

Trilateral Committee Meeting

April 13-17, 2015 – San Diego, California, United States

Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Update



Binational Cooperators

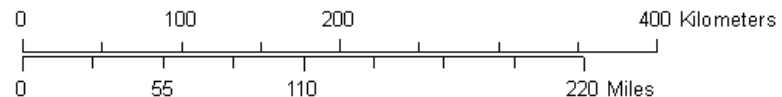
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- FWS - Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge
- NPS - Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
- DOD - Barry M. Goldwater Range / Yuma Proving Grounds
- Pinacate Biosphere Reserve (CONANP)
- Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable de Sonora (CEDES)
- Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS)
- Border Patrol, BLM, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, Phoenix Zoological Park, Los Angeles Zoological Park.

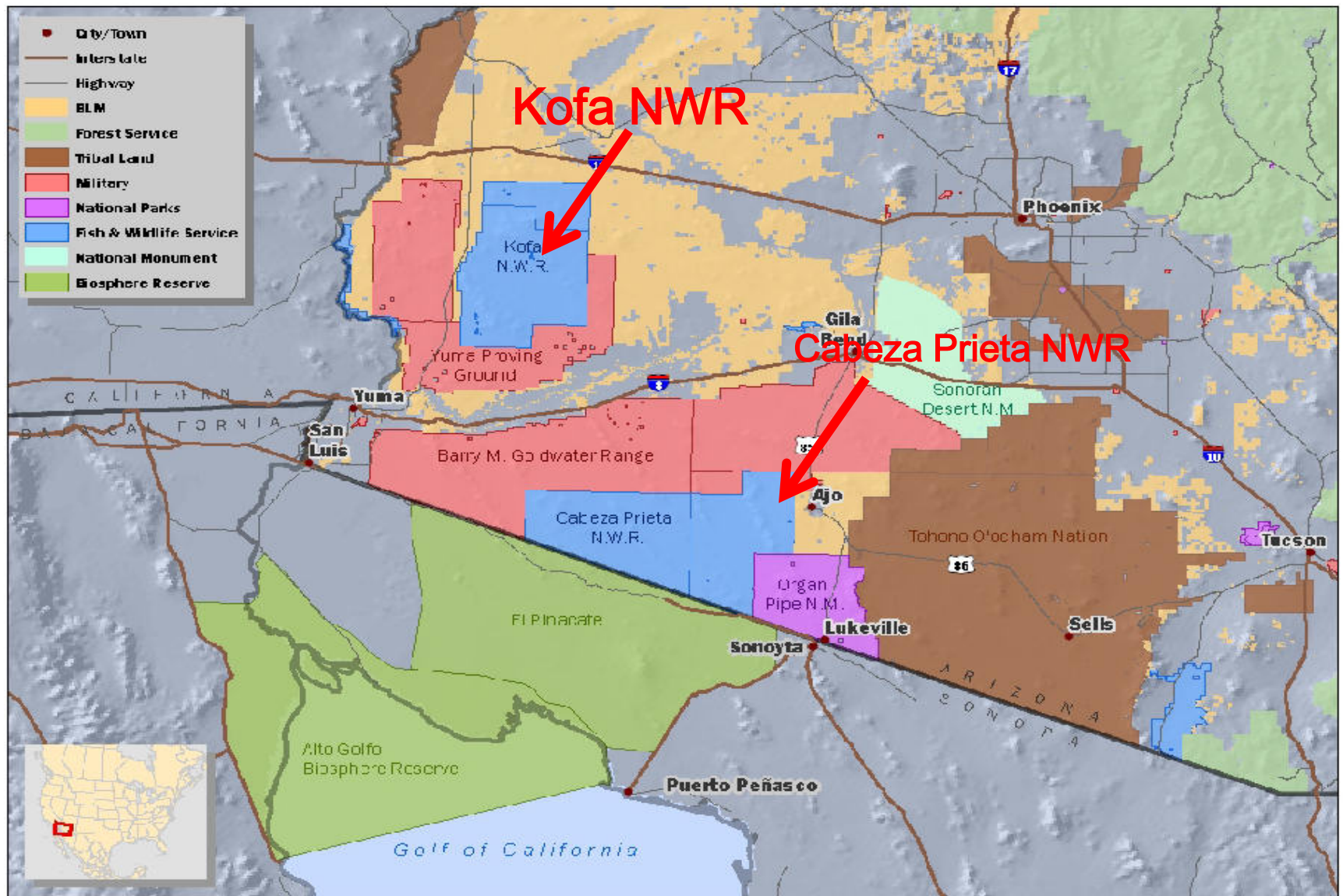
Historical and Current Range of Sonoran Pronghorn

