

# SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE:

June 16, 2004

***Captive Breeding:*** All three pronghorn in the pen continue to do well and are usually seen together. They are seen throughout the pen, often feeding either the irrigated areas or in a large wash that runs through the pen. They have also been observed drinking from the free standing waters in the pen on a regular basis. Monitors have not observed them using the mineral block that has been placed in the pen.

Personnel at the pen observe and monitor the pronghorn daily. In addition, the perimeter fence is patrolled, electric fences checked and the pen and surrounding areas checked for predators and illegal aliens at least daily. The electric fence seems to be working better now, as monitors replace 4" electric insulators with 7" ones, moving the fence further away from the woven wire fence. Monitors have seen bobcat and mountain lion tracks near the pen, but not observed any predators. There has been sign that a coyote encountered the electric fence and was repelled. Personnel at the pen have been irrigating the forage plots within the pen on a weekly basis. We are still experiencing problems with our generator, but have been able to rent one to continue irrigating the pen and other forage plots. A shade structure has been erected on the observation point to give the monitors some relief from the blazing hot sun.

***Water Projects:*** There are plans to fill the two remaining temporary waters by helicopter later this week. Cameras will also be installed.

***Forage Enhancements:*** Irrigation is continuing at the Charlie Bell forage plot. This plot is much greener than surrounding areas and has significant amounts of nutritious forage available to the pronghorn. Monitors have seen between 5 and 7 pronghorn using this area recently.

A 1400 gallon water, with a ground level drinking trough, was installed at the Granite Mountain site, and filled using a water buffalo. When we attempted to irrigate this plot, we found the first 600 feet of vinyl flat-lay irrigation pipe badly damaged by rodents eating holes in it, and therefore it was impossible to irrigate the plots. However, we irrigated several areas along the road near the plots using water buffalos. This irrigation pipe needs to be replaced with sturdier yellowmine pipe in the near future.

Personnel from Arizona Game and Fish Department and the US Fish and Wildlife Service built 1.4 miles of pipeline for the new Lower Well forage site. A contractor has been hired and should start work next week developing the well to bring the water to the surface pipeline.

***Other Projects:*** Monitoring flights are scheduled in Mexico for the end of June.

***Wild Pronghorn:*** Between 5-7 pronghorn, including 3 fawns, are being seen on the Charlie Bell forage plot. Personnel from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument have seen 4 pronghorn in Growler wash (1 buck, 1 doe and 2 fawns). Pronghorn are also seen periodically on STAC, most recently a doe and fawn.