

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2015

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

We have a combined total of 55 adults and yearlings in the pen. There are 6 fawns in north herd and 16 fawns in south herd. There are at least 7 buck and 5 doe fawns in south; the crew is still trying to confirm the sex of the fawns. The adult bucks have been actively sparring and attempting to breed. The injured buck in south has been attempting to breed but can't mount the females with his broken back leg. However, he continues to spar with other males and appears to have lost some weight and is having more difficulty getting around. Hopefully once the breeding season has passed, and the bucks quit sparring he will put weight back on.

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, 5 female, 1 male)	6	Fawns (born 2015)	16
TOTAL	31	TOTAL	46
Total Pen	77		

Kofa Pen

There are 48 pronghorn in the Kofa pen; 31 adults and yearlings and 17 fawns.

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)	17
TOTAL	48

2014 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:

The Organ Pipe Cactus N. M. (ORPI) released pronghorn continue to use the same general areas. The animals released on BMGR-West continue to use the Mohawk Valley.

We have had 3 mortalities of adult pronghorn on ORPI. On the July 12 telemetry flight, a buck released in January 2015, was on mortality signal. When investigated on the ground, he was found dead in a wash. Personnel on the ground also found another buck, released in January 2014 who's GPS collar had fallen off, dead nearby. Neither one showed any signs of predation. Disease is suspected. Range condition has been good to excellent.

During the August 7 telemetry flight, we detected a doe's signal on mortality. Subsequent investigation revealed extensive activity by coyotes, however too much time had passed to determine whether it was predation or scavenging.

2014 Released Pronghorn - Kofa: The pronghorn released on Kofa have generally been using the same areas for the last month. The 4 females using Palomas Plain east of Kofa, returned to King Valley. One buck has crossed Highway 95 and has been using a green area west of the Stone Cabin.

We had 2 mortalities of recently released pronghorn. On July 14, a buck was found dead near Clancy Tank; photos from Clancy Tank showed him immersed up to his neck in the water prior to him dying a few yards away. We suspect disease. A doe was also found dead near Dog Leg Tank on July 24. Cause of death is unknown.

Water Projects: Most of our waters on both Cabeza and Kofa are full or nearly full. The new 11,000-gallon Agua Dulce water has filled with the most recent rains.

Forage Enhancements: Personnel have been irrigating at Charlie Bell forage plot in an effort to keep it green. The Devils Hills forage plot is still green and does not need irrigation; we are working to fix or replace the pump there.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: The radio-collared pronghorn are mostly using the same areas as last month. Twenty-three fawns were seen on the last flight. Additional rains have continued to keep range conditions in good to excellent condition

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd (prior to 2014 releases): The pronghorn on Kofa are using the same general areas during the last month. Four fawns were seen on the last telemetry flight. Kofa/YPG has also continued to receive some rain, and conditions are still good in the areas the pronghorn are using.

Other Projects: n/a

Written August 11, 2015