

## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

August 19, 2024

**Gather Name:** White Mountain Wild Horse Gather

**State:** Wyoming

**District/Field Office:** High Desert District Office/Rock Springs Field Office

**Incident Commander:** Spencer Allred

**Lead COR:** Jay D'Ewart

**Gather Method:** Helicopter Dive Trapping

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Dr. Al Kane and John Hall

**Assessment Dates:** August 15-17, 2024

**Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards:** 206

**Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards:** 169

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 156

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 156/169 = 92%

**General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team:** Coordination and access to the wild horse gather was excellent. There were many BLM visitors during the beginning of the gather. The gather team was able to safely accommodate those needs. The gather team did a good job with the implementation of BLMs euthanasia policy for chronic and pre-existing injuries, so that horses with impaired mobility and a poor prognosis for recovery didn't need to be transported to the BLM preparation facility. The entire gather team worked well together which allowed for a good and efficient gather operation.

**Conditions found to be in non-compliance with the CAWP Standards for Wild Horse and Burro Gatherers:**

### Trap Site

#### Facility Design

##### Standard

**I.A.1** The trap site and temporary holding facility must be constructed of stout materials and must be maintained in proper working condition, including gates that swing freely and latch or tie easily.

**Non-Compliance:** The gates in the trap did not latch easily and would routinely open when swinging. Wranglers constantly had to re-close gates after the initial swing due to latches failing.

## **Handling Aids**

### **Standard**

**IV.C.2.h** Any electric prod use that may be necessary must be documented daily by the Lead COR/COR/PI including time of day, circumstances, handler, location (trap site or temporary holding facility), and any injuries (to WH&B or human).

**Non-Compliance:** The use of the electric prod was not documented at the trap site on August 15, 2024.

## **Transportation Vehicles**

### **Standard**

**V.B.11** Surfaces and floors of trailers must be cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of a gather.

**Non-Compliance:** Stock trailers were not cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of the gather.

## **Temporary Holding Corral**

### **Facility Design**

#### **Standard**

**I.A.5.c** 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.

**Non-Compliance:** The pens at the temporary holding facility were over stocked.

#### **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.

**Non-Compliance:** Water was not refilled every morning.

#### **Standard**

**I.A.13** All gates and panels in the animal holding and handling pens and alleys of the trap site must be covered with materials such as plywood, snow fence, tarps, burlap, etc. approximately 48" in height to provide a visual barrier for the animals. All materials must be secured in place.

**Non-Compliance:** There was an interior animal holding pen that did not have covering that provided a visual barrier for the animals.

## **Feeding and Watering**

### **Standard**

**III.B.1.a** Adult WH&Bs held in traps or temporary holding pens for longer than 12 hours must be fed every morning and evening with water available at all times other than when animals are being sorted or worked.

**Non-Compliance:** Some of the wild horses in temporary holding were only fed once per day.

### **Standard**

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

**Non-Compliance:** All animals could not eat simultaneously. Hay was only provided on one side of each of the holding pens at temporary holding, which greatly limited the amount of bunk space available given the number of animals in the pens.

## **Care**

### **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.

**Non-Compliance:** The pens at the temporary holding facility were overstocked such that animals were crowded at rest.

## **Transportation**

### **Transportation Care During Transport**

#### **Standard**

**V.C.3** Trailers must be loaded using the minimum space allowance in all compartments as follows:

- a. 12 square feet per adult horse.
- b. 6.0 square feet per dependent horse foal.
- c. 8.0 square feet per adult burro.
- d. 4.0 square feet per dependent burro foal.

**Non-Compliance:** Several compartments of the straight deck trailers did not allow for the minimum space allowance and were too crowded.

**Transportation Vehicles**

**Standard**

**V.B.5** The rear door(s) of the trailers must be capable of opening the full width of the trailer.

**Non-Compliance:** All the straight deck trailers did not have rear doors that could open the full width of the trailer.

**Standard**

**V.B.11** Surfaces and floors of trailers must be cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of a gather.

**Non-Compliance:** Surfaces and floors of the straight deck trailers were not cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of the gather.

**Handling Aids**

**Standard**

**IV.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:** During loading the handle end of a handling aid was used to prod animals.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

	<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>Percent Compliant</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<b>Trap Site</b>	59/62	95%	Good
<b>Temporary Holding</b>	53/59	90%	Good
<b>Transportation</b>	44/48	92%	Good
<b>Gather Compliance</b>	156/169	92%	Good

**Final CAWP Assessment Rating:** Good. 92% 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.