



Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program for Wild Horse and Burro Gathers

BLM Wild Horse and Burro
Advisory Board Meeting
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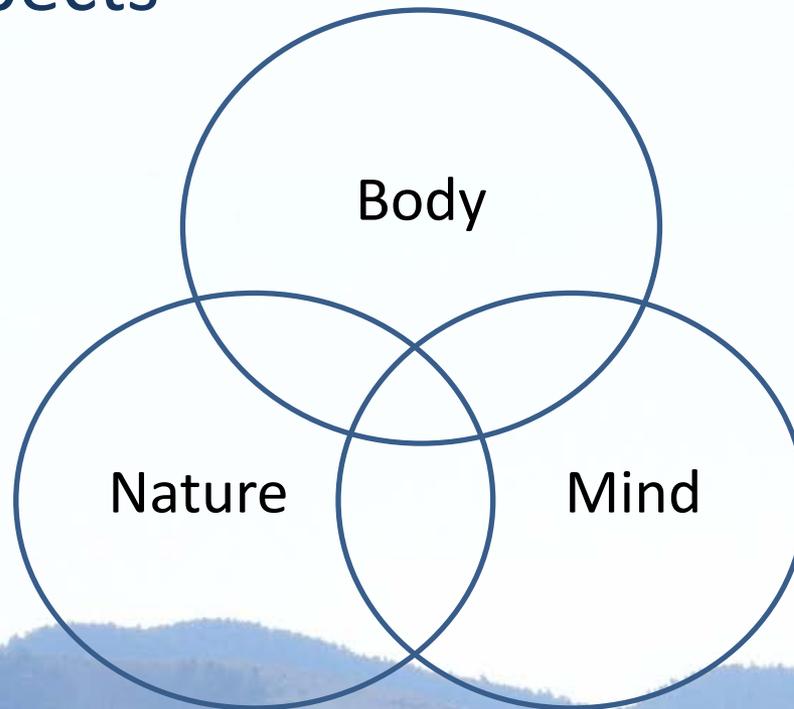
Welfare Assessment Programs: Background

- Activists, Public, Consumer Driven
- Science & Research → Farm Animals
- Five Freedoms (Brambell Report, 1965)
 - Freedom from hunger or thirst
 - Freedom from discomfort
 - Freedom from pain, injury or disease
 - Freedom to express normal behavior
 - Freedom from fear and distress



What is Animal Welfare?

- How an animal is coping in its environment
- Three aspects



Market Pressure Leads to Change



McDonald's/ BK /Wendy's

- Stunning Efficiency
- Downer policy
- Trace back
- Yearly Audits



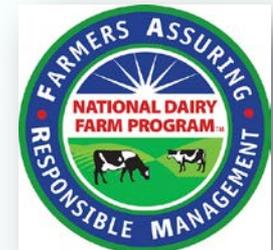
Welfare Assessment Programs: Farm Animals

- Assessment, education, feedback
- Assurance of best practices
- Consumer confidence



Farm Animal Welfare Assessment Programs

- Meat, eggs, dairy
- Entire life cycle
- Producers must meet and maintain standards
- Labels: market advantage



Farm Animal Welfare Assessment Programs

- Many organizations
 - Third party
 - Industry
- Voluntary
- Wide variation
- In common: standards
- Two categories of standards
 - Engineering or Resource-based
 - Outcome-based



Engineering Based Standards

- Facilities, equipment, resources
- Measurable
- Examples:
 - Fence height
 - Transport trailer maintenance
 - Feed and water



Engineering Based Standards

Example from Humane Farm Animal Care Standards for Production of Egg Laying Hens

E 16: Stocking density

The floor space allowances do not include nests/nest boxes and elevated perches. For the non-elevated perches that are integrated into slatted floors, that is part of the floor space.

One of the following conditions must be met:

- a. In a single level house, a minimum of 1.5 sq. ft. per hen must be allocated to allow normal behavior.
- b. In a house with litter and a raised slatted area, with a perching/roosting area over a droppings pit/belt, the minimum space allowance can be 1.2 sq. ft. per hen.
- c. In multi-tier systems with feeders and drinkers on overhead perches/platforms, and in which the overhead perches/platforms provide sufficient space for at least 55% of the hens to perch, then a minimum of 1 sq. ft. of available space per hen must be provided.



Outcome Based Standards

- Animals
- Directly observable
- Result from management practices
- Examples:
 - Body condition score
 - Fresh lacerations
 - Falls



Outcome Based Standards

Example from American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle

Vocalizations During Handling

- No more than 3% of the cattle may vocalize within one second in direct response to being caught or upon entry to the squeeze chute or a restraining device.

