

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2014

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

Currently there are 89 pronghorn in the pen; 28 adults and 14 fawns in north half and 33 adults and 14 fawns in south half. The pen crew has begun feeding alfalfa in the capture bomas in preparation for the annual capture and release of pronghorn in December. The south herd responded quickly and appears to be content to feed in the bomas. The north herd was initially more resistant to the bomas preferring to feed on the ample native forage rather than enter the bomas for alfalfa. However, most of the north herd is now beginning to use the bomas. Due to the substantial amounts of native forage in the pen, we may have difficulty trapping large numbers of pronghorn in the bomas this year.

One of the older females in north herd appears to have an eye injury and has been lethargic and underweight; she is also very difficult to find in the pen so it is hard to keep an eye on her condition. Another older doe in south herd also appears somewhat underweight and is often moving slowly, but appears otherwise normal.

October 2014

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	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> 2011, Yel/Blk 3)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2012, Grn/Wht 3)	1
Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2013)	3	Adult Bucks (<i>b</i> 2010, 2012)	3
Fawns (9 males, 5 females, born 2014)	14	Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2013)	8
		Fawns (6 males, 8 females, <i>b</i> 2014)	14
TOTAL	42	TOTAL	47
Total Pen	89		

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 pen crew started irrigating, but there is a problem with one of the pumps, so they are not able to irrigate now. We are attempting to fix the problem as soon as possible.

	October 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. Twenty-four pronghorn were seen in one group on Kofa on the last telemetry flight. The habitat is still somewhat green in the washes, but is dry on the flats between the washes.

Water Projects: We are purchasing material and planning to build a new water, and enlarge an existing water on Cabeza Prieta, and build a new water on Kofa this coming spring.

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

Other Projects/Personnel: We are preparing for our biennial range-wide survey in Arizona starting on November 13th. We also plan to survey the Pinacate area in Sonora that we were unable to finish last year in December. Our annual capture and release of pronghorn from the Cabeza Prieta pen is also scheduled for December 11 -14. Due to the small number of fawns that survived in the Kofa pen in 2013, we are not planning a release operation from that pen this year.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR herd: On the last telemetry flight, the pronghorn were spread out over most of the range. Much of the range is still very green including ORPI, the Tactical Ranges, Childs Valley, Tule Desert, Mohawk Valley and northern Growler Valley. Rain fell on the southern portion of the Tule Desert resulting in Sierra Pinta #1 and #2 filling to capacity. The playas are also very green now.

Written November 4, 2014