



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Wild Horse and Burro Program

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP) – Jerrie Bertola, CAWP Coordinator





Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP)

- Comprehensive – Applies to all management activities of the WHB Program.
- Animal Welfare – Safeguarding the well-being of the wild horses and burros by ensuring humane treatment, adequate care, and animal handling with care and compassion.
- Program – A formal program not just a philosophy or general code of conduct.





BLM's History of Animal Welfare

- 1959 through 1970's and 80's regulations, policies and procedures put in place to protect animal welfare.
- 1999 BLM started engaging animal welfare experts to advise the WHB Program.
- 2010 BLM began formalizing a comprehensive animal welfare program.
- 2013 BLM issues instruction memorandum (IM) to apply the CAWP to wild horse and burro gathers.
- 2021 BLM hires permanent CAWP Coordinator and issues permanent CAWP policy.





CAWP Instruction Memorandum

Purpose

- Re-affirms and demonstrates the agency's commitment to humane treatment of wild horses and burros.
- Standardizes BLM's longstanding practices.
- Direction, guidance, training, and requirements for BLM employees, contractors, and partners.



Note: Permanent Instruction Memorandum 2021-002 published 12/18/2020
Wild Horse and Burro Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program



WHB CAWP Policy Includes

1. Standards for WHB Gathers
2. Training for gather operations
3. Standards for Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, and Adoption/Sale Events
4. Training for Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, and Adoption/Sales Events
5. Standards and Training will be developed for animals on the range, off-range pastures, and following private care placement





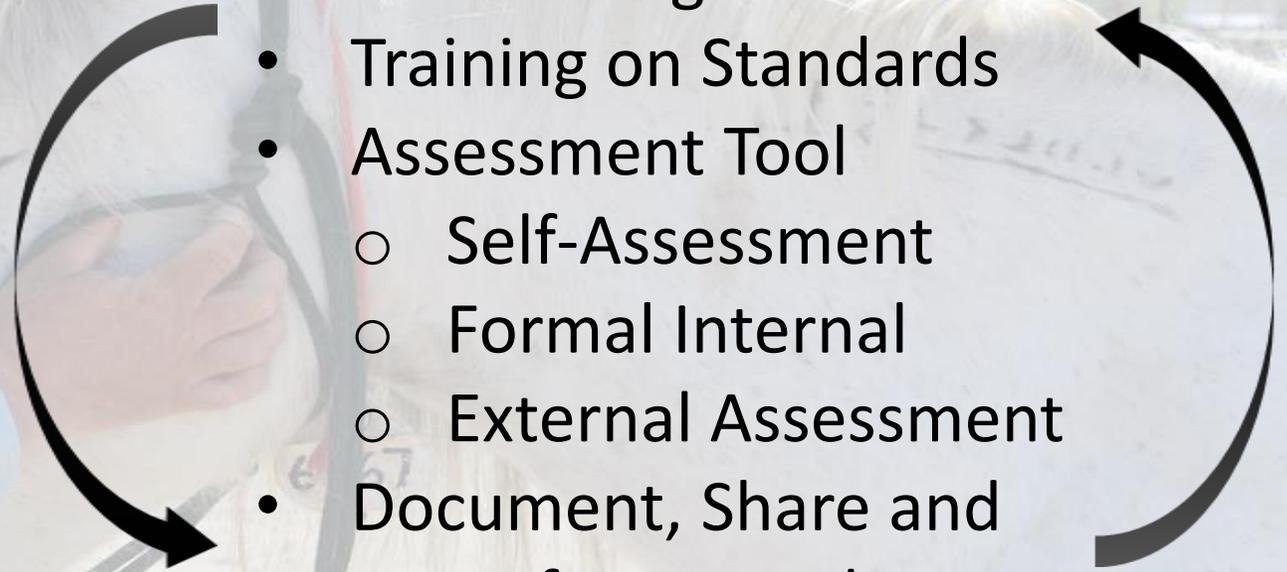
Components of the CAWP

Program Areas

- On the Range
- During Gathers
- Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, Adoption/Sale Events
- Off-Range Pastures
- Following Placement into Private Care

Elements of the CAWP

- Establishing Standards
- Training on Standards
- Assessment Tool
 - Self-Assessment
 - Formal Internal
 - External Assessment
- Document, Share and Learn from Results

