

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

January 2015

Captive Breeding:

There are 55 pronghorn in the Cabeza pen. The buck in the south half that incurred a broken leg during the boma capture has been doing okay. He has lost substantial weight but is able to move around the pen with the herd. He is seen feeding at the alfalfa feeders and drinking water regularly. Recently, it appears his leg is infected and swollen; we are monitoring it carefully. The injured doe in north pen also appears to be doing okay. She stayed bedded and by herself for much of the first three weeks after the captures. Food and water were placed in the area where she always bedded. However, she is now often seen with the herd, is able to limp around, and has been observed feeding at the feeders. Several females are showing signs of pregnancy.

The pen crew has been making a lot of more substantial repairs to the pen after the XX inches of rain over the summer/fall. The flooding was so extensive that the topography of the pen was changed in some places. The midline fence was rerouted in several areas to avoid newly created washes and eroded areas. The ineffective flood gates have been removed and we are trying new techniques to allow for the washes flooding while keeping the pen secure. Excessive weedy plant growth in and around the electric fences is also being removed, and more electric wire added in places to increase the effectiveness of the fences. Hog wire has been added to the bottom of the game fence in areas where the floods created new small washes, or eroded away the bottom of the fence line. The crew is also assessing the irrigation system, much of which was damaged in the floods, to repair/replace it in areas for more efficient and effective irrigating. The pen received 1.3 inches of rain in the last week of January.

Cabeza Pen

Cabeza Pen January 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. A few females are starting to show signs of pregnancy. There are 31 pronghorn in Kofa pen. The Kofa pen received 0.58 inches of rain in January.

Kofa Pen January 2015

Adult Females	12
Yearling Females (b 2014)	11
Adult Males	4
Yearling Males (b 2014)	4
Fawns (born 2015)	
TOTAL	31

2014 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:

The 9 pronghorn released on ORPI have mixed with the 4 pronghorn that were released last year, in the Valley of the Ajo. They have also split up into smaller groups in the same area. Several returned briefly to the alfalfa feed at the holding pen. The two pronghorn released on BMGR-West were observed together on the west bajada of the Mohawk Mountains.

2014 Released Pronghorn - Kofa: The 21 pronghorn released on Kofa have broken up into several smaller groups. Some have returned to King Valley and been photographed at Clancy Tank Water. Six pronghorn in 2 groups still remain in the Palomas Plain area. Three groups were last observed on the northern bajada of the Castle Dome Mountains west of the captive breeding pen. We have not been able to hear the radio collars of 4 pronghorn on the last couple of aerial telemetry flights. It does not appear that any of the newly released pronghorn have found any of the existing pronghorn on Kofa yet.

2013 Released Pronghorn on Kofa: There are currently 9 pronghorn (8 released last year with one fawn) in the vicinity of the pen. Several pronghorn are in the southern King Valley on YPG; one group is south of YPG. The others have been staying in the burned area in King Valley, near Neversweat water.

Water Projects: We are planning to build the new Agua Dulce pronghorn water in mid-February.

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

Other Projects/Personnel:

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR herd: Nothing new to report.