

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

March 28, 2011

Captive Breeding:

The pronghorn in the pen are doing well. We have documented 18 fawns so far this year, from 10 of the females. We expect 12 more females to give birth. The pen is starting to green up from the rains last month, and we had another 0.4 inches of rain at the pen last week.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen

(M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total in Pen
NORTH HALF									
In Pen	3F	1F		1F	2F	4F	7F, 4M	6 fawns	
Released	1M	4M, 1F	3M	4M, 2F	5M, 2F	5M, 5F			
From south half					2M				
To south half					1M				30
SOUTH HALF									
In Pen	5F			1F	1F	4F	10F, 7M	12 fawns	
Released			2F, 2M	1F, 2M	2F, 8M	2F, 8M			
From north half					*				
To north half					1M				40
* buck moved himself from south to north									70

Released Pronghorn: Most of the pronghorn released this year are still remaining north and northeast of the pen in several groups. One female was killed by coyotes on 5 March, on the west side of Child's Mountain, east of the pen. Of the 18 pronghorn released, 14 are still alive. Up to 8 of them have returned to the pen at times, and roamed around, especially on the east and south sides. A buck, released in 2009, has also returned to the pen and joined this group. One released female was seen on the east side of the pen with 2 newborn fawns on 25 March.

With assistance from the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club, we fixed two of the waters in the pen that were not holding water effectively due to settling. On the same project weekend, we erected 5 shelters to protect the hay at several locations around the pen, and built a shade structure on a second observation point for the pen.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

Forage Enhancements: We have not been irrigating any forage enhancements due to the rains. We have documented several pronghorn using Charlie Bell and Lower Well forage plots. We have also documented numerous illegal aliens at the water source at Lower Well forage plot. According to USFWS law enforcement personnel, new illegal alien/smuggling routes pass near

the vicinity of both Lower Well and Adobe Well forage plots. This will likely reduce pronghorn use of these plots, as well as making it difficult for us to access them for irrigating.

Other Projects: Nothing new to report.

Wild Pronghorn: On the last telemetry flight, one pronghorn female was seen with 2 new fawns. One female released from the pen this year was seen with 2 fawns and another had a least one fawn. Several other females were seen by themselves, possibly with fawns, or getting ready to drop fawns. Most of the areas where pronghorn were are starting to green up from the recent rains.