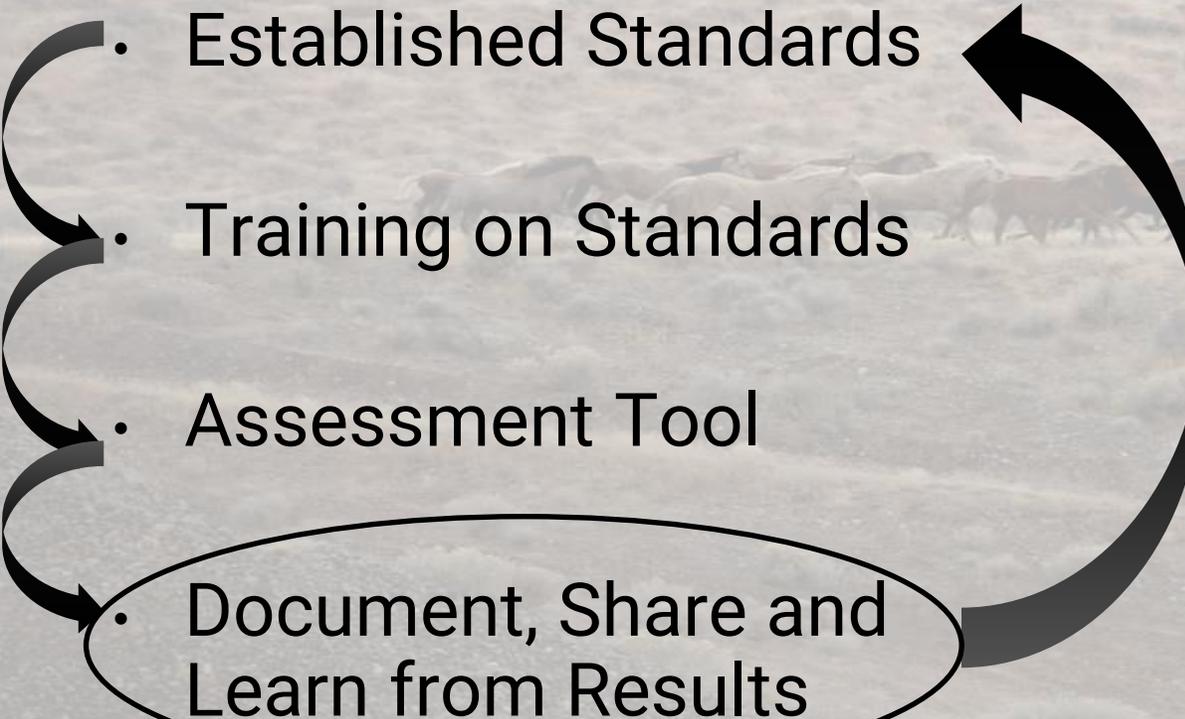


NOTE: Continuous feedback loop improves and strengthens procedures and standards



Module – During Gathers

Elements of the CAWP

- Established Standards
 - Training on Standards
 - Assessment Tool
 - Document, Share and Learn from Results
- 

Status

- Completed
- Updated Training Being Produced
- Implementation and Internal Review Begins in July 2021
- Implemented and Ongoing



