

# SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2014

## *Captive Breeding:*

### Cabeza Pen

#### Status of Pronghorn in Cabeza Pen

Currently there are 91 pronghorn in the Cabeza breeding pen; 29 adults and 16 fawns in north herd, and 32 adults and 14 fawns in south herd. We have documented 18 fawns in north and 17 fawns in south being produced; several have disappeared without any trace. A dead fawn was recovered in north on the 11<sup>th</sup> and it appears to be one of Maroon collar (she had twins), due to size of fawn and where the fawn was found. Fawning continued through the end of April, with the last birth on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We believe all the females have given birth for this season. One doe in south appears to have triplets and has raised all of them so far; the fawns are about a month old now.

The pen crew successfully collared two new fawns this month, one in north and one in south. To date 6 fawns have been collared: 3 in north and 3 in south. Unfortunately two collars in south have fallen off, probably due to the fawns running and playing. None of the fawns that have disappeared were collared so we have not learned much about fawn mortality from the collared fawns. Fawns in both herds are forming one or more fawn groups, and are spending more time with other fawns and less time with their mothers.

April 2014

<b>NORTH HALF</b>		<b>SOUTH HALF</b>	
Adult Females	11	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2013)	13	Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2013)	10
Breeding Buck ( <i>b</i> 2010, Purple 3)	1	Breeding Buck ( <i>b</i> 2010, Yellow 3)	1
Back up Buck ( <i>b</i> 2012, Grn/Wht 3)	1	Breeding Buck ( <i>b</i> 2011, Yel/Blk 3)	1
Yearling Bucks ( <i>b</i> 2013)	3	Adult Bucks ( <i>b</i> 2012)	2
Fawns (born 2014)	16	Yearling Bucks ( <i>b</i> 2013)	8
		Fawns (born 2014)	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total Pen</b>	<b>91</b>		

The pen crew has been irrigating the pen as it is drying out. Pronghorn, including the fawns, are foraging more on alfalfa and pellets.

Several pronghorn released in previous years, including 2 fawns, are being seen around the pen. Biologists are providing a water and forage source outside the pen for these pronghorn.

There have been two instances of illegal alien activity around the pen. On April 14<sup>th</sup> 4 illegals were picked up on Charlie Bell Pass road about a mile west of the pen. Three cameras were

stolen from Charlie Bell drinker and forage plot, including one where they dug the mounting post out of the ground since they couldn't get the camera off the post.

**Kofa Pen**

All the pronghorn in the Kofa pen are also doing well. There are 13 fawns, 9 females and 4 males. We believe all the females have given birth now. In addition to milk, all of the fawns appear to be eating some alfalfa and foraging the vegetation in the pen at this point. Orange/blue's limp is almost unnoticeable at this point. Yellow and Yellow buck's limps remain the same.

Up to seven pronghorn released in December have been seen at or near the pen; we are providing a water and feed source for them outside the pen. A bobcat has been photographed on camera outside the pen; we are attempting to remove him from the vicinity of the pen. We have not had any photographs of bobcats in the pen yet this year. Hopefully the additional electric fence wires the pen crew installed are keeping bobcats out.

**Status of Pronghorn in Kofa Pen**

	April 2014
Adult Females	12
Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2013)	1
Adult Males	3
Yearling Males ( <i>b</i> 2013)	2
Fawns (born 2014)	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

***2013 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:***

Four pronghorn were released on BMGR-West:

- One buck remains in the north Mohawk Valley; he was last seen with a group of 6 wild bucks.
- Two females have moved to the Tule Desert, west of the Sierra Pintas, they were seen with a group of 14 wild pronghorn.
- One buck has moved around quite a bit since his release going as far east as the Tactical Ranges; currently he is in the San Crisotobal Valley with a wild buck.

Six pronghorn were released on Organ Pipe Cactus NM:

- Four (2 male, 2 female) have remained in the Valley of the Ajo in various groups.
- One female's collar has quit working; she continues to be seen by monitors with the other pronghorn in the Valley of the Ajo occasionally.
- One male we lost track of for several weeks and could not hear his signal anywhere. On the most recent telemetry flight we found him on the Tohono O'odham reservation. He is about 28 miles east of Organ Pipe, near Highway 86. He is in good pronghorn habitat and appears to look okay.

Two bucks were released near the captive breeding pen; they have stayed together and have been moving around quite a bit - north to the Tactical Ranges, south to Lower Well, and are currently in Growler Valley.

**2013 Released Pronghorn - Kofa:** The pronghorn released on Kofa are being seen in several smaller groups, generally ranging in King Valley, including south onto YPG. The three known pronghorn from last year's release have joined up with the newly released pronghorn. Up to 9 fawns have been seen with the groups on Kofa.

**Water Projects:** We helicoptered a large supply of hay for the summer and better feeders to Morgart Tank. We also fixed the collection dams, cleaned up and flew out old hay and broken feeders, and other miscellaneous work at the site.

**Forage Enhancements:** The forage plots are still green from precipitation so we have not started irrigating at any. We have replaced alfalfa hay at Point of the Pintas, where at least 9 pronghorn including one fawn have been photographed, and at Devils Hills.

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

**Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR herd:** On the last telemetry flight, the pronghorn were spread out over most of the range. Nineteen fawns were seen with 29 females. Most of the range is still green, especially the Tule Desert, Growler Valley and parts of South Tac.



Adults and fawns at the feeders in Kofa pen.