

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

December 5, 2024

Off-Range Corral: Litchfield Off-Range Corral

State: California

Facility Manager or COR: Doug Satica, Facility Manager

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Tami Howell, Meredith Kueck, and Ruby Kyle

Assessment Date: December 5, 2024

Total Number of CAWP Off-Range Corral Standards: 117

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 101

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 99/101 = 98%

Understanding Assessments: The Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program's promotes 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 hoof trimming and the loading of several wild horses to be returned to the range after they had been treated with fertility control.

The hoof trimming team worked well together to keep an efficient, effective, and safe working environment for staff and wild horses by ensuring the process flowed well. The staff demonstrated skills in handling the wild horses, ensuring that the animals' health and well-being remained their priority. The Litchfield Off-Range Corral has numerous rocks in pens that help with maintenance of hooves in between trimmings. There are also large mounds in several pens that the animals could climb. One pen has a pond that catches run-off to prevent erosion, with levee on the downhill side. Multiple wild horses were observed on top of the pond's levee.

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 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.F** Fences in pens, alleys, and working chute systems must be not less than 6 feet high for horses, 5 feet high for burros, and the bottom rail must not be more than 12 inches from ground level.

Non-Compliance: The height of the fencing in some locations was less than 6 feet due to accumulation of manure or dirt and sinking of the panels.

Preparation Procedures

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. Booster vaccinations were missing on some of the randomly selected paperwork that was reviewed. The reason provided for not vaccinating pregnant mares or mares with young foals was the potential increased risk of injury during sorting to the mares or young foals.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Facility Personnel	4/4	100%	Excellent
Facility Design	13/14	93%	Good
Loading and Unloading Facilities	6/6	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	9/10	90%	Good
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
Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures	2/2	100%	Excellent
Vehicles	12/12	100%	Excellent
Transport Procedures	3/3	100%	Excellent
Overall Compliance and Final CAWP Assessment Rating	99/101	98%	Excellent

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