

## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 24, 2023

**Gather Name:** FY2023 Planned Antelope Complex-North Wild Horse Gather

**State:** Nevada

**District/Field Office:** Elko District Office, Wells Field Office

**Incident Commander:** Garrett Swisher

**Lead COR:** Bruce Thompson

**Gather Method:** Helicopter Dive Trapping

**Gather Reason:** Excess animals, working to achieve AML

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, and Ben Smith

**Assessment Dates:** July 14-18, 2023

**Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards:** 189

**Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards:** 131

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 127

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 127/131 = 97%

**General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team:** Coordination and access to this gather was excellent. The BLM, contractor, and onsite veterinarian were willing to ask questions about the comprehensive animal welfare program standards and answer questions asked by the CAWP team. The coordination and communication between the BLM, the contractor, and onsite veterinarian were excellent. Due to the temperatures, the BLM onsite personnel were observed checking ambient temperatures multiple times at the trap site. Dust abatement provided by the contractor was excellent at the trap and holding corral. Wild horses worked at the trap were moved slowly and quietly with limited flagging. While at times the contractor appeared to be short staffed at the trap, they were able to work with the BLM COR and IC to complete the trapping of wild horses safely and humanely. While onsite the CAWP team observed the roping and tie-down of a wild horse. Applicable standards were adhered to, including but not limited to marking the wild horses for reevaluation later, and having the horse observed while tied down. Compliance with CAWP standards was a focus of this gather operation.

### 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 Wild Horse and Burro Gathers.
- All personnel, including contractor and partners involved in the care, handling, and transportation of wild horses and burros at wild horse and burro gathers are required to complete training annually.

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

### Trap Site Animals

#### Standard

**III.B.3.a** Dependent foals or weak/debilitated animals must be separated from other WH&Bs at the trap site to avoid injuries during transportation to the temporary holding facility. Separation of dependent foals from mares must not exceed four hours unless the Lead COR/COR/PI authorizes a longer time or a decision is made to wean the foals.

**Non-Compliance:** After the BLM IC stressed the importance through multiple conversations about not separating dependent foals and mares for more than 4 hours, foals were separated for more than 4 hours on July 17, 2023, from the time of capture to the time they were reunited at the temporary holding corral.

### Facility Design: Loading and Unloading Areas

#### Standard

**I.B.6** Trailers must be properly aligned with loading and unloading chutes and panels such that no gaps exist between the chute/panel and floor or sides of the trailer creating a situation where a WH&B could injure itself.

**Non-Compliance:** When shipping to a BLM off-range corral on Sunday, July 16, 2023, the trailer was aligned but there were gaps between the chute and sides of the trailer that could create a situation where a wild horse could injure itself.

**Corrective Action:** When shipping to a BLM off-range corral on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, the chute had been reset to close the gap between the chute and sides of the trailer.

### Loading Procedures

#### Standard

**V.C.2** WH&Bs should be sorted prior to transport to ensure compatibility and minimize aggressive behavior that may cause injury.

**Non-Compliance:** While animals were sorted at the temporary holding corral, mares and foals were shipped from temporary holding corrals to off-range corral in the same compartment.

### Handling Performance

#### Standard

**IV.B.2** WH&Bs should be handled to enter runways or chutes in a forward direction.

**Non-Compliance:** While loading to ship from the temporary holdings to an off-range corral on July 16, 2023, two wild horses were loaded backwards up the loading chute into the trailer.

**Corrective Action:** While loading on July 18, 2023, all wild horses were loaded into the trailer in a forward direction.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

<b>CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements</b>	<b>Compliant</b>	<b>Partially Compliant</b>	<b>Non-Compliant</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>CAWP Trained BLM Staff</b>	✓			
<b>CAWP Contract Trained Staff</b>	✓			
<b>Required Documentation</b>	✓			
<b>Trap Site Facility</b>	✓			
<b>Trap Site Animals</b>		✓		
<b>Temporary Holding Facility</b>	✓			
<b>Temporary Holding Animals</b>	✓			
<b>Transport Design and Facilities</b>		✓		
<b>Transport Animals</b>		✓		
<i>Compliant – all the activities of the section were compliant with the standards or policy requirements.            Partially compliant – one or more activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.            Non-Compliant – all activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.            N/A –activities were not observed during the assessment.</i>				

**Final CAWP Assessment Rating:** Excellent. 97% 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.