Historic and Current Sonoran Pronghorn Range



-  Historic Range
-  Current US Range
-  Current Mexico Range





Captive Breeding Program

- CPNWR (2004): 1 sq mile / two halves
- KNWR (2011): half-square mile





2013: Pronghorn transported by helicopter
2014: Pronghorn transported by trailer



Releases from the Pens

Year	Males Released	Females Released	Total Released	Total Survived
2006/07	4	0	4	4
2007/08	5	0	5	2
2008/09	9	3	12	7
2009/10	19	4	23	10
2010/11	7	11	18	11
2011/12	7	4	11	9
2012/13	10	8	18	13
2013/14	22	15	37	35
2014/15	15	17	32	32
Total	98	62	160	125

Successful Captive Breeding Program

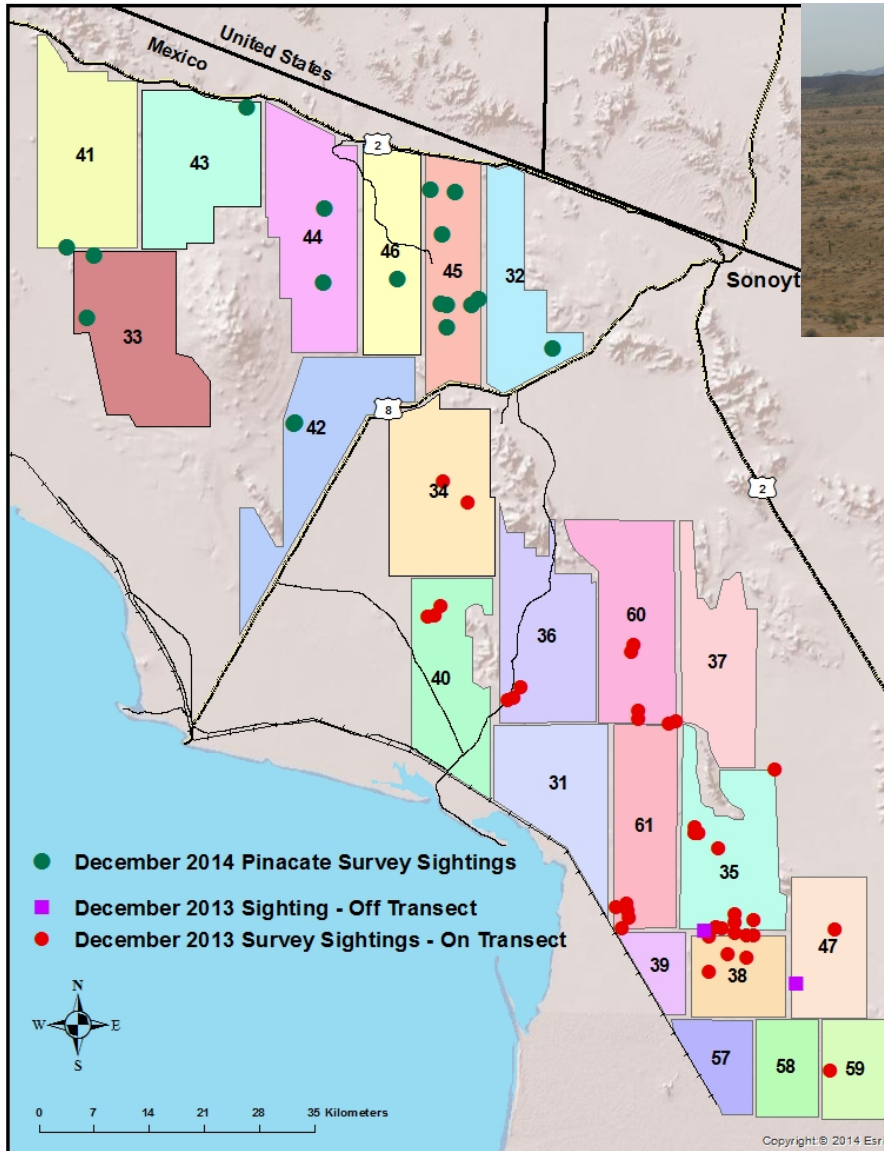
- As of February of 2015 there are 55 pronghorns in the pens at CPNWR and 33 in the pen at Kofa NWR. Total = 88
- Approximately 200 animals in the wild (Grand Total in AZ = 288 from 21 in 2002).