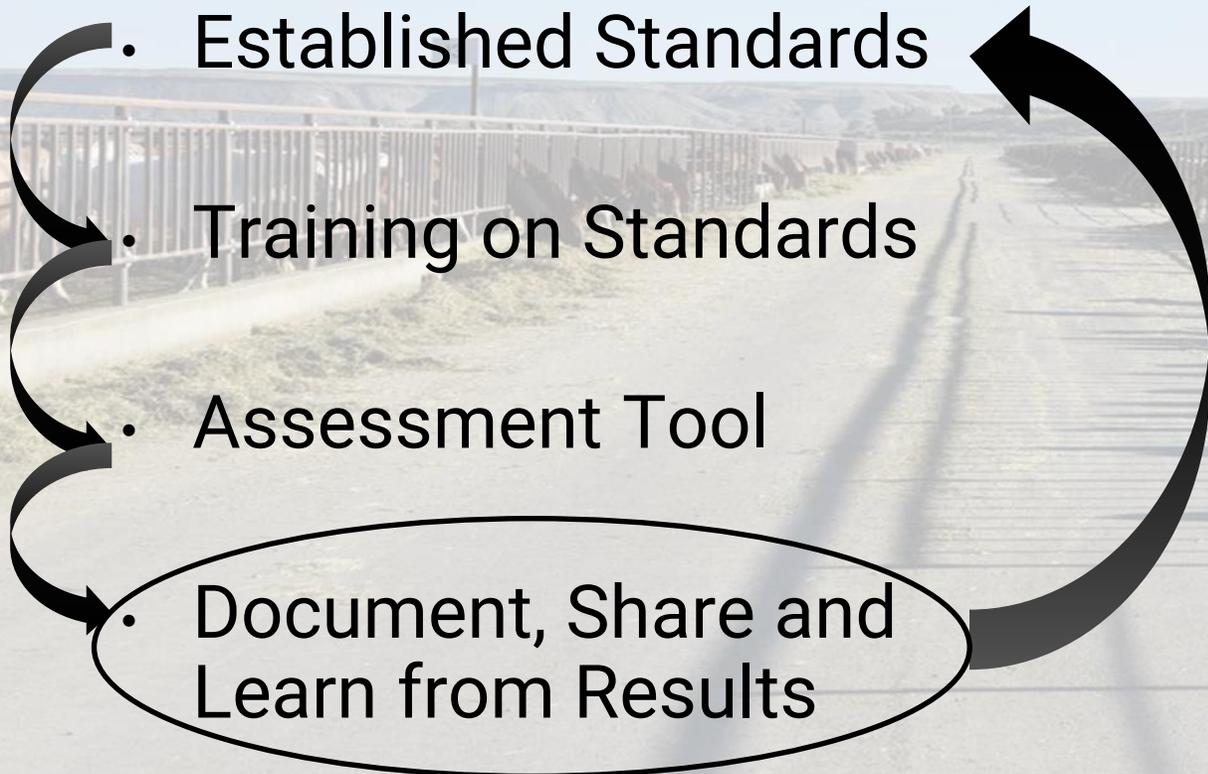
Module – Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, Adoption/Sale Events

Elements of the CAWP

- Established Standards
- Training on Standards
- Assessment Tool
- Document, Share and Learn from Results

Status

- Completed
- Being Produced
- Being Developed
- To Follow





Module – Off-Range Pastures

Elements of the CAWP

- Established Standards
- Training on Standards
- Assessment Tool
- Document, Share and Learn from Results

