

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2014

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

Currently there are 88 pronghorn in the pen; 26 adults and 14 fawns in north half and 34 adults and 14 fawns in south half. Orange collar doe in north was last seen on October 24 and it appeared her right eye was infected, and she was slightly underweight. She was not seen for over two weeks; the pen crew did not search for her initially because they did not want to startle her or cause her to run with a bad eye. She was found dead on the November 11 near where she was last seen; cause of death is unknown, but her eye infection and her age (11+) likely played a role. She was one of the original females put in the pen from the wild in December 2004. A yearling buck in south herd has been observed limping and walking stiffly; the pen crew continues to monitor him; he appears to graze normally, and has not lost any weight.

Two yearling females from north crossed the midline fence sometime between November 29th and December 1st. Both are now in south herd and appear fine. The midline fence was checked and it appears they may have jumped over. The pronghorn were treated with Corid (for prevention of *coccidian spp*) in their water for 5 days 24 – 29 November. This is the last of three treatments this year; the first was in March, and the second in mid-July.

The pen crew continued to prepare for December boma captures throughout the month. Both herds have been entering the bomas on a consistent basis; if this trend continues, the majority of both herds will be captured. We are planning to do the boma capture/release December 11 -14. If all the pronghorn are caught in the bomas, there will be 35 pronghorn for release to Kofa, Organ Pipe Cactus NM, and the BMGR-West. All the other pronghorn will be marked and returned to the Cabeza pen.

November 2014

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	9	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2013)	11	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2013)	12
Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2010, Purple 3)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2010, Yellow 3)	1
Back up Buck (<i>b</i> 2011, Yel/Blk 3)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2012, Grn/Wht 3)	1
Adult Buck (from wild, 2010)	1	Adult Bucks (2012)	2
Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2013)	3	Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2013)	8
Fawns (9 males, 5 females, born 2014)	14	Fawns (6 males, 8 females, <i>b</i> 2014)	14
TOTAL	40	TOTAL	48
Total Pen	88		

Kofa Pen

There are 31 pronghorn in Kofa pen including 15 fawns. The Kofa pen did not receive much summer rain and is drying out. The Kofa pen crew has been working on getting the holding pens at Clancy Tank on Kofa and on BMGR-West ready for this year's captures and releases from the

Cabeza pen. Due to the low fawn recruitment in Kofa pen last year (2 fawns) we are not planning to release any animals from the Kofa pen this year. Some animals will be brought from the Cabeza pen to the holding pen for eventual release into the wild on Kofa.

	November 2014
Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2013)	1
Adult Males	3
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2013)	1
Fawns (born 2014, 11 females, 4 males)	15
TOTAL	31

2013 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza:

The pronghorn released on ORPI have continued to use the Valley of the Ajo. The 2 pronghorn with non-working collars are routinely seen with the 2 collared pronghorn on the telemetry flights.

The four pronghorn released on BMGR-West have remained in the same general areas as previously reported. The two bucks that were released near the captive breeding pen have been using Child’s Valley and the tactical ranges on BMGR.

2013 Released Pronghorn - Kofa: The pronghorn released on Kofa are still being seen in two general areas. Four males are generally in the vicinity of the pen. Most of the other pronghorn are now usually found in the southern King Valley on Kofa, often in one big group. .

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

Forage Enhancements: All the forage plots are still green with the recent rains; consequently we are not irrigating any.

Other Projects/Personnel: We completed the biennial range-wide survey in Arizona November 13 – 23. We observed 168 pronghorn on the survey transects. Using our sighting probability model, our estimate is 202 (171 – 334). We missed a group of 4 in ORPI based on radio collars, and we missed a group of 7 on North Tac that was observed flying to another block. There was also a group of 7 (with 3 radio collars) that moved between adjacent blocks and was not available to be seen when we flew either block. Counting the number of pronghorn observed and missed, the minimum number is 186. Two years ago, we observed 108 on transect, the estimate was 159 (111 – 432) and minimum number was 131.

We plan to finish surveying the Pinacate area in Sonora, Mexico December 16-18.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR herd: Nothing new to report.

Written December 9, 2014