Sonoran Pronghorn Population Estimates in Arizona 1992 - 2014

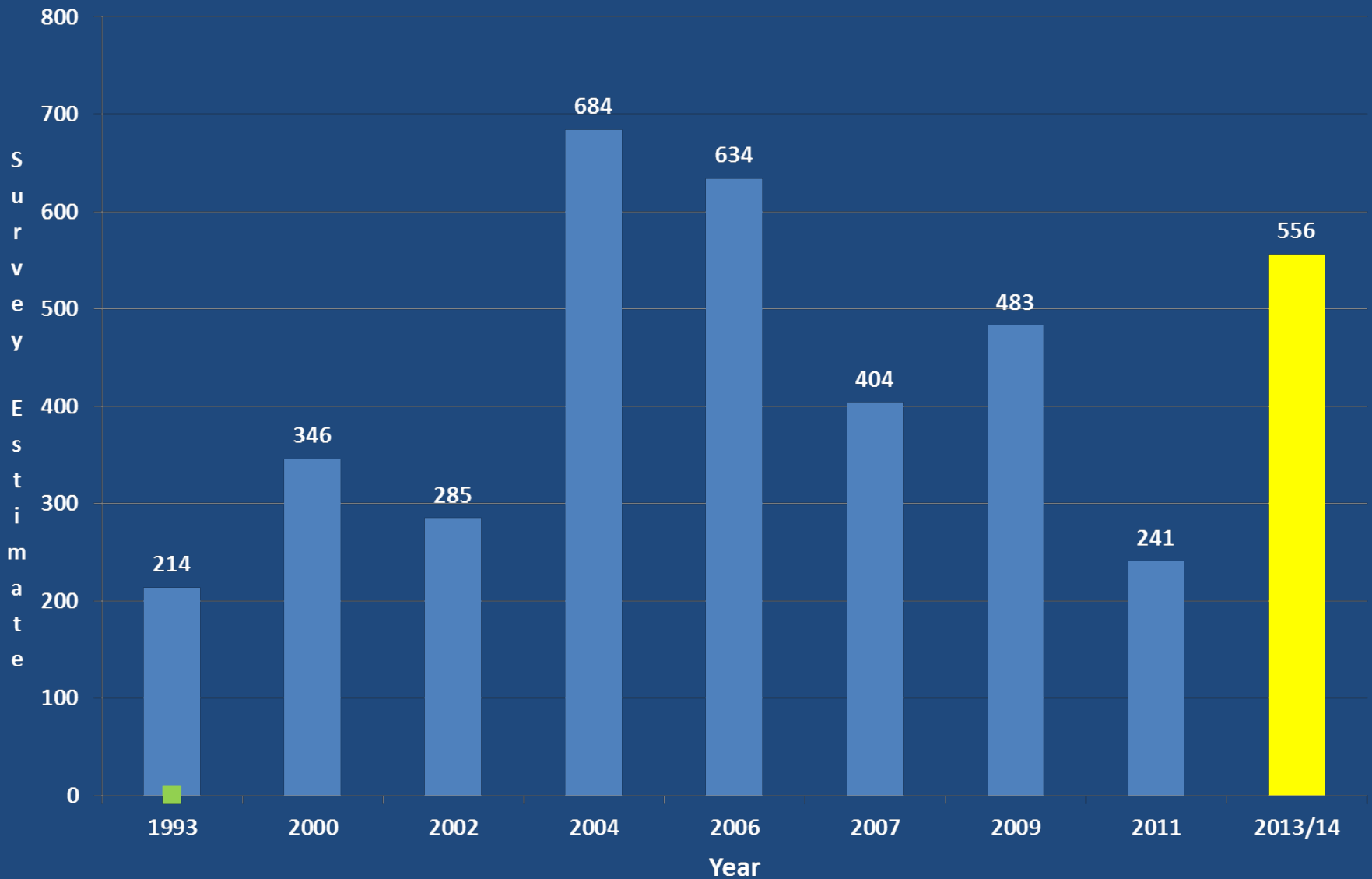


Aerial Surveys in Sonora (2013-2014)

