

## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

May 11, 2023

**Adoption Event Name:** Abilene Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

**State:** Texas

**District/Field Office:** Oklahoma Field Office

**Providing Facilities:** Florence Off-Range Corral, Pauls Valley Off-Range Corral, Wheatland Off-Range Corral

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Dr. Al Kane, Jake Benson, Ryan Bradshaw, and John Hall

**Assessment Dates:** March 23-25, 2023

**Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards:** 94

**Number of Applicable CAWP Standards:** 82 out of 94 total

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 73/82 = 89%

**General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team:** The assessment of the Abilene Adoption/Sale Event includes the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program standards for Adoption/Sale Events, Transportation, and some of the Off-Range Corral standards as referenced in the Adoption Standards. An Adoption/Sale Event Assessment is of the entire event, including the transportation of the wild horses and burros to and from the event.

The Abilene Adoption event was excellent for adoption personnel, facility design, care of animals received, logistics and planning, handling wild horses and burros, general handling, and receiving procedures. It was obvious that the care, handling, and treatment of wild horses and burros was a priority. The adoption personnel worked well together creating an environment that was safe and supportive for workers and the wild horses and burros. The manner of sorting either on horseback or on foot was excellent, there was no noticeable noise, but the workers were in constant communication with low calming voices and movements.

### **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.

Not all personnel assisting with the adoption/sale event were current with CAWP training.

**Conditions found to be in non-compliance with the CAWP Standards for Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Events:**

**Handling Aids**

**Standard**

- I.V.C.1** Handling aids such as flags and shaker paddles must be the primary tools for driving and moving WH&Bs during handling and transport procedures. Contact of the flag or paddle end of primary handling aids with a WH&B is allowed. Ropes looped around the hindquarters may be used from horseback or on foot to assist in moving an animal forward or during loading.

**Non-Compliance:** During loading of burros into horse and stock trailers the use of the handle of the handling aid was used multiple times. Contact of the flag or paddle end of a handling aid is allowed but not the handle.

**Loading and Unloading Facilities**

**Standard**

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

**Non-Compliance:** The side panels of the loading chute were not 6 feet high.

**Standard**

- 2.I.C** There must be no holes, gaps, or openings, protruding surfaces, or sharp edges present in fence panels or other structures that may allow escape or cause possible injury.

**Non-Compliance:** There were gaps in the loading chute that could cause injury.

**Standard**

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

**Non-Compliance:** There were gaps between the uprights of the chute and the semi-trailer creating a situation where wild horses and burros could be injured.

**Standard**

- 2.I.F** Stock trailers should be positioned for loading and unloading such that there is no more than 12" clearance between the ground and floor of the trailer for burros and 18" for horses.

**Non-Compliance:** The clearance between the ground and the floor of stock/horse trailers were greater than 12 inches when loading burros.

## **Vehicles**

### **Standard**

**2.III.C** The width and height of all gates and doors must allow WH&Bs to move through freely.

**Non-Compliant:** When offloading the stock trailer, rather than opening the full gate at the back of the trailer and unloading into an alleyway, the slide gate was used to direct horses into the haltering chute. The slide gate opening was wider than the haltering chute such that more than one horse attempted to go through at a time. Some horses momentarily did get stuck in the opening, and several banged their hips as they entered the haltering chute. Additionally, the top of the haltering chute gate did not align with the top of the slide gate on the trailer.

### **Standard**

**2.III.H** All partitions and panels inside of trailers must be free of sharp edges or holes that could cause injury to WH&Bs.

**Non-Compliant:** The punch-sided straight deck trailer had exposed holes that were low enough and large enough that burros could kick through the holes and could cause possible injury.

### **Standard**

**2.III.I** The inner lining of all trailers must be strong enough to withstand failure by kicking that would lead to injuries.

**Non-Compliant:** There were multiple places where it was apparent that the punch-sided aluminum straight deck trailer had failed to withstand kicking. The tears in the aluminum skin had been repaired but this type of trailer should be lined with plywood, rubber, or another type of sheathing to prevent this problem and potential injury.

## **Transport Procedures**

### **Standard**

**2.IV.G** WH&Bs should not be allowed to remain standing on straight-deck and stock trailers while not in transport for a combined period of greater than three (3) hours.

**Non-Compliant:** Animal were standing while the trucks were not moving for greater than three hours during transport.

**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>Adoption Event Personnel</b>	✓			
<b>Satellite Facility Design</b>	✓			
<b>Care of WHBs Received at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Euthanasia Procedures at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Carcass Disposal at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Willful Acts of Abuse</b>	✓			
<b>General Handling</b>	✓			
<b>Handling Aids</b>		✓		
<b>Loading and Unloading Facilities</b>		✓		
<b>Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures</b>	✓			
<b>Vehicles</b>		✓		
<b>Transport Procedures</b>		✓		
<b>Receiving Procedures</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:** Good. 89% of applicable CAWP standards were met.

Possible ratings for CAWP Assessments are 96-100% Excellent, 86-95% Good, 70-85% Complies, and 0-69% Failure to Comply.