

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

April 9, 2025

Off-Range Corral: Ridgecrest Off-Range Corral

State: California

Facility Manager or COR: Vacant, Facility Manager

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, Lisa Reid, and Pat Williams

Assessment Date: April 7, 2025

Total Number of CAWP Off-Range Corral Standards: 117

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 81

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 74/81= 91%

Understanding Assessments: The Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program promotes 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: During the assessment, the team observed sorting and selection of burros to be shipped to another off-range corral.

Despite being short-staffed and operating without a facility manager, the wranglers and administrative staff worked well together to keep an efficient, effective, and safe working environment for staff wild horses and burros by ensuring the process flowed well. The staff demonstrated strong handling while ensuring that the animals' health and well-being remained their priority.

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 were current with CAWP training.

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

Facility Personnel

Standard

- 1.I.C** The facility must have personnel that can properly maintain the working chute systems and facility infrastructure to provide for the safe housing, movement, and processing of the WH&Bs.

Non-Compliance: The facility has been short-staffed, lacking the key position of facility manager for nearly two years, and infrastructure maintenance has fallen behind in many locations due to the lack of personnel.

Facility Design

Standard

- 1.II.E** Facility fences, gates, alleys, tubs, and working chutes must be constructed of stout materials and must be maintained in proper working condition.

Non-Compliance: Fences and gates in many locations were not stout or maintained in proper working condition. Many of the fences were long and lacked proper braces or support and leaning or had broken legs on the fence panels.

Standard

- 1.II.F** Fences in pens, alleys, and working chute systems must be not less than 6 feet high for horses, 5 feet high for burros, and the bottom rail must not be more than 12 inches from ground level.

Non-Compliance: Windblown sand and manure have accumulated along some fences, making the fence height less than 6 feet in places, and the bottom of some gates were more than 12 inches from the ground.

Standard

- 1.II.G** Fences must be of stout design and be maintained in proper condition with no holes, gaps, or sharp edges which could result in WH&Bs being injured.

Non-Compliance: Old wooden posts along some of the fence lines and had been chewed, creating sharp points that could cause injury. Many of the long fence lines were leaning and lacked proper braces or support, compromising their structural integrity. In some of the pens 'hog wire' had been added to help protect burro foals from coyotes. Some of the wire was broken and had protrusions that could result in injury.

Standard

- 1.II.N** Shelter structures should be designed or constructed to reduce the risk for injury of the WH&Bs and maintained to avoid excessive manure and mud.

Non-Compliance: Windblown sand, manure and hay had accumulated in the back of the compromised pens, resulting in excessive buildup of manure and debris.

Preparation Procedures

Standard

1.IV.D.2. Facilities must conduct Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing and apply freeze-marks within 30 days of receiving WH&Bs, unless directed by the facility veterinarian when age or physical condition requires a delay.

Non-Compliance: Not all newly arrived animals received freeze marks and EIA testing within 30 days as required due to the off-range corral being short-staffed.

Standard

1.IV.D.6 Facilities must adhere to the current BLM vaccination policy.

Non-Compliance: The BLM vaccination policy requires vaccinations to be given every six months. Booster vaccinations were missing on some of the randomly selected paperwork that was reviewed.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Facility Personnel	3/4	75%	Complies
Facility Design	10/14	71%	Complies
Loading and Unloading Facilities	4/4	100%	Excellent
Receiving Procedures	10/10	100%	Excellent
Veterinarian	6/6	100%	Excellent
Biosecurity	5/5	100%	Excellent
Feed and Water	7/7	100%	Excellent
Preparation Procedures	8/10	80%	Complies
Euthanasia Procedures	5/5	100%	Excellent
Carcass Disposal	2/2	100%	Excellent
Willful Acts of Abuse	4/4	100%	Excellent
General Handling	6/6	100%	Excellent
Handling Aids	4/4	100%	Excellent
Overall Compliance and Final CAWP Assessment Rating	74/81	91%	Good

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