

# SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2015

## *Captive Breeding:*

### **Cabeza Pen**

There are 55 adults and yearlings and 20 fawns currently in the pen. With the hot weather, the pen biologists discovered that there have been 2 coyotes in the pen that were recorded on automatic cameras at the waters. It is possible one or both of them have been in the pen since the fences were down during the last monsoon season. There was also some damage to the fences including breaking and shorting out the electric fences after 0.75 inches of rain fell overnight on May 15. We suspect the coyotes have killed quite a few fawns. We've been able to remove one of the coyotes and are working on getting the other one out. We've also photographed three mountain lions (most likely a female and two yearling offspring) near the pen recently.

The pronghorn were treated for 5 days (May 28 – June 2) with Corid by adding it to a water source. Corid is used to treat intestinal parasites.

The pen biologists are seeing an increase in illegal aliens and/or smuggler activity at and near the pen. Two people, likely smugglers or scouts, were photographed in the pen getting water from one of the water troughs. One biologist ran into another suspicious subject while checking the perimeter fence. There is also increasing damage and vandalism to the irrigation lines, causing a lot of extra repair work to keep water going to the pen. The repairs are costly and time consuming to complete properly. Similar problems have plagued our Lower Well Forage Enhancement Plot for the last several years.

Cabeza Pen

<b>NORTH HALF</b>		<b>SOUTH HALF</b>	
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)	6	Fawns (born 2015)	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total Pen</b>	<b>75</b>		

### **Kofa Pen**

There are 47 pronghorn in the Kofa pen; 31 adults and yearlings and 16 fawns. All the fawns appear healthy, and most have been weaned and are feeding on their own. One of the yearling does may still be pregnant. The pen has greened up since the last rain, and is the greenest it's been for most of the year. However, the ocotillo leaves are already starting to turn yellow. A

large capacity water pump was replaced with the help of an electrician. The pump is necessary to pressurize the irrigation pipe. The crew has been irrigating in the pen to try to keep it green. The pen biologists have also been working on getting the electric fence back up to full power and after replacing the energizers it is working again as it should. The pronghorn were treated with Corid for intestinal parasites May 24 – 29.

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)	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>

***2014 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:***

The pronghorn released last year have been using the same general areas of Organ Pipe Cactus NM and the Mohawk Valley.

***2014 Released Pronghorn - Kofa:*** The 20 remaining pronghorn released on Kofa have broken up into several smaller groups. Thirteen animals are using King Valley, and YPG. Many have been observed in the vicinity of Clancy Tank Water. Five pronghorn still remain in the Palomas Plain area. Of the three females that had moved east, one has come back to the Palomas Plain area, but the other two have moved back east to the same general area they were before, north and west of Signal Mountain. We have documented movements of at least 60 linear miles from the original release site. The buck that had moved east has come back to the King Valley area and was last seen near SWTR pond on YPG.

***Water Projects:*** With recent rain on both Cabeza and Kofa, most of our 16 waters are full or nearly full.

***Forage Enhancements:*** Nothing new to report. Irrigation of the plots is unnecessary due to good to excellent forage conditions.

***Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd:*** The pronghorn are mostly using the same general areas. Twenty-two fawns were seen on the last flight. Most of the range received an additional ¾ to 1+ inch of rain in mid-May and the entire range is still green and forage conditions appear good to excellent. A buck, born in the pen in 2012, and released in December 2013 on ORPI, was found dead on ORPI. His collar malfunctioned and did not set off the mortality signal. The buck’s location was not substantially different between bi-weekly telemetry flights, indicating a possible mortality. Cause of death is unknown due to the length of time between when he died and when he was found on the ground.

***Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd (prior to 2014 releases):*** The pronghorn on Kofa are in several groups, using King Valley on Kofa, the areas around the pen, and the southern part of

King Valley on YPG. Four fawns were seen on the last telemetry flight. Habitat conditions vary, but are much better in most areas now due to the recent rains.



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