

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

October 11, 2024

Gather Name: Twin Peaks Wild Horse Gather

State: California

District/Field Office: Northern CA District Office/Eagle Lake Field Office

Incident Commander: Emily Ryan

Lead COR: Patrick Farris

Gather Method: Helicopter Dive Trapping

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Ben Noyes, Lisa Reid, and Garrett Swisher

Assessment Dates: October 8, 2024

Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards: 206

Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards: 109

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 107

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 107/109= 98%

Understanding Assessments: The CAWP's comprehensive approach aims to promote the welfare of wild horses and burros during management activities while minimizing stress and ensuring humane care, handling and treatment. CAWP assessments evaluate compliance with standards during the activities taking place at the time of the assessment. This framework helps ensure a clear and unbiased evaluation of events or actions as they occur. Here are some key points:

- **Holistic Approach:** Assessments reflect the entirety of the activity, not targeting individuals or specific groups.
- **Time-Specific:** The evaluation focuses solely on the observed circumstances during the assessment period.
- **Limitations:** Previous or subsequent events are not accounted for, meaning the assessment is a standalone observation.

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: Coordination and access to the wild horse gather was good. The trap site at this gather was bigger than normal with the expectation of gathering large groups of wild horses. The trap had a main back pen and five sorting pens along with two side pens for foals or any injured or compromised animals. The gather team did a good job sorting and loading wild horses. Gathered wild horses went to the Litchfield Off-Range Corral. The contractor and BLM communicated well to discuss the priority areas. The entire gather team worked well together which allowed for an excellent and efficient gather operation.

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

Temporary Holding Corral

Facility Design

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 troughs were not adequate to hold enough water for the number of wild horses in one of the holding pens.

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: Wild horses in temporary holding were only watered once per day, and therefore water was not always available to the wild horses.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Trap Site	64/64	100%	Excellent
Temporary Holding	44/46	95%	Good
Transportation	8/8	100%	Excellent
Gather Compliance	116/118	100%	Excellent

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Excellent 98% 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.