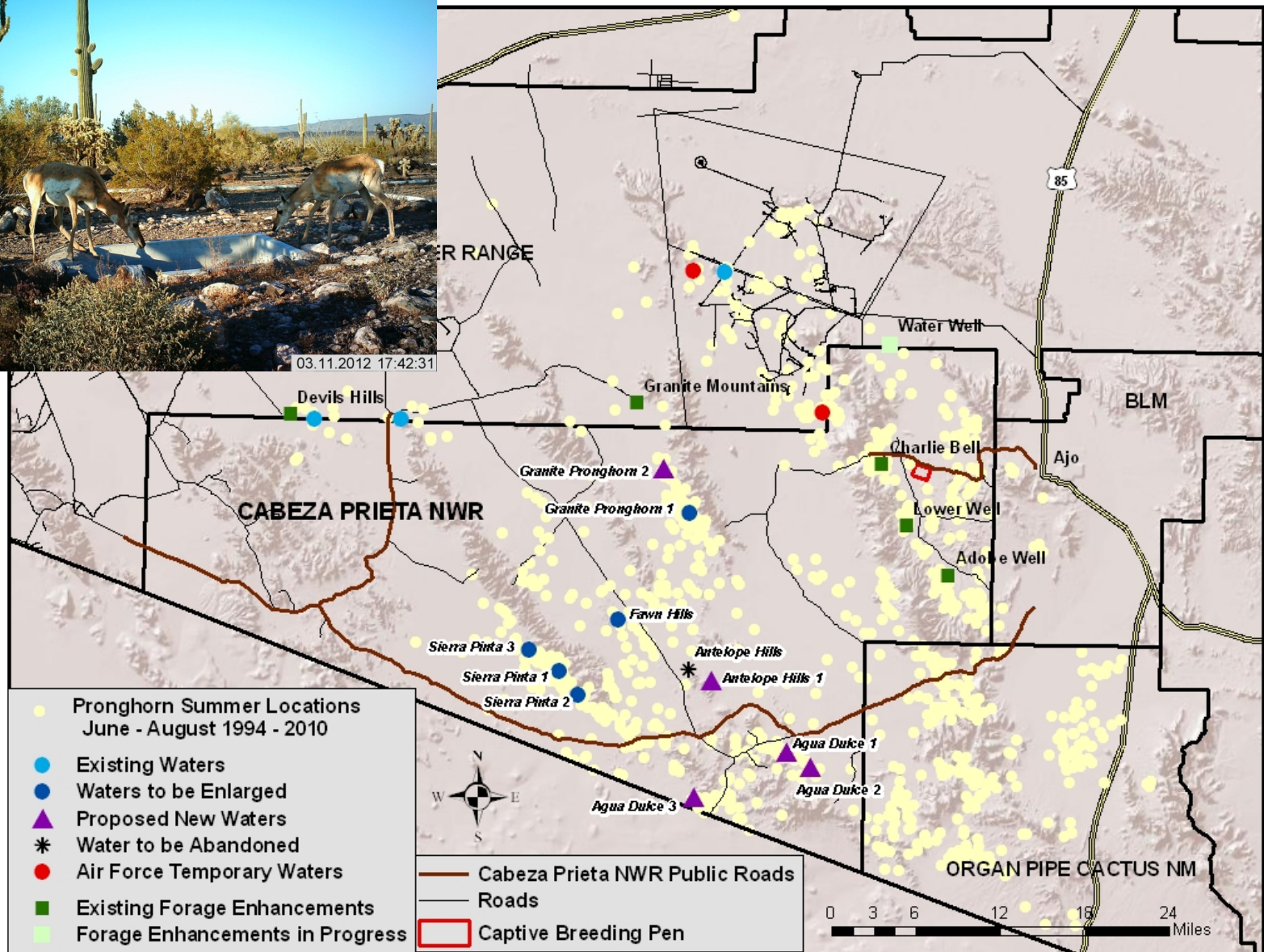


- Estimated population on the east side of Highway 8 was 434 (versus 189 in 2011). Population was evaluated in 2013.
- Estimated population on the west side of Highway 8 was 122 (versus 52 in 2011). Population was evaluated in 2014.