Status

- Initial Draft Being Reviewed
- To Follow
- To Follow
- To Follow



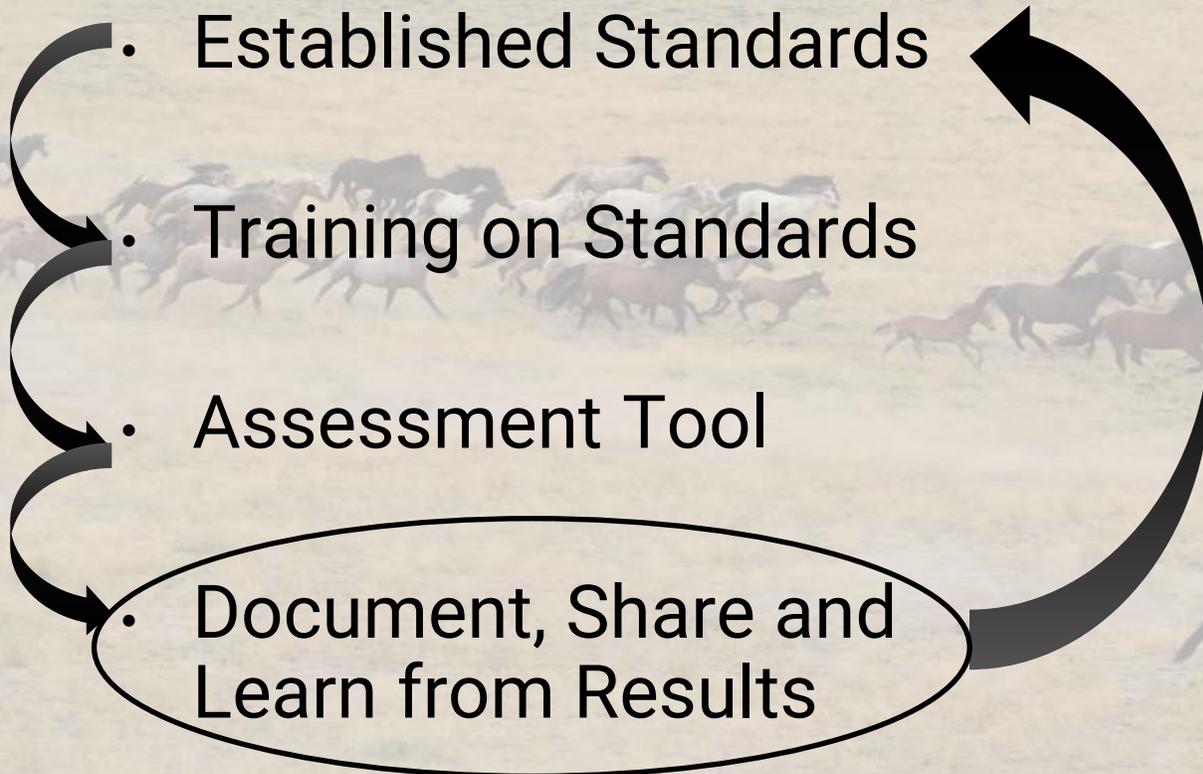
Module – On the Range

Elements of the CAWP

- Established Standards
- Training on Standards
- Assessment Tool
- Document, Share and Learn from Results

Status

- Initial Draft Being Reviewed
- To Follow
- To Follow
- To Follow





Module – Following Placement into Private Care

Elements of the CAWP

Status

- Established Standards

- To Follow

- Training on Standards

- To Follow

- Assessment Tool

- To Follow

- Document, Share and Learn from Results

- To Follow





Fiscal Year 2021 Goals

Goals

- Create a Charter for the CAWP Team
- Create a CAWP Team
- CAWP Presence on WHB Website
- Review/Update CAWP Online Training for Gathers
- Develop Online Training for Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, and Adoption/Sale Events
- Create a Mobile Application for Data Collection for Welfare Assessments
- Conduct Welfare Assessments on Gathers
- Develop Assessment Tool for Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, and Adoption/Sale Events
- Draft CAWP Standards for Off-Range Pastures
- Draft CAWP Standards for On the Range

Current Status

- Completed
- Completed
- Completed
- Being Produced
- Being Produced
- Testing begins in July
- Begins in July
- Being Developed
- Drafted
- Drafted

