

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2015

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

The pronghorn in Cabeza pen are doing well. There are 55 adults and yearlings and between 24-27 fawns. The doe that was injured during the boma captures (broken foot) produced, and has so far raised, one fawn this season. Several fawns in the pen seem to have died, as they are no longer being observed, although we have not found any mortalities. The pen biologists are working on getting an accurate number of fawns still in the pen, but it is very difficult now as they are often on their own, or in nursery groups, rather than with their mothers. The pronghorn are starting to consume a lot more hay now as the pen is starting to dry out and the fawns are feeding on their own.

Cabeza Pen

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	13
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2014)	5	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2014)	8
Breeding Buck (from wild, L Yellow 55)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2013, L Black 8)	1
Back up Buck (<i>b</i> 2013, L Blue 52)	1	Buck (<i>b</i> 2013, Black collar)	1
Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2014)	8	Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2014)	7
Fawns (born 2015)	8-9	Fawns (born 2015)	16-18
TOTAL		TOTAL	
Total Pen			

Kofa Pen

There are 47 pronghorn in the Kofa pen; 31 adults and yearlings and 16 fawns. One new fawn was detected on May 5, about a week old. All the fawns appear to be healthy and growing. The pen received 0.6 inches of rain the night of May 4. Clancy Tank got 1.44 inches which should help green up the area. The pen biologist and other Yuma personnel have been working on getting the broken irrigation pump replaced and re-plumbed and it seems to be working now. They have also been working on getting the foundation for the new observation tower built.

Kofa Pen

Adult Females	12
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2014)	11
Adult Males	4
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2014)	4
Fawns (born 2015)	16
TOTAL	47

2014 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:

The 9 pronghorn released on ORPI have mixed with the 4 pronghorn that were released last year, and have been in the Valley of the Ajo, and north on BLM land in several groups. One buck moved south to La Abra Plain just north of the Mexican border. The two pronghorn released on BMGR-West have been using the Mohawk Valley.

2014 Released Pronghorn - Kofa: The 20 remaining pronghorn released on Kofa have broken up into several smaller groups. Ten animals are using King Valley, and are mostly observed in the vicinity of Clancy Tank Water. Six pronghorn still remain in the Palomas Plain area. The three females that had moved east have come back towards Kofa, and have been in the area south of the Eagletail Mountains. The buck that had moved east has come back to King Valley and was last seen with one of the does from the previous release.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

Forage Enhancements: All the forage plots are still green with the rains; consequently we are not irrigating any.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: The pronghorn are mostly using the same general areas. One doe, released in 2011, that has always been in the Growler Valley moved to Organ Pipe Cactus NM, and crossed Highway 85. Sixteen fawns were seen on the last flight. The entire range is still green and forage conditions appear good to excellent. Organ Pipe Cactus personnel documented a pronghorn fawn that was hit and killed by a vehicle on Highway 85 in April.

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd (prior to 2014 releases): The pronghorn on Kofa are in several groups, using King Valley on Kofa, the areas around the pen, and the southern part of King Valley on YPG. Two have been observed around Clancy Tank Water with some of the animals released this year. Three fawns were seen on the last telemetry flight. Habitat conditions vary, but are mostly poor to marginal. Many areas have small amounts of green forage only in the washes.

A doe, released in January 2014, was found dead in a wash on the East Arm of YPG on May 5. Her collar malfunctioned and did not go on mortality signal so we did not detect that she wasn't moving for several weeks. Due to the length of time she had been dead, there was nothing left of her except a bit of hair and some rumen contents, and no sign of what may have killed her.



Wild pronghorn with fawns at temporary water near Cabeza pen.