Sonoran Pronghorn Population Estimates in Mexico 1993 - 2014



Water Projects



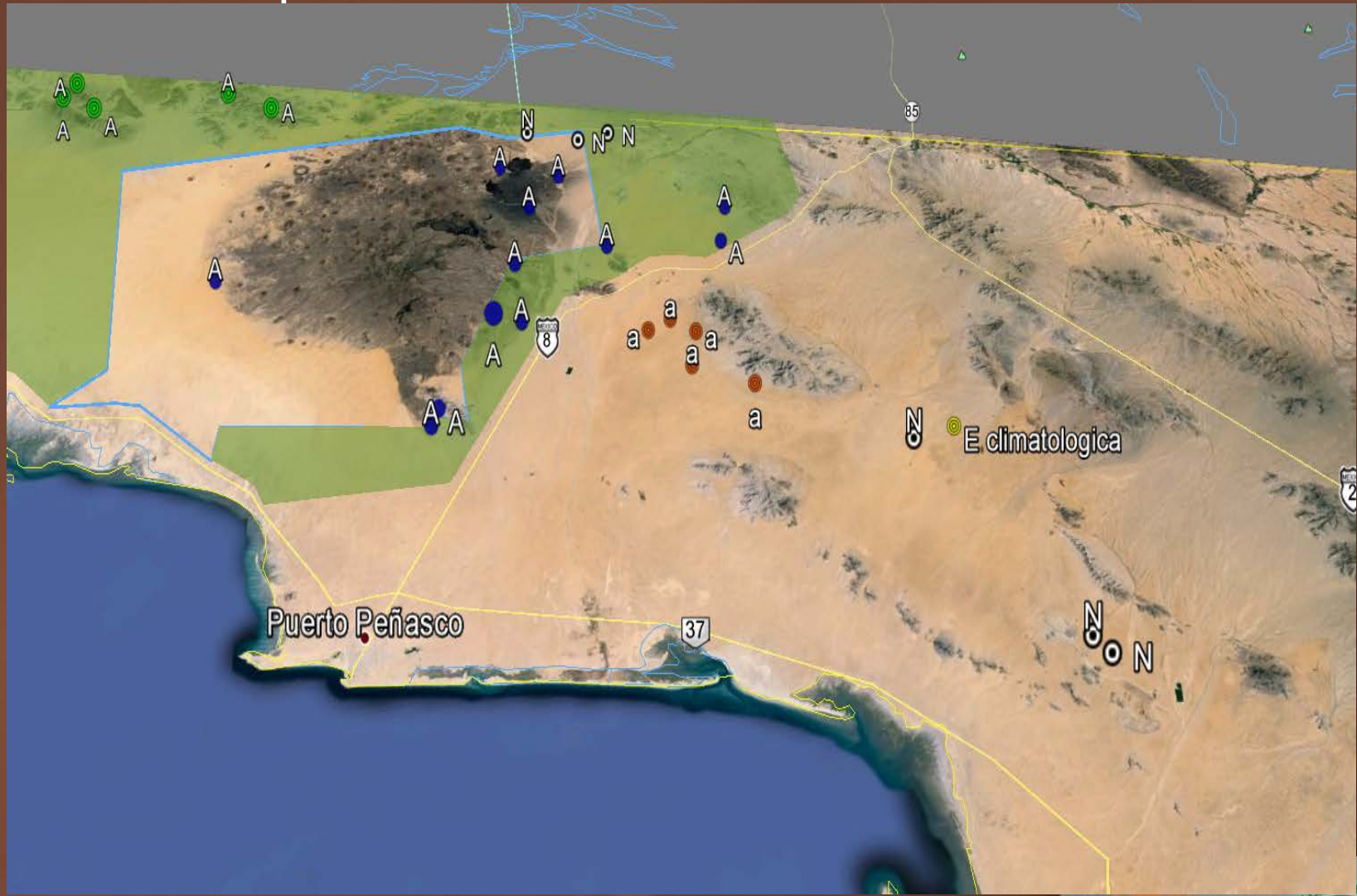
Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Initiatives in Sonora (El Pinacate Biosphere Reserve)