Note: If more than 3% vocalize, the chute or restraining device must be adjusted accordingly.

Note: this does not include vocalizations caused by a procedure, or vocalizations in response to the animal being touched on the head or ear.

- Yes
- No
- N/A



BLM Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP)

- Proposed welfare assessment program similar to those implemented for farm animals
- Demonstrated public concern for humane care and welfare of wild horses and burros removed from the range
- Recommendations from Independent Designated Observer Pilot Program (2010)



Purpose of CAWP

- Objectively and regularly assess the care and welfare of WH&B
- Document and report welfare-related activities internally and to the public
- Train employees on humane care and welfare practices
- Provide data for ongoing evaluation of program



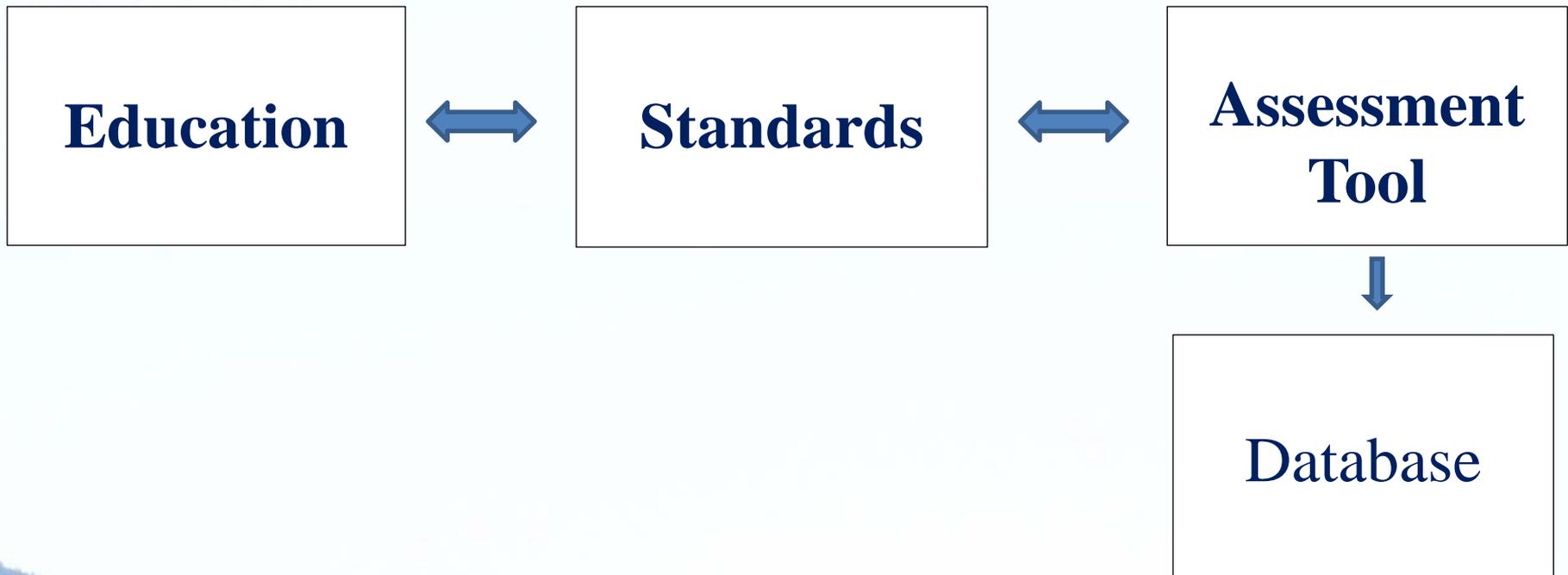
Benefits of CAWP

- Establish expectations on handling and welfare
- Collect data on activities at gathers
- Provide transparency
- Ensure consistent employee knowledge of humane care and welfare
- Document trends or issues for improvement

