

# SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

April – May 2016

## *Captive Breeding:*

### Cabeza Pen

All the adult females in Cabeza pen have given birth. We have 11 fawns in the north and 17 fawns in the south. We believe 2 additional fawns in north and 3 in south were born but died within a few days. The fawns are starting to join together in fawn groups, running around the pen and playing. There are still several injured pronghorn in both halves of the pen that the crew keeps an eye on, but they appear to be getting along as well as expected.

#### Cabeza Pen

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	11	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2015)	5	Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2015)	8
Adult Males	2	Adult Males	3
Yearling Males ( <i>b</i> 2015)	1	Yearling Males ( <i>b</i> 2015)	8
Fawns ( <i>b</i> 2016)	11	Fawns ( <i>b</i> 2016)	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total Pen</b>	<b>76</b>		

### Kofa Pen

All the females expected to give birth in Kofa pen have given birth. There are only 4 fawns left in the pen; 2 sets of twins. When we realized that many fawns were missing, not just being difficult to observe, we put additional cameras in several washes in the pen and documented one bobcat with one photo. We also documented one coyote in the pen from one photo at the water. We are not sure if one or both of these predators killed several fawns. An adult buck was found dead in the pen on May 5. He had not been killed or scavenged by any predators and appears to have died of disease. It's possible some fawns also succumbed to disease. We are still working on getting an observation tower installed so we will be able to keep better track of what is going on in the pen.

#### Kofa Pen

Adult Females	11
Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2015)	8
Adult Males	1
Yearling Males ( <i>b</i> 2015)	8
Fawns (born 2016)	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>

**Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd:** On the latest telemetry flight, most of the pronghorn were in the same general areas as usual. A male and female released this year on

ORPI moved north from the Valley of the Ajo onto BLM land. There were 17 fawns seen with 29 females.

**Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd:** Most of the pronghorn on Kofa have generally been using the same areas around King Valley on the Kofa NWR and Yuma Proving Ground. Up to 18 different pronghorn with one doe fawn have been seen in the vicinity of the pen where we provide alfalfa and water on the south side. Two females are still using areas far to the east of the Kofa refuge. There were 20 fawns seen with 29 females during the latest telemetry flight.

A 2-year old female, released this January, was found drowned in the Wellton Mohawk canal on April 26. She had been near the pen, then moved south of 00 Junction on Kofa refuge with 2 males. She was not heard on the telemetry flight on April 22, and then found drowned April 26.

**Wild Pronghorn BMGR-East Herd:** These pronghorn have been moving around their new range. Several groups are north of the Saucedo Mountains, while the others have remained south. The buck that crossed Highway 85 is still north of the Crater Mountains. Another buck has crossed Highway 85 and moved south and west to near the Antelope Hills. Several pronghorn have been photo-documented using one of the temporary waters set up in their new range. Only 2 fawns were seen on the latest telemetry flight.



**Water Projects:** 6,000 gallons of water were hauled to Fawn Hills Tank which was getting very low as it has not rained hard enough in that area to run the washes.

**Forage Enhancements:** Numerous pronghorn have been using the alfalfa and water at Point of the Pintas and Devils Hills habitat enhancements including at least 4 fawns at each site. Personnel have been busy ensuring adequate alfalfa is available at those sites.



Cabeza pen crew has been ensuring pronghorn have adequate alfalfa and water at several habitat enhancements near Ajo including Charlie Bell, Morgart Tank, and East Release.

USFWS personnel have been irrigating at Lower Well forage enhancement and it is very green.

**Other Projects:** Nothing new to report.

Written June 2, 2016