28 water projects
constructed in 2014



Wild life crossing pass & Water spots

28 Water spots



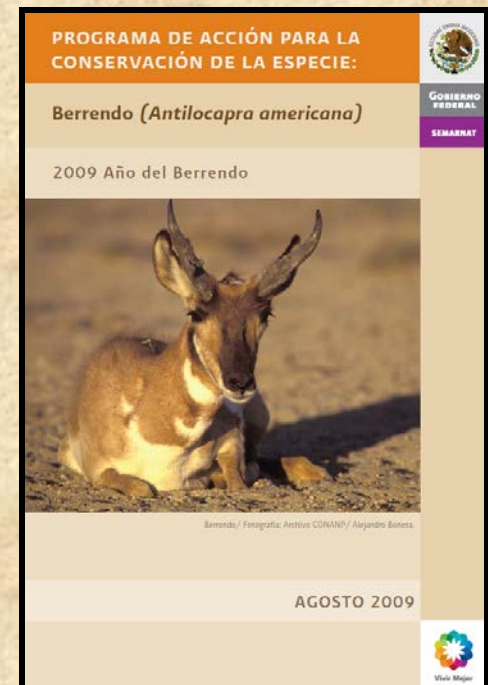
Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Initiatives in Sonora

14 wildlife crossings were constructed as part of the Highway 2 expansion project



Pronghorn PACE Update Workshop

- AZ – Contributed to update the Mexican Conservation Action Program (PACE) for the Pronghorn, including all the subspecies present in Mexico.
- AZ provided information on captive breeding, forage enhancement plots, supplemental feeding, and water projects.
- Special thanks to Mexico!



Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan update with binational components

The recovery goal is to conserve and protect the Sonoran pronghorn and its habitat so that its long-term survival is secured, and it can be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species (delisted).

Recovery Objectives

- Ensure multiple viable populations of Sonoran pronghorn rangewide (10% probability of extinction over 50 years and a positive growth rate) .
- Ensure that there is adequate quantity, quality, and connectivity of Sonoran pronghorn habitat to support populations.
- Minimize and mitigate the effects of human disturbance on Sonoran pronghorn.
- Identify and address priority monitoring needs.
- Identify and address priority research needs.

