and southern parts of the country. A rest facility is an important part of transporting wild horses and burros throughout the United States. A rest facility allows for animals to be off loaded and have access to hay and water while resting. The back haul facility receives the animals that are not adopted at the adoption event, and they remain at that location until they are offered for adoption at that location or at another satellite adoption event. The adoption event ends when the unadopted animals are received at the back haul facility. Each of the off-range corrals are crucial to having successful adoption events.

**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 Annville 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:**

**Providing Facility**

**Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Preparation Procedures**

**Standard**

**2.II.D** Except for exceptional circumstances including but not limited to trap site adoptions, WH&Bs being offered for adoption should have received primary and booster vaccinations as well as deworming medications prior to adoption.

**Non-Compliance:** The Wheatland Off-Range Corral was the providing facility and the collection location of animals from other BLM facilities. Animals adopted through Online Corral events were staged at the providing facility for transportation to the desired adoption pick-up locations, including Annville. Based on review of the animal's health cards and Wild Horse and Burro Program System, not all animals were current with booster vaccinations and deworming. It was found that animals housed at the providing facility were current on vaccinations and deworming; however, animals shipped to the providing facility for this event from other off-range corrals were not current with vaccinations and deworming.

## **Rest Facility**

### **Receiving Procedures**

#### **Standard**

**1.III.B.10** WH&Bs should be penned with WH&Bs of like age, sex, and temperament.

**Non-Compliance:** Animals had been sorted for compatibility; however, mixed sexes were penned together during the rest period.

### **Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Preparation Procedures**

#### **Standard**

**2.II.A** WH&Bs being transferred to another off-range corral facility, off-range pasture, eco-sanctuary or adoption event must have a current negative EIA test, be in a state of health appropriate for a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and be accompanied by appropriate paperwork as required by the laws of the receiving state.

**Non-Compliance:** The appropriate paperwork had been completed; however, upon inspection of the paperwork, it was discovered that two of the animal's health cards had been placed in the incorrect shipping folder and arrived at the rest facility on different shipments.

#### **Standard**

**2.II.D** Except for exceptional circumstances including but not limited to trap site adoptions, WH&Bs being offered for adoption should have received primary and booster vaccinations as well as deworming medications prior to adoption.

**Non-Compliance:** Not all animals were current with booster vaccinations and deworming upon arriving at the Ewing Off-Range Corrals (rest facility). Upon arrival at the rest facility, it was found that animals housed at the providing facility were current on vaccinations and deworming; however, animals shipped to the providing facility for this event from other off-range corrals were not current with vaccinations and deworming.

### **Transport Procedures**

#### **Standard**

**2.IV.G** WH&Bs should not be allowed to remain standing on straight-deck and stock trailers while not in transport for a combined period of greater than three (3) hours.

**Non-Compliance:** Animals shipped from the rest facility left earlier than expected and arrived at the adoption event ahead of schedule. As a result, animals had to stand on a stationary trailer more than three hours combined during the trip.

## **Adoption Event**

### **Satellite Facility Design**

#### **Standard**

- 3.II.B** The satellite facility must have a sufficient number of pens available to sort WH&Bs according to sex, temperament, or physical condition as needed.

**Non-Compliance:** The design of the satellite facility did not allow enough pens for animals to be sorted according to sex, temperament, or physical condition. Animals were in pens with mixed sexes and physical condition. A horse requiring treatment by a veterinarian was not able to be isolated due to a lack of available pens.

### **Satellite Facility Design**

#### **Standard**

- 3.II.F** Watering systems in WH&B adoption holding pens must provide unlimited access to clean water appropriate for livestock at all times.

**Non-Compliance:** Not all pens always had water available. The majority of the water troughs were empty Thursday morning.

### **Satellite Facility Design**

#### **Standard**

- 3.II.I** WH&Bs in pens at the satellite facility should be maintained at a stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area.

**Non-Compliance:** Many of the pens were over stocked and the animals occupied more than half the pen space when at rest.

### **Loading and Unloading Facilities**

#### **Standard**

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

**Non-Compliance:** The semitrailers were not properly aligned at unloading; there was a gap between the unloading chute and back of the trailer that could create a situation where a wild horse or burro could injure itself. The final semitrailer was aligned properly to the chute, causing the gap to decrease enough so that animals couldn't injure themselves.

### **Care of Wild Horses and Burros Received at Satellite Facilities**

#### **Standard**

- 3.III.D** All WH&Bs must have adequate space to move freely within an adoption facility pen.

**Non-Compliance:** Multiple pens were overstocked during the adoption event, limiting their ability to move freely throughout the pens.

### **Care of Wild Horses and Burros Received at Satellite Facilities**

#### **Standard**

- 3.III.E** WH&Bs, to the greatest extent possible, must be allowed to exist in an undisturbed environment after arriving at an adoption facility until the adoption event begins.

**Non-Compliance:** The animals available for adoption arrived on Thursday morning during the Online Corral pickup, which did not allow the newly arrived adoptable animals to rest before adoption activities.

### **Care of Wild Horses and Burros Received at Satellite Facilities**

#### **Standard**

- 3.III.I** WH&Bs transported for more than 12 hours to an adoption event should be allowed a rest period of 5 hours or more prior to formal viewing by the adopting public.

**Non-Compliance:** The public was viewing the Online Corral pickup animals when the load of adoptable animals arrived, which did not allow for them to have a minimum 5 hours of rest.

## **Transport Back Haul Loading/Receiving**

### **Loading and Unloading Facilities**

#### **Standard**

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

**Non-Compliance:** The loading chute was properly aligned with the semitrailer, but once loading began, the chute shifted creating a gap between the trailer and the chute. The team was made aware of the shift, stopped loading, and safely realigned the chute to resolve the unsafe situation.

## Transport Procedures

### Standard

**2.IV.G** WH&Bs should not be allowed to remain standing on straight-deck and stock trailers while not in transport for a combined period of greater than three (3) hours.

**Non-Compliance:** Animals were standing on the trailers for greater than three hours while not in transport. The animals arrived at Ewing around 1:30 a.m., which caused for the animals to remain standing on a stationary trailer for more than 6 hours when the staff arrived to unload.

## Receiving Procedures

### Standard

**1.III.B.8** Newly arrived WH&Bs must immediately be provided hay and water upon unloading.

**Non-Compliance:** Newly arrived animals were provided with water immediately upon arrival, but they did not have hay immediately upon arrival. The bottom of the feed bunks had muddy sludge due to dirt and water buildup. The small sections of hay that was available in the feed bunks was old and water saturated.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Providing Facility	27/28	96%	Excellent
Rest Location Facility	28/32	88%	Good
Adoption Event	51/58	88%	Good
Transport Back Haul Loading/Receiving	33/36	92%	Good

**Final CAWP Assessment Rating:** Good. 90% 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.