

# SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

January 23, 2006

***Captive Breeding:*** All 12 pronghorn in the north half of the pen are doing well. They are all feeding on both alfalfa and native forage. The 2 females that were looking thin have put on weight with the alfalfa diet.

We separated the south half of the pen into quarters. The 3 new pronghorn from the US herd were originally put in the SW quarter, but we opened the fence and they moved into the SE quarter on their own. We did this to facilitate putting new pronghorn from Mexico into the now empty SW quarter. These three pronghorn are all doing well and appear healthy.

On January 13 and 14, we captured 4 pronghorn (1M, 3F) from the Mexican herd and successfully moved them to the pen. They are now residing in the SW quarter. They are all healthy, have grouped up together and have been seen feeding on both alfalfa and native forage. All the females appear to be pregnant based on ultrasounds done by the vets at the pen.

***Water Projects:*** We are planning to build new emergency waters in the Sierra Pinta Mountains, with volunteer help during February 9-12.

***Forage Enhancements:*** We have begun irrigating at Charlie Bell and Adobe Well forage plots, in preparation of a continuing dry winter. The valley habitats are still relatively green, based on our last monitoring flight, but will dry out quickly if we don't get any rain soon. As the valleys dry up, we expect the pronghorn to move upslope to the bajadas habitats, where they will encounter the forage plots.

***Other Projects:*** We conducted a range-wide survey in Mexico prior to the captures. We observed 486 pronghorn, and estimated the population there to be 634 (499-1726). We also put GPS radio collars on 5 pronghorn to assist the Mexican biologists with pronghorn management in Mexico. The habitat in Mexico was also largely dry, although there were patchy areas of green forage.

***Wild Pronghorn:*** We are conducting periodic monitoring flights to assess habitat conditions and to locate the two radio collared pronghorn in Arizona. The two pronghorn have been in the same area (around the Fawn Hills) as they were captured in, with a large group of pronghorn.