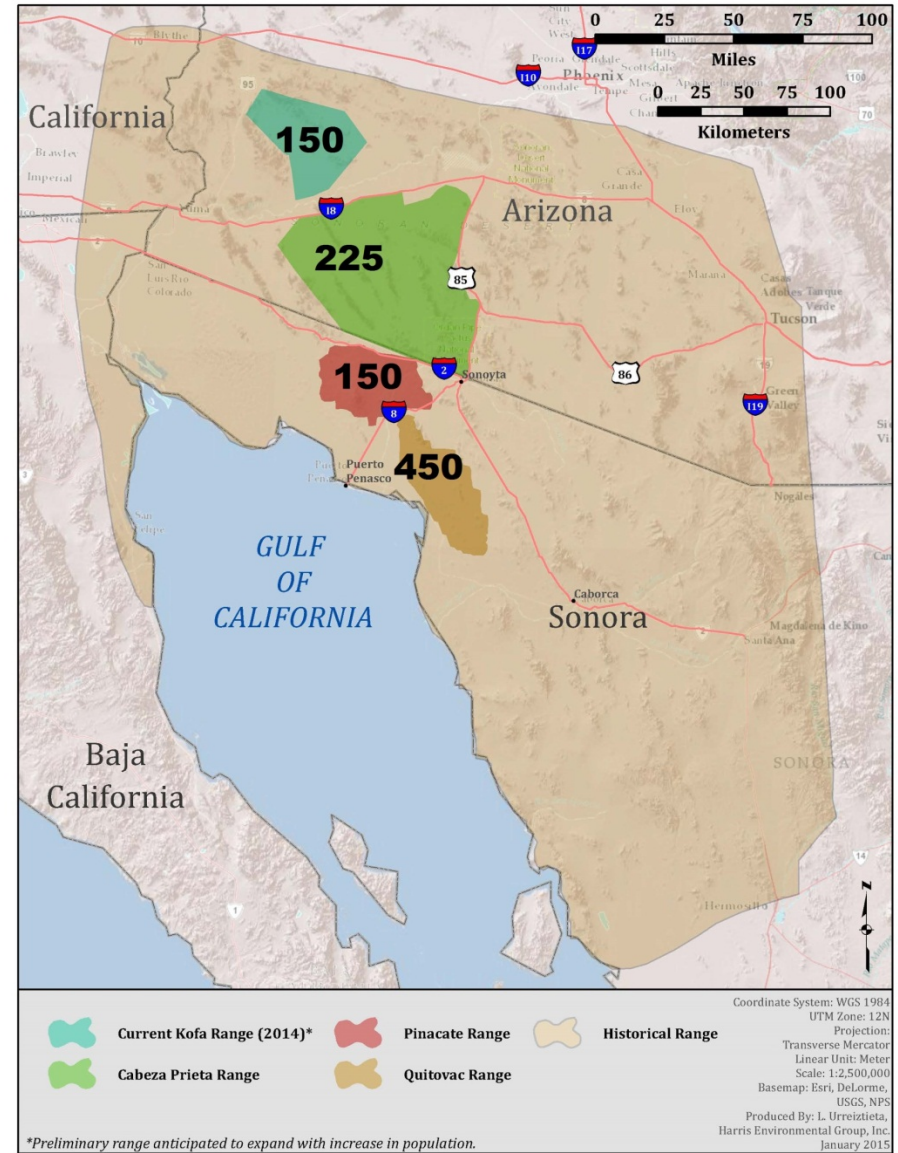
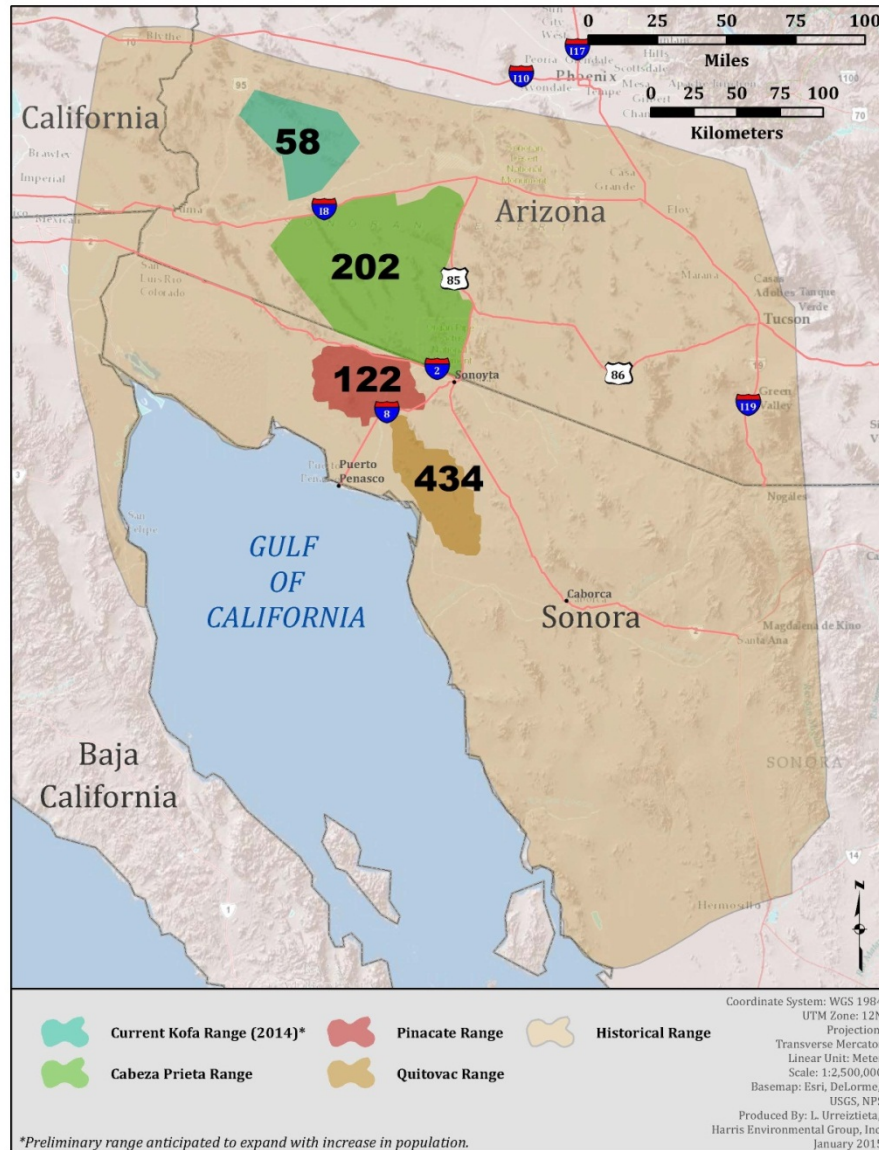
Recovery Objectives

