

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 22, 2022

Gather Name: FY2022 Triple B Complex Wild Horse Gather

State: Nevada

District/Field Office: Ely District Office, Bristlecone Field Office/Elko District Office, Wells Field Office

Incident Commander: Ben Noyes

Lead COR: Tyler Reese

Contractor: Cattoor Livestock Roundup, Inc.

Gather Method: Helicopter Dive Trapping

Gather Reason: Excess animals, outside HMA, lack of water, and private land issues

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Ryan Bradshaw, and Preston Rushing

Assessment Dates: July 18-20, 2022

Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards: 189

Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards: 131

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 126

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 126/131 = 96%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: Coordination and access to this gather was excellent. Both BLM and the contractor were willing to ask and answer questions. The contractor tried to meet the standards for the loading chute; however, the chute still fell short of the standards. Coordination and communication observed with the onsite veterinarian was excellent. The BLM onsite personnel were observed checking ambient temperatures multiple times at the trap site. The BLM-provided chute made it difficult to determine the sexes of animals. At one point, the chute encountered difficulties when the generator stopped working. A “fly” chute works better in remote locations.

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. (major)

Non-compliance: While dependent foals separated at the trap site were reunited within four hours, the foals were not always kept separate when shipping from the trap site to the temporary holding corral.

Temporary Holding Corral

Standard

- I.A.12** The design of pens at the trap site and temporary holding facility should be constructed with rounded corners. (minor)

Non-Compliance: The temporary holding facility was not designed to minimize corners and sharp angles. The gates placed in the big pens on the outside part of the corral created 90-degree angles when closed. When left open, there were places for wild horses to hit.

Standard

- III.C.4** Horses not involved with gather operations should remain at least 300 yards from WH&Bs, saddle horses, and pilot horses being actively used on a gather. (minor)

Non-Compliance: Privately owned horses not involved in gather operations shared a fence line with the saddle and pilot horses and were less than 300 yards from the wild horses or those involved in gather operations.

Facility Design: Loading and Unloading Areas

Standard

- 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. (major)

Non-Compliance: The loading chute was not covered a minimum of 6 feet high with materials such as plywood or metal.

Transport Animals: 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. (minor)

Non-compliance: While animals were sorted at the temporary holding corral, sexes were mixed during transportation. Mares and foals were shipped from temporary holding corrals to off-range corral in the same compartment.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
CAWP Trained BLM Staff	✓			
CAWP Contract Trained Staff	✓			
Required Documentation	✓			
Trap Site Facility	✓			
Trap Site Animals		✓		
Temporary Holding Facility		✓		
Temporary Holding Animals	✓			
Transport Design and Facilities		✓		
Transport Animals		✓		
<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>				

Rating scale for CAWP Assessments: 96-100% - Excellent, 86-95% - Good, 70-85% - Complies, and 0-69% - Failure to Comply.

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Excellent. 96% of applicable CAWP standards were met.