

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

June - July 2016

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

All the pronghorn in the Cabeza pen are doing well. There has been very little precipitation at the pen, and the biologists are irrigating as necessary. We have documented 2 coyotes (sub-adults) in the pen on the cameras and are working on removing them. Two mule deer have also managed to get into the pen. The electric and woven wire fences were damaged by the deer and this may have contributed to the coyotes getting in.

Cabeza Pen

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	11	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females (<i>b 2015</i>)	5	Yearling Females (<i>b 2015</i>)	8
Adult Males	2	Adult Males	3
Yearling Males (<i>b 2015</i>)	1	Yearling Males (<i>b 2015</i>)	8
Fawns (<i>b 2016, 9 females, 2 males</i>)	11	Fawns (<i>b 2016, 9 females, 8 male</i>)	17
TOTAL	30	TOTAL	46
Total Pen	76		

Kofa Pen

All the pronghorn in the Kofa pen are doing well. We removed one bobcat from the vicinity of the pen, and the coyote that was documented on the cameras in the pen has not been seen or documented in the pen any more. The lab results on the adult buck that was found dead in the pen indicated he suffered from bacterial pneumonia. We are still working on getting an observation tower installed so we will be able to keep better track of what is going on in the pen.

Kofa Pen

Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (<i>b 2015</i>)	8
Adult Males	1
Yearling Males (<i>b 2015</i>)	8
Fawns (born 2016)	4
TOTAL	32

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: On the latest telemetry flight, most of the pronghorn were in the same general areas as usual. There has been some sporadic rains on the range over the summer, but for the most part, it is very dry. Recently good rains fell on the Granite Mountains and Growler Valley portion of the range.

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd: Most of the pronghorn on Kofa have generally been using the same areas around King Valley on the Kofa NWR and Yuma Proving Ground. More than 20

pronghorn are using the vicinity of the pen where we provide alfalfa and water on the south side; unfortunately the 2 fawns known to be with these animals have disappeared. Two females are still using areas far to the east of the Kofa refuge.

There were two mortalities on Kofa. A 2 year old doe, released this year that had been using the feed/water near the pen was found dead in July. She had been photographed on numerous occasions prior to her death and was very thin for unknown reasons. A 6 year old doe, released in 2014, was found dead on YPG. Her collar malfunctioned and did not go on mortality signal so she had been dead for some time before we realized and located her on the ground. There was nothing left of her and cause of death is unknown. Most of King Valley on the Kofa NWR and YPG portion of this valley are very dry.

Wild Pronghorn BMGR-East Herd: These pronghorn have been moving quite a bit around their new range. Three animals moved into the Gila Bend Auxiliary Field area; they have since moved as far east as the Vekol Valley and east of the Batemote Mountains. The two known fawns are still being seen on the telemetry flights. At least ½ the pronghorn have been photo-documented using two of the temporary waters set up in their new range. Range conditions are fairly good in the eastern part of the range, but dry closer to Highway 85.

The second buck that crossed Highway 85 has moved into the vicinity of and been photographed at the Granite Mountains water. The first buck that crossed Highway 85 and was north of the Crater Mountains was found dead in June. Cause of death is unknown.

Water Projects: Numerous pronghorn including fawns are using the SWTR and Ivans well water tanks on YPG. Game and Fish and YPG personnel set up an emergency temporary water at SWTR tank on YPG because the pump in the well failed and the tank was slowly going dry. Large numbers of mule deer and pronghorn use SWTR Tank. We have documented consumption of over 1,000-gallons of water each week from the emergency tanks we installed. AGFD personnel are also providing temporary alfalfa near this site on YPG.



Pronghorn feeding at Lower Well forage enhancement.

Forage Enhancements: More than 20 different pronghorn have been using the alfalfa and water at each of the Point of the Pintas and Devils Hills habitat enhancements including at least 2 fawns at each site. Personnel have been busy ensuring adequate alfalfa is available at those sites.

Cabeza pen crew has been ensuring pronghorn have adequate alfalfa and water at several habitat enhancements near Ajo including Charlie Bell, Morgart Tank, and East Release. They have also been irrigating at Charlie Bell and USFWS personnel have been irrigating at Lower Well forage site. Numerous pronghorn including fawns have been using all these sites.

Other Projects: Nothing new to report.

Written August 12, 2016