

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

September 12, 2023

Adoption Event Name: West Bend Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

State: Wisconsin

District/Field Office: Northeastern States District Office

Providing Facilities: Ewing Off-Range Corral, and Wheatland Off-Range Corral

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, Tami Howell, and Jason Lutterman

Assessment Dates: September 7-9, 2023

Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards: 94

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 86

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 79/86 = 92%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: The assessment of the West Bend 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 from the providing off-range corral, and the transportation of the wild horses and burros to and from the event.

The care, handling, and treatment of the wild horses and burros at the West Bend adoption event was excellent. All animals had access to water, and all animals were sorted according to age, sex, and temperament. The adoption team was knowledgeable about the CAWP Standards and ensured that all employees working the adoption were current on CAWP Training. The communication of this adoption team was outstanding, allowing for excellent care, handling, and treatment of the wild horses and burros. The positive energy of this adoption team helped reduce stress on the animals as they were sorted and loaded.

The adoption team spoke with a hauler about the condition of their trailer to inform them that BLM is looking for a higher standard in the quality and cleanliness of their trailer in the future.

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 contractors 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.

All personnel assisting with the West Bend 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:

Satellite Facility Design

Standard

- 3.II.I WH&Bs in pens at the satellite facility should be maintained at a stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area.

Non-Compliance: Several of the pens were stocked with too many animals such that, when at rest, the animals occupied more than half the pen space.

Care of Wild Horses and Burros Received at Satellite Facilities

Standard

- 3.III.D All WH&Bs must have adequate space to move freely within an adoption facility pen.

Non-Compliance: A couple of pens were overstocked during the adoption event.

Loading and Unloading Facilities

Standard

- 2.I.D Loading and unloading ramps must have a non-slip surface and be maintained in a safe and proper working condition to prevent slips and falls. Examples of non-slip floors would include, but not be limited to, rubber mats, sand, shavings, and steel reinforcement rods or rough surfaces built into the ramp. There must be no holes in flooring or items that cause an animal to trip.

Non-Compliance: The slope of the unloading ramp caused some animals to slip as they were unloaded, and the cleats of the unloading ramp caused several animals to trip.

Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Preparation Procedures

Standard

- 2.II.D Except for exceptional circumstances including but not limited to trap site adoptions, WH&Bs being offered for adoption should have received primary and booster vaccinations as well as deworming medications prior to adoption.

Non-Compliance: Not all wild horses were current with booster vaccinations.

Vehicles

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-Compliance: The inner lining of the partitions in one of the straight-deck trailers used to transport the animals to and from the event used plywood with sharp edges and holes that could cause injury to wild horses or burros.

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-Compliance: On one of the straight-deck trailers used to transport the animals, the inner lining of plywood along the sides of the trailer was broken and could cause injury if kicked by a horse or burro. There were also places where the plywood had broken away and screws were hanging inside the trailer.

Standard

2.III.J Surfaces and floors of trailers must be cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of a shipping event, and must have non-skid material on the trailer floor, such as, wood shavings, rubber non-skid mats etc.

Non-Compliance: There was significant buildup of manure in one of the straight-deck trailers used to transport the animals, which indicated that it had not been cleaned of manure prior to the beginning of the shipping event.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-Compliant	N/A
CAWP Trained BLM Staff	✓			
Adoption Event Personnel	✓			
Satellite Facility Design		✓		
Care of WHBs Received at Satellite Facilities		✓		
Euthanasia Procedures at Satellite Facilities	✓			
Carcass Disposal at Satellite Facilities	✓			
Willful Acts of Abuse	✓			
General Handling	✓			
Handling Aids	✓			
Loading and Unloading Facilities		✓		
Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures		✓		
Vehicles		✓		
Transport Procedures	✓			
Receiving Procedures	✓			
<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. 92% of applicable CAWP standards were met overall.

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