



Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 21, 2021

Gather Name: Onaqui Mountain HMA

State: Utah

District/Field Office: West Desert District/Salt Lake Field Office

Contractor: Sampson Livestock

Incident Commander: Gus Warr

Lead COR: Tami Howell

Gather Method: Helicopter Drive Trapping

Gather Reason: AML/Outside HMA, water issues, forage issues

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Rob Sharp, and Dr. Al Kane

Assessment Dates: July 14-17, 2021

Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards: 90 out of 134 total

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 84/90 = 93%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: High temperatures were expected and monitored closely, with a goal of stopping helicopter gather operations well before the heat of the day. BLM Utah and the contractor were eager to do the best possible job and placed animal welfare as a priority. They requested feedback so any issues could be identified, and corrective actions taken as soon as possible to protect the animal wellbeing and comply with CAWP standards. The contractor had a copy of the CAWP Gather Standards on a smart phone that could be accessed at any time, which was a very positive and encouraging indication of the importance of the gather standards and the contractor's desire to be compliant with all applicable standards.

No temporary holding facility was used during the gather. Several extra sorting pens and the fly chute were constructed at the large trap used on day 2 to facilitate sorting prior to shipment. Gathered wild horses were shipped directly from the trap to BLM off-range corrals. No wild horses were overnights at a temporary holding facility; however, water was provided at the trap prior to shipping. No roping occurred during this gather. If it became necessary, the contractor had saddle horses at the trap site to facilitate roping.

The contractor had a semi-trailer that had been converted from a two tiered "pot bellied" trailer to a single tiered, straight deck trailer. The CAWP Team examined and walked through the trailer and determined that the use of this straight-deck trailer was compliant with standards V.B.1 and V.B.1.a regardless of its outward appearance. The trailer had a flat straight deck to load onto with no ramps or narrow gates. It provided adequate headroom for wild horses, and there were not any tiers or obstructions on the floor, above the head or in the head space.

CAWP Trained BLM staff: It was unclear how many BLM employees on site were current with the CAWP training. All BLM staff associated with gather operations are required to complete annual CAWP training. This requirement applies to all personnel (including managers) present at the trap, viewing locations and holding corrals.

CAWP Trained Contractor: The contractor stated that the contractor and all members of their crew took the CAWP training before they arrived at the gather. The contractor had also requested that BLM host an in-person training to allow for the contractor and crew to ask specific questions related to the CAWP.

Standards where deficiencies were successfully addressed by corrective actions

I.A.13 All gates and panels in the animal holding and handling pens and alleys of the trap site must be covered with materials such as plywood, snow fence, tarps, burlap, etc. approximately 48" in height to provide a visual barrier for the animal. All materials must be secured in place.

Visual barrier was missing on the first bow gate in the trap. Contractor added a tarp to this gate as a corrective action. Tarps were not secured at the bottom; additional ties were added to the external tarps to secure the bottom during the assessment.

I.A.8 Padding must be installed on the overhead bars of all gates and chutes used in single file alleys.

Padding on overhead alleys and loading chute were either worn out or not thick enough to function properly. This was corrected by replacing the overhead padding on the single file alley and loading chute during the assessment.

Conditions found to be in non-compliance with the CAWP Standards for Wild Horse and Burro Gatherers:

I.B.2 The side panels of the loading chute must be a minimum of 6 feet high and fully covered with materials such as plywood or metal without holes that may cause injury.

The loading chute was not covered fully with plywood or metal, there is an uncovered strip along the left side of the loading chute.

III.C.1 Health records for all saddle and pilot horses used on WH&B gathers must be provided to the Lead COR/COR/PI prior to joining the gather, including:

- a. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Health Certificate, within 30 days).
- b. Proof of:
 - 1) A negative test for equine infectious anemia (Coggins or EIA ELISA test) within 12 months.
 - 2) Vaccination for tetanus, eastern and western equine encephalomyelitis, West Nile virus, equine herpes virus, influenza, *Streptococcus equi*, and rabies within 12 months.

Proof of vaccinations were not provided prior to joining the gather.

IV.C.2.d Electric prods must only be picked up when intended to deliver a stimulus; these devices must not be constantly carried by the handlers.

During loading and sorting of wild horses, the electric prod was sometimes carried constantly or held by the handler after delivery of stimulus. This led to excessive use of the electric prod.

IV.C.2.e Space in front of an animal must be available to move the WH&B forward prior to application of the electric prod.

On a few occasions, application of the electric prod was used on one wild horse and the wild horse directly behind, creating a “pushing-up” reaction. This also contributed to excessive use of the electric prod on wild horses.

V.B.5 The rear door(s) of the trailers must be capable of opening the full width of the trailer.

The rear door of one of the straight-deck trailers cannot be opened the full width of the trailer if necessary.

V.B.11 Surfaces and floors of trailers must be cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of a gather.

One of the semi-trailers was not cleaned before the beginning of the gather - there was dirt, a large amount of manure, organic matter, and trash in the trailer.

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Good. 93% of CAWP standards were met.