

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

August 17, 2009

Captive Breeding:

The pronghorn in the captive breeding pen are doing well. We have 18 fawns in the north herd, 11 females and 7 males. The 13 fawns in the south herd are 7 females and 6 males.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen

(M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005 recruitment	2006 recruitment	2007 recruitment	2008 recruitment	2009 recruitment	Total in Pen
NORTH HALF							
In Pen	5F	2F		3F	5F, 7M	11F, 7M	
Released	1M	4M	3M	4M, 1F	1F		
From south half						1M	41
SOUTH HALF							
In Pen	5F		2F	2F	4F, 6M	7F, 6M	
Released			2M	1F, 2M	2M		
From wild						1M	33
							74

2009 Released Pronghorn: One of the males released from the pen was found dead July 19, northwest of the pen. There did not appear to be any signs of predation and the cause of death is unknown. We have not been able to locate another male released this year since the end of May. He was last seen on the Tactical Ranges, but we cannot hear his radio collar when we do the telemetry. He has also not been photographed at the feeding stations on STAC or at any of the forage plots or waters. The other released animals are doing well, one doe has moved with some wild pronghorn onto Organ Pipe Cactus NM.

2008 Released Males: Nothing new to report.

2007 Released Males: Three of the 4 males released in 2007 have been photographed using the Charlie Bell forage enhancement.

Water Projects: We hauled water using a helicopter to several waters as we have not had any rain over most of pronghorn range this summer. We have photo-documented pronghorn using most of the waters. We are in the process of doing the necessary paperwork to enlarge the storage capacity of several of the waters on the Cabeza Prieta refuge to reduce costly water hauling.

Forage Enhancements: We have continued irrigating at Charlie Bell forage enhancement. We have recorded numerous released pronghorn using the plot as well as wild pronghorn. We have seen up to 15 different pronghorn using the plot, including at least 8 fawns. We have also been irrigating at the Granite Mountains forage plot and it is looking very green. Up to 5 different pronghorn have been using this plot, including two collared animals. The two collared pronghorn have now recently moved to Organ Pipe Cactus NM, where it has rained and is very green.

Other Projects: We are still moving forward with the preliminary steps for establishing a second population, a draft EA is expected to be out this fall.

Wild Pronghorn: On the most recent telemetry flight, we saw 28 pronghorn on STAC, including 9 fawns. There is also a group of 9 using Organ Pipe Cactus NM. Most of the range is very dry; there has been rain on Organ Pipe, parts of the Agua Dulce Mountains, and one small area in the San Cristobal Valley.



Pronghorn at Charlie Bell forage plot.