

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

December 3, 2024

Off-Range Corral: Indian Lakes Off-Range Corral

State: Nevada

Facility Manager or COR: John Neill COR

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

Assessment Date: December 3, 2024

Total Number of CAWP Off-Range Corral Standards: 117

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 83

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 77/83 = 93%

Understanding Assessments: The Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program 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 the preparation of wild horses, including the administration of primary vaccinations, the application of freeze marks and microchipping. As required by BLM policy, new needles were used for each vaccination and microchip.

The Indian Lakes Off-Range Corral is short staffed the current preparation team is equipped to safely and effectively prepare wild horses and burros for a facility that is only half this size. Despite being short-staffed, the preparation team worked well together to keep an efficient, effective, and safe working environment for staff and wild horses by ensuring the preparation process flowed well. The staff demonstrated skills in handling the wild horses, ensuring that the animals' health and well-being remained their priority. The Indian Lakes Off-Range Corral provides enrichments that help reduce the temperature during the hotter months by spraying water on the pens. Due to staffing shortages, some data entry is delayed, hoof trimming, and vaccination is behind schedule, and the facility is struggling to prepare wild horses within 30 days of arrival as required.

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 Personnel

Standard

- 1.I.B** The facility must have employees with training, skills, and experience to observe, move, and handle the WH&Bs on the facility.

Non-Compliance: The facility has employees with the training, skills, and experience to observe, move and handle wild horses and burros. However, there are not enough personnel to stay current with preparing wild horses and burros received from gathers, administering vaccination boosters, and keeping hooves trimmed.

Standard

- 1.I.D** The facility should be staffed by appropriate office staff for record maintenance and recording.

Non-Compliance: Some record maintenance and recording were not up to date in the Wild Horse and Burro Program System (WHBPS). Currently a volunteer is assisting with data entry, and there is an effort to hire a staff assistant; however, the person is not in place yet.

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. (major)

Non-Compliance: The height of the fencing in some of the pens was less than 6 feet largely due to sand and dirt accumulation along the fence lines.

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: Not all newly arrived wild horses received freeze marks and EIA testing within 30 days as required due to the off-range corral being short staffed.

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.

Standard

1.IV.D.8 Hoof trimming must be performed twice per year at minimum or as necessary to maintain hooves in a proper condition.

Non-Compliance: There were numerous wild horses with hooves that were not maintained in proper condition with excessively long feet that were turned up off the ground at the toe.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Facility Personnel	2/4	50%	Failure to Comply
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	7/10	70%	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
Overall Compliance and Final CAWP Assessment Rating	76/82	93%	Good

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