- Maintain existing partnerships and develop new partnerships to support Sonoran pronghorn recovery.
- Secure adequate funding to implement recovery actions for Sonoran pronghorn.
- Practice adaptive management, in which recovery is monitored and recovery tasks are revised by the Service in coordination with the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team as new information becomes available.

Recovery Criteria

- At least three of the four current free-ranging populations are viable for at least five out of seven years.
- A minimum of 90% of current Sonoran pronghorn habitat is retained, contiguous and protected.
- Threats to Sonoran pronghorn habitat quality in three out of four management units are stable or decreasing.
- Human disturbance is alleviated such that a minimum of 90% of Sonoran pronghorn habitat can be occupied by Sonoran pronghorn.
- Genetic diversity has been retained or increased from current levels.
- Laws are in place to ensure that killing of Sonoran pronghorn is prohibited or regulated.

2014 Population Estimates vs. Delisting Criteria



Requested Specific Outcomes

- 1) Continued support for the range wide surveys and research using GPS collars.
- 2) Continued support to maintain and expand the number of populations in AZ, as well as protect populations in Sonora.
- 3) Approval of necessary permits to conduct biennial aerial surveys and to evaluate genetic diversity within remaining populations (U.S. and Mexico)
- 4) Continue with binational meetings every two years to discuss conservation efforts for pronghorn in Mexico.
- 5) Expand collaborations and communications with Baja and Chihuahua.
- 6) Provide in 2016, an overall status presentation regarding pronghorn subspecies present in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Questions?