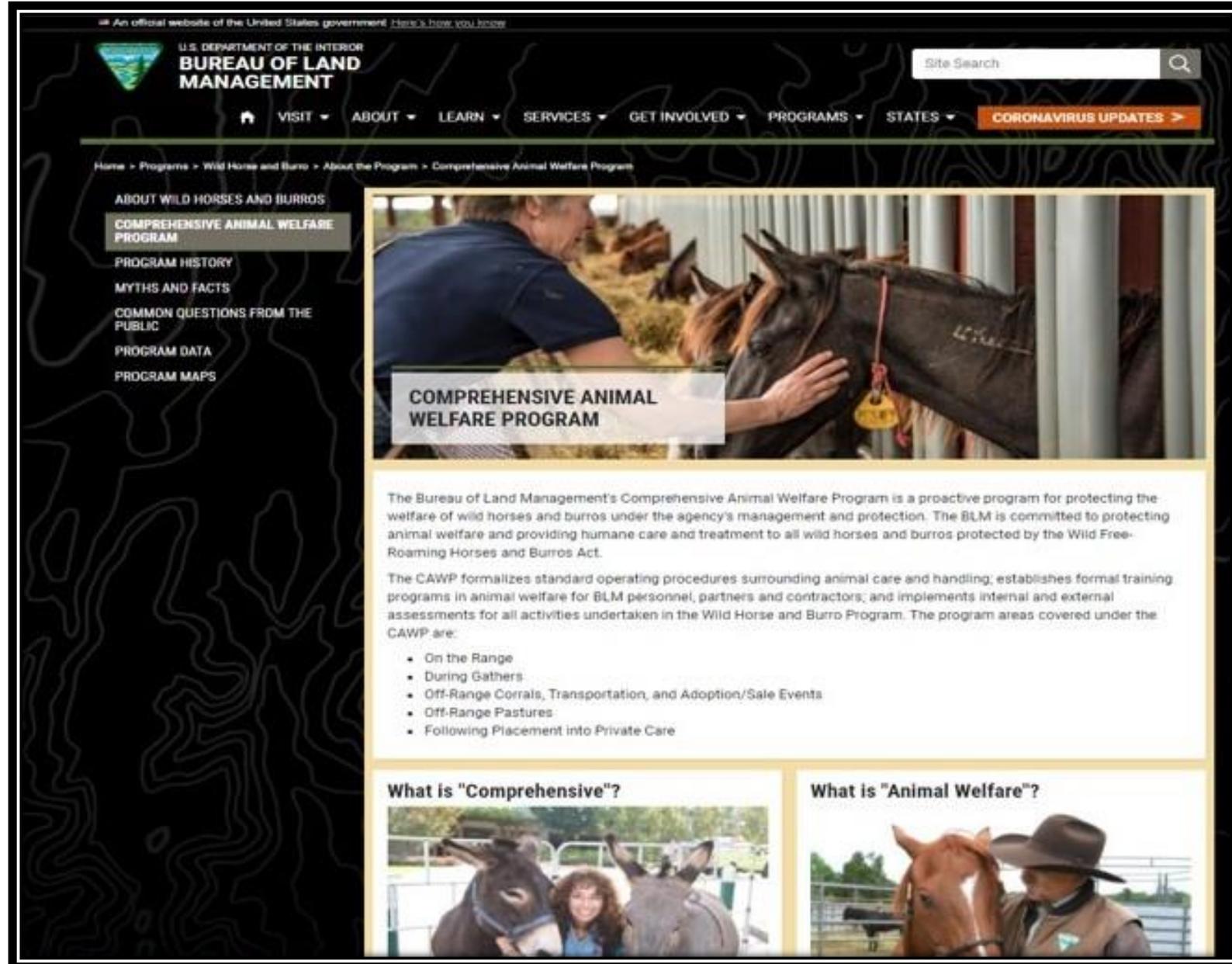
Projected Completion Date

- 1st Quarter FY22
- 1st Quarter FY22
- September 2021
- Ongoing
- September 2021
- 1st Quarter FY22
- 1st Quarter FY22



CAWP Website

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/comprehensive-animal-welfare-program>



The screenshot shows the Bureau of Land Management website page for the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program. The page features a dark header with the BLM logo and navigation menu. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area includes a large image of a person petting a horse, with the title "COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM" overlaid. Below the image is a text block describing the program's purpose and a list of program areas. At the bottom, there are two smaller images with captions: "What is 'Comprehensive'?" and "What is 'Animal Welfare'?".

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Site Search

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ABOUT WILD HORSES AND BURROS
COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM
PROGRAM HISTORY
MYTHS AND FACTS
COMMON QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
PROGRAM DATA
PROGRAM MAPS

COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM

The Bureau of Land Management's Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program is a proactive program for protecting the welfare of wild horses and burros under the agency's management and protection. The BLM is committed to protecting animal welfare and providing humane care and treatment to all wild horses and burros protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

The CAWP formalizes standard operating procedures surrounding animal care and handling; establishes formal training programs in animal welfare for BLM personnel, partners and contractors; and implements internal and external assessments for all activities undertaken in the Wild Horse and Burro Program. The program areas covered under the CAWP are:

- On the Range
- During Gathers
- Off-Range Corrals, Transportation, and Adoption/Sale Events
- Off-Range Pastures
- Following Placement into Private Care

What is "Comprehensive"?

What is "Animal Welfare"?



Next Steps...

- Ensure the Gather Assessment Tool captures information accurately and that the Mobile Application works in gather locations
- Conduct Internal Assessments to further refine processes
- Welfare Assessment Team Experienced and Proficient with Assessments
- Continue training and education on BLM's Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program and implementation of additional components of the CAWP





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Questions?

