



## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

November 7, 2024

**Off-Range Corral:** Axtell Off-Range Corral

**State:** Utah

**Facility Manager or COR:** Heath Weber

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Dr. Matt Traylor, Ruby Kyle and Lynae Rogers

**Assessment Date:** November 5, 2024

**Total Number of CAWP Off-Range Corral Standards:** 117

**Number of Applicable CAWP Standards:** 86

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 83/86 = 97%

**Understanding Assessments:** The Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program 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:** During the assessment, the team observed the off-range corral staff handle wild horses through the tub and alley and into the squeeze chute where they prepared the wild horses for adoption, including administration of vaccinations, aging, deworming, application of freeze marks, and the insertion of microchips. All staff worked well together to keep an efficient, effective, and safe working environment for staff and wild horses. As required by BLM policy, new needles were used for each vaccination and microchip.

The Axtell Off-Range Corral's emphasis on genuine teamwork highlights an important aspect of management and welfare. Their desire to not only appear but truly function as a team suggests a firm commitment to the welfare and effective management of the wild horses and burros under their care.

Enrichments were observed during the assessment, one of note was the use of mounding with rocks and concrete to help with natural wear of hooves as wild horses access watering locations. Wild horses were also observed playing in the mound areas.

**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 contractor 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 were current with CAWP training.*

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

**Facility Design**

**Standard**

- 1.II.1** Ground surfaces in pens must be maintained to promote drainage, reduce wet ground conditions, and allow for routine manure removal.

**Non-Compliance:** Ground surfaces did not promote drainage. Some steps were being taken to clean and remove accumulation of manure in the pens. In some pens, straw was used to help mitigate the wet ground conditions.

**Preparation Procedures**

**Standard**

- 1.IV.D.2** Facilities must conduct Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing and apply freeze-marks within 30 days of receiving WH&Bs, unless directed by the facility veterinarian when age or physical condition requires a delay.

**Non-Compliance:** Based on the randomly selected paperwork, not all wild horses had received freeze marks and EIA testing within 30 days of arrival as required.

**Standard**

- 1.IV.D.6** Facilities must adhere to the current BLM vaccination policy.

**Non-Compliance:** The BLM vaccination policy requires vaccinations to be given every six months. Some of the booster vaccinations were not administered according to the randomly selected paperwork that was reviewed.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

<b>CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements</b>	<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>Percent Compliant</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Facility Personnel	4/4	100%	Excellent
Facility Design	13/14	93%	Good
Loading and Unloading Facilities	4/4	100%	Excellent
Receiving Procedures	10/10	100%	Excellent
Veterinarian	6/6	100%	Excellent
Biosecurity	5/5	100%	Excellent
Feed and Water	7/7	100%	Excellent
Preparation Procedures	8/10	80%	Complies
Euthanasia Procedures	5/5	100%	Excellent
Carcass Disposal	2/2	100%	Excellent
Willful Acts of Abuse	4/4	100%	Excellent
General Handling	6/6	100%	Excellent
Handling Aids	5/5	100%	Excellent
<b>Overall Compliance and Final CAWP Assessment Rating</b>	<b>83/86</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

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