



Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

May 24, 2022

Off-Range Corral: Wheatland Off-Range Corral

State: Wyoming

Facility Manager or COR: JJ Nolan, Facility Manager and June Wendlandt, COR

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Dr. Al Kane, and Doug Satica

Assessment Dates: May 23, 2022

Total Number of CAWP Off-Range Corral Standards: 117

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 76

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 63/76 = 83%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: Assessments of Off-Range Corrals includes the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program standards for Off-Range Corrals and Transportation as applicable.

Coordination with the Wheatland Off-Range Corral for the CAWP Team Assessment was excellent, the team was well received and provided access to the entire facility. The CAWP Team was able to observe wild horses being brought to the chute and trimming of hooves. Bringing large numbers of wild horses into the alley system and working chute areas that have no visual barriers to help the horses see and focus on open paths forward, gates and corners did create some hesitation, confusion, and congestion among the horses. The wranglers responded calmly and appropriately, but better design elements that incorporate visual barriers could help prevent or mitigate this problem.

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.

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. (major)

Non-Compliance: While the BLM and contract employees working at the facility have the training, skills, and experience to observe, move, and handle the wild horses at the facility, they simply don't have enough employees to complete all the work required in a timely manner.

Standard

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

Non-Compliance: At the time of the assessment, the organization of records and inventory of the pens was good; however, a facility this size likely needs to have additional administrative support for this to be maintained long term. It is noted that there are plans to fill a position to complete these duties on an ongoing basis, but the position was vacant at the time of the assessment.

Facility Design

Standard

- 1.II.D The facility must have a sufficient number of pens available to sort WH&Bs according to sex, age, temperament, health status, or physical condition as needed. (major)

Non-Compliance: The facility is extremely limited on the number of small pens that can be used for sorting, receiving, and shipping horses as well as having sufficient pens to sort smaller groups of horses while they are being worked and for sick, injured, or animals needing extra care.

Standard

- 1.II.E Facility fences, gates, alleys, tubs, and working chutes must be constructed of stout materials and must be maintained in proper working condition. (major)

Non-Compliance: The crowd gates and alley fences are not stout enough for the number of animals being worked at any one time and are unlikely to hold up to heavy use over time.

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 crowd gate for the stock trailer loading area is less than 6 feet in height.

Standard

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

Non-Compliance: The facility is built on flat ground; the pens do not promote drainage outside the animal handling areas and would, by design, drain away from the bunks toward other pens or the center hub.

Standard

- 1.II.M** Facilities must provide access to shade and shelter (wind breaks) in pens designated for compromised animals needing special care (i.e., injured or weak animals). Additional provisions for shade and shelter (wind breaks) will be evaluated and determined by managers as appropriate for their region, the function of their facility and the condition of the animals under their care. (major)

Non-Compliance: There is no shade or shelter for animals in compromised pens. In addition, the area receives a lot of wind and does not have wind breaks for the main facility. For the size of the facility, the number of smaller pens suitable for compromised animals is insufficient.

Loading and Unloading Facilities

Standard

- 1.III.A.3** There must be no holes, gaps or openings, protruding surfaces, or sharp edges present in fence panels or other structures that may cause escape or possible injury. (major)

Non-Compliance: There are numerous sharp edges present in the fencing including the sheeting and the gate latches in the alleys and loading/unloading areas.

Receiving Procedures

Standard

- 1.III.B.10** WH&Bs should be penned with WH&Bs of like age, sex, and temperament. (minor)

Non-Compliance: The burro pens have both jennies and gelded jacks in the same pen, and many of the horse pens contained animals that were not sorted and grouped by age.

Biosecurity

Standard

- 1.IV.B.3** Pens should be provided to segregate sick, infectious, injured, or weak WH&Bs from other healthy individuals in the facility when possible. (minor)

Non-Compliance: For the size of the facility there are not enough pens to separate small groups of sick, infectious, or injured animals. If compromised animals are received from a gather, there would not be sufficient pens to segregate them from larger groups of healthy animals.

Feed and Water

Standard

- 1.IV.C.1** Quality hay must be provided daily to WH&Bs in the amount of 2-3% of their body weight per day. (major)

Non-Compliance: The number of wild horses in BCS 3 was high indicating that they are not being provided with enough quality hay daily to achieve and maintain acceptable body condition. Some poor-quality hay (due to spoilage and mold) was also observed as feed in several pens.

Standard

- 1.IV.C.4** Feeding sites must allow all WH&Bs within a pen simultaneous access to hay. (major)

Non-Compliance: All animals do not have enough space to eat simultaneously. Some of this was due to the hay not being adequately spread out in the pens. In a pen identified as being provided free choice hay in one bale feeder, the feeder did not have enough bunk space for all horses in the pen to eat simultaneously.

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. (major)

Non-Compliance: Most animals were not freeze marked and EIA tested within 30 days of being received from gather operations. Some of this is due to the facility going from caring for a small number of animals to over 2,500 animals in a short period of time without yet having experienced managers and wranglers on staff. Additional delays were likely experienced because the facility received all its current animals in the winter and the working chutes are not provided with any sort of shelter from the weather.

Table 1: Standards and Overall Assessment Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
CAWP Trained BLM Staff	✓			
CAWP Contract Trained Staff	✓			
Facility Personnel		✓		
Facility Design		✓		
Loading and Unloading Facilities		✓		
Receiving Procedures		✓		
Veterinarian	✓			
Biosecurity		✓		
Feed and Water		✓		
Preparation Procedures		✓		
Euthanasia Procedures	✓			
Carcass Disposal	✓			
Willful Acts of Abuse	✓			
General Handling	✓			
Handling Aids	✓			
Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures				✓
Vehicles				✓
Transport Procedures				✓

Compliant – all the activities were compliant with the standards or policy requirements. Partially compliant – one or more of the activities were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements. Non-Compliant – all standards were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements. N/A – not applicable, standards that were not observed during an assessment.

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Complies. 83% of applicable CAWP standards were met.