

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2016

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

There are 27 fawns in the pen with 3 females left to give birth. There have been 2 mortalities of newborn fawns. One was from the doe that suffered medical complications during the capture in December; the fawn appeared weak and only lived one day. The other was the first born fawn; it was not seen after 2 days. The fawns have been observed feeding on native forage in both pens, and the north fawns have started feeding at the alfalfa feeders.

There is one yearling female in the south half that was limping on one of her back legs for several weeks and is now having difficulty with her other back leg. She appears to have something wrong with her hips. She will continue to be monitored closely.

Over an inch of rain fell between April 8 – 10 which should green up the pen and surrounding areas.

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</i>)	10	Fawns (<i>b 2016</i>)	17
TOTAL	29	TOTAL	46
Total Pen	75		

Kofa Pen

All the animals in the Kofa pen are doing well. We have documented between 7 – 11 fawns so far with 5 does left to give birth. It is harder to observe pronghorn in the Kofa pen so documenting fawn numbers is more difficult. We are working on getting a better observation tower installed. We are also working on increasing the irrigation storage tanks. Between April 8 – 10 1.2 inches of rain fell on the Kofa pen and vicinity.

Kofa Pen

Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (<i>b 2015</i>)	8
Adult Males	2
Yearling Males (<i>b 2015</i>)	8
Fawns (born 2016)	7 - 11
TOTAL	

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: On the latest telemetry flight, most of the pronghorn were in the same general areas as usual. One of the bucks released on ORPI moved north onto North Tac and was with several other bucks. The other ORPI released buck had returned to the Valley of the Ajo, and was by himself but near other pronghorn. There were 16 fawns seen with 26 females.

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. Many areas in the Kofa herd range have been dry, especially the central King Valley and around the pen. Up to 18 different pronghorn have been seen in the vicinity of the pen where we provide alfalfa and water on the south side. Recent rain between April 8 – 10 (~1.2 inches) in the vicinity of the pen and further east should help green things up. Seven fawns with 4 females have been seen on recent telemetry flights.

Wild Pronghorn BMGR-East Herd: These pronghorn have been moving around their new range. We have been having difficulty locating all the pronghorn due to limited time in the restricted airspace for the last several months. Several groups are north of the Saucedo Mountains, while the others have remained south. The buck that crossed Highway 85 is still north of the Crater Mountains, has been seen with a collared female from the Cabeza herd, but most recently was by himself even further north. No fawns were seen on the latest flight, but two had been seen previously.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

Forage Enhancements: Personnel from UFSWS, Air Force and Game and Fish took apart and cleaned up some of the pipeline at the Water Well forage plot. This site was deemed unfavorable for this purpose and the project was never completed.

Other Projects: Nothing new to report.



Fawn in south pen.
Photo by Javier Gonzalez-Garza.

Written April 19, 2016