

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

October 25, 2011

Captive Breeding:

A 2-year old female died in the south half of the pen last week. Our biologist noted she was a little thin in the previous weeks, although she was feeding on native forage and alfalfa, and interacting normally with other pronghorn. Tissue samples were taken and hopefully we will be able to get some information from the diagnostic lab.

The bomas have been readied for this year's capture and release, and the monitors are starting to move the alfalfa into the bomas to encourage and train the pronghorn to go in the bomas.

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	3F	7F, 4M	6F, 4M	
Released	1M	4M, 1F	3M	4M, 2F	5M, 2F	5M, 5F			
From south half					2M			1 F fawn	
To south half					1M				34
SOUTH HALF									
In Pen	4F			1F	1F	3F	10F, 7M	6F 8M	
Released			2F, 2M	1F, 2M	2F, 8M	2F, 8M			
From north half					*				
To north half					1M				40
* buck moved himself from south to north									74

Released Pronghorn: The 2010 released pronghorn are still ranging mostly in the vicinity of the pen. A couple of bucks have been south near Lower Well forage plot with several wild pronghorn; they have also been at Charlie Bell forage plot with wild pronghorn. One buck moved northwest to the Tactical Ranges for several days with wild pronghorn, but he has returned to the pen. We have not documented any more mortality of wild pronghorn.

Water Projects: We expect to build the new Halliwell Tank sometime in early January, 2012. This will be a cooperative project involving the USFWS, USAF, AZGFD and the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club.

Forage Enhancements: Nothing new to report

Other Projects: The captive breeding enclosure is being constructed on KOFA N.W.R. The posts have all been placed and hog wire fence is being put up now. Well drilling should start in the next couple of weeks. Irrigation material has been purchased and delivered and will be installed after the well is in place.

We did a flight over pronghorn range in Sonora, Mexico to assess range conditions. It is extremely dry in most places there. Consequently, we recommended cancelling the proposed capture operation in Mexico. We are still planning to do the range wide survey in Mexico the first week in December if we get all the necessary permits.

Wild Pronghorn: On the latest telemetry flights, the 2010 released pronghorn have been mostly in one large group in the vicinity of the pen. The female that had been on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has been moving northwest. The only collar we have on a wild pronghorn we have not heard on the last two flights, and the collar may have died. A lot of the range is dry, but where the pronghorn are found it is very green.



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Pronghorn at the Devil's Hills Water.