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CAWP Components



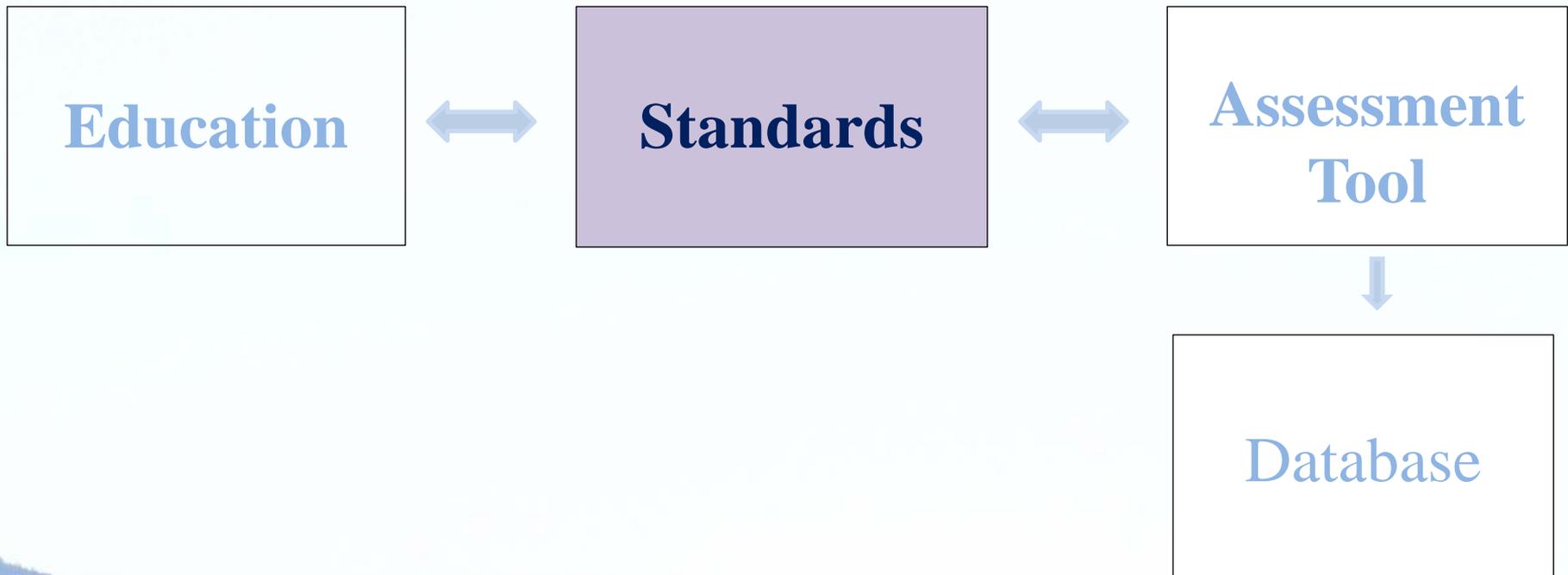
Development of Components

Collaborative process

- UC Davis
- BLM
- External welfare experts



CAWP Components



Standards

- A. Standards themselves
- B. List of responsibilities of the Lead Contracting Officer's Representative (Lead COR) or Incident Commander (IC)
- C. Required documentation by Lead COR or IC



Standards

A. Standards - cover six areas

1. Facility Design
2. Handling
3. Capture Technique
4. Animal Care
5. Transportation
6. Euthanasia



Standards

- Major Deficiency
 - Directly impacts welfare of WH&B
 - “must,” “unacceptable,” “prohibited”
- Minor Deficiency
 - Reporting deficiency, variables that can’t be controlled
 - “may,” “should”
- Refined from SOPs & Dr. Stull’s proposed assessment tool
- Both Engineering and Outcome
- Examples



Standards

B. List of responsibilities of the Lead COR/IC.

Examples

- Direct gather using approved techniques
- Determine rate of movement, distance limitations
- Direct handling of any weak or debilitated WH&B
- Direct decision regarding euthanasia



