

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

June 5, 2025

Off-Range Corral: Elm Creek Off-Range Corral

State: Wyoming/Nebraska

Facility Manager or COR: Joe Stratton, Facility Manager

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, and Lynae Rogers

Assessment Date: June 4, 2025

Total Number of CAWP Off-Range Corral Standards: 117

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 83

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 77/83

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: Assessments of Off-Range Corrals include the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program standards for Off-Range Corrals and Transportation, as applicable.

Coordination with the Elm Creek Off-Range Corrals was excellent. The CAWP team was well received and was provided access to the entire facility. The team was able to observe the loading of an adopted wild horse.

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 contractor 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.

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

Facility Personnel

1.I.B The facility must have employees with training, skills, and experience to observe, move, and handle the WH&Bs on the facility.

Non-Compliance: While the employees have the training, skills, and experience to observe, move and handle the wild horses, the facility does not have enough employees.

1.I.D The facility should be staffed by appropriate office staff for record maintenance and recording.

Non-Compliance: Record maintenance and recording were not all up to date in the Wild Horse and Burro Program System.

Facility Design

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: Not all pen fences were 6 feet high, and there were several places where the bottom rail was 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: Some of the perimeter fences have woven wires that were broken and had holes and sharp pieces that could cause 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: The sheet metal around the bottom of shelter structures had broken edges and were not designed to avoid excessive manure.

Preparation Procedures

Standard

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

Non-Compliance: Although all animals were current on vaccinations at the time of the assessment, according to randomly selected animal health records, not all animals in the facility received flu/EHV and strep booster vaccinations on schedule.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Facility Personnel	2/4	50%	Failure to Comply
Facility Design	11/14	79%	Complies
Loading and Unloading Facilities	6/6	100%	Excellent
Receiving Procedures	10/10	100%	Excellent
Veterinarian	6/6	100%	Excellent
Biosecurity	5/5	100%	Excellent
Feed and Water	6/6	83%	Complies
Preparation Procedures	9/10	90%	Good
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	5/5	100%	Excellent
Overall Compliance and Final CAWP Assessment Rating	77/83	93%	Good

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