

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2015

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

There are 55 pronghorn in the Cabeza pen. Both the injured buck and doe from the boma captures are still doing reasonably well and improving. Several females appear close to giving birth but we have not observed any fawns yet. The pen received 1.2 inches of rain March 1 – March 2; it was a slow rain and did not cause any major damage.

Cabeza Pen February 2015

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)		Fawns (born 2015)	
TOTAL	25	TOTAL	30
Total Pen	55		

Kofa Pen

All the pronghorn in the Kofa pen are doing well. Two fawns have been observed in the pen. The pen received 0.46 inches of rain the night of March 1st, which will help green up the pen and King Valley.

Kofa Pen February 2015

Adult Females	12
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2014)	11
Adult Males	4
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2014)	4
Fawns (born 2015)	2
TOTAL	33

2014 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:

The 9 pronghorn released on ORPI have mixed with the 4 pronghorn that were released last year, and are remaining in the Valley of the Ajo, in several groups. The two pronghorn released on

BMGR-West have been observed together with a buck released last year and have been using the northeastern Mohawk Valley.

2014 Released Pronghorn - Kofa: The 21 pronghorn released on Kofa have broken up into several smaller groups. Some have returned to King Valley. Six pronghorn in 2 groups still remain in the Palomas Plain area. We located the 4 missing pronghorn about 60 miles east of Kofa north of the Gila Bend Mountains. The buck was by himself; the three females were together. The area is very green, and both groups were near cattle waters. It still does not appear that any of the newly released pronghorn have mixed with any of the existing pronghorn on Kofa yet.

Water Projects: With assistance from USFWS personnel and Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club volunteers, we completed the new 11,000 gallon pronghorn water in the Agua Dulce area of Cabeza NWR February 19-21. We plan to build a new water on Kofa refuge soon.

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

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: Three fawns were observed with pronghorn groups on the latest aerial telemetry flight. Several females were off by themselves and likely have or will soon have fawns. The entire range is very green and forage conditions appear excellent.

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd (prior to 2014 releases): The pronghorn on Kofa are in several groups. All the pronghorn except one male that were in the vicinity of the pen have moved in a group to the north edge of YPG. Several other groups are on YPG and the southern King Valley. No fawns have been observed yet. Habitat conditions vary; some areas are fairly green while other areas have lingering green forage only in the washes. The recent rains should improve conditions on Kofa as the weather warms up.



2014 released pronghorn at Clancy Tank water on Kofa NWR, February 2015

Written March 4, 2015