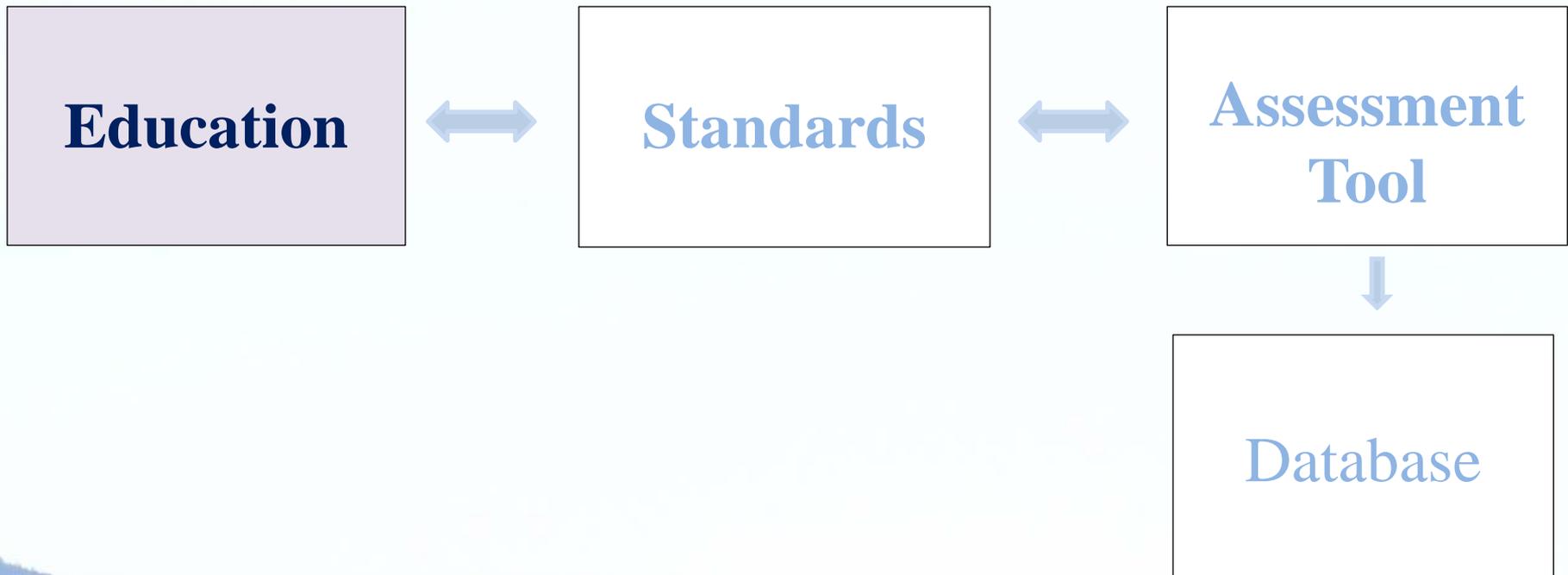
Standards

C. Required documentation by Lead COR or IC:

- Roping of any WH&B
- Any use of electric prod
- Any WH&B death, euthanasia
- Occurrence of any prohibited action/event



