



Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

January 13, 2025

Gather Name: Fish Creek Wild Horse Gather

State: Nevada

District/Field Office: Battle District/Mount Lewis Field Office

Incident Commander: Daltrey Balmer

Lead COR: Aimee Bolinger

Gather Method: Helicopter Drive Trapping

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Tami Howell, Jake Benson, and Lisa Reid

Assessment Dates: January 7-8, 2025

Total Number of CAWP Gather Standards: 206

Number of Applicable CAWP Gather Standards: 160

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 155

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 155/160 = 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 from the CAWP Team from the Fish Creek Wild Horse Gather:

Coordination and Communication

- **Gather Team Collaboration:** There was excellent cooperation among the gather team, which included BLM, APHIS, and contractors.
- **Knowledge of Standards:** The gather team was knowledgeable about the CAWP standards.

Gather Techniques

- **Pressure and Release:** There was effective use of pressure and release techniques while gathering wild horses.

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

Trap Site

Facility Design

Standard

I.A.1 The trap site and temporary holding facility must be constructed of stout materials and must be maintained in proper working condition, including gates that swing freely and latch or tie easily.

Non-Compliance: One gate at the trap didn't latch due to uneven ground.

Temporary Holding Corral

Feeding and Watering

Standard

III.B.1.c.ii Hay placement must allow all WH&Bs to eat simultaneously.

Non-Compliance: The pen that the yearlings were in didn't allow for all horses to eat simultaneously.

Care

Standard

III.B.4.f WH&B in pens at temporary holding facility should be maintained at proper stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area.

Non-Compliance: The pen with the yearlings was stocked such that when at rest they occupied more than half of the pen.

Transportation

Loading and Unloading Areas

Standard

I.B.2 The side panels of the loading chute must be a minimum of 6 feet high and fully covered with materials such as plywood or metal without holes that may cause injury.

Non-Compliance: The sides of the loading chute were not fully covered.

Standard

I.B.6 Trailers must be properly aligned with loading and unloading chutes and panels such that no gaps exist between the chute/panel and floor or sides of the trailer creating a situation where a WH&B could injure itself.

Non-Compliance: There was a gap between the right side of the chute and the right side of the door on the trailer such that a wild horse could injure itself.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating Fish Creek Wild Horse Gather

	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Trap Site	58/59	98%	Excellent
Temporary Holding	58/60	96%	Excellent
Transportation	39/41	95%	Good
Gather Compliance	155/160	97%	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.