



## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

March 26, 2025

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

**State:** Kentucky

**District/Field Office:** Southeastern States District Office

**Providing Facility:** Canon City Off-Range Corral collection location for multiple ORCs

**Providing Facility:** Axtell Off-Range Corral

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, Tami Howell, Meredith Kueck, and Lisa Reid

**Assessment Dates:** March 17-22, 2025

**Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards:** 187

**Number of Applicable CAWP Standards:** 154

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 106/109 = 97%

**Understanding Assessments:** The Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program aims to promote the welfare of wild horses and burros during management activities while minimizing stress and ensuring humane care, handling, and treatment. CAWP assessments evaluate compliance with standards during the activities taking place at the time of the assessment. This framework helps ensure a clear and unbiased evaluation of events or actions as they occur. Here are some key points:

- **Holistic Approach:** Assessments reflect the entirety of the activity, not targeting individuals or specific groups.
- **Time-Specific:** The evaluation focuses solely on the observed circumstances during the assessment period.
- **Limitations:** Previous or subsequent events are not accounted for, meaning the assessment is a standalone observation.

**General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team:** The assessment of the Liberty 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 providing off-range corral and the transportation of the wild horses and burros to and from the event. Assessments are a snapshot of what is happening regarding compliance with CAWP standards at that specific time.

The adoption team at the Liberty adoption event was made up of staff from several BLM offices and multiple volunteers. Morning safety briefings were completed daily to encourage communication and establish daily goals for the adoption event while in Liberty.

Effective communication is key for a successful adoption event, ensuring the safety of the adoption team, the wild horses and burros at the event, and the public. The communication of this adoption team was outstanding. The team sorting the wild horses and burros took the time to move all animals in a safe manner, even when it was difficult to separate some animals. The sorting and load-out teams remained positive and calm, which helped reduce stress on animals as they were sorted and loaded. The adoption team was able to move employees around to

make for a smooth process and a successful placement event. Despite the raised entry into the loading area, the adoption team was able to adjust trailer placements to ensure animals were loaded safely and efficiently.

The Liberty adoption event was a large pick-up location for wild horses and burros placed through the Online Corral. The providing facility in Canon City received wild horses from multiple off-range corrals that were previously placed through the Online Corral, and the facility provided wild horses that had not been placed through the Online Corral that were transported to the Liberty adoption event. The Axtell, Utah providing facility provided wild horses and burros that had not been placed through the Online Corral. The providing facilities are critical in the success of moving wild horses and burros from western off-range corrals to adoption events in the Midwest, eastern and southern parts of the country.

A rest facility is also important when transporting animals' long distance throughout the United States. A rest facility allows for animals to be off loaded and access hay and water while resting. Due to timing and staffing availability, the rest facility was not assessed during the Liberty adoption event. The back haul facility receives the animals that are not adopted at the adoption event, and they remain at that location until they are offered for adoption at that location or at another satellite adoption event. For the purposes of this assessment, the adoption event ends when the unadopted animals are received at the back haul facility. Each of the off-range corrals are crucial to having successful adoption events. Due to the success in placing all animals into private care at the event, there was no back haul necessary, and no assessment of a back haul facility required.

**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 Liberty 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:**

**Providing Facility**

**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.

**Standard**

- 1.IV.A.3** Health care protocols must be in accordance with Program guidelines and accepted by the facility veterinarian for preventive health care procedures (vaccinations, deworming, hoof trimming, freeze marking). Medical treatments will be prescribed by or performed under the supervision of a veterinarian. Surgical procedures will only be performed by a veterinarian.

**Non-Compliance:** The Canon City Off-Range Corral was the providing facility and the collection location of animals from other BLM facilities. Animals adopted through Online Corral events were staged at the providing facility for transportation to the desired adoption pick-up locations, including Liberty. Based on review of the animal's health cards and Wild Horse and Burro Program System, not all animals were current with booster vaccinations and deworming. It was found that animals housed at the providing facility were current on vaccinations and deworming; however, animals shipped to the providing facility for this event from other off-range corrals were not current with vaccinations and deworming.

**Adoption Event****Standard**

- 3.II.B** The satellite facility must have a sufficient number of pens available to sort WH&Bs according to sex, temperament, or physical condition as needed.

**Non-Compliance:** The design of the satellite facility did not allow enough pens for animals to be sorted according to sex, temperament, or physical condition. Animals were in a pen that included burros and returned horses.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Providing Facility Axtell	29/29	100%	Excellent
Providing Facility Canon City	27/29	93%	Good
Adoption Event	50/51	98%	Excellent

**Final CAWP Assessment Rating:** Excellent. 97% 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.