CAWP Components

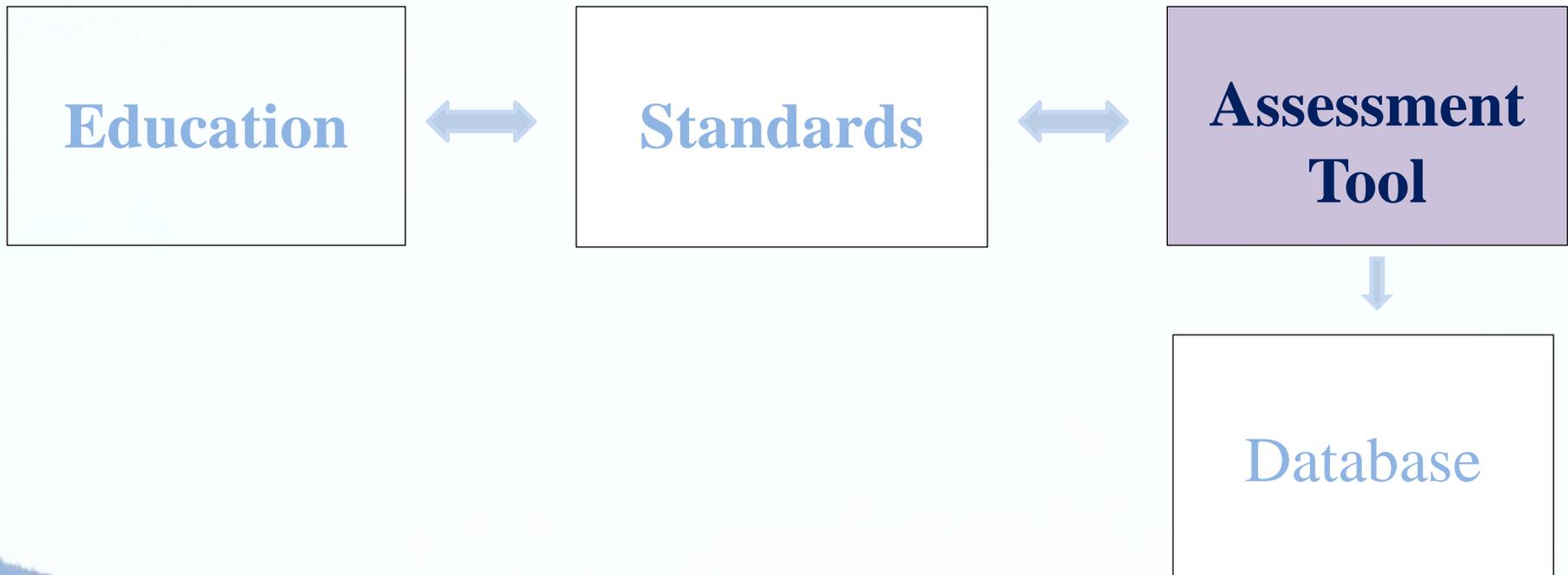


Education

- Online training module
- Utilize scenarios showing correct & incorrect procedures
- Ensure all personnel have same knowledge
- Certification of completion = responsible
- Periodic recertification



CAWP Components

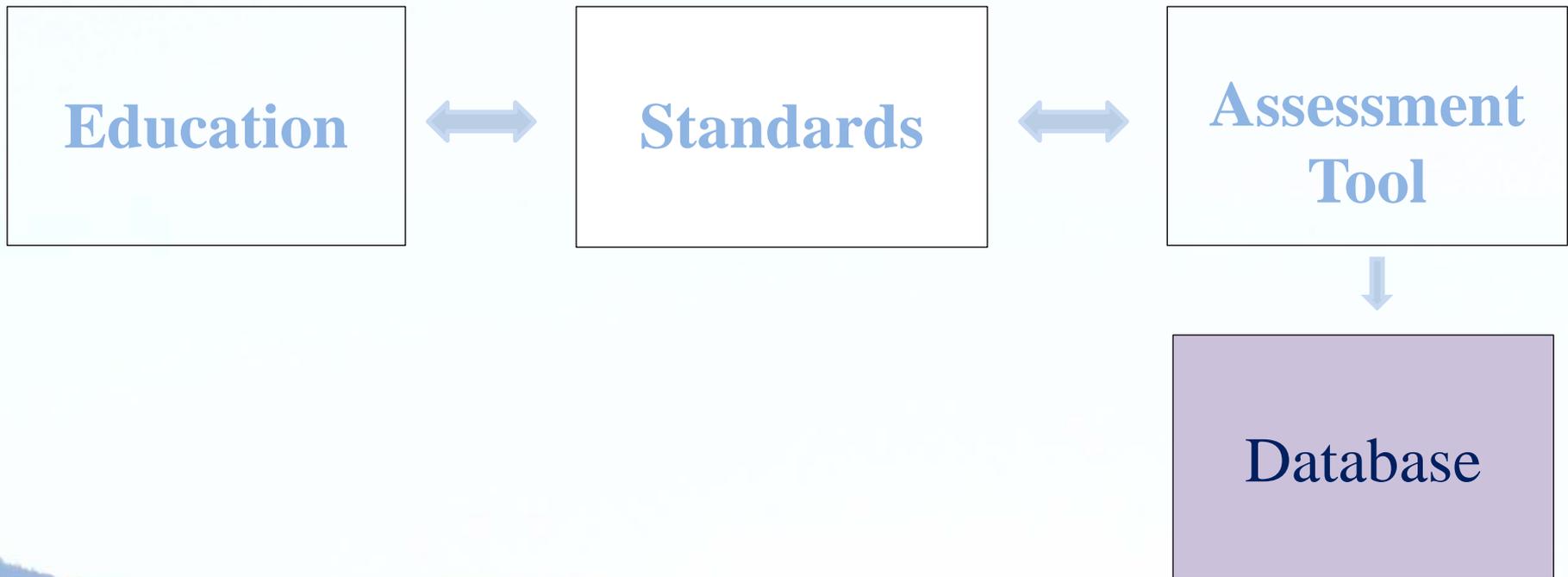


Assessment Tool

- Based on Standards
- Objective items: compliant or non-compliant
- Electronic, data entry in field
- Assessment at each gather by internal personnel
 - Pre-gather assessment
 - Daily assessment
 - Gather summary
- Periodic third party audit



CAWP Components



Database

- Assessment tool direct feed to database
- Database uses
 - Internal review
 - Benchmarking
 - Feedback and training
 - Source for reports to public?



Timeline

- Standards have been drafted and are undergoing BLM review
- Once standards are approved can create assessment tool
- Training materials being developed



Comments? Suggestions? Questions?

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