

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

July 30, 2008

Captive Breeding:

North Half: All the pronghorn are doing well. We had a mortality of a buck fawn yesterday. The pen monitors think he had a broken neck, but there was no sign of predation, or sparring with other bucks, or any other indication of what might have happened. He was found far enough from the fence that it doesn't appear he ran into or got caught in it. The adult buck has been chasing off the younger bucks, and herding the females around. The pen monitors have been seeing quite a bit of chasing and sparring between the adult buck and the two-year olds, with the buck fawns sometimes joining in or getting caught in the middle.

The work on the capture pens is progressing. These are a series of 3 connected 15-meter diameter pens that will be used for capturing and separating pronghorn this fall. We will be releasing some pronghorn, moving others around, replacing collars and/or marking individuals staying in the pen for breeding.

It has rained about 1/3 inch at the pen, which will help the native forage green up again.

South Half: All the pronghorn are doing well. On July 22 there was a wind-storm that knocked down several sections of the interior fence separating the Southwest and Southeast quarter sections. We were planning to remove some of this fence anyway to let the pronghorn move between the sections, since there are no pronghorn in the Southeast quarter. The pronghorn have found the gaps in the fence and are now utilizing the entire south half.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen

(M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005 recruitment	2006 recruitment	2007 recruitment	2008 recruitment	TOTAL in pen
NORTH HALF						
In Pen	5F, 1M	2F		4F, 5M	14 fawns	31
Released		4M	3M			
SOUTH HALF						
In Pen	5F		2F, 1M	3F, 2M	12 fawns	25
Released			2M			
						56

2008 Released Males: On the last telemetry flight, one of the released males (451) was seen with a group of 9 wild pronghorn on South Tac. 851 has not been heard with telemetry since March 30, when he was on the northwest edge of North Tac.

2007 Released Males: Nothing new to report.

Water Projects: We checked water levels and serviced the cameras at most of the waters. Point of the Pintas was full, Devil's Hills was $\frac{3}{4}$ full, Sierra Pinta 1 and 3 were $\frac{3}{4}$ full, Sierra Pinta 2 was dry, Fawn Hills was $\frac{3}{4}$ full, Antelope Hills was dry, Granite Mountains was $\frac{1}{2}$ full and Antelope Parabolic was full. We have photo documented pronghorn at Granite Mountains, Devil's Hills, Point of the Pintas, and Fawn Hills so far this year.

Forage Enhancements: We have been irrigating at all the forage plots. We documented pronghorn using Granite Mountains forage plot with our cameras there. It rained heavily on July 19th, leaving standing water at the forage plot, so we have reduced our irrigating for now.

Other Projects: We are still moving forward with the preliminary steps for establishing a second population. The USFWS is working on getting a NEPA contract for the second phase of the process. We are also working on building a new forage enhancement site on the Marine side of the BMGR, near the Devil's Hills water.

Wild Pronghorn: On our last telemetry flight (July 20) we found nine pronghorn on South Tac, 5 on the east side of the Growler Mountains, 5 on the west side of the Granite Mountains, south of the forage plot, and 2 near the Devil's Hills water. One radio-collared doe was heard south of the Agua Dulce Mountains, and by triangulation, appeared to have crossed the vehicle barrier on the border and was in Mexico. Unfortunately, we were not able to fly across the border to get a visual on her and verify that she was actually in Mexico.

Personnel: Dan Nelson who had been on a special detail to a job in Phoenix was hired into that position. Loeta Clifford has also resigned from the project, as her husband (Border Patrol) has been transferred to Texas. We now only have 2 of the 4 positions filled and the state government is under a hiring freeze. We have requested exemptions to the hiring freeze in order to fill these critical positions, but have not heard anything yet.



Fawns and pronghorn in north half of pen, April 2008