

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

May - June 2014

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

Status of Pronghorn in Cabeza Pen

Currently there are 91 pronghorn in the Cabeza breeding pen; 29 adults and 16 fawns in north herd, and 32 adults and 14 fawns in south herd. All the fawn collars we put on this spring have fallen off the fawns as planned. We learned a great deal regarding using this technique. Fawns are seen more often at the feeders and are consuming more alfalfa and pellets; they are rarely seen nursing anymore. One of the older females in south herd (Orange) appears ill; she is bloated with one side of her stomach more pronounced and is lethargic. Dr. Anne Justice-Allen thinks she may be suffering from heart or liver problems; pen biologists are keeping close observations of her. The pronghorn were treated for intestinal parasites using Corid powder in their water from June 3 -7.

June 2014

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	11	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2013)	13	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2013)	10
Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2010, Purple 3)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2010, Yellow 3)	1
Back up Buck (<i>b</i> 2012, Grn/Wht 3)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2011, Yel/Blk 3)	1
Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2013)	3	Adult Bucks (<i>b</i> 2012)	2
Fawns (born 2014)	16	Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2013)	8
		Fawns (born 2014)	14
TOTAL	45	TOTAL	46
Total Pen	91		

The pen crew has been irrigating the pen and Charlie Bell forage plot. They are also maintaining alfalfa at the Morgart site and alfalfa and water at East Release site. At least 13 pronghorn including 3 fawns are routinely using Morgart, and at least 11, including 2 fawns, are using East Release on a daily basis.

Illegal alien activity continues to be routinely noted near the pen. In one instance, 3 illegals were seen getting water out of the trough in the south half of the pen; they exited the pen and continued south. They are also frequently photographed on the cameras at Charlie Bell, East Release and other areas.

Kofa Pen

There are 29 pronghorn in Kofa pen including 13 fawns. The herd was treated for intestinal parasites using Corid powder in their water from May 26 – 30.

A female (Red/Yellow) born in 2011 was found dead in the pen on June 5. Her radio collar did not go on mortality. She had been dead a couple days before being discovered; consequently there were no useful tissues for disease testing. Her blood sample taken during the 2013 boma capture showed a high white blood cell count which may indicate she had a chronic bacterial infection. This coupled with the high physical stress of lactation may have caused her death.

Another adult doe (Blue) was acting very lethargic, and allowed biologist to get within a few feet of her. Close examination showed she has a severe eye injury and is likely suffering from infection related to it. Our veterinarian thought since she had been acting ill for a week or so, she was likely fighting off the infection, and the best course of action was to leave her alone. We are continuing to monitor her closely.

Status of Pronghorn in Kofa Pen

	June 2014
Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2013)	1
Adult Males	3
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2013)	1
Fawns (born 2014)	13
TOTAL	29

2013 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:

Four pronghorn were released on BMGR-West:

- One buck remains in the north Mohawk Valley.
- Two females have moved to the Tule Desert, west of the Sierra Pintas.
- One buck has moved to south tactical range on BMGR.

Six pronghorn were released on Organ Pipe Cactus NM:

- The two GPS collars have quit working so we can longer track one male and one female. They are often seen with the other released pronghorn though. Five of these pronghorn have remained on ORPI, generally in the Valley of the Ajo. Several have crossed Highway 85 back and forth and are using habitat on both sides of the highway.
- One male is still on the Tohono O’odham reservation.

Two bucks were released near the captive breeding pen; they are generally found in either the Growler or Childs Valleys, including at Charlie Bell forage plot, and occasionally near the pen.

2013 Released Pronghorn - Kofa: The pronghorn released on Kofa are being seen in two areas now. Eight pronghorn including one fawn are generally in the vicinity of the pen, and have been using alfalfa and water outside the pen. All the other pronghorn, including up to 8 fawns, are generally found on the north part of YPG in the southern King Valley. There are two waters on YPG that pronghorn are using regularly.

Water Projects: Water was hauled to Fawn Hills on July 1 by USFWS personnel. The water was getting low in Sierra Pinta 3, so the valve allowing water to flow from some of the storage tanks was opened on July 3. This provided an additional 2500 gallons of water for the system.

Forage Enhancements: We are irrigating at Charlie Bell, where numerous pronghorn are being seen and photographed. We are maintaining alfalfa hay at Point of the Pintas, where at least 9 pronghorn including one fawn have been photographed, and at Devils Hills, where numerous pronghorn have been using the site. Personnel from USFWS are also maintaining the alfalfa at Uken Tank, where up to 40 pronghorn have been photographed.

Other Projects/Personnel: Nothing new to report.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR herd: On the last telemetry flight, the pronghorn were spread out over most of the range. Fawn recruitment still appears high. Much of the range is still green, especially the Tule Desert, Growler Valley and parts of South Tac.



Two females released from the pen in December 2010, and a fawn, at Morgart Tank.

Written July 7, 2014