

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

September 28, 2023

Gather Name: Desatoya Wild Horse Gather

State: Nevada

District/Field Office: Carson District Office

Incident Commander: Ruth Thompson

Lead COR: John Axtell

Gather Method: Helicopter Dive Trapping

Gather Reason: Population Growth Suppression

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Dr. Melissa Cleavinger, Jake Benson, and Ben Noyes

Assessment Dates: September 25-27, 2023

Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards: 189

Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards: 121

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 119

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 119/121 = 98%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: Coordination and access to this gather was excellent. The BLM, contractor, and onsite veterinarian were willing to ask questions about the comprehensive animal welfare program standards and answer questions asked by the CAWP team. The observed coordination and communication between the BLM, the contractor, and onsite veterinarian were excellent.

The Desatoya HMA has been gathered multiple times over the last several years to implement fertility control treatments and research projects. Many of the mares that were gathered were mares that had been released after being gathered and treated with fertility control previously. This was evident by the "FC" freemark on their necks. Recapturing wild horses that have been gathered before can be difficult, but the helicopter used pressure and release techniques effectively. The ground crew worked quietly and efficiently to handle and transport the wild horses. Special attention was paid to a mare and young foal during the assessment.

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 Wild Horse and Burro Gathers.
- All personnel, including contractor and partners involved in the care, handling, and transportation of wild horses and burros at wild horse and burro gathers are required to complete training annually.

All personnel assisting with the Desatoya wild horse gather were current with CAWP training.

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

Trap Site Facility: Care and Health

Standard

III.B.2 Dust abatement by spraying the ground with water must be employed when necessary at the trap site and temporary holding facility.

Non-Compliance: Dust abatement was necessary but not completed at the trap.

Temporary Holding Facility: Care and Health

Standard

III.B.2 Dust abatement by spraying the ground with water must be employed when necessary at the trap site and temporary holding facility.

Non-Compliance: Dust abatement was necessary but not completed at the temporary holding facility.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

| CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements | Compliant | Partially Compliant | Non-Compliant | N/A |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| CAWP Trained BLM Staff | ✓ | | | |
| CAWP Contract Trained Staff | ✓ | | | |
| Required Documentation | ✓ | | | |
| Trap Site Facility | | ✓ | | |
| Trap Site Animals | ✓ | | | |
| Temporary Holding Facility | | ✓ | | |
| Temporary Holding Animals | ✓ | | | |
| Transport Design and Facilities | ✓ | | | |
| Transport Animals | ✓ | | | |
| <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: Excellent. 98% 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.